the Pen Mag

March 2023





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What's On - March 2023



ASPIRE DANCE THEATRE Gibson Hall, Garelochhead Mondays 1530

CENTRE 81, GARELOCHHEAD

Mondays (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th) "Spring into Wellbeing" 19.00-20.30 Personal trainer led exercise class followed by nutrition/wellbeing class.

Tuesdays (7th, 14th, 21st, 28th) Creative project for adults with additional support needs. 11.00-13.00 Tuesdays (14th & 28th) Garelochhead Station Trust Brunch 11am

For more information please contact Morevain@garelochheadstationtrust.org.uk

Wednesdays (1st, 8th, 16th, 22nd & 29th) Boccia and lunch 11.00-14.00 Boccia session for adults with additional support needs with/without lunch afterwards

Thursdays (2nd, 9th, 17th, 23rd and 30th) Community Cafe 11.00-13.00

Homemade soups and simple lunch which can be enjoyed by itself or while taking part in 'knit and natter' or using our board games.

For more information contact <u>katie@</u> <u>centre81.org.uk</u>

Cafe n' Play 11.00-13.00 Sessions for young children and their parents/guardians to enjoy play and lunch. There is no cost for this session and there are toys, crafts, musical instruments, fancy dress etc

Please contact $\underline{katie@centre81.org.uk}$ for more information

COVE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat. Cove Burgh Hall Times on www.coveburghhall.org.uk

COVE AND KILCREGGAN LITERARY SOCIETY

Cove Burgh Hall, 8.00pm to 9.00pm MONDAY 6th March Better Conceiv'd than Describ'd - The Life & Death of Captain James Cook, by Steve Ragnall. Monday 20th March AGM and Quiz.

cklitsoc@mail.com

FUNFIRST

Fun time and fitness for children 0-5yrs and carers, Mondays St Modan's Church Hall, Rosneath. 9.45am -11.15am Wednesdays Gibson Hall, Garelochhead, 10am-11.15am

GARELOCHHEAD DOG TRAINING

3 classes Pups at 6.30pm ghdogclub@icloud.com to join the waiting list.

HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND CARERS OUTREACH

10.00-13.00 holistic therapies and 1:2:1 appointments. 13.00-16.00 drop in and activity groups.

Fridays "Spring into Wellbeing" 09.30-11.00

Personal trainer led exercise class followed by nutrition/wellbeing class. For more information contact katie@centre81.org.uk

LINE DANCING CLASSES

Wednesday 1800 - 1900, Cove Burgh Hall and Thursday at Ardencaple Hotel. Follow on facebook @reboot

LIVE@CBH

Burns Evening 8pm Cove Burgh Hall

THE PENINSULA CHOIR

Cove Burgh Hall, 7.30pm to 9.30pm FRIDAY 3rd March and Wednesdays 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March. Join the Peninsula Choir, come and rehearse for our Spring 2023 Concert to be held on April 15th. gwyn_simons@yahoo.com

SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCH CLUB

Wednesdays From 12:00 Cove Burgh Hall

TABLE TENNIS

SUNDAYS 4pm - 5.30pm Cove Burgh Hall All Welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Community Groups are welcome to advertise their regular event slots in our What's On page.

If you know of any community groups that should be or would like to appear in What's On please contact ronatmc@hotmail.com

TAI CHI

Monday 10.30- 11.30 Gibson Hall, Contact Chris on 07391 919293 or <u>taijienergy4u@gmail.com</u>

TEXTILE CRAFTS

Fridays 1000-1200 Cove Burgh Hall

SARAH ASTON YOGA

Cove Burgh Hall Tuesdays - 7.30-8.30pm All abilities <u>www.sarahastonyoga.co.uk</u> To book call Sarah 07717 318424

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Tuesdays 10am - 12 noon.. Cove Burgh Hall. All Welcome.

STAY AND PLAY PLAYGROUP

Is reopening at the Cove Burgh Hall! We offer a friendly meeting place where children can play with peers and grown ups can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. Meet at Cove Burgh Hall on Mondays 11am Cove Burgh Hall.

SWI COVE AND KILCREGGAN

Cove Burgh Hall, Wed 19.30 hrs 1st March All ages of women very welcome! Guests/Visitors £4. In a change to our scheduled programme, our speaker will be Chris Goodwin, Tai Chi Instructor. Members competitions are; 1) 3 x Shrewsbury Biscuits and 2) Hot Water Bottle Cover in any craft. Raffle and refreshments served. Visit our Facebook page for more information.

YOGA

Ashtanga Yoga, Mon 6pm, Cove Burgh Hall. Come along or Contact Roni 07799 031649 Chair Yoga, Thurs 2pm, Cove Burgh Hall & Online followed by tea and cakes. Contact Roni 07799 031649

Editorial



Spring may not quite have sprung, but happily Liz Mathie has been motivated to disinter her trowel and we have Growing Pains back again. The green fingered brigade have definitely missed her during the enforced winter hibernation. Happily this first column of 2023 retains its customary mix of sound information mixed with highly accessible writing.

Roo Irvine, now a regular on our small screens, continues to share her comprehensive knowledge of the antiques and memorabilia markets. This month, in a subject dear to your editor's heart, she's been examining collectibles from the suffragette era.

With Cove Sailing Club gearing up for the season, Commodore Wells Grogan gives us an update on recent events and a glimpse of the new season's calendar.

While our regular Bottled Pleasures scribe is still nursing a wonky palate, we've tried to keep the page alive and this month we're featuring some of the most popular cocktails which many of our regular readers (and contributors!) just may have encountered! However if there's anyone out there with a notion to share their own knowledge of close encounters with alcoholic beverages, do get in touch with myself or Rona.

We also have a new recruit for our Peninsula Cookbook. Sarah Jordan, who moved to Kilcreggan relatively recently, was foolish enough to have a number of her own cookbooks visible when Pen Mag spies were out and about, so she has "volunteered" her services.

Her first recipes however are courtesy of some of her new neighbours, but Sarah has promised to keep up the tradition of recipes which are easy to cook and won't have us scouring cupboards for esoteric ingredients. (Your editor is not about to confess the dates on some spices when she last moved house!)

March's author of the month courtesy of Jeanne Brady will be very familiar to many local residents given that she has recently become a columnist for The Herald. Kerry Hudson already writes for the P&J in Aberdeen, though we think the Pen Mag may not be a huge attraction in the far North East. She has also written for a number of UK national papers including the Guardian.

