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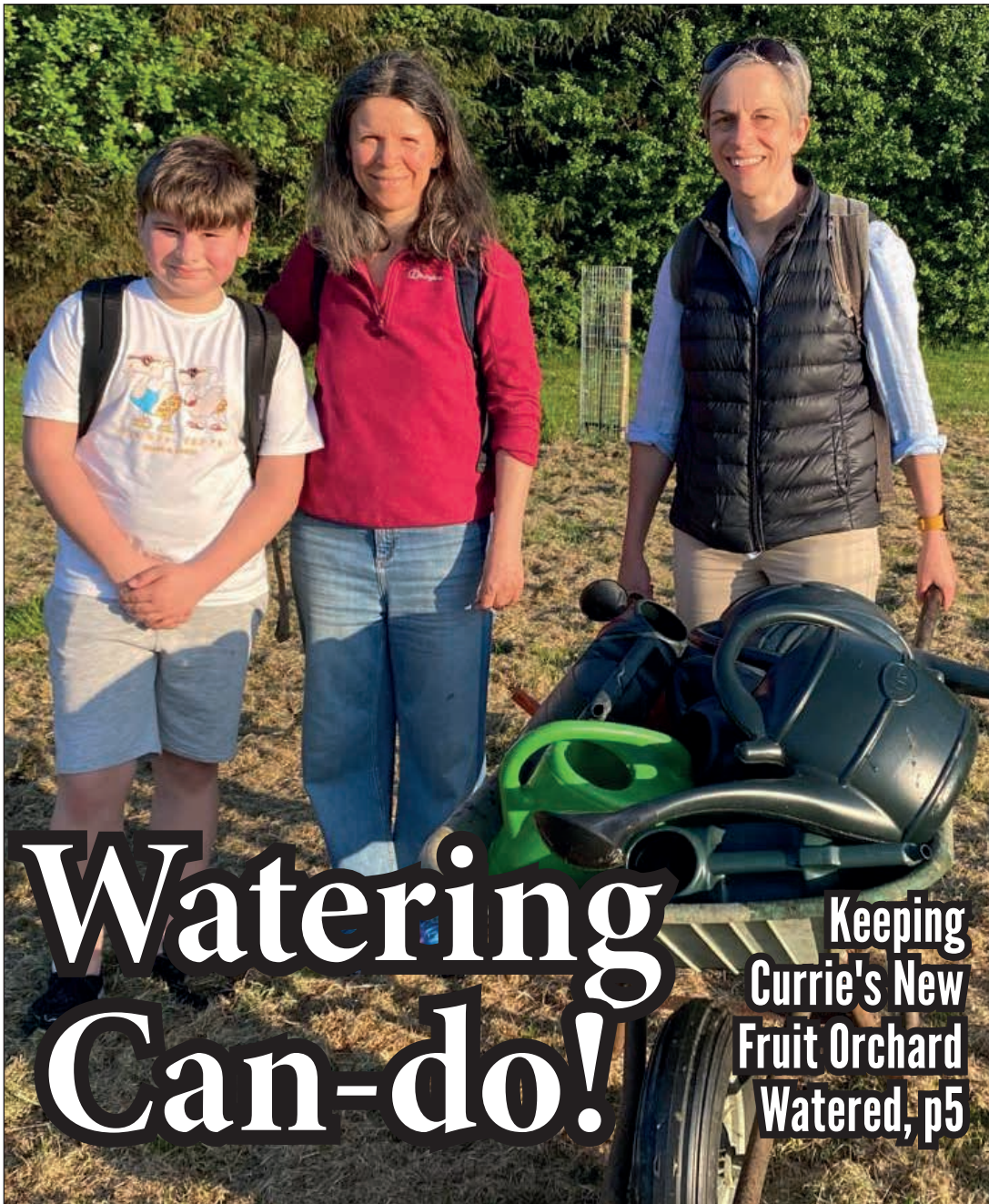
**THE CURRIE BEER FESTIVAL TEAM, p3**



**MALLENY GARDEN'S ROSES, p15**

# C&B NEWS

CURRIE • BALERNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON



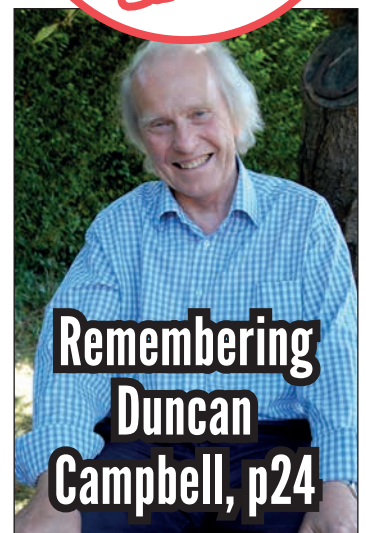
## Watering Can-do!

**Keeping Currie's New Fruit Orchard Watered, p5**



**Nepal Trek, for WorldVision, p21**

**Bumper 48-page Summer Issue!**



**Remembering Duncan Campbell, p24**

Photos: P&N, Ian Boyter, CB&T, James Bell, Rev Nicky McNeily



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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**Currie:** Caroline Brown, Graham Dane  
**Juniper Green:** Derek Douglas, Ros Salton, Richard Watt, Gail Rankin.

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**C&B NEWS DEADLINES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**ADVERTISING & LISTINGS: 15 AUGUST**  
**EDITORIAL: 20 AUGUST**  
**ISSUE DISTRIBUTED FROM: 1 SEPTEMBER**



This year's winner of the *C&B News* "Guess the number of sweets in the jar" competition at the Balerno Children's Gala Day was Isobelle, pictured here with her mum. Congratulations!



Preparing for the Edinburgh Repair Café event held at The Shed in Spylaw Park on Saturday 17 June, with a donation of cakes, tea, coffee and juice from the Co-op for the Pit Stop Café. Yum! Yum!



Left and above: Visitors to Muir Wood Park will find numerous flower pots by many of the main paths. Right: Blooms brighten the centres of Currie and Juniper Green. Photos: Paul Fisher Cockburn.



The 2023 Currie Beer & Curry festival was a huge success, raising a whopping £10,000! This far exceeds previous years' events, so a big thanks from the organisers to everyone that played a part—especially the 700 people who ate, drank and danced. Currie Chieftans came up trumps again, staffing the bar on both nights. A further 50 plus people volunteered their time before, during and after the festival, under the command of chief organiser Laurie Aitken. A big thanks also to James Nicol, aka "Dr Beer", who selected, tasted and cared for the 40 different craft beers, and other drinks. <https://cbdrt.com/contact/>

## BRIEFLY...

### LET THERE BE LIGHT!

After nearly nine months, on 1 June 2023, CEC granted Colinton Lawn Tennis Club planning permission to install controlled LED lighting on three of their courts. Their application (22/04508/FUL, lodged on 8 September 2022) inspired more than 30 objections, many from concerned neighbours, but also more than 170 comments in support.



### THE RAILWAY INN

The long-established pub at 542 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, is once again up for sale, with an asking price of £515,000. Owners Darren Love (nephew of former owner Alistair Love) and Corinne Jones shared with the *Edinburgh Evening News* that it was a soul-destroying and heartbreaking decision.

### CAR PARKS

Construction work started at Bonaly (upper) car park on 12 June 2023; the car park will be closed for the duration, although pedestrian access to Bonaly Country Park will be maintained. Once completed, improvement works will shift to the car parks at Threipmuir, Flotterstone and Harlaw respectively, with work at each expected to take 10 weeks. For more information, visit: [pentlandhills.org/carparks](http://pentlandhills.org/carparks).

### THE CORNER CAFE

This popular Currie establishment will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Tuesday 11 July, between 6pm-8pm. Customers are invited to share some bubbly to celebrate not just the last decade but also the next 10 years—as they've just renewed their lease!



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## Gordon Macdonald MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency



### Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

Facebook: Gordon Macdonald MSP Twitter: @GMacdonaldMSP

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## Company Donates £1K to Wester Hailes Food Bank

MIKE ROWE  
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Currie Balerno Rotary joins with Wester Hailes Holy Trinity (HT) Foodbank in celebrating a grant of £1,000 from property developer Chancerygate, a UK company currently engaged in a development in Sighthill.

Company Director Mike Walker said they were delighted to help this local charity and the local community and, in doing so, recognised the support provided to the Food Bank by Currie Balerno Rotary.

Holy Trinity does not just run a foodbank. It provides counselling sessions, a debt centre, a job club and a café offering free



soup and fruit three days a week. Currie Balerno Rotary provides both financial assistance and volunteers.

(Left to right): Rotarian Ken Lindsay, Rita Welsh (HT), Ada Ioannidis and Amanda Walker (Chancerygate), Fiona Watson (HT) and CB Rotary president Peter McGavigan.

## The Pentlands Share in SG Funding

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN  
C&B NEWS

The Pentland Hills Regional Park is one of 24 countryside, coast and island projects across Scotland to receive a staffing boost this summer, thanks to the NatureScot Better Places Fund.

A share of £900,000 of Scottish Government funding will support six seasonal rangers in the Pentland Hills to improve visitor management and help safeguard the environment for both visitors and local communities.

The extra "boots on the ground" will promote the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and help manage visitor pressure. "As we tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis, we have to ensure that the country's most spectacular locations are valued and cared for, so that they are there for future generations," said NatureScot's Recreation and Paths Manager, Bridget Jones.

A similar scheme last year funded 109 seasonal staff across Scotland.



## New Cargo Bike Available for Hire

DAVE MCCRAW  
SW20

South West Edinburgh 20 Minute Neighbourhoods (SW20) would like to thank the National Lottery, Energy Saving Trust, and Spokes for significant grant funding enabling us to expand our activities in the local area.

We have just taken delivery

of a new electric family/cargo bike which is available for FREE day hire. In addition, we are pleased to offer tool lending from the shed in Spylaw Park in collaboration with the Edinburgh Tool Library and Colinton Village Enterprise.

For details on both of these and future community projects, please see our social media or click to: sw20.info

## Sue Webber MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Lothian Region



### Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

Contact Sue Webber  
@ sue.webber.msp@parliament.scot  
0131 202 3005  
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A new community orchard is thriving thanks to watering efforts, reports Katie Gerardot of Pentland Eco Network (PEN). Thanks to dedicated volunteers from PEN and Currie Balerno Rotary, the new Community Orchard in George V Park, Currie, is thriving—despite the recent dry spell. Members of the two groups have been meeting weekly to give the young trees a good watering, using all manner of containers, watering cans and even a wheelbarrow! (See the front cover!) If you're interested in joining them over the summer please contact: katie.gerardot@gmail.com



## BRIEFLY...

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Balerno: Replace existing extension with new (Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed), 6 Curriehill Castle Drive. (23/02423/CLP) Registered 5 June.

Colinton: For use as a short term let (in retrospect), 4 Spylaw House (25 Spylaw Street). (23/01840/FULSTL) Comments by 7 July.

Balerno: Replacing existing dining room extension, and other work, 2 Marchbank Grove. (23/02124/FUL) Comments by 4 July.

Colinton: Rear and side extension with attic conversion, 5 Thorburn Grove. (23/02298/FUL) Comments by 5 July.

Colinton: Remove rear external steps, form raised patio with storage below, remove door and window, and other work, 81 Woodfield Park. (23/02470/FUL) Comments by 4 July.

Colinton: New 'Click and Collect' parking with canopy, proposed new steel bollards and area for trolley holding, Tesco, 10 Colinton Mains Drive. (23/02526/FUL) Comments by 6 July.

Balerno: Erect single storey side extension to dwelling and associated works, 6 Turner Avenue. (23/02569/FUL) Comments by 7 July.

Balerno: Several beech, ash and elm trees, cut to stump/monolith. (23/02544/TPO) Registered 13 June.

Juniper Green: Single storey side and rear extension, 26 Baberton Mains Green. (23/02548/CLP) Registered 14 June.

## ROADWORKS & ROAD CLOSURES

Hailes/Juniper Green: Lanark Road between Gillespie crossroads and Inglis Green Road, carriageway patching leading to lane closures, until 7 July.





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## New Wildflower Meadow will Replace Balerno Building Dump

**SOFYA SOBOLEVA**  
HARLAW LAND REMEDIATION SUBGROUP,  
BALERNO VILLAGE TRUST

Looks like Balerno will soon gain another attractive spot for visiting walkers.

The gap site between 75 and 77 Harlaw Road, leading to nearby farm fields and an electricity substation, has long been subject to construction dumping and fly tipping. Overgrown weeds have covered the damp earth and created a very unpleasant and unsafe environment.

Local residents cleared the land of liftable items during various Covid-19 lockdowns, and remediated a small strip along the fence as a testing site, turning it into the little meadow. What remains requires machinery to remove the concrete blocks and reinforced metal bars.

The good news is that the Harlaw Land Remediation subgroup of Balerno Village Trust has been given funding by EB Scotland to clear the land and to sow the whole plot with Scottish meadow grasses and a wildflower seed mix.

The remediation of the site will start in August/September 2023: the clearance will be done by a local contractor, and the pruning of the small trees and hedges will free some more space. Then the land patch will be covered by a weed control membrane for winter months before a mixture of native flowers and grasses are sown in the spring of 2024.

When the wildflower meadow is fully established and mature, a bee hotel, a log bench and a bird feeder will be installed. We are looking forward to a new pretty site in Balerno!

## 60th Annual Display for 65th Edinburgh Company BB



**BILL BROWN**  
CAPTAIN, 65TH EDINBURGH COMPANY,  
THE BOYS' BRIGADE

On Friday 2 June the 65th Edinburgh Company Boys' Brigade held their 60th Annual Display and Presentation of Awards at the Gibson Craig Hall in Currie. Honorary Captain Jim Webber inspected the boys and Isobel Webber presented their awards.

While small in number, we have a happy and enthusiastic number of boys who have enjoyed a busy and successful year. The Anchor and Junior Sections have enjoyed a wide range of games and crafts with an emphasis on conservation. They also enjoyed a trip to the Crazy Golf at Chesser and joined other members of the Battalion at

a pantomime at the Church Hill Theatre.

A number of boys attended annual camp in North Wales during the Summer of 2022. During the session the boys enjoyed a varied programme of classes including another photographic masterclass delivered by Peter Tuffy.

The Company entered National competitions in Badminton, Table Tennis and Master team with varying success. The boys also enjoyed an evening at the 10 pin bowling at Chesser and joined with other members of the Battalion at Cosmo Restaurant for a Christmas buffet.

