



Spring 2021

Renfrewshire

The magazine for Renfrewshire's people



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Welcome



Our budget for the council was passed last month and I am pleased we have been able to protect the pockets of residents in Renfrewshire at a time of unprecedented cuts to local government spending. We face some of our toughest challenges for years—managing the public purse whilst continuing to deliver the vital services people rely on, whether that's education, care for the elderly or maintaining our roads, to name but a few.

I am proud of what we have achieved. We are delivering investment in infrastructure to secure long term jobs and prosperity for the region. We have secured further funding to tackle the poverty that blights so many people's opportunities, particularly our young people. By investing in our cultural events and opening up access to music education, we are opening doors for hundreds of children to participate in the activities that can make such a difference to people's lives.

Our success in Renfrewshire is delivered by the council working with all our partners and the communities we serve. Working together we can make a real difference to all those who live here as we work towards our vision of a Renfrewshire where all our people, communities and businesses thrive.

Councillor Mark Macmillan
Leader of Renfrewshire Council

As I approach the end of my term as Provost, I must thank you for the opportunity to represent the Renfrewshire community over the past 20 years—five of which have been in my current role.

The work that goes on in our communities to make Renfrewshire a better place is humbling and gives me a real feeling of pride.

I was delighted recently to pass the £30,000 milestone raised for my four local charities—Accord and St Vincent's Hospices, Recovery Across Mental Health (RAMH) and Renfrewshire Carers' Centre.

Looking ahead through 2017, there is lots to look forward to in Renfrewshire.

I hosted my final Community Awards in March which saw deserving community members rewarded and also the Freedom of Renfrewshire awarded to the 102 Field Squadron.

Paisley will also submit its bid for UK City of Culture 2021 and we want to harness the power of culture to create a lasting legacy for the whole area.

The bid aims to put Paisley in the international spotlight, attract visitors, create jobs and help build a new sense of local pride in Paisley, and Renfrewshire as a whole.

The next year will be an exciting time for Renfrewshire and there is no limit to what we can achieve if we work together and utilise our unrivalled community spirit.

Councillor Anne Hall
Provost of Renfrewshire



Paisley ready to bid as UK City of Culture 2021 competition launches

The race to be UK City of Culture 2021 is officially under way—and the team behind Paisley's bid say the town will be ready to host the title.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport have set a deadline of 28 April for bids to be lodged, with the winner to be announced at the end of the year.

The guidelines were announced by Minister for Digital and Culture Matt Hancock MP during a visit to Hull, the current holders of the title, which runs every four years.

Paisley officially launched its intention to bid in November 2015 and the year since has seen an outpouring of support from the local community and beyond.

Councillor Mark Macmillan, chair of the Paisley 2021 partnership board and Renfrewshire Council Leader, said:

"We would like to thank DCMS for giving us the chance to bid for this title—we hope to use it to transform the area's fortunes, bringing massive economic benefits and a lasting social and cultural legacy."

Jean Cameron, Paisley 2021 Bid Director, added: *"Over the past year we have had wonderful backing from the people of Paisley—and our thriving creative community has been at the heart of that."*

"In that time we have seen a new sense of confidence and awareness of everything Paisley has to offer—and we will distil that into a bid which shows DCMS how we plan to harness the power of culture to make people's lives better."

For more information about Paisley's bid, see www.paisley2021.co.uk or turn to page 16 of this magazine.



Food Festival fever

Paisley is set to welcome more than 10,000 food and drink enthusiasts this spring with the return of The Paisley Beer Festival and The Paisley Food Festival providing the best foodie experiences for all to enjoy.

The Paisley Beer Festival, which is run by the Renfrewshire CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale), will celebrate its 30th year between Wednesday 19 and Saturday 22 April at Paisley Town Hall. The event will offer up more than 300 real ales, beers, ciders and wines from across the UK and beyond for ale-lovers to enjoy.

The Paisley Food Festival will also make its return to the town centre for the third consecutive year. Taking place on Saturday 22 April in Abbey Close and Bridge Street the event will see a variety of food and drink vendors selling their wares for visitors to enjoy.

As part of this outdoor event a range of entertainment will be performing at the live stage for the crowds to enjoy at Abbey Close and there will also be a crafts fair. There will also be food themed workshops for all ages and street entertainment.

All the activities at the Paisley Food Festival will be free of charge.

Find out more at www.paisley2021.co.uk



Search on for compassionate people to join Care at Home Service

Come and join a great team of compassionate Home Care Workers and make a difference to people's lives.

Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership is searching for caring and enthusiastic people to join its Care at Home Service.

You will provide all aspects of personal care, including washing, dressing and support with medication, to help vulnerable people live safely at home for as long as they can.

In return, you will receive a starting salary of £8.33 an hour, guaranteed working hours, pension and access to comprehensive training.

Home Care Workers will also be trained to SVQ2 Level standard in Health and Social Care and a number of permanent and temporary posts are available.

Home care worker AJ Campbell, 26, said: "It's so rewarding and you never leave work without knowing you've done some good because all the service users are so thankful for everything you do for them."

