# the Pen Mag

May 2023





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MOT Centre

## **Check your Tyres**

Kilcreggan Garage

The days are getting longer and (slightly) warmer so it's time to start thinking about swapping your winter tyres back to summer tyres.

Monitor your tyres regularly for tread. The legal minimum tread depth for car tyres is 1.6mm. Low tread will affect braking distances and control of your vehicle. If you're unsure get the tread checked.

Bulges, cuts, cracks or other damage to the side walls are signs of damage to the structure of a tyre. If you see these, get your tyres checked for safety. This type of damage occurs particularly after driving through potholes or on rough surfaces.

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# What's On - May 2023

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

#### **ASPIRE DANCE THEATRE**

Gibson Hall, Garelochhead Mondays 1530

## **CENTRE 81, GARELOCHHEAD** Please contact <u>katie@centre81.org.uk</u> for

more information

Ability Group

Creative project for adults with additional support needs. Tuesdays 2nd, 16th, 30th Mondays 8th, 22nd 11am-1pm

#### **Boccia & lunch**

Boccia session for adults with additional support needs. With lunch provided following the session. Every Wednesday 11am-2pm

#### **Community Cafe**

Homemade soups and a simple lunch which can be enjoyed by itself or whilst taking part in 'knit & natter' or board games. Every Thursday 11am-1pm

#### Cafe n' Play

Session for young children and their parents/guardians to enjoy play and lunch. There is no cost for this session and lunch is provided for children and adults or please feel free to bring your own. There is soft play, toys, fancy dress, musical instruments, crafts etc

Every Friday 11am - 1pm

#### Sound Bath

Sound baths are a beautiful relaxing way to unwind and let go of all the noise and over thinking in your head. They create the means to allow the flow of vibrational energy, ease you into a meditative space and can aid natural, restful and restorative sleep.

Tuesday 9th May 7pm-8pm

#### Line Dancing

Line dancing session with tea and coffee Every Tuesday 1pm-3pm **Carpet Bowls** Every Thursday 1pm-3pm morevain@garelochheadstationtrust.Carpet

#### **Helensburgh and Lomond Carers**

Outreach sessions with Helensburgh and Lomond Carers. Holistic therapies and 1:2:1 appointments 10am-1pm. Activity groups and drop in 1pm-4pm. Every Thursday

#### **COVE COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

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

#### **COVE AND KILCREGGAN** LITERARY SOCIETY

now finished till October.

cklitsoc@mail.com

#### FOOD BANK

Howie Pavilion Rosneath 1-3pm Wednesdays. New collection point: Cove Burgh Hall 1.30-2.30 Wednesdays. Info from <u>peninsulafoodbank@gmail.com</u>

#### 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

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

#### HELENSBURGH WRITING CIRCLE

Rhu Community Hall, Fridays 2pm. May 5th Reading from own work - an extract from an novel, poem, article or short story that you have been working on. May 12th - Write about Spring. Blossom, lambs or new beginnings. This subject should suit the poets amongst us. May 19th - Crime. From shoplifting to murder most foul. Write a short story or chapter from a novel on the theme of crime. May 26th - Read an extract from a novel, poem, article or short story you have been working on. We start our next programme in September. New Members are welcome. Contact ann. stewart1@btinternet.com

#### LINE DANCING CLASSES

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

#### **TABLE TENNIS**

SUNDAYS 4pm - 5.30pm Cove Burgh Hall All Welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### TAI CHI

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

#### **TEXTILE CRAFTS**

Fridays 1000-1200 Cove Burgh Hall

#### **RNLI COVE & KILCREGGAN** BRANCH

Sat 13th May, Kilcreggan Bus Stop and Car Park, 1030 – 1230, plants, baking, RNLI goods, raffle. Any donations of plants and preserves are welcome. Please support your RNLI.

#### SARAH ASTON YOGA

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

#### SCOTTISH **RHODODENDRON SHOW**

Sat 6th May, Gibson Hall, Garelochhead. See poster for details.

#### SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

**Restarts October** 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

last meeting of this session is on Wed 3rd May at 19.30 hrs at Cove Burgh Hall. AGM review last year and plan the coming year. Ballots for members to vote for the 23/24 committee. Also a social evening with members asked to bring any memorabilia of past coronations. Refreshments with a coronation theme. Visitors welcome £4. Facebook; SWI Cove and Kilcreggan for more info

#### 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

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# **Editorial**



I hope those of you who put away your winter garments cannily placed them within easy reach. Between the "cold spell" and drookit dug weather, summer is taking an unconscionably long time to arrive.

Some apologies: owing to your editor being in blue arsed fly mode of late (it's a technical term auntie), the search for a new scribe for the Bottled Pleasures slot has not been continued with any success. If there are knowledgeable imbibers out there, please get in touch. I'm certainly an imbiber, just lack the knowledge bit!

And, as there is no News in Brief this week I should flag up the fact that our local RNLI fundraisers are bringing back their popular street market in Kilcreggan on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Lots of goodies on offer, but all contributions of baking, plants and preserves gratefully received. Give Fiona Holland a shout.

We do however have our regular Peninsula Cook Book this month where Sarah Jordan is in a positively fishy mood. And, of course, our antiques expert, Roo Irvine, who has turned her mind to the money people are prepared to pay at auction to buy something once belonging to a celebrity including, I kid you not, one of John Lennon's molars.

