

NOW



YOU'RE TALKING!

2017

www.key.org.uk

www.theadvisorygroup.org.uk



RIDING HIGH

Read Shaun's Story

Being All You Can Be

Articles and special features

"Highland Hooley"

Celebrates its 25th year!

WELCOME TO YOUR MAGAZINE

YOUR EDITORIAL TEAM...



**Vicky Young, David Hill,
Mairi Hill, Ewan Hamilton and
Kirsten Knox**

You will also find many of our usual features. We have lots of news from the Regional **TAGs** and don't forget to send us any great stories and photos for the next edition.

Here is a taste of what's coming up, enjoy your magazine.



*We say goodbye to
Malcolm and welcome
new growth at the
Dalmuir allotment.*

A big welcome from the Editorial Team to this year's edition of **Now You're Talking**.

As ever this edition is packed full of interesting stories, great articles and wonderful photographs.

Our front cover this year features Shaun McNeil at the Sanquar Riding Of The Marches. Find out more about Shaun's amazing achievement on p4.



*Great photos from the
25th anniversary of the
Highland Hooley on p6.*



Why don't you check out TAG's website: www.theadvisorygroup.org.uk There is lots of information about TAG as well as up to date news of any fund raising events coming up.



**You can also catch up on all the latest news on the
Regional TAGs' Facebook pages.**



t a g LINES NATIONAL TAG



*National TAG Chairperson
Paul Cannop*

As the new **TAG** Chairperson it gives me great pleasure in delivering my first National **TAG** update.

Another busy year has passed and the work of **TAG** goes from strength to strength. The work **TAG** does with **Key** and **Community Lifestyles** is really important. A major piece of work we have been doing is our **Getting Together, Getting It Right** workshops. These workshops are made to make sure that people understand their rights and know what they should expect from their support. We have hosted 15 events up and down the country with over 500 people taking part and have had great feedback.



Our Community Development work continues to grow too. There are loads of articles about this throughout the magazine.



There has been lots of things happening in the regional **TAGs** too. We've had workshops on fire safety, being healthy, politics and voting sessions as well as a bit of fun.



We have also been getting involved in what's happening in the local authorities. In North Ayrshire and in Inverclyde we have been involved in their review of services. In Dumfries and Galloway we took part in the design of the new hospital and in Highland we're about to start working with the NHS to look at their day services. Its fair to say it has been a busy year. You can keep up to date with what we are doing on our **TAG** website, our Facebook pages and on Twitter.

Enjoy the magazine.

BEING ALL YOU CAN BE

We like to have a focus for the magazine, bringing stories together that have something in common. This section is dedicated to all the skills and talents folk have, people who are being all they can be...

"Shaun is Riding High"

Shaun McNeil from Sanquhar recently achieved a life time ambition when he was honoured with an award at the Sanquhar Riding of the Marches.

The Nithsdale Times reported that *"The Troopers' and Comet's Club and the March Riding Association agreed that Shaun should be presented with a Principal rosette and club badges. To really make his dream come true he will ride near to the Principals as they go round the town. He was very nearly speechless when making his reply to the presentation. A mark of the popularity of the award, was the huge roar of approval, and cheers from the watching crowd. We all hope Shaun enjoys a memorable week as he achieves his life long ambition."*



Congratulations Shaun from **Now
You're Talking!**

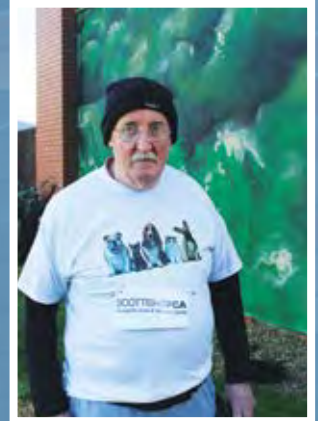
The "Art" of Walking...

5

Following on from last years successful Glasgow Stadium Walk William McMains again got together with TAG to organise this years event.

Williams chosen charity this time was the Scottish SPCA and the chosen route was a tour of the wonderful murals that have popped up all over Glasgow.

The group did an amazing 25000 steps as they made there way from the East End to Charing Cross.



A well earned rest and refreshment at the end of the walk.



The 25th Anniversary Highland Hooley



People from all over the Highlands got together to celebrate the 25th Highland Hooley at the Invergordon Social Club in October.

Old and new friends danced the night away to the live band and enjoyed a tasty buffet. Here's to the next 25 years!