Apply online at: www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/renfrewshire-council or call 0300 300 0330 for an application pack.

Smarter help for young job seekers

In a nationwide first Renfrewshire Council, McGill's Buses and Transport Scotland have teamed-up to help overcome one of the biggest barriers to employment

Youngsters who need help to get to job interviews, or to travel to work before their first pay arrives, will benefit from a new initiative taking advantage of smartcard technology.

It is a boost for people aged 16 to 25 who qualify for free travel to help them

get into work or training.

Where a young person registered with the council's Invest in Renfrewshire programme is eligible for free travel, advisors can now load pre-paid tickets onto their Young Scot card.

As any young person can get a Young Scot card, it can be used for travel without labelling those who rely on the support.

Council Leader Mark Macmillan said: "This is yet another innovative way to

help overcome the barriers that too often stand in the way of someone finding work and achieving a better future.

"Helping young people facing particular challenges to achieve their potential is at the heart of our approach to getting young people out of poverty."

The project is part of Renfrewshire Council's £6 million Tackling Poverty Action Plan to end child poverty throughout the area.



Call for foster carers

In Scotland there are more than 15,000 children who are unable to live with their families and need a safe, stable and nurturing environment to call home — is this something you could provide?

Renfrewshire Council is looking for foster carers to provide a safe, secure and loving environment for children and young people unable to live with their own families.

Foster caring is a highly rewarding experience offering the opportunity to make a lasting difference to a child's life and the need for carers continues to grow. And while many children return to their own parents after a short period

in foster care, others are unable to go home and move on to either permanent fostering or adoption.

Foster carers receive generous payments and dedicated support from a team of professionals, networking and support from other carers, exclusive memberships and a comprehensive training and development programme.

Why not take the first step and contact the Children and Families Team on 0300 300 1199 or email childrenandfamilies.sw@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk to find out more about this rewarding career?



Celebrating our local heroes

Renfrewshire's Provost Anne Hall hosted the 20th anniversary of the Provost's Community Awards which recognises members of the community who are making a real difference in Renfrewshire.

The winners, their families and their nominators were invited to a special event at the Normandy Hotel to celebrate their achievements and receive their awards.

The winners of each award were:

- Community Group: Sma' Shot Volunteers, Sma' Shot Cottages
- Community Volunteer: Jake Fulton, Houston Litter Crew
- Carers' Award: Samantha Webster
- Sporting Achievement: Jackie Turley, Paisley Pirates
- Employer of the Year: CGC Construction

Alongside the five Community Award winners, Provost Hall also awarded Distinction Certificates to deserving local people who have given their time to help others or who have made a positive impact on the local area.

The Freedom of Renfrewshire was also awarded for only the fifth time to the 102 Field Squadron in the year they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Nominations for next year's awards will open to the public later in the year.

For more information visit: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/provostawards



Screens for schools

Children and young people in the area's schools are to benefit from greater access to tablet technology.

Around 1,000 state-of-the-art devices will be purchased by Renfrewshire Council over the next two years, with the majority to be used in education to improve learning opportunities for children.

The extra devices will be purchased following councillors' decision to extend a contract which has already seen around 1,000 tablets bought over the past two years.

The four-year deal is a significant investment of more than £1.3 million and will help tackle the problem of digital exclusion.

Councillor Jacqueline Henry, the convener of education and children's services, said: "We know tablet-based technology is a massive aid to learning, allowing teachers to adopt modern and flexible approaches as well as giving pupils the chance to gain vital skills."

"Providing access to tablets is not only an integral part of our approach to raising attainment, it is also a key part of our efforts to close the gap between pupils from the wealthiest and poorest backgrounds."

MyAccount... our first year

With over 14,000 customers and an increasing number of online services available, take a look at our journey so far...

March 2016

Our new digital customer account goes live! For the first time, customers can view and manage their council tax account online. New online forms are made available to apply for council tax discount or exemption and for direct debit.

April 2016

2,021 customers registered!

May - June 2016

5,000 customers signed up!

New, smarter online forms for housing benefit and change of circumstances introduced.

July 2016

An instant hit, the facility to upload proof electronically arrives to MyAccount.

August 2016

UWS students benefit from a dedicated form to link their student status to council tax discount.

Did you know?

40% of customers access MyAccount from a smartphone

Oct - Nov 2016

10,000 customers!

Dec 2016

Our housing tenant's rent account now live! Customers can view their rent balance, payments and adjustments over a rolling 13 week period.

Coming soon...

We're improving how you report missed bins, street lighting faults and potholes, book a bulky uplift and report instances of dog fouling and graffiti. Find out more at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/myaccount

Secure your vote for council election

The next local government elections take place on Thursday 4 May.

Councils make decisions on vital issues affecting the community, including children's services, planning, council housing, and regeneration.

If you want to be able to have your say on what the priorities should be in Renfrewshire for the next five years, you must first be registered to vote.

Even if you pay your council tax you are not automatically registered to vote.

To check your name is on the register, contact: The Electoral Registration Officer, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3QF, or ask in your local library.

You can call the Electoral Registration Office on 0300 300 0150.

