

Winter 2024

THE AVENUES

Welcome

Welcome to the winter edition of 'The Avenues,' your Residents' Association's twice-yearly newsletter. We hope you enjoy it and that it helps you feel connected to the Scotstoun community.

In recent years, our committee has faced some challenges, with a number of members stepping back due to health issues. As a result, our committee, which once included twelve regular members, is now down to a dedicated core of four. While we were delighted to welcome a new resident to the team this year, we are still in need of additional volunteers to help us continue our work.

With 650 homes in our conservation area, it can be a challenge to maintain the same level of activity in addressing local concerns and organising events to bring our community together. We remain committed to these efforts and are grateful to everyone who has supported us.

Our Annual General Meeting went ahead on 1st October, and we extend our thanks to the small number of residents who attended. While attendance was lower than hoped, we successfully covered all our topics, and the minutes are available on our website at www.scara-scotstoun.co.uk.

The Association, our website, and this newsletter rely on the support of residents. If you're interested in joining the team and making a difference in your community, we'd love to hear from you! Please email us at info@scara.org.uk.

Local GBR Gymnasts Win Gold In Poland

A huge congratulations to local resident Tia and her gymnastic partners, Karla and Emillie, who have brought home gold medals from the Acrobatic Grand Prix in Poland this November! Representing Great Britain, the girls dazzled the judges with their talent and teamwork, showing everyone just how amazing they are.

It's been quite the journey for the trio, who earned their place on Team GB after impressing at trials at Lilleshall National Sports Centre and winning gold at the British Championships in July, where they became Senior Acrobatic British Champions 2024.

Tia's gymnastics adventure started when she was just five years old at Scotstoun Leisure Centre, where she fell in love with the sport. Now training at Dynamic Gymnastic Academy in Motherwell for an incredible 80 hours a month, Tia's hard work has paid off in style. Winning gold on the international stage is a dream come true for the team, and a massive milestone in her 15-year gymnastics journey.

Well done to Tia, Karla, and Emillie – you've done your community proud!



SCARA Loses a Lifelong Member and Friend

The SCARA committee was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of former convenor John Hannah in August at age 87. John was a passionate advocate for the association, remembered for launching this residents'



newsletter, and leading numerous campaigns representing residents to the council.

Originally from Paisley, John moved to Glasgow's West End at 12, served with the military police in Germany during National Service, and later joined Glasgow City Police. He eventually took over his grandfather's jewellery and watchmaking business on Byres Road, running it successfully until 2009.

John's anecdotes, warm personality, and straightfor-

ward, direct approach to life will be fondly remembered.

Despite health issues limiting his attendance at meetings in recent years, he retained a strong interest in SCARA activities until the end. His example is one to be cherished, and we are grateful for the difference he made to the Scotstoun Conservation Area.

Our sympathies go to Leah, his wife of 65 years, and his family. John's contributions to our community will not be forgotten.

Scotstoun Living Advent

Twenty four local residents will find themselves wrestling with cellophane and daubing paint on acetate as we move towards Christmas. Now in its seventh year, Scotstoun is getting ready for December's daily Living Advent.



Just like a life-sized Advent calendar, 24 windows will be opened each day of December until Christmas Eve. A new window will be revealed every evening at 7pm and all are welcome to join each unveiling. By Christmas Day, 24 windows will be revealed, creating a festive wonderland across the community. All of the windows will remain lit until we welcome in the New Year on 1 January. You'll find a map of all the windows on the Scotstoun Living Advent social media and in the SCARA newsletter.

Now in its seventh year, the Living Advent is a community event involving residents, the primary school, local

young photographers and musicians. This year, Scotstoun Primary School pupils have been invited to submit designs for the school window. The finished window will include a design from each year group and will be switched on at 5pm on 4th December.

A huge team of volunteer organisers help to make the Living Advent happen each year. We're grateful to all who make it an annual highlight of our community life.

Find out more at:
facebook.com/ScotstounLivingAdvent
Instagram.com/Scotstoun_Advent



Christmas Day Meet Up

Join your neighbours for an informal Christmas Day gathering at 11am in the MUGA
 (the play area beside Scotstoun Primary school)

This is a chance for everyone, young and old, to come together and share some festive cheer. Bring along a hot or cold drink and enjoy an hour catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

PTA Transforms Grounds and Play Areas!

As some of you may have spotted there has been an ongoing improvement to the outside grounds and playground areas of Scotstoun Primary School as a result of PTA led and funded initiative. The garden in Earlbank Avenue has been cleared, protective sheeting and bark added and arrival of a new shed is eagerly awaited. The playground has also benefitted from some wonderful games designed and printed by Gillian, a creative P3 and P7 Mum.

These initiatives make the outdoor space a greatly improved area for both playtime and outdoor learning and thanks is extended to the PTA for all their hard work and support.



Scotstoun School Christmas Fayre

Saturday 7th December
 10am to 12pm

There will be a selection of gift and craft stalls, a raffle and lots of opportunity to pick up some Christmas gifts while supporting the fundraising work of our local school.

Everyone welcome.



Living Advent Community Carol Singing

Join together at 6.30pm, on 15th December on the Scotstoun MUGA
 (Multi use games area) beside the school.

Members of The Avenues choir and local musicians will lead us all in traditional carols and favourite Christmas songs.

Don't forget your flasks of hot chocolate or mulled wine
 This is now a favourite annual community event and not to be missed!

