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BALERNO TENNIS OPEN DAY SUCCESS, p46



VOLUNTEERING WITH BIG NOISE, Q&A p24

C&B NEWS

CURRIE • BALERNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON



May Day

Emergency Services help ensure Currie Primary School Fair is a Great Success, p29

Summer's Coming to Malleny Garden, p20



Nepal Trek, for WorldVision, p21



Harmeny Fundraising, p5

Photos: Andrew Danc; Harmeny Education Trust; Reverend Nick McElally; Sistema Scotland; Balerno, L.T.C.

Launched in 1976, *C&B News* is a volunteer-led, independent, non-profit-making community magazine written by and for the 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.

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Editor: Paul Fisher Cockburn
 editor@candbnews.com

Advertising Manager: Moira Peterson
 advertising@candbnews.com

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

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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
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C&B NEWS DEADLINES FOR JULY/AUG 2023

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Left: A new Domino's takeaway has opened on the site of the former Abbot's Choice public house at Pentland View Court, Currie. The company is still recruiting for multiple roles including shift managers, pizza makers and delivery drivers in the Currie, Balerno and Juniper Green areas. Photos: Caroline Brown, Graham Dane.



The spirit of the Eurovision Song Contest came to Spylaw Park on Saturday 13 May with an afternoon event organised by Colinton Village Enterprise: there was home baking, a coffee and drinks bar, a stall for the Ukrainian humanitarian charity Sunflower Scotland, plus a run through of all the Eurovision entries, with occasional dancing. Oh, and loads of sunshine too! Photos: (above left, left and below) Graham Dane; (above) Paul Fisher Cockburn.



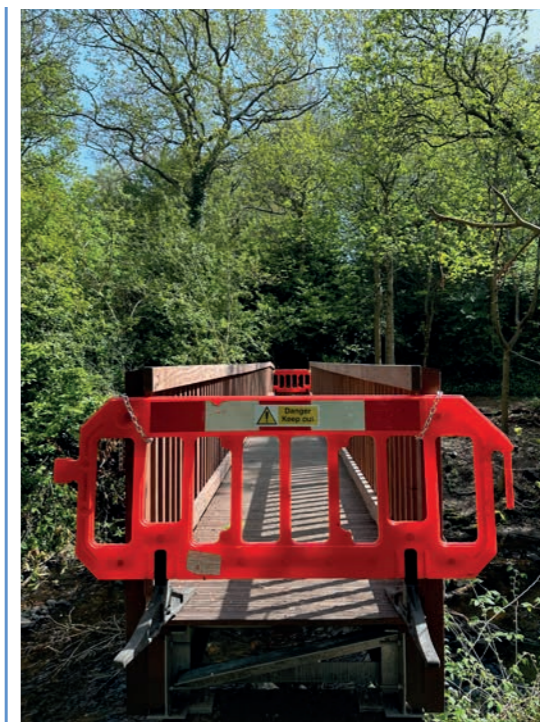
Above: On the morning of the coronation, Saturday 6 May, the Currie Riding of the Marches (Currie ROM) committee took over running the weekly café at Currie Community Centre to help raise funds. Outside there was hair but inside there was home baking, bunting and an opportunity to watch the ceremony in company. The event (no, not the coronation!) was so successful that it will be repeated on 17 June, though this time it will have a Currie ROM theme—along with a lot of home baking! Photos: Graham Dane.

BRIEFLY...



BUS CHANGES

Lothian Buses introduced some significant changes to its network from Sunday 28 May "to improve reliability and connectivity across Edinburgh and the Lothians". Most of the changes affecting the upper Water of Leith valley are minor: services 16, 44, X44 and 400 now operate under slightly revised timetables; the other terminus for Bonaly-serving route 10 is now Ocean Terminal rather than Western Harbour. Although Night Service N16 is now half-hourly between Silverknowes and the city centre, it remains hourly between the city centre and Torphin. Weekday route 45 now operates only between Heriot-Watt University and King's Road, Portobello, although some peak time journeys continue on to Eastfield.



Above: The Bavelaw Green Bridge – so-named because it crosses the Bavelaw Burn, and replaces the previous traditionally-named "Green Bridge" – is currently closed until work is completed on the access ramps on both sides. It is now unlikely that temporary steps will appear. Photo: Paul Fisher Cockburn



Residents of Bonaly Rise celebrated the coronation of Charles III on the altogether sunnier Bank Holiday Monday. Photos: Gerrie Howard

BUS PRIORITIES

The A70 between Balerno and the city centre is one of eight key city routes which could benefit from new measures to cut bus journey times by as much as a quarter by 2029. The City of Edinburgh Council plans to consult on proposals including bus priority lanes, junction improvements and the use of new technology to control traffic lights. Evidence from changes introduced during the Covid-19 lockdowns suggests that reducing bus journey times and improving reliability encouraged bus usage.



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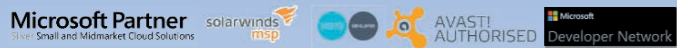
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Gordon Macdonald MSP

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

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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
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Final Countdown for Harmony Appeal—£250k to go!

ALISON ACOSTA
 FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATIONS
 MANAGER, HARMENY EDUCATION TRUST

The construction of Harmeny's new secondary learning facilities is now well underway, with the build of the new Learning Hub due to be completed in August. An incredible £2.89m has been raised against our £3.1m target so far, leaving "just" £255k to raise by the end of July.

It's all hands on deck at Harmeny to help us achieve that goal. Can you help us raise £100K in June to support our Learning for Life Appeal and ensure that young people get the spaces, support and opportunities they need to thrive?

Our CEO, Neil Squires – along with his dog Orla (pictured) – are walking 26 miles (42 km) along the Water of Leith on Saturday 24 June (starting in Leith, walking upstream to Harmeny and then heading back to Leith). You can show your support by joining him for the full distance or part of the way. Find out more at www.harmony.org.uk/100k

Also this month, a team from financial services company RBC Brewin Dolphin are taking on the ToughMudder 10k, while a team from engineering company TClarke at Eurocentral are trekking Ben Lomond. Edinburgh



based artist, Claudia Petretti, is also holding an art exhibition from 1-3 June (details still to be confirmed—check our website for details) with 50% of all sales donated to our Learning for Life Appeal.

There are many ways that you can get involved in our #JoinUsInJune campaign—whether it is organising your own sponsored challenge or holding a BBQ or garden party with friends and family. You can also help close the gap by sponsoring a brick

through our gift a brick scheme. Busy in June? No problem—you can also pledge to complete a fundraising activity by the end of September.

Our builders Thomas Johnstone Ltd will be handing back the Learning Hub in August and then we'll be kitting out the new spaces ready for opening in October, so every pound will help us get the building ready for learning.

To find out more, visit: www.harmony.org.uk/100k

Drop-in Session Announced for Forthcoming Roadworks

KATIE LOBBAN
 COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, SGN

UK Gas distribution company SGN, with the agreement of The City of Edinburgh Council, will begin upgrades to the gas network in the Lanark Road West area from 1 July.

The essential work, which will last approximately six months, will provide a permanent solution to the recent emergency work

carried out in this section of the road, to prevent future disruption to motorists and the local community.

To provide more information about our work and to answer any questions you have, we're holding a drop-in session at Gibson Craig Hall, 156 Lanark Road West, on Tuesday 13 June. Please come in to speak with us any time between 4.30pm-7.30pm.

Phase one of our project in Lanark Road West will begin at

its junction with Station Loan and continue to its junction with Stewart Road. Stewart Road will be closed at its junction with Lanark Road West.

The first section of phase two will be carried out between Dolphin Avenue and Curriehill Road.

Temporary traffic lights will be in place for the duration of our work to ensure continued traffic flow.



BRIEFLY...

p3>>> improve "The Grassie", while retaining the openness and flexibility of the space? Locals are keen to form a "Friends of The Grassie" group and are looking for local people to help. To know more, email: secretary@junipergreencc.org.uk or phone/text 07923 831584, ideally by 30 June.

BIKE STORAGE

Two new cycle racks have been installed on the corner of Baberton Avenue and Lanark Road, Juniper Green. Meantime, CEC has announced the doubling of secure on-street bike hangars installed across Edinburgh during the next few years. Alas, none of the proposed locations announced by CEC are in the Pentland Hills or Colinton/Fairmilehead wards, as they are prioritising volume of requests and areas with higher levels of deprivation.

SCARECROWS

Balerno Village Trust has announced that the annual Scarecrow Competition, which usually takes place over the weekend following Gala Day, has been rescheduled to the first weekend in September. Straw will be available to buy at the August Farmers Market, and until the end of the month.

PEAT BOG OPEN DAY

On Sunday 23 July, noon to 5pm, there's an opportunity to explore Red Moss Peat Bog, Balerno Wildlife Reserve, on International Bog Day. On offer are tours with experts and pond dipping for children of all ages. Meet at the boardwalk. No booking or wellies required! More details next issue.

HONOUR

The Rev Dr George Whyte, former minister of Colinton Parish Church (1992-2008) and former Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has been honoured by the Catholic Church and invested as a **>p7**



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Ravelrig RDA Welcomes Barney!

BARBARA JOHNSTONE MBE
ORGANISER, RAVELRIG RDA

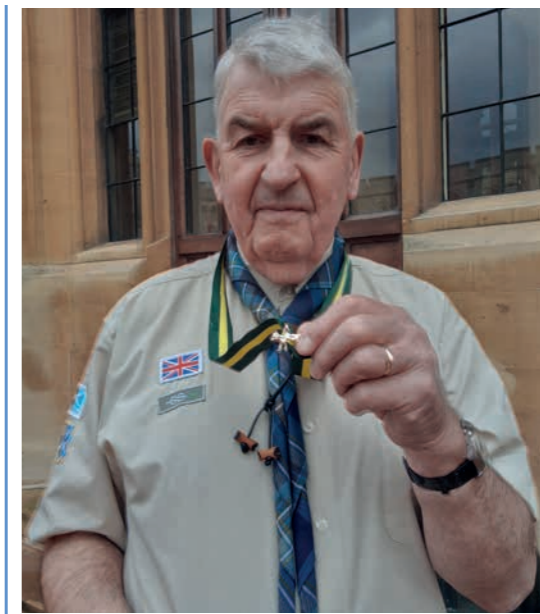
We are honoured to call ourselves the proud owners of a Clydesdale horse called Collesie Celtic Boy, affectionately answering to the name of Barney!

He is a big sturdy horse, with a very placid nature—just a big softie. Life at Ravelrig is far removed from the life he had in Angus where he lived on a farm and was used for hacking over the countryside.

Barney became surplus to requirements and his owner, wishing him to have a meaningful life in a forever home, heard that we were looking for a horse and offered him to us.

He has yet to learn the discipline of standing quietly at the mounting ramp while his rider is assisted into the saddle. He will be responsible for our bigger riders, ones who have a good seat and balance and do not require side walkers, because Barney is a big horse.

He is being given time to accept his new surroundings, get to know the rest of the herd and undertake short but frequent training sessions in readiness for his future RDA life.



Former Leader Receives
Top Scout Award

RONNIE MACDONALD
SCOUTS

A Juniper Green man has been presented with the top award in Scouting—the Silver Wolf. Hamish Leal, who was Scout Leader at the 31st Pentland group for many years, was given the award by Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, “for service of a most exceptional nature” and recently attended a ceremony at Windsor Castle to mark the occasion.

Hamish has a life-long connection with Scouting which began as a Wolf Cub in Zimbabwe (then Southern Rhodesia) in the 1950s and then as a Scout in Edinburgh. He first became a leader in Sydney, Australia, at the age of 17, when he went there to work; on his return to Scotland in 1963, he joined the 51st Pentland in Balerno as an assistant Scoutmaster and went on to become Scoutmaster.

After a spell working in Aberdeen, Hamish took over one of the two Scout troops run by the 31st at their hall in Lanark Road West and held the role for several years before becoming Venture Scout Leader.

Hamish went on to become District Commissioner, Group Scout Leader, Scottish Headquarters International Adviser and then back to the 31st as Group Chairman. Highlights of his years in Scouting have included a trip to Russia, camps in Sweden and Denmark and organising participation in a Swedish national camp for 350 Scottish Scouts.

He ran two camps in the United States, which both included white water rafting through the Grand Canyon on the Colorado River. He also took six 31st Venture Scouts to Windsor Castle some 30 years ago when they gained their Queen's Scout awards

He now spends several days a week carrying out maintenance and other work at Edinburgh's Bonaly Scout Centre.

Hamish was presented with his award at Bonaly by South East Scotland Regional Commissioner Martin Elliott and another Silver Wolf holder, Ronnie MacDonald.

BRIEFLY...

p5>>> Papal Knight of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great.

PLANNING APPEALS

In early May, The City of Edinburgh councillors voted unanimously to give local communities “a level playing field” in appealing planning decisions. This follows an official complaint made by several campaigning groups (Environmental Rights Centre Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Friends of the Earth Scotland) to the UN's Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention about the Scottish Government failing to empower communities within a planning system currently “stacked in favour of the development industry”.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Juniper Green: removal of two large trees at 634 Lanark Road, overhanging neighbouring property. (23/01920/TCO)

Colinton: Replacement of existing roof to allow attic conversion; new rear and front dormers for bedrooms and bathroom, at 73 Redford Loan. (23/01860/FUL) Comments due by 5 June.

Balerno: Erection of garage and ancillary flat/family space on site of existing garage outbuilding, 52 Cassidy Wynd. (23/01929/FUL) Comments due by 6 June.

Colinton: Existing dormer facing Barnshot Road to be upgraded with new double glazed (slimline) timber window to match existing, and insulating of flat roof to dormer, at 6 Barnshot Road. (23/01973/LBC) Comments due by 9 June.