The deadline for receiving applications to register to vote is Monday 17 April.

The deadline for receiving new postal votes and postal proxy applications is 5pm on Tuesday 18 April.

Polling Day for the council election is Thursday 4 May with polling stations open from 7am to 10pm.

The votes will be counted the following day.

This election will see 12 electoral wards in Renfrewshire compared to the current 11, and 43 councillors will be elected compared to the current total of 40.

Voting will be by the Single Transferable Vote method of voting. To find out more, visit www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/elections



Did you know?

16 and 17 year-olds are eligible to vote at this year's council election

Free public access Wi-Fi

New system is a boost for town centre regeneration and helps tackle digital exclusion

People will be able to get online for free thanks to public access Wi-Fi being rolled out by the Council in Johnstone, Paisley and Renfrew town centres.

The system will help establish town centres as places to go and spend time.

Giving visitors access to the internet means they can stay in touch by email, access banking apps and use the many web-based systems people use while out-and-about.

This will increase the number of visitors and get them to stay longer, delivering more customers for businesses and helping to support the local economy.

The free-to-use system will also be available in a range of public and community buildings throughout Renfrewshire and will help tackle the problem of digital exclusion.

Mainly affecting those on low incomes who do not have an internet connection at home, the problem leaves people further disadvantaged due to being unable to access opportunities and services online.

Bob Grant, chief executive of Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce, said:

"This is good for businesses and visitors in Johnstone, Paisley and Renfrew town centres."

"Digital connectivity is now expected as normal and is transforming our retail environments."

"We welcome Renfrewshire Council's forward thinking approach in approving the installation of free public Wi-Fi— another piece in the jigsaw to reinvigorate our town centres."

Alan McNiven is the chief executive of Engage Renfrewshire, an organisation working with a diverse range of groups and organisations to help make a real difference to people's lives and improve community capacity.

He said: *"This is great news for the many local groups and organisations who are involved in a range of collaborative work supporting Renfrewshire Council's approach to increasing digital participation."*

"Tackling digital exclusion is an important aspect of Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Strategy and the move to implement public access Wi-Fi zones will help many more people access a wider range of digital services."





SCHOOL CLUBS
EASTER
 AND ACTIVITIES

? **Did you know?**
 883 children attended last year's Easter Activity camps within our leisure centres

Renfrewshire Leisure is putting on an extensive range of activities to keep children entertained this Easter.

An outdoor programme of activities will run from Monday 3 through to Thursday 13 April for children ranging from Primary 7 to S6. Participating children will be able to take part in a range of activities covering everything from mountain biking and hill walking to kayaking and rock climbing.

Prices range from £5–£10 with discounts available for parents looking to enrol more than one child, as well as for families in receipt of income support or full working tax credits.

Building on the success of previous camps, Renfrewshire Leisure centres will also be holding a series of Easter activity camps for children in Primaries 1–7 over the same period offering a range of fun activities and games to keep children engaged and entertained over the holidays.

Participating venues include: The Lagoon, Linwood ON-X, Johnstone Community Sports Hubs, Park Mains High School and Renfrew Sports Centre.

Kids will be able to enjoy a jam-packed programme of sports, themed days, arts and craft activity, fun and games.

Parents can choose to pay for their child by the day or for the whole week. Discounts are available for families with more than one child enrolled.

The activity camps include two extended stay options for children—The Early Risers Club and the Afternoon Kids Zone. These added blocks run before and after the main camp, offering Wii games, arts and crafts, giant floor games and dance mats in a relaxed environment.

The aim of the camps is to create a fun experience for children while encouraging them to get active. All the events taking place throughout these popular school holiday camps are run by highly trained and enthusiastic staff who have experience working with young children.

To find out more or book a place please visit www.renfrewshireleisure.com.

Work begins on major City Deal projects in Renfrewshire

The infrastructure projects are part of a massive £1.13 billion investment to boost the economy and create jobs across the Glasgow City Region.

The first stage of physical work is underway to deliver £274 million of major infrastructure projects in Renfrewshire funded by the Glasgow City Region City Deal.

The ambitious projects will create better links between communities and develop a world-class business and commercial location in the heart of Renfrewshire. Work to deliver the new infrastructure has begun with the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside project, which has commenced ground investigations ahead of the construction of a new 'opening' bridge across the Clyde.

This £90.7million investment will allow people and traffic to move more easily between Renfrew, Clydebank and Yoker. As well as the bridge across the river, it will also fund the creation of new roads, including the Renfrew North Development Road, and cycle routes to give people better access to employment and education opportunities and health, leisure and entertainment facilities.

Investigation work will also be undertaken for the Glasgow Airport Investment Area project—a £39.1million initiative to generate business growth and attract inward investment. The project includes the realignment of Abbotsinch Road, a new bridge across the White Cart and new cycle routes.

Improving connections between the Westway, Inchinnan and Airport Business Parks, it will deliver a world class commercial offering centred around the airport and lead to the creation of thousands of jobs in Renfrewshire.