Central TAG Family Fun Day

Another fantastic year at the Central **TAG** Family Fun Day, an amazing total of £496 was raised on the day. A big thank you to all our fantastic volunteers who help to make the day a success.



This year we introduced the Skinner Cup in memory of Philip. Philip was a great supporter of the fun day and we thought that the magnificent trophy was a fitting tribute to Philip who is fondly remembered and very much missed by us all.

Here we see the victorious Quiz team with the trophy.



This year Central **TAG** have chosen to support "Playlist For Life" as their nominated charity. This organisation work alongside people with dementia, their families and carers to create a music playlist which helps them reconnect.



Central **TAG** are asking for anyone who has any old or unwanted ipods and charging cables to hand them into Central **TAG** or you can get in touch with us here at **Now You're Talking**, details on the back page, and we will pass them on.

A Day To Remember...

Here we see a photo of all the good folk who live at Dawson Street in Bainsford gathering before a very special day out.

A trip to M&D's theme park was planned in memory of James Hunter who was a great friend to all at Dawson Street.



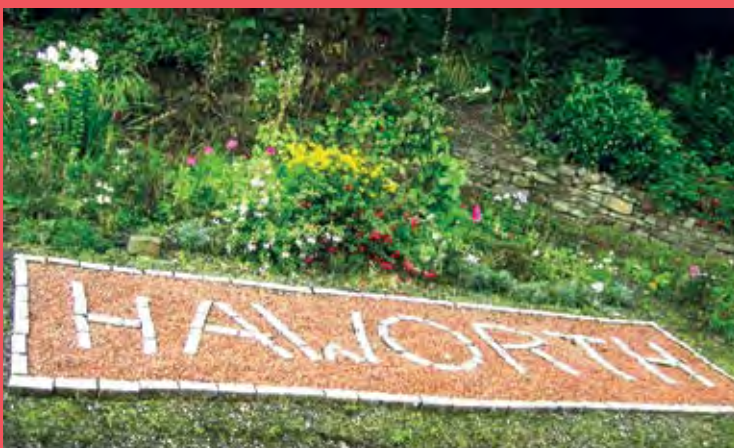
James sadly passed away earlier this year. His family wanted James to be remembered by everyone by having a good fun day out. The photo shows everyone releasing balloons in James' favourite colours.

Everyone had a great time at M&Ds followed by a meal at the Cladhan Hotel in Falkirk. Grateful thanks to Jimmy Hunter's family for their kind donation.

Full Steam Ahead...

Catherine Pollock from Helensburgh recently enjoyed a lovely holiday in Yorkshire where the highlight was travelling in an old fashioned steam train.

Here is Catherine enjoying the journey and a lovely photo of one of the stations she visited.



Congratulations David...

David Johnstone from Helensburgh reached a fantastic milestone recently when he celebrated a very special birthday.

To help him mark his 80th birthday he invited family and friends to a wonderful tea dance in the Commodore Hotel.

Many congratulations David from all at **Now You're Talking**, you're looking great!



Here we see Ali Gibbons from Thurso celebrating her 51st birthday.



If you have any stories and/or photographs you think are interesting and fit in with the theme of being all you can be, or if you want to share anything with us then please send them in. Details on how to send articles can be found on the back page.

All Creatures, Great and Small...



My name is Ann Marshall and I came to live in Laurieston in my own flat last year.

I am a real animal lover and I decided that I would like to work with animals. With the help of my support workers I now have a volunteers job with Bandeath Dog Shelter in Stirling.

I now volunteer twice weekly and love been around all the animals.

This is a photo of me with a lovely dog called Cole on a beautiful winters morning.

In May this year me and my husband David flew to Dubrovnik in Croatia to attend our nieces Elaina's wedding.

We enjoyed a good look around the city and had a lovely meal out with all the family and friends.

The wedding itself was a really unusual as we had never been to a wedding outside before. The sun was shining and it was very warm and instead of playing "Here Comes The Bride" they played the national anthem.

After the ceremony we all walked down to the harbour for photos and then enjoyed a boat trip around the island followed by a lovely reception in the old town.

We had a lovely five course meal and a strawberry and chocolate wedding cake.

The night continued with a great band and we danced the night away. We loved Dubrovnik and would love to visit again.



Mairi Hill

A “Roaring” Success...

A great day was had by all at the summer outing to Blair Drummond Safari Park.