Kerry has a new memoir coming out this year and will be appearing at November's Cove and Kilcreggan book festival. One of her earlier books, Lowborn, became a huge seller and it's to Kerry's enormous credit that she survived an impoverished childhood with a peripatetic mother to become the consummate writer she has.

Recently she relocated with her husband and young son from Prague to the south side of Glasgow. Prague is a glorious city, of course, but since Kerry had an condition requiring quite complex surgery she wisely decided to come back to the UK where she didn't require to converse about her medical needs in a still foreign language!

The book festival, for those saving the date, will be over the weekend of 25th and 26th of November.

Remember please that as well as Rona's What's On page, we're always happy to features news and views about local organisations, so just contact one of us at the email addresses below.

Editor: <u>Ruth Wishart, ruth@penmag.co.uk</u>

Advertising Director: <u>Rona Grierson</u>, <u>rona@penmag.co.uk</u> Supporters Club: Marion Hobbs: <u>info@penmag.co.uk</u>

The Pen Mag SUPPORTERS CLUB

As we will have no income from sales going forward, we are hoping some of our regular readers might take out a "subscription".

We're asking for just **£10** a year (less than £1 an issue), and if you would like to help, please indicate your support by emailing info@penmag.co.uk

We will give you the bank details and send you the link to The Pen Mag every month.

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Garelochhead & Rosneath Peninsula Community First Responders

Did you know:

In 2022 we attended over 300 calls.

We did over 4000 volunteer hours.

We look after, service and maintain 15 defibrillators across the Rosneath Peninsula and in Garelochhead.

We carry out "Hearstart" and "Save a Life for Scotland" training courses across the area.

To find out more call John Webb on 07775 690949 or email John.Webb3@yahoo.co.uk



Growing Pains

with Liz Mathie

The dirty fingernails are back! Which means that the growing cycle is gaining momentum and I need to do much more than amble round the garden admiring the snowdrops and hellebores. Cutting back the old leaves to reveal the fat buds is always the beginning of the winter clear up and doing it in the company of a bold, little robin is a delight!

I've added a few cyclamen coum to the woodland walk. They like the same conditions, and their gorgeous magenta hues catch the eye at the edge of a drift of snowdrops. Cyclamen hederifolium, or ivy leaf cyclamen, flower from late summer onwards and prefer a drier, well drained position. I bought a few pots of dwarf daffodils to add colour. You can find them in the larger supermarkets just now. I find if I plant bulbs in the autumn, I inevitably dig up some already there!

What I will be moving soon are the tall, early snowdrops, Galanthus S.Arnott. I find they look better out in the open, where they sway about in the winter's wind, which tosses their petals this way and that.

The garden angel has cleared out the herbaceous bed but there wasn't quite enough netting to ensure munched-free plants, so more will have to be ordered before fresh, young shoots appear. The really effective deterrents always have garlic as the main ingredient, which is why the alliums, already putting on lots of growth, are left alone.

I was surprised to see frog spawn in the pond a week earlier than last year, given the low temperatures we had in January. It should survive a slight frosting, as most of it is submerged. I don't know how many amorous frogs lived to love another year, as the heron was there the next morning.

What's the connection between Vlad the Bad and my mushy succulents? No? The latest greenhouse is missing a pane



of toughened glass, shattered by a stone kicked up by the grass-cutter-in -chief's strimmer, although he's "no' convinced" he was the culprit!

Meanwhile, we all know about energy prices. I moved my succulents into the greenhouse at the end of autumn but didn't turn the wee heater on when frost was forecast as most of the heat would have escaped through the gaps. If there is one thing succulents hate, it is to be cold and wet, and they were both. My big aeonium 'schwartzkopf' has succumbed. I'm not too upset. It had grown such a tangle of stems, I had named it Medusa!

It was given to me by a college friend many years ago. So many plants that we all have remind us of folks we knew. They can bring back just as many memories as photos.

If you grow windowsill orchids, pleiones, you should soon see shoots appearing at the side of the fat bulbils. Mine haven't been watered since the leaves started to wither last year. The flower shoot is using the bulbil to nurture it, so don't give it any moisture until the bloom withers and a leaf starts to grow.

Now is a good time to give house plants some TLC. Repot them or scrape away some of the top soil and add some fresh compost. I cut the growing tips off straggly plants like wandering sailor (tradescantia) and put them in water. They will soon root. The old plant usually ends up on the compost heap.

Ignore all the commercial plant wipes. A piece of damp kitchen towel is all you need for the larger leaved plants, or you could take them into the shower with you! Start feeding them with a half strength feed this month, and don't forget any cacti you have. Many of them will begin to flower from April onwards.

While ordering compost to be delivered from Home Hardware – it usually comes on a Friday and there is no delivery charge if you spend over $\pounds 40.00$ – I picked up a packet of strawberry plants of the Cambridge Favourite variety. I haven't grown them for years, but all this media angst about lack of exotics in the middle of winter prompted the purchase!

I'm of a generation who tasted their first juicy, flavoursome strawberries and tomatoes in early summer. As far as I'm concerned, these watery offerings we can get all year round are not worth the money! One poor soul was complaining that she couldn't find strawberries, pomegranates or cucumbers. What on earth was she concocting? Something from Heston Blumenthal's book?

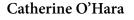
I've got rhubarb and berries in the freezer and I have just covered the fat, pink buds with a bucket in anticipation of some sweet young stems. Food shortage? No, there isn't!

Peninsula Cookbook

with Sarah Jordan

Grateful thanks to friends and neighbours, Catherine, Alison and Christine for supplying this month's recipes, all of which use locally available ingredients, are very good for you, and taste delish! If you would like to see your own showstopper in print please send it to: rona@penmag.co.uk or ruth@penmag.co.uk

BROCCOLI SOUP





Cheesy scrumptiousness hides a veritable wallop of green goodness here. Freezes really well too, so cook lots and store for moments of hungry lethargy.

Peel or scrub, then chop, a couple of floury spuds. Put them in a big pan with just enough water to cover. Bring to the boil and add half a teaspoon of salt. Meanwhile, take two heads of broccoli. Take off and peel the stalks, chop the stalks roughly, and add to the potatoes in the pan. Roughly chop the heads of the broccoli and add those to the rest. Simmer for 10 minutes or so, until everything is tender. Test with a sharp knife which should go into the vegetables without resistance. . Remove from the heat. Blend - in the pan with a stick blender if you have one, or food processor, or just mash it up with masher or fork. It needs to be blended, not smooth. Add more water if you like a thinner soup. Crumble or grate and add a big piece of Stilton (rind removed) a chunk of cheddar, some Parmesan, or a mix of all three, as much as you like. Subtle cheese is sophisticated but lots is yummier.

