

Staff News: Take 5

Thursday 23 July 2020

Welcome to this week's Take 5, our all new weekly staff update, designed to bring you our latest news summary in a five minute read.

The route out of the Coronavirus crisis: latest guidance



This week brought further developments including a relaxation to Shielding guidelines from 24 July which will mean more freedom for meeting other households, travelling on public transport and visiting outdoor spaces. Other key changes include:

- Testing for children under five is now available
- Help with personal wellbeing is on hand for health and social care staff at www.promis.scot and 0800 111 4191
- Universities and colleges can begin a phased return to on-campus learning
- Motorcycle and tractor instruction and car theory tests can resume
- Beauticians, nail salons and tailors can reopen
- Live drive-in events can take place

Don't forget, if you think you have symptoms of Coronavirus, you should self-isolate at home and book a test straight away. Visit www.nhsinform.scot/

For full details visit <https://www.gov.scot/>

Changes to services – Grass cutting



Special thanks to local resident, John Ibbotson, for this image of a thistle amongst the wildflowers near his home.

As hairdressers and barbers across the area work hard to scissor their way through the overgrown locks of lockdown, our grass-cutting teams are on a similar path as work is now able to resume on our grass cutting programme across the region.

Our teams have been praised on social media for the work already carried out but we have also started assessing potential biodiversity areas where we could reap the rewards of allowing nature to flourish.

Local residents will get the final say in an upcoming survey of potential biodiversity areas near them. They will be asked if these areas, up to ten in each community, should be maintained and allowed to grow or added back onto our grass-cutting schedule.

For more information and updates on all the latest changes to grass cutting, go to: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-bins

For changes to Council Services go to: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-changestoservices

MonsterHero Safari 2020



Looking for something fun to do with the kids now the summer holidays are here? Paisley First has launched a fun 'Safari' to help give families a safe town centre story-trail this summer, whilst supporting the NHS.

Search the streets for 10 cute and colourful MonsterHeroes and, using only smartphones, the Safari allows you to learn each name, story and superpowers. Once all 10 MonsterHeroes are found, a free e-book that tells the story of their first team-up will be unlocked.

It all works by utilising contactless NFC technology and QR codes, without the need for players to download or sign up to anything. Simply tap or scan the Let's Go posters or MonsterHero Safari window decals dotted around the town centre, and make a donation of £2, or more if you wish, to the charity NHS Together.

For full details visit: <https://paisley.is/listing/go-on-a-monster-safari-this-summer/>

We value Learning



In the final of our #LivingOurValues series, Procurement Assistant Kevin Milliken talks about the importance of learning. At Renfrewshire Council we value learning to help us innovate, improve and deliver better services

Having helped administer corporate training programmes such as CMI, Aspire and Leaders of the Future, Kevin has seen first-hand how important providing learning opportunities is to Renfrewshire Council as an organisation with a large workforce.

He also highlighted how the feedback from staff about the programmes is extremely valued and the lessons from that are used as an opportunity to improve the courses going forward.

He said, 'Learning is really important to me... It's part of your journey of life. It defines who we are.'

Don't miss Kevin's short film together with his blog at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/wevaluelearning

Relaxation in isolation



Customer Service Advisor, Lesley Rodgers has been doing her bit for her team's wellbeing by offering online guided meditations for colleagues during lockdown.

Lesley quickly recognised this could be a stressful time for some of her call centre colleagues suddenly working from home, keeping on top of the new guidance and changes whilst doing their best to help members of the public with their enquiries every day.

Lesley said, 'In each session we virtually and third-mindfully visit different areas, guiding participants to waterfalls, through valleys and up to the stars. The purpose is to remove the impact of daily stresses, pressures and anxieties during this difficult time. But it's been such a success we could look at continuing the sessions into the future.'

Lesley is a professional life coach and author of the book 'Spiritual First Aid – Finding Balance'. Visit her website here: <http://lesleyrodgers.co.uk/>



Our Health, Safety and Wellbeing at Work webpage is there to provide you with information and contacts to help you keep well during this time.

Visit: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/health-safety-wellbeing



Don't forget, we'd love to hear from you!

If you have a story to tell or something interesting to share, get in touch with us at: internal.communications@renfrewshire.gov.uk