Hopefully we will have many more members to join in the fun next session. For more information contact bill.brown53@yahoo.com



Top: Finlay Russell and Josh Durie. Above, clockwise from top left: Khaled Hamo, Tony Cheung, Conrad Cheung, Dulan Wylei.

## BRIEFLY...

p5>>>

**Dreghorn:** Dreghorn Link at Swanston Muir/Services; electricity cable installation across access road, requiring four-way temporary traffic lights, 17-28 July.

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

**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.

**Balerno/Currie/Juniper Green:** Lanark Road and Lanark Road West; rolling programme for SGN gas main renewal, requiring lane closures, temporary traffic lights and closure of side roads (Stewart Road, Blinkbonny Road, Muir Wood Road, Juniper Avenue) as work progresses. From 1 July until January 2024.

**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 phase. 3 July to late August.

**Colinton Mains:** Colinton Mains Drive/Oxgangs Road North between Braid Burn Bridge and Oxgangs Avenue, Cityfibre cable and ducting installation requiring land and parking restrictions as signed, with temporary traffic lights as required, until September. Oxgangs Road North at junction with Colinton Mains Road/Firrhill Crescent south leg, Cityfibre cable and ducting installation, all roads closed, 3-7 July.

**Colinton/Dreghorn:** Redford Road at Redford Walk, Scottish Power cabling, 3-way temporary traffic lights, 1-10 August.

**Balerno:** Mansfield Road at Harmeny School, water main connection work, 3-way temporary traffic lights, 24 July to 21 August.

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# LOCAL ORGANISATION UPDATES

## New Job Opportunity at the Hub@531 Lanark Road

CLIFF BEEVERS  
PENTLANDS COMMUNITY SPACE

A grant from National Lottery Awards for All Scotland will enable Pentlands Community Space to employ a part-time development officer based at the Community Hub@531 Lanark Road, in Juniper Green.

The charity seeks someone to work up to 16 hours per week for an initial period of six months. This is an exciting time for Pentlands Community Space as it looks to take advantage of the new community facilities at the Hub.

The new part-time post provides for expansion to include sessions that encourage cooperation and reduce isolation.

For more information, contact chairperson Lynn Elliott: [lynn13.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:lynn13.elliott@gmail.com), tel: 07923 831584. Deadline, 5pm on Monday 24 July 2023.

## Annual Show Approaches

SHEILA MASON  
PRESS SECRETARY, BALERNO SWI

Now only a few weeks away, this is a final reminder that the committee would very much appreciate it that, if you have items you have grown and you are particularly pleased with, you enter them for competition at the Currie Horticultural Society Show on Saturday 26th August, in Balerno CHS, 1.30pm until 4pm.

Entry forms are available in our printed Schedule – available from the committee who can be contacted via [currieshow@gmail.com](mailto:currieshow@gmail.com) – and should be submitted before Wednesday 23 August.

Perhaps I should add that “the Horti” is not only “gardening”-related, as there are also classes for your pet houseplant, floral art, baking, preserves, crafts and lots for the young people to try during the summer holidays.

Look forward to seeing you all.

## 31st Pentland Scouts Record Breaking Jumble Sale

ALLAN LEAL  
31ST PENTLAND (JUNIPER GREEN) SCOUTS

The annual jumble sale organised by the 31st Pentland (Juniper Green) Scouts proved a great success.

The sale was held, for the first time, in June – to avoid clashes with numerous bank holidays, school fairs and a coronation! So, on the morning of 10 June, frantic activity could be witnessed in the Scout Hall as a team of somewhat sweaty volunteers prepared everything for the sale. It was a sweltering hot day and a queue started forming at 12.36pm to take advantage of the tea, coffee and home baking stall.

Doors opened promptly at 2pm and a flood of eager customers rushed into the hall and carpark to try and find a bargain. Just over two hours later we were all done and left with just the clearing up to do and money to count.

We are still doing this but after breaking the £4,000 barrier in 2022 we are delighted to announce that our final figure this year will be over £5,000! This is our main source of fundraising for the group and is vitally important for paying our energy and insurance costs to ensure we can continue to offer Scouting to the young people of



Baberton, Juniper Green, Currie and occasionally beyond.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work over the week before the jumble sale and on the day itself, and all our customers for coming along and opening their wallets.

We are also pleased to say this

## Second Big Lunch Great Success

SHONA HARROWER  
FRIENDS OF CAMPBELL PARK

Thanks to all the clubs and volunteers who came together on 4 June 2023 to make our second Big Lunch such a success. We had fantastic weather in Campbell Park and counted more than 400 visitors through the gates between 1pm and 4pm.

Musical entertainment included: Ian Boyter and his friends’ “jazz-iatics” band; a beautiful folk set from Moteh Parott; and much hilarity from

accordion showman Sandy Brechin, who also MC’d the event.

Dressed to impress as a Parks Warden, “Narky The Parky” Sandy broadcast his 25-minute live show on Facebook. The local children were not sure what to make of the strange



year that almost nothing of what remained went to landfill due to the generosity of Regenerate Edinburgh who collected almost everything that was left to sort and recycle.

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2024!

man admonishing them for exceeding a 3mph scooter speed limit, but the audience loved it. You can find episode 159 of Sandy Brechin Quarantine Gigs on YouTube.

We also enjoyed a huge Asian-themed BBQ from the Edinburgh Cricket Club, football fun from Edinburgh United, and blissful yoga sessions in a beautiful green yurt.

A “groundforce” of more than 40 volunteers from the Colinton Garden Club, Friends of Campbell Park, cricket, and football clubs helped to lay on a very inclusive and entertaining community picnic event.

We hope they and you will all come back to help make the next FCP Big Lunch even bigger on 18 (or 25) May 2025. Save the dates!

# LOCAL ORGANISATION UPDATES



## Fair Summer

LESLEY HENDERSON  
BALERNO FAIRTRADE VILLAGE GROUP

We guess even June’s heatwave didn’t match running this May’s Rigg Race in a steaming Fairtrade (FT) banana costume: Martin Lyall truly earned his applause and all our thanks.

Balerno Gala Day brought great support for the FT Banana Hoopla, kindly sponsored again by Scotmid. From the takings – passed on to Mary’s Meals – we estimate nearly 900 “hoopings” were made by children, families and some of our politicians, whose staunch cross-party backing for FT makes such a difference. Scottish Fair Trade Forum Chair Charles Sim came across Scotland to cheer us on, and we can’t thank the Gala Committee enough for the whole event.

Balerno Village Gardeners



followed that by trusting us with a FT-themed Main Street tub. Bill of Bill’s Hardware again gave vital help and, with grand BVG care, the plants are thriving.

How different it is, though, for many fellow people in the world facing both trade injustice and much more damaging climate change than most Northerners have seen so far, even given the serious impact already on some livelihoods here too. Our own buying choices matter more than ever. Goods including FT brands can go on being stocked only if we still buy

them. Whenever you notice a FT product has disappeared, please ask management for its return – and be sure to buy some if it ever comes back.

Like so much else, FT sales and availability suffer when times are tight. Let’s each do all we can to help them back up, for the sake of producers and communities whose livelihoods, even lives, depend on them.

And to the 2023 Gala’s very last young banana-hoopers who shared their winnings with the queue, well done you. There’s real hope yet.

## Beaver-ing Away Those Weeds!

ANNIE MACDONALD  
PESTICIDE FREE BALERNO

Recently the Balerno Beavers group were out manually weeding to support the Balerno Pesticide Free community and council initiative!

The kids focused on shared areas of Balerno’s Main Street, car parks and sheltered housing. It was great to see the Beavers’ teamwork, community spirit and enthusiasm making sure all around the Balerno village was tidy and –

most importantly – safe and free from harmful chemicals

It’s inspirational that our next generation takes pride of where they live, enjoys looking after their community, and makes a positive change for health and the environment—for now and for future generations

To get in contact: email: [pesticidefreebalerno@gmail.com](mailto:pesticidefreebalerno@gmail.com); text: 07979 717485; visit: [www.pesticidefreebalerno.com](http://www.pesticidefreebalerno.com)



## Fixing and Mending at The Shed

LORRAINE O’SHEA  
COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE SCIO

A delightful afternoon of fixing and mending was had, and helping folk DIY, at the Edinburgh Repair Café event held at The Shed in Spylaw Park on Saturday, 17 June: 23 items were seen, 12 items fixed on the spot, with advice given on repairing another seven. This is equivalent to 48kg of waste and 225kg of CO2 emissions being prevented. The event was part of The Climate Fringe Festival.

Colinton Village Enterprise was delighted to be able to facilitate such productive measures, and wish we had counted the number of cakes, cups of tea, coffee, and juice consumed at our Pit Stop Café. Perhaps we could then have cleverly translated this into joules of energy provided!

With thanks to CVE’s Pit Stop Cafe volunteers, and our guests/partners, The Edinburgh Tool Library, and the industrious folk from the new South West Edinburgh Tool Library Hub.

This is a partnership between SW20, The Edinburgh Tool Library, and CVE, located in CVE’s Shed. You can sign up to borrow tools like drills/sanders/steamers!

This new satellite library officially opened on Saturday 24 June and is open for current and potential members on Fridays between 5pm and 6.30pm and Mondays from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

A small selection of tools is stored in Colinton, but members can choose and reserve tools from the Meadowbank library. Tools are then transferred for you by the SW20’s dedicated cargo bike team!

For more details, please see: [edinburghtoollibrary.org.uk](http://edinburghtoollibrary.org.uk)



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PAUL FISHER COCKBURN  
C&B NEWS

By 1991, approaching the paper's 15th anniversary, the readership of *Currie & Balerno News* had long spread beyond the original titular villages (as well as Juniper Green and Baberton, covered by the paper since, respectively, 1979 and 1982); nevertheless, receiving a missive from the other side of the planet was still front page news.

The sender was Bob Cuthbertson, a resident in Christchurch, New Zealand who having been sent a copy of the previous November issue by his proud-as-punch aunt, who had appeared on that issue's front page – was full of nostalgia for his old scout group, the 31st Midlothian Rover Crew, of which he'd included a photograph taken in 1939—which was now reproduced on the front page.

"As a Leith lad I travelled to Juniper Green every week to the Rover Crew in early 1939, until the war separated us," Bob wrote. Scouting, he added, had taken him to many parts of the world, but now "I would be most grateful if you would pass on the enclosed photograph and badges to the group leader. I think it is time they were returned 'Home'." (The following month, editor Neil C. Scott was able to report that all-but-one of the young people in the picture had been identified by local readers.)

Elsewhere the paper included "before" and "after" photographs of Donkey Lane in Currie, which volunteers from cycle campaign group Spokes had helped turn (with equipment and support from Edinburgh District Council) into "an 'all weather' path with a firm, well-drained whindust surface which can be used all year round by walkers, joggers, cyclists

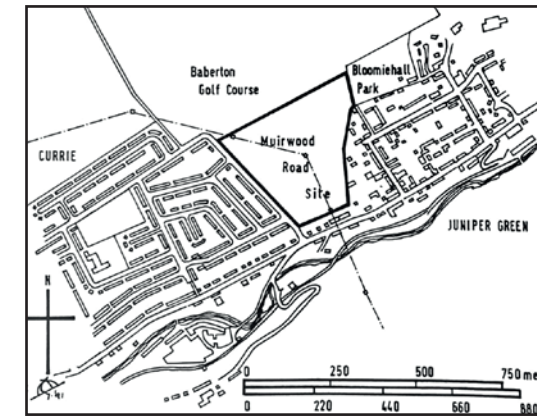
**CURRIE & BALERNO NEWS**  
No. 168 July/Aug 1991  
25p  
A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ALSO SERVING JUNIPER GREEN AND BABERTON

**IDENTITY PARADE - 1939**

**CURRIE FAIR WEEK 22-29 SEPTEMBER 1991**

**WHO WAS IT THAT SAID:**

**Changes to District Council's Surgery times**



and horse-riders". This was quite a difference from the "quagmire" the path had previously become during wet weather (ie, most of the time), which had forced many users to form an "alternative" path through a neighbouring cornfield. Even more photography

in Balerno and Currie. Eagle-eyed viewers would have doubtless noticed that both events featured the same "Supa-Bounce" bouncy castle. (Note to younger readers: this was 1991. Bouncy castles were still a new "thing".)

Among various planning and education-related contributions by regular contributor Archie Clark, one outlined "15 years of decisions and debates" which had left Juniper Green's western flank – the "Muirwood Road Site", which he dubbed "The Space That Time Forgot" –



A snowy day at the Cockburn Crescent terminus, Balerno, some time after the introduction (from 7 May 1984) of the revised Eastern Scottish service 64. Presumably, both the driver and this well-worn vehicle were readying themselves for the strenuous journey into Edinburgh's St Andrew Square, before heading south through the city towards Ladywood in north-east Penicuik. (Note too the long-since-replaced Eastern Scottish-branded bus stop sign.)  
Photo: Martin Forster.



(montages put together in rather less-than-glorious monochrome) were reminders of the fun, games, and cakes enjoyed during the previous month's Galas preserved from new housing. This, he stated, was largely due to the tenacity of local community representatives who ensured that the then-District Council refused planning permission, but the situation was such that Archie feared the site could still be sold off at some point and suggested the construction of a sports hall – with meeting rooms and "village hall" attached – that "could very well serve both Currie and Juniper Green's ageing facilities".

Of course, such a potentially useful facility didn't happen. Nevertheless, the space that time forgot would appear to be still (fingers crossed) unbuilt-upon to this day!





Snapshots of the Past

Communities like ours are not just about the present day—we have histories going back, in some cases, centuries. Our local history societies are at the forefront of preserving and presenting who we are.

Delve into Currie History's Website



This page: some of the images available from the CDLHS/John Tweedie archive. Above left: Mr Buchanan and the 31st Midlothian Boy Scouts off on a trek in 1926, with St Margaret's Church in the background. Above right: Currie Girl Guides near the guide hut above Kinleith Mill (near the old curling pond) in 1938. Left: Currie village in 1902. Right: the CDLHS homepage.



DOUGLAS LOWE CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

As this is a "double month" issue I thought I would give you a bit extra to tide you over until September. Let me therefore invite you to delve into the Currie & District Local History Society website: [www.curriehistory.org](http://www.curriehistory.org)

In our "downloads" section you can investigate the list of War Dead Honours from the Currie War Memorial and plaques in the local churches of the three villages. This detailed information was researched and compiled by Malcolm Fergusson, a long time society member and current vice president.