CARROT AND CELERIAC CRUSH

Alison Coates



Substitute any root veg lurking in your store, mustard for the horseradish, butter for the cream (just a bit less) and cheddar for the parmesan (a bit more). Pop half a teaspoon of salt in the cooking water too. If you add salt earlier in the process you will use less overall - important if you need to watch your levels - although all food cooked at home is lower in salt than its manufactured equivalent. Roots are tasty, cheap (to the extent anything is at the moment) and a splendid boost for flagging winter energy levels. Use a generous hand with the salt, pepper, butter/cream and cheese.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 celeriac root
- 4 carrots
- 2 tbsp horseradish sauce
- Butter for the dish
- 142ml double cream (approx)
- 2 tbsp grated parmesan

METHOD

- 1. Peel chop and boil the roots until tender
- 2. Drain and crush with a fork
- 3. Mix in the horseradish
- 4. (add butter now if you don't have cream)
- 5. Butter your oven dish then tip in the crushed roots
- 6. Pour over the cream, sprinkle with parmesan.

Can be made ahead to this point, and stored, covered, in the fridge, ready to bake. If so, return to room temperature before baking or give it a few more minutes in the oven and make sure it's piping hot in the middle.

Bake at 190C for about 25 - 30 min until golden on top.

LEMON AND YOGURT CAKE

Christine Gemson



This is good cake. Very moist, high in protein from the eggs and yogurt, and, apart from the icing, has a relatively low dose of sugar. Tried and tested by the Cove Burgh Hall Friday Textile Crafts Group. It's a real treat.

INGREDIENTS

- 300g caster sugar
- 50g soft margarine or butter
- 3 eggs separated
- 225g greek yogurt
- grated rind and juice of 1 lemon
- 175g self raising flour
- 125g icing sugar

METHOD.

- 1. Set the oven at 170C and line an 8" cake tin
- 2. In a bowl, beat egg yolks, sugar and fat, then add the yogurt and lemon rind. Fold in the flour
- 3. Whisk the egg whites to soft peak and gently fold into the mix.
- 4. Turn into the tin and bake for 25 min or until a skewer comes out clean.
- 5. Leave in the tin for a few minutes then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely before icing.
- 6. For the icing: mix the lemon juice and icing sugar until smooth, then spread or drizzle over the cake.

Author of the Month

Kerry Hudson

with Jeanne Brady





'A life on the margins doesn't always mean a marginalised life.'

– Kerry Hudson, in an interview with Lloyd Paige

Born in Aberdeen in 1980, biographical details regarding Kerry Hudson's early life are given in her book *Lowborn* (2019), as a child living in extreme poverty and rootlessness. Her first novel, *Tony Hogan Bought Me an Ice-cream Float Before He Stole My Ma* (2012), is set in the council estates, caravan parks and B&Bs that were her environs when she was young.

And, in a column written for the *Herald* earlier this year, Hudson offers a glimpse of her late teens in her call for more emphasis on the arts in working-class communities. She cites her inspirational working-class Liverpudlian drama teacher, who believed that drama could be a 'radical act of political change ... I had no idea where authors came from, but I was fairly sure it wasn't the same streets as me.'

But she recognised familiar figures from TV show like *Coronation Street* and *Boys from the Black Stuff*: 'On screen I saw it, so I believed that, just maybe, I could be it.' In this column, she goes on to praise the Paisley Book Festival, with its emphasis on Scottish working-class writing.¹

In *Tony Hogan* ..., Janie is the narrator of her life from birth to around age 16. She lives with her poor, neglectful, fiercely loving but depressed mother Iris. Despite grim circumstances and even grimmer male partners, Janie's mother is always seeking that elusive 'fresh start', and the novel moves from Aberdeen to London, Canterbury to Glasgow as Iris and Janie struggle to survive. Janie has her mother's rough tongue and tells their story with razor wit. The novel ends with Janie at 16, finding her way through social and sexual pratfalls and adventures, but perhaps with a little more gained wisdom to not end up defeated like her mother, and ready to take on the world. Among other accolades, *Tony Hogan* ... was a finalist in the *Guardian*'s First Book Award.

In *Thirst* (2014), Hudson depicts two different characters on the margins: Alena and Dave. Alena has been persuaded by an old friend to come to London from Siberia with the promise of a job. Of course, when she arrives, she realises she's been trafficked. Dave from Hackney, meanwhile, works as a zero-hours security guard in a department store, where he catches Alena trying to shoplift shoes, and lets her go.

Thus begins a relationship between two people in depressing and/or demeaning circumstances who seem to almost instinctively know that caring for someone else is their saving grace. Hudson adds an interesting dimension to Alena's path: she becomes no longer the trafficked, but the trafficker, when her 'handlers' realise she has a talent for drawing other young women into their snares. She must decide to keep on this track to survive, or leave, with potentially awful consequences.

However, despite their difficult dilemmas, *'Thirst* is not a miserable book. The couple are young and the bastards have not quite got them down,' as Louise Welsh writes in her review of the novel. Welsh likens it to *'Love on the Dole* 21st-century style, featuring complex working-class characters faced with moral dilemmas.' *Thirst*'s French translation won the

Prix Femmes étranger.

Hudson's most celebrated book is *Lowborn*; *Growing Up*, *Getting Away and Returning to Britain's Poorest Towns* (2019). *Lowborn* began as an online column for a now-defunct website. The book which eventually emerged is split between memories of childhood places and scenarios – scenes of intense deprivation and family disruption – and her re-visiting these as an adult.

Many memories are harrowing, peppered with clenched-jawed humour. Her adult explorations bring her to an indictment of continuing poverty in one of the world's richest nations. But she also acknowledges that the woman that she is today would be unrecognisable to her younger self, and that she is suspended between these two versions of herself.

To confirm this dichotomy, Hudson was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2020. She writes for *Grazie*, the *Guardian*, the *Big Issue* and the *Observer* among others, as well as a column for the *Herald*. A lecturer in Creative Writing at Glasgow University, she is writer in residence at the Paisley Book Festival.

