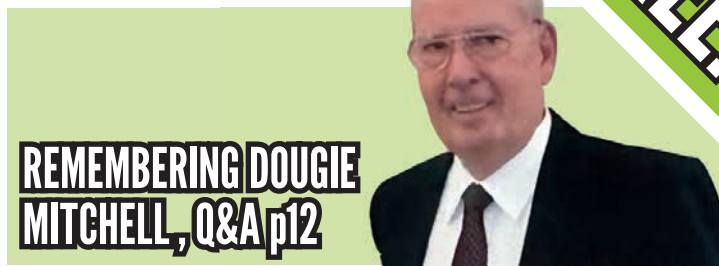


FREE!



**CURRIE BEER & CURRY
FESTIVAL RETURNS, p10**



**REMEMBERING DOUGIE
MITCHELL, Q&A p12**

C&B NEWS

CURRIE • BALERNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON



**A FUTURE FOR OUR 'WEE
FORESTS' AND COMMUNITY
ORCHARDS, p15**

Planting Ahead

Photos: The Friends of Campbell Park, CBDT; Graham Mitchell.

INSIDE: NEWS p2 LOCAL HISTORY p14 FEATURES p16 VIEWS p23 WHAT'S ON p33

C&B NEWS

Launched in 1976, C&B News is a volunteer-led, independent, non-profit-making community magazine written by and for residents of Currie, Balerno, Juniper Green, Baberton Mains, and Colinton.

We publish 10 monthly issues each calendar year, including two "double-month" editions (December/January and July/August) marking our summer and winter breaks.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the management. We reserve the right to edit or reject submissions.

PRODUCTION

Editor: Paul Fisher Cockburn
 editor@candbnews.com

Advertising Manager: Moira Peterson
 advertising@candbnews.com

What's On Editor: Catriona Matheson
 whatson@candbnews.com

Advertising rates are listed on our website. Adverts must be booked by the published deadlines. We reserve the right to refuse or amend adverts and accept no responsibility for any omission or inaccuracy.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Chairperson: Gail Rankin
 chairperson@candbnews.com

Donations Manager: Ros Salton
 donations@candbnews.com

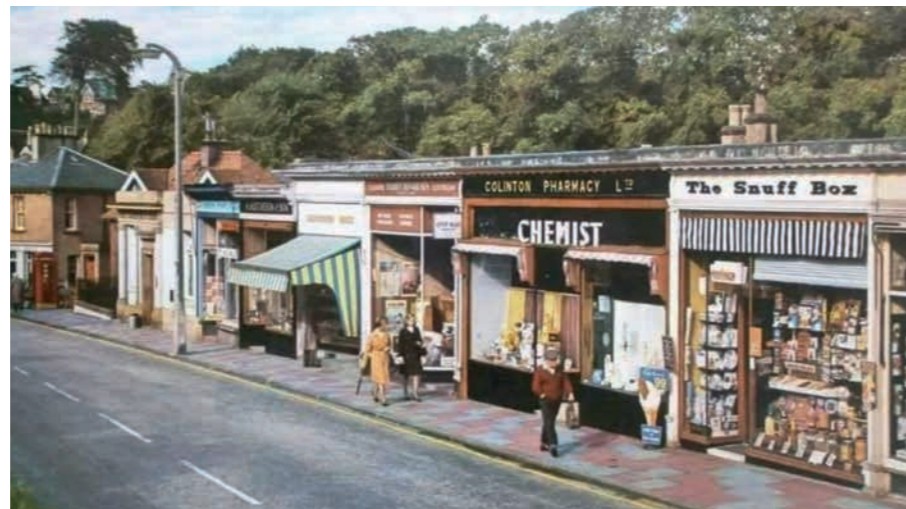
Treasurer: Michelle Donegan
 treasurer@candbnews.com

Distribution Manager: Derek Douglas
 c/o Currie Balerno Rotary Club

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Balerno: Gillian Davies, Michelle Donegan, Catriona Matheson, Kirsten Pringle
 Currie: Caroline Brown, Graham Dane
 Juniper Green: Derek Douglas, Ros Salton, Richard Watt, Gail Rankin.

The Currie and Balerno News is a private company limited by guarantee and without shareholders. Registered in Scotland No. 275967 c/o 11, Turner Avenue, Balerno, EH14 7BS



The future of Colinton Village as a retail hub is again a concern following a series of high profile closures during April. Java Moment (18 Bridge Road) and Carmella Magick (40 Bridge Road) have closed, while Downes (38 Bridge Road) is once again up for rent. Local ward councillor Scott Arthur wrote on Facebook: "I am hopeful that this is an opportunity for Colinton, rather than a step back to the pre-Co-op days."

'Yurt for Yoga'

SHONA HARROWER
 CHAIR, FRIENDS OF CAMPBELL PARK

The Friends of Campbell Park (FCP) are delighted to have sourced a beautiful "yurt" for providing tranquil yoga sessions during the Campbell Park Big Lunch on 4 (or 11 if weather is poor) June 2023.

Festival goers will be able to choose from three different instructors offering a range of short half-hourly sessions of yoga, mindful yoga, or laughing yoga.

"The Happy Tent" will be located in a quiet tranquil area of the park during the Big Lunch afternoon. Since the number of seats inside the yurt is quite restricted, sessions will be offered in return for a small voluntary donation to the FCP, bookable on the day at a Big Lunch registration desk.



According to Cllr Prof Scott Arthur (Colinton/Fairmilehead), work on the new Dell Bridge across the Water of Leith near Colinton (see below) "are on track for the bridge to be replaced in June. The bridge is being fabricated in the Netherlands, and when it arrives it will get to the location via Colinton Tunnel... that will be an interesting day!"



The new Bavelaw Green Bridge, linking the centre of Balerno with the woodland pathways to the east of the Bavelaw Burn, currently remains incomplete, after the company hired to install ramps on either end pulled out of the contract. C&B News believes the work has once again been put out to tender by management company Balerno Pathways Ltd, but the costs of completing the work have risen considerably. In the meantime, aware that some people are likely to start using the bridge regardless, it has been agreed that temporary steps should be installed as soon as possible (especially on the eastern side) to help avoid potential accidents. This would, obviously, not enable access by wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments, but is felt to be an appropriate short-term solution. Because of the delays, any official opening of the new Bavelaw Green Bridge (ramps included) will likely not take place until this autumn.



Next Currie Riding of the Marches in 2024

GRAHAM DANE
 CURRIE RIDING OF THE MARCHES

The organising committee has decided to pause Currie Riding of the Marches this year.

The pandemic and lockdown have made fundraising very difficult for the last couple of years. Costs have also risen considerably, so the opportunity will be taken to build funds back up to allow the event to proceed at the same standard as before.

Updates about fundraising events and the future of the Currie Ride will be posted on Facebook: search for "Currie Rom".

BRIEFLY...

BALERNO POST OFFICE

Postal services are now once again available in the re-opened Balerno Community Centre, Main Street, on Wednesday mornings. The previous service on alternate Fridays has been withdrawn.

BALERNO FRESH START

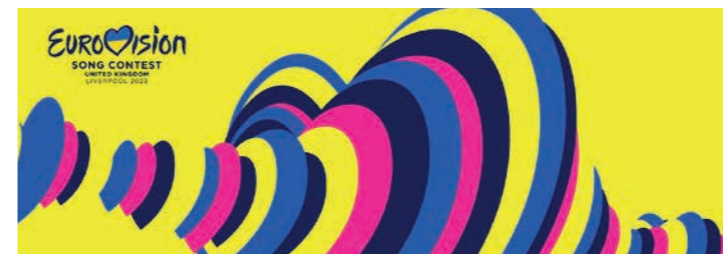
The Edinburgh-based charity helping formerly homeless people get established in their new homes is collecting useful household goods and products in good clean condition between 10am and noon on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 May, and between 9.30am and noon on Sunday 14 May. Donations can be made at the Rear Hall behind Balerno Parish Church.

TRANSPORT CONSULTATION

The City of Edinburgh Council is undertaking a major consultation on future transport policies for Edinburgh, to gauge public opinion on issues from cycle lanes to bus stops, from parking charges to pedestrianisation, road safety to air quality. The consultation is open until 9 July. <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/cmp/>

COLINTON REPAIR CAFÉ

The Repair Café returns >p5



Eurovision Comes to... Spylaw Park?!

PAM WEARDELL
 COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE SCIO

Thanks to funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, on Saturday 13 May Colinton Village Enterprises will bring you a fun, multi-cultural celebration of Eurovision—sharing Eurovision past-winners with our Ukrainian neighbours through music, costumes and maybe even dance!

We will promote the heritage of Eurovision in spreading a global message of unity, cultural diversity and promoting peace and cooperation between nations. We will have our Pit Stop Café open with a film projection too!

At time of writing, activities will likely run between 2pm and 5pm. For updates, check CVE's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise>

C&B NEWS
 DEADLINES FOR
 487 • JUNE 2023

ADVERTISING & LISTINGS:
16 MAY

EDITORIAL:
21 MAY

DISTRIBUTION FROM:
2 JUNE

Refurbished PCs for Sale

All PCs come with Windows 10, keyboard and mouse and one years warranty



Lenovo S500: I5-4460S, 4Gb RAM, 250Gb SSD
Price: **£150**



Lenovo H520: I3-2120, 4GB RAM, 250GB SSD
Price: **£80**

Many other PCs available!

Support for PC's, Laptops, Wi-Fi, Printers & software. We can visit your office / home or please drop into our office at Bridge Road to speak to us....

Call us on 0131 510 9300
or email: enquiries@worx24.co.uk



30-32 Bridge Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0LQ Company No: SC561596

Gordon Macdonald MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency



Monthly Advice Surgeries

Wester Hailes Library	1 st Friday of month, 10am
Carrickvale Comm. Centre	2 nd Friday of month, 10am
Currie Library	3 rd Friday of month, 10am
Oxgangs Library	4 th Friday of month, 10am
Ratho Community Centre	5 th Friday of month, 10am

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Contact Details

By email gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot
Home visit Available for those who cannot travel
By phone 0131 443 0595
By letter 9 Kingsknowe Park, Edinburgh, EH14 2JQ

f Gordon Macdonald MSP **@**GMacdonaldMSP

Representing: Baberton, Balerno, Blinkbonny, Bonaly, Broomhouse, Buckstone, Caldors, Colinton, Colinton Mains, Currie, Dreghorn, Fairmilehead, Firhill, Hermiston, Juniper Green, Kingsknowe, Longstone, Oxgangs, Parkhead, Ratho, Redhall, Saughton Mains, Sighthill, Spylaw, Stenhouse, Swanston, Wester Hailes and Whitson.
Published by Gordon Macdonald MSP, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Cost of publication has been met by parliamentary allowances. Parliament is not responsible for the content of other internet sites.

Sue Webber MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Lothian Region



Monthly Advice Surgeries

The first Friday of every month from 10am until 1pm in the constituency office at **546D Lanark Road, Juniper Green, Edinburgh EH14 5EL**. If this time is not possible you can make an appointment by contacting me via the details below.

Contact Sue Webber
@ sue.webber.msp@parliament.scot
0131 202 3005
f /SueWebberMSPLoatian/
@ [SueJWebber](https://twitter.com/SueJWebber)

The cost of this publication has been met from Scottish Parliamentary resources. The SPCB is not responsible for the content of other internet sites.

THE PENTLAND FRY TAKEAWAY
539 Lanark Road, Juniper Green
0131 453 3643

Fish & Chips Pizzas Kebabs Pastas

Homemade Ice-Cream Dolce 1987

Beers, Wines & Cider Off Sales

Home Delivery available 5-10pm every day

JUST EAT

Opening Hours: 4:30pm-10pm 7 days a week

Applications Open for Community Chest 2023

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

High Schools and Primary Schools; Boys' Brigade and Scouts; the Mill Café and Community for Food; the Pentland Ukrainian Support Group; the Pentland Singers and the Schools Pipe Band.

What do they all have in common? They are all local groups and organisations that received grants in the past year from the Community Chest, an initiative funded and administered by Currie Balerno Rotary and the Balerno Village Trust. The Community Chest is now open again to provide grants of up to £500 towards projects seen to be of benefit to the local community. Further information about the Community Chest and how to apply can be found on the Rotary and BVT websites: www.cbrotary.org and www.balernovt.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 31 May. Don't Delay. Get Your Application in Now.

CHANGE IS ON THE WAY

Currie Balerno Rotary set up the Community Chest in 2016 and were joined in the venture by Balerno Village Trust in 2017. It is now well established but not as visible publicly as it should be.

Consequently BVT and C B Rotary have agreed that it should stand in its own right as Pentland Community Chest. Work is proceeding to establish an improved public image for the future with its own website, Facebook presence and e-mail addresses. Watch this space!



Currie and Balerno Respond to Warm Welcome Appeal

TANIA GILLESPIE
MARKETING MANAGER, WILLIAM PURVES FUNERAL DIRECTORS

More than 1,000 bags were donated to the Warm Welcome Appeal, organised by William Purves Funeral Directors, for Ukrainian refugees arriving at the Scottish Welcome Centre this winter.

The appeal was launched in December 2022. For four months, William Purves branches across Edinburgh took in coats, boots, and other winter clothing.

"I was blown away by the

generosity of families in Currie and Balerno who dropped off bags on an almost daily basis," said Currie branch administrator Tracy McKenzie. "The appeal was so successful we were able to share clothing to charities supporting the Syrian/Turkish earthquake crisis as well as other local charities helping keep people warm during the cold months.

"We are so grateful to local people and know it made a world of a difference to those arriving with nothing but essential paperwork and a phone to keep in touch with loved ones back home."



Scouts Jumble Returns with New Date

ALLAN LEAL
SCOUT LEADER, 31ST PENTLAND SCOUTS

After a record year at our 2022 Jumble Sale, the 31st Pentland (Juniper Green) Scouts Jumble Sale is back. The sale will take place on Saturday 10 June from 2pm to 4pm, in the Scout Hall at 45 Lanark Road West, Currie.

This is the first time we have moved outside May for as long as most can remember, so we hope the weather stays with us.

As usual a wide range of items including bric-a-brac, small furniture, gardening equipment,

toys, books, nearly new, clothes and DVDs will be on sale at great prices so don't miss this opportunity. Please note we only take CASH – no CARDS – and it would be helpful if you brought small change.

Members of the group will be coming round collecting in the week commencing 5 June; we are unable to take large furniture, computers or televisions. Good quality is also key; if you wouldn't buy it, we can't sell it.

Donations of items can also be accepted at the Scout Hall between 6.30pm-8.30pm from Monday 5 June to Thursday 8 June.

BRIEFLY...

>p3 to "The Shed", Spylaw Park, on Saturday 17 June. Including Bike repairs. Details to be confirmed: <https://www.facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise>

ABBOT'S CHOICE NO MORE

Work on transforming the former Abbot's Choice Public House (at 4-5 Pentland View Court, Currie), into a hot food takeaway and delivery business, is well underway. "At this point the proposed opening date is 15 May 2023," according to architect Gordon Gray.

NEW NETHER CURRIE SCHOOL SIGNS



Nether Currie Primary School has smart new signage, writes Head Teacher Kirsten H Johnston. "With their previous City of Edinburgh Council school sign having faded dreadfully, it was felt it was time for something bright and eye catching to welcome visitors to our school. It is great to see our 'kingfisher' logo finally taking pride of place on the new signs!"

GAME, SET, AND BUILD!

