

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Dear Neighbour, I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well especially in these difficult times. Please read on and give us some feedback on what's inside and what you would like to see if we are able to produce these newsletters quarterly.

LOCAL HEROES

Please let us know of any of this year's local heroes you'd like us to recognise. Email local hero nominations to contact@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org.

An example of such local heroes are 3 ladies of Roffey Park Road, who organised street bingo parties over several weeks in the summer. Social distancing rules were observed and the events were enjoyed by everyone. As well as bringing neighbours together, they also raised over £3000 for 2 local hospices, this amount was then matched by Morrisons supermarket.



The ladies had also organised a street Christmas lights switch-on party for 5 December with music, mince pies and even Secret Santa. The original planned event will change in order to comply with current covid-19 regulations.

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies |

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

#ViralKindness

LOOK OUT FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Now more than ever, we need to be looking out for each other, especially our older neighbours or those on their own.

Why not use this card to offer help those who might need it?

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

We've recently started having our monthly meetings online, joined by Local Councillors, community police and guest speakers.

October was our AGM and we were pleased to welcome Steven Quinn, Director of Children's Services at Renfrewshire Council, who talked about the proposal to move Paisley Grammar School to a new modern community campus (and confirmed that the name will remain).

Minutes of our meetings are available on our website: www.ralstoncommunitycouncil.org.



WHAT DO COMMUNITY COUNCILS DO?

A community council is a volunteer organisation set up by the local authority, and run by local residents, to act on behalf of the area. Community councils are made up of people who care about the community and want to make it better a better place to live in.

Community councils promote the well-being of the community, bring people together and help make things happen. They advise, petition, influence and advocate numerous causes on behalf of the community.

Some examples of what our community council has achieved are:

- **Projects to enhance our community:** We maintain defibrillators at St Marks and the Community Centre, support the Barshaw Park Walled Garden and arrange litter-picks.
- **Communicate with our community:** We have an active website and Facebook page, and now this is our first newsletter.
- **Organise community events:** Including the annual Ralston Community Games. (we're often asked if we'll host these again, and the answer is yes, just as soon as we can).
- **Campaign on local issues:** Previously we campaigned against the development of Honeybog Hill.



If you are interested in joining the Ralston Community Council, please contact: contact@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org.

WELCOME TO THE CORNER SHOP

We want to thank Dionne and her team for breathing some new life into the area. The shop has some new additions due to customer demand; new freezers, a coffee machine, candles and cards.

It has been very pleasing to see it transform in the last few months. Keep it up, we appreciate it. Dionne has kindly allowed us the use one of the notice boards for community notices.



LIGHT UP RALSTON

Shine Bright for Scotland is a campaign to make our winter a bit brighter. So why not bring out fairy lights, lanterns and torches and make your gardens, windows and doors sparkle? For more information:

www.facebook.com/shinebrightscotland20



Christmas Tree & Plant Sale

Saturday 5th December from 10am on the church lawn



Price List

Christmas Trees	- £45(5/6ft) £50(7/8ft)
Door Wreaths	- £25
Cemetery Wreaths	- £15
Tubs	- £20
Indoor Pots	- £10
Bedding Plants	- £3 per tray

Pre-ordering via email or telephone recommended

office@stmarksoldhall.org.uk
Tel. 882 2755

Local delivery available
Cash & Cheques only

Stock by McLarens Nurseries,
Lugton

St Mark's Church of Scotland (Oldhall) Paisley
Scottish Charity SCO11210



RENFREWSHIRE FOODBANK

We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people in crisis.



We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

But we need your help to make this happen. Your gift of food, time and financial support can make a real difference.

For more info: <https://renfrewshire.foodbank.org.uk>

FRIENDS OF BARSHAW PARK

We are a registered charity which protects and improves the park and its facilities, for the benefit of the community. We work with Renfrewshire Council to ensure future investment and maintenance of the park, including: upgrading the paths and drainage, installing the new playpark, and securing a pledge to restore the sailing pond, which will include international sailing competitions.



On top of this, two years ago set up a Junior Park Run, and last summer we started art and craft classes in the Walled Garden and Rowantree Cafe. Last year, we also organised Christmas wreath making classes on the same day as the Jingle Bell Fun Run.

At Halloween we sold craft kits for children to make decorative wreaths; Tesco generously gave us fruit and candy supplies for goodie bags to go with the kits. The Halloween event was so popular that will be selling Christmas Craft kits too.

If you are interested in supporting FoBP, we are looking for new committee members, people to help in the gardens and for the Fun Run. Please email contact@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org.

AND NOW FOR SOME LOCAL HISTORY

Ralston House was built in 1810 by William Orr, a Glasgow merchant, to designs by the architect David Hamilton, and was added to in 1864 to designs by Thomas Richardson (architect Campbell Douglas). It was demolished in 1936. It stood on what is now Ralston Golf Club. The stables survive as the clubhouse.

In the 19th century, it was let by the Richardson family to a succession of Clyde shipping magnates. The lodge houses were built in 1865. Trains were used to transport wounded soldiers in World War One to the East station then by bus to Ralston House which was then known as the Red Cross Hospital. It remained a convalescent facility for ex-servicemen until it was demolished.

The house was located at the east end of Strathmore Ave. The West Lodge of the estate, a sandstone gatehouse, still exists and can be found converted into home in the western extremity of the estate on the corner of Glasgow Road and Strathmore Avenue. The East Lodge can be found at the corner of Glasgow Road and Bathgo Avenue.