Since the late Freddie Mercury's belongings are all coming up at auction shortly, I imagine all Roo's prices will be topped and then some.

Jeanne Brady has been profiling all the authors coming to our Book Festival in November and this month takes a tour round Darren McGarvey, who, you may remember was also a Reith lecturer. He'll be appearing with the ever popular Janice Forsyth.

You may think that Liz Mathie is only interested in those horticultural gems the rest of us can't pronounce (or remember), but she's making a good case this month for the humble dandelion.

Now that the sailing season is underway Commodore Wells Grogan from Cove Sailing Club has come into his own with news of the early races plus upcoming events in the clubhouse in his monthly log.

Editor: <u>Ruth Wishart, ruth@penmag.co.uk</u> Advertising Director: <u>Rona Grierson, 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 Community First Responders

The First Responders would like to thank everyone who has donated to them this year. The money you have donated will be going toward providing a new defibrillator and cabinet at Ardpeaton.

Currently the nearest defibrillator is at Garelochhead or Cove and so this will be essential in reassuring people who live locally that if anyone suffers a heart attack, they have the means to save a life.

If you would like to donate to the Community First Responders, be assured that any funds are put to equipment or defibrillators.

If you feel you would like training on how to use the defibrillators and to help save a life please contact John Webb by email john. webb3@yahoo.co.uk.

If you aren't already a member but shop in the co-op regularly it is worth joining.



# **Growing Pains**

## with Liz Mathie

I sound like a wistful Kermit, but it's not easy being green! The slugs are already on the rampage, the grass is full of dandelions, there are daisies in the path and tree seedlings everywhere!

The hoe is my preferred tool right now. The seedlings are easily delt with, just check there are none growing up through a plant. A path full of daisies looks far prettier than a grey strip. Any other weeds can be scraped off and left to wilt, unless you are super tidy – my commiserations!

But I have had a complete rethink about the dandelions. They have such a long taproot, it is almost impossible to dig them up and, like the hydra, if you cut one bit, two more grow. Before the invention of lawns, people praised the golden flowers and lion-toothed leaves as a bounty of food, medicine and magic. Ancient Greeks, Egyptians and Romans enjoyed the flower and they have been used in Chinese medicine for over a thousand years.

The Pilgrim Fathers took the seeds with them on the Mayflower when they set sail for America. They are a green and growing first aid kit, prescribed for every ailment from warts to the plague. They are a gentle diuretic, hence the unfortunate soubriquet "pee-the-bed" which is what we kids called them in the less-than-posh area of Edinburgh!

They are more nutritious than most of the vegetables in your garden, having more vitamin A than spinach, more vitamin C than tomatoes and are a powerhouse of iron, calcium and potassium. The bees love them. The deer ignore them. And I am learning to live with them!

My reward for not using slug pellets was a box of gorgeous duck eggs. As people become more environmentally aware, so more suggestions for slug deterrents are appearing. Smearing pots with Vaseline was one (could get messy) and spreading pine needles around a vulnerable plant was another, which I might try.

Think about where slugs hide. I know why nurseries use plant pots with turned over rims. They have slots which hold the labels in place making it impossible for the casual browser to pull one out. We've all done it! But that narrow channel underneath is the perfect hiding place for little slugs, and what do little slugs turn into?



I found the only way to winkle them out was with a cocktail stick – cheese and pineapple with it?!! Wandering round the garden in the evening with a collecting bucket and a torch like some will-o'-the-wisp is another solution.

The highlight of last week was discovering that what I thought were long, black slugs on the grass turned out to be hedgehog poo. I know, I'm easily pleased! Before the grasscutter-in-chief returns, I got the garden angel to cut round a section of lawn which will now be left to go wild. The border is now called the hedgehog highway.

I have also cleared a lot of baby's tears (soleirolia soleirollii) from the stone wall. It is the perfect hidey-hole for molluscs. A nettle relative, it derives its common name from the fact that it has tiny, little leaves. It dies back in the winter, but regenerates. It also makes an attractive, trailing house plant. I once saw 2 pots of it on a mantelpiece in the White House in the era of a president with good taste!

It is the soil, not the air temperature, that triggers a plant into growth. In years gone by, farmers would remove their breeks and sit on the bare earth to test whether it was time to sow! I thought I had lost my fuchsias, but they have just begun to sprout from the base, but a leptospermum scoparium I brought back from a trip to Logan Botanic Garden has died. It has already been replaced by a kalmia latifolia, which should flower at the beginning of June.

This Spring's successes have been the erythroniums, both the yellow pagoda and the white californicum. Sanguinaria canadensis flora plena is not always easy to grow (or pronounce!) but I have finally managed to make it happy with lots of leaf mould and a place in dappled shade that is moist but not waterlogged. Its low growing, double white flowers have been in bloom for weeks. When cut, the rhizome exudes a red liquid, hence its other name of bloodroot.

Some of my meconopsis have failed to reappear, but they are not particularly long lived. I am hoping to find some more at the Rhododendron Show in the Gibson Hall on the 6th May. They have much more than rhoddies for sale.