Construction of six state-of-the-art indoor tennis courts – at the Oriam sports facility at Heriot-Watt University's Edinburgh campus – has reached the halfway point, with the project on schedule for completion in late summer.

PLAY PARK REOPENED

The play park in Marchbank Park, close to Dean Park Primary School, is now fully reopened.



CRAIG COCKBURN

Electrical/white goods
appliance repairs and new installations.
Email: repairs@pentlanddomestics.co.uk
Office: 0131 374 6777
www.pentlanddomestics.co.uk



COMPREHENSIVE PHYSIOTHERAPY &
WELLBEING SERVICES

PILATES & YOGA CLASS STUDIO
FULLY EQUIPPED REHAB GYM
MONTHLY CLASS MEMBERSHIP
ONLINE BOOKING AVAILABLE

- Expert, welcoming staff
- Hands-on physio treatment, exercise & rehabilitation
- Respiratory & Women's Health Physio
- Pilates, Yoga, Fitness & PT Classes
- Massage Therapy & Facials
- Pregnancy & Postnatal Care
- Personal Training & Nutrition Coaching
- Acupuncture & Shockwave Therapy
- Insurance & Healthplan Clients Welcome



www.primesportsphysio.co.uk
hello@primesportsphysio.co.uk
46a Bavelaw Road, Balerno EH14 7GA
01314496128 / 07976515749

Great Start for Malleny Angling

NIGEL DUNCAN
NIGEL DUNCAN MEDIA

Anglers have enjoyed great sport as the season opens at Harlaw Reservoir above Balerno.

Double-figure catches have been reported regularly to Steven Oliver, head bailiff, confirming that a variety of patterns – including buzzer, hot head damsel and black and green lures plus black spider patterns – have been working well.

The warmer weather has meant that fish are now in the higher levels of water. “Ronnie Robinson is just one of the members who have enjoyed their sport,” Steven explained. “He had 19 off The Dam Wall in one session with a damsel pattern and he is not alone.

“William Kelly tempted 12 hard-fighting fish in a two-hour session one afternoon at various locations and other anglers have reported in with double-figure bags including Douglas Skedd who had ten rainbows and two brown trout with Bob Armstrong netting eight. “Other anglers have reported



in with seven, so come and try our water. It is well-stocked and provides value-for-money sport.”

A reminder that Harlaw and Threipmuir reservoirs are fly fishing only – no bait fishing – and anglers are not permitted to fish from a boat or float tube.

No permits are available at The Bothy or from Bailiffs. They are only available online at Malleny Angling. Season tickets are still available and are great value for money at £275 for fishing every day of the season.

Members are allowed a bag limit of four and season permit holders and day permit holders three. After that anglers may fish on a catch and release basis until they reach 20 fish when they are requested to report to the on-duty Bailiff either in The Bothy or at The Dam Wall.

Night patrols have been stepped up to stop poaching and Oliver said: “If you catch a fish please keep it in the water when you are unhooking it. Fish welfare is extremely important.”

BRIEFLY... TRUNK CALL



A large tree trunk, sighted in the Water of Leith near Balerno High School, has been removed. It was feared the trunk could have eventually turned up at Slateford, possibly causing damage en route.

POWER CUT

Although a power cut affecting part of Lanark Road West (near Ashley Grange) in Balerno has been dealt with, concerns have been raised concerning utilities company SP Energy Networks being given “16 working days” (ie, more than three weeks) to complete the work, which also involved road works.

A Spring Fling—and All That Jazz!

PAM WEARDELL
COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE SCIO

If you are of a certain vintage, and lucky enough to have been in Spylaw Park on Easter Sunday you will no doubt have been reminded of the delights and excitement of those Easter Sunday picnics of yesteryear when children and families from Leith took the tram out to Colinton to roll their eggs.

This year, to launch their week-end Pit Stop Café, Colinton Village Enterprise presented a ‘Spring Fling at the Shed’ with outstanding eggscellence!

In glorious sunshine families, walkers, and cyclists, were drawn towards the Shed by the amazing sound of Ian Boyter’s trad jazzers.

An irresistible spread of home-baking was laid out on the tea counter in front of the mural walls.

In the Shed itself bookshelves of pre-loved books awaited curious and enthusiastic readers.

Best of all for the children (of all ages!) the Easter traditions of egg painting, egg rolling, and egg racing, kept everyone amused.

The Egg Shute was particularly popular, with shouts of joy if the painted egg shot through the flags.

The Egg & Spoon slalom was a challenge for young and not so young, but worth doing for the chocolate egg to take home.

And for those who preferred Easter rabbits to eggs, there were bunny ears to don and a hoop

trail to jump as fast as you could hop.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to sit down in the sunshine for a blether with friends and neighbours in the first Pit Stop Café of the year.

CVE’s Chair Lorraine O’Shea, delighted by the response, commented on the value of meeting at the Pit Stop Café on a regular basis:

“We’re very pleased that our Spring Fling encompassed one of our core aims – the advancement of community development – by bringing folk together to increase community spirit and belonging. Hoping for more of the same throughout 2023!”

We are looking forward to the next events at The Shed!

murrayfieldcarpets&interiors



MAKING YOUR HOUSE A HOME



3-4 Western Corner
Edinburgh
EH12 5PY
FREE ESTIMATES
w: www.murrayfieldcarpets.co.uk
t: 0131-346-1838 Carpets/flooring
t: 0131-313-1881 Curtains/blinds



Photos: Ian Cowie



Colinton Mains: Colinton Mains Drive between Firrhill roundabout and Colinton mains Road, Oxgangs Road North and adjoining roads, as signed, for Cityfibre cable and ducting installation. From 2 May until end of July.

Balerno: Lanark Road West at Somerville Road: temporary traffic lights for BRM utility services’ manhole repairs. 11-12/13 May.

KENNETH BAYNE LAMB LTD Painting & Decorating

Quality Service since 1989

We offer a fully comprehensive decorating service

No job is too small. FREE estimates and advice. Quality work guaranteed.

Tel: 0131 443 5310
Mobile: 0777 083 1380
Email: enquiries@kbldecorators.co.uk

10% discount with this advert

The Door Depot

- UP & OVER DOORS
- ROLLER SHUTTERS
- SECTIONAL SLIDEOVERS
- ALL TYPES OF GARAGE DOORS SUPPLIED, FITTED OR REPAIRED
- REMOTE CONTROL SUPPLIED FOR DOORS & GATES

5 YEAR GUARANTEE
FREE ESTIMATES

THE DOOR DEPOT IS A LOCAL FAMILY RUN BUSINESS, WITH THE MOST REASONABLE PRICES IN THE AREA

Better Garage Doors Guaranteed

Phone Alex Williamson on **228 8828**
or Email: info@thedordepot.co.uk

McCANN & PARKIN JOINERY

uPVC windows & doors
fitted kitchens & bathrooms

Solid surface worktops: granite, quartz, earthstone, corian supplied & fitted

B&Q and Magnet approved kitchen installers
free estimates

call **Graham** on **0131 449 2008**
or **Derek** on **07971 952 925**

LOCAL ORGANISATION UPDATES

DF Roofing & Harling
ALL TRADES SERVICE




Flat Roofs
Slate Roofs
Tiled Roofs
Replacement of Gutters and Fascias
Harling
Tiling
Brickwork
Restoration work
Roofs Cleaned and Treated For Moss

24 Hour call-out
Insurance work undertaken
phone: 0780 699 0961
0131 551 3021
email: davidfergus119@gmail.com
www.dfroofingandbuilding.co.uk

Chartie's Barbers

Opening Hours
Mon-Friday 8am-4pm
Saturday 8am-12pm

Price List
Gents £12 Boys £9.50
Crew cut £8 Seniors £6

51a Lanark Road
0131 443 5441

ESIC
Edinburgh Sports Injury Clinic

Complete Physiotherapy Care
June Lumsden MSc, MCSP, HCPC
Jackie Smith BSc, MCSP, HCPC
Charlotte Brown BSc, NCSP, HCPC
at
Edinburgh Sports Injury Clinic
567 Lanark Road
Juniper Green
0131 629 0215

Electrolysis by Pamela
Say goodbye to unwanted hair!
Free Consultations
Waxing, Eyelash Dyeing, Eyebrows
Shellac nails

22 Laichpark Road
Edinburgh EH14 1XB
Pamela J Robertson
BIAE Registered
0131 443 7776
pamrobertson91@hotmail.com

Richard McGregor
Painter & Decorator
Interior / Exterior
0131 449 7154
22 Currievale Park Grove, Currie EH14 5XA

DALRYMPLE TILING
Wall and Floor Tiler
No job too big or small
35 Years experience
Call - 07957368090 for Free Estimate

RICCARTON GARDEN CENTRE
Fabulous seasonal display of shrubs, trees, bulbs, heathers, bedding, Compost, Pots & a lot more!

COFFEE SHOP
Coffee shop open every day for
Homemade soup, paninis, baked potatoes, scones, cakes, milkshakes & more!

RICCARTON MAINS ROAD, CURRIE, EH14 5AA, EDINBURGH, NEAR HERIOT WATT
0131 449 4004

JOBGING ROOFING
NO JOB TOO SMALL

- Rhones cleaning, repair & replacement
- Moss Removal
- Slates and tiles replaced & renewed

Kerr Middleton
07768 632 867

Balerno SWI: Blood Bikes

SHEILA MASON
PRESS SECRETARY, BALERNO SWI

Our President, Catriona, welcomed Steven Dennis to our April meeting, once again held at the Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled premises.

Steve is a volunteer with the charity Blood Bikes. You may have seen them on the roads as they go about on behalf of the NHS, collecting and delivering blood and other types of samples, documents, medications for patients out-of-hours, or even items left behind by patients when they have been discharged from hospitals.

The charity owns and maintains the bikes which are state-of-the-art machines, and riders can only be a driver if they passed an Advanced Rider Test. They are all equipped to carry a variety of items. The services are free to the NHS, who otherwise still use taxis for some needs, but the use of the bikes can save the NHS across the UK more than £250,000 per annum.



There are four groups in Scotland which were set up in 2012, so the 183 enthusiastic bikers using 17 vehicles could be travelling over the country to fulfil over 7,000 requests for assistance. Their controllers work from home but can track all the bikes, so that is a form of safety. All of them work shifts suitable to their every day jobs. Steve is himself a keen biker.

The Edinburgh-based group do have some female riders and there is a wide age range amongst the teams. So if you ever happen to see fund raisers rattling their cans as you shop, our members

will be now more aware what it is all about.

Steve was accorded a vote of thanks before he rode off on a bike named Daisy which he was using to visit us. It is, of course, bright yellow—with "Blood Bikes" on the rear.

After a welcome cuppa, business was discussed and arrangements made for our Open Night and the Federation Show.

Competition:
Flower of the Month, from Ishbel Massie.

Juniper Green SWI

ISOBEL JOHNSTONE
JUNIPER GREEN SWI

Our April meeting was a talk on all aspects of houseplants: how to care for them, where to place

them in the home and some common diseases. The main thing most of us do is overwater or underwater and Ewan from The Plant Shop in Juniper Green had brought along some houseplants from the shop to demonstrate when to water and when not to water.

We had a very enjoyable talk and most of us could relate to

the overwatering/underwatering issue!

Our next meeting is a Beetle Drive on Monday 8 May at 7pm. The cost is £4 to include refreshments and home baking.

We meet in the Juniper Green Village Hall at the top of Baberton Avenue. Visitors are very welcome

The 'Horti' is On its Way!

SHEILA MASON
SHOW SECRETARY, CURRIE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

May already and, as I write, the buds are bursting out on the trees, the weeds are proliferating—so it must be time for sowing the seeds for our veggies and our favourite flowers! The "Horti" hope you will consider growing items for putting on the Show bench at our 143rd Annual Show on Monday 26 August.

The Schedule of classes can

be found on our website (www.currieshow.weebly.com) while printed copies are available from committee members, our email (currieshow@gmail.com) or at the Balerno Farmers' Market on Saturday 13 May. Purchase of a copy constitutes you becoming a member and eligible to enter the Show.

It really is pleasurable seeing your handiwork on the bench for visitors to enjoy – and specially if there is a Prize ticket showing - when they come to the concourse at Balerno CHS on Show day after the judging has been completed.

Good luck and please support this very long established horticultural show.



Pentland Flower Club: Looking Ahead

WENDY WILLIAMS
PENTLAND FLOWER CLUB

Last month we had an entertaining evening with Annabel Findlay from Stirling on the theme of "Out & About".

Following our talk on 5 May from Shona Mackie about the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (held in the Ogston Hall), we will meet on Friday 2 June back in Balerno Parish Church.

This will be our final meeting before the Summer break. The speaker will be the aptly named Lindsay Florey from Dumfries with "Musical Flowers".

Members are asked to arrive at 6.30pm for a short, but important AGM prior to the demonstration commencing at 7pm.

As always visitors are always welcome.



LOCAL ORGANISATION UPDATES



Currie Beer & Curry Festival On Its Way

ALASDAIR GORDON
CURRIE BALERNO & DISTRICT ROUND TABLE

The countdown to the 2023 Currie Beer and Curry Festival has begun. Tickets are available at cbdr.com for Friday 2 and Saturday 3 June. Tickets are £16 each (plus a booking fee) and include our 2023 souvenir glass and three beer tokens.

There will be a wide range of beers and breweries, plus Paolozzi lager and a selection of real ciders, wines and fizz.

Kasbah in Marchmont are returning for a third year bringing delicious food. The options will include chicken, lamb and vegetarian curries.

Live music will be provided by Blue Soul, Bedlam House Band and Cranachan.

A big thank you to our sponsors: our main sponsor is St Andrews Timber, and our glasses are sponsored by Porteous Family Funeral Directors.

Sponsorship of kegs is still available. £150 gets your name on a keg and our social media promotions along with two tickets, two curries and six beer tokens.

As always, it's a huge community effort to set up, run and dismantle the event. If you have any time to help it's good fun to be involved. The event is 100% volunteer-run and any profits from the beer festival will be distributed to local good causes

Check our facebook page for announcements of the beers line-up and our amazing sponsors as we approach the event.

<https://cbdr.com/contact>



www.candbnews.com



Summer is Coming

LESLEY HENDERSON
BALERNO FAIRTRADE VILLAGE GROUP

Following *C&B News'* very generous April coverage of Fair Trade/Fairtrade (FT), and a spring of challenges worldwide, we hope our May update brings one simple message.

Following the now familiar but still very sad news that Traidcraft plc, which did so much to pioneer FT, had ceased trading in February, it's reassuring that the Fairtrade Foundation and the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, along with thousands of supporters, continue practical work to achieve a world with fairer trade and more power in the hands of farmers and workers.

Both organisations' websites are well worth a visit. And while every grocery top-up just now feels eye-wateringly dearer than the last, many local shops still stock FT goods little if any more expensive than rival brands. Shoppers are not only backing local food banks but also still opting for FT when they can, and FT coffees have this month been flying off at least one local café's counter.

Local FT activity to watch out for in the early summer (with toes and fingers crossed for Balerno Gala and its heroic organisers) includes a FT banana runner in the Rigg Race and a Scotmid-sponsored FT banana hoopla on Gala Day. Yes, these are in a different league from trading to survive, but all help keep FT in our minds even while we're having fun.

And thinking of children, let's leave the last word with Balerno's Monday Beavers, whose March celebration of FT Fortnight included sharing ideas on FT with one of our group. The guest speaker concluded with: "And in a few years, when you're all grown up, who's going to help make sure the world's fair then?" The children's response - "US!" - nearly lifted the roof off the Scout Hall!