Juniper Green: Removal of approx 75 invasive poplar trees of various sizes to allow other species to thrive, 14 Lorimer View. (23/019978/TCO)

Currie: Remove fir tree (23/02212/TCO) plus yew and silver birch (23/02214/TCO), all listed category C, >p9

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Congregations 'Walking Together'

Discussions between the Church of Scotland congregations in Colinton and Juniper Green regarding their future union remain “constructive and friendly”, according to the former's Session Clerk, Ian Morrison.

A team of 12 representatives – including both current ministers and five elders from each parish – have gone as far as establishing the “Walking Together” slogan and logo (above) which will be used on all documentation relating to the forthcoming amalgamation.

Significantly, this particular union will include the choice of a new minister, given that Juniper Green's Rev James Dewar is retiring in September after 23 years' service and Colinton's Rev Rolf Billes has announced his departure during the summer.



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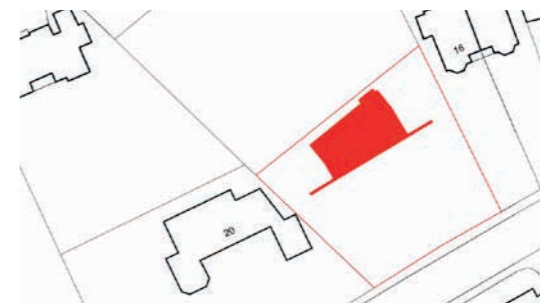
GRAHAM DANE
C&B NEWS

Local good cause Community for Food recently marked its third year in operation. "We were founded in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, providing emergency support to families in our community," they explain. "We never imagined that, three years on, our services would still be needed. With the cost of living crisis affecting families at our six local schools we are still willing and able to provide support to those that need a helping hand." Community for Food is currently supporting approximately 43 families. All the families receiving assistance are referred by schools

the service started out operating from school premises with the assistance of staff at Currie PS and Currie CHS, moving to The Corner Café when schools opened up again, finally finding a home at Juniper Green Village Hall, its current base. Financial support comes from members of the public and organisations including Rotary, the Round Table, Balerno Community Chest, the Robertson Trust, Nether Currie PS Fun Run, Arnold Clark and the C&B News. Morrison's and Scotmid donate food. With the fuel crisis and the steep rise in the cost of living, Community for Food intend to continue for as long as they are needed.

Over 80 volunteers are involved in collecting, checking, sorting and delivering the food; in fundraising or donating cash or food; in the organisation and liaison with schools, donors and families and in buying goods. An information evening will be held after the summer holiday for anyone who wants to know more about this initiative in our caring community. To thank these volunteers and help them get to know each other, the National Lottery funded a Thanks Session on Friday 21 April—here's some of those who could come along!

Photo: CFF.



Colinton House Application Withdrawn

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
EDITOR, C&B NEWS

The latest planning application for a new "dwelling house and associated landscaping" in Colinton has been withdrawn following local opposition. Application 23/00745/FUL was for a new house on land described as "50 metres south of 45 Spylaw Bank Road". This actually placed the proposed new-build between 16 and 20 Pentland Avenue. The continued use in the new application "of a historic and misleading application location address" – originally applied when the plot was attached to, and formed the front garden of, 45

Spylaw Bank Road – was described as "erroneous" by a number of the 32 objections submitted online. Although planning permission has already been granted, in principle, for a new house on the site, the latest proposal – since withdrawn, possibly in connection with the recent sale of the 0.3 acre plot – made "significant design changes away from the character and style of local architecture", according to one objector, with its "brutalist modernism [...] more at home in a setting outwith a conservation area". The City of Edinburgh Council's planning department has, however, given permission for a new vehicular/pedestrian entrance in the existing, listed wall on Pentland Avenue.

BRIEFLY...
p7>>>
105 Lanark Road West. (See Archie's Planning, page 26.)

ROADWORKS & ROAD CLOSURES

Colinton: Colinton Mains Road, south of Colinton Mains Drive. Carriageway and footway resurfacing; road closed to through traffic until September 2023.

Firrhill: Greenlaw Hedge, Firrhill Drive/Park/Neuk, Spruce Way, Oxgangs Crescent. Rolling programme of lane, footway and parking restrictions (as signed) for Cityfibre cable and ducting installation, until late July.

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, until end of July.

Dreghorn: Redford Road at Dreghorn Link – carriageway and footway improvements, landscaping and new pedestrian crossing, requiring off-peak 2 or 3-way temporary traffic lights, mixture of day and night working from 5 June for estimated seven weeks.

Dreghorn: Dreghorn Link at Swanston Muir/Services. Cable installation across services access road, 4-way temporary traffic lights 12-23 June.

Oxgangs: Oxgangs Avenue, between Oxgangs Green/Oxgangs Crescent; road closed 7pm to 6am for Scottish Water ironwork repairs, 16-17 June.

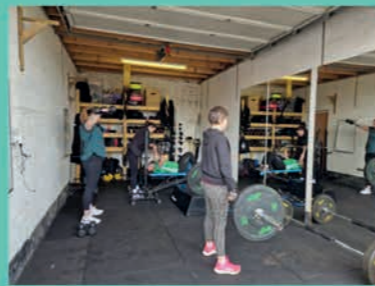
Currie: Lanark Road West at George IV Park; temporary traffic lights 8am-6pm for telecoms equipment maintenance. 26-29 June.

Colinton: Bonaly Road, between Woodhall Road and Bonaly Avenue. SGN gas main renewal. Road closed in sections with adjoining roads (Grant Avenue, West Carnethy Avenue, Munro Drive, Bonaly Avenue) closed as required. Temporary traffic lights on Woodhall Road for first >p11

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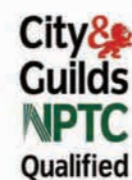
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Scottish SPCA Prepares Summer Adventure Clubs

SUSAN WEAVER
 COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, SCOTTISH SPCA

Grab a space now, at the Edinburgh and Lothians Rescue and Rehoming centre in Balerno, for children aged between seven and 12 to have the opportunity to take part in lots of fun and educational activities.

Scottish SPCA's Summer Adventure Clubs encourage young people to become Animal WISE, developing skills in connecting with nature (such as animal ID, natural crafts, den building/survival), learning about animal welfare in relation to a variety of species, and promoting responsible citizenship.

The club runs from Monday 10 July to Friday 14 July 2023 and Monday 7 August to 18 August 2023. Drop off is at 9.30am and pick up is at 4pm.



Taking part costs £30 per day. If you decide to book the whole week, there will be a 10% discount (meaning you will pay £27 per day). For siblings, there is a 5% discount off the total price for any additional family members.

The activities will be outdoors so be prepared for a variety of weather.

Warm clothes, suitable footwear, waterproofs, hats and gloves are essential. A change of clothes/shoes is advisable.

For further information or details on how to book please visit the Scottish SPCA website - <https://www.scottishspca.org/adventure-clubs>

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RICHARD LAMBERT
 SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Residents of Edinburgh's south west villages are invited to join a drop-in session as part of a major consultation to help shape the way people move around, to and from Edinburgh.

Representatives of the City of Edinburgh Council will be at Currie Library on Monday 12 June, between 3pm and 7pm, to discuss an integrated suite of draft action plans and an emerging "Future Streets Framework" which seeks to deliver the objectives of the Council's approved City Mobility Plan.

The draft action plans cover active travel, public transport, parking, road safety and air quality. The emerging Future Streets Framework (AKA "Circulation Plan") outlines how we can make changes to the allocation of limited street space to improve our streets, prioritise the most sustainable transport, and provide a more welcoming environment for everyone.

Together these plans aim create cleaner, greener, safer, more accessible and affordable travel choices, while cutting congestion, reinforcing the Capital's Net Zero 2030 goals and boosting the economy.

Feedback is also being sought via an online survey, focus groups, key stakeholder discussions and a toolkit to support community involvement. The consultation will run until 9 July, with the outcome reported to the Transport and Environment Committee, culminating in the finalisation of each plan.

discuss initial proposals for a new active travel link between Curriehill Station and the Heriot-Watt Edinburgh Campus at Riccarton. A dedicated survey for this project will be available at the team's stand.

EDUCATION CORRIDOR

You will also have an opportunity, on Monday 12 June, to discuss early ideas for making it easier to access the new Currie Community High School by foot, wheeling and cycling.

A team from Heriot-Watt University will be present to

TRANSFORMING TRAVEL

"We're looking at how we can create safer, sustainable and affordable transport options," said Councillor Scott Arthur, Transport and Environment Convener. "This is also about working to support economic growth and building people-friendly spaces across the city, while helping to end poverty and isolation. We've put people, particularly those with a disability, at the heart of these plans."

"We need to balance different travel needs with the limited street space we have, and that's going to involve some real dilemmas. I'm particularly pleased, however, that making public transport more accessible and reliable is at the heart of these plans."

CEC City Mobility action plans consultation: Currie Library, Monday 12 June, 3pm-7pm.

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/cmp/>



BRIEFLY...

p9>>> phase. 3 July (TBC) to late August.

Balerno to Juniper Green: Lanark Road/Lanark Road West, SGN gas main renewal. Rolling programme with lane closures and temporary traffic lights: Stewart Road, Blinkbonny Road, Muir Wood Road and Juniper Avenue closed as work progresses. 26 June to January 2024.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Balerno: demolish existing TU and erect new passivhaus two-storey extension with associated landscaping (as amended), Dean Park Primary School, 31 Marchbank Gardens. (22/06325/FUL) Granted, 24 April.

Balerno: Repositioning of house plots at The Mill House, 2 Buteland Road. (23/00373/FUL) Granted, 9 May.

Balerno: Single storey rear extension, 25 Whitelea Road. (23/00696/FUL) Granted, 19 May.

Colinton: rear extension (as amended) at 388 Lanark Road. (23/01130/FUL) Granted, 5 May.

Currie: Removal of existing garage, single story extension to rear, side and front, 83 Currievale Park. (23/01172/FUL) Granted, 11 May.

Currie: Single storey extension to rear to form new kitchen/dining room, 34 Hermiston. (23/01320/FUL) Granted 16 May.

Currie: Internal alterations to existing layout incorporating proposed extension to rear, at 123 Forth View Crescent. (23/01326/CLP) Granted 10 May.

Currie: Alterations and extension to detached dwelling, 98 Lanark Road West. (23/01554/FUL) Granted 16 May.

Juniper Green: ash tree—dead wooding and cutting branches back to fence line. Rowan—fell to stump level as rotten from base, at Treeworks, Baberton Avenue. (23/01599/TCO) Not make a tree preservation order, 3 May.

LOCAL ORGANISATION UPDATES



Balerno SWI: A King's Visit

SHEILA MASON
PRESS SECRETARY, BALERNO SWI

Our final meeting of 2022/23 was opened by our President, Catriona Reid, who welcomed our invited visitors from Juniper Green and Corstorphine Institutes—the latter's membership including the Midlothian Federation President Margaret Mackay, who duly joined us.

Our evening was educational to the extent that Eric Melvin gave us a very informative account of King George IV's visit to Edinburgh in 1822, following his coronation the previous year. It was the first such royal visit to Scotland for 180 years; therefore



no-one knew what to expect or how long the visit might last.

The suggestion for the visit had been made by Sir Walter Scott who had been in the company of George while he was still Prince Regent. Therefore, when the time

came, it fell to the author of the ground-breaking historical novel Waverley to organise the whole event, from the King's arrival by ship in Leith, to the royal tour of the Highlands.

Every aspect was to be a very Scottish affair—everyone wore tartan, which started “the fashion” for the plaid. Despite George IV not exactly having the lean “figure” to wear a kilt – the statue of him on Edinburgh's George Street is extremely “flattering” – he did so, and this popularised tartan far beyond its previous use in Army uniforms.

Not only was this evening educational, but the presentation was given with much appreciated humour. The evening was concluded with the enjoyment of some social chat over tea, coffee and some marvellous home baking.



Another Good Year for Colinton Garden Club

PENNY MCKEE
CHAIR, COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

Colinton Garden Club (CGC) has been in existence now for 44 years. We have about 240 household members.

Between September and March we hold monthly meetings on the fourth Monday evening, in Dreghorn Loan Church Hall. Talks have recently included: landscaping (from the National Trust for Scotland), roses, and sustainable gardening. In addition,

we held a members' evening in which three members each presented a 15-minute talk.

Of course, there is also a Christmas party and, in October, a plant and bulb sale and coffee morning.

This year we also organised a Spring outing to Dawyck Botanical Gardens to see the snowdrops. We have compost and fertilizer bought centrally and delivered

to members homes. A quarterly newsletter is also distributed by email.

After the AGM in April (when we also feature a craft competition), our summer events are outdoors—an evening garden reception, a Saturday morning tour of members gardens (together with a plant sale, and coffees and teas), and then a full day coach outing. This year we will visit gardens in Fife.

Membership runs for a year from September and is only £8 per household. We would be delighted to welcome new members: for more information, visit www.colintongardens.org.uk or email membership@colintongardens.org.uk

supporting a dozen local young people and their families, who rely on the clubs' caring and nurturing environment, as well as invaluable peer support for parents and carers.

The weekly clubs help our children and young people establish and nurture relationships, through play and storytelling, enabling the development of key social skills which can be transferred into everyday life. Those who attend the clubs have established strong friendships, helping them to thrive and go on to make successful relationships in life, learning and careers.

The two clubs are run by the Speech Language Communication Company (SLCo), a charity

which operates across Scotland. As part of a wider campaign to raise awareness, the charity will have a presence at the Balerno Farmers Market on 10 June. We'd be grateful for any donations for tombola prizes.

Previously in March, many Currie and Balerno residents took part in a community-wide Yard Sale which raised not just much-needed funds for SLCo, but also awareness of the brilliant work it's doing. Too many residents had never heard of our small charity, even though we are operating so locally!

It was great to engage with the local community and we are hoping to do so again in the near future. Email: Giving@s-l-co.uk

Support for Children Continues

LAUREN QUINN
FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS COORDINATOR,
THE SPEECH LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION
COMPANY (SLCO)

Support for children and young people who have delayed or impaired speech and communication needs continues at Currie Bowling Club.