Another chance to buy plants comes a week later when the RNLI are holding a street market around the pier car park on the morning of Saturday 13th May. See you there!

# Peninsula Cookbook

# with Sarah Jordan

May is one of the best months if you are eating from your garden or trying to use local produce. Early salad greens and herbs will be excellent, as will new potatoes -Jersey royals or Cornish news often even better, and better value, if you can get them - spring carrots and broad beans, white and purple sprouting and, if you can afford it or are lucky enough to have a patch, asparagus; our brief asparagus season officially begins in May. The price for new potatoes and asparagus can be eye-watering in the first week. Even after that, they are still in the luxury bracket. But very good for you, really good with the salmon, and we only see the local version once a year.

I've given you a few things to play with this month. The first recipe can be used to make the second, or sandwiches - and all of those are improved by the addition of the third, which can also be mixed up with lightly cooked and cooled spring veg, which can then be served with 1 or 2, or some hardboiled eggs, or just as it is.



Have fun!

## POACHED SALMON

This basic recipe for poaching salmon is easily adapted to a small piece of fish for one or two people, or to a whole fish for a crowd. Whole fish can be a frugal choice, but you will need a big pot - or to cut the fish up.

#### METHOD

- 1. First, flavour some water:
- 2. To 1 litre water add: 1 tablespoon of salt and a couple of tablespoons of acid: lemon juice, white wine, or white wine vinegar; some aromatics: the usual carrot, onion, celery and bay leaf; or ginger, spring onion, star anise and fennel seed. I always add peppercorns of some description. Use

what you have. Bring it all to the boil and simmer for 20 mins - less if you are short of time.

- 3. Next, poach the fish:
- 4. Slip the fish into the simmering flavoured water, return to a bare simmer, don't let it boil.
- Remove from the heat, clamp on the lid and leave the fish to poach for between 5 mins (thin fillet) to 30-45 mins (whole salmon). Test with a skewer which should slip in easily.
- 6. Remove the fish from the liquid, allow to cool, and serve at room temperature with mayonnaise.



## MAYONNAISE

Note: contains raw egg; please take care if you are feeding anyone with low immunity.

#### METHOD

Have everything at room temperature and scrupulously clean. Go slowly the first time you make this and use a jug or even a teaspoon, from which you can comfortably drip the oil very slowly. You can become braver, and forget the drop by drop directive, once you see how easily it all comes together. Use light oil for delicate foods; olive oil can be overpowering.

In a roomy bowl, whisk 2 egg yolks with a dash of lemon juice or wine vinegar and an optional teaspoon of mustard and some salt and pepper until the mixture thickens very slightly. Next, beat in 200ml oil - drop by drop at first until the mix begins to thicken properly - then, you can go faster. If it gets too thick while you are adding the oil you can stop adding if you have enough mayonnaise, or thin it with a little lemon, vinegar or water before adding the rest of the oil. Finally flavour with more lemon or vinegar and salt and pepper.

Boost flavour and your plant intake by chopping in some nice soft herbs. Dill, mint, parsley, and chervil, should all be good this month. Or (not with the salmon perhaps) go for bolder additions: garlic, saffron, tomato ketchup, chilli sauce - and whatever else you fancy. Very good with homemade chips.



## SALMON FISHCAKES - BARRY HUMPHRIES

Dear departed Barry Humphries, comedy genius, creator of selfproclaimed international giga-star, Dame Edna Everage, and surprise recipe creator. In episode 5 of Rick Stein's 'Cornwall', he insisted on bringing his own fishcakes, which they ate, from a tupperware box, on a Cornish clifftop, no embellishments. And here is the recipe, courtesy of RS:

I would use old potatoes and regard pink peppercorns as something you only need for the full Dame Edna Experience. RS describes them as a "special ingredient". If you use poached salmon you can skip step 2. Make tartare sauce from mayonnaise, chopped capers, gherkins, and dill if you have it.

#### INGREDIENTS

- 300g new potatoes
- 500g salmon fillet, skinned
- Olive or sunflower oil
- 1 hard-boiled egg, chopped
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 tbsp coarsely chopped parsley2 tbsp capers (small or roughly
- chopped)2 tsp finely chopped gherkins
- 2 tsp pink peppercorns, crushed
- About 50g fresh white or wholemeal breadcrumbs
- Salt and black pepper

#### METHOD

- 1. Cook the new potatoes in their skins in salted water until tender. Crush them with a large fork and put them in a bowl.
- Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas
   Brush the salmon with a little oil and season with salt and pepper. Cook in the oven for 3-4 minutes per 1cm of thickness

   on average about 10-12 minutes.
- 3. Roughly flake the salmon and add it to the bowl with the potatoes, chopped hardboiled egg, beaten egg, parsley, capers, gherkins, crushed peppercorns and 1/2-1 teaspoon of salt, then mix to combine.
- 4. Shape the mixture into 12 round patties, then flatten them slightly and coat with breadcrumbs. Heat about 1cm of oil in a pan and fry the fishcakes until golden.
- 5. Serve with tartare sauce and a green salad.