PESTICIDE FREE BALERNO
While Safe Alternatives are still being discussed for weed control with Edinburgh City Council for 2023, Pesticide Free Balerno can confirm that Balerno will not have Glyphosate or other harmful chemicals used: www.pesticidefreebalerno.com

CALLING ALL WOMEN!!!!

ARE YOU FED UP OF FEELING UNHAPPY ABOUT YOUR BODY AND YOUR HEALTH?

WE SPECIALISE IN WOMENS HEALTH AND CAN HELP



EH
EH FITNESS
HEALTH SPECIALIST



BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST
WWW.EH-FITNESS.CO.UK
MESSAGE "START" TO 07897037720

Ogilvie & Hayes
Tree & Garden

Safety is our first priority and we are proud of our customer satisfaction



We are happy to come and quote jobs for FREE and give advice on tree and garden work

We carry out all aspects of tree work from dangerous removals to light fruit pruning and hedge trimming. We have all first class equipment provided for the job and all of our staff are fully qualified through City and Guilds NPTC arboricultural courses.

City & Guilds NPTC Qualified

Site 07521 514 370 • Office 08003 168 271
Email: ogilviehayes@outlook.com

im
Ian Merriman



HAND PAINTED KITCHENS & FURNITURE
"Changing the face of Scotland's kitchens"

For a FREE no obligation quote please contact:

0131 478 7339
www.kitchenspainted.com
07740 397669



If you remember the 'Jet Garage' once on Lanark Road West – now a Sainsbury's Local – chances are you'll also remember its owner, Dougie Mitchell. 'He was hugely liked,' says his son and local businessman, Andrew Mitchell.

What was your dad's background?

My dad, with his brothers and sister and parents, lived in Colinton. When he got married, to a local girl from Colinton, they initially stayed with her parents; they waited about a year to get a house and they moved to Currie in 1953. My dad worked for his dad; they had a garage down in Colinton, and they did repairs, limousine-hire and weddings, etc. My dad did a bit of everything. But in an almost Dallas-like scenario, he fell out with his dad and his older brother; he felt the business was going the wrong way, and he left.

Sounds dramatic.

He'd worked in the garage as a mechanic up to the age 38—that's when he had his epiphany, that he'd had enough of this. But it coincided with the fact that, in his early 30s, he contracted testicular cancer. This was in the 1960s.



Left: A proud Dougie Mitchell with his first great-grandchild. Middle: at the wedding of his son, Andrew, to Fiona. Right: the young proud father of two children. Photos: courtesy of Andrew Mitchell.

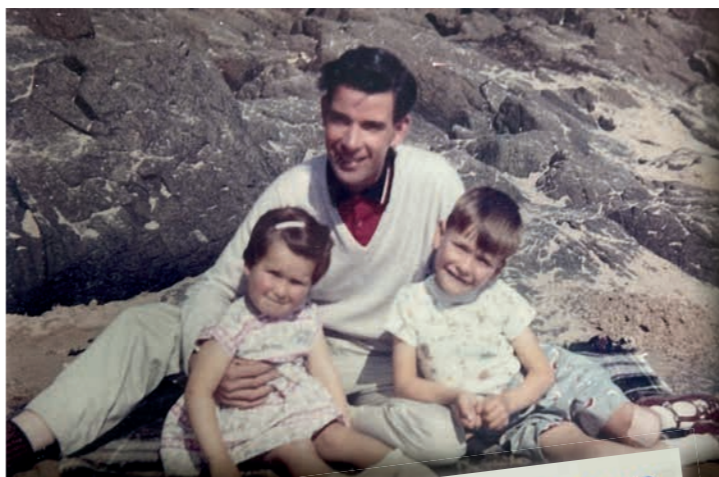
He was a married man with two young children, working for next to nothing, and it was a sort of eye-opener for him. He was in the hospital with 11 other guys with the same thing, and they were told by the surgeon in charge: 'We have a new treatment (radiotherapy) for this, and it's wonderful'. Somebody said: 'What's the alternative?' And the surgeon said: 'Death'. So they all volunteered to take it. I think my dad was the last one to go and he lasted another 50 years. So I think this gave him a different view on life; plus, he was very frustrated with his working scenario at the time.

It was still a brave thing to do, especially with a young family.

Well, work-wise, the next five years are a blur. My dad incorporated his business in February 1967 – I've still got the certificate – and between then and 1972 it was almost like he won the Lottery. He was like Midas man—everything he touched turned to gold. He didn't realise it himself; a lot of it was getting back to his dad, who he felt had let him down, so he was on a big mission to prove them wrong—and boy did he prove them wrong! Yet he was one of these men who I have never heard anybody say a bad word about him. There must be people who didn't like him, but I often get: 'Aw! You're Dougie Mitchell's son! What a great guy he was.'

Many readers of a certain vintage will remember him from the former Jet Petrol Station on Lanark Road West, Currie...

Yes, my dad started that in 1967, it was a Jet Petrol station. How he did it I don't know, because he also had a main Fiat franchise for about 18 months, I remember the brand new cars in the showroom. I



don't know the full ins and outs of it. Then 1972 came along; he was a high-flyer, he had about 10 garages and we moved house from the flat to what can only be described as a lottery-winner's house—it's actually still there in Currie, opposite the butcher's. We moved in there in October 1972, and it was a fantastic house. The door was open to anybody. Coppers would come in for a whisky, and all this sort of stuff. But it was all my dad. And he was a very hard act to follow, as you can appreciate.

Was your father's personality key to his success?

The thing about the petrol in those days was that the prices were all the same, everywhere, so it was a case of how do we get more business? Answer: Green Shield Stamps! So as well as the petrol you paid the same price as anywhere else, we were giving Green Shield Stamps, which were very successful. But that all changed in the 1970s when prices went crazy.

How 'hands on' was he with the business?

He had managers at all the outlets; he was more involved in 'acquiring'—and proving a point [to his father]. After he did, he slackened off. Almost for about a year he just... sat and watched the telly. It was almost like: 'Well, I've done it now.' And he was only in his forties. But again, a lot of that, as a young guy growing up, I don't remember much about it. What I do remember is the fact that he was hugely liked; everybody knew him and, with one or two exceptions, I never heard anyone say a bad word against him.

Your father appeared in the April 2009 issue of C&B News, opening the then-new Somerfield store on the site of his former garage.

When the garage was redeveloped



– completely flattened – into a Somerfield, my dad was asked to open it. With him was a chap who worked for him in Currie, a trusted guy called Derek Smith; he'd worked for my dad for years, and was kept on by the company, because dad made sure of that – he looked after people.

How would you summarise your dad?

I know I make him sound like a saint, he was just such a lovely man. But, there was a side of him... that if he was displeased, if he felt there was an injustice being done, he wouldn't hesitate to say something or to do something about it. He would give you everything, but if you messed him about, he turned; he was completely a different man. He hated being messed about, or someone taking the mickey out of him. Because he really was generous. And slightly naive, sometimes.

He loved gadgets. I can see him now, back in 1972, in a big new Datsun car, a huge thing, that had all mod-cons. Electric window buttons, the lot. He was really quite technical. He liked the internet. We were sitting there one day, and I asked: 'What do you think your dad would've made of this?' He laughed: 'He'd had said it wouldn't catch on!'



Snapshots of the Past

DOUGLAS LOWE CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

So here we are in May, traditionally Balerno Gala month. In past years when young we all would have been in training for the Rigg Race, or assembling our five-a-side football teams but, nowadays, just encouraging our grandchildren in whatever sporting event(s) they planned for the week.

After a period of unpleasantness called the second world war, the Gala in its present form re-started in 1956 when the Balerno and Currie Children's Gala Association was formed—as the name suggests, a joint enterprise with our Currie neighbours. The Balerno and Currie Gala continued until 1969



when Balerno decided to go it alone. My brother and I were at the first post-war Gala Day in 1957. Neatly dressed in freshly pressed shorts, shirt and gym shoes or sandals, topped off with a natty sombrero! Well you had to really. Children of all ages had a week of activities – football, netball, the Rigg race (which was initially a walking race) – culminating in races for

different ages on Gala Day. The Gala Queen and entourage were selected at the gala dance at the Gibson-Craig Hall and, as you had to be aged 15, the Gala Queens were older than today's. On the Saturday before Gala day, after the fancy dress judging, decorated lorries conveyed the kids in fancy dress (with adult helpers similarly dressed) down and round the streets in Currie and up by



Main: Balerno Children's Gala—long a favourite with kids of all ages! Photo: C&B News. Left: Willie Shanks, a leading light of the Gala between 1956 and 1995, collecting funds. Above: John Galloway, founder of Balerno Bank Mill and a supporter and part-funder of the early galas. Photos: Douglas Lowe.

Blinkbonny, round by the farms and back to Balerno collecting donations in our buckets.

On the Gala day, in amongst all of the sports, the kids received bags of cakes, juice, fruit, and chocolate. In 1968 it was estimated that 3,000 bags were distributed to children—the number at the first Gala Day in 1957 was 700, reflecting the population growth in the area. Fairground shows were set up in the "recreation park" where the High School now stands.

THIS MONTH IN... 1988 Currie & Balerno News 136, 15p

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN C&B NEWS

Planning once again dominated the front page of this May 1988 edition, with the paper's chair, Graham Priestley, outlining proposals for Threipmuir and Harlow reservoirs as part of the latest local plan for the Pentland Hills Regional Park. These included new facilities for dinghy sailing, board sailing, canoeing, rowing and even water ski-ing: writing "as a walker/sailor/fisherman", Graham believed that "the introduction of these facilities could only be intrusive" and put at risk "one of the most important landscape assets of the Park".

Although Currie & Balerno News was little more than 12 years old at this point (and regularly offering 16 pages), retiring architect Archie Clark was already an established contributor of many years's standing. Unusually,



this month he was inspired to poetry, albeit with "apologies to the Bard!": the subject was the slow progress on a new path through the Poet's Glen. "Some months from now a path will lead/ Down to the stream, then on/O'er bridges then up the slope/Past Tamson's Helicon," he wrote.

Meantime, at a recent supper dance organised by Currie Community Council, local MP Malcolm Rifkind unveiled a document from the Lord Lyon granting Arms to Currie with its motto: "Aye Speir an Rede Weel". This deliberate celebration of Currie's identity linked with plans to restart the Riding of the March the following year (1989).

In local bus news, the paper reported that Lothian Region's Transportation Committee had decided against any of the suggested solutions to the problem of road safety at the terminus of "the Currievale bus"—principally for reasons of cost. "That leaves the situation as at present: the bus reverses on Currievale Park/Drive 'under the supervision of a second person,'" the writer wrote.

The opening of the angling season on the Water of Leith got off to a flying start, according to Graham Priestley, who "caught

and released six trout from seven to 10 inches long". The most surprising "catch of the day", however, was an unopened can of lager "found bobbing along at the side of a pool. So here's a toast to the new season!"

And finally... the new officer in the Police Station in Balerno – and a future regular contributor to the paper – Sgt Alistair Mackay, met Currie Community Council to discuss the two main crime problems in the area, violence and housebreaking. Housebreaking had proved a problem, particularly in the east end of Currie, and it was hoped that with Sgt Mackay's help, a new Neighbourhood Watch could be set up. "The local community must wholeheartedly support any measure to combat housebreaking," wrote the Council's Moira Young. "Without public participation, the police cannot succeed in their fight against crime."

G Banks ACCOUNTANTS
TAX & BUSINESS ADVISERS

For a complete range of highly personalised and pro-active accounting and tax services

0772 460 9443
graeme@gbankstax.co.uk
www.gbankstax.co.uk
Edinburgh & Wester Ross



EDWARD COLLIN
Fresh Eyemouth Fish
Serving The Scottish Borders & East Lothian
EYEMOUTH 077 9536 3665

Every Thursday: Dean Park Car Park from 7am-1:30pm
Balerno Farmers Market: 2nd Saturday of every month



M.R.I.C.S **Plan-It** F.C.I.O.B
Chartered Building Surveyors
Full architectural design & full project management services for all house extensions and alterations
1 The Birches, Broombank, Mid Calder, EH53 0EA
01506 884216 www.plan-it-design.co.uk

TRUST US WITH YOUR TREES

Tree Surgery & Maintenance
Felling & Removal
Hedge Maintenance
24 Emergency Call Out
Stump Grinding & Removal

TREESMITHS SCOTLAND LTD

Get in touch for a free, no obligation quote. CHRIS: 07984191526
CLARKE: 07534904068
WWW.TREESMITHS-SCOTLAND.CO.UK



McFarlane of Currie Professional Decorators Est 45 Years
'Simply the Best'
Interior & Exterior Paintwork
Quality paper hanging
Rag rolling graining
Tel: 0131 629 1524
Mobile 07762 192 118

R. McNeill
Joiner & Glazier
Kitchens supplied and fitted
Doors, Windows; Wood or UPVC
Misted double glazing units replaced
Bespoke Cedar, Hardwood & Softwood Gates supplied & fitted
All Joinery & Glazing
FREE ESTIMATES
Tel. 0131 449 3714

ESIC
Edinburgh Sports Injury Clinic
Range of treatments offered includes:
Physiotherapy
Sports Massage
Swedish Massage
Pilates
Pelvic Floor Rehabilitation
Edinburgh Sports Injury Clinic
567 Lanark Road
Juniper Green
0131 629 0215

!! THE COMPLETE TV SERVICE !!

Freeview Aerial Installations, TV Aerial Install & Repair, YouView Compatible, BBC Freesat Upgrade & Repair, Satellite Dish & LNB Service, Sky Service, TV Wall Mounting Service, Extra Points, SMART TV, Aerial & Dish Repair Service

KINNEAR AERIALS 0131 441 4618
51 Bonaly Crescent Edinburgh kinneare.aerials@blueyonder.co.uk

Select-a-Blind Ltd
Inc. Morris Blinds & Curtains estd. 1982
Now relocated to:
Unit 2, 109 Swanston Road
Swanston Steadings
Edinburgh EH10 7DS
Tel 0131 445 7726 Fax 0131 445 7593
www.selectablind.co.uk email:info@selectablind.co.uk
for every type of blind

GRANTS GARDENS
GARDENING & SOFT LANDSCAPING
LOCATION: EDINBURGH BASED & SURROUNDING AREAS
CONTACT INFO: 07758 390 086
GRANTSGARDENSEDINBURGH@HOTMAIL.COM
GET IN TOUCH FOR A FREE QUOTE
f GRANTS GARDENS @GRANTSGARDENSEDINBURGH



'Wee Forest' Created in Currie

RICHARD DARKE
FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER, EDINBURGH & LOTHIAN'S
GREENSPACE TRUST

A "Wee" (or Tiny) Forest created this March at Pentland View Park, Currie, is hoped to not only be an attractive location for wildlife, but for people too, and provide a range of benefits in the fight against climate change.

Wee Forests in Scotland are part of the global family of "Miyawaki Forests" or "Tiny Forests" with an emphasis on community engagement, co-design and careful soil preparation. It means that Wee Forests meet a consistent global standard so their benefits can be measured and shared.

A Wee Forest is made up of 600 densely packed native trees in a space the size of a tennis court and is capable of attracting over 500 animal and plant species within the first three years. It also provides rich opportunities for engaging young and old alike with the environment and sustainability. Local communities are invited to help plant up a variety of trees,

providing an opportunity for hands-on involvement in the creation of the Wee Forests where they will learn about the different species that are being planted and how they will benefit the local wildlife.

