

# RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

# Christmas Newsletter

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## Merry Christmas

It seems hardly any time since we were writing our newsletter last year. It's been so busy, with a lot of time given to the CAT application and getting the views from so many residents so we could fully represent the community. An update on this later in our newsletter!

We also have updates on St Mirren flood lights, Ralston in Bloom, and an introduction to a new Café on Glasgow Road, where the old shop was.

Other business still on our agenda includes:

**PLAY PARK:** We have added some durable mats around some of the play equipment, to help reduce the muddy areas, although further work would be beneficial. (Cllr Graham is looking at whether the park could be added to the list of parks being upgraded)

**TRAFFIC CALMING:** On Oldhall Road and access only on Tylney Road

**YELLOW (OR RED) LINES:** at the Hawkhead Road end of Lanfine, Gartmore and Newtyle Roads

**TREES:** Although these have been on the agenda for years, there has been a recent increase in complaints. Councillors are dealing with these, however we hope for a coordinated approach next year.

**FAYRE:** Once again we plan to hold a community fayre later in 2023.

Finally we plan to host an information session early next year, for anyone who might be interested in joining the Community Council. We meet for a couple of hours, once a month in the community centre. It's an opportunity for residents to have their voice heard, helping to improve the area that we live in and its public services.

Members must be 16 or over. If you are interested in becoming a Community Council member, please email:  
[admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org](mailto:admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org)

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year from your  
Community Council*



# News from St Mark's

Hello, I'm delighted to share Christmas greetings with you from St Mark's Church. We hope you receive our Church Christmas card along with this newsletter, which shares the message that 'Jesus is the reason' for the Christmas season. For Christians everywhere, Christmas is a special time because it commemorates the birth of our Lord Jesus. Everyone is welcome to join our services over Christmas:

Sunday 4 Dec	11am	Communion Service
	3pm	'Let us remember' Service
Sunday 11 Dec	11am	Gift Service (gifts given for women and children supported by Women's Aid)
Sunday 18 Dec	11am	Nativity
Saturday 24 Dec	7pm	Christmas Eve Service (Carols at 6.45pm)
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service (Carols at 11.15pm)
Sunday 25 Dec	11am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 1 Jan	1am	New Year's Day Service

Of special note, the "Let us remember" service on the 4th of December is particularly for those who have been bereaved over the last year or two, recognising that Christmas can be an especially difficult time for them.



After a quiet couple of years, many things are happening again in the church and we invite you to come along. The Guild meets on Mondays at 2pm. On Wednesdays 1-3pm we have our Winter Connections project - come for soup, tea, coffee and baking (no charge), chat, sit quietly, or join in activities. Our Dementia-Friendly Cafe runs on the second Thursday of each month 2-4pm. We are also setting up a cafe for the community in one of our halls, hopefully this will open in the spring.

Sadly, the big yew tree at the side of the church has become so large it's a danger. We have consulted three tree surgeons and they advise that it should be removed. We will do this in the new year, so that we can all enjoy the Christmas lights on the big old tree one more time. Once it has been removed, we will decide on new planting, so that the trees at St Mark's can continue to be a feature of the neighbourhood in the future.

On behalf of the congregation, can I wish you all a Happy Christmas, and hope you enjoy the festive season; and experience a peaceful New Year.

Sonia Blakesley (Minister)



**ANCHORS**

P1 to P3 Friday 18:00 - 19:00

**Company**

P7 to S2 Friday 19:30 - 21:45

**JUNIORES**

P4 to P6 Friday 19:00 - 20:00

**Seniors**

S2 to S6 Friday 19:30 - 21:45

24th Paisley Company • St Marks Church • Email: 24thpaisley@gmail.com • Web: boys-brigade.org.uk

## *Paisley & District Scouts*

Currently we are doing well with a full beaver colony, the cub pack, and an active scout troop. We have successfully started our explorer scout unit and numbers are increasing. Anybody between the ages of 14 and 18 who wishes to come and join in is very welcome. We meet at the hall Monday 7.45 - 9.30 pm.

We are involved with the community garden (in Barshaw Park) and are looking forward to growing our own fruit and veg.

We have our Christmas fayre coming up on the 4th of December with tickets available at the Scout Hall door, this includes coffee/tea and cake.

We are always looking for leaders so if anybody in the community is up for a challenge then, please pop into the Scout Hall on a Thursday.

## *A new cafe bistro coming to Ralston*

Known as Poddar's for many years and latterly as Ralston Convenience Store, 406-408 Glasgow Road has been acquired by local resident Stephanie Mcshane. Stephanie grew up in Ralston, attending both Ralston Primary and Paisley Grammar before qualifying as a midwife.