She has also been writer-in-residence for the British Council in South Korea and Latvia. Hudson was the founder of The WoMentoring Project, in which published literary women mentor unpublished/aspiring women writers, offering advice on writing, publishing, publicity, etc. She will be appearing at the Cove and Kilcreggan Book Festival on the 25th of November.

'Why it's vital to bring the arts back to our workingclass communities,' The Herald, 15 February 2023.

Understanding Antiques

With Roo Irvine



Suffrage and Sunflowers

My favourite stories in the world of antiques are those rich in social history, showcasing the pieces that were shaped by the world at the time. I was recently in conversation with a dear friend on a quest to buy a piece of Suffragette Jewellery, perhaps the ultimate token of solidarity towards the women's rights movement.

Women had been denied the right to vote since ancient Rome and Greece. This changed for the first time with Australia and New Zealand at the turn of the century but it took the Suffragette movement to disrupt British and American society to the point where women were finally treated as equals.

The Suffragists were the forerunners of the movement, believing in peaceful protest and lobbying, but when they couldn't make progress, the Suffragettes emerged with the motto "Deeds Not Words" and they fought their case by any means necessary. Although they were steeped in controversy at the time due to their militant actions, founder Emmeline Pankhurst believed "You have to make yourself more obtrusive than anybody else, fill all the papers more than anybody else if you are really going to get your reform realised."

Through an incredibly strong and resilient presence, the Suffragettes grew to over 100,000 members who changed society through marches, speeches and destructive action as well as the powerful symbolism of their accoutrements.

A parade of women dressed head to toe in white, marching through streets populated by darkly-dressed men is sure to make a powerful visual impact. 120 years later, we are still using this kind of strong contrastive imagery in modern day advertising. The suffragettes



dressed in white as a symbol of purity, virtue, morality and that women would not lose their pure attributes just because they were given the right to vote.

In terms of memorabilia, they embraced ephemera - items created for short-term use, but have lasted decades because they represent a snapshot in time. Postcards, books, medals, china and even games bore the message.

Even flowers betrayed one's loyalty. Tennessee was the last state in America to grant the right to vote, and members wore yellow roses whilst those that opposed it wore red roses. A member of the Tennessee House of Representatives in charge of the deciding vote wore a red rose. His mother sent him a letter, telling him to 'be a good boy' and he cast the vote that changed history in 1920, making the USA fully in favour. The movement also used the bluebird, cats, dogs and sunflowers as symbolic, humanitarian motifs.

Suffragette jewellery is probably the most coveted and collectable area but tread carefully... the colours that represent the movement- purple, white and green (or yellow for America) often feature in jewellery labelled as suffragette pieces. The colours were initially chosen because purple stood for loyalty, white was purity and green meant hope. These colours are often found in jewellery of the Edwardian, Art Noveau and belle époque era, moreso because purple and green are at opposite ends of the colour spectrum and (as a budding artist), that makes the combination deliciously tantalising, while white takes a back seat to let the colours do their thing!

Authentic Suffragette jewellery was handmade in small quantities and then sold via articles. The pieces often made a powerful statement like the 'Holloway brooch" which recreated the intimidating 'Portcullis' metal grate associated with the house of commons (and

imprisonment), hanging chains, and a convict symbol in the form of an arrow in purple, green and white enamel... a harrowing statement indeed, considering the price that was paid for the cause. The brooch was designed by Emmeline Pankhurst's daughter Sylvia and was presented to those who had been imprisoned. It is a highly sought after piece which can sell for £4-5000.

BY-MRS

1903

When jewellers saw the popularity of the movement, they produced a stunning collection of pieces all in the trademark colours, but with no actual connection to the movement or its members. A quick look online will show how the market can be flooded with beautiful pieces selling the dream that women once had, but without their knowledge.

Perhaps the most valuable piece is the suffrage banner. Many were carried in processions but few have survived. With one selling for £20,000 (having existed in a Leeds charity shop for years!) some of the hunger strike medals can sell for up to £10,000. The values seem extraordinary in comparison to what they physically are, but bear in mind, society was challenged... the relationship between man and woman changed forever.

Despite your thoughts on the suffragette movement, the cause was righteous, their thought process was fiercely intelligent and forward thinking, and the antiques that were borne of that time, represent who we are today. There is still work to be done, but the heartbeat of solidarity and sense of sisterhood is stronger than ever, and lives within our antiques.

Roo Irvine owns Kilcreggan Antiques and is a regular presenter on Antiques Road Trip and Bargain Hunt. Find out more at www.rooirvine.com and www.kilcregganantiques.com

Commodore's Log

Cove Sailing Club

With Wells Grogan

A hint of spring has hit the air recently and whets the whistle for the start of another season of water sports and social activity. On the 19th of February the club's first Sunday Scran was launched providing a warm space and some good food for all those who came. Our young attendees utilised their creative talents to create a banner for the day which will now grace the entrance on future scrans.

The Sunday Scran will be a monthly addition to our calendar and the next one will be on March 26th. Hot off the press, we have had confirmation that a grant funding to support this initiative has been awarded to us from the National Lottery Community Fund, for which we are very grateful. We intend to expand our offering including family activities. So, if you fancy a Sunday morning walk followed by a hearty lunch and some fun, please join us. Watch out for the notice on our Facebook page.





SUNDAY SCRAN Artists creating their banner

The club formally kicked off its year with the annual AGM held on 24th February. For three years in a row now the club has offered an in person and online opportunity to attend the AGM. The technology worked and all were briefed on the successes of 2022, of which there were a few, and the plans for 2023, of which there are also quite a few!

We do need your help though. Our current Treasurer is standing down due to work pressures so we are on the look out for a new Treasurer. If you are interested please get in touch. It is a key role and one that will play a good part in our operational and development activities.

Most of the 2022 successes were faithfully recorded in this monthly blog, so I won't repeat them here other than to say, we got sailing, the cadets learned a lot and had some fun, we started an Unexpected Garden and had many a festive food and artistic event.

We had a gale blown out regatta at the bar, a well attended Loch Long week and we ended the year in the black thanks to generous donations from our members, reduced spending and well attended events to support our income. We ended the year continuing our engagement with Sport Scotland and our RYA representative and building our grant application for our clubhouse development with Sport Scotland.

The annual calendar of events is listed at the end of this log, so you can get an early indication of what is planned. Our traditional events; The Opening Muster, Summer Picnic, Regatta and Loch Long Week will have a similar flavour to last year and we hope you will join us.

