

Tenants Chat Summer Edition 2024



This information can be made available in other formats such as braille, and in large print. It can also be made available in other languages, on request.

Please contact: 01294 324869.

Dear Tenant,

Welcome to the Summer edition of Tenants Chat. We trust that you are keeping safe and well.

We hope that you find the articles and features in this newsletter interesting and useful.

Inside this issue you will find information about Welfare Reform, New Build Housing, XL Bully Dogs and many more interesting updates.

Thank you to the members of our Communication & Information Working Group who have helped ensure that the newsletter continues to go from strength to strength.

The next issue will be September or October 2024 which will be the Performance Edition.

Rent

Direct Debits

Did you know you can set up a Direct Debit to pay for your rent. We offer two payment dates: these are the 1st and the 15th of the month and you can either set them by calling 01294 324603 or online.

Standing Order

If our Direct Debit dates don't suit you, you can set up a Standing Order instead. These can be changed to suit yourself, you can pick any day of the month and the frequency, for example, weekly, fortnightly, monthly. You can set up Standing Orders via your online banking if you have access, our account information is as follows:

- Payee: North Ayrshire Council
- Housing Rents Account Number: 30443706
- Clydesdale Bank Irvine Sort Code: 82 65 22

or you can contact your Local Housing Office on 01294 310000 to arrange getting a mandate sent out to you.

Alternatively, you can check and [pay rent online](#), or call, or email your Local Housing Office.

If you have any queries or are struggling to pay your rent, please contact your Housing Officer for advice and assistance.

Welfare Rights and Debt Advice

Welfare Reform Advice Team

Last financial year we generated over **£3.8million** in additional income directly into the pockets of North Ayrshire Council tenants from UK and Scottish Government benefits.

Not sure what you're entitled to?

Know someone who is missing out?

It's likely we all know someone who is missing out or struggling. Please share with friends or family and any local community or Facebook groups that you may be part of to raise awareness that there is help and support available.

Call our Welfare Reform Advice Team for a benefit check to maximise your income and check what benefits you're entitled to claim. Contact them on 0300 999 4606 or email welfarereformteam@north-ayrshire.gov.uk. We can help if you're struggling to make ends meet. Advice is available on a range of matters.

Universal Credit – Managed Migration

Over the next two years, most working age people who receive legacy benefits (Tax Credits, Income-Related Employment & Support Allowance, Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and Housing Benefit) will need to claim Universal Credit. From April 2024, Department of Work and Pensions is writing to people who receive these benefits to invite them to claim Universal Credit.

We understand that this may be a time of uncertainty for customers. We are here to help reassure those who may be worried about moving to Universal Credit and support you with the move.

If you have been sent a "Migration Notice" from Department of Work and Pensions asking you to claim Universal Credit please contact the Welfare Reform Advice Team on 0300 999 4606 or email them at welfarereformteam@north-ayrshire.gov.uk before you claim.

We can make sure your income is maximised before you claim and that when you do receive Universal Credit you get what you are entitled to.

What is Universal Credit?

Universal Credit is a single monthly payment to help with your living costs and provides support if you are working and on a low income, looking for work or unable to work.

The following benefits and tax credits are ending and being replaced by Universal Credit, under a single monthly payment:

- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit

- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

From April 2024, the Department for Work and Pensions is writing to some people who receive these benefits to let them know that they need to claim Universal Credit instead.

This letter, called a Migration Notice, explains what you need to do and when. It also provides information on the help available to continue receiving support from the government.

Find out when you're likely to be asked to move to Universal Credit.

It is important that you do **not** do anything until you receive your letter. You will not be moved automatically.

Once you've received your Universal Credit Migration Notice letter, you'll need to make a claim for Universal Credit to continue to get financial support. There will be a deadline in your letter. This is three months from the date the letter was sent out.

Your current benefits will end as soon as you submit your claim for Universal Credit and you will not be able to go back to your existing benefit once you have claimed.

If you want some help with your Universal Credit application or you're concerned about managing your income until you receive your first Universal Credit payment, **there are different types of support available.**

Although Universal Credit is not replacing New Style Employment and Support Allowance, contributory Employment and Support Allowance, New Style Jobseekers Allowance, or contributory Jobseekers Allowance, if you are receiving one of these along with another of the six benefits being replaced then you will receive a Migration Notice and will migrate in line with that benefit.

Throughout 2023 and 2024 households that receive Tax Credits only have been notified and been sent migration notices. Moving forward in 2024 and 2025, the other legacy benefit groups will be migrating to Universal Credit, excluding some Employment and Support Allowance claimants.

Timetable for issuing Migration Notices to Working Age benefit households:

- From April – Income Support claimants and those claiming Tax Credits with Housing Benefit
- June – Housing Benefit only claimants
- July – Employment Support Allowance with Child Tax Credits
- August – Tax Credits for those who are over state pension age, with households being asked to apply for either Universal Credit or Pension Credit, depending on their circumstances.
- September – Jobseekers Allowance

Received my migration letter – when do I move over to Universal Credit?

We can help you decide when to make that move.

So, firstly you need to think about the dates of the assessment period. This is the period that Universal Credit look at when calculating your monthly entitlement. What you need to remember is, **all** income received within that “period” is taken into account when working out how much Universal Credit you’ll receive. So, whether you receive income on the first day of the assessment period or that last day it will be considered as income.

Your payment frequency also affects your payment; those who get paid fortnightly, four weekly or even weekly will have some months of the year when there will be more than one, two or even four lots of wages to take into account.

Weekly paid

Eight assessment periods will have four lots of wages paid within

Four assessment periods will have five lots of wages paid within

Fortnightly paid

10 assessment periods will have two lots of wages paid within

Two assessment periods will have three lots of wages paid within

Four weekly paid

11 assessment periods will have one lot of wages paid within

One assessment period will have two lots of wages paid within

Monthly paid

Normally one lot of wages is paid within but we do see more than one lot of wages if the claim is made to close the pay date. So, you need to avoid making that claim close to your pay dates, leave a week either side of the pay date if you can.

An example: you receive wages on the 26th of the month (if the 26th falls on a weekend or a bank holiday, you're paid the last working day before) claim between the dates of 3rd & the 19th of the month, this guarantees only one lot of wages will be paid within the assessment period.

Fortnightly & four weekly paid can use a calendar to work out the best possible dates to make that claim – you can delay the timing of when three lots of wages (fortnightly) or two lots of wages (four weekly) will fall into the assessment period.

You also need to consider any payments you receive from legacy benefits as some of those can cause an overpayment if received after an application for Universal Credit has been submitted.

Energy Bills

Are you struggling with energy bills? Our energy smart Emergency Support Fund may be able to help.

