



RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Summer Newsletter

W: www.ralstoncommunitycouncil.org

E: admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org

F: @Ralston Community Council

Hello from the Chairman

I hope you are well and enjoying your summer.

The Community Council published a Christmas newsletter last year, to let us connect with more people.

We're delighted that the summer edition finds us in better times, albeit the past year has been difficult with the challenges this pandemic has caused.

We are waiting to hear when the Community Centre will allow classes again, but we are delighted that the library has reopened.

We had hoped to arrange the Ralston Community Games for September, but instead we'll have a spectacular event next year.

We've all spent more time in our gardens and, when the weather has allowed, they've been a second home.

We have been asked to resurrect our 'best garden competition' for next year. Please email us at **admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org** if you wish to enter, and we'll send you some details in the Spring.

We hope you enjoy our summer newsletter, with articles including:

- St Mark's new Minister
- Shut out scammers
- Team-up to Clean-up
- Local charities
- Local funding awards
- Paisley's museum
- Friends of Barshaw Park
- Paisley and District Scouts
- Kelburne Hockey Club's possible application for the Sports Centre
- Free bikes for kids
- Winner of our Christmas drawing competition
- Some fun things to do
- Plus much more.

Allan

RALSTON IN BLOOM



We secured funding of £4,275 from Renfrewshire Council, for three large planters which we hope to place along Glasgow Road at Tylney Road, Penilee Road and at the shop area just before Killearn Drive.

If you would like to adopt or volunteer to look after one of these, please email admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org

Ralston Community Centre Play Park



We have secured £1,275 of funding from Renfrewshire Council, to tidy up the area and to level the dips in the ground around the equipment.

If you would be interested in supporting this project, please email us at admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org

OUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

We continue to meet virtually, but hope to meet in person soon. Minutes are on our website and the Community Noticeboard in front of St Mark's Church. Our AGM is in the Autumn.

This year we've discussed several local issues:

- Kelburne Hockey Club's proposal
- Community police updates
- Issues at St Mirren's training ground
- Defibrillators and maintenance
- Litter, refuse, potholes and lighting
- Access to Honeybog Hill
- Speeding

We've also had updates about:

- Proposed new site of Paisley Grammar School
- Renfrewshire Council's 5 year recycling project
- Planning framework
- Climate emergency targets
- Covid updates from our MSP

If you're interested in knowing more or joining us, email admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org

EVENTS, CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

A calendar detailing the many activities and clubs happening in the area was published on our Community Council website two years ago.

Many, if not all, of these activities were postponed or cancelled due to lockdown. But with restrictions easing, hopefully some of these activities will be running again soon!



We are keen to update our calendar. If you have any information about clubs, activities or events due to restart soon (for adults or children), please let us know by emailing web@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org

PAISLEY & DISTRICT SCOUTS

Despite lockdown we have kept the beavers, cubs and scouts busy, either on Zoom or with activity packs.

We are now on holiday, and are planning for the new session which will be back in the hall.

During lockdown the hall had some much needed renovations. We now have a new kitchen and windows, with the toilets being refurbished over the holidays.

The hall is available to hire, as long as an appropriate risk assessment is used.

We are still looking for leaders to help in the group for all the sections. If you are interested please get in touch via the Paisley & District Scout website.

Our numbers have remained steady throughout and we have an active waiting list for all the sections running.

We are looking forward to being more involved in the community as things get back to normal.

Jeanette Savage
Group Scout Leader



ST MARK'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Greetings from St Mark's. My name is Sonia Blakesley and I am the relatively new minister at St Mark's, having arrived at the end of January 2020, only 6 weeks before the first Covid lockdown began.

It has been a struggle getting to know folk in and outwith the church, but some of you may have seen me and my dog Mylo walking around Barshaw Park and the local area.

St Mark's is open again every Sunday for worship at 11am. Although we are still limited in numbers, we hope this will change soon. Our services are available online via the Church website, stmarksoldhall.org.uk or on You-tube.

We have remained active in lockdown, hosting Ralston Out of School Care during the first lockdown, and over recent months opening our halls to allow various groups to meet (all subject to the relevant Covid restrictions.)

We have missed being able to host events but have managed to put out a couple of Afternoon Teas – delivered to people's doorsteps, and look forward to being able to open to more groups as the Covid situation eases further.



We are in need of a new Church secretary so if there is anyone wanting a wee part-time job who has some relevant office experience, please get in touch with us to find out more.

I hope everyone manages to get some time to rest and refresh this summer, whether at home or away.