A further £144 million has been earmarked for the Glasgow Airport Access Project, providing the long sought-after direct rail link between Glasgow Airport, Paisley and Glasgow City Centre. This is the City Deal's flagship project and will see the development of a new light rail spur, with hybrid tram-trains using both this and the existing railway network.

Renfrewshire Council Leader Mark Macmillan, who is Glasgow City Region Cabinet's Enterprise lead, said: "These major infrastructure projects will allow Renfrewshire to play a pivotal role in cementing the Glasgow City Region as the economic powerhouse of Scotland. They will bring benefits not only to local communities but to the rest of the country as well."

"By taking these projects forward we will create an attractive business location that offers unparalleled connectivity by land, sea and air, with excellent links across the Clyde and to our town and city centres. This will unlock Renfrewshire's economic potential which will bring inward investment and create jobs for local people."



"The City Deal investment for Renfrewshire as a whole will make a significant difference in supporting our long term economic growth. Glasgow Airport is a key economic driver for the area and our most important asset needs an effective transport infrastructure. A direct rail link is crucial to allow our companies to compete more effectively now and in the future."

Bob Grant, Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce



Did you know?

The new opening bridge across the Clyde will cater for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians to better link communities and businesses on either side of the river.

(above) An artist's impression of the realigned Abbotsinch Road, which will better link communities and businesses and help regenerate the area.

(below) The new opening bridge will connect communities and help regenerate the Renfrew Riverside area (artist's impression).



(above) An artist's impression of the Glasgow Airport Investment Area from across the White Cart.



Our budget 2017–2018

Investment in education, the economy and supporting those in need—as the council protects the pockets of Renfrewshire households.



Households in Renfrewshire have been protected from significant budget cuts as councillors voted to freeze council tax and council rents, as well as adult social care charges for the coming year.

Renfrewshire Council's budget for 2017–18 was set at a Council meeting on 16 February and will provide a budget of £386 million for existing services, which includes a £16 million reduction in annual spending to address a budget shortfall which must be met in the coming year. However savings delivered through effective debt management and the Better Council programme, mean these savings will not hit front line services or the pockets of people in Renfrewshire.

An additional £1.5million was agreed for initiatives the council has been delivering to tackle poverty such as providing money and energy advice, literacy programmes, breakfast clubs, supporting families with the cost of the school day and supporting digital participation across the region.

An extra £1.5million funding will be used for a full refurbishment of St Anthony's primary and Spateston nursery in Johnstone.

An extra £150,000 funding will also be provided to remove music tuition fees in Renfrewshire schools and a doubling of the Cultural Heritage and Events Fund with an extra £500,000 which will benefit dozens of community arts groups across the region.

We are also making our largest single investment in our roads network with £3.5million to ensure we keep Renfrewshire's economy moving.

All fees and charges, including those for adult social care and council-owned

leisure facilities will also be frozen for the coming year, including fitness class fees and hire of football pitch facilities.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Mark Macmillan, welcomed the budget and said the measures agreed would help protect Renfrewshire residents from some of the severe cuts faced by public services.

Councillor Macmillan said:

"We are ambitious for Renfrewshire and what it can achieve and I am pleased we have been able to protect the pockets of people who live and work in the area despite the ongoing cuts and increasing pressures on our budget.

"Through our effective management of the public purse, we have listened to what matters to our communities and continued to freeze the Council Tax at current rates, freeze council rents, freeze charges for social care and freeze charges for our leisure facilities across the region.

"We are a region of great prosperity but also significant poverty and we want to ensure that everyone has the same opportunities through education and employment to grow a Renfrewshire that is an attractive place to visit, work and invest in.

"Our communities have a history of great talent and by tapping into that talent and investing in it through the removal of music tuition fees and through funding for our talented communities, we can open up access to opportunities that can change the lives of those who take part in such activities. Our Paisley bid for UK City of Culture 2021 is part of our ambition to tap into and develop that talent to ensure future generations of success."

£2.15m

for schools and culture

£3.5m

on our roads

£1.5m

to tackle poverty



Paisley 2021... thanks for your support

Paisley's bid to be UK City of Culture 2021 has been gathering pace in recent months—and it's all thanks to you.

The town is bidding for the title as part of wider plans to use Paisley's unique heritage and cultural assets to change Renfrewshire's fortunes for the better.

Winning would mean hosting a year-long programme of major events in 2021, an international spotlight on everything that makes the town special, huge numbers of visitors, and a much-needed economic boost with long-lasting benefits for residents and businesses.

The competition is run by the UK Government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport and runs every four years. Hull is hosting the title in 2017 and our bid for 2021 will be lodged very soon.

The bid is being run by the council in partnership with a wide range of other local organisations.

But for Paisley to win the title it needs local people to come forward and help us show the judges how much we want to win it.

So far 8,000 people have been part of the conversation around the themes making up the bid—and thousands more have 'pushed the button' on our website to show their support.

We want to thank everybody who has joined Team Paisley to date...and if you haven't yet, this is the time to do it!



Who is already backing the bid?

Famous faces sign up

Anybody backing the bid is in good company—as some of Paisley's biggest names are already on board.

Musical megastar Paolo Nutini filmed a special video message explaining his reasons for backing the bid.