The scheme is aiming to provide much needed funds directly to low-income households to help with their energy bills. Please get in touch or apply online at [Energy Smart Support Grant](#).

Discretionary Housing Payment

The Scottish Government offers other support that may be available for you too. If you rent your home and get Housing Benefit or Universal Credit and are still struggling to afford housing costs, you may be eligible for a Discretionary Housing Payment.

For further information and assistance to apply contact our Welfare Reform Advice Team on 0300 999 4606 or email welfarereformteam@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is only available in Scotland and helps towards the costs of supporting your family.

It's a payment of £26.70 per week that you can get for every child you look after who's under 16 years of age.

Find out more at [Scottish Child Payment](#).

Funeral Support Payment

Funeral Support Payment is available to people in Scotland who get certain tax credits or benefits and need help to meet the costs of a funeral.

Find out more about the qualifying benefits online at [Funeral Support Payment](#).

Best Start Foods

The removal of income thresholds has made it simpler for eligible parents to get Best Start Foods.

Best Start Foods is money every four weeks to help pay for healthy food from pregnancy until a child turns three.

Find out more at [Using my Best Start Foods card](#).

Carer Support Payment

Carer Support Payment will replace Carer's Allowance in Scotland and will be introduced for new claims in North Ayrshire in August 2024.

Carer Support Payment is money to help you if you're a carer. You can get paid £81.90 a week if you're eligible.

More information about [who can apply for Carer Support Payment](#).

Or you can apply now for Carer's Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions. [Find out more about Carer's Allowance](#).

You cannot get Carer Support Payment and Carer's Allowance at the same time.

If you get Carer's Allowance and live in Scotland, you do not need to apply for Carer Support Payment. Your benefit will move to Carer Support Payment automatically from February 2024.

Help to Save

[Help to Save](#) is a savings scheme for people on low incomes who are claiming certain benefits. Help to Save gives you a bonus payment from the government of up to 50% on savings paid into the account. It allows certain people entitled to Working Tax Credit or receiving Universal Credit to get a bonus of 50p for every £1 they save over four years.

You can save between £1 and £50 each calendar month. You do not have to pay money in every month. You can pay money into your Help to Save account by debit card, standing order or bank transfer.

You can pay in as many times as you like, but the most you can pay in each calendar month is £50. For example, if you have saved £50 by 8 January you will not be able to pay in again until 1 February.

Home Safety Checks

We want to keep you safe in your home. To do this, we need to carry out several checks on your home. It's the law for all responsible landlords. These tests relate to gas safety, smoke detection compliance and electrical safety.

Gas safety visits

You will be contacted 10 months after your last check with a date for your next visit. If it's not a good time, let us know and we'll rearrange. Please make sure you are at home on the day of your gas safety check.

Smoke detection

You will receive a letter asking you to make an appointment to check if your system meets the most recent standard, if not we will carry out an upgrade to the existing system.

Electrical testing must be carried out in each property every five years. Our nominated contractor will contact you to arrange an appointment to carry out this work.

If you fail to provide access to carry out these safety related works, we may force entry to your home – and all costs will be charged to you.

Know what to do if you suspect your system is faulty or damaged

If you think one of the above systems in your home may have developed a fault or has been damaged, you should report this to us immediately.

Contact us by calling 01294 310000 and follow the prompts for the option you require. The Contact Centre is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Gas Safety

Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning

It could save your life:

- headaches
- dizziness
- nausea
- breathlessness
- collapse or loss of consciousness
- symptoms which disappear or get better when you leave home and come back when you return
- other people (and animals) experiencing the same symptoms at the same time.

Know what to do if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning:

- get fresh air immediately - open the doors and windows
- turn off any gas appliances and turn the gas off at the meter
- extinguish naked flames
- leave the house
- see your doctor immediately or go to hospital - let them know that you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning
- call the Gas Emergency Helpline on 0800 111 999 if you think there's any danger (This is free of charge).

Use gas appliances only for their intended purpose:

Don't be tempted to use them for something they weren't meant for (for example, using a gas cooker to heat a room).

Know the emergency procedure:

One of the first indicators of a gas leak is often the smell, however, there are some physical symptoms that may be experienced.

The most common symptoms include:

- feeling lightheaded
- nausea
- dizziness
- headaches

It's crucial to act quickly in a gas emergency. These are the steps you need to take to stay safe:

- get fresh air immediately; make sure you open all doors and windows to ventilate the area.
- turn off the gas emergency control valve (also called gas emergency shut off valve) at the meter.

- extinguish all naked flames and don't smoke.
- don't operate electrical switches (including turning light switches on or off) because this can ignite escaping gas.

If you suspect a gas leak and have any of the above symptoms, please go outside into fresh air immediately and call 0800 111 999 (This is free of charge).

Did you know?

You can view your rent online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, this allows you to see:

- all your account transactions in one place
- payments made
- your current balance
- your tenancy start date
- your annual charge
- three years' worth of transactions
- request a repair online which allows you to report and book an appointment for routine property repairs all along with quick links to payment advice and an online direct debit mandate. Direct debit is the easiest and most convenient way to pay your rent.

New Build Housing Developments

Sheltered Housing Re Provisioning Programme Update

The Sheltered Housing Re Provisioning Programme aims to ensure all sheltered housing in North Ayrshire is high quality, energy efficient, and meet tenant's needs and aspirations.

The refurbishment of Barnett Court, Saltcoats concluded in January 2024, the work was undertaken by James Frew Limited.

Provost Anthea Dickson, local councillors and council officers celebrated the project at an opening ceremony in March 2024.

Refurbishment works at Cheviot Court, Irvine are ongoing. Redpath Construction Ltd expected to complete the work during summer / autumn 2024.

Consultation is well underway for the remaining programme, final plans consultations took place at Ligh Court, Beith and Vineburgh Court, Irvine in April 2024. Initial consultations were held at Regal Court, Dalry and Moorburn Park, Largs in March 2024.

Estate Based Regeneration Programme

The Estate Based Regeneration Programme aims to invest in the Council's existing housing estates to support the regeneration of North Ayrshire and improve quality of life for local people.

Skelmorlie Area and Riggs Cottages, Stevenston

In-curtilage parking was installed for suitable Council homes at Riggs Cottages, Stevenston and within the Skelmorlie area. The work was completed by Hamilton Tarmac in March 2024, it is hoped that it will reduce parking pressures in the areas.

Nursery Place, Ardrossan and Grange Court, Stevenston

Flats at Nursery Place, Ardrossan, and Grange Court, Stevenston will be demolished to make way for new family homes. The Housing Regeneration Team are currently working with tenants to find them alternative suitable accommodation.