The folk from the North Ayrshire service invited friends and family to join them in the annual trip. We also had people from local clubs as well as other folk from the local area.

Everybody had a great day and plans are underway for more adventures.





Getting Together Getting It Right!

TAG, KEY and LIFESTYLES Event

The ***Getting Together, Getting It Right*** workshop hosted by **TAG** has been touring the country. **TAG** has worked closely with **Key** and **Lifestyles** to get the people they support involved in evaluating the service they provide. The ***Getting Together, Getting it Right*** events have ran 15 times across the country.



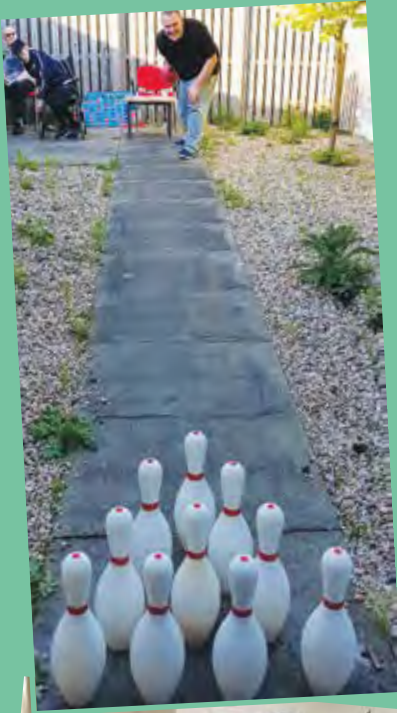
Over 500 people have been involved. The sessions are based on the new National Care standard and make sure people understand their rights and what they can expect from their support.



Here are some photos from across the country, you can find some more on p26.



Fun and Games in Ayrshire...



Every Thursday folk from the Ayrshire service get together to have a bit of fun at their games night.

The games night is open to folk from other organisations and people have a great time spending time with friends old and new and having a laugh.



Emma Gair enjoying the sensory box at games night.



Mark Bingham, photo on left, who is a very talented arts and crafts expert has been putting his talents to good use and running a local class in Ayrshire to help folk get into arts and crafts.

TAG donated £250 to the group to help them get up and running and Mark is doing a great job sharing his knowledge.



On the right Mark with two of his arts and crafts students, Stephen Faulkener and Colin Cooper with some of their work.



New Name, Same Quality...



The Primrose Cafe in Invergordon has decided to do a little re branding and is now called **The Highland TAG Community Cafe**.

Here we see everyone with the fantastic new advertising sign.

And below some photos from the staff Christmas lunch out. As well as working hard all year the staff enjoyed a well earned lunch out, relaxing while other folk looked after them.



From our community allotment to our community cafe! Look at the size of our amazing cabbage!



In other exciting news for the cafe, the staff have started to work towards a catering qualification. A SQA, Working With Others, at SCQF Level 2.

It will take about 40 hours to complete and we will be working alongside Kirsty from Adult Learning.

We will be working on this during the cafe hours and the course is tailored to match the skills of each individual staff member.



Christmas Cheer...

Our Dunbartonshire **TAG** December meeting last year was fun and festive and to make it that bit more special we had a Great Christmas Bake Off!



Congratulations to Tina Tait who was the winner of our bake off expertly judged by Alex and Evelyn from The Square.



Life On the Ocean Wave...

Hello there, this is some photos from our recent Mediterranean cruise. We had a fantastic time and met lots of lovely people on board. We enjoyed visiting interesting place like Lisbon and Rome.

The ship was huge but really was a home from home and all the staff on board were wonderfully friendly and helpful. Already saving for our next cruise! **Paul and Pam McCann.**



TAG Active...



TAG's Community Development worker Neil Connolly has been helping people get active throughout the country

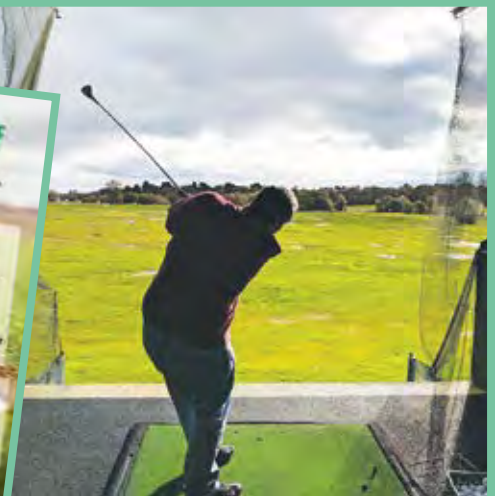
Across Scotland our active programme has been working with people to find ways to get fitter and healthier. Neil has been working closely with sporting organisations for people to get more involved.

