

Winter 2020

THE AVENUES

Welcome

Welcome to the Winter edition of 'The Avenues', your Residents' Association's twice yearly newsletter.

If you are new to the area, SCARA (Scotstoun Conservation Area Residents' Association) was formed many years ago to help deal with concerns of the residents within the conservation area and raise community spirit among the Avenues.

The Association, the website and this newsletter can only exist with your support. We operate on the annual donations of our members. £2 per household, if you would like to add your donation, it's not too late, just contact us at info@scara.org.uk. and we will explain how.

Our AGM was unable to take place as usual because of lockdown, instead we held it virtually on Zoom. We were saddened that only one resident joined us but we hope that was more a sign of computer fatigue rather than lack of interest or support for what we do. Minutes from that AGM and all our news can be found on our website www.scara.org.uk.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a much happier new year!

LET'S LIGHT UP LOCKDOWN

Following the HUGE success of the previous two year Christmas Window displays, the Living Advent team have worked their socks off to devise a way of once again lighting up the Avenues but this time in a more socially distant way.

There are some slight changes to the event this year, instead of 24 windows (one revealed each night on the run up to Christmas) they are encouraging **as many homes as possible** to get involved and decorate their windows to spread some cheer in these gloomy times. So get your Santa hat on and start planning!

Here's some key information about this year's event.

Every day from 1 – 24 December, several windows will be featured in this year's online Living Advent calendar.

Decorate your window at any point between 1st and 24th December. Ideally, keeping the windows lit until Twelfth Night (4 January) but If you take your window down before then, let them know and they'll adjust the map.

Let the Living Advent team know if you would like your window to be featured. Then pin a poster to your gate to remind passers-by how to enjoy the windows safely.



You will be able to find the featured windows via the Facebook page.

This year's event will be much more low key. There will be no switch-ons and no wee slugs of mulled wine in the street. (Awww!)

We'll not be able to meet in person but we still hope to have some fun together. The Living Advent team are also organising : **a quiz, a festive doorstep singalong, online window decorating tips and a 'Just Giving' page for Heart of Scotstoun.**

For more information, check out: www.facebook.com/ScotstounLivingAdvent



Money Talks

Finalisation of the financial accounts for 2019-20 did not quite make it for the last newsletter, so by way of a catch up, here are the main facts and figures. Subscriptions/donations from residents totalled £640.44, which was almost identical to the previous year. This covered the association's normal running costs, which are mainly influenced by production of the newsletter which totalled £533.12 for the two editions. Meeting venue bookings and associated catering came to £99.59, predominantly the AGM held in Scotstoun Parish Church. We did end up with a deficit on the year of £120.27 which was in part a result of sponsoring the Scotstoun Living Advent campaign, which the committee believes is a very worthwhile cause which brings the community together.

Residents' donations are very much appreciated and the work of the committee



could not happen without them. The proportion of households making donations remains at a somewhat disappointing one in four, although that is balanced to a great degree by the generosity of many of those who contribute. The average donation is more than double the suggested £2.00.

Residents are asked to encourage neighbours to make a donation, which would enable more events to be arranged, and other local initiatives to be supported. If you haven't got around to making a payment this year, then the easiest way- and at this time in particular, the preferred way please - is to do an on line transfer into the SCARA account – details are **Sort Code:- 80-07-75**
Account No: 06001370.

The 'C' Word

We are now well in to a second wave of the pandemic and the numbers of infected persons are much greater than the initial surge in March / April this year. However, due to sterling work by various agencies and most especially the NHS, it seems that the number of serious illnesses and deaths are in fact much lower than it was in the initial surge. Also, there is cautious optimism that by about Spring 2021, there will be vaccines in operation which might greatly reduce the incidence of Covid-19 or even eliminate it.

Although health issues and other commitments have deprived us of the services of most of the members who assisted with SCARA operations before the Pandemic visited us, those of us who remain feel that it is more important than ever that SCARA remains active and continues to serve the local community.

We have kept up our monthly meetings by Zoom although attendance has somewhat diminished. We have managed to pull together, publish and circulate the Spring Newsletter and, although a little late, the Autumn Newsletter. We also continue to publish information via our website. You'll find it at: **www.scara.org.uk**



If you would like to help to maintain SCARA either by joining our monthly meeting, just to discuss local issues or if you would be interested in

producing some material for the website or newsletter then please tell us by sending an email to **info@scara.org.uk**

We are always looking for local good news stories.

The committee recently agreed that, as soon as the pandemic as eased, we should convene a social event in Scotstoun. What a great way to greet the return of normal life - or whatever may pass as normality after lockdown.



FOR YOUR ATTENTION

We were delighted to see that a defibrillator has recently been installed within Victoria Park. It can be found on the side of the gents toilets. We hope that no one ever has cause to use it but if you do, dial 999 to get the access code.

Research has proven after a cardiac arrest, every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces someone's chance of survival by 10%, so having one nearby is literally lifesaving. The closest one to us living in the avenues is at the reception of Scotstoun Leisure Centre which is not ideal at the minute given the centre has been closed due to COVID lock down.

SCARA would be keen to see one being installed in a public space within our Avenues and hope to add it to our agenda in the new year.



CAR FREE ZONE

After years of lobbying, assessments, and surveys by the school staff, pupils and parents, Scotstoun primary has been selected as one of 26 schools in and around Glasgow to pilot a 'Car Free Zone' project. The scheme, driven by Glasgow City Council, is intended to create a safer, more pleasant environment for everyone around the school.