We also intend to continue on with our garden project and any and all volunteers are welcome to help us. A 'Get your Garden Ready' day will be held later in March so watch this space. We have been fortunate to receive nine apple saplings as part of last years project which will be planted up to provide some lovely spring blossoms to the site and eventually a harvest of apples. Who knows, our next innovation may be cider pressing!! So if you are a gardener, or not and want to participate in that, let us know. You do not need to be a club member. We see this as a contribution to the community and available to anyone.



Apple saplings for planting at CSC

So, our season is starting and we do hope to have a wonderful year. We could use your help.

You don't need to go on the water to give a helping hand. A Treasurer, Fundraisers, IT/social media wizards, management gurus, youth trainers, chefs and bakers, event organisation planners, electricians, plumbers, joiners, gardeners and helpers of all things are all welcome. We'd love to have you. If you are interested in learning more get in touch with me or a member of the committee.

If you haven't joined before, now is our traditional membership signup time. Membership is reasonable and forms will be available on the website shortly. In light of current financial pressures we have kept our membership fees the same as last year. And we're not just about sailing.

If you row, powerboat, paddleboard, kite



surf, kayak or swim, or enjoy helping to organise and expand the social activities of the club we'd love to welcome you. We are involved in the current Community Consultation and look forward to the input to the recent survey as it relates to community desires on water access, sports activities and safeguarding the environment.

Even just sitting out on the shore side with a warm fire burning to enjoy the sunset can be had, as one of our members recently tried. The Clubhouse and Patio are available for private functions. There are not many better views in this part of town!



Get in touch, details on the webpage, <u>www.covesailingclub.co.uk</u>.

Best wishes for a safer and more fun 2023.

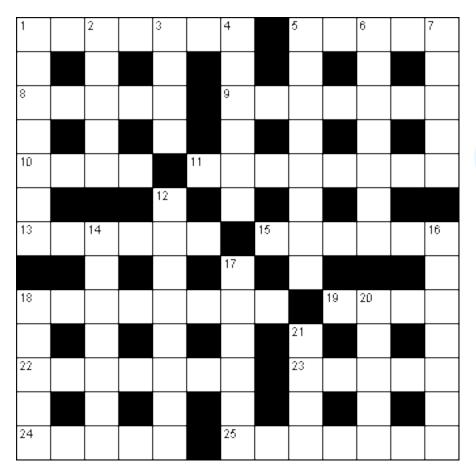
Hope to see you out there

Wells Grogan

Commodore Cove Sailing Club

	CSC 2	2023 Calendar of Events
Date	Event	Comments
04-Mar-23	RYA Conference	Affliated Club Conference
11-Mar-23	Social	Italian Night
8 & 26 /03/202	Work Party	Clubhouse, pier and grounds spruce up
		Including Unexpected Garden
24-Mar-23	Pie & Quiz night	19:00 Family Fun night
26-Mar-23	Sunday Scran	11-13:00
26-Mar-23	Work Party	Work party and Garden Ready Day
22-Apr-23	Opening Muster	Opening Muster
		Racing season commences
May	Cadet Training	Training commences
20-May-23	Discover Sailing	Event with Autism on the Water (AOTW).
May	Racing	Loch Long series Tuesday and Friday nights
26-May-23	Scottish Series	From 26 May - 1 June
03-Jun-23	Cove Annual Regatta	Racing commences 11 am, shore side social events
04-Jun-23	C&K 10K run/walk	Car parking at CSC for entrants
10-Jun-23	Ardentinny Picnic	
June	Racing	Loch Long series Tuesday and Friday nights
July	Racing	Loch Long series Tue and Fri nights
	Cadet Regatta	Date to be advised
23-28 Jul 2023	Loch Long Week 2023	On and off water events
24-Jul-32	LLW	BBQ,
25-Jul-23	LLW	Ceildh
27-Jul-23	LLW	Class Dinner
August	Racing continues	Tuesday and Friday evenings
	Social event	To be Advised
08-Sep-23	Polaris Regatta	Hosted by HLSC
09-Sep-23	Polaris Regatta	
Sep	CSC Social Event	Harvest Festival
27-Oct-23	Prizegiving	Supper and awards ceremony
17-Nov-23	Social Night	
15-Dec-23	Social Night	Christmas cocktails

Crossword



ACROSS

- Fate (7)
 Animal with two feet (5)
 Musical instrument (5)
 Aerial (7)
 Professional cook (4)
 Delight (8)
 Mass leaving (6)
 Transparent gem (6)
 Entertainer (8)
 Cab (4)
 Planet nearest to the sun (7)
 Similar (5)
 Fishing basket (5)
- 25. Ruminate (7)

DOWN

Fiasco (7)
 Meaning (5)
 Metallic element (4)
 Annually (6)
 Treachery (8)
 Flightless bird (7)
 Curtain (5)
 On time (8)
 See (7)
 Spear with three prongs (7)
 Attorney (6)
 Ape (5)
 Nimble (5)
 Young whale (4)



For all you crossword buffs out there we hope you enjoy doing the crossword again. You can print just this page at home or ask in Kilcreggan Post Office and they will print it for you.

There will be no prize on offer at this time.

Last Month's solution

News in Brief

KING OF THE CASTLE

At long last, the troubled Knockderry Castle in Cove has a new owner.

An American lawyer, David Leavitt and his academic wife Chelom, agreed to buy Knockderry for a price thought to be in excess of £1.15m and have set about restoring it.

It was, in its pomp, a very fine building with some spectacular internal features which held some appeal for a couple who say they have been looking for a castle to restore for the last decade or so.

David Leavitt is currently penning a blog on their progress entitled, with some feeling, you suspect, What The Hell Have We Done!

What they've undoubtedly done is given the chance of restored glory to what was once a castle of some distinction.



It fell into disrepair under its previous owner who became involved in a longstanding, acrimonious and expensive legal tussle over what began as a fairly modest legal bill, which escalated dramatically as the years and the battle went on.

David Leavitt, has already been in the

Scottish news as the prosecutor who successfully extradited alleged rapist Nicholas Rossie to America to face charges.

He and his wife are now back in their native Utah where, until last month, he was the Utah County Attorney before losing an election last summer.

BUON APPETITO

Cove Sailing Club are running an Italian evening on the 11^{th} of March with a choice of dishes from a classic menu.