Affordable Housing Supply Programme

James McFarlane, Ardrossan

Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd started work on the new 19-unit development on the site of the former James McFarlane school in Ardrossan in March 2024. The site will provide general needs houses, amenity bungalows and homes for wheelchair users. The works are expected to be completed in summer 2025.

The new street name has been confirmed as Fitzsimmons Wynd, named after John Henry Fitzsimmons, the last provost of Ardrossan.

Kings Arms, Irvine

McLaughlin Construction have been appointed as the main contractor for the project, and the 'Meet the Builder' event was held on 30 April 2024. Works commenced onsite to deliver six amenity flats on Monday 13 May 2024.

Stanecastle, Irvine

Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd started works on the former Stanecastle Primary School in Irvine in March 2024. The site will deliver 31 units (29 new homes) providing general needs houses, amenity bungalows and homes for wheelchair users. The works are expected to be completed in Summer or Autumn 2025.

The street name has been confirmed as Longacre Place. Longacre was the name of a house in Girdle Toll, opposite Sourlie Crescent, which was demolished in the 1970s to make way for new housing. The stone boundary wall was retained as a feature in the street and is located around 100 metres from the new site.

Garnock Academy, Kilbirnie

Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd started work on the former Garnock Academy site in Kilbirnie on Monday 17 June 2024. The 50-unit development will provide general needs houses, amenity bungalows and homes for wheelchair users. The works are expected to be completed in Winter 2025.

The street names have been confirmed as Academy Wynd, McQueen Place and Moorpark Crescent. 'Academy' and 'McQueen' were suggested following Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council's engagement with the local community. The former Garnock Academy, which stood on the site between 1971 and 2017, was the inspiration for Academy Wynd. McQueen Place relates to Gordon McQueen, a professional footballer who was born in Kilbirnie in June 1952. During his career he played for St Mirren, Leeds United and Manchester United, and made 30 appearances for Scotland.

Tenant Participation

Would you like to be informed on topics that are important to you?

Then we have the register for you! Simply complete a form and we will add you on!

Our Tenant Panel allows you to have the opportunity to have your voice heard on topics that are important to, or affect you. You can select which subjects you would like to be informed or consulted on and choose to take part when it suits you. The panel is used regularly to consult on a variety of housing issues, policies and strategies.

If you would like to be added, just email in to tenantparticipation@northayrshire.gov.uk with your name, current address and contact email & telephone number and we will add you on.

Alternatively, you can [complete the form online](#).

North Ayrshire Network

The North Ayrshire Network is a constituted group which allows tenant representatives and other customers to discuss issues that affect them jointly whilst also networking

between tenant group representatives from different communities. The group meet on a monthly basis and each Tenant and Residents Association can send two representatives from their group to these meetings.

The Network is responsible for making sure that the Housing Service continually improves the services it delivers to tenants and other customers and provides an independent check for Housing Services to improve service delivery and standards of performance.

If you would like further information on the Network or any of our Service Improvement Groups, please contact the Tenant Participation Team on 01294 324869 or alternatively email tenantparticipation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Tenant & Resident Associations or Groups

Saltcoats High Flats Tenants and Residents Association meet in the Argyle Centre, Saltcoats (just across from the flats) on the 1st Friday of the month.

Hayocks Tenants and Residents Association meet in the Hayocks Community Centre, Hyslop Road, Stevenston on a monthly basis (please contact the Tenant Participation Team for dates and time, details below).

Bourtreehill & Broomlands Tenants and Residents Association, Irvine meet on the 1st Wednesday every other month in Towerlands Community Centre at 10am (please contact the Tenant Participation Team for dates and time, details below).

Castlepark & Eglinton Tenants and Residents Group, Irvine meet on the last Wednesday of the month in Castlepark Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Check out our Facebook and X pages for more information:

Facebook: [North Ayrshire Council Housing Services](#)

X (formerly Twitter): [@NAC_Housing](#)

If you would like more information on any of the above groups or are interested in setting up a Tenants and Residents Group in your area, please contact the Tenant Participation Team on 01294 324869 or via email at tenantparticipation@northayrshire.gov.uk.

Housing - Youth Matters

We would like to develop the way we engage with younger people who reside in the below areas:

- Bourtreehill and Broomlands, Irvine
- Castlepark and Eglinton, Irvine
- Hayocks, Stevenston

If you live in the areas listed above and you would like to have a voice about the area you live in, NOW is the time to take that step.

We want to ensure your voice is heard even though you may not be able to attend the meetings.

If this interests you, or you would like more information - please private message our Facebook or X (formerly Twitter) pages.

Facebook: [North Ayrshire Council Housing Services](#).

X: [@NAC Housing](#).

Are you a North Ayrshire Council tenant aged 16 to 29? Then why not join our North Ayrshire Youth Matters (Housing) Facebook Group. It is a space for young people's voices in relation to North Ayrshire Council's Housing Service. Current and relevant information is posted regularly to keep you updated on all things Housing! If you would like more information on Tenant Participation, please get in touch!

Email: tenantparticipation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01294 324869

Get involved

Would you like to get involved in a Housing Services Improvement Group?

This is a rare opportunity for you to join one or more of our fantastic Service Improvement Groups or a local Tenant & Residents Association. For more information, please contact the Tenant Participation Team.

Hayocks Tenants & Residents Association

Following on from a very successful Estate Walkabout in the Hayocks Area, Stevenston in 2023, attended by members of the Hayocks TARA, NAC staff and Elected members, it was identified that a new bus shelter would be beneficial to the community.

The group were delighted to be informed that not one new bus shelter would be installed but two.

A massive thank you to everyone who was able to make this happen.

UK Parliamentary General Election Thursday 4 July 2024

The UK Parliamentary General Election will be held on Thursday 4 July. Polling places will be open from 7am to 10pm, if you need more information on your polling place please visit our UK General Election page. If you are voting in person you must provide a form of photo identification, such as a passport or photocard driving licence when voting. A list of accepted forms of photo ID is available on the [electoral commission website](#).

If you are voting by post it is important to return your postal vote as soon as possible. As we get closer to the day of the election you can return your postal vote to Cunninghame House during office hours. Alternatively you can return your postal vote to a North Ayrshire and Arran Constituency Polling Place on Polling Day. When you return your postal vote you will be required to complete the Postal Vote Return Form. Failure to complete the form will result in refusal of the Postal Votes. You can submit a maximum of five postal votes plus your own provided you are not a political campaigner who can only bring in their own, that of a close family member or someone they provide regular care for.

The Count will take place that evening after the close of Poll, full results will be shared on the Council website and social media channels.