On the list you will be able to find the names of the war dead who gave their names to some of the streets in the Ravelrig and Kingfisher developments: Ballantyne, Byrne, Cassidy, Fairbairn, Gifford, Gillon, to name six.

You will find Sir Archibald Gibson-Craig, 4th Laird of Riccarton, who was killed on 14 September, 1914. (The much-used Gibson Craig Memorial Hall in Currie had been erected 13 year previously, in memory of his brother Robert, killed during the Boer War.)

Also listed are: Michael Stark, killed on 10 November 1917 during the Battle of Passchendale, named after his paternal grandfather, the Currie blacksmith who was the model for Robert Gibb's "Thin Red Line" at Balaclava. There's Peter Maxwell Stuart of Currie killed on 9 April 1917 during the battle of Arras on Vimy Ridge. None of the last three men have known graves and so appear on commemorative memorials in France and Belgium, as do many others.

villages at the time I am always humbled when I look though Malcolm's lists of the number of war dead—more than 150 in the first world war alone.

Another popular "download" on our website is the list of gravestones in Currie cemetery, which has encouraged many people to start investigating their family trees. Our site also includes a link to Colinton graveyard and details of indexes for other graveyards. Our survey of Currie Cemetery was carried out by a number of CDLHS members and, as you will see, the cemetery lists are administered by our former president Muriel Adam.

PHOTOS

Many folk who contact me enjoy browsing our archive of photographs. These photos and slides, from both the John Tweedie and Currie History collections, number in excess of 2,000. They were given to Heriot-Watt University for digitisation, and the results can be accessed under the "link" option.

On the search page that appears you just put in what you wish to look for. There are many photos of mills, of farming, of people, of local organisations; girl guides, boy scouts and the like, sports teams, pipe bands, gala celebrations, school classes and many views around our villages through the years.

You can also immerse yourself in historical writings by our members on our Currie Chronicles, issued twice yearly to members, but available under "downloads".

NEW PROJECTS

Our latest project, which you will find under "projects", is our "Local History Guide" with interactive map. Although still a "work in progress", you can now access the interactive map; many of the local sites have been identified, with a brief explanatory paragraph and a photograph.

Many folk have accessed our website since its inception, 10,809 at the last count. I'm sure most of you will find something of interest.

You will also find our syllabus of planned talks for our next CDLHS session – perhaps something on the syllabus might whet your appetite to join?

[www.curriehistory.org](http://www.curriehistory.org)



Above: one of our war dead. Peter Maxwell Stuart of Currie, killed on 9 April 1917 during the battle of Arras on Vimy Ridge.

DEREK DOUGLAS SECRETARY, COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Colinton Local History Society started in 1986. Since then, thanks to many donations and "eagle eyed members", we have amassed a considerable archive which we have been able to store up to now in an outbuilding at Colinton Library—although the conditions have been far from satisfactory from the points of view of both storage and preservation.

With this in mind we arranged visits from both the City and National Archives to get advice on satisfactory storage. They were able to advise on the correct storage materials and conditions, which in turn allowed us to work out the costs of purchasing these materials. It was clear that our funds were insufficient to allow us to go ahead. Therefore we applied for a grant from the Edinburgh City Community Grants Fund—which I am glad to say was successful.

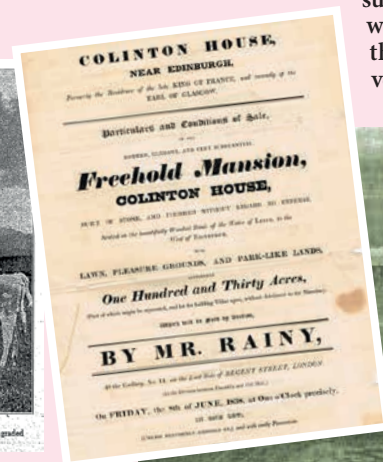
The first step, which started in December, was to go through every photo (around 2,500!) and printed material and re-house them in the new

polyester pockets and files. As well as retaining the hard copies of the photos we had already digitised and indexed them.

The next step was to see if we could find a better place to keep them, both from the point of view of preservation and also accessibility in order that the local community could see them. This is where the Colinton Library came up trumps, as they have enabled us to have two stationery cupboards in their computer room.



WINTER ON THE FARM—hides being led with terns on the Edinburgh Corporation Farm at Colinton Mills, where the animals are graded and used for milk production.



Going through the archives in some detail has been both very interesting and has revealed quite a few surprises.

One of these was a book of poems written by the late Edith Dickson, a local resident who wrote a poem, "The Prince", in honour of the birth in 1948 of the future King Charles III. As well publishing the original hand-written poem in the summer *Colinton Magazine*, we sent a typed-up copy to the King—and received a very nice letter back from

Buckingham Palace, thanking us and passing on His Majesty's best regards to our members.

We have found the exercise most fulfilling and are now well on the way to completing it by late summer. Almost all of the materials are now in our new cupboards in the Library and, once the re-indexing is complete, we will be ready for our final phase—to make the archive available to the local community.

Our plan at the moment is to have a half day each week when a committee member will be on duty to let people view and use our archives.



Discoveries from the Colinton Archive

OTHER SURPRISES

- The first Edinburgh Military Tattoo was at Drighorn Castle in 1926.
- In the sale advert for Colinton House in 1838 it noted that it had previously been a residence of the King of France.
- The Colinton Tramway Company built a railway from Slateford sidings to carry the stone for the building of Redford Barracks.
- As early as 1920, Edinburgh Corporation ran tours around the city and outlying areas including Colinton.
- Many old photos, one of which was of the Gillespie crossroads as it once was.
- Colinton Telephone Directory 1908.
- The many stories and items from and about local residents.



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**Bonaly Primary Pupils Adopt New Trees**



**SHONA HARROWER FRIENDS OF CAMPBELL PARK**

Is it a plum, or is it an apple tree? We're not too sure yet, but it's one of two trees adopted by Bonaly Primary school kids from classes P5A and P5B. There were 66 children plus four teachers and parent helpers who came along to our "Adopt a Tree" volunteer carers day on 25 May.

They underplanted both fruit trees (one apple and one pear—we hope) with linseeds which, if

they grow, should produce lovely tall blue or yellow flowers. After flowering, the edible nutty tasting seeds can be added to breakfast cereals or used as thickeners for soups and strews. The oil is considered a super food. It aids digestion and is high in Vitamin E, which is good for the skin. Raw and boiled linseed oil is still a popular wood preservative, and of course, the flexible waterproof linseed putty was traditionally used to seal glass into wooden window frames.

The fibres inside linseed stems can be turned into thread for

making linen, but it is quite a convoluted process. However, linseed grows easily in the UK, whereas cotton does not. For every litre of water needed to grow linseed, I'm told, it takes 1,000 litres to grow the equivalent amount of cotton.

Perhaps next year we'll be able to bring the children back to have a go at retting, breaking, scutching, heckling, and spinning the linen fibres to make our own linen twine? For now, all we're asking is that the children remember to bring an extra bottle of water

Above left: Bonaly Primary Adopt-a-Tree day. Above right: Shona Harrower with The Capelaw Cub pack, 108th Pentland Scouts, adopting the H1 fruit tree in Campbell Park Orchard on 13 June 2023. Photos: Shona Harrower/Friends of Campbell Park.

with them whenever they visit the park—one for them and one for their seedlings.

Fingers crossed, they'll germinate soon. If not we'll need to try again with a fresh batch. It's possible the linseed from my kitchen cupboard were past their best "grow by" date!

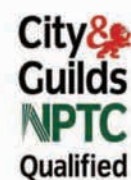
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**Malleny Roses**

**JAMES BELL HEAD GARDENER, MALLENY GARDEN**

How many roses are too many? With 170+ separately named roses, we have not found the answer. There are still more to grow. You can see them all, at Malleny Garden, flowering between mid-June to the end of July. Countless thousands of rose buds opening throughout the garden. To say they're fragrant is an understatement.

Malleny Garden has a long association with growing roses. Roses do quite well here because the walled garden provides shelter and retains heat. The organic rich, cultivated soil of the long-time used garden provides

the nutrients for them to thrive, as does annual additions of compost. As our climate changes, new challenges will appear, and our management of these fine plants may need to change. But, for now, this summer, they will flower exceptionally well.

We are not sure when a significant collection was introduced, but it's certainly by the 1930s and a photograph from 1940 shows established bush roses growing in classic rose borders – most likely Hybrid Teas and floribunda types. The collection gradually developed towards shrub roses in the 1960s, while the Gore-Browne Henderson's lived in the house. When the house and garden were gifted to the Trust in 1968 the Trust continued to expand the collection eventually becoming a "National Collection of 19th Century Shrub roses" in 1986.

Today around 80 of our shrub roses are part of that collection and many of the climbers and ramblers are of that period. Totalling over 170 roses, it does take a "wee while" to get round all the pruning! They are not grown in "traditional" rose border displays, but being taller than bush roses, are planted amongst the herbaceous plants as single specimen shrubs.

Part of the work in National Trust for Scotland gardens is to care for and preserve our plant collections. Some plants are very common, but some are not and can be in danger of being lost to cultivation. Working with Plant Heritage helps ensure our roses continue to be grown and reduce the possibility of them being lost forever.

Photos do not convey the fragrance. To experience that, you really must visit them while they are in flower. The tranquil space of Malleny Garden is the perfect host for this fine collection of Roses.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/malleny-garden>







# Barbara Cummins

Earlier this year, Colinton-resident Barbara Cummins was appointed Chair of the Cockburn Association, the first women to hold the post in the conservation organisation's 148 year history.



**MIKE ROWE**  
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Three new members have joined Currie Balerno Rotary in the past month. First is Ken McCunn (pictured, far right), who had been a member earlier and resigned because of other commitments. However, he and his wife Annabelle continued to live locally and both were active in supporting the Mill Café in Balerno. Ken now feels that he is once again able to commit to

Rotary and we are delighted to welcome him back. Then on 14 June we were joined by Peter Kew and Stavros Kalafatis. Peter (second from right) originally joined Rotary in 1990, when he arrived at Heriot-Watt University, remaining until he became Associate Head of Engineering and Physical Sciences at Heriot-Watt's Dubai Campus in 2012. Peter has now retired and has re-joined us—welcome back! Our third new member is Stavros Kalafatis (left, next to

our president Peter McGavigan). Stavros is a Professor of Computer Engineering, who shares his time between Edinburgh and the United States. Stavros, the son of a Greek father and Irish mother, is now resident in Texas and will be keeping in regular contact by e-mail or Zoom when not in Edinburgh. If you want to know more about Currie Balerno Rotary and what we do, go to our website at [www.cbrotary.org](http://www.cbrotary.org) or contact Mike Rowe on 449 5701



## New Members for Rotary

**How long have you lived in Colinton? Where did you grow up?**  
I grew up in Northern Ireland, a place called Portadown. I moved to Edinburgh in 1988 as a postgraduate student and, over the intervening years, I have lived all over the city; Newhaven, Fountainbridge, Portobello and, for the last 17 years, Colinton.

**What is your educational background and your career history?**  
I studied Geography at The Queen's University of Belfast and then a postgraduate diploma in Town and Country Planning at Heriot Watt University. I was very lucky while studying to get a summer job at Stirling District council where Scotland had its first female Head of Planning, Sheila Terry. I ended up working in Stirling for five years then, after a year at Falkirk Council, got a job at The City of Edinburgh Council. I ended up leading the teams that dealt with major city centre applications and listed buildings so I got involved in some really interesting planning cases while I was there, like the Multrees Walk and old Royal Infirmary sites. I left there in 2009 to work for Historic Scotland, that later became Historic Environment Scotland where I ended my career as Director of Heritage.

**Are there any career achievements that you're particularly proud of, in hindsight?**  
I've enjoyed all the jobs I have had and I've had a lot of help along the way. I am really proud of the fact that while I was at Edinburgh Council I was supported to complete a part time Masters in Business Administration while still working full time. I hope that helped me to become a better manager, although you'll have to ask my former colleagues if that was indeed the case!

**What influenced you to become involved with The Cockburn Association?**  
As a planner working in the city, I was familiar with the Cockburn Association, but not always in a good way. I thought of them as an organisation that just objected to everything. But in recent years, particularly with Professor Cliff Hague as Chair (he taught me at Heriot Watt) I started to see a difference. The Cockburn isn't all about the New Town and objecting to change. We're a civic organisation for the whole of the city that leads conversations about important issues affecting Edinburgh, like short term lets and student housing. Our comments on major development cover the entire city and are often supportive and generally more balanced than many might think or the newspaper headlines suggest. One key area of our recent advocacy work has concentrated on the commodification of Edinburgh's civic spaces, a subject that touches all of us. Here, we were able to influence change through both targeted

commentary but also by harnessing the concerns of residents across the city by providing a clear voice. Like everyone involved with the Cockburn I love this city and want the best for its future. What better organisation than Scotland's oldest conservation charity to help make that happen.

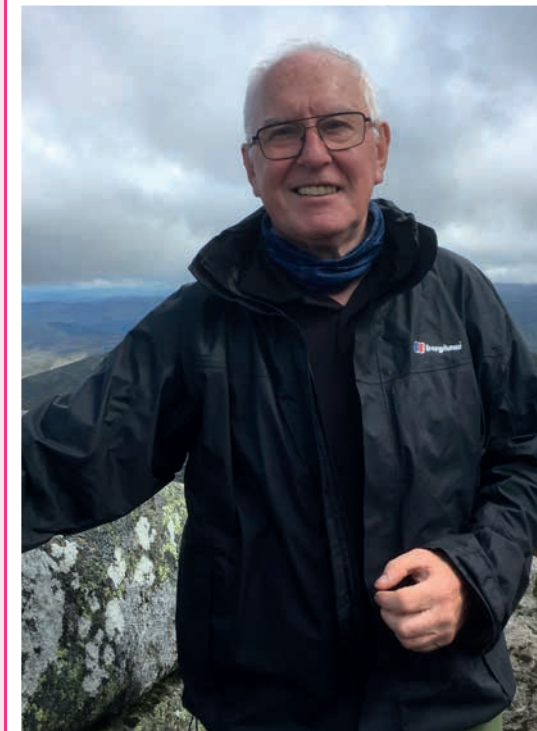
**You're the first female Chair of "the Cockburn" in its 148 year history—what do you think about that?**  
It's a great honour to be the first female Chair. Many people reading this may think the Cockburn's Council (what our Board is called) is full of worthies in tweed but it's a diverse group of people from all sorts of different backgrounds. There always has to be a first time for everything; I hope I can inspire even more women to become Members and get involved.