Starters

Antipasti - Consisting of meats, cheeses and bread with olive oil and balsamic vinegar or Juicy Mozzarella and tomato with basil served with bread.

Mains

The old Classic Beef lasagne with side salad or Cheesy hassle back chicken with asparagus or Vegetarian lasagne with side salad.

Dessert

Rich Tiramisu on Ice cream with blueberries and strawberries

Book Via Arlene arlenemcneilage@gmail.com

£18 a head. Two sittings.



THE SKY AT NIGHT

Some Peninsula residents were lucky enough to see a magnificent display of the Aurora Borealis in their own night sky at the end of last month.

Normally only viewed much further north, the dancing lights were visible all over Scotland from Perthshire to our own backyard in Argyll and Bute.

Quite a spectacular sight.

Bottled Pleasures

Cocktails have become quite a thing again with everyone sharing favourite recipes. The BBC's North American editor, Sarah Smith, has been detailing her own faves, in between clambering aboard Air Force One with the US President.

However there are perennial top picks in cocktail recipes, and we've taken tips from how to make them from the BBC Good Food team among others.

SEX ON THE BEACH

INGREDIENTS

- ice
- 50ml vodka
- 25ml peach schnapps
- 2 oranges, juiced, plus 2 slices to garnish
- 50ml cranberry juice
- glacé cherries, to garnish (optional)

METHOD

Fill two tall glasses with ice cubes. Pour the vodka, peach schnapps and fruit juices into a large jug and stir. Divide the mixture between the two glasses and stir gently to combine. Garnish with the cocktail cherries and orange slices.

CLASSIC NEGRONI

INGREDIENTS

- 25ml gin
- 25ml sweet vermouth
- 25ml Campari
- ice

FOR THE GARNISH

slice of orange

METHOD

Pour the gin, vermouth and Campari into a mixing glass or jug with ice. Stir well until the outside of the glass feels cold.Strain into a tumbler and add 1 large ice sphere or some fresh ice, and garnish with an orange slice, using a blood orange when in season.

MOJITO

INGREDIENTS

- juice of 1 lime
- 1 tsp granulated sugar
- small handful mint leaves, plus extra sprig to serve
- 60ml white rum
- soda water, to taste

METHOD

Muddle the lime juice, sugar and mint leaves in a small jug, crushing the mint as you go.

You can use the end of a rolling pin for this.

Pour into a tall glass and add a handful of ice.

Pour over the rum, stirring with a long-

handled spoon.

Top up with soda water, garnish with mint and serve.

TOM COLLINS

INGREDIENTS

- 50ml gin
- 25ml lemon juice
- 25ml sugar syrup
- 125ml chilled soda water

METHOD

STEP 1

Build the drink over plenty of ice in a Collins glass, stir gently and garnish with a slice of lemon.

3 TWISTS

RASPBERRY COLLINS

Raspberries give this twist on the classic Collins a pretty splash of colour. Start by gently muddling a handful of raspberries in the bottom of an empty Collins glass, then add the ice, all the other ingredients and mix well with a long handled spoon. Garnish with an orange slice.

BRANDY COLLINS

This is a really refreshing way to enjoy cognac. For best results, use a youngish VS or VSOP cognac that's nice and fruity. Just make the drink as normal, substituting cognac for gin, then garnish with a slice of ginger or a ribbon of lemon peel

ELDERFLOWER COLLINS

Elderflower and lemon is a winning combination. You can make it with elderflower cordial or liqueur for something a touch more boozy. Mix the drink as normal, but use the liqueur or cordial in place of the sugar syrup. Garnish with a lemon slice.

EXPRESSO MARTINI

INGREDIENTS

- 2 ounces vodka
- 1/2 ounce coffee liqueur (usually Kahlúa)
- 1 ounce espresso, freshly brewed (or cold brew concentrate)
- 1/2 ounce simple syrup
- Garnish: coffee beans

METHOD

Add vodka, coffee liqueur, espresso and simple syrup to a shaker filled with ice and shake until well-chilled. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with 3 coffee beans.

Ministerial Musings

With the Rev Christine Murdoch

My wish for you is that this life becomes all that you want it to, your dreams stay big, your worries stay small, you never need to carry more than you can hold. And while you're out there getting where you're getting to, I hope you know somebody loves you and wants the same things, too. Yeah, this is my wish. Sung by Rascal Flatts and written by Steve Robson and Jeffrey Steele

I often look back on my musings to make sure I don't repeat myself (without good cause)! In January 2018 I wrote, "If you could change one thing about life in the peninsula what would it be? And before you all shout out, "A reliable ferry!" Let me ask, what can we as a community do to ensure we have a reliable ferry?"

While our ferry service has been much more reliable in the past few years, this year alone there have been several cancellations due to exceptional high tides. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has been singing Gracey Flair's "Oor Kilcreggan Ferry's Went Aff Again"!

It seems that our pier, in its present form, can no longer allow for safe access to the ferry at the highest tides. Oh, I know there are many of you who will remember the "good old days" when the crew would count up to three and then you could jump from the pier to the ferry, or vice versa. However, health and safety legislation has changed all that and in this instance I do not think it is H&S going mad! Even when access to the ferry is easy, it is only easy for those of us who are fit and not accessible at all for folks in wheel chairs or with mobility issues.

We need to have access to the ferry for all who wish to use the service and we need a service that is not dependent on the height of the tides. I do realise there are many different voices in the community about the pier – some who want it preserved at all costs and to be adapted for current needs and those who are just so desperate to know that the ferry will run to timetable that they really do not care what the future harbour looks like!

So what can be done? What can we as a community do to ensure we have a reliable ferry? The first thing we can do is to take part in the consultation launched by Argyll and Bute Council which can be found at https://www.argyll-bute. gov.uk/kilcreggan-ferry-terminal. You have until the 12th March to do so. It is important that as many of us complete the consultation as possible, that way all opinions will be heard and hopefully a way forward found that both listens to the concerns of the community and provides a reliable service.

Not everyone will be happy at the final choice – that is to be expected and we will need to find a way to move forward as a community.

You may also have heard about the Our Community Project. A community survey has now been completed and two meetings have discussed the survey results. In the coming weeks Our Community Project will be developing a 'snapshot' of the local community. You can still have a say in how we move forward. Every local resident is welcome to attend Community Council meetings, so should you wish to be part of the change, then why not come along to our next meeting and let us know what you think. However we move forward as a community, let us always be able to agree to disagree and to disagree well.