And Hollywood actor Gerard Butler tweeted his support after being recreated in Lego by teenage animator Morgan Spence's special Paisley 2021 film.

Holyrood reception

December saw members of Paisley's cultural community and influencers from across the country join forces to back the bid at a jam-packed Scottish Parliament reception.

The event—sponsored by Paisley MSP George Adam and West of Scotland MSP Neil Bibby—saw support from across the political spectrum and really raised the town's profile.



More on all of the above at www.paisley2021.co.uk



Did you know?

The first week of Hull's year as UK City of Culture 2017 attracted 342,000 visitors to the area

"I'm backing the bid because Paisley is and always has been my home. I love the town and want to see it grow...please go on the website and push the button."

Paolo Nutini

Business leaders

A successful bid means massive benefits for local traders, and more than 150 local businesses and organisations have signed up to Team Paisley so far.

That includes big names like Glasgow Airport, intu Braehead and the University of the West of Scotland. A full list—plus details of how your company can join it—is at www.paisley2021.co.uk/partners

How to get involved

The Paisley 2021 bid is by Paisley and for Paisley—and there's loads of ways you can be part of it:

- go on our website and 'push the button' to show your support
- come to our event
- follow us on social media,
- sign up to our newsletter
- download a Back the Bid poster from our website and put it up
- get funding for your own project through our culture fund
- have your organisation publicly declare its support
- tell the world what Paisley has to offer
- just be creative and have fun!



/Paisley2021



@Paisley2021



Bringing our past to life

VisitScotland has named 2017 as the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology offering an exciting opportunity to highlight Scotland's fascinating past through a range of cultural events and activities.

This designated year throws a spotlight on Scotland's greatest assets and hidden gems, providing a great opportunity to highlight Renfrewshire's historical significance.

Due to its rich heritage Renfrewshire is set to host one of the key events celebrating this year's theme. Sma' Shot Day will take place on 1 July offering a range of cultural activities and performances that celebrate the town's weaving roots and unique positioning in the country's history.

To celebrate this iconic year here are some interesting historical facts about the region's most well-known locations:

- Paisley Abbey is said to have connections with William Wallace. Many believe that Wallace was at least partially educated by Paisley's monks before being sent off

to his uncle's in Dundee. The 'tomb' of Marjory Bruce, daughter of King Robert the Bruce, is also located within the Abbey.

- The Sma' Shot Cottages get their name from a dispute between the Paisley weavers and the middlemen, or 'corks'.

The 'sma' shot' was a binding thread not visible in the final product. The weavers argued the case and ultimately in 1856 were successful in being paid for the sma' shot.

- In 1927 the Russell Institute building made history as the first building in the west of Scotland to have a skeleton fabric of reinforced concrete.

- Donations to Paisley Central Library in 1871 included the four volumes of Audubon's "*Birds of America*", then valued at £250, and still the most valuable item in the library's collection today.

Reasons to visit Renfrewshire

Renfrewshire has a rich heritage and a great story to tell which helps attract visitors to the region each year. Beautiful historical buildings and an impressive programme of cultural events saw more than 900,000 people visit the area in 2016 alone for attractions like Clyde Muirshiel, Snow Factor, Paisley Museum and Art Galleries, Sma' Shot

Cottages and Kilbarchan Weaver's Cottage. This is a 5% increase on the previous year with 2017 visitor numbers expected to exceed 1 million.

To find out more on events and attractions throughout Renfrewshire please visit www.paisley2021.co.uk



Renfrewshire boasts an enviable array of cultural and entertainment events to bring communities together and encourage visitors to the area such as the annual Beer Festival or the town's festival of music and comedy—The Spree.

History buffs can experience the story of the dramatic birth of an early King of Scotland as part of Renfrew's heritage trail or visit sites of stories ranging from a 6th century saint to daring air service men and women of the 1930s.



Did you know?
Blackhall Manor is the oldest house in Paisley. It looks like a 16th century house, but parts of it may be as old as the 14th century.

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy activities such as kayaking at Castle Semple Loch or a visit to Lochwinnoch RSPB Nature Reserve.



Optometrist

If you have a problem with your eyes visit your local optometrist. Out-of-hours call NHS 24 on **111**.

If you sustain an eye injury that requires immediate emergency treatment go to your nearest A&E. Children under one should attend the Royal Hospital for Children at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital campus.



Addictions

For alcohol and drug addiction problems either self refer directly to local specialist teams in Renfrewshire by calling **0141 618 2585** (Renfrewshire Drug Services) or for alcohol issues call **0141 207 7878** (Integrated Alcohol Team) or AseRT on 0300 300 1199 (choose option 2), or alternatively contact your GP. Crisis services are also available at the Drug Crisis Centre.



Pharmacist

Speak to your pharmacist for advice on common ailments including coughs, colds, sore throats and stomach upsets etc. There is no need to make an appointment. Pharmacists can also help with medication that has previously been prescribed by your GP and other prescribers.