Phase 1 of the project was started in August with 6 schools including Broomhill and Hillhead primary schools, and phase 2 with the remaining 20 schools started on the 19th of October.

Under the scheme, a no-entry zone has been created for all vehicles except residents living on the affected parts of the streets, disabled drivers or emergency vehicles. The no-entry zone is comprised of the four roads

around the perimeter... of the school (Ormiston, Earbank, Dunglass and Norse), between the hours of 0815 and 0900, and 1430 and 1515. Access will be as normal for all other times. Signage has been erected on the four corners.

Residents who live in the affected areas have been issued with parking permits exempting them from the restrictions (though parents will be hopeful that these residents will be respectful to the ethos of the scheme).

It is hoped that parents who need to drive their children to school will park in spaces freed up locally by commuters, or consider if walking to school is an option.

Drivers failing to adhere to the restrictions can be issued with fixed penalty notices. Police Scotland will support during the initial adoption phase of the scheme, and the pilot will run for 18 months.

More information can be found at www.glasgow.gov.uk/school-carfreezones or by emailing roadsafety@glasgow.gov.uk



Already, as we write up this newsletter in November 2020, we have much less contact with each other than was usual before the pandemic. There is a substantial prospect that the situation might deteriorate if a greater degree of lockdown comes to be imposed. Heaven forbid, we might even find ourselves locked down over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

In those circumstances, we would like to promote SCARA as a sort of local switchboard to enable residents to talk with each other and exchange their feelings and experiences during any such lockdown. We would therefore like to contact any residents who would wish to receive telephone calls, especially during the Christmas and New Year holiday period because they might, otherwise, have few or no other people to speak with. At the same time, we need to assemble a number of residents who would be willing to make such telephone calls.



Therefore, if you – or someone you are aware of - might like to make or receive telephone calls to or from other residents in the area then please send an email with your telephone number to info@scara.org.uk or, if emailing does not suit you, then please either post a letter to: Michael Sheridan, 66 Queen Victoria Drive, Glasgow, G14 9DJ or call **0141 959 5721**

Local Footballer sets His Heart on Italy

Scotstoun footballer, Aaron Hickey, has recently left Scotland for Italy. Hickey, who is 18, attended the Celtic academy and played for the Heart of Midlothian youth and senior teams. In 2019, he was the youngest player to play in the Scottish Cup Final since 2008.

Hickey was bought by Bologna in September. He made his first Serie A

appearance later that month in a 4–1 win against Parma

We all wish him well with his new club.



A Slice of Normality



Whisper it, there was a not so secret pizza collection service operating out of Scotstoun during lockdown. Some of you may know this already others may have caught a whiff of Wood Fired crust wafting across the Avenues every second week of lockdown. Local Scotstoun Resident Charlie started making pizza from his home-built pizza oven for a few locals during lockdown. It quickly escalated into a full-blown fund-raising pizzeria. SCARA caught up with him to find out more.

S: So what were you up to during lockdown?

Charlie: Well, I found myself making pizzas for a few friends and neighbours.

S: what started this all off:

Charlie: I was working front line and like so many was missing those comforts that take away food can bring

as everything shut. Many of us look forward to Friday nights at the end of a week but with working from home and everything closed it felt a little, well, flat.

S: How many were you making?

Charlie: At the height, maybe 60 every other Friday. Well, when it wasn't raining!

S: That's a lot! - how big is this oven?

Charlie: big enough for mass pizza, not so big it needs planning!

S: You work for a children's charity, don't you?

Charlie: Yes, I work as a Community Food Coordinator for PEEK. During lock down we have been providing cooked meals and food parcels to vulnerable children and families across Glasgow.

S: So the pizza making became a fundraiser?

Charlie: Yes. I wanted to offer this pizza for free, absolutely no charge. If you wanted a wee reminder of the good times it would cost you nothing. But the people round here are just so generous. Quite quickly I had to direct them to our Just Giving page.

S: Ok, so how much did you raise?
Charlie: The final total was just under £3000 **S:**Wow that's a lot of pizza!

Charlie; tell that to my rolling pin. Yes, it's over 500. But hey, we had a good team. I rolled, Laura (My wife and front of house team leader) organised our two young daughters to operate a fully social distant and sterilised collection system.

S: Sounds like a great deal of fun!

Charlie: It was! the community spirit was the biggest win here, and after that PEEK I guess. It was great to both see everyone and also message each other on WhatsApp. We have over 60 families on the group chat now. (PIZZA MAKES GLASGOW)

S: So how do I get in on this action?

Charlie: Well sadly, it is winter shutdown. So, we're done till next year. But if you donate £10 to PEEK, I'll maybe cut you a slice of the action.

Blooming Marvellous Boys!

Like so many groups, the I35th BB have not been able to meet in the Church Hall since March but this hasn't stopped them. Since lockdown they have continued to meet weekly on Zoom and when restriction eased for a few weeks the under 11's met on the school pitch on Thursday nights.

More recently over 65 of the boys across all three sections worked together either at their face to face meeting or on Zoom to up-cycle old plastic drinks bottles donated by the community into wonderful red and white poppies. Over 150 poppies were made and displayed outside the

Church on Remembrance Sunday and it looked fantastic!

The boys also refused to let restrictions get in the way of their fundraising efforts when they organised a 'Virtual Jumble Sale' on Facebook last month. They hoped to raise £500 but were absolutely delighted to smash that target with the final figure totalling over £1,200!

Well done boys, super achievement. ED