Dangerous Dogs – XL Bully Update

Earlier this year an Order was made by Scottish Ministers with which brought XL Bully dogs into the Dangerous Dogs (Scotland) Act 1991.

The initial result of this was that from 23rd February 2024, anyone with an XL Bully dog could only have them out in public, if they were on a lead, and muzzled.

Further restrictions were also made, preventing anyone from

- a) selling or exchanging an XL Bully (including advertising for sale or offering as a gift)
- b) abandoning or allowing an XL to stray.

If you do own an XL Bully and wish to keep it, then there are a few things you must do by 31 July 2024.

You need to apply for a certificate of exemption from the Scottish Government, this can be done using the following link.

[Apply for an exemption certificate](#)

In order to get this certificate, you will need to ensure that your dog is microchipped by the time it is eight weeks old (you will need the microchip number when you fill out the application form), it will need to be neutered by the time it is 18 months old, you will require to get third party public liability insurance and pay the application fee of £92.40.

Find out how to [get your dog microchipped](#)

If your dog is less than eight weeks old when you apply for an exemption, you'll have until 31 October 2024 to send in the microchip number.

Leave the microchip field blank when you first apply, and you will be given an index number along with your Certificate of Exemption.

Once you have the microchip number, email both this and your dog's index number to xlbullydogenquiries@gov.scot.

As already mentioned, you must arrange to have your XL Bully dog neutered. Male dogs must be castrated. Female dogs must be spayed.

Once your dog has been neutered, you must fill in a [confirmation of neutering form](#) with your vet and return it to the Scottish Government at the e-mail above.

When you must do this depends on how old your dog is on 31 July 2024:

If your dog is 18 months or older, the form needs to be sent in by 31 January 2025, if your dog is younger than 18 months, it needs to be sent in by 31 January 2025 or within one month of the dog turning 18 months, whichever is later.

If your dog has already been neutered, you can fill in the form straight away and return it to the Scottish Government at the email above.

Your vet may have to check that your dog is neutered if:

- a different vet or practice neutered the dog
- you're not sure if your dog is neutered

You may have to pay a fee for the vet to do this. You can also ask your previous vet for help to fill in the form.

When it comes to insuring your dog, you must have third party public liability insurance in place. The cover must start no later than 1 August 2024.

You may want to consider signing up to the [Dogs Trust Companion Club](#) to get the insurance.

If you use a different insurance provider, you must check that the policy covers you for death or bodily injury to any person caused by the exempted dog, and that it is suitable for a prohibited breed as defined under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

The insurance policy and the Certificate of Exemption must be in the same person's name. You must renew the policy each year for the life of your dog.

Make a note of your policy start date as you'll need it when you fill in your application.

Once you have a Certificate of Exemption for your XL Bully, you must follow these rules for the life of the dog's life.

- keep the dog at the same address as the certificate holder – you can temporarily keep it at a different address for up to 30 days in a 12-month period.
- tell the Scottish Government if you permanently change address – you do not need to tell us if you temporarily keep the dog at another address for up to 30 days in a 12-month period.
- tell them if the dog dies or is exported.
- have third party public liability insurance for your dog – you can change insurance, but there can be no gap in cover.
- keep the dog muzzled in public places.
- keep the dog on a lead in public places – someone over 16 years old must securely hold the lead.
- keep the dog in secure conditions so it cannot escape. If the police or local authority asks, you must also provide:
 - access to the dog to read its microchip
 - proof of suitable third-party liability insurance within five days of their request
 - the Certificate of Exemption within five days of their request

If you do not follow these rules, your Certificate of Exemption will not be valid, and the police could take your dog.

If you decide you do not want to keep your dog after the 31st July 2024, you must arrange to have the dog euthanised. If this is what you decide to do, then compensation can be applied for from the Scottish Government, £100 towards the vet payment, and £100 for the loss of the dog.

To claim compensation, you must decide to have your dog euthanised and arrange this with a vet by 31 July 2024. The appointment itself can happen after this date but the claim must be made by 30 September 2024. You must include confirmation of euthanasia from a vet.

If you use a free charity service to euthanise your dog, you can only claim £100.

To make a claim, download a compensation form if you're:

- [paying for the euthanasia](#)
- [using a free charity service](#)

Fill in the form with your vet and email it to xlbulldoginquiries@gov.scot.

Any queries regarding all this information can be made to Environmental Health on 01294 324339 or environmentalhealth@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Police Scotland

Pitchin' in Programme

Recently pupils from Greenwood Academy, Irvine Royal Academy, Garnock Campus & Kilwinning Academy took part in the Pitchin' in Programme which took place in Kilmarnock.

The kids were a credit to themselves and their respective schools.

Pride Event

On Tuesday 11 June 2024 in McGavin park pupils from Kilwinning Academy and Irvine Royal Academy were able to come together to celebrate Pride month. Pupils signed up to celebrate inclusion and diversity and create a network of support for the young people of our local community. There were 21 pupils who attended supported by their area inclusion workers and campus officers. There were snacks, opportunities to interact with each other, a scavenger hunt.

School campus officers PC Watters and PC Lewis gave an input on hate crime and carried out a Q&A session to build relationships with the pupils.

Scottish Fire & Rescue

Water Safety

Our Fire and Rescue crews regularly respond to emergency calls from people who have got into difficulty in the water and need to be rescued.

Scotland enjoys some of the most beautiful rivers, lochs, canals and reservoirs that the UK has to offer - they attract thousands of visitors each year. It is important to remember though that if you are visiting one of these spots, water can pose risks.

We have put together some useful advice about what you can do to stay safe around water. If you are a parent, guardian or teacher you can also use information on this page to talk to children about water safety.

Have fun and stay safe

Sometimes it can be tempting to go for a dip in a river or loch, especially during the Summer months, but swimming in unsupervised open water can be extremely dangerous.

Open water can become very cold just a few feet under the surface and can cause cramps or cold water shock. Very cold temperatures can also affect your stamina and you may find your strength and ability to swim deteriorates rapidly. You might find yourself getting tired a lot more quickly than you would in a heated pool.

Open water can also look very calm on the surface, but strong undercurrents or unseen objects which could trap or injure you can lie beneath. It is also important to remember not to enter the water if you've been drinking alcohol – alcohol and water do not mix.

Parents, guardians and teachers

It is important to talk to children about their safety if they are playing near the water. Have a conversation about it today and explain:

- They should never swim in an unsupervised area like lochs, rivers or ponds where there is not an adult to help if they get into trouble
- It is much safer to go to a swimming pool where there is a lifeguard on duty
- They should not play with or touch lifesaving equipment like life rings by the side of waterways. That equipment might be used to save someone's life.