"We are delighted to be a local delivery partner for the Wee Forest project," said Charlie Cumming, Chief Executive, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust. "The

creation of the latest Wee Forests are very important for people and wildlife, particularly with them being in an urban environment. It will provide the local communities and schools with the opportunity to help tackle nature loss and the current climate emergency as well as contributing to Scotland's tree planting targets. It will enable people to engage with nature on their doorstep and inspire young

people to take an active interest in their local environment."

These new "Wee Forests" will enable residents to be directly involved in tackling the nature and climate crises by being involved in the planting, maintaining and development of the forests in their own community. The Wee Forests will also help us work towards our goal of being a Million Tree City by 2030 and to be net zero.



Adopt an Orchard Tree!

SHONA HARROWER
CHAIR, FRIENDS OF CAMPBELL PARK

The Friends of Campbell Park will host an "Adopt an Orchard Tree Volunteers Day" between 10am and noon on Thursday 25 May.

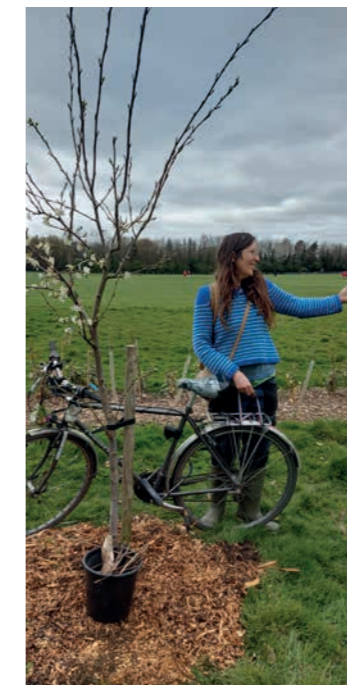
The event will be supported by the same team of Nat West Community Volunteers who helped to create a 125 metre (492 feet) woodland trail, and plant 100 native trees during a single morning on 8 December 2022.

Ally Price - seen with her bicycle - is standing in front of blossoming young tree No A1, which is still available for adoption at the time of writing. Ally was the first person to adopt one of the Campbell Park plum trees, formerly known as Tree No B2 and now called "Ally's Plum Tree".

Meantime, on the cover of this issue of C&B News, Shona Harrower is seen peering between the branches of "Shona's Pear Tree" (formerly Tree No D3). It is one of only two pear trees in the orchard—the other, G2, having been adopted as the "Nat West Pear Tree".

There is no fee to adopt any of

the Campbell Park community orchard trees, provided you can give your tree some tender loving care. It's a way of getting more people and groups to engage with the community orchard. Emails noting interest can be sent to: focampbellpark@gmail.com.



Looking for Balerno's Pocket Orchards

JILL GILLARD
BALERNO VILLAGE TRUST

In 2011, Balerno Village Trust initiated a project to grow more fruit trees around the village.

Approximately 95 trees of various varieties were sourced via a grant from the Climate Challenge Fund. Residents and community groups were invited to take trees for planting either in their gardens or in public places (school grounds and green space areas around the village)—to increase numbers of similar varieties across the area and improve the chances of fruit trees being successfully pollinated by insects.

Trees planted in public places such as Malleny Avenue's pocket orchard are maintained by local residents but the fruit can be picked by anyone who is passing. Other areas such as Harmeny and Deanpark Schools donate fruit for juicing at Balerno Farmers Market's Apple Day in October.

BVT would now like to find out how successful the project has been. Unfortunately, some of our records (including a village map) were lost when we gave up our

office at the High School.

We have some records from Sustain Balerno, including varieties of fruit trees and the names of people who took them, but not where all the trees were planted. It would be interesting for the village to have a record of which trees were planted where and what has survived, so we can re-create the map.

BVT is also considering whether it is worth adding more trees to existing public areas or to private gardens, particularly for newcomers to the village.

If you have any information or can help in any way, please email: jill@balernovt.org



Cooking the Books

with Balerno Resident STEF LYONS



Do you “do” breakfast? Do you eat it? Is it a big affair for you and yours? Does someone get up extremely early to produce those large feasts they seem to have on American TV whereby everyday, impossibly, the family has bacon, toast, OJ, eggs, pancakes, berries and freshly sliced fruit? Well, do you?

British breakfast, in my humble opinion, has a very sad reputation. The “full English” breakfast, though it has roots in centuries past, didn’t become what we know of it today until the mid 20th century. And, actually, I confess, I am not really a fan. Yes, I know I am English and therefore I am supposed to defend the fry-up with my life. But I just can’t. I’ve had too many terrible plates full of floppy bacon, overcooked eggs, soggy mushrooms and gloopy beans. Worst thing on that plate? The cooked tomato. What’s the point of it? Really? I eat it because it’s the only vegetable (actually it’s a fruit) on the plate. But I leave it till the boiling hot water within it has cooled down so I don’t burn the roof of my mouth off. Invariably it tastes of nothing and serves only to be a source of danger as I test out whether or not the molten tomato lava hiding inside has reduced in temperature enough for me to attempt eating it so I can get on with the rest of my meal.

Scottish breakfast, though? With the addition of tattie scones? Yes please. And haggis? Yum. What about Lorne sausage? Don’t mind if I do! These are all delightful additions to the morning ritual of breaking my

fast, but it doesn’t happen often. Normally I make whatever I can get my kids to eat on toast



and they are bungled out the door to school. Once I have returned I will find time to make eggs. They fill me up till lunch. Personally I have no sweet tooth and can’t understand why anyone would eat cereal for breakfast. Just... why? It’s soggy, sweet, and keeps you full for all of three minutes. I understand no one really has time for much else.

When I go all out for breakfast, usually someone else is making it. And the other day I had a craving. After school drop off, my husband and I secretly went

off to Craigie’s Farm, Deli and Café (if the kids had known there would be mutiny; they love the place). We ordered two of their Laird’s Breakfasts. Mine was so delicious I could have eaten it twice. I exercised a modicum of self-control and managed to leave without ordering another. Everything was just right. Apart from the compulsory tomato. That made its appearance and I grudgingly ate it with my toast.

Back at the Lyons house, the only person who really makes an effort with breakfast is my husband. Due to time constraints during the week, at weekends his café opens up and he uses Gary Maclean’s Scottish Kitchen to make wonderful fluffy Scotch Pancakes. The kids are always ready and excited and sometimes help make them too. The

recipe makes 24 and they each have 12. There are never any leftovers. Never. It’s a weekend ritual in our house now and the boys love these pancakes to bits. I can’t tell you personally if they are any good because my children have never let me eat one. Judging by their empty plates and happy faces, I can tell this is their favourite part of the week and a breakfast worth waiting for.

Craigie’s Farm, Deli and Café, West Craigie Farm, Queensferry. EH30 9AR



GAIL COUSINS
BALERNO RAMBLERS

With the Spring Equinox arriving, the clocks springing forward to British Summer Time and as March gives way to April, we can look forward to longer days, lighter evenings, and warmer temperatures. Signs of hope to come and rebirth are in the countryside. So, our walkers have seen Blackthorn blossom, a hint of Hawthorn green in the hedgerows, a green tinge to some trees as buds open in the warm sunshine, in addition to golden Daffodils, Lesser Celandines, Primroses, Wood Anemones, and Violets; in sheltered spots early Bluebells. Copious birdsong, new-born lambs and calves in the fields are a joy to be heard and seen. Warm spring sunshine is a bonus, as in reality April weather can be fickle, sunshine and showers, some heavy, some of hail and sleet, so we have been prepared for all weathers.

Since mid-March the Balerno Ramblers have offered two walking opportunities a week - altogether eight walks involving 109 ramblers.

On a recent Midweek walk to Vogrie Country Park not only did the Ramblers see the Snowdrops, Primroses, and Lesser Celandines but also one fast moving hare, two toads, ten Roe deer, and two amorous swans.

Eighteen Ramblers travelled to East Linton then onto Dunbar by bus to walk the John Muir Way back to their cars. Recent high spring tides had caused part of the cliffs at Dunbar to collapse, so a detour was required. Low tide enabled the group to cross the “Bridge to Nowhere” and walk across the sand. On this walk we also saw Llamas; coastal walks are always popular.

An Archer Arrow walk at Musselburgh was a new addition to the weekend programme. The Musselburgh Archer is a life size figure located by the Roman Bridge over the River Esk celebrating the rich heritage of Musselburgh. The artwork represents local history including the Roman invasion in AD80, the battle of Pinkie Cleugh in 1547, and the Musselburgh Silver

Above left: Enjoying the April sunshine. Photo: Roger Jonathan. Above right: End of the Pilgrim Way, St Andrews Cathedral. Photo: Jangky Harlim. Right: Looking down to Glencorse. Far right: Lunch stop at Flotterstone. Photos: Jacqui Thomson

With Spring in Your Step

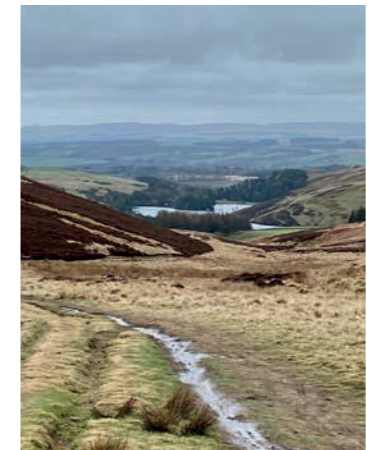


arrow dating back to 1603. The artwork is accompanied by a series of 15 stainless arrows installed at locations around Musselburgh forming a trail around the town. The group located 14 arrows, the final arrow is located by Battle of Pinkie Cleugh Memorial stone and would have involved an extra two-mile round trip.

At the beginning of April, eleven Ramblers completed the final leg of the Fife Pilgrim Way. The group started in Ceres and were unexpectedly invited to attend the opening of the Fife Folk Museum for the 2023 season. This slight delay meant a later start with no time for a cup of tea at the end in St Andrew’s. However, to celebrate the completion of the whole 64-mile trail, walk leader Linda carried with her a lemon drizzle cake she had made. Celebrations were enjoyed at the bus stop prior to arrival of the bus back to Ceres.

UPCOMING WALKS

With lighter evenings the Ramblers are planning to travel further afield for



their walks. The Midweek group will be venturing to East Lothian for coastal walks at St Abbs, also Tynninghame to Sealcliff, and to Earlston for a Leader water walk. Nearer to home the Pentlands circular walk from Threipmuir via Green Cleugh, that was curtailed due to icy paths, has been rescheduled.

Expected too, is a walk over the Forth Road Bridge to North Queensferry, along the Fife Coastal path with a return on the train over the Forth Rail Bridge to Dalmeny Station. This walk was also postponed, in March 2020 due to 50mph winds and then covid lockdown followed. We are hoping for calmer weather this time.

In June, the Midweek programme will include a Bird Watching themed walk from Musselburgh. High water around midday at mouth of River Esk, Musselburgh, means there will be plenty of birds to see and identify. The group will walk towards Prestonpans and return to Musselburgh in mid-afternoon.

The Weekend group plans more challenging longer walks in the Pentlands. One from Carlops and another along the Pentland ridge from Threipmuir. A shorter 8+ mile



walk but with 450m ascent will involve a climb up Mendick Hill.

Less challenging walks distance-wise, include coastal walks from Aberlady, and the Fife coastal path between Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy. A circular walk from Loch Ore Visitor centre up Benarty Hill, and a walk with minimal ascent from Linlithgow to Muiravonside Country Park, along the River Avon and returning by Union canal. Also

Goreglen circular following the Gorewater and River South Esk, then around the grounds of Arniston House. A local walk too from Currie to three Pentland reservoirs Clubbiedean, Torduff and Bonaly. Further afield Peebles is to be the start of a circular walk from Kingsmeadows up Hamilton Hill, Nether Kildston, returning by the new “active travel path”.

For more details and contact numbers please refer to: enquiries@balernoramblers.org.uk; www.ramblers.org.uk/balerno or www.facebook.com/Balerno-Ramblers

To sign up for our mailing list, email: balernoramblers+subscribe@googlegroups.com



Considered walking with a group? Try your local Ramblers!

An Introductory Walk - Lower Pentlands from Currie, on Saturday, 3 June 2023
Start time: 9:20am, at Pentland View Car Park.
Easy 4.5 miles/7.2 km

After receiving a warm welcome and meeting other walkers, your walk leader will give you an overview of the route with opportunities to ask any questions before enjoying the fabulous views of our beautiful countryside and across the city.

Crossing to the Water of Leith and up towards Blinkbonny, you will then walk up Poet’s Glen. This interesting path is an incline and you will stop as necessary to ensure everyone is comfortable.

Turning left through Easter Kinleith Farm, you will have fabulous views over Edinburgh and the new Queensferry Crossing. Next towards Tiphereth and Torphin, the group will stop for a snack looking towards the Riding stables before returning to the start. Terrain will be rocky only in small sections, grass areas are often muddy and there are short sections of tarmac. Ascent/descent approximately 100 metres.

What do you wear? Comfortable clothes appropriate to the weather forecast. It can be windy and a bit cooler in this area. Footwear should be sturdy and may need to be waterproof.

What to bring? Drink and a snack for your break, and a friend too - if you would like.

To register your booking, contact Sandra Renton by text on 07504306062

All our walks are open to members and non-members and new members are always welcome.

For more details and contact numbers please refer to: enquiries@balernoramblers.org.uk; www.ramblers.org.uk/balerno or www.facebook.com/Balerno-Ramblers

To sign up for our mailing list email:

balernoramblers+subscribe@googlegroups.com



Pentlands Men Shed have been remarkably busy since we started, especially with our local primary schools—Dean Park, Currie and Murryburn. We've helped build mud kitchens,

rabbit hutches, tepees, planters, toy boxes, classroom screens and SO much more. We have also made lots of signs for 42nd Pentlands Scouts

in support of their upcoming jamboree where there'll be more than 600 scouts expected! The Men's Shed is a community-led, non-commercial organisation looking to improve the health and

wellbeing of members through fun activities and social interests. All welcome any Monday or Friday at 42nd Pentland Scout Hall, 99 Forthview Crescent, Currie, from 10am.

NETHER CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'FOREST SCHOOL' IN MUIR WOOD PARK

KIRSTEN H JOHNSTON
HEAD TEACHER, NETHER CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

During the past six months children from Nether Currie ELC have been taking part in a "Forest School" programme at Muir Wood Park.

During these sessions, the children have learned lots of skills including den building, safe use of tools, risk management, leaf and tree identification and many more.

On top of this the children have built upon their resilience, self-esteem and independence.

The children have learned all about the local flora and fauna in the park and have helped to look after the park by picking up litter during our sessions. We have met many local residents during our trip and made friends with all the dogs who share the park with us!

We look forward to continuing and expanding our "Forest School" sessions in the park (and beyond!) next year.

DEAN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS

CLARE THOMSON
DHT, DEAN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

We look forward to watching these areas grow and develop over the next few months to see how they help to increase our biodiversity in our school grounds. Our Eco Committee are very interested too! We hope to keep you updated with photographs over the summer to see the impact these areas have made to our insect, bird and mammal sightings!

ANDREW MITCHELL CARS

I PURCHASE CARS AND VANS OF ANY MAKE, MODEL, AGE, CONDITION OR MILEAGE. SCRAP TO PRISTINE.