The Story Club supports children aged five to 11 years old, while the Brick Club hosts young people up to the age of 16. Both clubs currently run weekly,

LOCAL ORGANISATION UPDATES

A Fairtrade Siesta?

LESLEY HENDERSON
BALERNO FAIRTRADE VILLAGE GROUP

Some things can't take a break, locally or worldwide. People may be off on holiday, or moving longer-term to new schools, new places. To some, like Dean Park School's Sandra Donnan – a Fair Trade/Fairtrade (FT) champion who, with her colleagues, has helped countless children learn to care about others wherever they are – we send warmest thanks and wish her a very happy retirement. We're also really glad the school's continuing commitment remains in good hands. The FT support from schools right along our valley inspires us all.

Before then, we'll welcome back that Rigg Race favourite the FT Banana, pictured here in 2022, with thanks to Martin Lyall. Come and hoop a FT banana or chocolate bar at Balerno Fairtrade Village Group (BFTVG)'s Hoopla on Balerno Children's Gala Day, Saturday 3 June, with big thanks again for Gala Committee and Scotmid help. We also thank Balerno Village Gardeners for taking another chance on us from early June with a FT flower tub, despite our last floral FT logo



growing so erratically that by August you'd have needed a drone to make it out.

Listen too for news soon of Balerno's FT Village Renewal, being applied for from the Fairtrade Foundation right now, helping to encourage all of us local organisations, traders and customers to maintain our FT support.

Why does any of this matter, aside from contributing to local networks and community

many livelihoods and lives are in danger. Find out much more about this via Balerno Fairtrade Village Group's Facebook page.

Whenever we commit not just our domestic shopping but our workplace or organisation to as much FT use as possible, the same applies. Please, over the summer and all the year round, let's stick with it.

All the best for a fair and happy summer!

building? It all helps remind us that climate and trade justice are year-round, worldwide, life and death issues for everyone. Whenever we support local shops and cafes who stock FT produce, or we order FT goods online or via a local agent, we help maintain sustainable food and clothes production, especially in the global south, at a time when many crops are getting harder to raise and so

Pentland Flower Club: Summer Approaches

WENDY WILLIAMS
PENTLAND FLOWER CLUB

Summer is arriving and we come to the end of another year with the Pentland Flower Club.

At the beginning of May we had a very enjoyable evening with Shiona Mackie telling us all about the history and work of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. I'm sure we will all visit with a more informed interest from now on.

At our meeting on 2 June we will welcome Mima Telfer from Dumfries with a demonstration called “Flourishing Finds”. Before this, however, we will hold our AGM and I encourage all members to attend this very important meeting, starting at 6.30pm in Balerno Parish Church.

Our meetings will start again on 1 September. We hope all our members and friends have a lovely summer enjoying the flowers all around us.

Juniper Green SWI: Beetle Drive

ISOBEL JOHNSTONE
JUNIPER GREEN SWI

The last meeting before our summer break was a Beetle Drive. Members of Corstorphine and Balerno Institutes, as well as a few members of the local community, joined us. A great time was had by all, with screams of joy and despair heard throughout the games!

A winner and the person with the lowest score were presented with their prizes and then we all enjoyed refreshments and home baking.

We will meet up again on Monday 11 September, 7pm in the Juniper Green Village Hall, when we will be having a demonstration of bread-making.

Balerno—Still Glyphosate-Free

ANNIE MACDONALD
PESTICIDE FREE BALERNO

We were pleased that Balerno was featured in recent press coverage. We clearly illustrated how to eliminate the use of Glyphosate in communities.

Safe Alternatives continue to be discussed by The City of Edinburgh Council and we hope to be able to have more positive news on this front soon.

In the meantime, we ask Balerno residents to please continue manually removing the small strip in front of your own property if it's safe or possible to do so.

CEC plan to remove excess soil to prevent regrowth and to continue mechanical wire brushing to support the work of the PFB volunteer weeding.



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The 'Horti'— Getting Closer!

SHEILA MASON
PRESS SECRETARY, BALERNO SWI

How time flies! June here already, with midsummer upon us. We hope you have been able to plant up your flowers and vegetables to be ready for entry to the Show this August. We also hope the craft workers have been able to make some items for the Show.

Schedules should be available to purchase thus making you eligible to compete at the Show. Should you require one please drop a note to currieshow@gmail.com and we can send one on or advise where to pick one up. The Schedule is shown on the website www.currieshow.weebly.com

Of course no show would be complete without entries from the younger people in the community so, when you are needing things to keep you busy over the summer holidays, why don't you try to make things from the lists in the Schedule—be it writing, art or crafts. The Novice Cup is a competition for young people of 16 and under.

The committee look forward to welcoming everybody from 1.30pm to 4pm on 26 August at Balerno High School to admire the entries and say to themselves: “I could give this a go next year!”

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LOCAL ORGANISATION UPDATES

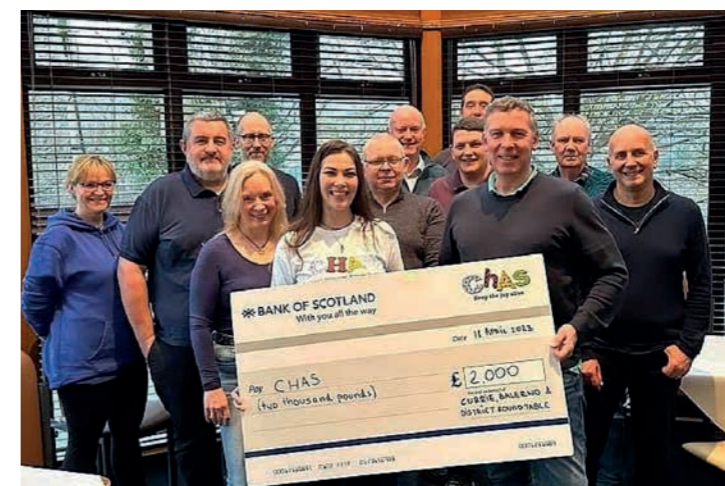
Cheque for CHAS and Round Table Update

ALASDAIR GORDON
CURRIE BALERNO & DISTRICT ROUND TABLE

Round Table recently presented a cheque for £2,000 to Zhenya Dove on behalf of Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS), which provides amazing family support for babies, children and young people with life-shortening conditions.

Our donation has funded 25 families to go to Capital Sci Fi Con, self-described as "Scotland's not-for-profit pop culture, comic and movie convention". The money was spent on tickets, support workers and special transport—and everyone had a great day out!

The overall event itself raised £34,512 for CHAS.



ready to open its doors (Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd June), with all the beers settled and tapped.

Preparations have kept members of the Round Table busy during the past month; however there has still been time for social events too. We took a self-guided tour of the Leith Tap Rooms—and Campervan, Moonwake, Newbarns, and Innis & Gunn were amongst the beers sampled. We also met up for our annual vinyl (records) night, and we've started a "curry club" with our first night out to Rustom Restaurant at Haymarket, which we highly recommend. Our Chairperson, Laurence Aitken, has also been busy rehearsing and performing in Chitty Chitty Bang

Bang at the Festival Theatre, which several of us went to see.

Karen Wilson and Laurence Aitken (centre and right in above photograph) visited Harmeny School to see the building of the new Learning Hub that we donated to earlier in the year.

We held our AGM in April, and the roles of chair, vice chair, treasurer, charities lead, social, comms and IT have been agreed for another year: 2022-23 has seen several new members joining up, and it's great to have new people and new ideas.

Our charity donations include support to the Currie and District Flower Show to help expand the range of schools involved—watch



out for the extra competition this year!

The next event on our calendar is "Over the Hill", where we will be attempting to walk over the Pentlands for a convivial evening at The Steading—with, for those still standing, the walk home afterwards!

We're always keen to welcome new members. Please do get in touch if you are interested in joining our friendly local group.

We are also looking for people to help dismantle the beer festival. If anyone could spare a few hours on the morning of Sunday 4 June, it would be much appreciated.

<https://cbdrt.com/contact/>

ROUND TABLE UPDATE

By the time this edition of C&B News hits the shelves, the Currie Beer and Currie Festival will be

Achievement Through Co-operation

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Currie Balerno Rotary is always ready to co-operate with other organisations to provide help where it is needed, and achieves so much more through that co-operation.

We are represented on the Advisory Board of the Turing Trust, which provides computers for schools in Africa, and on the Committee of the Pentlands Ukrainian Support Group, supporting Ukrainians in our community.

We support and work with the two local Food Banks – Community for Food and the Wester Hailes Food Bank – both financially and with practical help.

We have a close relationship



have the support of the wider Rotary at District level and internationally. We achieve so much more through partnership and co-operation.

To know more about Currie Balerno Rotary, visit: www.cbrotary.org or call Mike Rowe on (0131) 449 5701

with ReusingIT, the charity founded and run by Currie's own Ross Cockburn, which has refurbished thousands of discarded computers for use in educational establishments both here and internationally.

We also work with the Pentlands Eco Network in the planting of trees and enhancement of the local environment; and, most notably,

we have a partnership with Balerno Village Trust in running the hugely successful Community Chest—supporting schools, charities and many local good causes.

And, of course, we



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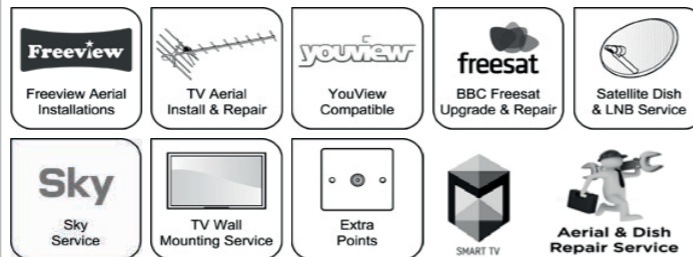
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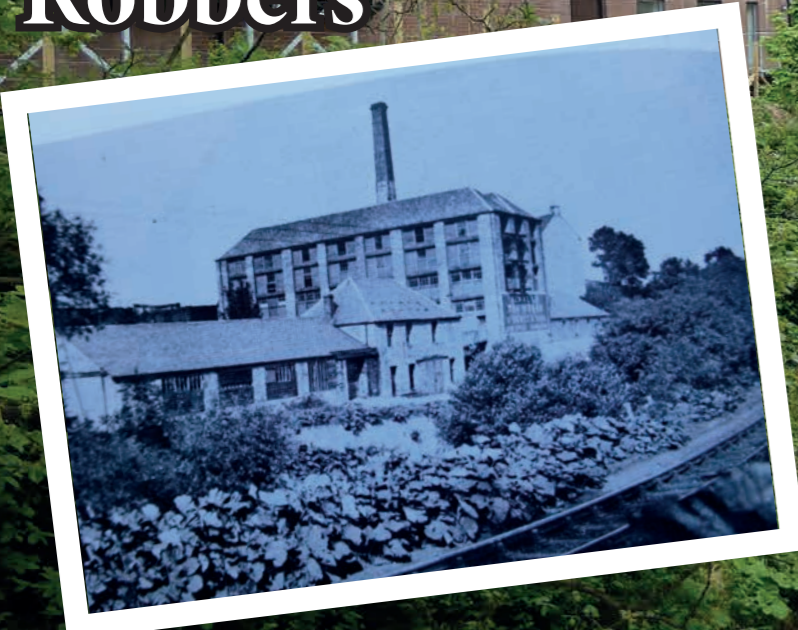
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Snapshots of the Past

Balerno Paper Mill and the Grave Robbers



“Before the large Rivermill housing development at Kinauld completely blots out our memory, I had researched and wrote a large article for the history society detailing what had been on this site beforehand. I have focused on a somewhat gruesome incident that might be of interest...”

DOUGLAS LOWE
CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

bodies had been taken from Lanark churchyard and that two “roadmen” who had been working on Lanark Road, west of Balerno, had become suspicious of an apparently light cartload of peats that passed them, it being hardly enough to warrant a cart. They had followed this to the Ravelrig tollhouse, which was also an alehouse, and was

situated a mile or so west of the Ravelrig House entrance. The roadmen noticed that there was a “putrid” smell coming from the cart. Inside the alehouse, while having some beer, they heard a disturbing conversation through the thin partition walls; there appeared to be five men involved. The roadmen hurried on

to Currie and alerted the inhabitants of their suspicions. Luckily they advised James Craig, the overseer at Balerno Paper Mill, who had with him at that time one William Elliott, an Excise Officer. Craig, Elliott (who was armed) plus a number of villagers stopped the cart and searched it by force—the resurrectionists apparently

putting up strong resistance. As our local poet James Thomson put it in his contemporary poem; “On Raising and Selling the Dead” (which he published as a pamphlet, costing 6d): “Near Currie town brave Elliot met them/ And ae fit farder wadna let them./Fast by the reins he seiz’d the horse,/Craig searched the cart an’ by force.”

Elliott, as an Officer of Excise, had authority to stop and search carts looking for contraband, although not usually dead bodies. They overpowered and arrested two of the men and, having been tied up, they were marched the six miles into Edinburgh by the villagers and handed over to the Sheriff. There were no country police stations at that time; these didn’t come into being until the 1840s. The three who escaped were taken into custody soon after “in a house in the suburbs”. All were eventually transferred by coach under restraint to Lanark in custody of Sheriff’s officers.

The recovered bodies were cleaned and redressed in winding sheets, put in coffins and lodged, under guard, in Currie Kirk. On authority from the Sheriff the corpses were returned to Lanark the next day by a party of Currie villagers, who were welcomed and entertained to a meal by Lanark officials.

Why was it called Balerno Paper Mill? Presumably because both it and the nearby Waulk Mill of Ballerno (Balerno) were anciently within the Barony of Balerno.

The last company to use the mill site before the housing development (see main photo) was J Hewit, Tannery and Leatherworks, which occupied the site from 1913 until 2010.



Waiting for the Bus...