**The Cockburn Association is well known for its planning and consultation work, but much of this appears focused in and around the city centre...**  
It's true much of the specific work we comment on and that reaches the press is in the city centre, but that tends to be where the more controversial development cases are. The built-up areas of the city tend to experience change on a more frequent and significant basis. However, our policy work covers all of the city and beyond.

For example, with the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (essentially the development plan for Scotland), we challenged the position that the Edinburgh City Region should take half of the country's housing development by 2030, highlighting the impact on the wider city and its communities. We have been staunch supporters of the Green Belt since its inception in 1957 and regularly comment on proposed releases. We took great interest in the proposed masterplan for Redford Barracks, advocating a strategy to retain as much greenspace as possible. We are a small organisation so we simply can't resource everything people might want us to. However, one of the positive things that the Cockburn Association does is organise the Edinburgh Civic Forum which brings Community Councils, resident associations and local civic groups together with the agenda to engage positively and constructively with the City Council's Planning Service.

**What do you like best about living in Colinton?**  
Colinton is a great place to live. It's beautiful and has all the amenities you need to live here. Add to that a great bus service (I don't have a car), it means you have the best of both worlds, village life with access to the big city down the road!  
You can follow the Cockburn Association on Facebook and Twitter @thecockburn

# A Year in Office as Chair of The Friends of the Pentlands



**ROB MELVILLE**  
THE FRIENDS OF THE PENTLANDS

Andrew Marsden has just completed his first year as Chair of the Friends of the Pentlands (FOP), marking the Friends' 20th anniversary. Looking back he wonders how many members of the public are aware that, during the past 12 months, more than 6,000 hours of volunteer time has been spent on path upgrading, litter picking, tree planting, maintenance of the Harlaw wildlife garden and six small woodlands of Scottish native trees dotted around the Pentlands Hills. Members also worked on educational activities with local institutions such as Dean Park and Woodland Schools and gave talks on the work of the FOP and on conservation work on the Pentland Hills

Andrew notes that members benefit from working outdoors in this beautiful, diverse and tranquil upland region close to the city, and learn new skills such as drystone dyking, carpentry, willow spiling, tree planting and maintenance and gardening. Every season brings a fresh outlook and every change of the weather a new challenge. Being in the hills contributes hugely to renewed health and fitness. He should know. The former consultant in emergency medicine and Medical Director of the Scottish Ambulance Service enjoyed a busy work schedule before full retirement in 2016, but his professional life led, in turn, to over-eating and being overweight. Now, relatively trim – cycling and swimming every day, and leading work parties or walking in the hills each week – he epitomises the value of volunteer manual work.



Top: Andrew Marsden, Chair of the Friends of the Pentland Hills. Middle: Bird hide, a job well done. Above: Bridge building, heavy labour. Photos: Rob Melville, Friends of the Pentlands

This year, Andrew says, FOP are creating numerous wildlife meadows and butterfly corridors across the Pentlands, plus major structural projects in the Regional Park—either by the Friends or in collaboration with the Park Rangers. These include improving Thieves Road at Little Vantage, the steps at Dreghorn and the "skyline route" from the Kips to Flotterstone, plus an extended educational programme involving schools and youth group. Andrew stresses that volunteers are always welcome to help with the many and varied activities of the organisation. Past careers of present volunteers range from railway workers through the professions to owners and managers of large organisations—altogether providing interesting companionship in work, at coffee and at lunchtime. "As we move forward," he says, "we are conscious of the need to expand our breadth and level of expertise, especially in IT skills to coordinate, for example, online sales activities and to develop our website to facilitate digital commerce." The charity – first established in 2003 to conserve, enhance and protect the Pentland Hills by using regular volunteer groups – will clearly continue, under Andrew's skilled management, to develop and prosper for the benefit of all.



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# Cooking the Books



I don't know who needs to know this, but Balerno Farmers Market is an absolute treasure trove. In this place I can find my local gin and get it refilled. I've bought potatoes that are now in my garden, ready for harvesting later this year. I've even bought a locally made bench. You can't eat a bench, so that needs to be in a different sort of article, but you get the point. At the most recent market, I stumbled upon a company that I've seen once before, but sadly, was in too much of a rush to stop at and buy. Well this time, dear reader, I did stop. And I did buy.

And what is this great stall of my dreams? It sells produce which can elevate many a meal, be it a salad, a cocktail, a curry, a sandwich and make any garden a sensory delight to walk through. That's right: they sell herbs. Not the packet ones you get at the supermarket which turn to mush after two days. Nor the ones in a pot that you can also get from the supermarket that shrivel and die after a few days on your windowsill. No. I'm talking locally grown, fresh, high quality, and produced by people who really care about the land they grow on. And it all comes from here in Balerno. At their stall I bought far too much: lemon balm, cinnamon basil, a curry plant, among others. Ingeniously they have sock pots that you can put straight into the ground. In

addition, I managed to snag a box of edible flowers for use in salads and cocktails. With it I produced one of the prettiest gin and tonics the world has ever seen.

Of course, cooking with herbs is an age-old pursuit. In medieval times and earlier, people would call cooking and growing plants the art of "physic", which is where we get "physician" from. Herbs and vegetation were grown for health. People used them for their many different properties. This concept dates back to Romans and Ancient Greeks, so it is no wonder that on a holiday in Crete in 2016, when visiting the Botanic Gardens on the island, that I picked up a book entitled *Herbs In Cooking* by Maria and Nikos Psilakis. There are 255 recipes (mainly Cretan, but not exclusively) all featuring a smörgåsbord (or the Cretan equivalent) of different herbs. It explains the history and mythology of herbs, as well as how to grow, harvest and dry them. There is even an encyclopaedia of herbs for anyone who really wants to geek out.

Favourite recipes of mine include bread with fennel seeds, and the various meatballs (pick from some with dill, spearmint and parsley, or oregano, or marjoram, parsley and oregano). I've also never been able to resist a Greek courgette fritter which is filled with mint, fennel, dill and

parsley. There are salads and ways to cook shrimp with lemon balm and even a potato salad with nasturtium. If you're feeling adventurous you can make snails with Venus' combs and fennel. There are herbs in it that are common and there are ones you've probably never heard of.

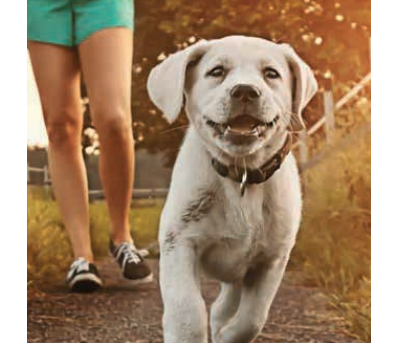
To me, cooking with food from your garden, and stirring in these flavoursome leaves, fronds and seeds uplifts your culinary life and is a kind of magic all of its own. No wonder we used to heal and care for people using them. I mean, who wouldn't feel better after a gin and tonic with fresh herbs and flowers in? I know I did. Sláinte mhath!

Balerno Farmers Market is on the second Saturday of every month (excluding January) on Main Street, Balerno, 9am-1pm.

Green can be found at 8 Cockburn Farm Cottage, Balerno. EH14 7JB and at www.tattonhorticulture.co.uk

## Scottish SPCA Warns About Walking Dogs in Hot Weather

SUSAN WEAVER  
SCOTTISH SPCA



Walking dogs in hot weather is as deadly as keeping them in a hot car, according to the Scottish SPCA.

The Scottish SPCA has teamed up with the RSPCA and other animal welfare organisations to issue a UK-wide plea to the public to avoid leaving dogs in vehicles on hot days—and are extending their campaign to warn pet owners about the dangers that hot walks pose to dogs.

A survey by the British Veterinary Association after 2022's record-breaking summer found that while around one in 10 (9%) vets in small animal practice had seen at least one dog affected by the heat after being left in a hot car, almost four times (38%) had seen at least one dog affected by the heat after being exercised in hot weather.

Exercising your dog in hot weather could cause them just as much harm as leaving them in a hot car. If dogs are too hot and unable to reduce their body temperature by panting, they will develop heatstroke, which can be fatal.

Scottish SPCA chief superintendent Mike Flynn said: "Exercising dogs in hot weather can also present a huge risk to our beloved animals and can be just as deadly.

"Some dogs are more prone to heatstroke than others—such as very old or young dogs, those with thick, heavy coats or those with short, flat faces (such as pugs and boxers). Dogs with certain diseases or on some types of medication are also prone to heatstroke."

Anyone with concerns about the welfare of an animal should contact the Scottish SPCA's animal helpline on 03000 999 999.

with Balerno Resident **STEF LYONS**






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## Taking the High Road—to Kathmandu!

**NICKI MCNELLY**  
RECTOR, ST CUTHBERT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, COLINTON

The Reverend Nicki McNelly, Rector at St. Cuthbert's Episcopal Church in Colinton, currently sponsors a child, Prabin, through ecumenical aid and development charity World Vision UK—and soon she'll be able to meet him!

Nicki will be travelling to Nepal this October but, before meeting Prabin, she will be trekking for five days to Poon Hill with The Different Travel Company. To aid the trip, she has been fundraising in Colinton with the help of Amy Buchanan at The Colinton Inn, holding a quiz night and a lady's night in the pub as well as a curry night in the church hall (see above centre and right). The three events helped Nicki pass her target of £3,999 and she is very grateful to all those who have supported her.

Nicki's love for Nepal began in 2006 when she first visited the country to trek and raise money for SSAFA—the Armed Forces charity supporting British soldiers, sailors, airmen and their families. During the

trip, she visited a school in Kathmandu for children with neurological disorders, as SSAFA helped fund a Gurkha child there.

What Nicki witnessed drove her to arrange a further four treks to Nepal between 2006 and 2014, taking her to Mardi Himal, Tengboche Monastery and Annapurna Base Camp, while this year's trek will include walking to the peak of Poon Hill at 4am to watch the sun rise over the Himalayas. The downside to this particular attraction is that it will involve climbing 3,767 handmade steps, all of different heights and depths!

She has already helped raise funds for the school in Kathmandu, enabling it to buy a minibus fitted with the necessary safety equipment to carry the children to and from school and home. The school has also moved to bigger, better premises.

Although Nicki has reached her target, she is continuing to fundraise until the end of July. Donations can be made at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nicki-mcnelly>

## It Must be Summer

**MIKE ROWE**  
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Our Currie flowers are in place and the watering has started for them and for the fruit trees in George V Park. Members of Currie Balerno Rotary have now completed the planting of the Currie flowers in the tubs and railing planters. Pentland Hills ward councillor Graeme Bruce arranged for the council cleansing department to help us to clean up the pavement to complement the display. He is also arranging for the railings to be replaced at the end of the summer.



Two of the Currie flower-planting team: (left to right) Don McLeod and Brian Buchanan.

So, the flowers are in place and all that is needed now is the regular watering twice a week by Rotary members. We have a rota set up for this and would welcome any offers to join the list – and we have a plea: Motorists—please look out for us crossing Lanark Road with our watering cans!

But that's not all. Readers will have seen our report of the planting of 25 fruit trees in King George V Park, a joint community project led by Currie Balerno Rotary, Pentlands Eco Network (PEN) and Village Green. Well, those young trees are also in need of watering and we and PEN are carrying this out regularly. Pictured here are the Rotary waterers: Jim Goodbrand, Percy Farren, Roy Stirrat and Elaine and Doug Marr.

If you want to know more about Currie Balerno Rotary, and especially if you can offer to support the Currie Flowers – either by contributing to the cost or by taking your life in your hands, crossing Lanark Road with a couple of watering cans – contact Mike Rowe on (0131) 449 5701.

## Explore Red Moss Balerno Wildlife Reserve on International Bog Day

**COLIN MURRAY**  
BALERNO RED MOSS COMMITTEE

Did you know that Balerno has its own raised peat bog on the edge of the Pentland Hills? It seems to be a well-kept secret for many local residents! This is the last remaining raised bog in the City of Edinburgh; it has taken millennia to form, and supports a range of specialist plants and wildlife.

Why not celebrate International Bog Day (23 July) and explore the site where local



experts will be available to explain the importance of the reserve?

Red Moss is an important and rich habitat managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and is open every day of

the year, with a wheel chair friendly boardwalk, pond, and information sign boards.

A group of local volunteers help to manage the location and have been measuring the water levels for more than 30 years now.

The Open day runs from noon until 5pm on Sunday 23 July. No booking is required. The start point is at the board walk near to the Threipmuir car park.

Guided tours will be available from local volunteers. We look forward to meeting you!



**GAIL COUSINS**  
BALERNO RAMBLERS

As we approach the Summer Solstice, on 21 June, we have been enjoying glorious sunshine, hot sunny days, and lighter evenings. At this time of year sunrise is at 4.27am and sunset 11.03pm. A week later the sunset will creep back by one minute a day. It is a thought that we are heading towards winter before we have enjoyed our summer holidays.

Earlier in the month we had cool, misty days, and the east coast haar, but no rain. Farmers and gardeners would like some rain for their crops and plants, and to refill the reservoirs. The winter mud has all dried up, the grass is looking brown, but the trees and hedgerows are full of leaf, bird song fills the air, and on the water we see proud parents of ducklings, cygnets, and goslings.

Since mid-May, Balerno Ramblers have offered two walking opportunities a week—altogether 20 walks involving 151 ramblers.

Two dozen ramblers from the midweek group enjoyed a 7.2 mile (11.6 km) walk from Dalmeny village to Dundas Estate. The lake was full of Canada geese, ducks, moorhens, and a pair of nesting swans. The rhododendrons were almost in full bloom and made a stunning avenue from the castle back to the main road. The following Wednesday 20 ramblers enjoyed a pleasant walk around Ratho, in overcast but dry weather. A

couple of swans proudly showed off their new-born cygnets. At the beginning of June, the Lower Pentlands circular also attracted 20 ramblers; the weather was chilly, cloudy but dry. Uphill along the Ranges Road the group was aware of larks singing as the birds ascended higher and higher.