Stephanie plans to transform the shop into a modern cafe bistro, opening early Spring 2023. Initially this will be open during the day, and Stephanie is keen to welcome everyone, including families, dog walkers, cyclists and elderly residents; to a safe place where they can meet and enjoy homely food, chat and nicely prepared drinks.

This investment will bring lots of positives including new employment opportunities, as well as a comfortable, sociable space for everyone to enjoy. They hope to share some design and architectural images of the development soon, once they have had approval from the Council.

Feedback so far has been very positive; Stephanie and her family would like to thank everyone for their continued patience and support.



# **The story so far:**

## **Kelburne Hockey Club (KHC) Community Asset Transfer (CAT)**



Kelburne's proposal was presented to the Community Council over a year ago. After the application was submitted, KHC held a zoom community meeting on 29 September 2021; we also arranged a public meeting on 4 October to gather the views of the community, which almost unanimously opposed KHC's application.

We held a second public meeting on 1 June 2022, a few days before the KHC public meeting on 8 June. Our meeting in St Mark's Church was well attended and the feeling in the room was evidently unchanged. The KHC meeting did nothing to change the community's opinion.

The Community Council met with OneRen several times prior to the application submission and had many meetings with local users, local Councillors and KHC throughout the application process.

Updates were communicated on Ralston CC Webpage and Facebook. We also leafleted the area several times including updates in our winter and summer newsletters. We worked closely with Ralston Skills and hosted a Fun Day in April, where they celebrated their 25-year anniversary. We were also fortunate enough to have a second event later in the year, in August which was equally well attended. The weather on both days was excellent.

There are a great many people to be thanked. There probably hasn't been a time when the community has pulled together and come out in such force; attending meetings and events, making representations by email, letter or petition, and being involved in door-to-door canvassing about the classes we'd like if we could work with OneRen.

Unfortunately at this moment in time, Victoria Hollows, OneRen Chief Executive and Cllr Lisa-Marie Hughes, the Chair of the Board of Trustees have twice explained that we cannot meet with them during the appeal process, to discuss the current and future use of our facility. KHC has appealed (stage 1) and we have been advised that the process could take up to 6 months. The centre opening hours, at best will be unchanged but, could be decreased, even though we have committed to supporting the Centre's usage to where it was pre covid (86,000 visits).

# *Floodlighting at St Mirren Pitch*

It's now nearly 3 years since St Mirren installed new floodlighting at their training pitch at Allanton. Initially, due to COVID restrictions, the training pitch wasn't used, and with light summer evenings the floodlights weren't required. However since September this year the pitch is now in continuous use from 6pm until 9.30pm every evening, with the excessive glare and light intrusion extremely troublesome for many within our community.

We have maintained dialogue with Renfrewshire Council on this matter, and following household visits by independent lighting assessors earlier this year, St Mirren were issued with a statutory notice to adjust the floodlighting, and were given until 30th September to do so.

St Mirren then informed Renfrewshire Council that they had completed "minor adjustments" to a lighting pillar, and officials from Renfrewshire Council then re-visited properties in October, but were of the opinion that there was no notable difference to the light intrusion for these residents, and that the statutory notice issued to St Mirren earlier in the year has not been complied with.



As a result, Renfrewshire Council will again contact St Mirren, requiring that they address this as a matter of priority, and ask how they intend to do this. The Community Council will continue to liaise with Renfrewshire Council to ensure that this situation is finally resolved.

## *Ralston in Bloom*

Through funding from Renfrewshire Council, we've now installed 30 large planters on Glasgow Road, mainly at bus shelters, to enhance our neighbourhood. The planters have received favourable comments from many in our community, and hopefully, they'll continue to impress for many years to come.

All the planters have a selection of bulbs planted, ready to bring colour in springtime, as well as winter flowering pansies and perennial shrubs to give some cheer over winter. Around May we'll then replace the pansies with summer bedding, which should provide colour through until late October.





# Friends of Barshaw Park

It's been a busy year for us!

**COMMUNITY GARDEN:** We were thrilled to win a Royal Horticultural Society competition to create a Community Garden. The garden is now nearly complete, containing raised beds, a shed and a polytunnel; and will soon have cold frames, an open sided shelter and a composting system. Local community groups will tend the raised beds; growing fruit, flowers or vegetables. With RHS and our volunteers on hand to advise and assist.