Statistics show that Saturday nights have a higher number of drownings than any other night of the week. Many drowning victims are under the influence of alcohol. Alcohol reduces inhibitions and can mean you take more risks.

- If you've been drinking stay out of water
- Open water can become very cold just a few feet under the surface and can cause cramps or Cold Water Shock.
- Alcohol will impair judgement and control
- It's likely to be dark and night time so fewer people to see you in distress
- Stay with your group and don't wander off if you become separated

- Keep an eye on any friends who are worse for wear and make sure you help them home
- Avoid walking near water even if the path is lit, you may not realise how unsteady on your feet you are
- In the dark you may not see trip hazards or even the water's edge
- If you fall in after drinking your chances of being able to get out of the water are decreased as alcohol impairs even simple movements
- Make sure you store a taxi number in your phone and some emergency money at home so you can pay. If the money is at home you can't lose it or accidentally spend it.

Runners & Walkers

If you're out for a walk or run near water it's worth taking a minute to read our safety advice. Many people who drown are walking or running alone.

- Make sure your walk or run is suitable for your fitness level
- Consider joining a running or walking group
- Be aware and take notice of any warning signs
- When running or walking next to water, stay clear of the edges
- River banks and cliff edges may be unstable and give way
- Wear appropriate footwear and clothing
- Take a fully charged mobile phone and check signal strength, know how to use it and who to call in an emergency
- Look out for trip or slip hazards - pay attention to your footing
- Stick to proper pathways
- Don't walk or run next to water if levels are high
- Make sure you know exactly where you are - consider something like an OS locate app for a smart phone or a map
- Don't assume just because you have walked or run a route many times before it is still safe.
- Avoid walking or running near water in the dark

Dog Walking

Make sure you and your dog are safe when walking near water:

- Avoid throwing sticks or balls near water for dogs - they will go after it if they think you want it back even if you've thrown it too far or into dangerous water
- Never enter the water to try and save a dog - the dog usually manages to scramble out
- Even dogs that like swimming can usually only swim for short bursts - keep an eye of your dog and don't let it enter the water if it's older or tired

- If your dog loves the water keep it on a lead and make sure you have control to prevent it jumping into hazardous or unsafe areas
- Remember the wet riverbanks, steep edges or jagged rocks can make it hard for a dog to scramble out and be a slip risk for owners
- Don't lean into water and try and lift your dog out - you can topple in
- Dogs can have cold water shock too

If your dog has struggled in the water it may have inhaled water and should see a vet as dogs can drown after the event if water has entered the lungs.

Barbecues

Nothing quite says summer like firing up the barbecue and cooking outdoors but did you know that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service firefighters attend incidents every year where barbecues have got out-of-hand?

Whether you are in the garden or out camping, we have advice to barbecue safely and avoid injuries, damage to property:

- Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby for emergencies.
- Never leave a barbecue unattended.
- Avoid alcohol if you are in charge of a barbecue - it can affect your coordination and judgement.
- Make sure your barbecue site is flat and well away from sheds, fences, trees, shrubs or garden waste.
- Keep children and pets away from the cooking area.
- Do not dispose of ashes from barbecues until they are cold to the touch. Hot ashes can melt a plastic wheelie bin and can also cause a fire.
- Never use petrol or paraffin to light your barbecue; use only recognised lighters or starter fuels on cold coals.
- Use enough charcoal to cover the base of the barbecue, but not more (normally around five centimetres or two inches).
- After cooking, make sure the barbecue is cool before moving it.
- Never take a portable barbecue - or lit charcoal - into an enclosed space like a tent or caravan.
- Make sure everyone knows how to put out clothing that is on fire – stop, drop and roll.

Make the Call

Scotland's firefighters are calling on communities to help stop preventable deaths in house fires – by making a five-minute phone call.

Make the Call is a hard-hitting appeal to carers, family, friends and of those who are at risk of serious injury or even death because of an accidental fire in their home.

The latest statistics show that more than 20 people who are over the age of 50, smoke and either have mobility issues, live alone, or use medical oxygen have already been injured, some seriously, by such fires between January 1 and April 30 this year.

Tragically, 12 of those people sadly passed away.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is now appealing to communities across Scotland to help save a life and consider home fire safety when checking in on vulnerable neighbours, patients, friends and family members during lockdown and to put them in touch with SFRS wherever possible using the free Home Fire Safety Visit phonenumber.

As part of our commitment to building a safer Scotland we offer everyone in Scotland a free home fire safety visit. We'll help you sort out a fire escape plan and provide information about smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms.

Contact us

0800 0731 999 or Text "FIRE" to 80800 from your mobile phone.

Understanding Wildfires in Scotland

What is a wildfire?

Wildfires are classified as large, uncontrolled outdoor fires exceeding 1,000 square meters of burned area on appropriate land types.

These fires are unplanned, uncontrolled, and unpredictable, and occur in areas with combustible vegetation that can fuel rapid spread.

Common causes of wildfires

Wildfires are destructive, but did you know most of them are started by human activity? They can be on purpose or by accident. The most common offenders are:

1. Unattended flames

This includes barbecues, campfires, and bonfires left unattended or not properly extinguished. Even a small spark can ignite dry leaves and brush, leading to a major wildfire.

2. Glass bottles

Sunlight shining through a glass bottle can act like a magnifying glass, focusing heat and igniting dry materials nearby.

3. Controlled burns gone wrong

Planned burns are sometimes used to manage land, but they can spiral out of control if not done properly.

4. Deliberate fire setting

This is sadly a reality, with some people starting fires intentionally. If you see suspicious activity, report it immediately to Police Scotland or **Crime Stoppers**.

5. Careless cigarette disposal

Even a seemingly extinguished cigarette can reignite and spark a fire in dry conditions.

6. Hot and dry weather

Prolonged periods of hot, dry weather create a tinderbox environment, where even a small spark can easily ignite a wildfire.

7. Cold, dry, and sunny weather

Believe it or not, cold, dry days with strong sunshine can also be risky. The combination of low humidity and strong winds can quickly dry out vegetation and fuel wildfires.

How wildfires impact Scotland

Wildfires are a growing problem in Scotland. They have a huge impact on property, infrastructure, the environment, and the economy.

These fires place a huge drain on our resources that might be required at another emergency. They pose a significant threat to the safety of our firefighters and to members of our communities.

Wildfires put a strain on our resources and can potentially hinder our ability to respond to other emergencies. They also pose a danger to the safety of both firefighters and the communities they protect.

Climate change and wildfires

Climate change is playing a major role in making these destructive fires even more dangerous. The period where wildfires can happen is extending from Spring into Summer.