The birdwatching-themed walk went ahead, unfortunately without the expert. The group met at Fisherrow and encountered the famous East Coast haar, so visibility was poor. The walk was self-led along the River Esk to the coast and to the bird hides at the lagoons. The information and bird identification boards were very useful. The group saw a large group of teenage swans, and many eider ducks sunbathing on the rocks. At a coffee stop with a view, the sunlight began to burn through the haar. At the viewing hides they saw a variety of birds, including a heron, lapwings, more eider ducks, and shell ducks. We hope the birdwatching-themed walk will be rearranged for later in the summer or early autumn.

The weekend group enjoyed: a walk along the Union Canal from Linlithgow to Muiravonside Country Park; a circular walk from Peebles; and an 8 mile (12.9 km) circular walk up Mendick Hill via Garvald and Pentland Way. There was more glorious weather for the Pentland “three reservoirs” walk with wonderful wildflowers at Clubbidean reservoir. At Bonaly reservoir the group was approached by a mother duck with eight ducklings. The Gore Glen circular avoided the



cows by going to Temple and back.

Our introductory walk on Saturday 3 June (see last issue for details) was a great success. The sun was shining when 21 new walkers assembled in Currie with four regular members. The view over to the Queensferry Crossing was superb, while the usually muddy trek through East Mid Kinleith Farm was in fact dry—a bonus. The feedback to the walk leader was that everyone enjoyed the walk, with a few interested in joining Ramblers. Fingers crossed.

### UPCOMING WALKS

The weekend group has a programme organised until September. Their walks tend to be longer and more challenging than the midweek group.

The upcoming destinations for weekend walks include: Eddleston; Cockburnspath to Dunbar; Beecraigs Country Park; Bishop's Hill, Lomond; Croy Hill and Antoine Wall; Peebles; Melrose; Archerfield; and another section of Fife coastal path.



There will be a gentler Carlops Circular, to include a farm visit, and refreshments.

A Munro challenge is offered on 22 July. Ben Chonzie or Ben-y-Hone—3,054 feet (931 metres) from Loch Turret dam. This walk is described as strenuous: it's only 8 miles (12.9 km) but with an ascent of 2,362 Feet (720 metres). Hopefully, they will have a clear day at the summit shelter and be rewarded with good views over to Ben Lawers and the ridge.

The midweek group is still offering a rolling programme of walks, including: a lower Pentlands walk from Swanston; a coastal walk from Tynningham to Seacliffe beach, paddling across the Peffer Burn at low tide, with an inland return via farm tracks; and a Bo'ness and Kinneil circular. The walk programme for July and August is still to be finalised.

Our summer outing is to Abbotsford House, the home of the 19th century novelist and lawyer Sir Walter Scott. The 12 Ramblers will travel in three cars, with a short walk along the River Tweed to Loward Bridge and a return via a wooded walk to Abbotsford. A change of footwear will be required before a self-guided tour around the building. Afterwards there will be a social tea party with shortbread, tray bake or scones with jam and cream of course.

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

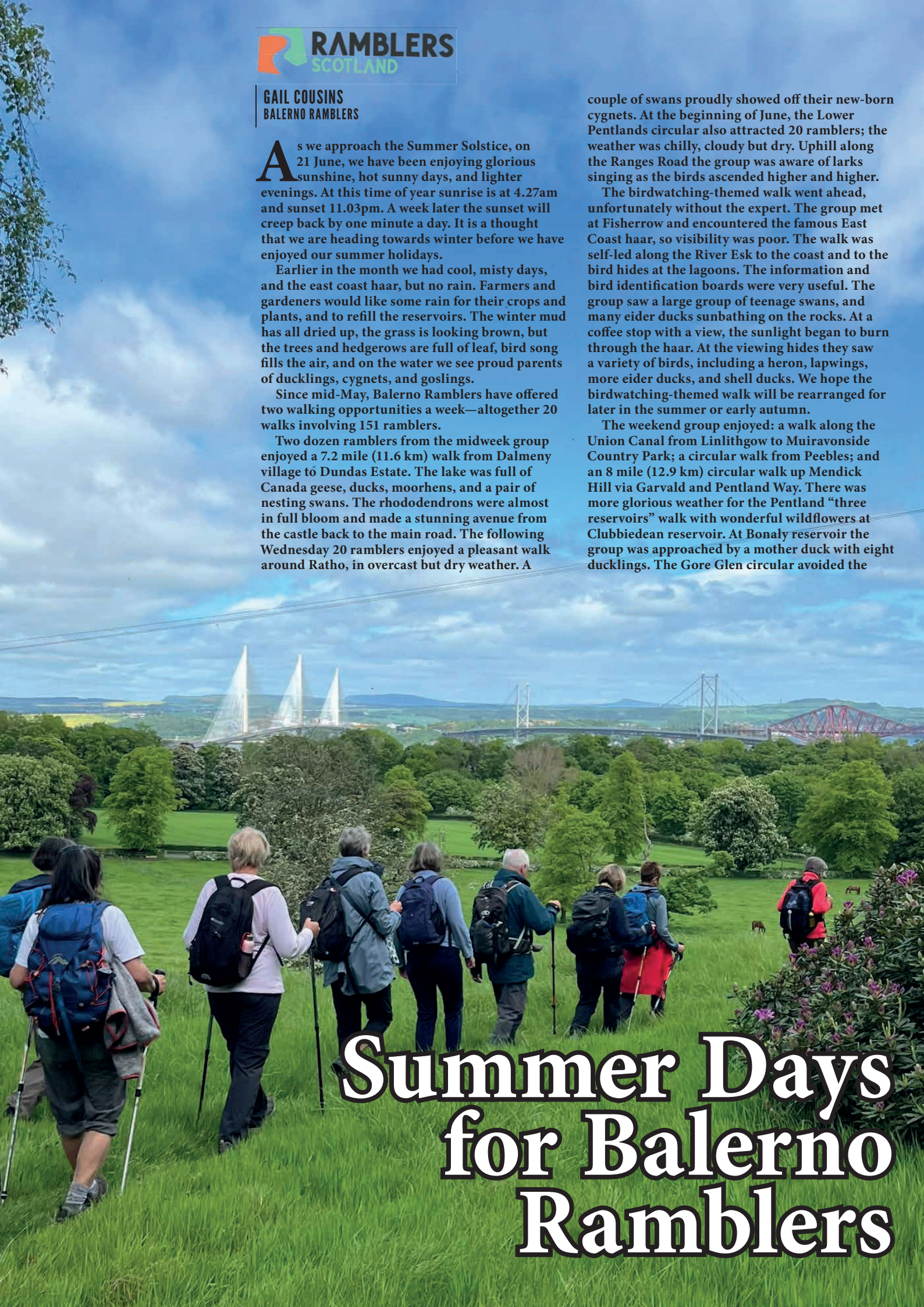
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Opposite page: View of the Three Bridges. Above left: Pentland Walk. Photos: Marion Somerville. Above right: At Linlithgow Canal Basin. Photo: Hamish Clark. Above: Wild flowers by the Esk. Left: Dundas Doocot. Photos: Roger Jonathan. Below: Enroute to Mendick Hill. Photo: Fiona Alexander.

# Summer Days for Balerno Ramblers







# Duncan Campbell

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN  
C&B NEWS

**D**uncan Campbell, who died on Tuesday 18 April 2023, was a name often found in *C&B News* in recent years; occasionally as a byline, but more modestly within the body of the latest article reporting on cultural projects happening in or around Colinton. His influence as a “green belt and cultural conservation champion”, however, went significantly beyond the boundaries of the Edinburgh village which he called home. “I think my first contact with him arose because of a planning appeal for a major housing proposal that Currie and Balerno Community Councils felt they had to respond to,” explains *C&B News* planning expert Archie Clarke. “Duncan was approached as one of the ‘Friends of the Edinburgh Green Belt’, as well as planning convener of Colinton Amenity Association—which he later chaired. His thorough analysis of the amount of land being ‘lost’ from the Green Belt was something that

peripheral communities could relate to. Gradually, I found he was involved in a whole raft of organisations, including advising the Cockburn Association on planning and environmental matters.”

Those other organisations included the The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, Edinburgh Green Belt Trust, Scottish Council for National Parks and Mavisbank Trust. He was also a significant inspiration behind APRS – Scotland’s countryside charity – launching its Green Belts Alliance, “a loose assemblage of local groups across Scotland active in protecting their local green belts,” according to the charity’s then director, John Mayhew. “Duncan joined APRS Council to give him a formal role in its governance, then shortly afterwards joined its Executive Committee, becoming ever more involved in other aspects of its work.”

Duncan studied at Merchiston Castle School from 1949 to 1954, a strong foundation for subsequent study and a working life that included senior posts with the Forestry Commission, the Countryside Commission for Scotland, and Scottish Natural Heritage. This gave him

numerous contributions to local conservation campaigns additional value—as they “rested on his rare status as both a forester and a landscape architect,” says John Mayhew. “His heart was undoubtedly in the right place—the landscapes of Scotland, particularly those around its towns and cities. Also, despite being unbendingly opposed to some developments, he was always keen to stress that, if they did go ahead, they should strive for the highest quality of landscape design.”

Duncan first joined the committee of Colinton Amenity Association (CAA) in 1998, serving as vice-chairman, chairman and environmental convener up to 2005 and then staying on for another five years responding to the City of Edinburgh Council’s various development plans. He also served on the sub-committee that worked on CAA’s 1998 Character Appraisal of Colinton—a document subsequently

referenced by CEC’s planning and city development plans.

“He was a founder member of Colinton Community Conservation Trust (CCCT) in 2000 and served on the Trust’s board as a director from then right up to his death,” adds CAA’s Andrew Paterson. “He led all of the projects undertaken by the Trust: re-planting of Colinton Triangle Garden and establishment of the Drovers Path; the restoration of the Phoebe Traquair Railings in Bridge Road; re-planting of the Long Steps Garden; the Robert Louis Stevenson Statue outside Colinton Parish Church; the RLS Poetry Trail and Arch in Colinton and the Timeline Railings on Woodhall Road. He gave talks to many groups on behalf of the Trust. He leaves big shoes to be filled by his fellow directors.”

Aptly, in our February 2014 issue (number 393), it was Duncan who announced CCCT becoming one of the first groups in the UK to receive a Heritage Lottery Fund Sharing Heritage grant, with the £10,000 earmarked “to demonstrate and interpret aspects of the literary heritage of Robert Louis Stevenson’s close association with Colinton”. The poetry trail, starting at the top of the Long

Far left: Duncan Campbell. Above left: Duncan (far right) explains the RLS statue to visitors. Photos: Ian Boyter. Above right: Duncan (left) looks on as Cllr Jason Rust officially opens the new Colinton Timeline Railings. Photo: Andrew Paterson. Below: Duncan shares some good news with *C&B News* readers in February 2014.

Steps in the heart of the village, would eventually be joined by the statue of Stevenson as a boy, informing CEC’s planning committee that the project was about “demonstrating aspects of Colinton’s history in a visual and artistic way”. As Cllr Scott Arthur pointed out after Duncan’s death, that was an apt description for most of his work with CCCT.

According to Archie Clark, Duncan was “a good listener and communicator as well as a sleeves-up, hands-on person”. He undoubtedly leaves behind him a formidable legacy, both in his professional life and his “retirement” with the Cockburn Association and APRS. “People in many parts of Scotland owe him sincere gratitude for his advice and support for the landscapes of their precious local green belts which, partly thanks to his efforts, now benefit from stronger protection in national planning policy,” says Andrew Paterson.

Yet Duncan was also very much a family man. Sadly his wife, Mornay, pre-deceased him, but Duncan is survived by their sons Ewan and Neil, daughter-in-law Mary, and grandchildren Charlotte and Cameron.

**CCCT windfall**

**DUNCAN CAMPBELL**

Colinton Community Conservation Trust (CCCT) has become one of the first groups in the UK to receive a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Sharing Heritage grant.

This exciting project, to enhance Colinton’s heritage in Edinburgh and led by the CCCT, has been given £10,000 to demonstrate and interpret aspects of the literary heritage of Robert Louis Stevenson’s close association with Colinton.

This will highlight some of his formative writing experiences, inspired by his happy adventures staying at the Colinton Manse with his grandfather Rev. Dr. Lewis Balfour.

An ornamental steel arch, at the top of the Long Steps in the heart of the village, will be replaced by a new archway. The Trust is actively seeking funds to...

“Summer Sun, The Moon, The Flowers, the Gardener, Looking Glass River, Keepsake Mill and Nest Eggs”. These beautiful poems have also been selected to reflect their immediate settings, wildlife.

Overall, it forms Phase 2 of a diverse public art project that will also enhance the built heritage of Colinton’s outstanding Conservation Area, as well as disseminating famous sons – RLS or Tusitala ‘The Teller of Tales’.



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**DEAN PARK PRIMARY**

Congratulations to Bee Aretos, this year's recipient of the Dean Park Community Award 2022-23, writes Clare Thomson. Bee has given up her time and has applied for grants on our behalf to improve our school grounds. She has advised us on the right sort of trees and plants for our outdoor space. Bee has worked collaboratively with our wonderful gardening expert and PSA Clare Dow. What a brilliant team!



**'Bike Bus' to Juniper Green**

PAUL BULLEN  
COLINTON RESIDENT

The "bike bus" to Juniper Green Primary School is celebrating its first anniversary of regular rides to school. Starting in Dovecot Park, the "bike bus" brings children up Lanark Road and through Juniper Green to the school gate, picking up others along the way. Parent-organised and parent-led, we thank the volunteers who have helped escort the "bus" for the last 12 months and of course, congratulations to all the children on their healthy and fun start to the day!



**LGBT Gold Charter Award at Currie Community High School**

JENNIFER HUTCHISON  
HEAD TEACHER, CURRIE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

We are delighted to share that Currie Community High School have achieved the LGBT Gold Charter Award! Working in partnership with LGBT Scotland, all of the staff and students at the school have worked really hard over the last year to make it the best place possible for LGBT young people and staff.

Two excellent projects have been recognised in our school: the introduction of Pronoun badges for all which was a pupil led project, an effective approach to gender inclusivity, addressing the importance of colour schemes which do not adhere to gender stereotypes. The work of one pupil in particular, Yousaf, who was an ambassador for Equalities in our school, has presented at local and national events on his project which gave him a platform to share his experiences as a pupil in our school. We also hosted a city-wide event where many schools attended to share their excellent work in relation to Equalities. Now it's time to celebrate and spread the good news to our school community. We are very proud of this work and look forward to sharing our practice with other schools. Well done to our entire school community.

