

Ecology news

Batty for bats



While carrying out a regular facilities inspection of Dargavel House, one of our team found a pipistrelle bat on the floor. The bat appeared to have become disorientated within the building and was in poor health. After being checked over by our on-site ecologists, the bat (named "Little Brian" by our team) was taken to Hesselhead Wildlife Centre for a health check, feed and overnight stay. The following day, Little Brian was given the all-clear and was returned to Dargavel Village where he was placed in one of our special bat mitigation boxes to make a full recovery.

Our team returned to the box the next day and we were delighted to find that Little Brian had successfully returned to the wild.

Owl nesting tower

We have recently installed a new barn owl nesting tower to the north of the site. Designed by our Programme Team along with our on-site ecologists, the tower was constructed by our established partner contractors D Morgan and AFP using recycled materials.

Built at the start of September 2018, the tower is now being regularly monitored and we hope to have a new barn owl family roosting in it during the winter months, and breeding in the spring and summer of 2019.



Otters given new home

Otters are a European protected species and we are incredibly lucky to have a number of breeding otters making their home within the Dargavel Village development.

During the wet weather earlier this autumn, one of the site's active otter holts, formed in tree roots on the Dargavel Burn, was washed away.

Our on-site ecologists, assisted by one of our graduate engineers, replaced the lost holt with an artificial one built one-metre higher up the banking where it is less prone to flooding.

The holt was built using natural materials gathered from the surrounding woodland areas and our ecologists hope the new holt will be in use soon.

Other news

Additional parking now open

In October, we opened the new temporary car park at Bishopton Station earlier than planned. This temporary car park, accessible from Station Road, provides an additional 100 parking spaces.

Keeping safe this winter

Safety is important to us. Following concerns raised by local residents, we have put up further 20mph speed signs around the development and, in January, we will be installing additional electronic speed monitoring signs on Slateford Road and Craighton Drive.

We have also appointed our gritting contractor, Balfour Beatty, to carry out gritting on Slateford Road, Craighton Drive, Barrangary Road, Crosshill Road, Mosshall Drive, Birch Road and the park-and-ride car park over the winter months. The northern section of Slateford Road will be managed by Renfrewshire Council following their adoption of this section of road over the summer.

As in previous years, we strive to keep the roads and pathways operational in adverse weather, but we do ask all residents to take extra care when walking and travelling around Dargavel Village, especially in snowy or icy conditions.

Have your say

Contact us anytime

We are keen to hear your views on the Dargavel Village development. Send your thoughts to us at:
Georgetown Reception Centre,
Houston Road, Houston PA6 7BG
T: 0800 130 3302
W: www.baesystems.com/bishopton



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Bishopton regeneration

Update

Autumn 2018



Welcome to the autumn issue of the Bishopton regeneration newsletter.

As we near the end of another year, we look back at the progress we've made over the past 12 months. We're proud of what's been achieved this year and we're delighted to see the new community continue to evolve collaboratively with the existing Bishopton village.

It has been a busy year at Dargavel Village and the wider local area. We've completed the third phase of our remediation programme; welcomed several new development partners; submitted the planning application for the primary school; and continued to support and protect the local wildlife and habitats through our Ecological Design and Management Plan.

Looking ahead to 2019, we remain focused on opening the retail area near to the train station and on providing the community with additional recreational areas by opening new footpaths and enabling public access into areas of the community woodland park. We will continue to work closely with our development partners to bring a range of new homes to Dargavel Village and, in spring, the next phase of the M8 junction construction work will begin.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the community a happy Christmas and New Year and to thank you for your continued support.


Jon Gettinby



Commemorative monument unveiled

This year we worked with the local community to design and build a permanent monument at Craighton Park to commemorate the former Bishopton and Georgetown factories that were once part of the site.