Yours,

Inistine

CONTENTS

Craigrownie, Garelochhead and Rosneath: St Modan's Parish Churches

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KILCREGGAN

GOUROCK - KILCREGGAN (GOU - KIL)

	À	À					À	À
DAY	Glasgow Central Depart	Gourock Arrive	Gourock Depart	Kilcreggan Arrive	Kilcreggan Depart	Gourock Arrive	Gourock Depart	Glasgow Central Arrive
	0554	0635	0641	0654	0704	0717	0728	0818
3	0625	0711	0727	0740	0750	0803	0811	0850
	0722	0809	0820	0833	0843	0856	0908	0959
	0827	0906	0916	0929	0953	1006	1038	1131
2	0925	1004	1016	1029	1053	1106	1138	1229
MON -	1008	1058	1116	1129	1139	1152	1208	1259
FRI	1155	1235	1256	1309	1319	1332	1338	1429
· ···	1236	1326	1342	1355	1405	1418	1424	1503
	1306	1359	1428	1441	1455	1508	1524	1607
	1407	1458	1518	1531	1555	1608	1638	1729
	1506	1559	1618	1631	1702	1715	1724	1804
	1617	1709	1725	1738	1748	1801	1824	1902
	1727	1806	1813 A	1826	1836 A	1849	1908	1959
	0707	0758	0804	0817	0827	0840	0907	0959
2	0740	0830	0850	0903	0914	0927	0939	1029
	0828	0906	0936	0949	0959	1012	1038	1129
	0925	1004	1022	1035	1053	1106	1138	1228
	1006	1058	1116	1129	1139	1152	1208	1259
SAT	1138	1228	1256	1309	1319	1332	1354	1433
JAI	1255	1333	1343	1356	1406	1419	1438	1529
	1306	1359	1429	1442	1455	1508	1524	1606
	1408	1459	1518	1531	1555	1608	1627	1708
	1506	1559	1618	1631	1702	1715	1724	1803
	1618	1709	1725	1738	1748	1801	1824	1903
	1727	1806	1813 A	1826	1836 A	1849	1908	1959

CODE

A On the 1813 hours journey from Gourock, should the train be late in arriving, the ferry will wait a maximum of 12 minutes until 1825 hours

NOTE

Passengers must present themselves at the ferry gangway at least 2 minutes before departure time

No Sunday service

Train connections are not guaranteed as some trains arrive/depart with less than the necessary transfer time. Please visit www.scotrail.co.uk for the latest info before travelling

Train times displayed are valid until 14 May 2022

Due to the contraints of the pier infrastructure and vessel, this service may not be suitable for wheelchair users or passengers with reduced mobility. Passengers must board the vessel via stairs and to access the sheltered seating area and accessible toilet on the lower level

FARES

GOUROCK - KILCREGGAN	Single	Return
Adult	£3.80	£7.40
Child 5-15 (Infant under 5 free, must have a valid ticket)	£1.90	£3.70
Pedal cycles (restricted numbers)	Free	Free

TEXT CODE 39

Transport Timetables

Service 340 Helensburgh – Vale of Leven Hospital – Royal Alexandra Hospital Operated by McColl's Travel Limited on behalf of SPT



Route Service 340: from Helensburgh Rail Station via Princes Street East, Sinclair Street, Luss Road, A818, Crosskeys Roundabout, A818 Arden Roundabout, A82, A811, Luss Road, North Main Street, Vale of Leven Hospital access road (clockwise), North Main Street, Bank Street, B857, Main Street, Lennox Street, Renton Road, Glasgow Road, High Street, Church Street, Glasgow Road, Dumbarton Road, Great Western Road, A898, Erskine Bridge, M898, M8, St James Interchange, A726, Greenock Road, Caledonia Street, Underwood Road, B7050, Maxwellton Street, Corsebar Road, access road to Paisley, Royal Alexandria Hospital.

Journeys via Rosshead operate from Vale of Leven Hospital access road, Heather Avenue, Colquhoun Drive, Halkett Crescent Colquhoun Drive, Heather Avenue, North Main Street then normal route to Royal Alexandria Hospital

Return from Paisley, Royal Alexandra Hospital via access road, Corsebar Road, Maxwellton Street, B7050, Underwood Road, Caledonia Street, Greenock Road, A726, St James Interchange, M8, M898, Erskine Bridge, A898, Great Western Road, Dumbarton Road, Glasgow Road, Church Street, High Street, Riverside Lane, High Street, Glasgow Road, Renton Road, Lennox Street, Main Street, B857, Bank Street, Main Street, North Main Street, Vale of Leven Hospital access road (clockwise), North Main Street, Luss Rd, A811, A82, Arden Roundabout, A818, Crosskeys Roundabout, A818, Luss Road, Sinclair Street to Princes Street East, Helensburgh Rail Station.

Journeys via Rosshead operate from North Main Street, Heather Avenue, Colquhoun Drive, Halkett Crescent, Colquhoun Drive, Heather Avenue, Vale of Leven Hospital access road then normal route to Helensburgh Rail Station

Monday	to	Friday
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Monday to Friday						Saturd	ay & S	unday	
Helensburgh Railway Stn	20710					1340	1745	_	This service is jointly
Arden, Duck Bay Marina	0721					1351	1756		funded by NHS and
Vale of Leven Hospital	0730	0922	1115	1355	1810	1400	1805		SPT. The service
Rosshead, Halkett Cres						1405	1810		provides direct links
Alexandria Railway Stn	2735 <	0927	1120	1400	1815	1410	1815	_	between
Renton, at Station St	20738	0930	1123	1403	1818	1413	1818		Helensburgh, Vale
Dalreoch Railway Stn	20742	0934	1127	1407	1822	1417	1822		of Leven Hospital,
Dumbarton, Church St	20746	0938	1131	1411	1826	1421	1826		and the Royal
Dumbarton East Railway Stn	1 \star 0750	0942	1135	1415	1830	1425	1830	_	Alexandra Hospital.
Milton	0753	0945	1138	1418	1833	1428	1833		The service is
Paisley, at St James Park	0810	0958	1151	1431	1846	1441	1846		available to
Royal Alexandra Hospital	0822	1007	1200	1440	1855	1450	1855		everyone and is
									operated with a low- floor wheelchair
Royal Alexandra Hospital	0827	1015	1215	1620	2008		1610	2008	accessible vehicle
Paisley, at St James Park	0839	1024	1224	1632	2017		1619	2017	
Milton	0854	1037	1237	1647	2030		1632	2030	Interchange is
Dumbarton East Railway Stn	0857 主	1040	1240	1650	2033		1635	2033	possible where the
Dumbarton, Church St	0901	1044	1244	1654	2037		1639	2037	rail sign is shown.
Dalreoch Railway Stn	20905	1048	1248	1658	2041		1643	2041	Interchange is also
Renton, at Station St	20909	1052	1252	1702	2045		1647	2045	possible with service
Alexandria Railway Stn	20912	1055	1255	1705	2048	1305	1650	2048	306 at Vale of Leven
Rosshead, Halkett Cres						1310	1655		Hospital, and with
Vale of Leven Hospital	0917	1100	1300	1710	2053	1315	1700	2053	First Glasgow
Arden, Youth Hostel					2101	1324	1709	2101	Service 1B in
Helensburgh Railway Stn	₹ …				2111	1335	1720	2111	Dumbarton Town