Weather conditions are a big factor in determining how much a wildfire spreads. Strong winds, extreme temperatures or low rainfall can all leave trees, shrubs, fallen leaves, and grass, dry and primed to fuel a fire.

Wildfire Prevention

Help reduce wildfires and protect Scotland

Wildfires pose a serious threat to Scotland's landscapes, wildlife, and communities. We can all play a part in preventing them. By following a few simple guidelines, we can protect the places we love and keep ourselves safe.

- Follow the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#) and never start a fire when a wildfire danger assessment is in place and during prolonged dry periods in areas such as forests, woods, farmland or peaty ground.

- Don't have BBQs, on any flammable surface during very dry and prolonged weather. Instead have them within safe designated BBQ areas.
- Don't have campfires or any outdoor fire when a wildfire danger assessment is in place or during prolonged dry periods.
- Always fully extinguish cigarettes and dispose of them responsibly.
- Don't leave litter, take it home with you and leave no trace. Glass in direct sunlight can cause a fire. Ensure none is lying around.
- Where possible use a stove rather than an open fire.
- If you do light a fire, keep it small, controlled and supervised
- Make sure the fire has been fully extinguished and remove all traces of an open fire before you leave the area.

How to Prepare for Wildfire

Living or working in a wildfire-prone area? It is better to plan and prepare for the worst, so you are always ready.

Wildfires are unpredictable and spread fast, endangering everything in their path. They are a threat to wildlife, livestock, domestic animals, environment, property, and people.

Step 1: Make Your Escape Plan

Make sure your family members know what to do and where to assemble. If you run a business in a rural area, make sure your staff members know the plan. Also, think about how you will round up and care for pets and domestic animals safely.

Step 2: Share the plan with your neighbours

Make sure everyone in your household knows the escape route and meeting place. If you have elderly or vulnerable neighbours, see if they might need assistance in a wildfire emergency.

Step 3: Talk to your children

Take time to explain the dangers of fire to them. Matches and lighters are tools, not toys. If they see anyone playing with fire, they need to tell a grown-up immediately.

Step 4: Make sure we can find you

Firefighters need to find you quickly in an emergency. Is your address visible from the main road? Are there clear access points to your property?

Step 5: Know the Risk

This website will be updated to include the current wildfire danger assessment in your area. Checking it and our social media channels regularly will help keep you informed about any wildfire threats.

Wildfire escape plan

Wildfires can force you to leave in a hurry. Having a well-organized escape plan could save your life and the lives of your loved ones. Here's how to ensure everyone is prepared.

- Start by making a list of essential items each family member would need. These could include valuables, medication, money, clothing, food, and pets.
- Photograph any key documents such as passports and insurance documents
- Make a note of any important phone numbers
- Keep documents, phone numbers, and essential items handy, making sure everyone knows where they are
- Ensure your car is facing the right way to evacuate safely without reversing
- Consider any vulnerable neighbours who may need assistance and reassurance
- Most importantly, you should get out and stay out

Health Issues

Is a health issue making work difficult?

If you live or work in Ayrshire and are experiencing difficulties attending or returning to work due to:

- Mental Health
- Physical Health/Pain
- Overwhelming circumstances

Then you could access fast and confidential support from a fully qualified health practitioner via NHS Salus.

This programme, Working for a Healthy Economy, is fully funded by the Ayrshire Growth Deal with no charge to individuals or businesses.

For more information, you can call 0808 196 3919 for free. You can also refer via [Ayrshire Salus](#).

Domestic Abuse Policy

Our Domestic Abuse Policy is available on the North Ayrshire Council website.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact any of the following:

- North Ayrshire Women's Aid: 01294 602424
- Rape Crisis: 01563 544686
- Police Scotland: 101
- If you are in an emergency situation: 999

Harbour Arts Centre Summer Events Programme

All tickets are available from [Harbour Arts Centre](#) or by calling the box office on 01294 274059. The box office is open Wednesdays to Saturdays 9.30am to 4.30pm.

July 2024

Classes and Workshops

- **Show works Theatre: Summer Drama**

Harbour Arts Centre

Monday 1 July to Friday 5 July

For more information contact admin@showworkstheatre.com or check out their website [Show Works Theatre](#).

- **Early Years: Storytelling & Drama Workshop: The Smeds and the Smoos**

Harbour Arts Centre

Saturday 6 July, 10am to 11am (one to three years) and 11.30am to 12.30pm (three to five years)

£5

Interactive Storytelling workshop with dance, music and drama!

- **Superhero School** Harbour Arts

Centre

Tuesday 16 July, 10.30am to 12.30pm (five to 10 years) £5

Join us for a super fun, action pack Superhero workshop with games, music, glitter tattoos and mask making! If you want come along feel free to dress up!

- **Arts and Crafts: Paper Mache Fish**

Harbour Arts Centre

Wednesday 17 July and Thursday 18 July, 10.30am to 12pm (five to seven years) and 1.30pm to 3pm (eight to 12 years)

£10

Create your very own paper mâché hanging fish! Lots of metallic paint and glitter to use and mix with your imagination! This workshop will run for two sessions so we will have a day of making and a day of painting and finishing. Messy fun! What will you make?

- **Arts and Crafts: Mixed Crafts Session (ages two to four)**

Harbour Arts Centre

Wednesday 24 July, 10am to 11am

£3

Bring your little one to join our tutor Lynn and take part in some arts and crafts.

Please note, that all children must be accompanied by an adult.

- **Arts and Crafts: Modelling Clay Monsters (ages five to eight)**

Harbour Arts Centre

Wednesday 24 July, 12pm to 1pm

£5

Create your very own cute little monster out of clay.

- **Arts and Crafts: Marbling Crafts (ages five to eight)**

Harbour Arts Centre

Thursday 25 July, 10am to 11am

£5

Join our tutor Lynn to learn the art of marbling! Using marbling ink create your very own patterns and designs to take home.

- **Arts and Crafts: Wet Felting Workshop (ages nine to 11)**

Harbour Arts Centre

Thursday 25 July, 12pm to 1.30pm

£5

Join our tutor Lynn and discover the art of felting! Make your very own felt picture to take home.

- **Musical Madness: Matilda**

Harbour Arts Centre

Friday 26 July, 10am to 4pm (seven to 12 years) £15

Sing your heart out, dance your socks off and become one of Trunchbull's Treasures! Full day event, please bring snack, lunch and plenty of water.

- **Pirate Adventure** Harbour Arts

Centre

Tuesday 30 July

10.30am to 12.30pm (five to 10 years)

£5

Join us for an action packed pirate themed workshop with games, music, glitter tattoos and sword making! Feel free to come along dressed up!