**NETHER CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Disney Playmakers Come to Nether Currie**

GERRY P BUTLER  
FOR NETHER CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Disney Playmakers come to Nether Currie Primary School! New UEFA/Disney initiative "Disney Playmakers" came to Nether Currie this summer. The programme is designed to encourage girls aged 5-8 to play football by taking part in different adventures each week. This term the girls have thoroughly enjoyed



playing games, working together, problem solving and making new friends while following the adventures of *The Incredibles 2*. After the summer the team are looking forward to more adventures following the theme of *Moana* or *Frozen*. This UEFA/SFA/SWF initiative comes via Currie Football Club and will hopefully be presented at other local schools in the near future. If anyone is interested in training to become a play leader, contact cfcgirlsfootball@gmail.com

As part of Currie Community High School's Green Flag journey, pupils have been working on the themes of Litter, Energy and Climate Action, writes Teacher of Art and CurrieCO lead Kate Steel. "We meet every Wednesday lunchtime, have shared monthly eco tips and created an attractive display on our noticeboard to help spread our message of activism. We organised a foodbank donation centre at Christmas for local charity Community for Food. Shout-out to the Wellbeing Hub for their regular litter-picks in the community!" More on Twitter: @CurrieCOCHS





# LETTERS etc!



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

Illustration: Marjorie Beaumont

## Oops! II

Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed that the delightful Reverend Nicki McNelly, Rector at St. Cuthbert's Episcopal Church in Colinton, appeared on last issue's front cover. However, the promised article about her forthcoming trek to Nepal wasn't on page 21 as indicated—nor, indeed, was it to be found anywhere in the aforementioned issue. Well, actually, there was nothing incorrect about the page-numbering. It just happened to be referring to this issue, honest! (As excuses go, even the "Hired Help" must admit that's several sandwiches short of a picnic.)

## Countryside Thieves

As the 2023 Agricultural Show season gets under way, please ensure all property is secured if you are going to be away and follow the handy tips below.

As the 2023 Agricultural Show season gets under way, please ensure all property is secured if you are going to be away and follow the handy tips below.

We recommend multiple levels of security to DETER, DELAY and DETECT thieves.

**Deter:** use security marking and signage; CCTV and signage; security lighting.

**Delay:** secure entrances to farm steadings [land managers and owners need to be mindful of obligations under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003]; secure sheds and buildings; park vehicles in front of secured shed doors. (Don't leave keys in or near quad bikes.)

**Detect:** install shed & building alarms, CCTV, and vehicle trackers.

Lynn NRCU  
Police Scotland, National Rural Crime Unit, H-Div – National Rural and Acquisitive Crime Unit

www.candbnews.com

## Should Be Binned!

After seeing recent signage on Lanark Road about "smart bin sensors" being installed to Edinburgh bins, I wondered how much the smart bin sensors would be costing the council. A quick search on council website reveals the smart bin sensors are costing £6.4 million!

Sensors are being placed inside the existing communal/litter bins. Sensors meant to alert CEC, using wireless smart technology, when a bin is full. Another step towards Edinburgh becoming a "smart city".

At a time where newspaper headlines are swamped with "councils are in debt", "council taxes are rising", "heating bills are rising", "food prices are rising", etc, it seems there are spare available funds of £6.4 million for smart bin sensors. Odd

When basic services are lacklustre, and there are real problems needing addressed, it does not seem right using £6.4 million of Edinburgh's public funds on extra fancy stuff when the basics are not being met.

Cara MacDonald  
Balerno

## What the...?



Talking of bins... C&B News is sad to report that Juniper Green is no longer home to arguably the rustiest bin in Edinburgh. After further complaints from residents at a recent JG&BM Community Council meeting – suggesting that the receptacle was "more rust than metal" and "distributed more rubbish than it held" – local city councillors appear to have "had a word" with the relevant people and a newer, larger bin has been installed by the city-bound Foulis Crescent bus stop on Lanark Road.

# MILLBANK MUTTERINGS

by TAURUS CERAMICUS BARBATUS

## 194: TAKING MY BIKE TO PIECES

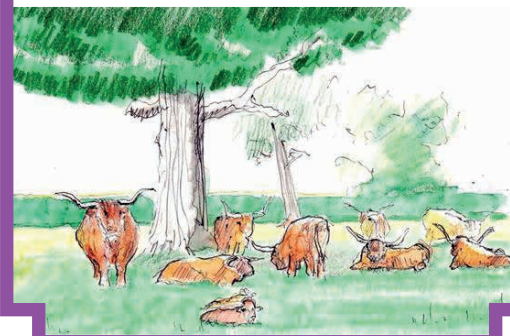
I was well aware it was a daft idea, but I needed some time away from swotting for my Highers. These final exams were challenging my brain to retain a vast quantity of knowledge stretching from Latin, French, English, Maths and History to Science. I needed something physical.

So I decided to take my bike apart, and to catalogue the bits.

There was space in our floored loft to lay out the pieces. My second-hand purple racing bike was quite modern, with six speeds operated by derailleur levers. By today's standards it was heavy but it enabled me to explore distant places. I had added a frictionless Sturmey Archer dynamo and lights and a BSA 3-speed hub that increased the speeds to eighteen, so there were hundreds of bits to get lost.

But all went well. In between swotting for Physics and Chemistry, gradually every bit was cleaned, reassembled and the moving parts lubricated. Maybe my exam results could have been better had I concentrated more on my jotters but, when it came to unwinding after each of my Highers, it was there, sparkling and ready, tyres fully inflated, spare inner tube and pump in place and lights functioning.

That old bike now hangs from the rafters in the garage, gazing down on its flashy replacements, but just looking at it reminds me of those days and its subsequent usefulness getting me from my digs to my college classes. The modern cyclist might look at it askance, but it served me well.



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## PLANNING BY ARCHIE CLARK

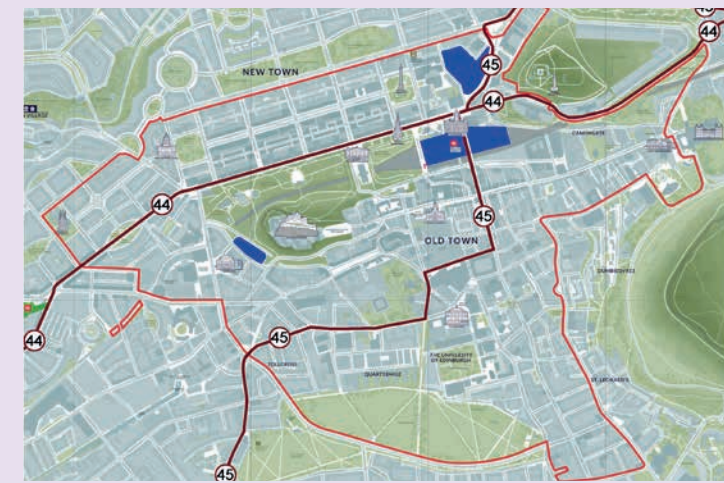
### Will the New LEZ Affect You?

Glasgow now has its own Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and is discovering that the desirable objective of reducing emissions comes at a price. Given the size of Edinburgh's proposed LEZ I wouldn't be surprised if outlets within the Zone, and near its boundaries find that selling bulky and heavy goods becomes unprofitable with peripheral shopping malls and adjacent towns – unaffected by restrictions – reaping the benefit.

The Edinburgh (Evening) News ran an informative piece on 2 June. The plan [above] shows the LEZ stretching from Queen Street in the New Town to Melville Drive on the south side of the Meadows, and from Palmerston Place at the West End to Abbeyhill in the east – but excluding these streets. Buses and HGVs that do not meet Euro 6 emission standards (generally vehicles registered before January 2013) will be banned, as will non-compliant private cars. Astonishingly, it is currently estimated that more than half the diesel cars and a third of light goods vehicles (including vans) travelling into Edinburgh do not meet LEZ requirements.

Enforcement will begin on 1 June 2024, and apply every day of the year.

Automatic number plate recognition cameras will be



City centre routes of Services 44 and 45.

used to check that vehicles inside the zone are permitted to be there. Fines for non-compliant vehicles entering the zone are set at £60 (halved if paid within 30 days). Repeating the offence will see larger fines imposed up to £480 for cars and light goods vehicles and £960 for minibuses and HGVs.

There are some exemptions for non-compliant vehicles including emergency vehicles, vehicles for disabled people (including Blue Badge holders), military and historic vehicles—but not, it seems, for low-mileage camper vans.

The LEZ will affect those living outside the boundary but having business within it. The map shows the current routes of the 44 and 45 buses and highlighted in blue areas within the LEZ that travellers use, like the Castle Terrace Car Park, Waverley Station and the St James Quarter. Haymarket Station (shown in green) is outside the LEZ.

As people periodically replace older vehicles with newer models, why not leave

things alone if the average life of a car is about 11 years? Has "authority" calculated that the LEZ's likely impact will see more older vehicles travelling round the City to peripheral shopping centres, more pressure on suburban communities and a decaying centre where only tourists go? To judge from the anger generated by similar schemes in England, it might be better to keep things as they are and encourage industry to design cheap exhaust systems to collect particulates.

There's more than one way to create a cleaner atmosphere than imposing a system that looks suspiciously like a way to milk the population. Cheap "clean" electric cars are not just round the corner. And has anybody taken account of the "Oslo effect"? (Electric vehicles emit no NO<sub>2</sub>, but do produce small particle pollution from the wear on brake discs and tyres and by throwing up dust from roads.)

### Currie Bank of Scotland Site

Application 23/02074/FUL has been lodged for two two-apartment housing units in a two-storey block in a corner of the rear car park at 158A Lanark Road West, Currie. The units are small and no car parking space is shown. This is in part of the Currie Conservation Area.

Previous application 21/01026/FUL for a commercial unit and six residential units to the rear and above, was granted in November 2021 but no development has yet taken place. These were described in

the April 2021 and February 2022 issues of *C&B News*. As noted previously, the car parking that was available when the Bank was in operation is part of the site for the 2021 application and is no longer available to the public.



### Waiting to Cross

Last issue (June 2023), Sue Webber MSP noted that, for more than 10 years, residents in Currie have been asking for a pedestrian crossing at Lanark Road West and Stewart Road. She's right—though it's a bit longer than that!

25 years ago, in the June 1998 issue of *Currie & Balerno News*, Councillor Hugh Fraser stated that he had raised a motion at The City of Edinburgh

Council requesting a pedestrian crossing on Lanark Road. The motion read: "That as a matter of urgency and in the interests of road safety, a pedestrian crossing be established on Lanark Road West in the vicinity of Stewart Road, in Currie".

On the stretch of road passing Stewart Road, when CALA's Pilmuir and Newmills sites have been completed, along with the Tannery site opposite, one might expect say 1,300 more vehicle movements a day on the basis that a good percentage of the 920 vehicles parked there, plus service vehicles, will be added to Lanark Road West, the only route available. So far as I am aware, CEC rely on applicants to estimate the traffic generated by developers' individual proposals as it no longer does its own assessments. Perhaps it should check actual flows hourly, over a week in term time, to reinforce what Councillor Fraser recognised as URGENT all these years ago.

As traffic lights were deemed necessary for the nearby Newmills site, one might reasonably ask why the developer of the Tannery site wasn't required to install them at the Stewart Road junction too.

**Pedestrian Crossing**  
Mr Fraser has raised a motion at the City of Edinburgh Council in connection with a request for a pedestrian crossing on Lanark Road, in the vicinity of Stewart Avenue, Currie. He exhorts all constituents and groups to wish to support this proposal to write to Dr George Horne, Director of City Development, City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH1 1YJ.



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### PLANNING BY ARCHIE CLARK



#### Clovenstone Housing Proposals 'Withdrawn'

In May, I recorded that two applications (23/00881/FUL and 22/05278/FUL) had been lodged by Prospect Community Housing for a total of 16 units. These applications were withdrawn at the end of May.

Two "neutral" comments expressed concern that building work might exacerbate existing foundation weaknesses and worsen an existing parking problem

that results in bins not being collected and emergency access being affected. "Objections" included the close proximity of the new blocks to the existing buildings, daylighting, privacy and detailed criticisms that cars already double park because of a lack of parking space.

Others commented on the complete absence of any consultation, the removal of semi-mature trees that contribute to the amenity, loss of view, existing rodent infestation and the "brilliant" inclusion of a secure cycle shed.

#### Christmas Mail 2022

Christmas is long past and judging from what others have said, there is quite a bit of Christmas mail waiting to be delivered. The bills still arrive, bearing the big barcoded stamps that were introduced to replace the previous ones, but Christmas mail appears to be gathering dust, somewhere. No wonder people resort to using email.

Royal Mail has introduced a 6-month grace period where it will deliver items with old stamps and not apply a surcharge fee for insufficient postage. That ends on 31 July 2023 and allegedly will allow customers more time to use any of their remaining 'everyday' non-barcoded stamps.

According to the Royal Mail



Group "We remain committed to getting around the table with the CWU, resolving this dispute and agreeing a pay and change deal for our people. That is in the best interests of customers, Royal Mail and its employees."

If there isn't any action soon, perhaps last year's card will do for the next Christmas. I wonder who owns the company and how manages to survive when it can't deliver the mail we entrusted to it, and paid for.



JOANNA CHERRY MP  
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

After a busy year chairing the Joint Committee on Human Rights, I have handed the role back to Harriet Harman KC MP, now that she has completed chairing the inquiry which found that Boris Johnson deliberately misled parliament over parties at Number 10 during lockdown. She is to be commended for doing such a great job.

My last big job as chair was to produce the committee's lengthy report on the Illegal Migration Bill. We were trenchant in our criticism of the bill for its incompatibility with international laws, including the Refugee Convention, the ECHR, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We were particularly concerned about the bill's impact on vulnerable groups including children and the victims of human trafficking and modern slavery.

The Government's approach to immigration is not only unlawful, but it also doesn't work. In the Commons I raised the impact of new rules on visas for international students particularly at Heriot-Watt and Edinburgh Napier Universities. Research by Universities UK shows that the net economic benefit from international students to Edinburgh South West is around £170.8 million per annum.