Sometime in the early 1960s (?), an Edinburgh Corporation Transport bus on Service 45 to Juniper Green heads along Colinton Road towards Colinton Village. Photo: James A Cockburn.

Waiting for the Tram...

On 14 June 1923, *The Scotsman* newspaper reported that the manager of Edinburgh Corporation Tramways, Mr R Stuart Pilcher, did not think there was sufficient traffic to warrant extending the existing tramline from Slateford to Juniper Green.

However, in his report to the Tramway Committee of Edinburgh Town Council, he

did advise “that Parliamentary power should be sought for the construction of a tramway to Colinton village, at an estimated cost of £42,750”. (That’s around £2,085,169 in today’s money—seems underpriced!) The Tramway Committee agreed to recommend the extension from the existing Craiglockhart terminus. (The line would eventually open in 1926.)

THIS MONTH IN... 2018 C&B News 437, 40p

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

The 29th annual Currie Riding of the Marches nearly filled this issue’s front page but arguably the more important, ongoing story was found on page 2, concerning the City of Edinburgh Council’s postponement of the statutory consultation on their West and South West Schools Review—this being the initiative which, six months earlier, had controversially suggested closing Currie Community High School and splitting its pupils between Balerno High School and a new South West High School either in Curriemuirend or north of Baberton.

“The process of this ‘informal consultation’ has been grossly unpopular, damaging, and insulting to the communities well-served by their schools,” said Save Our Schools campaigner Caroline Brown. “Keeping schools within communities is the option they should be putting forward.”

Elsewhere, the issue reported on contemporary artist Ewan Shweitzer-Thompson – helped advise Currie Primary School’s P5 pupils who then successfully wrote, edited and published the first issue of their own newspaper, *The Currie Express*. While *C&B News* was happy to help with this particular project, there were likely also some sighs of relief among the committee that the children’s debut issue – which completely “sold out” after a parents’ night event – proved to be a one-off and thankfully not a new competitor!



themed demonstration.

Given the year, 2018, the Pentland Singer’s regular Summer concert in June joined with the global commemorations of the centenary of the first world war, with a programme including excerpts from Brahms’ German Requiem and Karl Jenkins’ “The Armed Man”—as well as an audience sing-along to some old wartime favourites.

A face from the more recent past – former *C&B News* editor Alex Shweitzer-Thompson – helped advise Currie Primary School’s P5 pupils who then successfully wrote, edited and published the first issue of their own newspaper, *The Currie Express*. While *C&B News* was happy to help with this particular project, there were likely also some sighs of relief among the committee that the children’s debut issue – which completely “sold out” after a parents’ night event – proved to be a one-off and thankfully not a new competitor!

If a picture is, as the old saying goes, “worth a thousand words”, then this issue managed to squeeze the equivalent of 14,000 words into three glorious pages sharing photographs from the sunshine-blessed 2018 Balerno Children’s Gala Crowning Ceremony and Parade—far more popular with locals, it turned out, than a distant wedding between some couple called Harry and Meghan.

Summer was also clear in the five pages of sports coverage this issue: Currie FC’s 2011s squad playing at the Royal High School; eight-year-old disabled girl Jessica Rhodes successfully running in the Edinburgh Marathon Festival’s 1.5k Junior race, raising more than £900; Currie High School’s Jamie Cook winning the British Under 14 Foil Championship at the British Youth Fencing Championships in Sheffield; and success for Pentland Gymnastics’ senior team.

That said, *C&B News* for once didn’t give its back page to the ongoing successes at Currie Chieftains; instead, the focus was on the then-14-year-old Louise Flockhart, of the Scottish Youth Climbing Team and GB Youth Climbing Squad, who had received some much-deserved financial support from Currie Balerno Rotary. Having already represented the UK at European-level events in Austria, Switzerland, Germany and Bulgaria, Louise’s ultimate goal was “to compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics and in Los Angeles in 2028”. We should really check on how she’s doing!



An impressive centre-spread sharing the sunny delights of the 2018 Balerno Children’s Gala Parade and Court Crowning

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Celebrating the Life of Christopher Cowe

ROSS COWE CHRISTOPHER'S DAD

On Saturday 22 April, family, friends and school peers came together at Balerno High School for a Celebration of Life event marking the occasion of what would have been Christopher Cowe's 18th Birthday, had he not died from an undiagnosed heart condition.

Although the day was bitter sweet with Christopher no longer here to celebrate the landmark, all his family and friends felt it

important to celebrate a young life well lived, full of joy and laughter and – most importantly – love and friendship.

The afternoon was a great success with more than £2,000 raised for charity Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) through a raffle, and all attendees enjoying an afternoon tea with additional refreshments provided by the School PTA. For our younger attendees – and, as it turned out, a lot of our older ones as well! – we were delighted to have a visit from Balerno's own Batman, whose Bat

mobile proved to be a real hit with young and old alike!

Christopher's Dad, Ross Cowe, said a few words in tribute to Christopher and also praised the love, friendship and bravery of his school friends and wider circle of peers, all of whom have shown tremendous courage during the

last few years—dealing with everything life and the pandemic have thrown at them. The whole school and local community are very proud of this group of young people as they leave school and continue forward with their respective journeys.

Other activities held on the day included "Beat the Goalie", "Sponge the Teacher" and a PS5 games room—capturing a number of Christopher's interests and pastimes. The memorial garden put together was also beautiful with lots of photos and reminders of very happy times, and it was lovely seeing the sixth form yearbook with its dedication to Christopher and the hoodie which was made for Christopher.

It means so much to the family that the school have kept Christopher front and centre in their thoughts. The family would like to express their gratitude to Shaun Ferguson, Neil McCallum and Ros Ranger for all their wonderful love and support since Christopher's sad passing.

As part of the day it was also announced that the first heart screening dates for young people, in memory of Christopher Cowe, will take place on the weekend of 22-23 June 2024, with a weekend in 2025 still to be confirmed.

Finally, a big thank you to all the businesses and organisations who donated prizes for the raffle and additional cakes and refreshments, and to our army of volunteers who helped on the day—thank you, as always, for your love and support.

Such a Varied Programme of Speakers

MIKE ROWE CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

What is Currie Balerno Rotary for? It is not a social club, though we do enjoy many social activities. It is not a dining club, though we do enjoy excellent meals when we meet on our Wednesday evenings. Nor is it a speakers' club—except, we have enjoyed a wonderful range of speakers and topics during the past year.

A year ago, Eric Melvin gave a fascinating talk about his holidays in Japan, visiting his two sons. Then we heard from Hugh Sellars about his cross-Channel swim and from Natalie Hodde, a Rotary Scholar from the USA. In September we were treated to a display of magic by Chris Dinwoodie, who impressed us so much that we asked him to entertain us at our Christmas party. We have welcomed Val Reid and Caroline Brown to tell us about Community for Food and, more recently, Fiona Watson from the Wester Hailes Food Bank.

April's programme served again to highlight the diversity: On 5 April, we were delighted to see Lorna Lattimore, well-known to us as a music teacher who supported our Young Musicians Competition every year. This time she came to talk to us about the study of embroidery which she had taken up after retirement, giving an insight into the time, the

skill and the patience – including her own – required to produce such intricate work.

On 12 April, we enjoyed a most amusing talk from Bruce Keith about the history of road-signs and milestones across Scotland, from as far back as Roman times. You might think that not to be the most interesting subject but you would be wrong!

On 19 April we heard from Ross Cockburn, recently returned from transporting a load of computers to Ukraine. Ross was a Currie High School boy, who went on to take a degree in computer studies and ultimately to found ReusingIT, a West Lothian charity which refurbishes used computers to be donated to educational establishments both here and internationally.

Last, but by no means least, on 26 April we welcomed Hiroshi Komatsu – a Japanese Rotary scholar who has been studying in Edinburgh – with his wife and son.

These are just a few of the speakers we have welcomed at Currie Balerno Rotary, giving an idea of the diversity of subjects. But, to again ask, what is Currie Balerno Rotary for?

It exists to help the local community. We just enjoy ourselves along the way!

To know more about Currie Balerno Rotary, visit our website (www.cbrotary.org) or contact Mike Rowe on (0131) 449 5701

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Photos: Bob Douglas

New Growth Here, There, Everywhere!

JAMES BELL
HEAD GARDENER, MALLENY GARDEN

May has seen a lot of new plant growth. As in any garden, all the desired plants are growing well but so are the weeds and lawns. Within a two-acre walled garden and nine-acre estate it's a fine balance to keep on top of it or for the garden to run away from you. Currently, I think, we are keeping it on the neat side. A big thank you to all our volunteers who play a crucial part in this work.

As May fades, we have seen the last of our spring bulbs, gone for another year. We welcome though, the upcoming flowering of everything else. Our ornamental Alliums provide vibrant purple pompom flowers, the crab apple, Malus "John Downie" – a Scottish-bred apple from the 1880s, originally produced at a Corstorphine nursery on the site that's now Edinburgh Zoo – is covered in white flowers and our first rose is in flower.

Our first flowering rose is always Rosa primula; introduced around 1900, it has a simple yellow primula coloured flower with a light incense fragrance. It is a subtle beginning to the upcoming flamboyant show of intensely fragrant roses from mid-June through July. Do take the time to visit if you can.

Meanwhile in the garden our glasshouse refurbishment project continues. The Span Greenhouse is now fully dismantled and away in our contractor's workshop. New timber has been cut and painted, metal work sandblasted and refurbished, ready to be brought back to the garden. It is odd to not see it there at all—perhaps the first time since the 1880s that there hasn't been a greenhouse stood in the garden!

www.candbnews.com

It is expected to be rebuilt by mid/late June, after which the smaller and probably more historically significant Three-quarter span greenhouse will also be refurbished.

Sadly, during the last few weeks, we have had a couple of attempted break-ins, vandalism, and antisocial behaviour around the garden. It is of course not what we or anyone wants to see. We aim to provide a tranquil space for everyone to enjoy and measures will be examined to mitigate these risks.

Malleny is home to more than plants. Bees and butterflies enjoy the wide variety of flowers and on a sunny day the garden is buzzing. We hope to do an initial survey this year on the range of bumble bees we have in the garden. Knowing that will help guide our management decisions for the future. We would be interested in hearing from anyone who has local knowledge of bee surveys. Please do get in touch.

Volunteers make a huge difference to the work the National Trust for Scotland undertakes. There are many benefits to all in volunteering with the Trust. If you or someone you know might like to volunteer with us, for any reason, please do get in touch at mallenygarden@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/malleny-garden>



RAMBLERS
SCOTLAND
GAIL COUSINS
BALERNO RAMBLERS

As April gave way to May, the days were getting longer and the sunshine stronger. The warm sunshine encouraged an abundance of wildflowers, with the hedgerows and trees greener every day. Unfortunately, an occasional northerly wind meant there often remained a chill in the air, and a feeling that summer was still far away.

Since mid-April Balerno Ramblers have offered two walking opportunities a week—altogether nine walks involving 96 ramblers.

May is "bluebell month", though they are flowering late this year. In Benarty Wood near Loch Ore, and along the Leader Water there were carpets of Scottish Bluebells with Wild Garlic. Along the Diamond Jubilee and Leader Water paths we saw two chainsaw sculptures – of a fox and rabbits, and a large pair of boots – by the talented Sam Bowser.

It was a sunny, calm day for our walk over the Forth Road Bridge



to North Queensferry, continuing along the Fife Coastal path and returning by train across the Forth Bridge to Dalmeny Station. Before the start of the walk, while at Hawes Pier, we were rewarded with the sight of the steam train Great Britain XV 45596 Bahamas pulling coaches across the Forth Bridge on an excursion to Aberdeen. A beautiful moment to witness.

There were no icy paths descending Green Cleugh to the Black Hill circular. After coffee at the waterfall the group was entranced by flights of sand martins nesting in the banks of the burn. Walking along Logan Water they saw herons, dippers, and primroses, and enjoyed the peace of the hills. The heron was a delight to all the photographers.

At the end of April, the ramblers on the St Abbs and Coldingham Sands walk had super views of seabird-laden cliffs. Definitely worth the long drive!

The walk started at Kinghorn, following an inland route to Kirkcaldy, returning via the coastal path with stunning views. There were only six ramblers taking part, however. "King Charles III may have prompted some of

our members to do other things over the Coronation weekend," suggested the walk leader.

UPCOMING WALKS

The Midweek group will again be venturing to East Lothian for a coastal walk from Tynninghame to Seacliff, walking across Ravensheugh Sands and the Peffer Burn at low tide and returning by an inland route.

The Midweek programme will also include circular walks from Ratho, Currie, and a birdwatching-themed walk at the mouth of River Esk, Musselburgh. High water around midday means there will be plenty of birds to see and identify, so bring your binoculars. The group will walk towards Prestonpans and return to Musselburgh in mid-afternoon.

This year the Ramblers' Summer outing is to Abbotsford House. The plan for the day is a short walk along the River Tweed to Lowood Bridge and return via a woodland walk to Abbotsford. A change of footwear will be required before a self-guided tour around the former home of the 19th Century novelist, Sir Walter Scott. Afterwards, there'll be a social tea party with shortbread, traybake or scones.

Our summer weekend programme includes a local walk from Currie to three Pentland reservoirs (Clubbiedean, Torduff and Bonaly, returning via

Above left: Bluebells Leader Water Walk. Left: Arniston Farm Cows. Photos: Gail Cousins. Above right: Midweek Group at St Abbs. Photo: Roger Jonathan. Right: Sheltered lunch spot. Photo: Fiona Alexander



Phantom Cleugh, Maiden Cleugh and Kirkgate) and a Mendick Hill circular starting at Dunsyre Road (taking in Ingraston Hill, Mendick Hill, Lowsmeadow Burn, Medwynbank, and Garvald—with part of the return trek along Pentland Way). The latter is an attractive walk through farmland and open hills, although it involves some walking uphill across open moorland which may be boggy if wet, so gaiters and walking poles recommended. Further afield, Peebles will be the start of a circular walk from Kingsmeadows up Hamilton Hill, Nether Kidston, returning by the new "active travel path".