From badminton to dance, from judo to golf. And in the west, the Boccia teams have been so successful we now have a regular tournament running with five clubs taking part. Here we see some photos from the latest tournament.



TAG Active...

Some more photos from the range of sporting and fitness activities that Neil has organised.





Clyde Coast Opens Its Doors!

Clyde Coast TAG Event



The Clyde Coast **TAG** Open Day was held in June at the Square in Glasgow. A fantastic turnout and enjoyed by everyone.

We had some amazing workshops including a really popular ceramics and pottery art class, a very helpful First Aid session and lots of fun at the dance and exercise class.

Many thanks to the workshop leaders for giving your time and providing such enjoyable sessions.



We also had a wonderful surprise when Linda presented a cheque to **TAG** for an amazing £300 from her epic "Swim The Clyde" challenge.



From Old to New...

TAG in Inverclyde have been working alongside INART Project to help people learn a new skill. Taking pieces of furniture or household items no longer wanted and up cycling them into lovely new items.



If you have any stories and/or photographs you think are interesting and fit in with the theme of being all you can be, or if you want to share anything with us, then please send them in.

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Family Ties...



It was a really happy day for Joe McNee from Rutherglen when he had a wonderful family reunion when his brother, sister and sister in law came to visit.



Andy Fraser from Dunoon loves watching his soaps so planned a weekend trip to Emmerdale to see the set.



Joe Harvey from Inverclyde recently enjoyed a city break to Barcelona. The highlight of his trip was a visit to the Camp Nou Stadium where he managed to get his hand on the European Cup and also managed to take in a game.

Star Struck...



Here we see Ross Devlin from Erskine and the former Rangers manager Pedro Caixinha. The photo was taken at the recent Scotland v England game at Hampden where Ross, a die hard Rangers fan, realised that Pedro was sitting in the same section.

Ross and his worker Caroline thought they would chance asking for a photo so they approached Pedro who immediately warmly shook Ross's hand and happily posed for a photo.

Ross was in his element telling Pedro how cuffed he was to be meeting him and Pedro was so pleasant and generous towards Ross.



Sandra McKay from Dunoon attended a local sewing class and completed this amazing quilt. What a great job!

A Fond Farewell...

After 29 years as Key's Director Malcolm Matheson passed on the reins to begin his retirement. To say goodbye, Malcolm visited all the Regional **TAGs** and had an emotional farewell with National **TAG**.

There was also a great turn out in the Square to wish Malcolm well for the future.

TAG also said hello to Andrea Wood who has taken up the baton from Malcolm.

Now You're Talking wishes Malcolm a long and happy retirement.



*Malcolm, back left, sitting in at his last National **TAG** meeting and below his last speech at his presentation at the Square.*



*Shaun McNeil, National **TAG** Vice Chairperson, presenting Malcolm with gifts from **TAG**.*



It's goodbye from Malcolm and hello from Andrea!

Garden Party...

Richard Watt from Laurieston organised an afternoon tea for friends and family to raise money for the National Autistic Society Scotland. Richard and his worker Sheena set up the garden and organised the tea and cakes.

A lovely day was enjoyed by all, even the weather was kind, and at the end of the day Richard had raised £50.



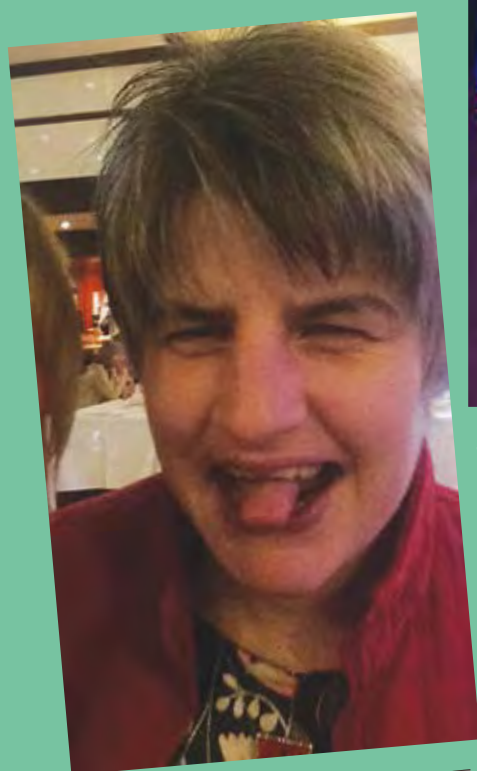
Richard presenting his cheque to the National Autistic Society Scotland.