Kind regards

Rev Dr Sonia Blakesley
Minister of St Mark's
Oldhall Parish Church

FRIENDS OF BARSHAW PARK

We're working with the Council to improve the park, including:

- Developing the now derelict Nature Corner.
- Creating a Community Garden in the disused donkey paddock.
- Creating a hilltop interpretational sign, with a guide to all the visible landmarks.
- Creating a children's woodland to the west of the Walled Garden, where our popular pebble Barshaw Boas are.
- Repairing the boating pond, to eradicate the weed.
- Replacing the fence at the model railway to make it safe for passengers again.



Despite Covid restrictions we have still delivered some fun community projects. Including:

- Selling Christmas craft kits, wreaths and decorations.
- Wooden hearts were hung on the laurel trees for Mother's Day.
- The garden was decorated with Easter Crafts, and we sold wreaths and cards.
- We delivered over 200 birdhouse kits to families in the area.
- We had a Rainbow and Captain Tom challenge.
- Abbey Scouts built birdhouses which are now installed in a local care home.
- In the autumn we'll issue bird feeders, to look after garden birds in the winter.
- Later in the summer, we hope to have more fun activities and possibly live events.

The Walled Garden

The exceptionally cold spring meant we couldn't raise as many bedding plants as we hoped.

The recent dry weather caused our rainwater butts to run dry. An appeal resulted in people filling our buckets and dropping off bottles of water. A local plumber, Craig Harris, came to our rescue and fixed our water supply!

Soon the most weathered parts of the wall will be repointed.

Two of our volunteers are creating a herb garden and a butterfly garden.

SHUT OUT SCAMMERS

From bogus callers to rogue traders, doorstep criminals are cunning, creative, and convincing. Anyone can be fooled; they are professional con artists.



Protect yourself:

- Be on guard if someone turns up unexpectedly.
- Keep front and back doors locked.
- Use the door viewer or window when answering the door.
- Fit a door chain or bar. Use it and keep it on when talking to callers at the door.
- Don't feel embarrassed - genuine callers expect you to be careful.
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment.
- Always ask for identification, but don't rely on it.
- Identity cards can be faked - phone the company to verify their identity.
- Some companies offer a password system - ask if this can be used.
- If you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it.
- Never let people persuade you to let them into your home.
- If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and get a friend or family member to be with you.
- Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door.
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home.
- It's your home, there's no reason why anyone should ever enter against your wishes.
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.

HOME START

Home-Start Renfrewshire and Inverclyde is a local independent charity which was set up to provide friendship, advice and practical support to families who live in the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde areas and who have at least one child under the age of 5.

To provide our service, we recruit and train volunteers on a regular basis to match as many families in need as possible. All volunteers must complete our Volunteer Training Course (known as the prep course) to prepare themselves for their family support role.

During the lockdowns we did not stop, we supported our families by delivering food parcels, essential items, and activity packs for the children. We also made weekly telephone calls and sent text messages to check in on our families.

Isolation was especially bad for some parents, those with no family or friends nearby to support them so the contact we had with them during this time was crucial to their mental wellbeing. We could not have done this without our volunteers.

Volunteers are essential to us, without them we just would not be able to deliver our services.

Because of COVID, we have not been able to recruit or train any volunteers for over 15 months, but the referrals for new families have not stopped. We now need to recruit new volunteers in the Renfrewshire area.

Our volunteers, who are usually parents themselves or have considerable parenting experience, offer 3-4 hours of their time every week to work with a family.

Training is provided prior to being matched with a family and we also offer additional training once our volunteers have completed their training.

If you are interested in volunteering with us or would like to find out a little more, please send us an email to:

theteam@home-start-renfrewshire.org.uk or give us a call on **0141 889 5272**.



PAISLEY MUSEUM REIMAGINED

There's a major refurbishment of Paisley Museum and Coats Observatory as part of a 4 year long £42m transformation of the venue. The refurbishment of Paisley Museum is the flagship project in a £100 million investment in Paisley Town centre over the next few years. You can read more about the project on the Paisley Museum Reimagined website: <https://reimagined.paisleymuseum.org>

The new-look museum will showcase its outstanding art, science and natural history collections, along with telling the story of the Paisley pattern, the town's famous weavers and being at the centre of the global thread-making industry.

The revamped museum is expected to attract 125,000 visits a year – almost four times current numbers – when it reopens in 2023. And it's estimated that it will create huge amounts of visitors to Paisley town centre, as well as a £72m economic boost over 30 years.

The redevelopment will include a fully-accessible entrance courtyard and a dramatic red glazed entrance hall, creating a dynamic and inviting presence on the High Street and a contemporary face for the museum.



A new wing to the west of the existing building will be added, providing step-free access through the museum up to the Coats Observatory. This will open-up previously unseen views of Paisley's stunning townscape.

A state-of-the-art Heritage Archive Centre will be built in the space formerly occupied by

Paisley's Central Library. In this knowledge hub, you will be able to discover local history stories and even your own family tree.