Mental Health

For mental health problems contact your GP who can refer people to Community Mental Health Services in local areas. For help with mild to moderate mental health issues in Renfrewshire call **0141 849 2208**. Crisis services are also available and the out-of-hours Community Psychiatric Nurse service can be accessed directly on **0845 650 1730** or through NHS 24 on **111**.



Adult and Social Care

The Adult Services Response Team is the single point of access for social care services including adult protection, care@home, community care and occupational therapy. Call **0141 207 7878** or email adultservicesreferral.sw@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk



GP and GP Out of Hours

Contact your GP surgery as normal for any illness which requires your GP practice. If your condition can't wait until your surgery re-opens, contact NHS 24 on **111**.



Self Care

For a speedy recovery, self care is the best option when you have a minor illness or injury. A well-stocked medicine cabinet means you'll receive the right treatment immediately.

How to access your health and social care services

The Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership is leading the way in delivering a range of health and adult social care services throughout Renfrewshire.

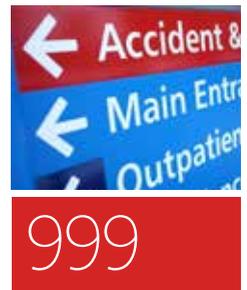
Depending on your needs there are a range of services available to you. You can find out more about the best service to contact depending on your requirements here.



Dentist

You should register with a dentist for regular check ups, planned routine treatment and emergency care.

If you have an emergency out of hours dental issue, contact the dental out-of-hours service by calling NHS 24 on **111**.



999

For accidents or serious emergencies such as strokes, heart attacks, head injuries and wounds requiring stitches, go to the nearest A&E or call **999**.

111

NHS 24

For immediate advice including when your GP surgery or Dental Practice is closed and you're too ill to wait until it re-opens call NHS 24. They will put you through to a health professional who will talk to you about your symptoms and arrange for you to see a GP or dentist if necessary. **Call NHS 24 on 111.**

What's on

Cultural events from Renfrewshire Leisure

Highlights from the Spring season...

For more events, go to www.renfrewshireleisure.com

May the Toys Be With You

18 March–29 May

Paisley Museum

FREE



From a Galaxy far, far away comes an absolute must-see for fans of Star Wars or cinema history.

One of the UK's finest collections of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters is going on display in a stunning new exhibition at Paisley Museum. With fun activities and features throughout the museum, there will be something for all the family to enjoy!



Plan B Dance presents

Citizen

Tue 21 March

Paisley Arts Centre, 7.30pm

£10 (£6 conc) + bkg fee*

A darkly humorous dance piece, looking at how we bring our identity with us wherever we go. Created by Glasgow-based choreographer Chrissie Ardill and an electric music score mixed live by composer Mariam Rezaei. Featuring a short pre-show performance by Right to Dance.

Buy tickets from the box office on **0300 300 1210** or online at www.renfrewshireleisure.com

*A £1 service charge per transaction applies for bookings made by phone or online. There is no service charge for tickets purchased in person or for tickets booked by phone and later collected from the Box Office.

Fraser John Lindsay's Blues Incentive

Fri 31 March

Paisley Arts Centre, 7.30pm

£10 (£8 conc) + bkg fee*

The local guitarist from Elderslie returns with his band, Blues Incentive, who have become regulars on the Glasgow blues scene.

Make a night of it after the performance at our jazz cafe with Paisley's own jazz chanteuse, Evelyn Laurie.



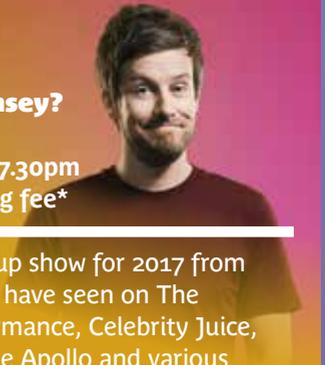
Chris Ramsey: Is that Chris Ramsey?

Fri 7 April

Paisley Town Hall, 7.30pm

£20 (£18 conc) + bkg fee*

A brand new stand up show for 2017 from the comedian you'll have seen on The Royal Variety Performance, Celebrity Juice, Hebburn, Live At The Apollo and various newspapers when he was wrongly arrested in a hotel in his underpants.



Gilded Balloon presents Horse McDonald in

Careful

Fri 28 April

Paisley Arts Centre, 7.30pm

£12 (£10 conc) + bkg fee*

Horse McDonald's spellbinding debut play takes us on a journey from wearing two-tone velvet loons to being one of Scotland's most celebrated singers, and through those times when she had to be...Careful.

Join Horse afterwards for a live audience Q&A with director Maggie Kinloch, as well as hit songs from the last two decades of her illustrious career.

Over the Top Puppet Company presents

Willie the Wicked Wolf

Wed 12 April

Johnstone Town Hall, 2pm

£4 + bkg fee*

Suitable for ages 5+

Willie plans to eat Granny and Red Riding Hood but fails miserably because of his unreliable motorbike. Luckily Granny is a good mechanic. Unluckily she is not a good driver...how will it end? Happily of course, if the audience helps!

The puppets are all hand operated within a rickety seaside style puppet booth, which heaves around throughout the performance issuing bubbles, smoke, occasional jets of water and a variety of props.