The route of an intended Gore Water circular walk had to be changed due to a herd of cows enjoying summer pastures over several open fields. On the recce an electric fence with the cows blocked the way ahead, a long detour was taken, only to discover the cows were still a hazard. To avoid the cows, two wire fences were



crossed to safely reach the path for Arniston House. Unfortunately, that adventure is not possible for a large group, so required a change of route. This is an example of why a recce and written risk assessment is completed before every Ramblers walk.

The weekend group have asked walk leaders to identify dates and routes for walks for the months of July through to the end September for inclusion in our autumn programme.

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: balerno-ramblers+subscribe@googlegroups.com

INTRODUCTORY WALK

What is this?

An easy 4.5 miles (7.2 km) walk.

When is it?

Saturday 3 June 2023, with a 9:20am start from Pentland View Car Park.

What do I need to know?

After receiving a warm welcome and meeting other walkers, your walk leader will give you an overview of the walk with an opportunity to ask any questions before enjoying the splendid 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. It involves an ascent/descent of approximately 100 metres.

What should I 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 should I 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 07504 306062.

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Cooking the Books



cumin and allspice and eaten with soft onions cooked slowly in more sumac and served with pine nuts, and flatbreads and yoghurt on the side.

More enjoyable than that, for me, is Mousaqa'a. If you're thinking that's kind of like the Greek, "mousaka" you'd be right. They have some relationship through shared geography, but in this there is no meat. Mousaqa'a is one of those dishes you can make in advance and eat whenever; it keeps in the fridge for a few days. It also involves nothing too taxing: roasting aubergines, quickly heating tomatoes, onions, chickpeas, green peppers and various spices, and then popping it all in the oven to cook through and



topping with fresh coriander. This is plant-based comfort food. Great for after a day's work.

Other Lyons favourites are cauliflower and cumin fritters with mint yoghurt, lentils with tahini and crispy onions, galayet banadoura (a really rich mezze dish of sautéed tomatoes, with more garlic than you can shake a stick at), and my other absolute treasure: bulgur, tomato and aubergine pilaf. Want something other than rice or pasta? This is what you need. Once again it's simple to cook: it only requires having your ingredients measured and ready to go because at one point it moves fast and you need to be ready, but it is so delicious. You can have it all by itself or as a side to grilled chicken or salmon. Speaking of salmon, there's a recipe for fish spice mix which I make a batch of and then rub into a side of salmon and barbecue in the summer months.

Hopefully, now you understand why I love the food from this part of the world. I know it doesn't necessarily match our climate but Falastin can't help but fill me up with sunshine.

If you had to eat only one type of cooking for the rest of your life, what would it be? I'm not talking just one dish, I mean country or region of the world. As a lover and researcher of worldwide food habits and dishes, this topic fascinates me. Not least because it's such a hard choice to make.

There are a few that I know off the top of my head that I don't care as much about. Swedish fermented fish? No thanks. But then again, Swedish Fika, the daily practice of stopping work to have a coffee, a tasty snack and a chat with your colleagues—yes please. There is something good to be had in all world menus. For me, however, there is one region of the world that I believe I could happily live on the bounty of for the rest of my days. Mediterranean cooking. Yes this might be a cop out – the Med spans a number of regions and even a couple of continents – but I care not.

On today's menu is Falastin by Sami Tamimi and Tara Wigley. The foreword of this book being written by Yotam Ottolenghi is no coincidence; both Sami and Tara have worked with Yotam for years. Falastin is about the food of Palestine and there isn't



much that I wouldn't be happy to consume. As Yotam points out, Sami worked on his cookbook, Jerusalem, in 2012 and Falastin picks up where that left off, using the foods of Sami's childhood in East Jerusalem as inspiration.

A family favourite of ours is Chicken Musakhan, pieces of chicken roasted in a blend of olive oil, sumac, cinnamon,

Top left: Mousaqa'a. Middle: Pilaf. Below: Sumac Onions



with Balerno Resident STEF LYONS



Volunteering at Big Noise Wester Hailes



Top left: Mags (left) and Margaret lead the games. Top right: Mags gets the balance right. Left: Margaret looks for the right card. Photos: Sistema Scotland

Big Noise Wester Hailes is looking to recruit more volunteers to support its vital work improving the life opportunities of children in the local community. Importantly, volunteers build supportive relationships with children to keep them engaged in the charity's after-school programme. Meet current local volunteers Mags (from Colinton) and Margaret (from Juniper Green).

DAMIAN SHERWOOD-JOHNSON
SISTEMA SCOTLAND

To help readers of *C&B News* understand what it means to get involved, current volunteers **Mags Rae** (from Colinton) and **Margaret Follon** (from Juniper Green) talk about their experience.

What made you want to volunteer at Big Noise Wester Hailes?

Mags: I had read about the fantastic results they got in other centres, and I was delighted when they started up a Big Noise centre so close to my house, so it was very easy for me to volunteer here. Also, my background is in music education with children so I felt some of my skills might fit in with the project.

Margaret: I have absolutely no musical talent whatsoever, but I do sing in a "singing for fun" choir and I know how much pleasure music can give. I had

heard about the Sistema Scotland Big Noise project from when it first started in Raploch, Stirling and remember thinking what a fantastic idea it was, and I was really pleased to find out there was one just down the road in Wester Hailes. It is fantastic for encouraging young kids, giving them extra confidence, and I was so pleased to come along and help.

What do you love about volunteering with Big Noise?

Mags: The atmosphere within the sessions is really laid back and everyone is very positive with the children. There is a real element of play in everything that is going on. I just like getting to know the children, having fun with them and seeing their faces light up. There is always something coming out of a session that you think was just delightful.

Margaret: Playing the games with a few children and connecting with them is really lovely. Just being around young

people is good for you and keeps you engaged with them. The energy that comes from it is just incredible! I like the way the kids are very direct. When one child said to me, "You're an elderly, aren't you?", that just brings you up short and made me laugh.

How would you encourage someone else to volunteer?

Mags: I would definitely encourage anyone to volunteer at Big Noise Wester Hailes because it keeps you young, it's a great atmosphere, and the staff are all very delightful and approachable. The staff always mention the volunteers at the beginning and the end of a session. It's nice to feel appreciated but what you get back from it is also quite considerable."

Margaret: I enjoy playing the games with the children, and I would really encourage anybody of any age and any experience to come and join because everybody is really friendly and welcoming."

"Volunteers like Mags and Margaret are absolute stars and play a key role in supporting our activity to ensure that our after-school sessions are hugely successful," says Sistema Scotland's Volunteer Support Coordinator, Damian Sherwood-Johnson. "We could not achieve the impact we make without the incredible contribution of the volunteers."

There is absolutely no need for prospective volunteers to have any musical experience or ability, with all necessary training to perform the role provided. Travel expenses are also reimbursed.

If you are interested in joining the fantastic volunteer team at Wester Hailes, please fill out the simple form at makeabignoise.org.uk/volunteering, or email: damian.sherwoodjohnson@sistemascotland.org.uk for more information.



New-Look Mud Kitchen Upgrade

KATE GIBB
SENIOR EARLY YEARS OFFICER, DEAN PARK NURSERY

Dean Park Nursery would like to say a huge "thank you" to the Pentlands Men's Shed who recently helped

the nursery to upgrade our mud kitchen area.

They made four fabulous planters that will be used for a herb garden, plants of various textures and two digging areas for the children. The new additions to our mud

kitchen have already proved very popular and will be a huge benefit to the children.

We were also delighted to receive some lovely handmade signs to label different areas of our garden.



BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL

STEVEN RUSSELL
BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL

Balerno High School is one of only three schools in Edinburgh to receive the Gold award from Unicef UK's Rights Respecting School programme.

The award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school.

The Award recognises schools which have put the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of their planning, policies and practice. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

"I am absolutely delighted and incredibly proud of our young people, both past and present, who have embedded the UNCRC at Balerno High School," says Acting Headteacher, Ros Ranger. "Our Gold accreditation is a huge achievement, and I would like to thank our staff and parents/carers who have supported us on this amazing journey."

Unicef is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Programme Director, Martin Russell, adds:

"We are very pleased to be awarding Gold: Rights Respecting to Balerno High School.

"Through its Rights Respecting work, Balerno High School has created a positive learning environment where all students are empowered to become active citizens, both within and beyond the school gates. We were very impressed by the atmosphere of mutual respect and trust that pervades throughout the school. Everyone at Balerno High School should be proud of how they

have truly put the Convention at the heart of their school."

As part of the school's commitments to being a Rights Respecting School, pupils and staff work together to fundraise for worthy and relevant causes. The current campaign is with Toilet Twinning, a charity that aims to help people across the world who don't have easy access to toilets and clean water, by providing them with access to a proper latrine, clean water and hygiene education.

A recent "Soak the Teacher" event raised enough money to build an entire toilet block in Malawi, and now pupils are looking to expand the project and make Balerno a Toilet Twinned Village.

Community groups are invited to organise their own event in support of the campaign and should contact admin@balerno.ch.edin.sch.uk or visit the Just Giving Page to make an individual donation: <http://bit.ly/ws/DUHW>



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The Currie Primary School May Fair was held on Saturday 13 May – as you can see, it proved to be a beautifully sunny day. Among the many participants was Kirstin Allardice (with number 718 on her shoulder tab), Community Police Officer for Balerno and Ratho. Photos: Andrew Dane, Graham Dane.

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

Oops!

An ever-so-humble editor – AKA “The Hired Help” – would like to apologise for the incorrect page numbers listed at the bottom of last issue’s front and back covers. Alas, the larger the error, the easier it is to miss sometimes! He promises it won’t happen again.

Email Help

A few weeks ago my email was hacked and my identity stolen. This meant that the perpetrators, from a Philippines address, could apply for a bank loan with my name and address.

My husband and I went to Worx24 in Bridge Road, Colinton for help. They were fantastic with uncovering all that had happened and giving us a solution. We could not have done this on our own. They were so efficient and patient. I cannot praise them highly enough and would recommend their skills to everyone

Sylvia Cooke
Colinton

Many readers will be aware that the former Abbot’s Choice public house has been transformed into a Domino’s Pizza branch, but its legacy will remain for a time yet...

Thank You

We would like to thank Kenny and customers of The Abbots Choice for organising their kind donation of £900 to Woodlands School.

The donation is being used to fund trips out for our young people. So far, thanks to the generosity of our local community, Woodlands youngsters have enjoyed trips to Deep Sea World, Edinburgh Zoo, and The Yard.

Janice Mullen
Woodlands School

Leadership Needed!

Cllr Scott Arthur @CllrScottA... · 3h
Great leadership from P5/6 after one of their classmates was injured - let's hope drivers do as asked!

Cllr Hal Osler @HalOsler · 8h
P5/6 at @stockbridge_ps launched their road safety campaign today. Good 2 c local businesses in the community support them. Now up 2 is all to deliver & make the area safer. @stockps_parents ...



Nationally, almost 1,200 children each month are injured by drivers within 500 metres (547 yards) of their school gates. As a result, school streets, where car traffic is restricted, have exploded in popularity—London now has over five hundred with more added each week!

In contrast, children at an Edinburgh primary where a classmate was hit by a driver last month were congratulated by transport boss Cllr Scott Arthur, who described their poster campaign pleading for safety as “Great leadership... let’s hope drivers do as asked!”

As a parent, this got my blood boiling. It may be old-fashioned but I think our children deserve leadership from the city’s actual leaders, who have the authority to implement protection from traffic but do not seem to prioritise it.

Dave McCraw
Currie

What the...?



We naturally condemn the dumping of rubbish – of anything – in the Water of Leith, but must admit to being somewhat bamboozled by the sight of... a keyboard? Seen in the river close to Colinton Parish Church, is this to give the local wildlife something to play?

MILLBANK MUTTERINGS

by TAURUS CERAMICUS BARBATUS

193: CHARLES III – HERE TO SERVE

I wasn’t born in time for George VI’s 1937 coronation. But I sang “God Save our Gracious King” (except verse 3) till 1952 when his daughter Elizabeth was enthroned. We saw her coronation two weeks after the event at the Playhouse cinema and sang “God Save the Queen”.

It has taken time to revert to the earlier words but we witnessed Charles’s coronation on television from our comfortable armchairs, unlike the long-suffering rain-soaked bystanders and the stoic military ranks dressed in their finest (wet) uniforms. It was a grand colourful display, both solemn and cheerful, for the thousands who flocked to see the King and his Queen as they swept by in their gilded coach.

The protracted service in Westminster Abbey included much symbolism respecting the monarch’s authority and its impact across the United Kingdom and farther afield. We might wonder whether Scotland’s Stone of Destiny, embedded in the Coronation Chair, should be replaced by interlocking stones drawn from across our islands to represent a United Kingdom. But for now, let us remember Coronation Day, 6 May 2023.

The desire of so many people from our nation and across the globe to gather together, knowing how British weather would probably misbehave, tells us something about our core values. King Charles’s statement that “I come not to be served, but to serve,” was well received.

By contrast, the victory parades of authoritarian states (characterised by goose-stepping military battalions, an odd tank, ICBMs and cheering crowds bussed in for the occasion) tell a different story—one where rulers rule over people, and not for the people.





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PLANNING BY ARCHIE CLARK

Edinburgh Transport Consultation

The City of Edinburgh Council is consulting on its 2030 City Mobility Plan: 316 pages of “action plans” covering active travel, air quality, road safety, parking, and public transport across the city. (Documents can be found at: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/cmp/>)

The pre-Covid-19 January 2020 Plan did not mention “20-minute neighbourhoods”. That change emerged when Covid-19 regulations made us rethink how we live and move about. Up till then, CEC expected the city to expand into the countryside, but then there was a reversal to localism with the “20-minute neighbourhood” concept (mainly walking locally) emerging in September 2021. “20-minute neighbourhoods” featured 28 times in the November 2022 Plan.