Cheque Out

Following the Financial Update item in the last newsletter which summarised the state of SCARA finances, it is most heartening that so many Scotstoun residents have responded with subscriptions and donations to the association in recent months.

Any residents who have not yet contributed this year can do so with a payment directly into the SCARA bank account, for which details are account number 06001370 and sort code 80-07-75.

The alternative payment method is to pop an envelope with cash or cheque enclosed (and including your name and address) through the letterbox of our treasurer David Irving at 5 Danes Drive. Direct online payment is now preferred more than previously, as our bank has altered the terms of our account (without any consultation with us), resulting in charges being applied when paying cheques into the account. So if the envelope through the door is your only option, then cash is requested please.

Many thanks to all of those who provide the financial support to SCARA which enables us to act on your behalf and to bring our community together.

Cycling the length of Britain

Earlier this year, local resident and BB captain Paul Clelland set out on his bike from Land's End with a mission to cycle all the way to John O'Groats. Paul and his two close friends completed their mission just 12 days later accompanied by their friends and family who travelled to the finish line to celebrate with them.

What a fantastic achievement and they also managed to raise over £3000 for Macmillan Cancer Support along the way!

Well done Paul, very inspiring!



Closure of Albion Automotive Plant After 120 Years

Scara were saddened to hear the news last month that after 120 years in operation, the Albion Automotive plant in Scotstoun has closed its doors. Established in 1903, the plant was a significant employer and a key part of the local industrial landscape, producing engines, gearboxes, and axles for vehicles worldwide.

The closure reflects changes in the global manufacturing industry and will impact the local workforce and community.



Get Free Help with Digital Skills at Digi-PALS

Struggling to navigate the digital world? Digi-PALS, a free service from Glasgow Libraries, is here to help! Whether you need support setting up online parking permits, sending a bank transfer, or learning how to browse the internet, their friendly volunteers offer one-to-one assistance on a whole host of digital Problems.

No appointment is necessary—just drop in during the scheduled times. The nearest sessions to us are held at Partick Library on: Monday: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Wednesday: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM or Thursday: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

A local resident brought this to our attention at the AGM and we thought it was worth sharing with you all. Take advantage of this fantastic free service and get the digital skills you need!



FREE Community Cinema, 17th December 12.30pm

There are still a few tickets left for the Heart of Scotstoun community cinema.

They will be showing "It's A Wonderful Life," on the 17th December from 12:30 pm.

Tickets are free, but limited, so please book using our Eventbrite: Search for "Heart of Scotstoun Community Cinema - It's A Wonderful Life" If you have any issues please send an email to info@heartofscotstoun.org.uk or ask at reception.





Rats and Mice: What You Need to Know

Several residents in our Avenues have recently noticed rats in their gardens. While this can be an unsettling sight, it's important to remember that rat problems are common in urban areas and manageable with the right steps.

If you spot rats or mice or even signs of them, Glasgow City Council offers a free pest control service to residents. This service investigates and treats rat issues both indoors and outdoors in domestic properties.

Here's what to do if you see rats:

Online: Report the issue through the Glasgow City Council website. Using the online form you can report a problem with mice or rats in residential properties. <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/5060/Report-Mice-or-Rats-Problem>

Phone: Call the Environmental Health department on 0141 287 1059.

A pest control officer will visit to assess the situation and take appropriate action to address the infestation.

Preventing Rats in Your Garden:

1. Keep your garden and outdoor areas tidy, as overgrown spaces can attract rodents.
2. Ensure food waste is properly sealed and disposed of, as it can serve as a food source for rats.
3. Avoid throwing food out for birds, as this can unintentionally attract rats.

By staying vigilant and taking these steps, we can all work together to keep our community a clean and safe place to live. Remember, help is just a phone call or click away!

Show some Christmas Spirit!



Heart of Scotstoun are collecting food, toiletries, and essential items to create support packages for those in our area that are in need this festive season.

Donations of long-life goods like tins, pasta, cereals, shampoo, soap, sanitary products, washing tablets, and washing-up liquid are urgently needed.

Drop off your item at HOS reception, where they'll be really gratefully received and distributed. If you would like to volunteer some of your time to help put these support packages together, please drop in and speak to a member of staff who would be happy to give you more information

Thank you for helping us bring comfort to those who need it most this Christmas!



Scotstoun Stadium to Shine in the 2026 Commonwealth Games

Exciting news for Scotstoun! Our very own Scotstoun Stadium will play a central role in the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, hosting the athletics and para-athletics events.

To accommodate the expected audience, the stadium's current seating capacity of 4,765 will be expanded to between 10,000 and 11,000 spectators with the addition of temporary seating.

Scheduled to take place from 23rd July to 2nd August, 2026, the Games are expected to attract around 3,000 athletes from up to 74 Commonwealth nations and territories.

This landmark event will not only boost Scotstoun's reputation as a hub for international sports but also bring economic benefits and a renewed sense of pride to the local community.

Let's gear up to welcome the world and showcase Scotstoun's community spirit and hospitality!

Winter Coat Appeal

Following the success of last years Winter Coat Appeal, Heart of Scotstoun are running it again this year. They are looking for mens, ladies and children's winter jackets. If you are doing a clear out, or get a new coat for Christmas, please drop in your old coats to be passed to someone in our neighbourhood-who could really use it this winter.