I also spoke in the debate on amending the Equality Act to clarify that sex means biological sex in order to protect single sex spaces and separate sex services. The petition supporting this amendment received more signatures in Edinburgh than anywhere else in the UK and I have had a lot of correspondence from constituents who support it. The proposed amendment would leave in place equal rights protections for trans people which I know is also important to many constituents.

Back in the constituency I have been busy visiting summer events including the Balerno Gala and the Tiphereth Summer Fayre in the Pentlands.



GORDON MACDONALD MSP  
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

#### GALA DAYS

The gala season is wrapped up for another year, a time for local communities to come together, celebrate and have fun! It was great to catch up with people at this year's Balerno Children's Gala Day, the finale for the week's activities, which was another roaring success. A special thanks to everyone who volunteered throughout and, of course, to the committee members who give up so much of their time to ensure it all goes smoothly.

It's been a busy few weeks in the constituency and always good to get out and about. It was great to meet up with staff, parents and young people at Colinton Primary School Parent Council Fair. These events are important not just in bringing the school and local community together, but also raising funds to support the school and its pupils. I was also invited to Juniper Green Primary School to chat with their P6 pupils as part of their project on citizenship.

The good weather for many will mean getting out and about and taking advantage of the sun and long summer evenings, and long may it continue! However, I want to reiterate the importance of accessing and using our green spaces responsibly. One of our local highlights the Pentland Hills Regional Park attracts huge numbers of visitors and thanks to additional funding from the Scottish Government through the Better Places Fund, the Regional Park will have six Seasonal Park Rangers throughout the summer.

With access to our countryside comes a responsibility to ensure we treat it with respect both on land and water. Our agencies – particularly the Park Rangers and local policing teams – work hard to protect this natural environment, preventing anti-social behaviour and informing visitors of the dangers of the reservoirs. We all have our part to play in ensuring everyone can enjoy it.



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CLLR GRAEME BRUCE  
PENTLAND HILLS

### ROADWORKS!

The state of roads and pavements are a constant issue across the city and none more so in our ward. I have had a number of complaints from Baberton to Balerno especially with regard to the poor state of pavements. I have notified the relevant department of some of the areas that need attention but that they can only work with what they have been given.

Last month I talked about the state of the public realm next to the Pentland Surgery/Scotmid in Currie. The Council only own the strip of pavement that runs from LRW to Pentland View. With this in mind I've asked the council if they clean up the area that adjoins the car park and just leave as a raised kerb. I will have a further update in next issue.

Many people will have noticed the electronic signs displaying six months of roadworks on Lanark Road West between Currie and Balerno to upgrade gas pipes. By the time you read this work will probably have already started. This will be frustrating for everyone whether commuting for work or leisure. I sincerely hope the contractors keep to their schedule but are aware of the different traffic flows at different times of the day. One of the vital actions they will need to take is to try and make sure the temporary traffic light system do not fail and, if it does, they are on it as quickly as possible.

A good piece of news to share: for those of you who frequent to Ratho or indeed the golf at Dalmahoy, funding was agreed at the last Transport & Environment committee to make this a fully signalised junction. We await the next steps of this process.

Lastly, I would just like to wish everyone a great summer and remember to apply that sun cream especially if you're fair skinned like myself!



CLLR NEIL GARDINER  
PENTLAND HILLS

### LOCAL UPDATES

Summer is on us, with school summer holidays now underway. New pupils were able to sample nursery, primary and secondary before the end of the last school year. Conversely for school leavers the bigger world outside the gates beckons, with employment or further education and training opportunities.

In June I was delighted to attend the Sistema Big Noise reception at Holyrood which was organised by local MSP for Pentlands, Gordon MacDonald. There I met some of the pupils of Clovestone Primary School and their headteacher, all brimming with enthusiasm. Our young people can draw confidence in so many different ways beyond the formal classroom.

There is still no update about the next meeting (or first meeting in a year-and-a-half) for Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee. I had been contacted by Mallyen Angling Club who were concerned about those fishing on the water. Park Rangers have provided assurance that they are working to make all users of the park aware of issues around sharing spaces and overall safety.

Although there remain many issues to be resolved with the Integrated Joint Board between the council and NHS, our political group, although not forming part of the administration, has been working closely with trade unions, patients and other parties to seek to improve this situation.

With delays experienced on the 44 service, I have asked for information about why the revived X44 service no longer serves the Water of Leith communities and what plans there are to re-provide this service.

Whatever your plans are for the summer, whether you are travelling near or far, I hope you have a nice time and have the chance to catch-up with old friends and family.



CLLR FIONA GLASGOW  
PENTLAND HILLS

### SUMMER FUN

It's been a busy period and, with the sun shining, the fun activities start—gala days, school fairs and gardens filled with colour.

Balerno Children's Gala had the most beautiful day to celebrate the community; lots of fun activities involving everyone. I enjoyed taking part in the hoopla stall for Balerno Fairtrade Village! None of this happens without the hard work of the committee of volunteers who work so hard to ensure that everything come together on the day. It takes a lot of planning and organisation.

Talking of organisation, I had the pleasure of meeting the team who work so hard to ensure that people struggling with the cost-of-living crisis are provided with food. Community for Food, based in Juniper Green Village Hall, work hard organising, packing and delivering food to local families. I took part in a session with several other local volunteers, and it ran like a well-oiled machine! Volunteers and donations are always welcome!

Hub531 in Juniper green has come on leaps and bounds since its opening, with a full and interesting programme. I had the pleasure of attending a session on the local Edinburgh Tool Library which is a service offering tools instead of books! Local residents can borrow a range of tools for a week at a time. This is a great way to save money, to try out tools and learn both how to use and maintain them—and is now based at The Shed in Spylaw Park, Colinton.

I am delighted that Currie Community Council welcomed new members at their EGM; well done to all those who put themselves forward.

Also a big shout out to all the Parent councils who work hard all year round; wishing everyone a fantastic summer break and look forward to catching up during the year.



CLLR JASON RUST  
COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD

### RELIGIOUS VOTES

The subject on which I have received most correspondence over the past month has been in respect of the proposal to remove voting rights from religious representatives on the Council's Education Committee. This is set to come to Full Council for discussion in August.

While Scotland is a very diverse society I believe that religious representatives carry out an important role on the Education Committee as religion forms a crucial pillar of Scottish society and education. Having served on previous Education Committees I consider these appointees provide a depth of knowledge, experience and perspective that is vital to the work of the committee.

I am therefore, are in favour of retaining the voting rights for religious representatives who sit on the Education, Children and Families Committee. Furthermore, it has been an accepted convention that religious representatives have exercised voting rights only in matters related to faith based schooling or religious education.

I believe the role of religious representatives should be carried out in the spirit of partnership with City of Edinburgh Council in order to deliver religious education and faith-based schooling and also not open the Council to further potential legal challenge, given its recent history.

I wish all readers a pleasant summer and let's hope the recent spell of good weather continues. Colinton/ Fairmilehead residents can email me on any local issues at [jason.rust@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:jason.rust@edinburgh.gov.uk).

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**RICHARD M HENDERSON**  
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**TRANSPORTS OF DELIGHT?**

The City of Edinburgh Council are currently conducting a range of initiatives directed at implementing their CityMobilityPlan, which they approved in 2021. In principle this is a good thing, and we all have until 9 July to complete the current very detailed online survey.

CEC's vision is for people, goods and services to be able to move into and around Edinburgh in a way that is safe, sustainable, efficient and can benefit everyone—we don't argue with that.

Their target is to lower the number of kilometres travelled by car in Edinburgh by 30%, and also achieve "Net Zero", both by 2030.

The consultation realistically concedes that some people "will still need to make certain journeys by car and for others using public transport or active travel is not always a realistic option". That is something of an understatement, but it is about the limit of concessions to communities like the upper Water of Leith valley!

Current data suggests that, as far as reliability of/accessibility to public transport are concerned, the Pentland Hills ward is the least satisfied of Edinburgh's council wards. As yet, there are apparently no proposals to address the public transport deficit in Balerno: for example, there are no bus services westwards (including to St Johns Hospital in Livingston). A quick scan suggests that the City's Public Transport Action Plan 2030 doesn't have anything directly to say about that.

We said in our own Balerno Community Plan 2019 that CEC should prepare a comprehensive plan for transport services and infrastructure for Balerno. At the very least some acknowledgment that semi-rural communities may face specific challenges would be useful as a starting point.



**TOM McDONALD**  
COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MONEY MATTERS**

Once again our CC has been told that actions promised by The City of Edinburgh Council cannot be delivered because of lack of money.

Two items at our recent meeting suggest to me this is more of a mantra than an explanation. It seems the expected resources are being allocated elsewhere and expenses cut "at all costs"!

Recent ETRO (road alterations) notices are to be reissued—presumably affixed to lampposts at reasonable heights and with readable text this time!

The originals were fixed by a subcontractor, presumably contracted to save the Council department staff time and money. Obviously the briefing was completely inadequate, ultimately frustrating both objectives. In response to complaints CEC officials indicated the notices must have been moved by the public. There was even a suggestion they were adequate because the legal requirement does not prescribe the format in detail. Never mind the purpose of that legal requirement.

Work promised to re-evaluate road safety measures in the village, after huge input from locals to overcome resistance to an inadequate plan, seems also to have stalled. Apparently the relevant department have not yet been able to get a quote from external consultants. In my world that would take a five-minute phone call and a half-hour briefing on revisions, but perhaps at least twice as much when delayed for a considerable period. (I'm sure consultants would be keen to respond quickly!)

Recent substantial saving in bridge costs in Currie also speaks to inadequate attention to finding best value for taxpayers' money.

My point is that getting tasks off in-house desks to save staff time and effort may be attractive for busy officials but, by itself, does not equate to saving time and money in discharging the Council's ultimate function of serving the public. Our elected members must make sure such actions are fully effective.



**KEVIN KEALY**  
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**ALLISTER MCKILLOP**

The current Chair of Currie Community Council, Allister McKillop, has been a driving force in our community for many years, dedicated to serving residents and improving their quality of life. As we begin to bid farewell to this influential figure, it is crucial to acknowledge his exceptional accomplishments. Moreover, we warmly welcome four new members to the Currie Community Council as well as Keith Simmington who will take up the role as vice Chair for six months leading to the transfer of "chair" to him in January 2024.

For over a decade, as the Chair of the Currie Community Council, Allister has exhibited exceptional leadership, fostering unity and collaboration among council members, stakeholders, and elected representatives. Allister's tireless efforts have led to numerous improvements, including enhanced recreational facilities, improved public transportation, and the preservation of green spaces. Notably, he played a key role in saving both WHC and Currie Community High Schools from closure. His unwavering commitment to the community has helped earn Currie the tagline "The caring community."

While we express our gratitude to Allister for his invaluable contributions, we are excited to welcome four new members to the Currie Community Council. Their fresh perspectives and passion for community engagement are expected to invigorate ongoing initiatives and introduce new ideas. With their collective expertise, the council will continue working towards building a stronger and more resilient Currie.

As Allister McKillop prepares to step down as Chair of the Currie Community Council at the end of the year, his legacy of dedication and passion for community service will continue to inspire us all. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Allister for his invaluable contributions.

**What's On**

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

**WEEKLY**  
**JULY/AUGUST**  
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 call Allan Murray 07711 046041, email: themeeetingplacejcb@outlook.com or just drop in.

**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

**ALTERNATE FRIDAYS**  
**TABLETOP GAMING IN JUNIPER GREEN/BABERTON/CURRIE,** at Juniper Green



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**SATURDAYS**

**COMMUNITY CAFÉ:** Currie Community Centre, 9am-noon. Restarting on 26 August after summer break. Barista coffee and delicious home baking.

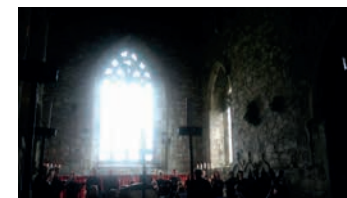
**CURRIE KIRK CAFE:** Kirkgate, Currie, 2pm-4pm (last orders 3.30pm). Saturday café serving tea, coffee and home baking.

**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](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/balerno), [www.facebook.com/Balerno-Ramblers](https://www.facebook.com/Balerno-Ramblers) or email: [enquiries@balernoramblers.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@balernoramblers.org.uk)

**DAY BY DAY  
JULY**

**SATURDAY 1 JULY**



**THE INCHCOLM NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE,** St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, 7.30pm. Heriot-Watt ensemble presents "Watt's that I hear?"—music composed by staff and alumni of Heriot-Watt University this century. Tickets and more information can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk>

**SATURDAY 8 JULY**



**BALERNO FARMERS MARKET,** Main Street, 9am-1pm. A wonderful range of stallholders bringing fresh Scottish produce and handmade products; also community and charity organisations.

**THURSDAY 13 JULY**

**MULTI SKILLS SUMMER PROGRAMME,** Juniper Green Tennis Club, 4pm-6pm. Weekly course building a bridge between play and sports coaching for four-to-six-year-old children. Bookings can be made: <https://tinyurl.com/2p96rup5>



**SATURDAY 22 JULY**

**MUSIC IN THE PARK,** The Shed, Spylaw Park, times to be confirmed. Latest monthly event organised by Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO. More details: <https://www.facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise>.

**SUNDAY 23 JULY**

**RED MOSS PEAT BOG OPEN DAY,** Nature Reserve, near Threipmuir Reservoir, Balerno, noon - 5pm. Explore Red Moss Wildlife Reserve on International Bog Day. Tours with experts and pond dipping for children of all ages. Meet at the boardwalk. No booking or wellie boots required!

**AUGUST**

**SATURDAY 12 AUGUST**

**WELLBEING IN THE PARK,** The Shed, Spylaw Park, times



to be confirmed. Latest monthly event organised by Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO. More details: <https://www.facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise>

**SATURDAY 12 - THURSDAY 17 AUGUST**

**PENTLAND ART CLUB ANNUAL EXHIBITION,** Scout Hall, 45 Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5JX. Annual celebration of local artists' work. Contactless, cash and cheques accepted. Saturday 12 August 10am-6pm; Sunday 13 August 2pm-6pm; Monday 14-Wednesday 16 August

2pm-8pm; Thursday 17 August 1pm-4pm.