Film

- **Family Film Club**

Wednesday 17 July, 11am

Free

Sit back, relax and entertain the kids for an hour or two with our family films. Films suitable for children and their families in a relaxed environment.

- **Family Film Club**

Wednesday 31 July, 11am

Free

Sit back, relax, and entertain the kids for an hour or two with our family films. Films suitable for children and their families in a relaxed environment.

Theatre

- **Artie's Singing Kettle: Greatest Hits** Harbour Arts

Centre

Sunday 14 July, 11am and 1.30pm

£12

Artie is bringing the original Singing Kettles packed full of clues to his Greatest Hits. "Spout, handle, lid of metal, What's inside the Singing Kettle?" A whole bunch of songs that will take adults on a nostalgic trip back to their youth and entertain a whole new generation of children too.

"Bunny Fou Fou", "Aiken Drum", "Ten in the Bed" or "The Eelly Alley O". Which one would be in your Top Ten?

Bring Granny too and we'll promise not to "Shove Granny Aff the Bus". Dress up in your Favourite Colour when you come to the show.

- **Indepen-Dance: Four Go Wild in Wellies**

Harbour Arts Centre

Saturday 20 July, 11am

£7 or £5 concession

30-minute performance and workshop.

Four Go Wild in Wellies is a whimsical adventure featuring bobble hats, scarves, tents that have a life of their own and, of course, lots of fun in wellies! A playful look at the joy of inventiveness and curiosity, the negotiation of social structures, and how friendships are built, broken and mended as play emerges from interaction with each other and with the world around them. From Indepen-dance, Scotland's inclusive professional dance company.

Suitable for children aged three to five and their families.

The workshop will take place at 11.45am.

August 2024

Classes and Workshops

- **Early Years Storytelling and Drama Workshop: Monkey Puzzle**

Harbour Arts Centre

Saturday 3 August, 10am to 11am (one to three years) and 11.30am to

12.30pm (three to five years) £5

Interactive Storytelling workshop with dance, music and drama!

Worried? Contact our Child Protection Team

Are you worried about a child?

We need your help to protect children and young people in your community.

If you have a concern please contact your nearest social work office.

The numbers to call are:

Social Services

Irvine (covering Irvine, Dreghorn and Kilwinning): 01294 310300

Kilbirnie (covering Garnock Valley and North Coast): 01505 684551

Three Towns (covering Saltcoats, Stevenston and Ardrossan): 01294 605261

Arran: 01770 600742

Ayrshire Out of Hours Service: 0800 328 7758

If you are unsure what the right office is, phone the Irvine office.

Reach Out and Help Someone

If you are worried about yourself or another adult (16 years plus) and believe you or they are at risk of harm. Please share your concern.

Everyone has the right to be safe and free from harm.

Phone North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership on 01294 310300 or email us at:
adultprotection@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Summer is Here

Hopefully some good weather to get out in the garden.

As this is probably the only time of the year (In Scotland) where you can sit out and enjoy the weather and your garden, make sure you take time to smell the roses.

Keep on top of the general maintenance for example, weeding, edging, strimming, and clipping of hedges to give the garden those sharp lines that compliment the other components of the garden. Remember to water and feed tubs, hanging baskets and house plants, especially in dry spells.

Lawn care for Summer

If you have done the hard work in the Spring all you should have to do through the Summer is cut it to your desired height. Feed your lawn every six to eight weeks with a high nitrogen feed to give you that lush green growth. For those of you with active kids leave the grass a little longer, it will stand up better to the punishment it will receive.

Summer is time to plant your bedding plants and give your garden that instant boost of colour. There are so many different varieties available from your local nursery. We all have our favourites but if you keep planting the same thing in the same place every year remember to feed the soil prior to planting. Chicken pellets or some other organic matter will give bedding that initial boost and sustain their colour and performance through the season. The most exciting thing about gardening is trying different plants and seeing what works best.

Anyone growing strawberries should place straw around the plants and make sure birds and other critters can't get to them before you by using netting and such like for protection.

Early Summer is a good time to sow seeds and get growing, whether it's on the allotment or in the Greenhouse.

Enjoy the summer in your garden!

Delicious Recipes for You to Try at Home

If you have a favourite recipe and would like it published in a future edition of Tenants Chat, please email it to tenantparticipation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

If possible, please include a photograph of your recipe.

Starters

Buttery Baked Corn on the Cob

Ingredients

- 100grams butter, softened
- one garlic clove, crushed
- one table spoon chopped parsley
- four corn on the cob

Method

Heat oven to 200 Celsius/180 Celsius fan/gas 6. Mash butter, garlic and parsley with seasoning.

Cut four pieces of foil large enough to hold a cob, place a cob on each piece, top each one with butter, then seal edges to form parcels. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until tender.



Celery Soup

Ingredients

- two table spoon olive oil
- 300 grams celery, sliced, with tough strings removed
- one garlic clove, peeled
- 200 grams potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 500 millilitres vegetable stock
- 100 millilitres milk
- crusty bread, to serve

Method

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat, tip in the celery, garlic and potatoes and coat in the oil. Add a splash of water and a big pinch of salt and cook, stirring regularly for 15 minutes, adding a little more water if the veg begins to stick.

Pour in the vegetable stock and bring to the boil, then turn the heat down and simmer for 20 minutes further, until the potatoes are falling apart, and the celery is soft. Use a stick blender to purée the soup, then pour in the milk and blitz again. Season to taste. Serve with crusty bread.



Mains

Cheesy Chicken Bake with New Potatoes

Ingredients

- eight chicken thighs, skin on
- 85 grams garlic and herb soft cheese
- 500 grams new potatoes, halved
- four medium tomatoes, halved
- one garlic clove, crushed
- large pinch of caster sugar
- six thyme sprigs, leaves stripped from four
- olive oil, to drizzle

Method

Heat oven to 200Celsius/180Celsius fan/gas 6. Carefully lift the skin on the chicken thighs and spread the soft cheese between the skin and flesh. Sit the chicken in a roasting tin, skin side up, and surround with the potatoes and halved tomatoes, cut side up.

Scatter the tomatoes with the garlic and a light sprinkling of sugar (this helps to bring out their natural sweetness). Scatter the thyme leaves and sprigs over the tin, season and drizzle with oil. Roast for 45 minutes until the chicken and potatoes are cooked through with crisp, golden skin.



Corned Beef Hash

Ingredients

- 500 grams potato, peeled and chopped
- two table spoons vegetable oil
- one onion, roughly chopped
- 340 grams can corned beef, cut into cubes
- two table spoons Worcestershire sauce
- baked beans and a little curly parsley, roughly chopped, to serve (optional)

Method

Put the potatoes in a pan, cover with cold water and bring to the boil. Cook for about six to seven minutes, then drain.