The museum will also showcase Paisley's traditional skills with the addition of an interactive weaving display.

RALSTON COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

Information in this article may have been updated since going to print.

Many of you will have heard already about the proposed application from Kelburne Hockey Club to take over the management of the Ralston Community Sports Centre on a 30 year lease. The Hockey Club would effectively manage the entire area, although it would be still owned by Renfrewshire Council.

The President of Kelburne Hockey Club delivered a presentation at the Community Council meeting in May, and we have been in regular dialogue with them since. It's clear that the managing of football will be challenging, but they are engaging with local groups as well as Renfrewshire Council to try to find a solution as they go forward with their application.

Plans for phase 1:

- Grow clubhouse events available to the community, small businesses and charities.
- Increase the number of sports pavilion classes.
- Increase number and availability of social/community gatherings.
- Invest in the fabric of the building and the whole complex for the future.
- Maintain existing practice and connection for organisations like Ralston Active Jogger.
- Open an in-house Barista Cafe (open to local community) through the day.
- Increase support for Ralston Primary School (same drop-off/collection, use of pitch etc), with additional coaching activities and feeder club status for hockey via Active Schools for Ralston Primary and other schools identified by Active Schools.
- Provide free, Renfrewshire wide hockey internal Council Cup competitions, matches and coaching for all 7 secondary schools in SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) areas.
- Grass football pitches available at lower cost to football clubs.

As a Community Council we have raised your concerns about the football usage. We understand that a solution is being sought on this, that they are open to discussions on how to better use the grass areas, and whether a new pitch is possible.

There will be a Phase 2 which may include an area for dementia sufferers and a nature area. We have already been assured that local access will remain unchanged.

WATERMELON LIME SLUSHIES

A refreshing summer cooler



Ingredients:

300g of watermelon

100ml cold water

Juice from 1 lime

Mint for garnish

Method:

- 1) Remove peel and seed from a watermelon. Chop into chunks and freeze.
- 2) Add frozen watermelon, water and lime juice to blender and blend until smooth.
- 3) Serve in a glass and garnished with mint.

ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER

We love to promote the great things happening in Ralston,

**YOUR
AD
HERE**

So if you would like

to advertise your local business in our Christmas Newsletter, we would be delighted to do this in return for a small donation to offset the cost of printing.

Please email your details, advert and donation pledge (which we will request before going to print) to **admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org**

Kids Christmas Drawing Competition Winner



Congratulations Allegra, age 5

FREE BIKES FOR KIDS

Own Yer Bike is a local charity that teaches children how to repair and maintain their bikes.

They also offer:

- free bikes for kids (up to 20" wheels)
- free bike repairs for kids
- adult bikes from £40 to £70 (to cover the cost of free kids bikes/repairs)
- adult bike services from £30 to £90



Own Yer Bike

Falcon Crescent
Paisley, PA3 1NT

E: info@ownyerbike.org

T: 07761 673 985

F: @Own Yer Bike

TEAM UP TO CLEAN-UP

Team Up to Clean Up is much more than a litter project; it has changed how communities see the Council, themselves, and their role in the community.

The campaign has been growing exponentially. Over 12,000 volunteers have taken part in at least one event, and over 14K+ bags of litter have been lifted around Renfrewshire.

Team Up to Clean Up volunteers consider how best they can progress improvements to their local community.

For instance, fifteen regular litter picking groups have successfully applied for Council Green Spaces funding to improve their local park, create a community garden or improve open green spaces.

The #winterwarriors Team Up initiative has seen 27 salt spreaders and a supply of salt bags gifted to communities over the last 2 winters. Volunteers make local public footpaths safer by using the kit.



Want to join thousands of others, and make a difference in Ralston? Renfrewshire Council can give you equipment, including bags and litter pickers; they'll even collect the bags of rubbish afterwards.

You can contact Team Up to Clean Up on:

T: 0300 300 1375

E: wardens.es@renfrewshire.gov.uk

F: facebook.com/groups/teamuptocleanup

JUST A BIT OF FUN

SUMMERY SNIGGERS

What kind of tree fits in your hand?

A Palm Tree!

How do we know that the sea is friendly?

It waves!

What do ghosts like to eat in the summer?

I Scream

Where do sheep go on holiday?

The Baaa-hamas

Why does ice cream always get invited to parties?

Because it's cool

Why are mountains a fun place to holiday?

They are hill-arious

SUDOKU (HARD)

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

G	C	M	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	E	B	S	I
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Barbecue
Beach
Camping
Day trip
Family
Holiday

Ice cream
Picnic
Relax
Sandals
Sand castle
Sports

Suitcase
Sun cream
Sun glasses
Sunny
Swimsuit
Waves