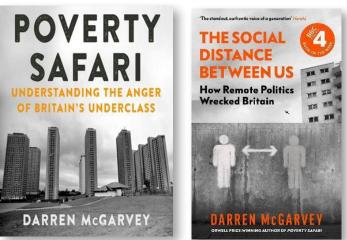


# **Author of the Month**

## **Darren McGarvey**

## with Jeanne Brady





Darren McGarvey, aka Loki, is a Scottish writer, communicator, social and political commentator and rap artist, whose troubled and poverty-riven childhood and youth underlies the trajectory of his work – on paper, on screen, on stage and over the airwaves.

He was one of the chosen Reith lecturers in the last series, and voted a huge success.

McGarvey was born in Pollock in 1984, and his first book Poverty Safari (2018) is his memoir of growing up in Glasgow, raised by his substance-abusing, unpredictable and sometimes violent mother who died age 36 of cirrhosis.

As a child, McGarvey was frightened by her, but grew to acknowledge her damaged upbringing and how it affected her. McGarvey found himself repeating the cycle of abuse and addiction, which is the subject of the first half of the book.

But what lifts the book out of the category of 'misery memoir' is that he also nurtured a desire to write and make music and try to harness his self-destructive anger.

In his review of Poverty Safari,\* Stephen Moss posits that while McGarvey is still angry at how poor and working-class people are stereotyped and marginalised, he is willing to admit that he must engage in dialogue with the 'enemy', and that he doesn't have all the answers.

This, Moss believes, is what led to the book winning the Orwell Prize in 2018. McGarvey has said that his goal in much of his work is to expose the stress and pain of poverty: 'The welfare system is based on an assumption that the threat of social humiliation is going to incentivise people, but that's a complete misunderstanding of what ... poverty does to people. They just recoil; they're frightened of everything, even if that fear sometimes expresses itself as aggression.'

In his second book, The Social Distance Between Us: How Remote Politics Wrecked

Britain (2022), McGarvey describes how people in power, from the local to the nationwide level, have little meaningful contact with those whom they have power over.

Those making what can be life-or-death decisions are distant from those affected by those decisions. Covering issues of homelessness, addiction, immigrants, land ownership, the benefits system and more, McGarvey illustrates how class inequality is reinforced by those who are liable to gain from that unequal situation.

He is a good communicator, and peppers his thesis with one-on-one conversations with people who have experienced this lack of agency from all over the UK, as well as challenging people in power to step away from their complacency: 'If you're a copper, you could grass up some of your colleagues now and then instead of turning a blind eye ... If you run a business, you could ... pay your staff a little more than the living wage and if that is unaffordable ... question why [your] business model ... only works when you pay poverty wages.'

The Social Distance was BBC Radio 4's Book of the Week in 2023.

McGarvey studied journalism at Glasgow Clyde College, and even at the tender age of 20 was already addressing the issues that matter to him (bearing in mind that he was also dealing with his own movements in and out of addiction at the same time).

Between 2004 and 2006, he wrote and presented for BBC Radio Scotland a series about social deprivation and what motivates anti-social behaviour.

He also found an outlet for his frustrations, anger and creativity in rap music, and has released two albums: Government Issue Media Protest (GIMP) (2014) set in a dystopian Glasgow of 2034, and Trigger Warning (2017), clips of which you can see on his Twitter feed.

He's taught school students to rap in projects connected to the youth group Volition. He holds rapping workshops for young people to help them address their important individual and social issues through language and music, as an antidote to bullying and isolation.

He's made three television series for BBC Scotland. The first, Darren McGarvey's Scotland, was a six-parter, examining the rising incidence of poverty in Scotland, targeting particular areas with their particular problem, for example, the deaths of young men in Glasgow, the addiction deaths in Dundee, and violence against women in West Dunbartonshire.

His second, Addictions, was a three-parter looking at Scotland's addiction problems with 1) booze, 2) drugs, and 3) sex and sugar. His third series, Class War, explored the myths and certainties regarding social mobility, and especially how language and accent can define (and suppress or enhance) one's social mobility.

While the issues he addresses are a grim reality, his ability to apply a wry analytical style doesn't exactly remove the sting, but offers possible solutions that rely on humour as well as courage, as well as asking us to propose our own.

McGarvey is currently touring his stage show, The Social Distance Between Us Live, around Scotland, and his Twitter feed (Darren McGarvey @lokiscottishrap) is a lively site of links and observations, as well as interviews under the moniker of Darren McGarvey's Common People.

He'll be appearing at the Edinburgh Fringe this August, and at Cove and Kilcreggan Book Festival on November  $25^{th}$  in conversation with BBC's Janice Forsyth.

\*Stephen Moss (26 June 2018). 'Interview: "Not every day was like Trainspotting": Orwell prizewinner Darren McGarvey on class, addiction and redemption'. The Guardian.

# **Understanding Antiques**

## With Roo Irvine



## Idle hands...!

In the fabulous world of Antiques, Antiquities and Collectables, there exists an amazing archive of some of the strangest, most fabulous things ever to have sold at auction. Some are truly priceless and coveted by millions, some leave you in awe at what people are wiling to pay... and then there are those that leaving you scratching your head in confusion...! Buying at auction is often a battle of head vs. heart and sometimes the heart can empty your wallet pretty fast!