IF YOU WISH TO SELL OR DISPOSE OF YOUR CAR CALL ANDREW ON 0131 449 4105 OR 07866 118636

BASED IN BALERNO, FRIENDLY POLITE SERVICE WITH PROMPT ATTENTION ASSURED

Karma Tree Yoga
Be well, be strong and be in the moment

Feeling stressed or anxious? Aches and pains? Tight muscles? Trouble sleeping? Have you tried yoga?

YOGA CLASSES
in Juniper Green and Currie as well as online

- ❖ The perfect way to improve wellbeing, strengthen body and relax
- ❖ Suitable for everyone no matter what age, fitness or flexibility
- ❖ Different days, times, venues and styles to suit you
- ❖ Brought to you by your local fully qualified yoga teacher

Reserve a place by going to www.karmatreeyoga.co.uk or contact Monica on 07986600432 or email karmatreeyoga@gmail.com

Jones Electrical Services

- Re-wires
- Additional Lights/sockets
- Electrical showers
- Alarms/Security Lighting

Quality and Service Guaranteed
Call David on
Tel: 0131 451 5436 Mobile: 07762 200642
Free Estimates and Competitive Prices

95 Muir Wood Road, Currie, EH14 5HE
E-mail: jones.david@blueyonder.co.uk

SCAN FOR A FREE QUOTE

CATS HOME ALONE?
we can help!
we take care of your cats in the comfort of their home

Google **your local** professional, reliable and trustworthy **CAT SITTING SERVICE**

HomeLovingCats.com

www.HomeLovingCats.com 07865 081357

Juniper Green Nursery Playgroup
Juniper Green Community Centre

We are a small friendly playgroup and have been at the heart of the community for over 50 years. We currently have spaces every day and take children from 2 years old.

A morning session is from 9.15-11.15am and costs £13. We have great facilities indoors and access to a lovely enclosed garden. No parent duties are required.

For further details please look at our web page <https://junipergreenplaygroup.vpweb.co.uk/> and contact us by emailing junipergreenplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

In the first of a new series, we share what's going on in Balerno's 'Hidden Garden'...

Introducing Mallyen Garden



JAMES BELL
HEAD GARDENER, MALLEYEN GARDEN

Tucked away in a tranquil space in Balerno, the "Four Evangelists" stand silently watching over their garden. Fine old yews, they have stood proudly for over 400 years, surveying the ever-changing landscape. They were once "The 12 Apostles"; sadly eight are now gone.

The story goes that the 12 yew trees were planted at Mallyen in the early 17th century to commemorate the union of the crowns of Scotland and England. These magnificent *Taxus baccata* yews were neatly clipped into fine specimens. The now-missing eight were removed in the early 1960s, although wooden frames mark the locations of the missing

siblings.

Mallyen predates the yew trees by at least 300 years. Records put the earliest mention of the Mallyen estate at c.1280. A house is known to have existed on the site through the 16th century. A date stone of 1589 still stands in the kitchen fireplace of the current building.

The current main house is thought to have been built in the 1630s, with the later addition of the Georgian wing added around 1823. It came into the care of the National Trust for Scotland in 1968. Given that it has been here for so long, it is perhaps surprising how little it is known by the residents in Balerno and Currie.

While Mallyen House is not open to the public, the peaceful

space of the garden certainly is—365 days a year!

We understand that it has been a walled garden since the late 18th century. A bill for work dated 1785 reads: "Enclosing the haugh at Mallyen and planting the brae to building dykes upon the road side. Bill of costs £32.2.10," suggesting it was enclosed around this time. There would likely have been some sort of kitchen garden before this time. Many walled gardens often become abandoned at some point, some are brought back into use, others left to ruin. Mallyen, it appears, has been in constant use since the wall went up. True, it will have had periods of poor care and periods of high management, but it has likely never been abandoned.

The current formal structure of the garden was laid out in the mid-to-late 19th century. The modern planting within the borders is a riot of colourful herbaceous plants. Flowering shrubs and roses spill out over the paths, encouraging visitors to take a meandering walk amongst the foliage. Wooden benches and stone seats are dotted throughout the garden for you to rest and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. Roses are a highlight of Mallyen Garden. Visitors can see an impressive 170 varieties of rose; around 80 of these encompass a National Collection of 19th century shrub roses. Climbing and rambling roses cover the walls and scramble through the trees. From mid-June to mid-July, the garden is filled with the amazing perfume of these many old roses. A mixture

of large *Philadelphus* (Mock orange), *Geraniums* and various herbs all add to the heady summer fragrance of the garden.

The two old wooden Mackenzie and Moncur glasshouses, dating from around the 1880s, display a lovely range of tender plants chosen to provide colourful displays throughout the year, and in Autumn the grape vine provides an abundance of tasty grapes.

Or at least they did! As you read this our glasshouses will be undergoing much needed restoration. They will be stripped back completely, decayed timber replaced and fully repainted. Once the work is completed, expected around mid-June, our plants will return from their holidays in the restored glasshouses at Inveresk Lodge Garden and again

be displayed for the enjoyment of everyone. It is with the support of Members of the National Trust for Scotland and visitors to the garden that make preserving these historic glasshouses possible. We will keep you updated in C&B News about the progress of the refurbishment.

But what have we been doing in the Garden? Through April we have been prepping our lawns, giving them a good scarify to rake out all the moss and dead grass. The lawns have all been fed and overseeded. We aim to have our croquet lawn back to a near bowling green level so we can put a croquet set out. We have also added new hedging plants to plug

the gaps along our driveway hedge.

Mostly hawthorn, which will flower and produce berries for the birds. Our climbing roses were all tied up and pruned in late March in prep for the new season. We expect a colourful and fragrant display this year.

Looking forward to May and there will be a rapid flush of new growth, with a race between our herbaceous perennials and the less welcome weeds. Much of May will be spent redressing the balance to benefit the more welcome herbaceous perennials—essentially... weeding!

And while we do this, still they stand, the "Four Evangelists",

silently watching those who care for their garden. Little do they know they are due a haircut later this year!

Volunteers make a huge difference to the work the Trust undertakes, and Mallyen Garden is no different. We have an enthusiastic group of volunteers who help care for the garden, without whom it would be difficult to keep on top of all the work. There are many benefits to everyone in volunteering with the Trust.

If you, or someone you know, might like to volunteer with us, please do get in touch at mallyengarden@nts.org.uk or pop into the garden to have a chat. You would be more than welcome. <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/mallyen-garden>



Currievale Plumbing & Drainage Services
 Family business with over 20 years experience
 No job too small and all work is guaranteed
 24 hour Emergency Service

- ✓ All blockages cleared: Toilets, sinks, baths, showers, outside drains and manholes
- ✓ Outside tap fitted
- ✓ Blocked manholes
- ✓ Burst Pipes
- ✓ Showers fitted
- ✓ Storage tanks
- ✓ New taps fitted & repaired
- ✓ Toilets repaired and replaced
- ✓ Gutter cleaning
- ✓ New installations
- ✓ All plumbing work carried out

www.currievaleplumbing.co.uk
 Currievale Drive, Edinburgh EH14 5RN

Call Alexander on 0131 449 3071 or 07849 393364

Charles A. Strachan
 Electrical Contractor
 Domestic, Commercial & Industrial Installations

Tel/Fax 0131 449 2721
 Mobile. 07710547107

e-mail: charles.strachan@blueyonder.co.uk
 Registered Member of

SELECT

READERS' LETTERS

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the management. We reserve the right to edit or reject submissions.

Caption Error?

Re: page 15, April 2023: "Love, Loss and the 'Covenanter's Grave'."

Just under the under the word Grave is the explanation of the photos and image. The small inset grave stones are by Duncan's Belt.

Surely it should be the grave stones are just off Lymphoy Road, not Malleny Road? Or am I mistaken?

Mr. D P Edgar

Editor: No, you're not mistaken! Unfortunately, I did not notice the error while putting the issue together. Apologies for any confusion caused!

MILLBANK MUTTERINGS

by TAURUS CERAMICUS BARBATUS

192: ONION JOHNNY

In the 1960s we still had "Onion Johnnies" delivering onions to the doorstep. We also had the itinerant salesman with his cloths, mops and brushes but these Breton folk on their ancient bicycles, laden with great straw ropes dangling their wares over the front handlebars and rear wheels, and with another plait or two round their necks were a whimsical throwback to an earlier lifestyle. They were distinctive, wore French berets and smoked Gauloise cigarettes—quite different to the Woodbines smuggled into school.

Onion Johnnies first appeared on our shores in the 19th century and managed to make a living selling their wares from door to door up until the 1930s. War stopped the trade but a post-war scarcity of fresh vegetables in Britain saw their return – probably using the same pre-war heavy black bikes. Supermarkets and their bulk buying have seen the Onion Johnnies disappear. Now you buy onions in neat orange nets in the veg department.

Their disappearance is a reflection on just how different life is now to not so many decades ago. Then there was a lot less traffic on the roads. I guess the onions were delivered to local warehouses and then distributed by these Frenchmen.

More people stayed at home then than now so there was a greater opportunity of finding someone in. We also didn't do a weekly shop at the supermarket – there weren't any – and tended to buy our food from the numerous small shops, so Onion Johnny's weekly arrival was just part of the shopping calendar. Cargo bikes are nothing new.



Change on the Buses

City bus routes – be they operated by Edinburgh Corporation Transport/Lothian Buses, or SMT/First Edinburgh/Eastern Scottish – have reached out to (and sometimes through) Colinton for more than a century now. For example, many sections of the current 10 route into town cover stretches of roadway once home to a similarly numbered tram route. (That said, those number 10 trams ended up close to The Shore in Leith rather than Western Harbour as the buses do now.)

I recently came across this image of an old (well, 1995!) Lothian Regional Transport timetable for routes 5 and 51, which apparently linked Bonaly/Colinton to either Brunstane or the ASDA store at the Jewel. There's no indication that this was a new route, per se—it could likely just be an updated timetable for already established services, but I wondered if any local readers had memories of either the 5 or 51 and whether one or both served Bonaly? And were LRT indeed using double decker vehicles as featured on the cover?

Thanks for your time.

Daniel Jones
 Visitor



J & S Fisher
 Painter & Decorator
 All Types of Painting and Decorating Work Undertaken

PAPERHANGING
 WINDOWS
 RHONES & DOWNPIPES
 GYPROC COVING

For a free estimate and advice:
 Contact Stuart on 01506 885780
 Or 07860 523885
 All work fully guaranteed
 Email: sf_fishpond@hotmail.co.uk

Capital Cars
 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

20% OFF
 ALL TAXI METER FARES

0131 449-9797

A Fleet of 4, 6, 7 & 8 Seater Vehicles
 AIRPORT TRANSFERS • TAXI CARD • IPHONE & ANDROID APPS • ACCOUNTS
 www.capitalcarsscotland.co.uk

Gutters cleaned External work
 20 Years Experience
 Estimates Free

Mark Reece
 Painter & Decorator

Reliable Tel 0131 466 0304 (Currie)

GP LUMBERING & HEATING MCDONALD
 (Corgi Registered)
 All domestic Plumbing including Drainage(Local Authority Approved)
 Local Service Renewals (Grant Work) Shower Repairs & Installations.
 Bathroom Suites Installation. Storage Tanks. Radiator Renewals.
 Heating Control Repairs.

Phone 0131 449 3389
 Fax 0131 622 5622
 Mobile 07956516695

Free Advice Friendly and Efficient Service

CVC Locksmiths and Security
 uPVC door specialists
 Lock Installation
 Key Cutting
 Alarms and CCTV
 Car Key Replacement

07790 248987
 callumcopley@hotmail.co.uk

24hr Local Emergency Locksmiths 365 Days a Year

MAYNE'S GAS & HEATING

0772 084 3785
 enquiry@maynes.info

Installation | Service | Repairs | Upgrades | Radiators
 Smart Controls | Instant Hot Water Taps | Gas Alternatives Available

No Change on the Buses

I no doubt share the disappointment with so many across the area that are reliant on the Lothian Buses network to learn that there will be no change in the frequency of the routes that serve our community.

As many of your readers would come to expect, I will continue to follow up and maintain regular contact with Lothian Buses. I was heartened to see passenger number increasing but it does seem that it will be some time before Lothian Buses is able to invest in the routes, whether that be with increasing evening provision or the reinstatement of the X44.

Sue Webber MSP
 Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Lothian Region.

Why not advertise with the C&B News?
 Display ads still from only £22 per month
 Larger ad sizes now available
 advertising@candbnews.com

Donoghue BRICKLAYING SERVICES
 BRICK, BLOCK & STONEMASONRY SPECIALISTS
 BALERNO

All Building Work Undertaken
 Extensions, New builds, Garden walls, Driveways, Patio's etc...
 24 Years Experience
 Free Estimates

e: Donoghuebricklaying@gmail.com
 m: 07523678185



PLANNING BY ARCHIE CLARK

Experienced Planning Officers Required

Over the past year or so, CECPanning has advertised for planning officers for a variety of posts (including a street naming technician). That sounds like good news, especially when you see the number of planning applications for 2022 exceeded 6300 with some taking a very long time to be processed.

But the Planning department covers more than just buildings. A large number of applications relate to 'soft works' such as tree maintenance, and a substantial number indicate that the bias has shifted from dealing with major constructions to minor domestic alterations. That requires a different level of expertise to large complex buildings that have to meet the requirements of Building and numerous other Regulations. The knowledge level needed to design major buildings requires interdisciplinary skills that ought to be matched by those administering the Regulations.

But if there are fewer one-off buildings of unique construction, that impacts on all the professions involved in construction – designers, specialist tradesmen and component manufacturers. If there aren't experienced planners, the procurement process grinds more slowly and less efficiently. Adding more procedures doesn't help

while Community Councils are irritated and discouraged from getting involved with a centralised system that is not constructed to give them meaningful engagement.

A cursory glance at the planning lists makes me wonder whether the Council needs more senior experienced officers with construction knowledge. Are the 'difficult' and contentious applications gathering dust? Are applications that have drawn significant objections being recommended for approval to avoid the Council being involved in expensive litigation? Why after 6 months has an application to upgrade the lighting of a tennis court not been processed?

While applications of a legal nature are turned round relatively quickly, major design works that have involved large teams can take ages to be signed off by which time the economic climate may dictate that the scheme has to be abandoned.

It would be informative to know what design (as against administrative) expertise the Council possesses in its planning department. If it needs more qualified designers, that could encourage more building work. Would that not help bring financial benefits to the Council?

Long Dalmahoy Road Housing Proposal



Last issue, I commented on a proposal (23/00663/FUL) to develop land at Newhouse Farm, on Long Dalmahoy Road. The site is roughly a mile north of Balerno and just over one and a half miles west of Curriehill Station.

The application was lodged in mid-February and decided under local delegated powers on 24 March. The decision to refuse the application seems to indicate that the Council is adopting a firmer approach to countryside development following the Scottish Government's new National Planning Framework (NPF4) [See March issue of C&B News] and in advance of the forthcoming CityPlan 2030.

The reasons given for refusal are: (1) that the proposal is contrary to NPF4 policy 8 (Green Belts) "as it does not meet the relevant criteria for residential development in this Green Belt location and will be harmful to its landscape quality and rural character through intrusion onto agricultural land"; and (2) "the proposal is contrary to NPF4 policy

9(b) (Brownfield, vacant and derelict land) as the residential use of this greenfield site is not supported in principle by policies in the [2016] LDP"; furthermore, (3) "the proposal is contrary to NPF4 policy 15 (Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods) as the proposal will not contribute towards Local Living as the residential development would not have good local access to [a] range of sustainable modes of transport [and to] local facilities or services"; and finally, (4) "The proposal is contrary to NPF4 policy 17 (Rural Homes) "as the new homes are not located on land designated for housing in the [2016] LDP and do not meet the relevant circumstances where this land use will be supported."