the vn. also ervice leven vith NП Centre

Fare table service 340	
Adult single fares £	Return Fares for Journeys to and from Royal Alexandra Hospital
Paisley Royal Alexandra Hospital 1.05 Maxwellton Street	Helensburgh and Youth Hostel - £7.75 Adult £3.90 Child Tullichewan and Renton - £6.25 Adult £3.15 Child Dalreoch and Milton - £5.75 Adult £2.90 Child
1.30 1.05 Caledonia Street	
1.90 1.65 1.05 St James Interchange	Child Single Fares
3.05 3.05 3.00 2.85 Milton	(from 5th to 16th birthday)
3.20 3.05 3.05 3.05 1.50 Dumbarton East	Children under school age travel free
3.20 3.20 3.05 3.05 1.90 1.05 Dumbarton Town Centre	Childs single fares at half the adult single
3.20 3.20 3.20 3.05 1.90 1.30 0.85 Dalreoch	fare rounded up to the next 5 pence
3.45 3.45 3.45 3.20 2.10 1.90 1.90 1.65 Renton	
3.85 3.85 3.45 3.45 2.15 2.10 1.95 1.90 1.30 Alexandria	
3.85 3.85 3.85 3.45 2.40 2.15 2.10 1.95 1.90 1.05 Rosshead	
3.85 3.85 3.85 3.45 2.40 2.15 2.10 1.95 1.90 1.30 1.05 Vale	
4.10 3.85 3.85 3.85 2.75 2.15 2.15 2.10 1.90 1.65 1.30 1.05	
4.45 4.10 4.10 3.85 3.00 2.75 2.40 2.40 2.10 1.95 1.95 1.90	
4.45 4.45 4.10 4.10 3.05 2.85 2.75 2.75 2.15 2.15 2.10 1.95	
4.90 4.90 4.45 4.45 3.05 3.05 3.00 2.85 2.75 2.40 2.15 2.15	
5.45 5.45 4.90 4.90 3.45 3.20 3.20 3.05 3.00 3.00 2.85 2.75	
5.60 5.45 5.45 4.90 3.45 3.20 3.20 3.20 3.05 3.05 3.00 2.85	
FARES ARE CORRECT AT JULY	2018 - MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



The 24 hour clock is used For example: throughout this guide to avoid confusion between am and pm times.

9.00am is shown as 0900 2.15pm is shown as 1415 10.25pm is shown as 2225 This service will not operate on 25 December and 1 January. On other bank, public or local holidays the service will be operated as specified subject to traffic requirements when the service may be either amended or withdrawn by agreement with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Cotundou 9 Cundou

RBS Mobile Bank Timetable

Tuesday	Garelochhead	9.35 – 10.00	Tuesday	Kilcreggan	11.10 – 11.30	
**	Clynder	10.15 – 10.30	**	Cove	11.40 - 12.00	
**	Rosneath	10.35 – 10.55				

KUCREGGAN ROSNEATH CLYNDER G.ARELOCHHEAD FASJANE FASJANE FASJANE FASJANE FASJANE HELENSBURGH HELENSBURGH HELENSBURGH VOLH, Main Rd	KUCREGGAN ROSNEATH CLYNDER GARELOCHHEAD FASLANE FASLANE FASLANE SHANDON RHU SHANDON RHU Arden	KLICREGGAN ROSNEATH CLYNDER GARELOCHHEAD FASLANE FASLANE FASLANE RHU RHU HELENSBURGH	KUCREGGAN ROSNEATH CLYNDER GARELOCHHEAD GARELOCHHEAD FASLANE FASLANE SHANDON RHU	KUCEGGAN ROSNEATH CLYNDER GARELOCHHEAD FASLANE FASLANE	KILCREGGAN ROSNEATH CLYNDER GARELOCHHEAD FASLANE	KILCREGGAN ROSNEATH CLYNDER GARELOCHHEAD	KILCREGGAN ROSNEATH CLYNDER	KILCREGGAN ROSNEATH CLYNDER	KILCREGGAN ROSNEATH	KILCREGGAN		COVE	COULPORT		Sunday Service	Alexandria *****	VOLH, Main Rd *****	LL Shores *****	Arden ****	HELENSBURGH 05:40	RHU 05:33	SHANDON 05:29	FASLANE 05:25	GARELOCHHEAD 05:22	CLYNDER *****	ROSNEATH *****	KILCREGGAN *****	COVE *****	COULPORT *****	Service No. 316A		COULPORT 05:55	COVE ******	KILCREGGAN ******	ROSNEATH ******	CLYNDER ******	GARELOCHHEAD 05:40	FASLANE	SHANDON	RHU	HELENSBURGH	Arden ****	VOLH, Main Rd *****	Alexandria *****	Service No. 316	Monday to Saturday	Alexandria - Helensburgh - Coulport 316/A/B Timetable With effect from Monday 6th May 2019	
****		****	08:45	08:38	08:35	08:30	00.20	26-80	****	****	****	****	***	316A		06:00	* 05:57	* *****	* 05:52	0 05:40	3 *****	9 ****	5 ****	2 *****	* ****	* ****	* ****	* ****	* ****	A 316B		5 06:45	** *****	** *****	** *****	** *****	0 06:30					* ****	* ****	* ****	316		l eler y 6th M	
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Contact Graeme on

07889 218072 S info@orangerevamp.co.uk www.orangerevamp.co.uk

Get in touch now to see how I can help with your next project