During lockdown CEC promoted segregation for “vulnerable” groups, which was mainly interpreted as developing cycling over helping disabled people.

But “20-minute neighbourhoods” are not reflected in these revised documents. While “cycle” or “cycling” is mentioned over 660 times, “20-minute neighbourhoods” feature five times in total, “wheelchairs” 15 times, and “pedestrians” 100 times. This may not



One of the consultation-highlighted new road layouts at West Coates, near Roseburn. Photo: Paul Fisher Cockburn.

be a particularly scientific analysis, but it does appear to favour one group. Having cycled several thousand miles, I would like to see more attention given to those whose cycling days are over, or never arrived.

The small maps are difficult to read, indistinct and lack place names. Given the emphasis on “20-minute neighbourhoods”, I expected a set of detailed local plans showing proposals. There are policies and schedules galore but no implementation diagrams. At one point respondents are asked if they would walk further to a bus—leading me to think that Princes Street would benefit from more stops to cater for those whose joints creak or who have just exited a wheelchair-friendly bus two blocks from their destination.

It is stated that “Edinburgh’s transport system must evolve in a sustainable way to support the city becoming net zero by 2030”. However “sustainable” seems to mean reducing transport options, getting there by bike, using electricity

generated remotely and policies to enforce a political whim. This Plan is dressed up as “ambitious” but, given the unexpected hiccups of recent years, attempts to achieve a 100-year plan in a few short years is unrealistic—especially as CEC hopes to alter our behaviour, introduce LEZs that could make accessing Waverley Station impossible, while ignoring the 50,000 students and 4 million tourists visiting Edinburgh each year. (Internet figures.)

Finally there is the “consultation” document. Some of the questions (especially those where you are asked for your ethnic origins and very personal details that are irrelevant to the subject) seem to be set without thinking what to do with the replies. And by the way, you can answer the consultation document without looking at those “Action Plans”!

The consultation runs till 9 July.

CEC’s ‘20-minute Neighbourhoods’ Queried

The Planning and Environmental Appeals Division of the Scottish Government (DPA) is currently seeking responses regarding the CEC’s draft Local Plan.

A recent enquiry to CEC, citing similar ideas for Paris and Melbourne asked: “Is the Council justified in adapting the concept of a 20-minute neighbourhood to mean a round trip to and from a particular service of 20 minutes, rather than a round trip of 40 minutes? If so, please set out the evidence underpinning this approach and why it is considered appropriate in the case of the City of Edinburgh to depart from the accepted definition of a 20-minute neighbourhood.”

The November 2022 proposed city plan defines “20-minute neighbourhoods” thus: “20-minute neighbourhoods are places where people can access services which meet daily needs within a 10-minute walk/wheel of their house, equivalent to a 20-minute round trip”.

A 40-minute round trip would be a radical change to the city’s expressed intentions. Is a one-size-fits-all approach, promoted for a distant nation, suitable for Edinburgh—or indeed the North Pole?!



RiverMill

CURRIE, EDINBURGH

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- 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

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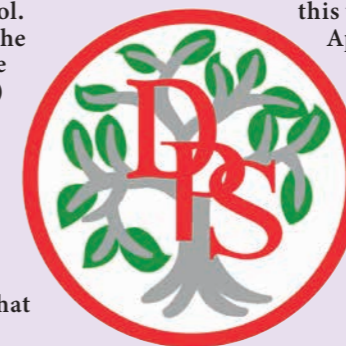


Dean Park Primary Extension

On 2 January 2023, application 22/06325/FUL was lodged to demolish the existing Temporary Unit and erect a new Passivhaus two-storey extension at Dean Park

Primary School. (Reported in the February issue of *C&B News*.)

It may surprise readers waiting for decisions on numerous other applications that



this was approved in April. I can’t help feeling that CEC has a fast-track system for approvals for its own applications that is not available to others. Perhaps CEC might care

to explain how the system works so that others can benefit?

Can we expect an equally quick decision respecting application 23/01308/FUL – for a new 800-pupil Secondary School building at Wester Hailes Education Centre, first advertised on 17 April?



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PLANNING BY ARCHIE CLARK

Plans Revised After Consultation Period Expired



Last year, application 22/00670/FUL was lodged for a “Mixed-use development including built-to-rent homes and student accommodation with ancillary development including commercial use” for the “Corn Exchange Village”. The site is in Chesser between New Mart Road to the north and the Asda supermarket access road to the south. The proposals were described in over 170 documents. Within the 21-day period allowed for comments, it drew 15 objections and no support. This large development would comprise 406 student bedrooms and 28 units of affordable accommodation. 100% bike provision would be incorporated but no vehicle

parking. The buildings would be up to seven storeys high. Eight months later, 90 more documents had been added, mostly very late revisions. Whatever the merits of the scheme, it is surely unfair that so many changes, of whatever size, can be made without reopening the proposals for general comment. That unfair practice is not uncommon and avoids public scrutiny. Other examples include applications for 73 dwellings at Murrayburn Gate (22/03302/FUL), a residential and commercial development at 22 Inglis Green Road (22/02233/FUL), a hotel at Cameron Toll (22/03151/FUL), and a mixed-use development at Ocean Terminal (22/05599/FUL)—

where large additions have been made to the original documents. Shouldn't the original applications have been withdrawn and fresh ones submitted, with the original respondents invited to review what they had originally stated? The Chesser application was “approved” but had to be referred to Scottish Ministers as it was not covered by an approved Local Plan. A planning system that is manifestly biased towards the developer will simply result in further demands for the playing field to be levelled up. It is time our MSPs investigated these procedures and cleaned up the process.

BRIEFLY



'Bearskin' Hat

In late May application 23/02214/TCO was published concerning the removal of yew and silver birch trees at 105 Lanark Road West, Currie. The “bearskin hat”, while obviously now in need of a trim, has been a distinctive landmark for a long time (see the c1920 picture, above) and it would be a pity to see this disappear. Approval for its removal could be granted very quickly (under delegated powers) without the ability of anyone to stop the process. But... it IS in the Currie Conservation Area...

Telecoms Mast

Application 23/01829/FUL refers to the replacement of a 14.4m high telecoms mast with a 25m lattice mast and headframe supporting 12 antennae and four 300mm dishes. The site is 286m west of 98 Baird Road in Ratho. These things are often contentious but this case, set in the countryside remote from habitation, may be less of a concern.

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NPF4 Impacts Planning Applications

Since the National Planning Framework was revised on 13 February, it has been noticeable that a number of proposals already in the system have been affected by requests for more information. In one case, an applicant who last October requested approval for a Short Term let was asked, two weeks ahead of the introduction of NPF4, to explain how their proposal would comply with the NPF4 policy on Short Term holiday letting. 10 weeks later, nothing had appeared on the Portal. Perhaps the question didn't have a simple answer but it has certainly delayed what seemed like a simple request.

Short Term Lets

Quite a number of planning applications are still being processed respecting Short Term lets across Edinburgh. CEC has produced an 18-page document, “City of Edinburgh Council Short Term Lets Licensing Policy”, describing the hoops that have to be overcome to obtain a licence. The number of applications that have been refused suggests that, for most people, it will be necessary to employ a consultant. Several applications have come from addresses outwith the city, but will the very high percentage of refusals lead to those needing short term accommodation (like performers during the Festival) to look for alternative solutions? Is the policy too inflexible?

Potholes – A Global Problem

A 72-year-old pensioner in Italy, got so irritated by the failure of his local authority to fill up a pothole in a zebra crossing, that he bought some tarmac and filled it up himself. He was fined €852 and told to restore the pothole to its previous condition. Not long ago, I witnessed a couple of road repair men filling a couple of potholes on Lanark Road with tarmac and driving off without tamping or rolling it down. That was left to the rubber tyres of the passing traffic. Needless to say, the “repair” needs to be done again. Who is supposed to supervise the work?



JOANNA CHERRY MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

MEETINGS

This month I met the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to push for help to save female Judges and prosecutors trapped in Afghanistan. The meeting coincided with publication of direct testimony from former women judges in Afghanistan, gathered by the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

There are approximately 100 women and their families trapped in Afghanistan, in hiding and in daily fear for their lives. The women are at risk directly from Taliban and from the men they helped to prosecute who have been freed from prison. They have received death threats, and their former homes have been raided by the Taliban looking for them.

The accounts from the women are harrowing; they have been living in daily fear for their lives since the Taliban seized back power in Afghanistan. One woman has already been found and murdered. I urged the Prime Minister to help them by setting up a new humanitarian visa. He understands their perilous situation and we had a productive meeting which I hope will bring results.

At Westminster I met with Michelle Carmichael, a local community champion based at Sainsbury's Longstone store. Michelle works with schools across our area to help educate kids on cooking low cost and nutritious meals to help with the cost-of-living crisis, as well as providing snack bars for kids who don't have anything at break time.

I was also pleased to be able to join the party at the Pentlands Scout hut on the bank holiday Monday celebrating the coronation.



GORDON MACDONALD MSP
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

BUILD YOUR FUTURE

It's been a very busy month both across the constituency and in the Scottish Parliament.

I had the pleasure of once again sponsoring the Scottish Traditional Building Forums' Construction Skills demonstration outside the Parliament. It was great to see so many young people – including pupils from Wester Hailes High School – taking part in skills demonstrations from roofing to 3D and Thermal Surveying. This event builds and reinforces the work being carried out across the industry to tackle the skills gap and aging workforce in the Scottish construction industry.

The construction skills event is just one element which includes the innovative *Build Your Future* programme being delivered across the country, providing young people with the insight, knowledge and skills they need to develop their awareness and experience of Construction and the Built Environment. Through a blend of online Digital Resources with lesson plans, class talks, and an active challenge, young people can explore the world of construction and built environment with local and national organisations and in their local communities.

It's encouraging that every school in Edinburgh is going to be offered *Build Your Future* with the council using Community Benefits in its contracts to create a structured school engagement programme to ensure that the young people who participate get the maximum from the experience. You can access more information here: <https://www.dyw.scot/buildyourfuture.html>

Finally, having visited Converge Scotland's largest company creation programme – based at Heriot-Watt University – for staff, students and recent graduates, it was a pleasure to host their parliamentary reception. The evening was a huge success with several Converge alumni present to share their stories of enterprise and innovation made possible through the support offered by Converge..



SUE WEBBER MSP
LOTHIAN REGION

WAITING TO CROSS

For more than 10 years residents in Currie have been asking for a pedestrian crossing at Lanark Road West and Stewart Road. As a local councillor I pressed for progress but, with designs that indicated a lack of understanding of the area, the council were forced to go back to the drawing board.

It has now been two years since I was elected as an MSP for the Lothian Region, and I am at the end of my tether. The latest update I received, although full of apologies, offered little indication of progress. Staff responsible have left, and the designs are yet to be completed. They are also now taking into consideration the location and entrance to the new Rivermill development.

I have been advised that "Design work is still ongoing, and that delivery of the crossing is expected to take place later this year." As 2023 marches on I will be seeking regular updates from those responsible.

Those who regularly use The Water of Leith walkway will be aware of the ongoing surface upgrade. I know that, to many, the surface is controversial, but I am hoping it will allow many more people to access the path without fear of trips or falls. Already the surface seems to allow far better drainage. This will be a real benefit for those using the walkway to access local services along the villages from Colinton all the way to Balerno.

Finally, if you have a ticket, I might just see you at the Currie Beer and Curry Festival.



CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS

'RAILING TOGETHER'

Raising the continuous defects of roads in the Balerno area with council officials has finally paid off with Lanark Road West between the traffic lights and the twisty bends scheduled for resurfacing in this financial year along with Long Dalmahoy Road and part of Johnsburn Road.

However, it is important that these resurfacing works are spread throughout the next 12 months so as not create more traffic chaos. The stretch of road that will be most challenging is the section on Lanark Road West—a major A road. We all complain about the surface of the roads but we must understand that there will be some pain for long-term gain.

There are still many roads to resurface but, in the meantime, it was good to hear they were filling in the potholes in Palmer Place, Kirkgate and Deanpark Gardens that were reported to me.

I also recently raised the issue of when the railings at the T junction of LRW and Riccarton Mains Road are to be repainted. They have decided to replace the railings altogether with new ones. Any pots with flowers will be stored and reattached by the council once the new railings are in situ.

Still in Currie, I have raised the state of the public realm next to Doctors surgery and local shops. The area is an absolute shambles with broken steps/walls and loose bricks. I will update on feedback in due course.

Great to see some cycling racks, requested by the Juniper Green & Baberton Mains Community Council, finally installed on the corner of Lanark Road and Baberton Avenue.

Lastly, it was a pleasure to attend the Juniper Green Tennis Club Open Day and see the great work they are doing there to encourage the young and all to participate in the sport. I even took part in a training session!

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CLLR NEIL GARDINER
PENTLAND HILLS

'HEADLINE'

As the summer gets underway Balerno Gala Week and Currie Beer Festival are always great opportunities to get together.

The replacement bridge to Mallyen Garden is in place, but not yet open: we will have to wait a little longer for outstanding issues to be sorted out.

I recently attended Currie Community Council, which continues to seek new members of all ages. At the previous meeting a question had been raised about the new high school, which I followed up with council officers, who have confirmed that they have no reports that the project is not keeping to programme or budget.

I recently attended a seminar by the Land Commission, where I suggested it could be very helpful to allow community councils to own assets on behalf of local communities—potentially making it a little easier to set up useful assets.

In Juniper Green there is a small group of local authority houses which require modernisation and tackling dampness. I have raised this again with council officers and await further updates.

I again made enquiries about when the next meeting of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee will be held, as we are now a year into the new council administration. I previously had a motion approved at council for the Park committee to consider if we should start a consultation about bidding for the Pentlands to become a National Park. There will of course be different views on this. It is important to find ways of funding the park and its infrastructure, ensuring good access and also that local people are able to make a living, while protecting and enhancing the parks contribution to sustainability and wellbeing.