The celebrity world would not exist without its legion of loyal fans, and unsurprisingly, celebrity hair can fetch good money, as the new owners believe they own a piece of their idol forever. A lock of Elvis' hair sold for \$115,000 in 2002, after his personal barber of 20 years clung on to some of his cuttings. Che Guevara pipped Elvis to the post as his hair sold for just over \$119,000.

Perhaps my favourite quirky buy is a Vampire Slaying Kit that sold at Hanson's Auctioneers for £13,000. As a keen vampire lover for the last 30 years, I've heard of many vampire slaying kits being modern reproduction, but they sell well as the world of collectors is vast, loyal and obsessive.

Combine that love of vampirism with a dayjob of true authentic antiques, and I could only ever buy the real thing. At £13,000, I'd be sorely tempted.

Interestingly, it belonged to Lord Hailey, a British peer, a former administrator of British India. Why would an aristocratic man of the



highest order own such an item? What did he fear and what did he know?

Fast-forwarding to the here and now, some auction items do perplex the mind! People love what they love and with that love, comes a trigger-happy spending habit. John Lennon's Molar tooth sold for \$31,200. Marilyn Monroe's X-rays sold for \$45,000.

Even William Shatners kidney stone was bought for \$25,000 in 2006. As a cat lover, a fellow feline friend bought the world largest cat painting for \$826,000 to a cat-loving billionaire. It weighed 227 pounds and could only be hung on a specially reinforced wall. Last but not least, a Dorito shaped like the Pope's hat sold for \$1209 in 2005.

Some auction lots are still alive, as shown in Scotland, where the world's most expensive sheep sold for £386,000. The highly prized Texel sheep sold in Lanark in 2020 whilst the most expensive whisky cask sold at auction for an eye-watering \$2.3 million. The 1991 Macallan scotch cask contains approximately 600 bottles of premium ABV scotch worth just under \$3900 per bottle.

In terms of art, a banana taped to a wall featured as Modern Art and sold at auction for \$120,000. Created by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan for the Art Basel fair in Miami, 'Comedian' was created to question 'what Art is'

I strongly believe we are at a loss as to what Art represents these days, so perhaps the mission was successful. Churchill's dentures sold for £15,200 whilst Albert Einstein's handwritten quote 'A calm and modest life brings more 

happiness than the pursuit of success combines with constant relentlessness" scribbled on a piece of paper sold for \$1.56m.

He was so happy upon realising he had just won the Nobel peace prize that he wrote the quote down and handed it to a bellboy.

From the weird to the outrageous, the classical to the beautiful, there is one piece that beats them all in terms of sheer extravagance, by an artist, incomparable to others. Art is a world riddled with forgery, which makes this an even riskier buy.

Only 20 or so paintings exist by Leonard Da Vinci, so when a long-lost painting 'appears', the art world goes crazy. "Salvator Mundi", depicting Christ was believed to have been a forgery by some in the art world, painted by Da Vinci's imitator Bernadino Luini.

In 2008 it was authenticated as a lost masterpiece and was bought by the Louvre Abu Dhabi for a gargantuan \$450million! It only took 19 minutes to sell, but ironically, it sold for only 50 Euros in the 1950's when it was believed to be a copy. Some still question its authenticity, but if you'd bought it, you'd rather not know the truth...!

The art of bidding is a passionate, emotional affair, where common sense can leave you altogether, and the raising of the hand is all too easy to do!

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**

## With Wells Grogan

The starting gun has sounded. The sailing season is here and what a glorious start to the season. Thank you Gaia.

Following a well attended work party earlier in the month and getting our moorings in with RB Marine and club member Alan Harper duly assisting, the club opened its doors to the sailing season on April 22 with its opening muster.

Despite an unfavourable forecast of high winds and clouds the day proved to be a stunner of an April spring day as 5 boats took to the water and engaged in the opening race of the season. Freshly painted and varnished boats jostled on the start line and headed round the loch for a fine afternoon of racing. Sula, Capricorn, Elizabeth, Sabre and Legend 29 (A Hunter Legend 29, would you believe!) rounded the cans, finishing in that order.

Meanwhile a good size crowd settled in around the picnic tables on the patio to watch events unfold and enjoy the sunny afternoon. They were suitably entertained by Al Mitchell who graced the club with his fine voice and music in his first venture at the club. One to be repeated as he was well appreciated during his afternoon sets.

Later that evening the Vice Commodore and his gaffer, John and Arlene McNeilage served up a delicious curry to feed the hungry crowd.

Boats getting ready to race



Bridge team setting the course



Sails flying heading down the loch



Al Mitchell serenading the crowd on the patio



Meanwhile at the pirate ship sandbox play continued.

Rumour has it that the festivities went well into the night.

But no rest for the partygoers as Sunday rolled around and our monthly Sunday Scran swooped back into the clubhouse for a lunchtime session. This month's themes were a book swap and outdoor apparel swop.

In addition to soup and hot dogs, participants could bring a book to exchange and swap out those outgrown childrens's wet suits for a bigger size. It was great to see our third Sunday Scran so well attended. We are very grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund for sponsoring these events, which allow us to organise some additional activities for those who attend.





April's Sunday Scran theme swop a book or wetsuit

Lots to chose from for all ages

More news to report before you turn the page however. At the end of March, the club development team completed it's funding application to Sport Scotland Facilities Fund and heard back that the application had been received and checked and would now begin an evaluation process. Congratulations to the team for that effort and we now await feedback and further dialogue with Sport Scotland.