Your Councillors

Details were correct at the time of going to press. However, if you intend to go along to a councillor's surgery, please call **0300 300 0300** to check the dates and times, particularly during school and public holidays.

Visit www.renfrewshire.gov.uk for latest surgery details and to contact your local councillor by email.

Ward 1

Renfrew North



Bill Brown
(Labour)

Renfrew Town Hall
1st Wed of every month (7pm)

Kirklandneuk Community Centre*
3rd Thu of every month (6pm)

***Alternates with Alex Murrin**



Alex Murrin
(Labour)

Renfrew Town Hall
2nd Sat of every month (10.30am)

Kirklandneuk Community Centre*
3rd Thu of every month (6pm)

***Alternates with Bill Brown**



Bill Perrie
(SNP)

Renfrew Town Hall
1st Sat of every month (10am)

Kirklandneuk Community Centre
1st Wed of every month (6.30pm)

Ward 2

Renfrew South & Gallowhill



Margaret Devine
(Labour)

Gallowhill Community Centre
2nd Thu of every month (6pm)

Cherrie Centre
2nd Sat of every month (11am)

Newmains Primary School
2nd Sat of every month (12pm)



Cathy McEwan
(SNP)

Our Place Our Families*
1st Fri of every month (11am)

Arkleston and Newmains Community Association
2nd Wed of every month (6.30pm)

Cherrie Centre
3rd Tue of every month (6.30pm)

Gallowhill Community Centre
3rd Thu of every month (6.30pm)

***Alternates with Jim Paterson**



Jim Paterson
(SNP)

Our Place Our Families*
1st Fri of every month (11am)

Arkleston and Newmains Community Association
1st Thu of every month (5.15pm)

Cherrie Centre
1st Thu of every month (6.15pm)

Gallowhill Community Centre
1st Sat of every month (10.00am)

***Alternates with Cathy McEwan**

Ward 3

Paisley East and Ralston



Brian Lawson
(SNP)

To arrange a prompt personal appointment with Councillor Brian Lawson, please call **0300 300 1253**.



Will Mylet
(SNP)

To arrange a personal appointment with Councillor Mylet, please call **0300 300 1251** or email cllr.will.mylet@renfrewshire.gov.uk



Jim Sharkey
(Labour)

Alternates with Maureen Sharkey.

Hunterhill Community Centre
1st Tue of every month (6.30pm)

St Andrew's Academy
2nd Tue of every month (6.30pm)

Ralston Community Centre
3rd Wed of every month (6.15pm)

Williamsburgh Primary School
1st Thu of every month (6.30pm)



Maureen Sharkey
(Labour)

Alternates with Jim Sharkey.

Hunterhill Community Centre
1st Tue of every month (6.30pm)

St Andrew's Academy
2nd Tue of every month (6.30pm)

Ralston Community Centre
3rd Wed of every month (6.15pm)

Williamsburgh Primary School
1st Thu of every month (6.30pm)

Ward 4

Paisley North West



Terry Kelly
(Labour)

West End Community Centre
2nd Fri of every month (2pm)

West Primary School
4th Sat of every month (11am)

Engage Renfrewshire, Falcon Crescent, Paisley
Last Wed of every month (5.30pm)



Kenny MacLaren
(SNP)

Alternates with Mags MacLaren.

St Ninian's Church Hall
1st Thu of every month (6.30pm)

Martyrs' Church
1st Sat of every month (11am)

Beechwood Community Centre
3rd Wed of every month (6.30pm)



Mags MacLaren
(SNP)

Alternates with Kenny MacLaren.

St Ninian's Church Hall
1st Thu of every month (6.30pm)

Martyrs' Church
1st Sat of every month (11am)

Beechwood Community Centre
3rd Wed of every month (6.30pm)



Tommy Williams
(Labour)

Beechwood Community Centre
1st Sat of every month (11am)

Ward 5

Paisley South



Eddie Devine
(Labour)

Glenburn Community Centre
1st Thu of every month (6pm)

Charleston Centre
2nd Thu of every month (6pm)

Todholm Primary School
3rd Thu of every month (6pm)

Lochfield Primary School
4th Thu of every month (6pm)



Roy Glen
(Labour)

To arrange a personal appointment/home visit with Cllr Roy Glen, please call **07506 966362**.



Paul Mack
(Independent)

Lochfield Primary School
Last Wed of every month (6pm)

Southend Action Centre
Last Sat of every month (11am)



Marie McGurk
(SNP)

Lochfield Primary School
2nd Wed of every month (5.30pm)

Ward 6

Paisley South West



Lorraine Cameron
(SNP)

Foxbar Resource Centre
2nd Tue of every month (6pm)

Langcraigs Primary School
2nd Wed of every month (6pm)

Foxbar Community Centre
Last Sat of every month (11am)



Jacqueline Henry
(Labour)

Langcraigs Primary School
2nd Sat of every month (10am)

Brediland Primary School
4th Sat of every month (10am)

Foxbar Community Centre
4th Sat of every month (10.30am)



Mark Macmillan
(Labour)

Langcraigs Primary School
1st Sat of every month (10am)

Brediland Primary School
3rd Sat of every month (10am)

Foxbar Community Centre
3rd Sat of every month (10.30am)



Eileen McCartin MBE
(Lib Dem)

To arrange a personal appointment, please contact Councillor Eileen McCartin at cllr.eileen.mccartin@renfrewshire.gov.uk or call **01505 814676** (if Cllr McCartin is unavailable to take your call, please leave a message).