I am currently making enquiries about the future of the 63 bus contract.

Enjoy the sunshine, when you see it!



CLLR STEPHEN JENKINSON
PENTLAND HILLS

'WARM & WELCOMING'

All too aware that the cost of living crisis was having a devastating effect on thousands of Edinburgh households, and that many of our citizens would be having to choose between heating their homes or feeding their families, I decided to see what I could do to create a service to provide safe, warm, and welcoming spaces where people could receive support and advice services to help alleviate food and fuel poverty.

I tasked Council Officers to design, develop and deliver this new service at pace and within existing City of Edinburgh Council budgets, which was certainly no mean feat. They impressively rose to the challenge and, working across service domains, really delivered for the people of Edinburgh.

Within a few short weeks a communications strategy, website and a digital map were all up and running highlighting all the physical spaces offering access to events, activities, resources, information and support. At launch 88 organisations geographically spread across the city were included, 28 libraries, 22 places of worship, 3 cultural venues and 35 third sector organisations.

I recently had the pleasure of attending a Warm & Welcoming summit which was held in the City Chambers. We brought together EVOC, our partners in the third sector, religious groups and the business community to share successes, learn lessons and plan for the future. This initiative has on every measure been a real success story, our libraries and community spaces have been reinvigorated and we now plan to deliver services and community events throughout the year, not just in Winter. Venues continue to sign up to this exciting program enabling us to expand and enhance the services we provide and I'm convinced that this year we will deliver a programme of important events in our Warm & Welcoming spaces of which we can all be very proud.



CLLR JASON RUST
COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD

RECENT UPDATES

Recently, I was pleased to attend The Ceremony of the Keys for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and the Service for the General Assembly at St Giles' Cathedral, as well as speaking with the Moderator, The Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton. On a more local note, I wish Colinton's Church of Scotland Minister, Rev Rolf Billes all the very best with his next venture as he sadly leaves Colinton.

I have been pressing for attention to the Colinton War Memorial. The Council has now confirmed that cleaning will be undertaken at the same time as gate painting in early June. Thankfully, there are no structural defects and cleaning will only be carried out with water and soft brushes.

On the subject of remembrance, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Mr Duncan Campbell, past chair of Colinton Amenity Association and a local institution who was so pivotal, through Colinton Conservation Trust among other bodies, in seeking to preserve and enhance the amenity of Colinton. The Woodhall Road railings and RLS project would not have reached the stage they did without Duncan's tenacity and vision. We owe so much to local volunteers like Duncan.

Finally, in terms of Woodhall Road, I hope that - by the time this is published - the required remedial works will have taken place and lessons will have been learned for future resurfacing of our local roads.



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

June is not a time of year when street lighting is an obvious matter of concern. However, on 11 May, The City of Edinburgh Council approved more than £500,000 for park and open space lighting improvements across the city. There are 149 parks in Edinburgh. CEC have identified 10 for improvement in the first phase—none of which are in the Upper Water of Leith corridor.

There may well be a second stage, and some of our local parks - Marchbank Park, for example - are certainly possible candidates, but that will still leave some 90 or so parks untouched. Just like Mallyen Park.

Mallyen Park, you see, is a major sports hub, home to Currie Chieftains (amongst others), and it's pretty busy most nights of the week—as it should be. The fact that it boasts a fine all-weather pitch and the floodlights to match may be part of the reason it's not on the Council's priority list.

All in, the pitch cost something over £600,000 in 2015, but supporting infrastructure wasn't built at that time—it was only last year that the car park was surfaced. Now, when the floodlights are on there isn't a problem. But, when they're switched off, the darkness is near impenetrable. And that's not just on the pitch, but also the car park and - even more importantly - the access road (including Mallyen Bridge) connecting Mallyen Park to Bavelaw Road.

Obviously if you're looking at safety then deterring violence and encouraging park users' confidence is right up there at the top of the list. True, safety does seem to be a major focus for the initiative, but pedestrian and road safety are also important parts of that.

Darkened, narrow access roads to major infrastructure hubs trigger concerns not only about crime, but also about basic road safety risks, and they should be a no-no.



TOM McDONALD
COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GETTING INVOLVED

Our next Community Council meeting (on 13 June) will be followed by our AGM.

Once again that brings membership questions into focus. Our average age is increasing and we would really like to see a younger cohort taking the reins, certainly by next year when a full election is scheduled, requiring current incumbents to step down and offering openings for new blood to replace our ageing office-bearers.

Recently our younger members have pushed us toward more modern ways of doing things, and one of the unexpected effects of lockdown was the realisation that the guiding principles for meetings and paperwork implicit in our given constitution were increasingly obsolete.

City Councillors are our representatives in the local government system but inevitably party political in decision making, often resulting in "one size fits all" policies. Because CCs are obliged to be apolitical, they offer a means to draw attention to how these affect local areas specifically, and they can make sure local views are fully heard on issues which are sometimes uncomfortable for City Councillors affiliated to particular party persuasions.

It is also not unusual that poor decisions actually made for administrative convenience by unelected officials are "justified" by real or perceived constraints, financial or otherwise.

It's not surprising that very stretched (and often generalist) City Councillors can be tempted to acquiesce to such pressures especially from technical experts, but CC's can be influential in finding a more appropriate balance.

Younger people are understandably likely to prioritise family or career concerns, but the future welfare of the whole community is also better placed in their hands.



DR KEITH JAMES SYMINGTON
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

OUR COMMUNITY

Isn't it curious how people get involved in their local community? I discovered Community Councils (CCs) after a planning notice letter landed on my doormat; cue visions of Currie as a concrete jungle of the finest brutalist kind.

I am not against development; I want my kids to be able to afford a home. However, I feel that homes should be built with sustainable growth of a community in mind.

Armed with knowledge that CCs have a formal role in planning, and a legal right to be consulted, I thought I'd go ask a few questions. To my surprise, the meeting was well stocked with local residents, elected Councillors, and was occasionally graced by local MPs or MSPs. It was there I realised how significant the organisation was to Currie.

A question I often get is "What exactly is the Community Council?" It's the most local tier of representation we have. It provides informed local opinion so that The City of Edinburgh Council can make decisions in the public interest. It's not political; it's people who care about their community.

I ended up joining the CC to try and give something back, in my case planning: getting the odd 5G mast repositioned here or challenging developers there. I figured if everyone did a little, it would end up being a lot.

CCs are about the community, and work to represent all people in the area without prejudice. I have written letters I don't agree with, but the community does. That's the important bit.

Unfortunately, the number of people on Currie CC has dwindled and it is close to folding. Community Councils act as an official voice for residents and, if lost, Currie would be left behind and neglected.

If you want to be heard, please join us.

What's On

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 JUNE

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

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

FRIDAYS

THE MEN'S SHED: 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: Baberton Avenue, Juniper Green, 10am-noon. Free coached social tennis for adult members of all ages and abilities in a fun and friendly environment. 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

COMMUNITY CAFÉ: Currie Community Centre, 9am-noon. Each Saturday in June, then restarting on 26 August. Barista coffee and delicious home baking.

CURRIE KIRK CAFE: Kirkgate, Currie, 2pm-4pm (last orders 3.30pm). Saturday café serving tea, coffee and home 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, www.facebook.com/Balerno-Ramblers or email: enquiries@balernoramblers.org.uk

DAY BY DAY LISTINGS CONTINUE ON PAGE 43 >>>

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- Cook

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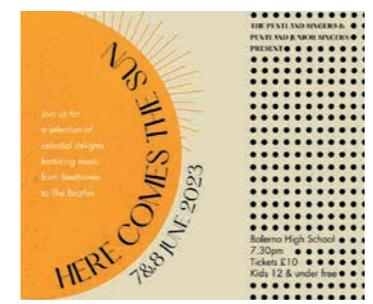
DAY BY DAY JUNE

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 by Currie, Balerno and District Round Table and volunteers. All proceeds will be given to local charities and good causes. Tickets in advance at www.cbdrt.com. Entry and 3 beer tokens (1/3 pints) £15. Curry from £8 (please order in advance to avoid disappointment). Additional beer tokens £13 for 10 (these can also be purchased on the night).

WEDNESDAY 7/THURSDAY 8 JUNE



THE PENTLAND SINGERS & PENTLAND JUNIOR SINGERS SUMMER CONCERT: Balerno High School, 7.30pm. Here Comes The Sun—a selection of celestial delights featuring music from Beethoven to The Beatles. Tickets £10, children 12 and under free. Tickets from Eventbrite, choir members or on the door.

THURSDAY 8 JUNE

THE THURSDAY GROUP

(Formerly “Colinton Townswomens’s Guild”): St Cuthbert’s Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, 2.15pm. A talk will be given about the work of the Tiphereth Group, a Scottish charity helping people with learning difficulties. This new group would like to extend a warm invitation to our next meeting.

SATURDAY 10 JUNE



BALERNO FARMERS MARKET, Main Street, 9am-1pm. Selection of local businesses, groups and organisations.

SUNDAY 11 JUNE

GLASGOW CHAMBER CHOIR: CONCERT FOR A SUMMER EVENING, Colinton Parish Church, Dell Road, 5pm. Conductor: Michael Bawtree. Tickets (£10 adults/£5 students) online or on the door. glasgowchamberchoir.org.uk

MONDAY 12 JUNE

CITY MOBILITY ACTION PLANS CONSULTATION, Currie Library, 3pm-7pm. Share your views on making Edinburgh cleaner, greener and safer. See page 7 for details.

TUESDAY 13 JUNE

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

SUNDAY 18 JUNE

C&B NEWS: Official editorial Deadline. Please submit your contributions for our hopefully “bumper” July/August summer issue.

SATURDAY 24 JUNE



ARMED FORCES DAY BBQ & CELEBRATION, St Cuthbert’s Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton; noon-4pm.

EVENTS ON AT THE HUB@531 LANARK ROAD WEEKLY

MONDAYS:

COME FOR A CUPPA, 10am-11.30am. Pop in to have a cuppa, biscuit and a chat or join in a game of rummikub, scrabble or cards.

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. Singing nursery rhymes then having a cuppa and meeting other mums helps you realise you are not the only one tired with uncertainty—it can be hard but peer support helps.

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! New and experienced knitters welcome.

YOGA: 1pm-2pm. For all abilities chair or floor work—space restrictions, so must be booked via hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

WEDNESDAYS

PENTLANDS SPORTING MEMORIES CLUB, 1.30pm-3pm. Come and join the

Organised by the Edinburgh & The Lothians Branch of SSAFA—the Armed Forces Charity.

TUESDAY 27 JUNE

PALM CAFÉ SUMMER OUTING. The monthly social group café for people with dementia and their carers in Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green, normally held on the last Tuesday of the month, from 3pm-4.15pm, St Joseph’s Centre, Balerno. For more information, contact Clare Dow: claremdow@gmail.com

sports chat with a cuppa and volunteers who help support the group conversation with fun sports trivia. Call Donna 07340 560306 or email: donna.mackey@sportingmemories.uk

DAY BY DAY

THURSDAY 8 JUNE

GUIDED MINDFULNESS: 6pm Raymond will guide a mindful session to bring awareness to the present and no judgement. Can be booked, or drop in on the night.

MONDAY 12 JUNE

STRESS WORKSHOP: 7.30pm. Stress: What is it, why do I have it and how do I get rid of it? Session led by Dr Stephen Smith, D Clin Psy. Hour-long session will include a brief Q&A session at the end. Places are limited to a maximum of 12 people. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

CRAFTING WITH CROCHET: 7pm. Book by emailing hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

THURSDAY 15 JUNE

CRAFTING WITH CROCHET: 1.30pm. Book by emailing hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

GUIDED MINDFULNESS: 6pm Raymond will guide a mindful session to bring awareness to the present and no judgement. Can be booked, or drop in on the night.

BALERNO FOLK CLUB, Balerno Bowling Club, 5 Ladycroft; 7.30pm for 8.15pm start. Appearing this month are “Choras” featuring Janice Reavell, Aileen Carr and Barbara Dymock who will provide a great night of traditional song. Members and Guests welcome.

WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE

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



Pentlands Book Festival Seeking Local Authors

RUSSELL SALTON
PENTLANDS BOOK FESTIVAL

The Pentlands Book Festival committee is hard at work putting together a programme for this year to take place in mid-to-late-November, coinciding with – and extending either side of – Book Week Scotland’s annual celebration of the written word. This year’s BWS theme is “adventure”—and certainly trying to pull together the PBF programme is exactly that.

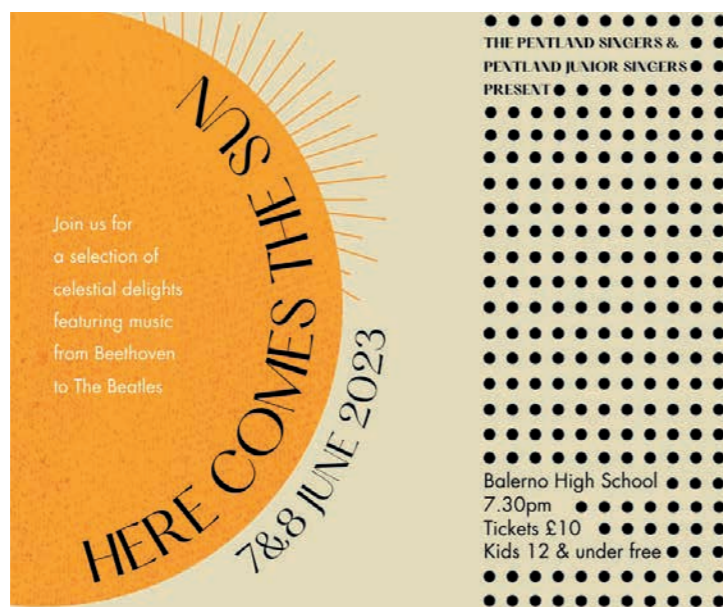
We’re not in a position to release names yet but, as usual, we are aiming to offer something for every taste. However, we are short of local debut authors and we would welcome and happily cover the expenses of anyone who would like a platform at Colinton Library to talk about their book(s) and perhaps sign and sell a few copies. The date within the Festival period is still to be determined.