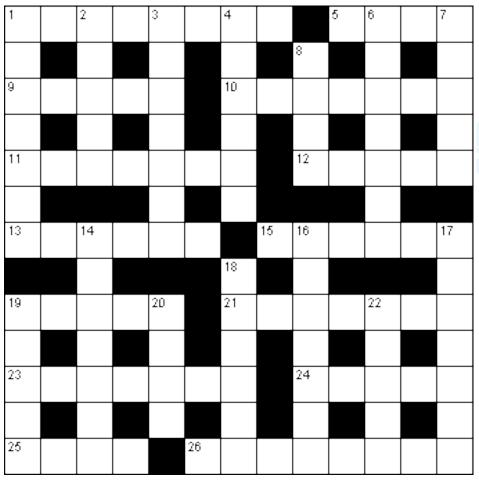
And so a cracking start to the sailing season now turns the corner to May. Racing will continue on Tuesday and Friday nights. Cadets will commence this month and further social occasions will be planned including our May Sunday Scran. Our new webpage will also be launched shortly to provide a source of up to date information.

Contact the club secretary, Alison Robinson on <a href="mailto:secretarycovesailingclub@gmail.com">secretarycovesailingclub@gmail.com</a>

Get in touch, details on the webpage, www.covesailingclub.co.uk



# Crossword



## ACROSS

Peril (8)
 Rim (4)
 Similar (5)
 Extinct elephant (7)
 Aromatic seasoning (7)
 Wild feline (5)
 Gaped (6)
 Winner (6)
 Go in (5)
 Farmer's calendar (7)
 Italian red wine (7)
 Italian red wine (5)
 Luxuriant (4)

26. Fierce (8)

## DOWN

- 1. Envious (7)
- 2. Mediterranean fruit tree (5)
- 3. Norm (7)
- 4. Type of plum (6)
- 6. Shortage of rainfall (7)
- 7. Used as an anesthetic (5)
- 8. Leave out (4)
- 14. Achieves (7)
- 16. Vast (7) 17. Wealthiest (7)
- 18. Of the sea (6)
- 19. Surpass (5)
- 20. Rip (4)
- 22. Dissonance (5)



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



( oi

CMS

SURVEYORS

SVaillant

## What is an Air **Source Heat Pump?**

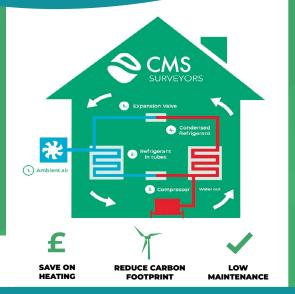
Air source heat pumps absorb low temperature heat from the ambient air down to at least -15 degrees Celsius, and increases the temperature to heat your home and hot water.

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We also offer to install radiators and underfloor heating as Air source heat pumps are **compatible** with them.





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# **Am I an Unpaid Carer?**

If you support a friend, family member or child due to an illness, disability, frailty, mental health or addiction, and they could not manage without your support, then you are an unpaid carer.



CONTENTS



Scottish Rhododendron Society (Scottish Charity SC008975) Presents the

# SCOTTISH NATIONAL RHODODENDRON SHOW SAT 6TH MAY



# The Gibson Hall, Garelochhead

Open to the public at 12.00 noon Entry £2 Plant Sales, Raffle Set up: Friday 5th May from 3pm till 7pm Saturday 6th May 8am -9.45am Help available for set up INFO: scottishrhododendronsociety.org.uk

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# **GREENOCK 2023 Cruise Ship List**



## **GREENOCK Ocean Terminal has a busy schedule of cruise ship visits lined up this year.** (Note: visits can be subject to short-notice cancellations and changes) – Approximate gross registered tonnage shown in brackets

Thursday 23 March – Spitsbergen (7,025) Sunday 2 April – Spitsbergen (7,025) Saturday 8 April - Spitsbergen(7,025) Friday 14 April – Spitsbergen(7,025) Monday 24 April – Spitsbergen(7,025) Sunday 30 April – Mein Schiff 3(99,000) Thursday 4 May - Spitsbergen(7,025) Thursday 4 May - L'Austral (10,900) Friday 5 May - Regal Princess (142,000) Wednesday 10 May - Norwegian Dawn (92,250) Thursday 11 May – MSC Preziosa (139,000) Friday 12 May - Mein Schiff 3 (99,000) Saturday 13 May - Le Dumont D'Urville (9,900) Sunday 14 May - Regal Princess (142,000) Sunday 14 May - Spitsbergen (7,025) Wednesday 17 May - Seabourn Venture (23,000) Tuesday 23 May - Mein Schiff 3 (99,000) Wednesday 24 May - Silver Dawn (40,800) Friday 26 May - Regal Princess (142,000) Saturday 27 May - Artania (44,700) Saturday 27 May - Le Dumont D'Urville (9,900) Monday 29 May - Jewel of the Seas (90,000)