While the decision will be of particular interest to Ratho Community Council (being within their sphere of interest), Balerno, Currie, and Juniper Green & Baberton Community Councils will no doubt find this decision worth recording given the enormous pressures to develop land within their areas in recent years.

Clovenstone Housing Applications

Two applications have been submitted by Prospect Community Housing to build on what appear to be underused car parks owned by the Council, one at Clovenstone Drive and the other at Clovenstone Gardens.

That proposed for Clovenstone Drive (23/00763/FUL) is for two 4-storey

blocks of flats (see right) with a common stair serving each of the two-bedroom flats. The architectural articulation is complicated, the walls being mainly in different colours of facing bricks and zinc cladding, with tiled roofs. Nine on-road car parking spaces would be provided however covered enclosures are proposed out the back (i.e. not within

the buildings), for 20 bikes. Whether people would want to leave their electric bikes there remains to be seen.

The other application (23/00881/FUL) is for a block comprising three ground floor 2/3 bedroom flats and

five 3-bedroom maisonettes over 3 storeys. The existing car parking would be reduced from 95 to 80 vehicles, with provision for 20 bike spaces in shelters against one of the other three blocks around the central landscaped space.



Macdonald & Ross

M&R

PAINTERS & DECORATORS

PRIVATE — COMMERCIAL — INDUSTRIAL

Professional Advice & Estimates Free

INSURANCE WORK UNDERTAKEN

ALL WORK FULLY INSURED & GUARANTEED

0131 339 3459

07902 649120

24 HR ANSWERING SERVICE AVAILABLE



Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
Pauline McDowell

trading as Brian's Equine Taxi

of 37 Deanpark Avenue
Balerno, Edinburgh

EH14 7EB

is applying for a licence to use

Cockburnhill House
Cockburnhill Road

Balerno, EH14 7JN

as an operating centre for One goods vehicles and 0 trailers

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the DfI, at Central Licensing Office, PO Box 180, Leeds, LS9 1BU stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the website: infrastructure.gov.uk

PENTLAND GAS & HEATING SERVICES LTD

Fully Gas Safety Registered

30+ Years Experience ACS Qualified

ALL DOMESTIC GAS APPLIANCES INSTALLED,

SERVICED AND REPAIRED

FREE ESTIMATES AND PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

CENTRAL HEATING BOILER REPLACEMENT

CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM INSTALLED/UPGRADED

TO COMPLY WITH NEW LEGISLATION FOR

INTERLINKED FIRE/SMOKE/CARBON

MONOXIDE ALARMS

COMPLETE HOME SAFETY WIRELESS

ALARM PACKS NOW AVAILABLE

GEORGE CLARK

88 Bavelaw Road EH14 7AE

0131 449 5455
0798 668 0258

PentlandGas@gmail.com



LOTHIAN MOWER SERVICES

SALES - SERVICE - SPARES

Swinabbey
East Whitburn
BATHGATE EH47 7RH
(Formerly Broxburn)

Free collection & delivery locally
Tel/Fax 01506 676661

GLANPINE LTD

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

Planning and Building Warrant Applications

carried out for New build, Extensions and Loft conversions etc

A quality service from a local company that has been in business for 20 years
Free advice and estimates

Contact : Graham Hewat
Tel 0131 538 9331

Email: gr-ti@blueyonder.co.uk
Mobile 07752877704

HOLLIS ACCOUNTING LTD

Local Chartered Accountant

Services include:

Tax Returns
VAT & Payroll
Business Accounts
Bookkeeping
Charity Specialist
Consultancy

Contact Sarah Hollis to arrange a free initial meeting and obtain a fixed price quote at reasonable rates.

Address:
26 Nether Currie Road
Phone:
0131 225 2821
Email:
sarah@hollisaccounting.co.uk

Website: www.hollisaccounting.co.uk

GERRY AITKEN Painter and Decorator

27 years of experience
Private & commercial work
Prompt & professional
Free estimates & advice
All work guaranteed
No job is too big or small

Tel: 07798 565 321
e-mail: junigig@aol.com
2/7 Lorimer View,
Juniper Green

COLLINS DECORATORS

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
"QUALITY ASSURED"
FOR EXPERT ADVICE ON ALL PAINTING & DECORATING, CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE AND PROMPT ATTENTION.

ALL TYPES OF INSURANCE AND CONTRACT WORK UNDERTAKEN
TEL: 0131 539 5705
MOB: 07788 963952
collins_decorators@outlook.com



Douglas Ramsay

Loft Conversions & Builders

Building Alterations : Structural Work
Staircases : All Joinery Work

Tel/Fax: 0131 443 2809
Mob: 07973 528 078
www.dramsay.co.uk



16 Dovecot Park,
Edinburgh EH14 2LN
Email: dr@dramsay.co.uk

Taking the Stress out of Living at home

Would you or someone you know benefit from additional care and support at home? At Sutton Care Solutions we recognise that home is truly where the heart is and with our assistance our clients enjoy living in their own homes for as long as they want to.

At Sutton Care Solutions we understand that life is for living. We can make it easier to live in your own home for longer so why not pick up the phone and have a chat with us?

What We Offer

- ☎ Personal Care Services including Medication
- ☎ Short-term assistance for recovery from illness or hospitalisation
- ☎ Home Help, Domestic Support and Shopping
- ☎ Preparation of Meals
- ☎ Escort Service
- ☎ Companionship and Befriending Services (Transport Available)
- ☎ Services of a Fully Qualified Counsellor
- ☎ Respite Care
- ☎ Emergency On-Call Services
- ☎ Gardening
- ☎ Dog Walking



170 Lanark Road West, Edinburgh EH14 5NY ☎ 0131 449 9422 ✉ care@suttoncaresolutions.co.uk
suttoncaresolutions.co.uk

LAWN GINEERING

Lawns & Landscaping



Bespoke Lawncare Programmes

Cutting / Feeding / Weed Control / Renovations / New Build Lawns
/ Soil improvement / Overseeding / Top Dressing / Scarification /
Aeration
Fencing, Decking, Pergolas and Sheds Supplied and
Fitted
General Landscaping Contractor
Tel : 07891435602

SCOTIA FINANCE LTD

Your local accountant covering
Colinton to Balerno

Accounts, Taxation and Business Advice
Sole Trader, Partnership & Limited Company
BTL / CIS / Contractor
All trades and professions welcome

Contact Stuart for a no obligation quote on
07717 193425
Email: stuart@scotia-finance.co.uk
www.scotia-finance.co.uk



JOANNA CHERRY MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

'ILLEGAL MIGRATION'

I hope that readers had a happy Easter and also enjoyed the spell of good weather that coincided with it. Spring, the warmer weather, and the lighter evenings are all very welcome.

I spent the week leading up to Easter speaking in a fractious House of Commons Chamber in the debate on the Illegal Migration Bill. The Bill breaches the UK's obligations to the European Convention on Human Rights (the Home Secretary has declared that she is unable to certify that the provisions of the Bill are compatible with this), the Refugee Convention, and the International Convention on the Rights of The Child. I raised a Point of Order with the Speaker because Suella Braverman has repeatedly refused to attend the Joint Committee on Human Rights, which I chair. We want to take evidence on the human rights consequences of her legislation, and to interrogate the legal arguments so we can properly to scrutinise the Bill.

At the end of that same week, I had a lovely visit to the Pentland Community Centre in Oxgangs to attend a music performance by schoolchildren. The centre had received a grant to provide a music youth club for local children. I was happily presenting certificates to acknowledge their attendance and progress in the club when I was amazed to find that some of the children had written to me the previous week with their concerns about the Illegal Migration Bill.

They were very pleased that I had mentioned their letters in my speech. The children had simply and eloquently pointed out that the refugees the Bill aims to stop are people, many of whom are fleeing their homes in terror because of war and violence, and then are met with hostility on their arrival to the UK.



GORDON MACDONALD MSP
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

DISABILITY MATTERS

There is no doubt having a disability increases everyday living costs which is why I wanted to draw attention to a couple of specific benefits which could go some way in combatting the additional expense and make life a little easier financially: the Adult Disability Payment which provides support regardless of whether or not you are working, and the Child Disability Payment payable for those aged under 16 with a physical or mental disability. Both are delivered by Social Security Scotland.

My office and I have been assisting with a number of applicants but I want to ensure that everyone who may be eligible is aware of the benefits and knows how to access them. Please either contact my office directly on (0131) 443 0595 or email: gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot or you can go directly to Social Security Scotland (www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/).

This additional financial support could make a significant difference.

The past few years have seen young people and their education significantly impacted by the pandemic. Despite this pupils and staff have worked hard, adapting to the necessary changes. Thankfully this academic year the pandemic has had very little impact and, with the beginning of May, so too comes the exam season and I wanted to take this opportunity to send my best wishes and good luck to all S4, S5 and S6 students sitting exams at both Balerno High School and Currie High School.

Incidentally I also lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament this week congratulating pupils and staff at Currie High School on achieving the LGBT Charter at Gold level from LGBT Youth Scotland. This is all thanks to the hard work and dedication of the young people in the school. Through training and review of policies, practice and resources all aim to ensure that Currie High School goes beyond meeting legislative needs and is as inclusive as it can be for pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.



SUE WEBBER MSP
LOTHIAN REGION

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

On the first day of Easter recess I attended a meeting at Juniper Green Tennis Club. It was also the first day of their season which they kicked off with one of their kids' coaching camps.

I met with council officers and committee members from the tennis club to discuss their plans for the repairs to the green wooden club house, and their long-term ambitions to upgrade the playing surface from the red blaes to something more modern.

Contrast this with the recent news from the Oriam Indoor Tennis Centre where £4.5 million is being invested to bring six, state-of-the-art, indoor tennis courts to the sports campus at Heriot Watt University. Scheduled to open in late summer, they are funded by Oriam, Heriot-Watt University, the LTA, sportscotland and Tennis Scotland.

These courts are being constructed with the latest technology and will have some of the finest acrylic playing surfaces found anywhere in the country. You will be delighted to know that the centre will be used by Tennis Scotland and will be home to Heriot-Watt's tennis club, as well as to students and players from the local community.

Meanwhile back in Juniper Green, just like every other community-based sports club, they are looking for innovative ways to raise the funds to make their dreams a reality. The club is over 100 years old and has over 200 playing members of all ages from across the community. They work closely with neighbouring primary schools to get young people from all backgrounds playing tennis, not just for the two weeks of Wimbledon each year. I am looking forward to the Juniper Green Tennis Club open day where I will dust off my racquet and head along, and I will be meeting with Tennis Scotland to see if they can help with the ambitions of this local club which is a real asset to the community.



CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS

VANDALISM NOT REQUIRED

Great to see some improvements in the local area of Balerno where broken steps at Mallyen Avenue have finally been repaired and a tree removed from the Water of Leith which could have caused an obstruction.

However there are still plenty of issues to resolve in the ward, especially with regards to graffiti. None more so than the foul language inscribed on the Roley Wood bridge next to Currie Community High School. The youths that did this may find that funny but the rest of the local residents do not—it is a blight and eyesore and creates an extra expense to the council when they least need it.

While I reported this and many other acts of graffiti, if you happen to see examples in your own area then please get in touch with me and I will try to resolve them. On the subject of Roley Bridge, when I contacted the council, they acted very swiftly to making the bridge passable again with temporary fixes.

Many people who travel up to Harlaw and Threipmuir for walks, etc, will have seen some tree felling to make way for extending the car parks. Works will be carried out to remove the stumps in due course and with car park charging still to be determined, the Regional Park will continue to ask for donations in the meantime.

At the last meeting of the Juniper Green & Baberton Mains Community Council, I presented the proposal from Active Travel to site the cycle racks near to the corner of Lanark Road and Baberton Avenue. This was agreed by the CC and the rollout of this cycle parking should be very soon. If not this month, hopefully by the autumn.

Lastly, it was a pleasure to be invited to the Juniper Green Tennis club very recently for a meeting to discuss the processes involved to further enhance the club facilities and tennis courts.

SAFEWAY ROOFING

**NO PAYMENT UNTIL 100% SATISFIED
NO DEPOSIT NECESSARY**

Flat Roof Specialists

Slating • Tiling • Leadwork

Gutters Cleaned Repaired and Renewed

All Cement, Lead & Roughcasting Work Undertaken

FREE QUOTE & SURVEY

0131 516 7954

www.safewayroofing.com

Covid-19 safe procedures in place. Discounts available for NHS staff.



CLLR NEIL GARDINER
PENTLAND HILLS

KILLIE BLUES? NO WAY!

There's The Proclaimers' song about travelling to Kilmarnock and not wanting to talk about it: the reference is to do with a football result, rather than any slight! Recently I had the pleasure of heading to Killie myself—and I do want to write about it!

This journey was to see Balerno and District Schools Pipe band take part in a national competition, for which they were placed a very commendable fourth in the debut category—well done to all! Jim Todd, Provost of East Ayrshire Council, made a welcoming address, encouraging participants from across Scotland to recognise their own talents and, importantly, as they grow into adulthood, always to be true to themselves. Jim, Scotland's only Biker Provost, certainly lives up to that mantra!

Whether your interest is ZZ Top, a reel, or indeed something completely different, these are wise words. Recently I reflected on this, when reading about research linking mental health and pressures of social media for teenagers.

It's important for all of us to get out and about: one thing which is helping this for young people is the introduction of free bus travel for those under 21, which opens opportunities across the city and region. Balancing freedom with responsibility is something that we all need to consider. There's been reported incidents of some intimidating behaviour on local buses. I've raised this with Lothian Buses, and this will be considered at a forthcoming meeting between local councillors and Police Scotland.

There have been difficult issues raised in an audit report of the local health and social care set up. I recognise the dedicated and outstanding work of the people who provide daily care to elderly and vulnerable people; however there is a need to improve overall management of these vital services.



CLLR FIONA GLASGOW
PENTLAND HILLS

LOCAL TINDERBOX

Well that has been a quick month! We are heading at a fast pace into the summer months!

There were celebrations in the last week of term at Nether Currie Primary with their great art exhibition "Inspire". I thoroughly enjoyed being shown around and welcomed by pupils. It was a great opportunity to see how the arts do indeed inspire and facilitate learning. Having worked in schools many years ago, I am aware of how important it is to make learning fun and find ways to show parents and carers just how well the children and staff are doing.

As part of my involvement in the Culture and Communities Committee I had the opportunity to attend the opening of the "Local Foreigners" exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh. Set up by Maryna Sulym (an immigrant from Ukraine) in response to negative depictions of immigrants in the media, the project aims to share real stories of people who have moved to Edinburgh from different countries and how they contribute to everyday life. A very moving and interesting display in this lovely old museum on the Canongate.

I also had the opportunity to hear about an exciting new music project based in local libraries called Tinderbox that works with children and young people using a range of techniques and offering a lending scheme for musical instruments. From grass-roots youth work to award-winning music productions, Tinderbox is building a vibrant and eclectic community of young musicians and artists in Scotland. They have a number of programmes that cross over with each other and come together wherever possible. They are open to children and young people aged 10 - 25, from complete beginners to young professionals and all levels in between. For anyone interested in more info see www.tinderboxcollective.org



CLLR STEPHEN JENKINSON
PENTLAND HILLS

'POTHOLE KILLER'

You only ever get a true sense of what is frustrating and annoying people when you go out and ask them and that is why I have always enjoyed speaking to constituents on the doorstep. It should never be underestimated therefore just how frustrated and annoyed people are with the state of our roads in this city.