**FORMER NATURE CORNER:** Renfrewshire Council have cleared the site, revealing the original amphitheatre where the bandstand once stood. We are keen to see this developed for the community. Although no finances are available, we continue to work with the Council considering options.

**BOATING POND:** The pond was drained to remove weed and sediment; it is now fully restored and the swans have returned en masse! The Model Sailing club are planning a regatta next spring in celebration.

**MODEL RAILWAY:** Volunteers from the Paisley Society of Model Engineers will run the train on Sunday 4th December for the Jingle Bell run, then again from April. After a fire destroyed the engine shed, funds were raised for a new container to store their equipment.

**WALLED GARDEN:** As our pride and joy, volunteers work hard to ensure it always looks its best. The colour this year has been stunning, lasting well into late autumn. Last year Keep Scotland Beautiful awarded us the highest level of achievement, we keenly await this year's results!

**FUNDING:** We appreciate all who support us: the Local Partnership, Arnold Clark, Flightpath Fund, Housing Associations and many more. We are also grateful to Wheatley's cafe for allowing us to meet in their premises.

**VIEWPOINT:** Thanks to a grant from the Town and Country Recovery Fund, we created a Viewpoint at the top of the hill. The cairn was built by Renfrew's K&K Stonemasons, the interpretive sign designed by a volunteer, and the sign created by the Bravest Workshop at Erskine Hospital. We hope you enjoy the view and learning about the landscape.

**LOCAL EVENTS:** The Green Santa and Lantern Parade is on 11th December, email to book a place. Our volunteers and RHS are making Wreaths, Festive Tin Cans, Christmas Swags and Christmas decorations, all from natural materials. These will be available at the Jingle Bell fun run, Old hall Scouts Christmas Fair, St Marks Christmas Fair and the Community Garden. Christmas Cards and 2023 calendars available soon.

New volunteers are always welcome, whether to garden, mentor, apply for funding, lead projects, liaise with Renfrewshire Council, and more! Please come and meet us in the park or email [barshaw.friends@gmail.com](mailto:barshaw.friends@gmail.com)



# Christmas Crinkle Cookies

## Ingredients:

60G COCOA POWDER, SIEVED 200G CASTER SUGAR  
60ML VEGETABLE OIL  
2 LARGE EGGS  
180G PLAIN FLOUR  
1 TSP BAKING POWDER  
2 ORANGES, ZESTED  
2 TSP MIXED SPICE  
1 TSP CINNAMON  
50G ICING SUGAR



## Method:

1. MIX THE COCOA, CASTER SUGAR AND OIL TOGETHER.
2. ADD THE EGGS ONE AT A TIME, WHISKING UNTIL FULLY COMBINED.
3. IN A SEPARATE BOWL, COMBINE THE FLOUR, BAKING POWDER, ORANGE ZEST, MIXED SPICE, CINNAMON AND A PINCH OF SALT.
4. THEN ADD TO THE COCOA MIXTURE AND MIX UNTIL A SOFT DOUGH FORMS. IF IT FEELS TOO SOFT, PUT IN THE FRIDGE TO CHILL FOR 1 HR.
5. HEAT THE OVEN TO 190C/170C FAN/GAS 5
6. TIP THE ICING SUGAR INTO A SHALLOW DISH. ROLL HEAPED TEASPOONS OF THE DOUGH INTO BALLS (ABOUT 20G EACH), THEN ROLL IN THE ICING SUGAR TO COAT.
7. PUT THE BALLS ON ONE LARGE OR TWO MEDIUM BAKING TRAYS LINED WITH BAKING PARCHMENT, ENSURING THEY'RE EVENLY SPACED APART.
8. BAKE ON THE MIDDLE RACK OF THE OVEN FOR 10 MINS.
9. TRANSFER TO A WIRE RACK TO COOL - THEY WILL FIRM UP AS THEY COOL, BUT STILL BE FUDGY IN THE CENTRE. THEY WILL KEEP FOR UP TO FOUR DAYS IN AN AIRTIGHT CONTAINER.

Source: BBC Good Food





# Christmas Crossword

1. Mitten 2. Present 3. Bell 4. Star 5. (across) Snowflake 6. (down) Santa 7. Tree 8. Hat 9. Ball 10. Candle 11. Fire 12. Gingerbread man

# Cryptic Carols

1 Christmas	2 	3 	4 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
5 	6 	7 	8 

1. White Christmas 2. We three kings 3. Santa baby 4. Noel 5. Silver bells 6. Little drummer boy 7. Twelve days of Christmas 8. Jingle bell rock