Thursday 1 June – Costa Favolosa (113,000) Monday 5 June – Le Champlain (9,900) Monday 5 June - MSC Virtuosa (181,000) Wednesday 7 June - Regal Princess (142,000) Thursday 8 June - World Traveller (9,900) Saturday 10 June - Le Dumont D'Urville (9,900) Tuesday 13 June – Mein Schiff 3 (99,000) Wednesday 14 June - Ocean Endeavour (12,900) Thursday 15 June - Britannia (129,000) Monday 19 June - Regal Princess (142,000) Monday 19 June – Le Champlain (9,900) Saturday 24 June – Le Dumont D'Urville (9,900) Wednesday 28 June - Silver Moon (40,700) Saturday 1 July - Regal Princess (142,000) Tuesday 4 July – Queen Victoria (90,000) Thursday 13 July - Regal Princess (142,000) Friday 14 July - Silver Shadow (28,300) Saturday 15 July - Celebrity Apex (130,800) Monday 17 July - Arcadia (84,300) Thursday 20 July - Azamara Pursuit (30,200) [Departing 21 July]

Friday 21 July – World Traveller (9,900)

Saturday 22 July – Coral Princess (91,600) Sunday 23 July – Norwegian Dawn (92,250) Monday 24 July – Island Princess (91,600) Tuesday 25 July – Regal Princess (142,000) Wednesday 26 July – Azamara Journey (30,200) Thursday 27 July – Jewel of the Seas (90,000) Friday 28 July – Mein Schiff 3 (99,000) Saturday 5 August – Regal Princess (142,000) Sunday 12 August – Carnival Pride (88,500) Tuesday 15 August – AIDAbella (69,000) Wednesday 16 August – Nieuw Statendam (99,900)

Thursday 17 August – Celebrity Apex (130,800) Friday 18 August – Regal Princess (142,000) Sunday 20 August – Jewel of the Seas (90,000) Wednesday 23 August – Vista (68,000) Friday 25 August – Queen Victoria (90,000) Sunday 27 August – Azamara Journey (30,200) [Departing 28 August] Tuesday 29 August – Regal Princess (142,000)

Wednesday 30 August – Island Princess (91,600)

(28,800) Friday 1 September – Mein Schiff 3 (99,000) Saturday 2 September – Explora I (63,900) Sunday 3 September – Carnival Pride (88,500) Wednesday 6 September – Le Champlain (9,900) Friday 8 September – Le Champlain (9,900) Friday 8 September – Spirit of Adventure (58,000) Saturday 9 September – Celebrity Apex (130,800) Monday 11 September – Regal Princess (142,000) Wednesday 13 September – Disney Dream Tuesday 19 September – MSC Preziosa (139,000) Wednesday 20 September – Seven Seas Splendor (55,500)

Thursday 31 August – Seven Seas Voyager

Friday 22 Septembe – Vasco da Gama (55,400) Friday 22 September – World Explorer (9,900) Saturday 23 September – Regal Princess (142,000)

Friday 29 September – World Explorer (9,900) Monday 2 October – World Traveller (9,900) Thursday 5 October – Regal Princess (142,000) Tuesday 17 October – Pacific World (47,400)

# **Ministerial Musings**

With the Rev Christine Murdoch

A Prince can mak a belted knight, a marquis, duke, an' a' that! But an honest man's aboon his might – Guid faith, he mauna fa' that! For a' that, an' a' that, their dignities, an' a' that, the pith o' Sense an' pride o' Worth are higher rank than a' that. *Robert Burns* 

I wonder how many of you will remember Sheena Wellington singing A Man's a Man at the opening of the Scottish Parliament on 1st July 1999. On that occasion, the Crown of Scotland was placed in front of the Queen as she spoke to Parliament in the Assembly Hall of the Church of Scotland, which was a temporary debating chamber. It was placed alongside the newly presented Mace, a gift from the Queen, which has the words, "Wisdom, Justice, Compassion, Integrity" woven into thistles at its head.

This was the first time the Crown had been used in a public ceremony since 24th June 1953, when a National Service of Thanksgiving was held in St Giles Cathedral to mark her earlier coronation in Westminster Abbey.

Since then, the Crown of Scotland was present at the official opening of the new Scottish Parliament Building at Holyrood in 2004. It was also placed on the coffin of Elizabeth II as she lay-at-rest in St Giles' Cathedral last September. It is understood that another service of Thanksgiving will take in St Giles, following on from King Charles' coronation.

When the Queen presented the Mace to the Parliament, she said, "This is a society in which the qualities of cooperation, learning, entrepreneurial flair and national pride run deep. ... the grit, determination and humour, the forthrightness and above all the strong sense of identity of the Scottish people, qualities which contribute so much to the life of the United Kingdom.

And these qualities reflect a Scotland which - if I may make a personal point - occupy such a special place in my own and my family's affections."<sup>1</sup>

To return to the words of Burns, shared on that same occasion, we are reminded that all people, regardless of their rank or position in the world, should be judged by how they serve their fellow human beings.

As many people know, I am not a huge fan of inherited privilege, however, I do think that service to others should be acknowledged. Whatever we may think, personally, of the existence of a king or queen as head of state, there is no denying that King Charles spent his time as Prince of Wales seeking ways to help other people, not least through the Prince's Trust.

The Trust believes that every young person should have the opportunity to realise their full potential and offer courses or support to start a new business, especially to people facing adversity. To date the Trust has helped over one million young people.

