

**IS ON A MISSION TO HELP COMMUNITIES FLOURISH**



**Top team** Engage staff are keen to offer help to a variety of organisations

something and can help you find paid work.

Karen believes Renfrewshire is one of the best areas in Scotland for giving back.

"I've been doing this a long time and the volunteering here is amazing," she said.

"People just want to give back. We make sure our volunteers — whether they're students, refugees or people just wanting to help — are of a high standard.

"Everyone benefits — that's why I love my job."

Engage credit union development officer Heather Kay told the Express she wouldn't work anywhere else.

"I love it," she said.

"I've worked in mental health, with young offenders ... everything. It's great to feel you're giving back.

"Promoting and assisting the five credit unions in the area is hard work, but definitely worth it."

Having served 13 years as a community development officer, Stuart Miller told the Express the most rewarding part of his job is seeing charities or social enterprises flourish and exceed expectations.

"The organisations that mean the most to me are the ones which really help those most vulnerable.

"One I remember, in particular, is an art group for men who suffered from hardship, such as addiction.

"That really took off with the help of Engage and I was proud to be a part of it.

"Working with Engage, you feel you're making a difference.



**Worthwhile** Heather Kay wouldn't work anywhere else

"This is far more than a nine to five job and I love it."

To find out for about Engage Renfrewshire, call 0141 887 7707 or visit [www.engagerenfrewshire.com](http://www.engagerenfrewshire.com)

Everyone here has the same goal — to do everything possible to help other people

**Iain Cunningham**

# Advice and support for every step

Engage Renfrewshire is an access point for community action, volunteering and social enterprise in Renfrewshire.

Staff aim to cover all bases when someone has an idea for a way to make a difference in society, and help turn it into a reality.

The Engage Renfrewshire team may be small, but each staff member plays an important role in setting up organisations that will give back to the community.

From promoting credit unions and helping boost business, to recruiting volunteers and offering advice on the other end of the phone, staff at the centre work with new enterprise leaders every step of the way.

They work solely with people from Renfrewshire, but some of the organisations have gone

international — thanks to Engage. Not only does it help organisations, but it also enhances their potential.

Hosting networking events and putting new directors in touch with one another, as well as a range of services outwith Engage, allows volunteer organisations and enterprises to flourish.

The friendly staff also take the difficult elements of setting up a new business and break it down. Finances, funding and application forms are made simple, with the team aiming to put minds at ease.

● If you would like to contact Engage Renfrewshire for some help and advice with your own social enterprise, or if you have an idea but don't know where to start, can call 0141 887 7707 or email [info@engage-renfrewshire.com](mailto:info@engage-renfrewshire.com)

# Police probe alleged attack on Mackintosh

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incident.

However, it's understood Mackintosh, who once controlled Paisley's underworld, was able to fight back.

A second man, who has not been identified by police, was left in hospital with severe injuries following the alleged incident.

It's claimed it happened overnight between Monday, December 18 and Tuesday, December 19 at Mackintosh's flat in Ferguson Street, Renfrew.

It's believed the alleged incident was not targeted, or linked to Mackintosh's past.

Mackintosh is no stranger to violence.

He survived a murder bid in 2011 when he was stabbed multiple times in Paisley before being dumped outside the Southern General Hospital, in Glasgow.

That brutal attack followed his rise from the crime-scarred Ferguslie Park estate to become one of Scotland's most feared gangsters, establishing himself during the notorious Paisley drug wars of the 1990s.

In 1985, he was sentenced to seven years behind bars for running a large scale cannabis distribution network.

Then he was jailed for drugs offences in 1993 and again in 2004 for possession of a firearm.

In total, he spent 10 years behind bars in maximum security prisons across Scotland.

Earlier this year, he claimed to have turned his back on a life of crime.

A Police Scotland spokesman yesterday said a 32-year-old man, who is currently being treated in hospital, has been reported to the procurator fiscal in connection with assault charges.



**Say woof** Volunteer photographer Emma Kay with Abba the dog

# Pawsome snaps

Pet owners had fun getting festive photos taken at the Pets at Home store in Linwood.

Royalheart volunteer Emma Kay took the portraits in return for donations to the store's Santa Paws appeal.

Around 15 families took part in the photo shoots and raised a fantastic £150 for the appeal

# Hogmanay hoolie

A New Year's Eve bash is being held at St Paul's Church hall, in Foxbar.

This promises to be a fun-filled evening with laughter, dancing, raffles and celebrating with friends and family.

It starts at 7.30pm, and admission is £5 for adults and £3 for children. BYOB.

For tickets, contact the church on 0141 884 2435 to avoid disappointment.



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