Heat the oil in a non-stick frying pan and cook the onion for three to four minutes over a medium heat. Add the potatoes and corned beef, and push down with a spatula to crisp up, cooking for about five minutes. Turn the mixture over, trying not to break up the meat and potatoes too much, then add the Worcestershire sauce. Cook for another five minutes, pushing down to crisp the base again. Season a little, then serve with baked beans and a sprinkling of parsley, if you like.



Desserts

Strawberry Crumble Buns

Ingredients

- 120 grams butter, 70 grams at room temperature and 50 grams chilled and cubed
- 370 grams plain flour
- two eggs
- 135 grams caster sugar
- seven grams dried fast action yeast
- 100 millilitres milk, lukewarm
- 250 grams strawberries, halved

Method

Melt the 70 grams butter and let it cool. Sift 300 grams flour into a bowl, add the eggs, 75 grams sugar and the yeast and mix everything with a spoon. Slowly add the lukewarm milk and cooled butter. Mix until all ingredients are well combined into a very soft, sticky dough. Cover the bowl with a clean cloth and put in a warm place to rise for 40 to 60 minutes until doubled in volume.

To make the crumble, combine the remaining flour with the remaining sugar and chilled butter. Rub the butter into the flour until you have a breadcrumb-like texture. Chill.

When the dough has risen, divide it into six portions, squashing it down slightly and then shape each into a ball on a floured worksurface – the dough may still be sticky, so dust it with flour and work quickly. Flatten the balls gently with your hand so that they look like buns. Put on a baking tray lined with baking parchment.

Divide the strawberries between the buns, putting them in the centre of each and sprinkle with crumble. Heat the oven to 180Celsius/fan 160Celsius/gas 4. Bake the buns for 25 minutes until puffed and cooked. Cool and then dust with icing sugar, if you like.



Summer Fruit Drizzle Cake

Ingredients

- two large eggs
- two tea spoon vanilla extract
- 175 grams fruit, stoned and diced weight
- 140 grams granulated sugar

- One to two table spoons citrus juice, lemon, lime or orange
- 175 grams very soft butter, plus extra for greasing
- 175 grams golden caster sugar
- 250 grams self raising flour

Method

Heat oven to 180Celsius/160Celsius fan/gas 4. Grease a 900 grams/two pound loaf tin and line the base and ends with a long strip of baking parchment. Put the butter, caster sugar, flour, eggs and vanilla extract into a large bowl and beat with an electric hand mixer for five minutes until pale and creamy – the mixture will be very thick.

Spread one third of the cake mix into the tin, then scatter over 50 grams of the fruit. Carefully dot and spread another third of the cake mix on top, and scatter with another 50 grams fruit. Finally dot the rest of the cake mix over and gently spread with the back of a spoon. Bake for one hour, until an inserted skewer comes out clean.

Poke the cake all over with a skewer. Put remaining 75 grams fruit into a bowl with the granulated sugar. Stir in one table spoon of the citrus juice first with a fork, mashing a little of the fruit as you go. If it's a bit dry, add a splash more juice and spoon over the cake. Leave in the tin until the cake is cool and the topping is set and crisp.



Snacks

Summer Sausage Rolls

Ingredients

- two large skinless chicken breasts
- one garlic clove, crushed
- three rashers streaky bacon, thinly sliced
- four sundried tomatoes, chopped
- handful basil leaves, chopped
- 375 grams/13 ounce pack ready-rolled puff pastry
- flour, for dusting
- one egg yolk, beaten
- 25 grams sesame seeds

Method

Whizz the chicken and garlic in a processor until the chicken is minced. Tip in the bacon, sundried tomatoes and basil. Pulse for five seconds to just mix through. Season well.

Roll the pastry sheet on a lightly floured surface and cut in half lengthways. Spread half the chicken mixture along the middle of one of the pastry strips, then roll up the pastry, pinching the ends together to seal. Using a sharp knife, cut into 2.5 centimetre long pieces. Repeat with the remaining pastry strip. Can be frozen, uncooked, for up to one month.

Heat oven to 200Celsius/180Celsius fan/gas 6. Place the rolls on a large baking sheet. Brush with the egg, then sprinkle with seeds. Bake for 20 minutes until golden.



Frozen Banana Lollies

Ingredients

- two bananas
- four large strawberries
- 100 grams natural yogurt
- 200 grams dark chocolate
- one table spoon hundreds and thousands You will also need:
- four wooden lolly sticks

Method

Peel the bananas and trim off the very ends if you'd like them neater. Then chop them each into four equal sized chunks. Thread a strawberry onto each lolly stick first, then push on the pieces of banana.

When all your banana pops are made lay them on a baking tray and put in the freezer, uncovered, for one hour

Put the yogurt into a tall glass or jug then dip each banana pop into the yogurt to coat (avoiding the strawberries), then place back onto the tray to refreeze until set.

Melt the chocolate in the microwave in 30 second bursts (stirring after each blast) then pour into a mug. Dip the end piece of each banana pop in the chocolate then sprinkle over the hundreds and thousands.

The chocolate should set pretty much instantaneously, but you can keep them in the freezer until you want to serve them for up to one week.



Staff Training

Housing Services (including offices) will be closed for staff training and development from 1.30pm on the following dates:

- Thursday 11 July 2024
- Thursday 8 August 2024
- Thursday 12 September 2024
- Thursday 10 October 2024

Housing Offices

Beith / Dalry Housing Office

01294 310000

DalryHousing@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Irvine Housing Office

01294 310000

IrvineHousing@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Kilbirnie Housing Office

01294 310000

KilbirnieHousing@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Kilwinning Housing Office

01294 310000

KilwinningHousing@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Largs Housing Office

01294 310000

LargsHousing@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Three Towns Housing Office

01294 310000

3TownsHousing@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Other Useful Numbers

- Advice for Antisocial Behaviour where the alleged offender is not a Council tenant - 01294 314640
- Benefits Service - 01294 310000
- General waste/special uplifts/litter/recycling - 01294 310000
- Council Tax - 01294 310000
- General Advice on Home Security - 01294 314640
- Housing Advice Team - 01294 314600 & 0800 0196 500 (Out of Hours)
- Private Sector Team - 01294 324644
- Repairs (24/7 service) - 01294 310000
- Tenant Participation Team - 01294 324869
- Welfare Reform Advice Team - 0300 999 4606
- Police Scotland - 999 (Emergency) & 101 (Non-Emergency)
- University Hospital Crosshouse - 01563 521133