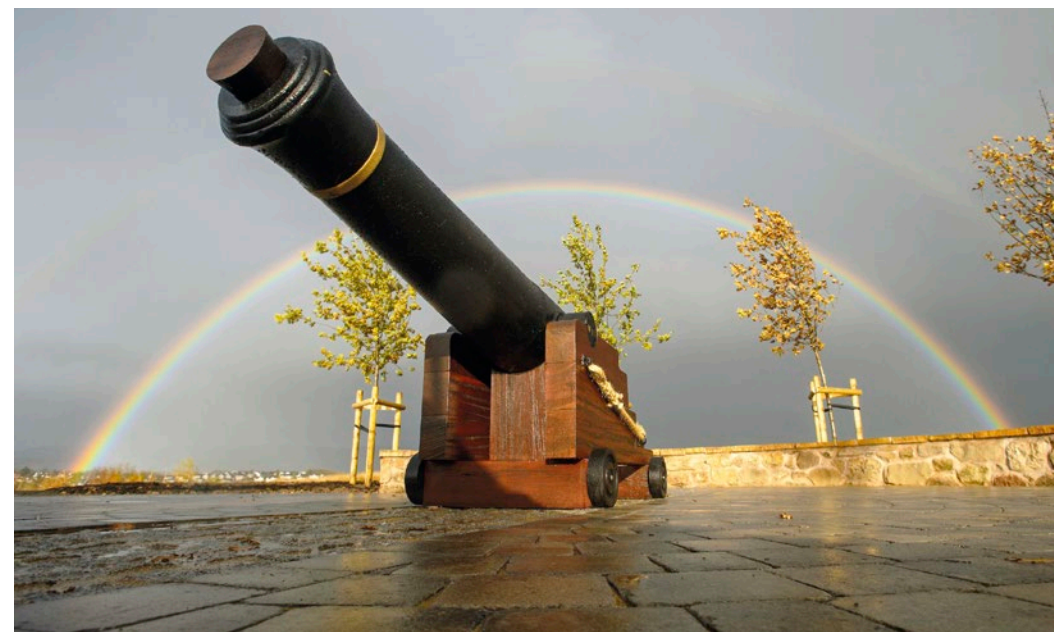
In early November, we unveiled the monument with the local community at an event attended by members of the Bishopton Community Council, Bishopton Action Group, Dargavel Residents' Association, and Councillor Marie McGurk from Renfrewshire Council as well as representatives from BAE Systems, Cass Associates, Endrick Landscapes and AFP.

The circular monument includes a Victorian-era cannon as its centrepiece which is positioned to allow the sun to shine through an opening in the western stone wall on to the cannon at sunset on 11 November.

The 177-year old cannon was donated by BAE Systems and was restored at our Glasgow-based shipyard where a new gun carriage was also built. The gold markings on the cannon were hand-painted by a team of painters before the cannon was transferred to Dargavel Village.

The wall surrounding the cannon was built from stone reclaimed from the former Bolerno House that predated the factory. This stone has also been used to construct the feature walls within the village squares.

Commenting at the unveiling, Jon Gettinby, Head of Bishopton Programme, said: "We recognise the historical significance of the former Bishopton and Georgetown factories and the contribution of the local community. We wanted to give the local community a permanent monument that commemorates the history of the area and celebrates its regeneration into a thriving community."



Utilities installed ahead of next phase of M8 construction

BT, Scottish Power and Scottish Water continue to install equipment and relocate services to support the new motorway junction. In mid-December 2018 and February 2019, BT and Scottish Power need to take these services across the road and as a result, there will be some temporary traffic lights on the A8 (Greenock Road) for approximately one week, on each occasion, with traffic being reduced to one lane.

We continue to work closely with the M8 contractor and Renfrewshire Council to minimise any disruption to the local community.

The settlement phase is ongoing and we remain on target to begin the next phase of construction in spring 2019.



Work begins on new affordable housing

We recently transferred six acres of land, across two areas of the development, to Renfrewshire Council for their new, high-quality family homes. Lovell, the Council's appointed contractor, is now on site and will soon begin building 80 homes, which will see a mix of houses and flats across the two areas.