Since being elected last year I have tried hard to not get bogged down complaining about what should be happening, rather to use my position in the Council to actually make things happen.

If you ever get the opportunity to ask him, Cllr Arthur will confirm not only the "encouragement" I put on him as Transport and Environment Convener to secure a trial for a new pothole solution for the city this year but also the challenge I set for the Labour group to secure significant additional funding for the road maintenance budget. So it is pleasing that Cllr Arthur secured me the "Pothole Killer" I was after and that we now have £11 million being invested in improving the fabric of our roads, as both were desperately needed.

The JCB Pothole Pro has been out and about in the city for a couple of months now and it is starting to make a real difference. Jobs that would normally take three days to complete are now being done in a day, with the machine able to work with more precision and less vibration—and that in turn provides a much more effective and longer lasting finish.

Edinburgh's roads have never been worse but, by increasing investment and introducing new technology to tackle these problems, I'm convinced we will make a significant difference. My next task is to "encourage" the "Pothole killer" to pay a visit to our roads in the Pentland Hills ward. It will certainly be very welcome!



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LICENSING FEES

City of Edinburgh Council's licence fees for Public Entertainment Amusement "devices" - such as inflatable bouncy castles - rose by 11.1% from 1 April 2023, a decision agreed by the Finance and Resources Committee just two days earlier. These fees are charged on a sliding scale: for two to five such "devices" it's £1,200; for six to 20 it's £2,960. That's a huge sum for any local body to find and Balerno Children's Gala's article in the April C&B News indicates just how serious this fee requirement is.

May and June are important months for local galas, which are emblematic of our villages and vital for the continuation of the sense of community which we all value. They ought also to be a matter of concern for CEC. People volunteer because they want to help to make such events happen; not in order to trail through the council's website checking on what's changed since the last time they filled in the forms, when the waivers of fees may also have been more common.

We do not yet know how this situation arose, but it seems likely that consultation on increased charges was limited—if it happened at all. Clearly it is in everybody's interest that fairground rides, including inflatables, are safe; verifying that requires a licensing process, which costs money. Yet it is also in everyone's interests that communities can function and traditions are fostered. Surprise bills for £2,500 put such community events at risk.

We all hope that Balerno Gala are able to raise the funds to get the 2023 Gala up and running. There will be other communities which cannot magic £2,500 out of nowhere. We assume that CEC will have considered the impact of a seemingly routine cost upgrading but, very probably, they could have done better both in communicating their intentions and listening to those most directly affected.

If you though all front doors were the same. **Think again!**

Four Seasons Classic Composite Doors

High performance with a huge choice of styles and options
Secured by Design | Triple glazed | Superb energy efficiency



Fully fitted from only **£980** inc VAT



Call **0131 449 7000** or visit our **brand new door showroom**
Riccarton Garden Centre
Riccarton Mains Road, Currie
Open 7 Days. Mon-Fri 10-4, Sat-Sun 11-4
fourseasonsscotland.com

four seasons Design & Build

2016 HOME IMPROVEMENT AWARDS FINALIST best window & door company

Your local door company - windows - doors - conservatories - conservatory upgrades - sunrooms - orangeries - extensions

RiverMill

CURRIE, EDINBURGH

"WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT LIVING AT RIVERMILL?"

"The outlook. And we can tell you, this is absolutely true, the majority of people that walk into our flat, walk into this room [living room] and go "wow"! Because, of the fantastic situation and location. And, it's quiet"
- Rivermill Resident

"[Another reason we love] living here is access to the countryside but also convenient public transport which is very important I think."
- Rivermill Resident

SHOWHOME ADDRESS
Flat 4, 3 Kinauld Dell, Off Lanark Road West
Edinburgh, EH14 5RG

0131 247 3795 | edinburghnewhomesesavills.com



DUNHAVEN HOMES **savills** www.savills.co.uk



TOM McDONALD
COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WATER UNDER BRIDGE

The Water of Leith Walkway figured large in our last Community Council meeting.

We heard that there was no money left to address the landslip which has closed one of the important access points, as the prices for other bridge repairs and the remedial work were much higher than expected. This news prompted questions based on the fact that the local community in Currie, after being faced with a similar issue, were able to source a new bridge at a much lower price than the City of Edinburgh Council. Of course, all projects are different to some degree and special circumstances may have applied, but this is an excellent example of why full and early engagement with the local community could have helped save time, effort and money for everyone!

Our conversation moved on to appreciation of the new surfacing now laid on part of the walkway, and then to concerns about the danger posed by cyclists travelling faster than ever, many without giving fair warning of their approach. It was recognised that this is a multi purpose route and suggestions about new signage or creating "chicanes" were raised, as were the potential dangers to cyclists from careless dog walkers—especially those with multiple charges on long leads.

Obviously the walkway of its nature services various types of user and a much wider community than Colinton but, in the end, a sensible suggestion was made I can only applaud—that instead of trying to impose our own preferred "carrot and stick" controls, we should consult with groups from the cycling-focused community (and by implication dog-walkers too) on what measures might be best respected.

After all's said and done, that is exactly the approach I so firmly recommend to CEC on almost all matters that affect our communities!



ALLISTER R MCKILLOP
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

POTHOLES & CUTS

Sadly, due to our dwindling numbers, we had to cancel our scheduled April meeting as we could not raise the required quorum. This is the first time in my tenure that this has happened but does re-enforce the need for new blood. As I've previously written, Community Councils are an important conduit to The City of Edinburgh Council, and our community WILL be worse off without its presence! It's over to you – the Currie Community – to decide whether we have one or not.

I continue to despair about the atrocious conditions we currently endure with pavements and roads being almost unusable. We now seem to have a collection of huge potholes pretending to be a driveable surface with the occasional temporary patch which lasts only until it rains. We ALL need to start complaining, so give CEC a call on 0800 23 23 23 when you can.

Finally, as a member of the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board (EIJB) who are directly involved with funding Health and Social Care for the folk of Edinburgh, we are currently grappling with an almost unprecedented demand to make £47 million of cuts this year!

I cannot adequately express the seriousness of the situation. It's obvious decisions made will impact on the more vulnerable within our community, especially given the current over-stretched level of services! Along with other EIJB board members, I will do everything in our power to protect vital services, but sadly cuts must be made.

I'll continue to update you all either here or on CCC Facebook page. Or, come to our May meeting (Monday 8 May) and challenge our elected members!

Your COUNCIL Your VOICE



To submit entries for What's On, please email [Catriona, whatson@candbnews.com](mailto:Catriona.whatson@candbnews.com), including: Day/Date, Event Title, Venue, Time, brief details, and contact phone/email details as appropriate.

WEEKLY

MONDAYS

THE MEETING PLACE: Currie Scout Hall, Forthview Crescent, 10am – 4pm. A community cafe for those 65 and over, all carers and anyone looking for good company. Lunch for modest £4. For further information email themeetingplacejcb@outlook.com

TUESDAYS

PENTLAND SINGERS COMMUNITY CHOIR: Balerno Parish Church at 7.30pm. Singing a wide range of choral music, no previous experience required and new members always warmly welcomed. Further information: www.pentlandsingers.org.uk or email: pentland_singers@yahoo.co.uk

PENTLAND JUNIOR SINGERS: Balerno Parish Church 6-7pm. For young people aged 8 to 14. Come and sing choral music in a fun environment. More information: www.pentlandjuniors.org or email: pentlandjuniors@gmail.com

WEDNESDAYS

BALERNO RAMBLERS MIDWEEK GROUP: Meet for walks in the Lothians, Fife, the Borders and further afield. For walk details contact M Timmins on 07917878955. Follow Balerno Ramblers on Facebook and also Twitter: @BalernoRamblers

THE OCTAGON CLUB for Adults with learning disabilities: Gibson Craig Hall, Lanark Rd West, 7pm-9pm. Contact: Claire Maloney, 07999 410721.

THURSDAYS

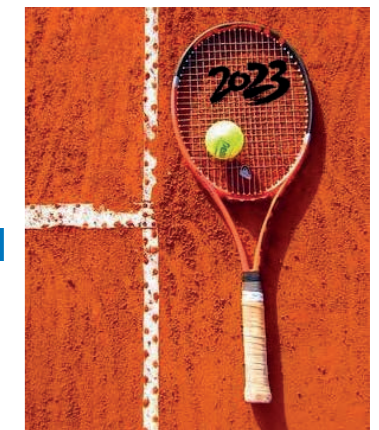
PENTLAND BRIDGE CLUB, St Margaret's Court, Juniper Green; 7pm. We play competitive bridge

in a friendly atmosphere. Less experienced players welcome. Further information, visit: www.bridgewebs.com/pentland/ or email mthkjb@gmail.com

FRIDAYS

THE MEN'S SHED at the Scout Hall: 99 Forthview Crescent, Currie, from 9.30am. We offer various activities and a chat over a cuppa with new and old friends. Come on down! <https://pentlandsmensshed.org>

JUNIPER GREEN TENNIS CLUB. Free coached social tennis for adult members of all ages and abilities in a fun and friendly environment from 10am-12pm. Email any questions to junipergreentennis@gmail.com.



ALTERNATE FRIDAYS

TABLETOP GAMING IN JUNIPER GREEN/BABERTON/CURRIE, at Juniper Green Parish Church. 6-9pm. Play board-games, card games and wargames. Everyone welcome; adults, children and their families. For more information contact Eric Ducreux Juniper Green Board-Gamers @boardjg, or visit: www.boardjg.co.uk

SATURDAYS (FROM 20 MAY)

CURRIE KIRK CAFE, Kirkgate, Currie. 2pm - 4pm (last orders 3.30pm) Saturday café serving Tea, Coffee and Baking.

SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS

BALERNO RAMBLERS WEEKEND WALKING GROUP, a busy walking group with a programme of interesting walks in a variety of locations. Some walks may be more challenging than the mid-week programme. Visit: www.ramblers.org.uk/ Balerno-Ramblers; follow on Twitter: @BalernoRamblers or email: enquiries@balernoramblers.org.uk

What's On

DAY BY DAY

MAY

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY

PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB, Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 10am. "Scotland's Best Kept Secret—Belhaven Brewery," an illustrated talk by Steven Sturgeon. New members welcome. Further details from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford (0131) 453 3012 or email lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

BALERNO SWI, St Josephs Hall, 7.30pm. A talk 'George IV visit to Edinburgh in 1822' with Eric Melvin.

THURSDAY 4 MAY

BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL, Balerno High School, 7pm - 9pm. Public welcome.

TUESDAY 9 MAY

COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL. Monthly meeting, via Zoom, from 7.30pm. Contact details published through all ColCC's communication platforms: notice boards, website, etc.

SATURDAY 13 MAY



BALERNO FARMERS MARKET, Main Street, 9am - 1pm. Wide range of local produce from local producers. Organised by BVT.

CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL MAY FAYRE: noon to 4pm. Stalls, games, homebaking and lots more. Suggested entry donation £1 adult, 50p child. All welcome! Please come along and help us make our first May Fayre in four years a huge success!

CANCER CARD FUND-RAISING EUROVISION PARTY, 02 Academy Edinburgh (aka Corn Exchange), 7pm - late. Edge Radio Presenter Mark Martin leads the party fun with the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest live-streamed from Liverpool. £40 ticket includes welcome drink and buffet supper. Experience the magic of the competition with other fans, plus close magic entertainment, competitions, quizzes, raffle, and fun photo-booth. Tickets: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/eurovision2023&tag=>



WEDNESDAY 17 MAY

PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB, Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 10am. Members' AGM followed by lunch at The Kinleith Mill. This is our last meeting until we resume in September. New members welcome. Further details from our Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford (0131) 453 3012 or email lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

SUNDAY 21 MAY

C&B NEWS. Official editorial deadline for June 2023 issue.

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY

JUNIPER GREEN & BABERTON MAINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, Pentlands Community Space Hub, 531 Lanark Road, from 7.30pm. All welcome.

TUESDAY 30 MAY

BALERNO FOLK CLUB,

HUB@531

EVENTS ON AT HUB@531 LANARK ROAD

MONDAYS:

COME FOR A CUPPA, 10am - noon. Includes special events such as

Rummikub game (24 May), think of "scrabble meets rummy". New and regular players welcome.

MINDFULNESS SESSION, noon - 1pm. Sit and relax and let your mind have a hug at the hub, with guided mindfulness.

BABY GROUP, 1.30pm - 2.45pm. Come meet other babies, sing some nursery rhymes, and have a blether over a cup of tea.

BOOK GROUP, times TBC. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com for more information.

TUESDAYS

KNITTING GROUP, 10.30am - noon. Other wool activities accepted, and have a chat too!

Balerno Bowling Club, 5 Ladycroft, Balerno, EH14 7AG. Doors open 7.30 for an 8.15 start. Appearing this month are the local band "Ragged Glory". A four piece band who love traditional and contemporary songs. Highly entertaining. "Members and Guests" welcome.

JUNE

FRIDAY 2 JUNE

C&B NEWS, New June Issue!

FRIDAY 2 JUNE/SATURDAY 3 JUNE



CURRIE BEER & CURRY FESTIVAL, Currie Community Centre, 6pm-midnight. 40 tasty real ales, lager, wines, cider and prosecco. Live music. Organised

New and experienced knitters welcome.

YOGA, 1pm - 2pm. All abilities, chair or floor yoga depending on your requirements. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com to check availability and to book.

WEDNESDAYS

SPORTING MEMORIES, 1.30pm - 3pm. Come and join the sports chat with a cuppa and volunteers who help support the group conversation with fun sports trivia

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY/ THURSDAY 4 MAY

CRAFTING GROUP: Glass Painting, 7.15pm (Wednesday), 1.30pm (Thursday). Just bring a jam jar or glass and we will provide the rest. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com to book a space. June's craft will be crocheting. New and more experienced all welcome, Dates TBC.

by Currie, Balerno and District Round Table and volunteers. All proceeds to local charities and good causes. Tickets in advance at www.cbdr.com. Entry and three beer tokens (1/3 pints) £15. Curry from £8 (please order in advance to avoid disappointment).

SATURDAY 10 JUNE

BALERNO FARMERS MARKET, Main Street, 9am - 1pm. Wide range of local produce from local producers. Organised by BVT.

SUNDAY 11 JUNE

COLINTON PARISH CHURCH, Dell Road, Colinton. 5 pm. A concert for a Summer evening by the Glasgow Chamber Choir. Tickets, £10 for adults/ £5 for students, can be bought at the door or online.

TUESDAY 13 JUNE

COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, (face-to-face), Colinton Bowling Club, 49 A Redford Road, EH13 0AB. From 7.30pm.

EDINBURGH DRIVEWAYS & LANDSCAPING

Covering Edinburgh & The Lothians

10% off driveways & large landscaping projects

www.evergreenbalerno.co.uk

Long list of references and portfolio of work at your request

Services: Driveways | Paving | Patios | Design & Build

Hard & Soft Landscaping | Turfing | Tree Felling

Fencing | Walling | Excavation

Email or Text us for a 24 Hour Response

Evergreen Balerno Phone: 07596 068 455

Email us: balernolandscaping@gmail.com

www.evergreenbalerno.co.uk

Thinking of Selling?