Dumfries House is another example of the way in which Charles has sought to support a local community and to give people skills to enable them to find new employment. Owned by the Prince's Foundation, Dumfries House has been fully restored and the former saw mill is now a traditional skills education centre, while the farm has been developed into a research and education centre for sustainable farming methods.

As Prince of Wales, Charles set up at least 17 separate charities which come together under the umbrella of The Princes Charities. This to me suggests that Charles will be a king who serves.

He has also asked that the Coronation Bank Holiday on the 8th May should be known as 'The Big Help Out' day, when communities are invited to come together to participate in voluntary activities. Our Community Council are conducting a Beach Clean between 10.00 - 12.00.

We will meet at Kilcreggan Pier and as well as bringing your own gloves, you are advised to dress appropriately for the weather! Bin bags will be provided by the Community Council and you don't even need to stay for the whole time. Please do come along and help out with our beach clean. I look forward to seeing you there.

nistine

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/special\_report/1999/06/99/scottish\_parliament\_opening/382982.stm

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# **KILCREGGAN**

## **GOUROCK - KILCREGGAN (GOU - KIL)**

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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
2	0625	0711	0727	0740	0750	0803	0811	0850
	0722	0809	0820	0833	0843	0856	0908	0959
	0827	0906	0916	0929	0953	1006	1038	1131
	0925	1004	1016	1029	1053	1106	1138	1229
MON	1008	1058	1116	1129	1139	1152	1208	1259
MON - FRI	1155	1235	1256	1309	1319	1332	1338	1429
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	1407	1458	1518	1531	1555	1608	1638	1729
	1506	1559	1618	1631	1702	1715	1724	1804
3	1617	1709	1725	1738	1748	1801	1824	1902
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	0740	0830	0850	0903	0914	0927	0939	1029
	0828	0906	0936	0949	0959	1012	1038	1129
2	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
SAI	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

А

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

# **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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₹ 0750	0942	1135	1415	1830	1425	1830	-	Alexandra Hospital.
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Fare table service 340 Adult single fares £ Return Fares for Journeys to and from Royal Alexandra Hospital Helensburgh and Youth Hostel - £7.75 Adult £3.90 Child Paisley Royal Alexandra Hospital Tullichewan and Renton - £6.25 Adult £3.15 Child 1.05 Maxwellton Street Dalreoch and Milton - £5.75 Adult £2.90 Child 1.30 1.05 Caledonia Street 1.90 1.65 1.05 St James Interchange 3.05 3.05 3.00 2.85 Milton Child Single Fares (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 3.20 3.20 3.20 3.05 1.90 1.30 0.85 Dalreoch Childs single fares at half the adult single 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 
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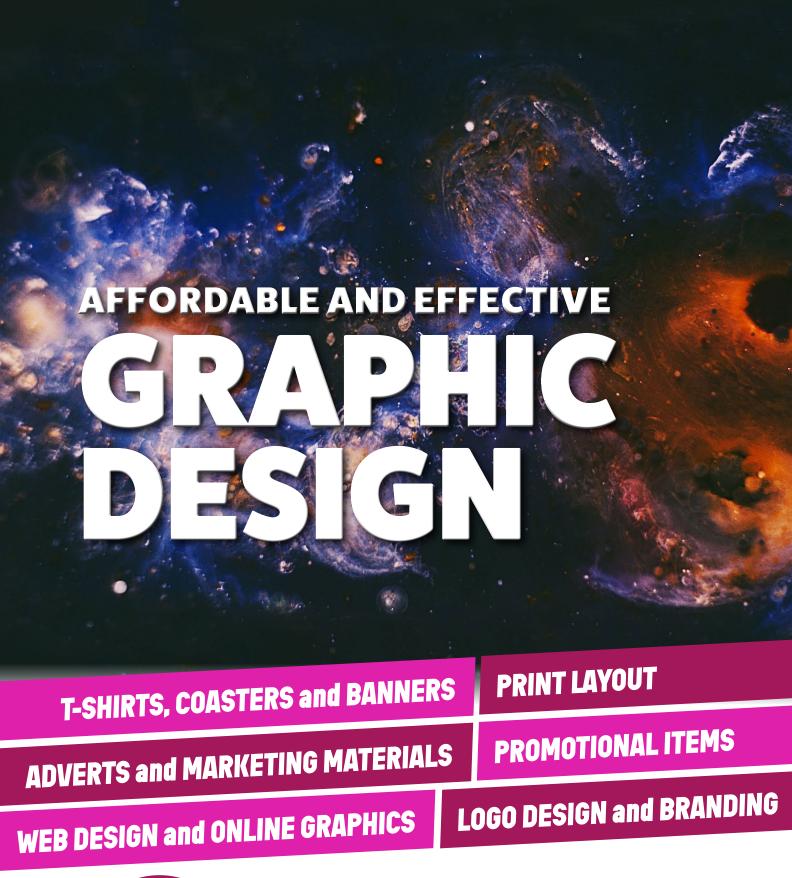
The 24 hour clock is used For example: throughout this guide to 9.00am is shown as 0900 avoid confusion between 2.15pm is shown as 1415 am and pm times. 10.25pm is shown as 2225

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

#### **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	
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Contact Graeme on

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

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