Ward 7
Johnstone South, Elderslie and Howwood



John Caldwell
(Labour)

Elderslie Village Hall
1st Sat of every month (10.30am)

Thorn Primary School
2nd Fri of every month (5.30pm)

Elderslie Village Hall
4th Sat of every month (10.30am)



John Hood
(Labour)

Cochrane Castle Community Centre
1st Fri of every month (5.30pm)

St Paul's Church, North Rd, Johnstone
3rd Fri of every month (6pm)

Johnstone Castle Community Centre
3rd Sat of every month (10.30am)



Stephen McGee
(SNP)

Howwood Village Hall
1st Thu of every month (6pm)

West Johnstone Shared Campus
1st Thu of every month (7.15pm)

Auchenlodment Primary School
2nd Thu of every month (6pm)

Elderslie Village Hall
3rd Thu of every month (6pm)

St Anthony's Primary School
4th Thu of every month (6pm)



Iain McMillan
(Labour)

Spateston Bowling Club
1st Thu of every month (6pm)

Fordbank Primary School
2nd Thu of every month (6pm)

West Johnstone Shared Campus
3rd Thu of every month (6pm)

Howwood Village Hall
4th Thu of every month (6pm)

Ward 8
Johnstone North, Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch



Derek Bibby
(Labour)

Alternates with Christopher Gilmour.

McKillop Institute, Lochwinnoch
1st Sat of every month (9am)

Steeple Hall, Kilbarchan
1st Sat of every month (10am)

Dimity Street Church, Johnstone
1st Sat of every month (11am)

Thorn Primary School
2nd Thu of every month (6pm)

St Margaret's Primary School
4th Thu of every month (6pm)



Christopher Gilmour
(Labour)

Alternates with Derek Bibby. Surgery list above.



Andy Doig
(Independent)

St Margaret's Primary School
2nd Wed of every month (6pm)

Sandyflats Community House
2nd Wed of every month (6.45pm)

Steeple Hall, Kilbarchan
2nd Wed of every month (7.45pm)

Thorn Primary School
4th Wed of every month (6pm)

Johnstone Town Hall
4th Wed of every month (6.45pm)

McKillop Institute, Lochwinnoch
4th Wed of every month (7.30pm)

Ward 9
Houston, Crosslee and Linwood



Audrey Doig
(SNP)

Linwood High School
2nd Thu of every month (6pm)

Linwood High School
4th Thu of every month (6pm)



Anne Hall
(Labour)

Tweedie Hall, Linwood
1st Fri of every month (11am)

Brookfield Village Hall
For date/times, contact Members Support on 0141 618 7094

Tweedie Hall, Linwood (Youth Surgery)
3rd Tue of every month (7pm)

Carrick Centre, Houston
3rd Wed of every month (6.30pm)

Tweedie Hall, Linwood
3rd Fri of every month (11am)



Allan Noon
(SNP)

Brookfield Village Hall
2nd Tue of every month (6pm)

Houston Village Hall
2nd Tue of every month (7pm)

Ward 10
Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank



Maria Brown
(SNP)

To arrange a prompt personal appointment with Councillor Brown, please contact 0300 300 1259 or email cll.maria.brown@renfrewshire.gov.uk



Michael Holmes
(Labour)

Langbank Primary School
4th Mon of every month (6pm)

Bishopton Community Library
4th Mon of every month (6.45pm)

Cargill Hall, Bridge of Weir
4th Wed of every month (6.30pm)



James MacLaren
(Conservative)

Bishopton Community Library
1st Mon of every month (6.30pm)

Cargill Hall, Bridge of Weir
2nd Mon of every month (6.30pm)

Langbank Parish Church
3rd Mon of every month (6.30pm)

Ward 11
Erskine and Inchinnan



Jim Harte
(Labour)

Bargarran Community Centre
3rd Tues of every month (5.30pm)

Inchinnan Community Association
3rd Tues of every month (7pm)



Jim McQuade
(SNP)

Bargarran Community Centre
1st Fri of every month (6.30pm)

Inchinnan Community Association
1st Fri of every month (7.15pm)



Sam Mullin
(Labour)

Bargarran Community Centre
1st Tue of every month (6pm)

Old Farmhouse, Park Mains
1st Thu of every month (6pm)

Inchinnan Community Association
2nd Tue of every month (7pm)

Bridgewater Community Library
Last Tue of every month (6.30pm)

Old Farmhouse, Park Mains
Last Sat of every month (11am)

Home visits can be arranged



Iain Nicolson
(SNP)

Bargarran Community Centre
1st Sat of every month (11am)

Inchinnan Community Association
1st Sat of every month (11.45am)

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