Image credit: The Castles and Mansions of Renfrewshire, Alexander Hastie Millar, 1888

TASTY FESTIVE TREATS

NO BAKE FESTIVE TIFFIN



For the tiffin:

250g dark chocolate
150g butter
150g soft brown sugar
300g digestive biscuits
(crushed)
150g dried fruit
1 tsp mixed spice

For the topping:

250g white chocolate
edible glitter

METHOD

1. Grease and line a deep 20cm square loose-bottomed cake tin.
2. Place the dark chocolate, butter and sugar in a saucepan. Place the pan on the heat and allow the mixture to melt gently, stirring a little.
3. Remove from the heat and stir in the crushed biscuits, mixed spice and dried fruit. Stir until all the ingredients are well combined.
4. Spoon the mixture into the cake tin, then press down using the back of a metal spoon so that it is evenly spread and compacted. Place the tin in the fridge to set.
5. To make the topping, melt the white chocolate, then pour it over the chilled tiffin. Spread it evenly and either decorate now or allow the chocolate to cool in the fridge and decorate later.
6. Cut into squares or triangles. The tiffin will keep for a week in a tin.

Source: Brittish Baking Yearbook, 2014

ARTISTS CORNER

KIDS DRAWING COMPETITION



Calling all budding young artists! Draw or colour in a Christmas themed picture, then email it in to us and we'll feature the winners in the next issue of our newsletter!

Email entries (including the child's name and age) to contact@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org.

COLOURING RENFREWSHIRE

A unique adult colouring-in book has been published by Renfrewshire Leisure, that aims to encourage reminiscing and story sharing among Renfrewshire residents. It contains ten original line drawings relating to local industry, history and architecture from eight local artists.

The free book will be given to care homes, sheltered housing and older people's organisations. But anyone can get a copy of Colouring Renfrewshire in pdf format to print out themselves.

For more information and to download the colouring pages:

www.renfrewshireleisure.com/colouring-renfrewshire



THE GRAND FOUNTAIN, FOUNTAIN GARDENS



RALSTON ART CLUB

Painting is a wonderfully relaxing hobby. For the past 30 years, our club has been held in Ralston Community Centre, on a Wednesday morning.

We look forward to returning when the world gets back to normal. We would love new members to come and join us.

JUST A BIT OF FUN

FESTIVE GIGGLES

What do you call chess players discussing their game in a hotel lobby?

Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

Why did no-one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?

Because they were two deer!

What song do you sing on a Snowman's birthday?

Freeze a jolly good fellow!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinselitis!

What is Santa's favourite kind of pizza?

One that's deep-pan, crisp and even!



SUDOKU (HARD)

		3			7		6	
		7	8			2		
							3	
				5				1
		5	4		8	3	7	9
	3		2	7	9	6	4	
5								3
	7	6	3	9	4			
		4			5		8	

WORDSEARCH

L	K	G	H	C	R	U	H	C	N	U	D	U	R
E	R	E	L	L	S	D	A	R	V	E	L	H	L
R	A	N	G	A	T	E	A	N	O	A	A	I	N
O	P	E	N	H	R	U	L	T	V	Y	E	L	E
M	Y	W	T	C	A	R	L	Y	H	U	G	D	T
T	E	N	N	O	T	D	A	L	F	O	I	L	H
R	F	H	A	N	H	A	N	N	D	A	H	O	E
A	F	A	T	N	M	L	T	E	T	B	D	W	R
G	O	M	R	A	O	A	O	Y	R	M	U	H	D
C	R	A	A	M	R	E	N	U	T	T	U	T	A
O	E	E	T	H	E	C	O	R	R	I	E	U	L
T	R	T	R	C	L	A	N	F	I	N	E	O	E
V	A	E	A	U	A	O	G	H	T	A	B	S	E
A	N	G	G	A	E	I	V	Y	L	H	C	U	B

WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these Christmas related things?

1. isentpiota
2. gigabrndeer
3. tewhar
4. scralo
5. edinerer
6. gliseh
7. sottlemie
8. womanns

Allanton

Auchmannoch

Bathgo

Buchlyvie

Corrie

Dalfoil

Darvel

Dunchurch

Gartartan

Gartmore

Lanfine

Netherdale

Newnham

Roffey Park

Southwold

Strathmore

Tylney



3	9	4	1	2	5	7	8	6
8	7	6	3	9	4	5	1	2
5	1	2	7	8	6	4	9	3
1	3	8	2	7	9	6	4	5
6	2	5	4	1	8	3	7	9
7	4	9	6	5	3	8	2	1
4	8	1	5	6	2	9	3	7
9	6	7	8	3	1	2	5	4
2	5	3	9	4	7	1	6	8

L	K	G	H	C	R	U	H	C	N	U	D	U	R
E	R	E	L	L	S	D	A	R	V	E	L	H	L
R	A	N	G	A	T	E	A	N	O	A	A	I	N
O	P	E	N	H	R	U	L	T	V	Y	E	L	E
M	Y	W	T	C	A	R	L	Y	H	U	G	D	T
T	E	N	N	O	T	D	A	L	F	O	I	L	H
R	F	H	A	N	H	A	N	N	D	A	H	O	E
A	F	A	T	N	M	L	T	E	T	B	D	W	R
G	O	M	R	A	O	A	O	Y	R	M	U	H	D
C	R	A	A	M	R	E	N	U	T	T	U	T	A
O	E	E	T	H	E	C	O	R	R	I	E	U	L
T	R	T	R	C	L	A	N	F	I	N	E	O	E
V	A	E	A	U	A	O	G	H	T	A	B	S	E
A	N	G	G	A	E	I	V	Y	L	H	C	U	B

1. poinsettia
2. gingerbread
3. wreath
4. carols
5. reindeer
6. sleigh
7. mistletoe
8. snowman