If you are interested in appearing at our friendly local festival please email pentlandsbookfestival@outlook.com with an outline of your publication(s) and, ideally a link to any website publicising it/ them.

<http://www.pentlandsbookfestival.org/>



www.candbnews.com



Pentland Singers Concert

ALWYN FERGUSON
PENTLAND SINGERS

The Pentland Singers, with the Pentland Junior Singers, present their summer concert Here Comes The Sun in Balerno High School on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 June, at 7:30pm.

The programme includes a wide repertoire of music, a selection of celestial delights, from Beethoven to the Beatles. Tickets £10, children 12 and under free. Tickets from Eventbrite, choir members or on the door.

Colinton Arts Spring Inspirations

EMMA HOOPER
ELH MARKETING

Colinton Arts current *Spring Inspirations* Exhibition runs until the end of June. Coinciding with the change of the seasons, the exhibition is full of the wonders of nature as the warmer weather takes hold. It features the work of three Scottish artists: Irene Watson, Deborah Cumming, and Nicola Bolland.

Nicola creates hand-built ceramic pieces and prints with bold, detailed designs centred around the natural world.

Dr Deborah Cumming is a Scottish contemporary still life painter with an impressive list of scholarly accomplishments including a PhD at Grays School of Art and two lectureships in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Her work focuses on a paired back combination of fabric and flowers within strong design compositions, derived from



her background as a botanical illustrator.

Irene Watson is a contemporary abstract artist who mainly works in oil on linen or canvas. With a subtle minimalist approach, her work is cool and neutral, yet it remains a reference for the feminine, the gentle, and the sublime.

Spring Inspirations, until 30 June, at Colinton Arts, 52 Bridge Road, Colinton.

Heriot-Watt Student’s Textile Design to be Woven and Tailored into Savile Row Suite

MEDIA TEAM
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

A student at Heriot-Watt University’s School of Textiles and Design will have her textile design woven in Yorkshire by a royal weaver and made into a men’s sports jacket by a Savile Row tailor in London.

Lois Cowie, 22, won a student textile design challenge set by

Huddersfield Fine Worsteds, an internationally renowned cloth maker in West Yorkshire whose customers include the royal family, and Huntsman, a celebrated bespoke tailoring house that has outfitted European royalty and stars of stage and screen, including actress Nicole Kidman

and musician David Bowie.

The companies challenged third year BA (Hons) Design for Textiles students to design a new fabric for menswear sports jacketing with the potential to be produced commercially and with a bold design that was a bit different.

Lois created a design inspired by the sandstone tenements of Glasgow, where she lived for two years while studying.



£25 PRIZE CROSSWORD

THEMED CROSSWORD 29 BY PUZZLECHOICE.COM

To enter, please photograph the completed puzzle and email to: editor@candbnews.com on or before noon, Friday 16 June 2023.

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

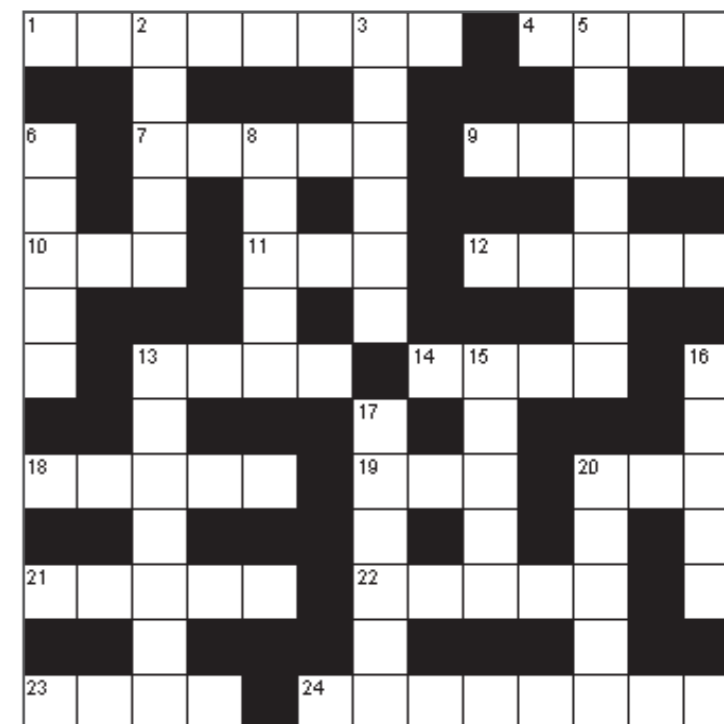
Good luck!

ACROSS

- Edible agaric (8)
- Sour to the taste (4)
- Shaped and dried dough (5)
- Aromatic herb (5)
- Major food fish (3)
- Sometimes added to flour and water to make
- Downy juicy fruit (5)
- Rind (4)
- Parallel metal bars used to grill meat or fish (4)
- Oval fruit with juicy acidic flesh (5)
- Large pot for making coffee or tea (3)
- Alcoholic drink made with juniper berries (3)
- Bread maker (5)
- Dairy product (5)
- The leaves are used fresh or candied (4)
- Round red root vegetable (8)

DOWN

- Full of relish (5)
- Round citrus fruit (6)
- Sweetened mixture of milk and eggs, baked, boiled or frozen (7)
- Meat usually sliced thin and fried (5)
- Thick edible yellow root, sounds Scandinavian (5)
- Usually large round fruit of the squash family (7)
- Kitchen appliance used for cooking (5)
- Large oval tropical fruit with smooth skin and juicy aromatic pulp (5)
- Tart filled with rich unsweetened custard; often contains cheese, ham or other vegetables (6)
- Okra (5)



NAME

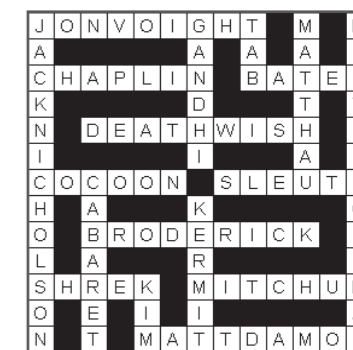
ADDRESS

POST CODE PHONE

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER!

Our congratulations go to James Nairn of Balerno, randomly selected to receive our £25 prize.

SOLUTION: MAY 2023



EASY

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5			9	2			7



Frame-Runner Finlay Menzies Completes First Half-Marathon

LIZ POWER
LIVINGSTON ATHLETICS CLUB

Balerno-based Para-athlete Finlay Menzies, 17, successfully completed his first half-marathon in one hour, 46 minutes and one second.

Finlay, who has cerebral palsy, is possibly the first person to use the specialist aid for runners who have mobility, balance or co-ordination issues at the Edinburgh Marathon Festival.

Finlay trains at Livingston Athletics Club and is coached by Celia Peerless. "Finlay is a joy to coach. He will always give his all and is willing to have a go at everything including field events, which he and I adjust for any foreseen problems," she said.

Finlay started his athletics journey at Edinburgh Eagles Athletics Club, a club for children with autism and learning difficulties. Celia suggested he move on from there to the mainstream Livingston club, where she also has a training group.

The Balerno High School student has been running for six years, competing in the 100 metre, 200 metre and 400 metre. Although a regular park runner at Cramond, the half marathon distance was nevertheless "a big step up".

"The training for half marathon is quite different from any other form of training I've done before," said Finlay, who ran this May's half-marathon to raise money for Lothian Disability Sport. "It's a lot slower paced but I needed to build my stamina up. It's taken since January to train for my first half marathon and, at some point, I hope to do a full marathon."

Finlay was accompanied on the run by his friend Mark Galloway, who helped him keep his frame running wheels clear and made sure he took on food and drink during the event.



ROSS COWE
COMMITTEE MEMBER, BALERNO LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Our tennis season swung into action on Saturday 13 May when Balerno Lawn Tennis Club opened its doors to the community.

The day brought the first signs of summer with sunshine aplenty, and the day was well attended—particularly by aspiring young tennis players with their mums and dads. Home baking, coffees, teas and plenty of juice to keep everyone refreshed were provided by the committee and everyone had a chance to have a hit and some impromptu coaching. Overall another great success and thanks to everyone who turned out for a

fun-filled morning.

It was also good to have a chat with many people about memberships and coaching, so for information on how you can join the club and what coaching and other facilities are available, check the box-out!

On a personal note, this will be my last entry on behalf of the Tennis Club as I am standing down from the committee at the end of July. I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for their support during the last six year. The reins will be taken up by Rory Donaldson

after the school summer holidays.

It has been wonderful to be part of the growth and development of the club through the opening of the new pavilion and upgrading of the Tennis Courts during the past six years. The legacy of the Christopher Cowe Memorial Games Room will ensure the club always remains close to our hearts.

The club website provides information on coaching, how to book courts and also the various membership options (from Junior to Adult and Family) for season 2023/24. Please note that due to demand, players who participate in our Junior Programmes must become members of Balerno Tennis Club. <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BalernoTennisClub/>

Harlaw Fishing

ROBERT ROSS
MALLENY ANGLING

The trout fishing at Harlaw remains excellent with most anglers achieving their catch or better known "bag limit". Double figure catches have been achieved by many anglers.

The brown trout fishing at Threipmuir has been a little slow to start but, with the warmer weather, will offer superb top-of-the-water fishing.

The water at Harlaw has now started to warm up and hatches of small black flies have been prolific. Fish have responded by freely rising to a selection of flies but mostly small black buzzers.

The rise of the trout is far from



being the only thing that matters about fly fishing but, for many of us, it is the most exciting time. The choice of the right fly is important but at this time of the year selecting the correct colour and size can be the key to success.

Black is still the dominant colour with black buzzers, black

rainbow nymph or small black lures accounting for many fish. In early summer, the colour of fly will start to change, black will still dominate, but olive flies will start to appear, as will the black gnat and hawthorn fly.

The fishing will now mostly be with a floating line or, in extreme

Juniper Green Tennis Club Annual Open Day

PAUL MURPHY
JUNIPER GREEN TENNIS CLUB

It was wonderful to see so many local youngsters of various age groups having great fun on the tennis courts with coach Kenny Petrie at Juniper Green Tennis Club's annual open day, held on Saturday 20 May.

For some this was their very first experience of holding a tennis racquet and hopefully it will be the first of many rewarding hours playing a fun, family orientated and inexpensive sport at their local tennis club.

Wednesday 24 May saw the start of Mixed Doubles Social Tennis for all adult members which is ideally suited to those new to the game and/or picking up a racquet for the first time in a while and presents a great opportunity to meet fellow members.

Finally, the Summer Coaching programme for children at JGTC is filling up fast but there are still places available with all the details and booking information to be found at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/JuniperGreenTennisClub/Coaching>.

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

conditions, a sink tip line.

I recently witnessed G P Goh, a superb and highly-respected fly fisher who is also a member of Malleny Angling, take five lovely fish in quick succession by simply matching his small black dry fly and small black buzzer imitation to the hatching flies.

All the fish were kept in the water, unhooked from the barbless hook and safely returned.

Fly fishing can be a difficult art to master and getting a fish in the net is challenging and very satisfying.

The waiting for the main early summer event, the emergence of the mayfly, continues with renewed anticipation. The mayfly nymph will be active in the water and a well-presented imitation should get a response from the trout.

Currie Chieftains Celebrate 2022-23



PHIL THOMAS
CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

As the 2022-23 rugby season has drawn to a close, Currie Chieftains have started their season-end celebrations both for senior and youth players. First out of the blocks, was the senior Club Awards Dinner, which was held at the Clubhouse on 20 May just in time to meet the C&B News deadline.

This traditional black tie and evening dress affair was Chaired by the Club President Charles Mullins and featured an excellent after-dinner address by Bruce Aitchison, the widely known rugby coach, teacher, business speaker and all-round ambassador for sport and human health and wellbeing.

The club's responses included personal views on the 2022-23 season by 1st team captains Graeme Carson and Rhys Davies, with Rhys adopting verse to reveal talents which were previously unsuspected! Club Chairman Gavin McMurray provided an overview of the club's present position and, looking to season 2023-24, outlined the current plans for future growth and development.

The central part of the evening was given over to the presentation of awards to players which were introduced by coaches Mark Cairns and Ally Donaldson.

At the time of writing, further celebrations were to take place at the Youth Dinner on 26 May and the Min-BBQ on 4 June. The final rugby event of the 2022-23 season was the Malleny 7s Tournament held on 27 May.

For more information on Currie Chieftains, including articles and photography of past and present games and players, visit: <https://www.curriechieftains.org/>



Top left: Players' Player of the Year: Ryan Stewart (Chieftains, Hooker), Euan Crombie (Chieftains A, Wing/fullback); Fraser Murray (Chieftains B, Prop). Top right: Coaches' Player of the Year: Chris Anderson (Chieftains, Prop); Matt Laidlaw (Wing); Chieftains B, Fraser Murray (Prop). Above: Individual awards: Iain Sim (Try of the Season, Wing), Rhys Davies (Man of Steel, No 8), Cairn Ramsay (Breakthrough Player of the Year, Prop).

Main Back Cover image: Team of the Year: Currie Chieftains B, who were winners of Tennent's East Reserve League Division 3

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BALERNO TENNIS OPEN DAY SUCCESS, p46



VOLUNTEERING WITH BIG NOISE, Q&A p24

C&BSPORT

CURRIE • BALERNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON



FT Banana, p13

Bumper 48-page Summer Issue!



Half Marathon Success, p46



Awards Season

Currie Chieftains Celebrate Another Successful Year, p47

Photos: Currie Chieftains; Livingston Athletics; Balerno Children's Gala

INSIDE: NEWS p2 LOCAL HISTORY p16 FEATURES p19 VIEWS p31 WHAT'S ON p40