Maximise Your Home's Value!

MORE OFFERS + MORE BUYERS = HIGHEST POSSIBLE PRICE

RE/MAX Property Marketing Centre

SCAN CODE TO BOOK YOUR FREE VALUATION WITH GEORGE ADUN

07547 792 363

T: 0131 665 0707 | gadun@remax-scotland.net

"I'll be your personal agent from FOR SALE to SOLD!"

yes you can Slimming World

WEDNESDAY Currie Community Centre 7pm Tel: Donna 07881 564989

SATURDAY Currie Scout Hall 8.30am New session 10am Tel: Donna 07881 564989

slimmingworld.co.uk

#YesYouCanWithSlimmingWorld

HOPE FROM HEARTACHE

Healing & Thriving After Narcissistic Abuse

If walking on eggshells is hurting more than your feet let me help you understand and take control

Judith Campbell

Certified Narcissistic Trauma-Informed™ Coach

Brainspotting Practitioner (level 2)

www.hopefromheartache.com

judithcampbell@hopefromheartache.com

PENTLAND ROOFING
L I M I T E D

SLATING • TILING • LEADWORK
FLAT ROOFING • VELUX WINDOWS
GUTTERING • BUILDING WORK



07590 626 090
0131 574 0194
www.pentlandroofing.co.uk



Pentland Singers at St Giles'



Photos: Carla Ramos.

ALWYN FERGUSON
PENTLAND SINGERS

The choir had a very successful concert singing at St Giles' Cathedral last month. Ian Munro, musical director for the choir, felt that they performed well and the concert was very well received by the audience.

In addition to friends and family of those singing, the "St Giles' at Six" events are open to all visitors to the cathedral. It is quite a challenge to sing in a different venue as the sound heard by each singer is changed so much by the acoustics. But, for all it is a challenge, it is such a pleasure to sing in such a grand location.

The next challenge for the choir is the summer concert, "Here Comes the Sun"! The music is very varied and was chosen in the main by Ailsa Aitkenhead, the choir's accompanist. It includes songs by George Harrison and Billy Joel as well as some new pieces. It can be tricky to sing pieces which are well known, as the temptation is always to sing the tune you know, not the one written on the sheet music, but so far so good!



The beautiful harmonies and powerful message of compassion and unity conveyed in a piece called "Requiem", composed by Eliza Gilkyson, was dedicated to the victims of the Asian tsunami of 2004. It promises to be a firm favourite, balancing the grief of the lyrics with the beauty of the music.

The acoustics in our summer concert venue – Balerno High



SMALL ADS

MAY 2023

WINDOW CLEANING
Working in Currie & Balerno for 27 years. Also gutters & conservatory roofs. Call Colin on 07973 924776

PILATES, PHYSIO-LED PILATES, YOGA, STRENGTH & FITNESS CLASSES – at Prime Sports Physio & Pilates Studio & Gym. 22 Classes per week. www.primesportsphysio.co.uk 0131 449 6128.

ALL RUBBISH CLEARANCES & SMALL REMOVALS Houses, lofts, garages, gardens. OAP discount. FREE UPLIFT for all scrap metal. Call Nicholas 449 4597.

CDS CROZIER DECORATING SERVICES for all your painting & decorating needs. Free estimates, OAP discount. Tel: 07754 978453, email: stewartcrozier1990@gmail.com

LOUISE BUCKNER Ladies and Gents Mobile Hairdresser. Competitive prices. Call 0131 451 5499 or text 0775 961 9438

RUBBISH REMOVALS from single items to full house clearances. Fully insured & SEPA registered. Call 0131 499 9275

DJL DECORATIVE All aspects of decorating/ painting works 07787597382



porteousfunerals.com

At the heart of our community, caring for your family

Our independently-owned company has been supporting bereaved families across Currie, Balerno, Juniper Green, Colinton and surrounding areas for nearly two decades.

When you come to Porteous Family Funeral Directors, you can be sure of a friendly, attentive service from a team who are available seven days a week.

In our funeral home in Juniper Green, we are proud to offer fully accessible premises, hybrid electric transport options and the use of a service room with seating for 50 people.

Whatever your funeral needs, let Porteous Family Funeral Directors care for you - and make a difficult time easier.

Contact your local funeral home to understand how we can help:

Juniper Green Head Office
589 Lanark Road, EH14 5DA
0131 453 4535

Colinton*
7 Bridge Road, EH13 0LH
0131 441 6500

Funeral services we provide:

- Bespoke
- Traditional
- Simple
- Unattended direct

Prices start from £1,495 exc. cremation fees



Porteous Family Funeral Directors is a Competition and Markets Authority-compliant business. We are regularly inspected against the National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors' Code of Practice. *By appointment only

£25 PRIZE CROSSWORD

THEMED CROSSWORD 28 BY PUZZLECHOICE.COM

To enter, please photograph the completed puzzle and email to: editor@candbnews.com on or before noon, Friday 19 May 2023.

The winner is picked at random from all correct entries received.

Good luck!

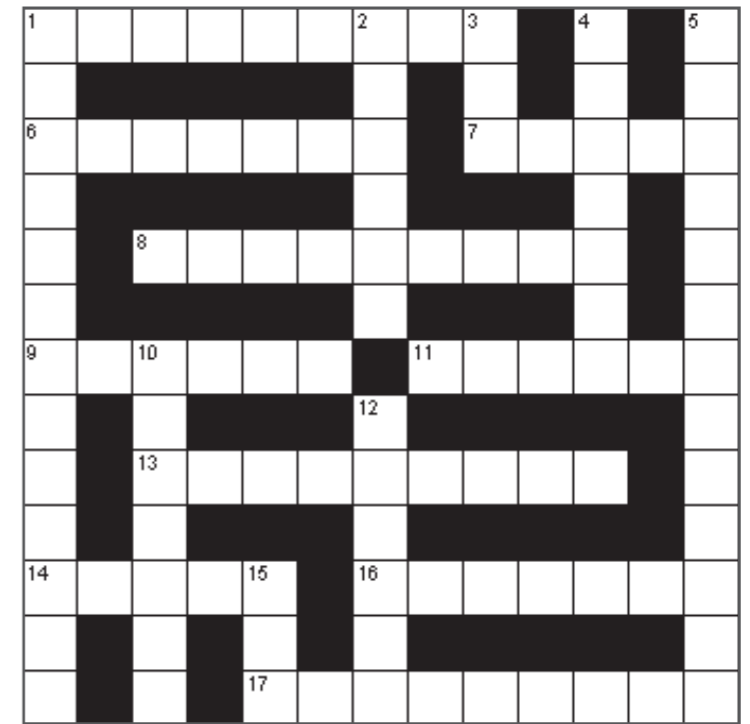
ACROSS

- Patrick Gates in the 2004 film, *National Treasure*. (3,6)
- Silent movie actor, Charlie _____. (7)
- Psycho* character, Norman _____. (5)
- Charles Bronson is Paul Kersey in this 1974 film. (5,4)
- Don Ameche is Art Selwyn in this 1985 sci-fi film. (6)
- Michael Caine is Milo Tindle in this 1972 feature film. (6)
- ____ Crawford was J Edgar Hoover in the 1977 film, *The Private Files of J Edgar Hoover*. (9)
- Cameron Diaz is the voice of Princess Fiona in this 2001 animated film. (5)
- Robert ____ is Lieutenant Elgart in the 1991 film, *Cape Fear*. (7)

- Jason Bourne in the 2007 film, *The Bourne Ultimatum*. (4,5)

DOWN

- Costello in the 2006 film, *The Departed*. (4,9)
- 1982 film starring Sir Ben Kingsley, directed by Richard Attenborough. (6)
- ____ Hunter is Rod in the 1988 film, *Grotesque*. (3)
- Walter ____ is Max Goldman in the 1993 film, *Grumpy Old Men*. (7)
- Charles Frohman in the 2004 film, *Finding Neverland*. (6,7)
- Liza Minnelli is Sally Bowles in this 1972 musical. (7)
- Frog Muppet. (6)
- Errol Flynn is Mahub Ali, the Red Beard, in this 1950 film. (3)



NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE PHONE

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER!

Our congratulations go to Scott Girvan of Balerno, randomly selected to receive our £25 prize.

SOLUTION: APRIL 2023



EASY					
	8	9	1	4	6
	6	7	2		
	2	3		9	
					8
6					3
3	9	8		6	
	7		3	1	
8			7		9

MEDIUM					
8	5	1			2
		2		1	
		1		9	4
7	9				5
					3
				4	8
5	7		8	6	
	9				
3	8	4		6	7

HARD					
			9	5	1
				3	5
9			7		4
1		5			9
					3
			2	7	8
2					8
3	1			9	
			4		
					3



Easter Camps at JGTC

PAUL MURPHY
JUNIPER GREEN TENNIS CLUB

Great fun was had by our junior players at the Easter Camps held at Juniper Green Tennis Club. The children were split into two age groups (4-to-8-years and 9-to-11+) over sessions between Monday 4 April to Friday 14 April. The camps brought children to the courts to enjoy themselves and make new friends as they learned a selection of new skills and strokes to help with their game.

The Spring/Summer Coaching programme at Juniper Green Tennis Club starts on Friday 21 April with details and booking information to be found here

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/JuniperGreenTennisClub/Coaching>.

This includes free coaching for adult members of all ages and abilities every Friday from 10am to noon.

Membership packages for the season are available at £25 for Juniors, £45 for Adults and £65 for Families via the following link: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/JuniperGreenTennisClub/Membership>

Keep an eye on Juniper Green Tennis Club's Facebook page for future updates, including our forthcoming Open Day with free kids and adults fun based tennis coaching clinics: www.facebook.com/junipergreentennis



KENNEDY MILLER
HEAD OF MINI RUGBY, CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

As the 2022-23 season draws to a close, our mini rugby section at Currie Chieftains has so much to be proud of. Each year, groups from Micros to P7 have worked very hard across the whole season and I'd like to thank all the children, coaches, volunteers, parents and carers for their efforts and support.

We have hosted several home fixtures and visited many clubs around the country for away games and festivals and we are very pleased with all the

children's desire to do their best and represent the club with pride.

In the Autumn, we were grateful to former Currie Chieftains youth and senior player Luke Crosbie (now a Scottish and Edinburgh Rugby star) who joined us with some other pro players to help with our Thursday night training at Mallyen—a special experience for all.

In December, P4-P6 squads had the opportunity to be flag bearers during the Edinburgh Rugby vs Castres Champions Cup game, and play a match during half time at the DAM



Currie Chieftains RFC!

Health stadium. Our traditional Christmas parties also made a welcomed return with Santa and his elves entertaining the children across the minis!

We even had the chance for three lucky Chieftains minis to be mascots at the Scotland vs Ireland men's Six Nations International at Murrayfield on 11 March.

The club achieved incredible engagement with the local primary schools for Scottish Rugby Schools Week 2023, offering pupils an opportunity to give rugby a try. This culminated with the return of the "Currie Chieftains Community Cup", which saw the club welcome over 300 pupils from the local area to enjoy a festival of rugby at Mallyen Park.

Our P7s organised another memorable Mini rugby festival with all sorts of shenanigans and fun going on at the club. Great mini rugby on show; Scottish Rugby trialling and recording new game variations; touring teams at P6/P7; Prime and Beer in the Tombola; and Scottish Rugby Internationals WP Nel and Hamish Watson joining us as our special guests—presenting medals, signing autographs, posing for photos and playing Sharks & Jellies with the P1s!

The Easter rugby camp returned over the school holidays, led by our incoming Club Development Officer James McCaig. With plans to host summer rugby camps and other rugby taster initiatives, we look forward to having James support our minis section in the years to come.

This is also a great opportunity to wish Fergus Scott, our long serving club stalwart and former 1st XV Captain and Club DO, the very best as he embarks on a new career. Fergus has worked extremely hard for the club, and we thank him for his dedication and service.

P6 are also preparing for their tour to North West England at the end of April and we wish

them well for that!

Currie Chieftains has always been known as a strong and very welcoming community club. A club's heart is its community and a community's heart are its schools. When they can combine, we can create special events and atmospheres like we had for Scottish Rugby Schools Week.

We are very lucky and proud to be associated with serving Currie, Balerno and the surrounding South West areas of Edinburgh. With a Youth section covering all ages of micros (nursery) and youths (primary and high school), the club would like all local children to have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of rugby and grow our strength as one of the main and successful community sports.

Contact minis@curriechieftains.org to register your child's interest to join our year group trainings throughout the season: August-May: Micros to P3 on Sundays at 11am; P4-P7, Thursdays from 5.30pm and Sundays from 10.30am.



PHIL THOMAS
CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

Above: W P Nel presents medals during the recent Mini-Tournament at Mallyen Park.

The Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), the sport's governing body, and the Premiership rugby clubs constantly seek innovative measures to help address the concerns and aspirations of rugby players and supporters. Two recent examples are worthy of mention.

Firstly, there has been growing concern about head injuries in professional rugby and club rugby, and several overseas trials to reduce the risk of head-on-head collisions have been conducted. Longer-term World Rugby is likely to propose a law change across all levels of rugby. However, the SRU has now taken commendable action by introducing a new tackle-height law at Premiership level and below for the 2023-24 season. Moreover, they have arranged a series of 11 Road Shows throughout the country in May and June 2023 to provide briefing and training on the way the new law and its incorporation into coaching and training programmes.

Secondly, there has been a growing concern amongst Premiership clubs over the lack of representative rugby opportunities for players in the top tiers of club rugby; and overwhelming support for the reintroduction of a regional competition. This was effected in the current season through a redesign of the Premiership

schedule into three sections: (a) an initial Premiership league block; (b) a following Scottish Cup knock-out competition; and (c) a new Inter-district Championship, which will be played in May 2023.

The Inter-district competition will consist of a South District v Edinburgh District match on Tuesday 9 May (KO 7.00 pm) at Galashiels, a Caledonia Reds v Glasgow & West District match on Saturday 13 May (KO 3.00 pm) at Inverness, and then the finals which will be played at GHA, Braidholm on Sunday 21 May (details TBC). The Premiership clubs, considered this to be an excellent innovation and one which might be developed by additional revisions of the season design for 2023-24.

Meanwhile, back at Mallyen things have been busy as usual. March and April saw Ruby Tours completed by the P6, U13, U15 and Colts teams, plus their adult management and coaching teams. Good personal experiences, happy times and some rugby successes have been reported. The Mini-Tournament was once more a resounding success (see inset of W P Nel presenting medals). The 7s Season had its first success last week with a retention of the Edinburgh Northern Championship. The Easter Rugby Camps were a sell-out. So, book early for the Summer to avoid disappointment!

www.facebook.com/candbnews

BUILDING YOUR DREAM FUTURE

BESPOKE GARDEN BUILDINGS AND HARD LANDSCAPING SERVICES



BRAEHILL
BUILDING & LANDSCAPING

0131 440 2836

info@braehill.co.uk www.braehill.co.uk



FREE!

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR NEWS • EST 1976 • 486 • MAY 2023



CURRIE BEER & CURRY FESTIVAL IS BACK, p10



REMEMBERING DOUGIE MITCHELL, Q&A p12

C&BSPORT

CURRIE • BALERNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON



Big Fun at Mini Rugby

Currie Chieftains Welcome Local School Children, p39

Photos: Currie Chieftains, Juniper Green Tennis Club

INSIDE: NEWS p2 LOCAL HISTORY p14 FEATURES p16 VIEWS p23 WHAT'S ON p33