If you know somebody that does a lot of work for the community or works hard to make things better for others or you know someone who has achieved a personal challenge or goal, nominate them for a Now You're Talking Achievement Award. Contact the Editorial Team - our details can be found on the back page.

“Take That” and Dance...

Rose Gilchrist and Diane Goddard from Alexandria had a great night out recently when they went to see a “Take That” tribute night in aid of Cancer Research.

They also got together with some new friends, Rhona Dalrymple and Martha West, from Helensburgh who were also attending the tribute night.



They all had a fantastic night and really enjoyed meeting each other.

A fabulous night was had dancing and singing along to the group.

The night also raised a fantastic £2000 for Cancer Research.



Dancing The Night Away...

TAG hosted a disco in Sauchie recently. It was a great night with lots of 70s music and everybody danced the night away.





Getting Together Getting It Right!

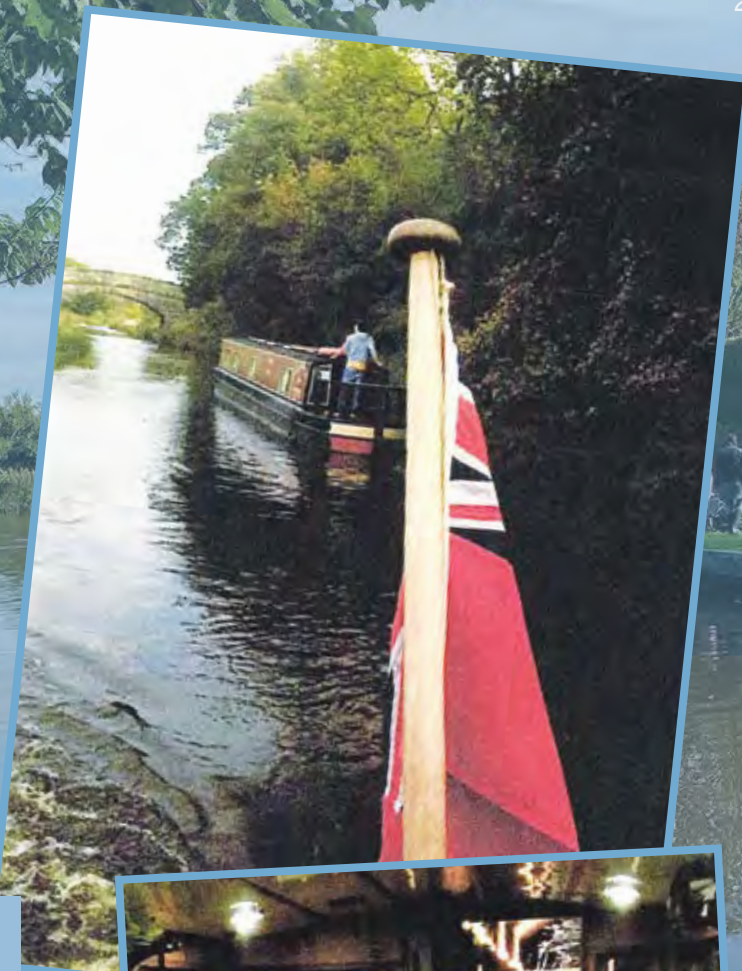
A TAG, KEY and LIFESTYLES Event

Some more photos from *The Getting Together, Getting It Right* workshop hosted by **TAG** that has been touring the country.



Canal Cruising...

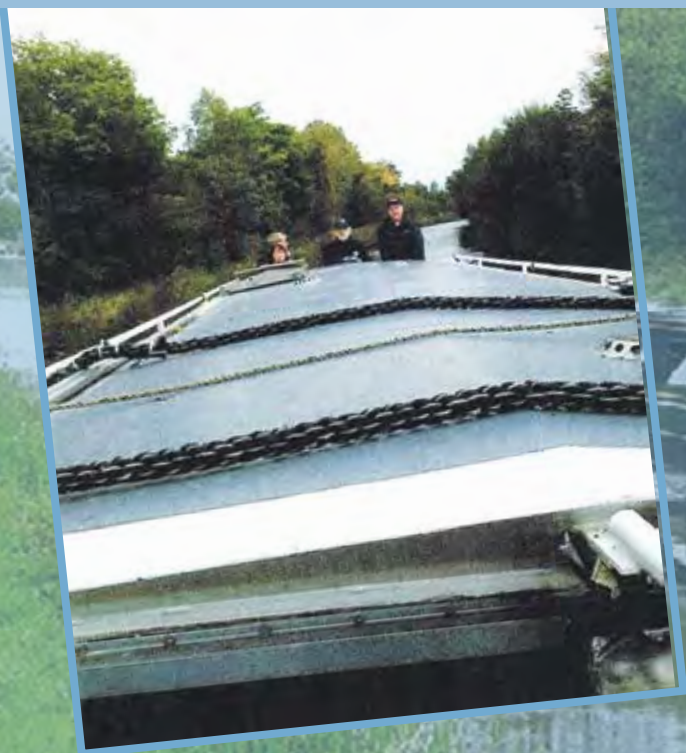
27



Folk in Sauchie have been getting out and about and using their local facilities.

They have recently been involved in a really enjoyable volunteering experience with the Seagull Trust.

Here we see folk on the barge spending the afternoon on the canal in Falkirk.





This is a picture of the new Mr and Mrs Blackwood who were married at Falkirk Registry Office on the 14th March 2017.

Carol and William were joined by their friends for a celebration meal at the Creamey in Bainsford. A fantastic day was had by all.



Here we see a fabulous photo of Connor McKinlay and Mandy Harkness from Dumfries and Galloway who were given the honour of being **Key's** Cornet King and Queen at their local "Riding Of The Marches."



Clive Mappin from Thurso, above photo, celebrating with his Gold medal for the long jump at the British Special Olympics held in Sheffield during the summer. And below celebrating with his sister Lizzie Mappin, who is also an Olympian.



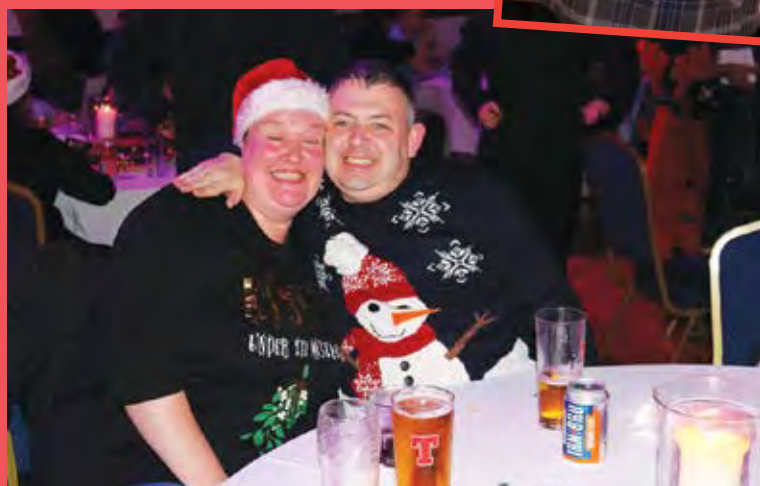
Andrew Doyle from Annan with his Gold medal from the Special Olympics in Sheffield.



Step Into Christmas...



A fantastically festive time was had by all in Inverclyde at the Christmas Bash organised by **TAG** last year. Folk from all over Inverclyde look forward to the event every year, meeting up with old friends and making new ones.



From Small Shoots...

A Year in the making...



In spite of the glorious Scottish summer weather this year, the clouds cleared long enough for some keen gardeners in Dalmeir to get their hands dirty. They have recently taken over an allotment and worked really hard in preparation for the growing season.



Preparing the ground and getting the potatoes in!



After all their hard work they had a great crop of fruit and veg and had made some new friends and learned lots of new skills along the way. Here's to next year!





A fantastic photo of Gordon Robertson from Fairley taken while he was on a Cruise to celebrate a special birthday.



Some photos of folk in Fort William who did a bag packing fund raiser for **TAG** at the local supermarket.



We saw on p5 William McMains and friends completing their sponsored walk.

Here we see William presenting his donation to the Scottish SPCA and also getting a thank you kiss from "Bacon" the Cat.



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