**SUNDAY 20 AUGUST**

**C&B NEWS: Official Editorial Deadline.** Get your contributions (for our September 2023 issue) in by 9pm today, thank you! Email: [editor@candbnews.com](mailto:editor@candbnews.com)

**SATURDAY 26 AUGUST**

**CURRIE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW,** Balerno High School, 1:30pm-4pm. Entries to be at venue by 10am that day. For more information: [www.currieshow.weebly.com](http://www.currieshow.weebly.com)

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**WEEKLY**

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**MONDAYS:**

**COME FOR A CUPPA** will pause for July and the beginning of August—returns Monday 21 August!

**MINDFULNESS SESSION,** noon - 1pm. A guided mindfulness session to help focus on the present moment—give your mind "a hug at the hub". No sessions 3/10 July—returns 17 July

**BABY GROUP,** 1.30pm-2.45pm. 1.30pm-2.45pm. July dates to be confirmed. Singing nursery rhymes then a cuppa and meeting other mums helps you realise you are not the only one tired with uncertainty—gosh it can be hard but peer support helps!

**TUESDAYS**

**KNITTING GROUP,** 10.30am-noon, for new and experienced knitters alike.

**YOGA:** 1pm-2pm. 1pm-2pm. For all abilities, chair or floor work, limited spaces now available—book

**WEDNESDAYS**

*Wednesday morning room hired by "From Acorn to Oak - fatowl beats and baby massage".*

**PENTLANDS SPORTING MEMORIES CLUB,** 1.30pm-3pm. Sports chat – anything from Scotland's football glory days to next week's rugby – with likeminded sports fans.

**SATURDAYS**

*Mornings booked for private children's guitar lessons by Dan Barr.*

**ALSO**

*Monthly we have Monday evening book group and Crafting on Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon.*

*Most up to date information found on [hub@531](mailto:hub@531) Facebook page or email [Hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com](mailto:Hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com)*





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## Edinburgh Lace Course Open Day

CAROLE SMITH  
EDINBURGH LACE COURSE

The Edinburgh Lace Course has been running for more than 40 years; this year's will take place for a week at the end of July at Heriot Watt University. Each year more than sixty lacemakers from across the UK meet for a course to

develop their skills in bobbin lacemaking, as well as exchanging ideas and renewing friendships.

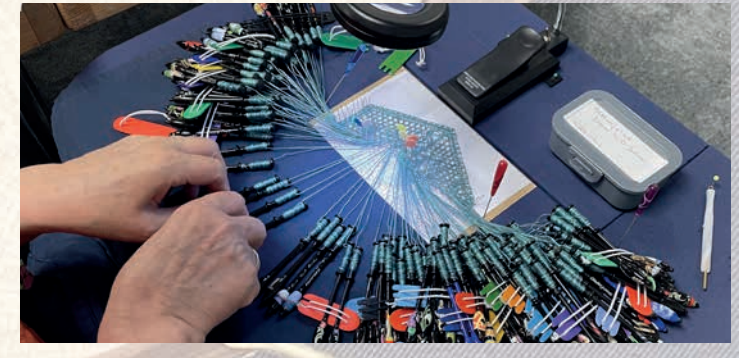
During the week we have an open day where family, friends and members of the public are welcome to visit to see what bobbin lace is, how it is made, and to see what we are all doing.

This year, the open day is on Wednesday

26 July, from 10.30am to 3pm at the James Watt Centre at Heriot Watt University.

Harlequin Lace Supplies will be in attendance with their lacemaking equipment and there will also be a display of finished work on the theme of "Heatwave".

More: [www.edinburghlacecourse.co.uk](http://www.edinburghlacecourse.co.uk)



## 'Come and Sing' Day, and Autumn Open Rehearsal

ALISON KENNEDY  
THE COLINTON & MERCHISTON  
COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir continues to thrive since its restart last September with Timothy Coleman as our new dynamic Conductor and Director of Music, and the excellent Morley Whitehead as our Accompanist. Our Spring Concert was very successful and enjoyable.

We warmly invite you to our "Come and Sing Day" in Colinton Parish Church, Colinton Dell, on Saturday 9 September from 10am to 4.30pm, followed by a free concert at 5pm for family and friends. All are welcome. No experience of choral singing is necessary—just enthusiasm.

Tim is an excellent tenor, teacher and communicator who, along with Morley, will make the day fun. We'll sing classical choral favourites including Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from The Messiah and "Zadok the Priest", Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus", Vivaldi's "Gloria", and more.

The cost for the day will be £15, music provided. From the end of July you'll find booking details and more on our website.

Alternatively, if you would like to learn more about our choir and experience what it's like to sing with us, please join us for the start of our new term which begins with an "Open Rehearsal" on Monday 11 September at 7.20pm, in the Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School. Again no past involvement in choral singing is necessary, nor do we audition singers. There is no commitment to join thereafter.

We normally rehearse in the Memorial Hall from 7.20pm to 8.50pm on Monday evenings. Our next concert will be a Christmas one. We are grateful to Merchiston Castle School for the use of the Memorial Hall and access to the School's Music Library.

For more information and even to hear us sing, please consult our website: [www.colintonchoir.org](http://www.colintonchoir.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/colintonchoir>



WENDY WILLIAMS  
BALERNO MUSIC FESTIVAL

It is hard during our brief but welcome summer to think about autumn but, when October comes, you'll be glad to have something to look forward to!

The (very) mini Music Festival is back! In reality, we have two concerts to entertain you as the evenings get darker.

Firstly there is the well loved Jazz Party with Stirling Crisis, a talented group of medical professionals who play a lively mixture of jazz both traditional and modern. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy a glass or two of wine and delicious snacks

provided by The Mill Café.

This is on Sunday 1 October, 7pm in St Joseph's Hall; tickets will be £18 a head.

The following weekend – on Saturday 7 October, from 7.30pm – we welcome back the wonderful Forth Valley Singers. For those who have not seen them perform you will be in for a treat as this group have travelled internationally with their a cappella performances which will have you wanting to dance in the aisles!

The aisle in question for this concert is within Balerno Parish Church. Tickets will cost £12 each.

For more details of both events visit: <https://www.balernochurch.org.uk/>





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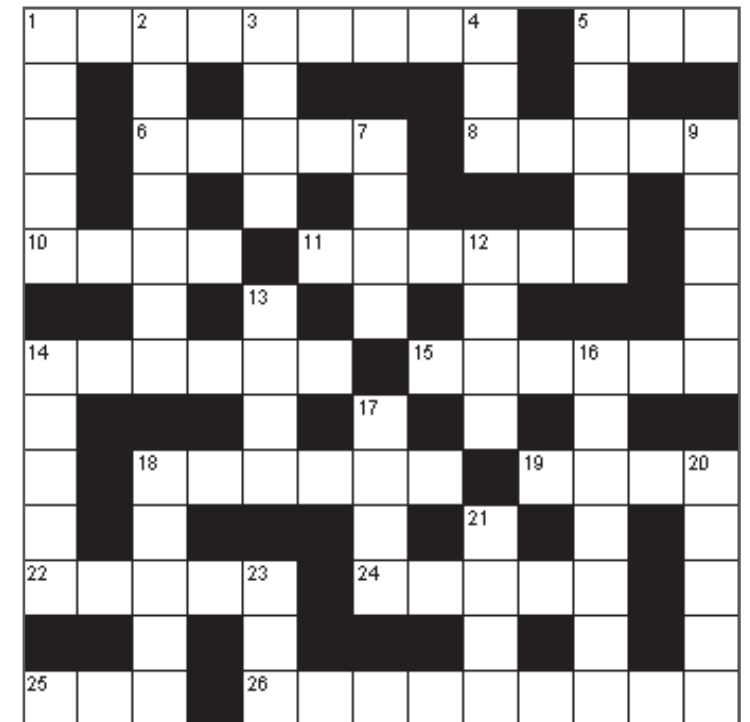
## £25 PRIZE CROSSWORD

### THEMED CROSSWORD 30 BY PUZZLECHOICE.COM

To enter, please photograph the completed puzzle and email to: editor@candbnews.com on or before noon, Friday 18 August 2023.

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

Good luck!



#### ACROSS

1. Large voracious aquatic reptile. Tick tock! (9)
5. Female chicken. (3)
6. Small parasitic arachnids, sounding positive. (5)
8. Immature lifeform prior to metamorphosis. (5)
10. Animal den. (4)
11. Dog, sounds like K-9. (6)
14. Mythical monster, part human, lion and eagle, the exception in Egypt... (6)
15. Salted and smoked herring. (6)
18. Animal symbol of identity or luck. (6)
19. Young of 14 Down. (4)
22. Large black and white herbivorous mammal, loves bamboo. (5)
24. Freshwater carnivorous mammal. (5)
25. \_\_\_ Constrictor. (3)
26. Arboreal rodents, red or grey. (9)

#### DOWN

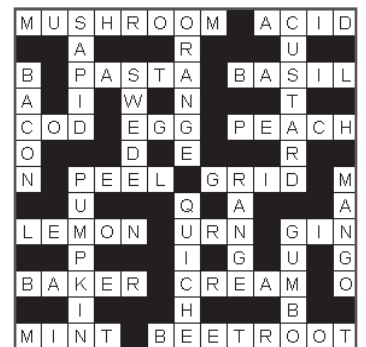
1. May be Bactrian, dromedary, or cigarette. (5)
2. The largest living bird. (7)
3. Killer whale. (4)
4. Snakelike fish. (3)
5. Solid-hoofed herbivorous quadruped. (5)
7. Marine mammal. (4)
9. Small viper which sounds mathematical. (5)
12. Wading bird. (4)
13. Colony insects. (4)
14. Horned ruminant mammal. (5)
16. North American burrowing rodent, \_\_\_ dog. (7)
17. Extinct heavy flightless bird, dead as a... (4)
18. Extremely large pelagic tropical ray. (5)
20. Ursine mammals. (5)
21. Echinoderm, \_\_\_ fish. (4)
23. Donkey, sounding foolish. (3)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

POST CODE ..... PHONE .....

#### SOLUTION: JUNE 2023



#### LAST ISSUE'S WINNER!

Our congratulations go to Aaron Hoyle of Currie, randomly selected to receive our £25 prize.

#### EASY

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# From Balerno to Orlando, Making FootGolf History

**C&B News catches up with Balerno resident Kelly Menzies on her return from the FootGolf 2023 World Cup Championships in Orlando, Florida. What do you mean, you haven't heard of FootGolf...**



**CAROLINE BROWN**  
C&B NEWS

Left: Kelly Menzies. Above: (Left to right) Back row: Anna Anderson, Claire Williams, Laura Thomson, Cheryl McIntosh. Front row: Sheila Strickland, Carolyn Kent, Kelly Menzies. Below: Beware the water features! Photos: Sarah White

**K**elly Menzies is no stranger to elite sport. Having played football for Scotland at age 18, and competed at European Championship level, Kelly amassed 14 caps in two-and-a-half years during her early football career.

She continued to play football at an amateur level but was always looking for the next competitive opportunity, especially following a football injury.

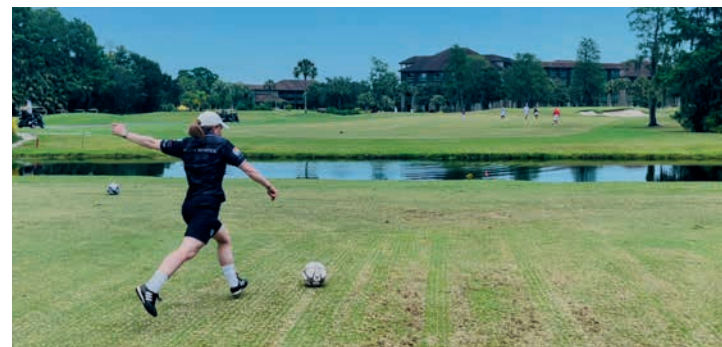
A social golfer, Kelly was introduced to FootGolf by Carolyn Kent from Bridgend Golf & FootGolf at Linlithgow in 2022.

**So, Kelly, what is FootGolf?**  
I would say it's a hybrid between

football and golf where golf rules apply. No expensive equipment is required and you use your foot instead of a club and the hole is much bigger to accommodate for the football instead of a golf-ball! It's a really social sport as rounds typically take 3 hours long.

**What is the secret to a good round?**  
It comes down to fine margins just like golf. The shots around and on the green are very important and precision is key.

**What was your Journey to the World Cup.**  
My first official tournament was



on 29 May 2022 in Lockerbie, where I came second. I was aware I needed to enter tour events to gain points which would go towards qualifying for the World Cup. I finished second on the tour which gained me an automatic qualification for the World Cup. I couldn't quite believe it and was so excited and privileged to get the opportunity to represent Scotland with a lovely team on what would be the experience of a lifetime.

**What were the highlights of taking part in the World Cup?**  
It was an incredible experience to have played against the world's best and finish in the top 32 individually (out of 114 women) and, as a team, we reached the semi-final, losing to eventual winners Japan. Overall we came fourth which was an amazing achievement for our first World Cup.

**What were the big challenges for you?**  
It was physically and mentally challenging playing in 33°C heat with rounds ranging from four-and-a-half hours to seven hours with weather delays. Courses, however, were immaculate and long. I picked up an injury in the final round and hope to recover quickly so I can get back out there!

**What's next? Is FootGolf now more than a hobby to you?**  
Yes it's definitely now more than a hobby. I am challenging myself to play in a competition outside the country once a year, so I aim to travel quite a bit with it.

**Could this become a professional sport for you?**  
FootGolf is definitely growing but there is not a chance I'll earn as much as Rory McIlroy or Ronaldo! I don't do it for that!

**So why is it the sport for you?**  
It is for the love of the game, friendships and the social side. The fitness it gives me, and having something to focus on, is key. I love to challenge myself and it is a sport which has definitely appealed to my competitive side.

**Would you recommend FootGolf to our readers?**  
It's a great game for all the family and no experience is necessary. Anyone who would like to give FootGolf a try please contact Bridgend Golf and FootGolf, Linlithgow: info@bridgendgolfandFootGolf.co.uk 01506 531003

## Currie Success at Meadowbank Competition



**ALLY DONALDSON**  
PE SPECIALIST, CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**C**urrie Primary School pupils competed in the Inter-scholastics Athletics competition, on Monday 29 May at Meadowbank Sports Centre. The 16 pupils from Currie Primary competed against schools



from across Edinburgh in a variety of running, throwing and jumping events and, having put in a brilliant performance, should be very proud of themselves. A special mention should be made to Frankie Kirton who was fifth overall in the Girls 600m final and Cassi Wylie, first place in the long jump overall. Well done to everyone involved.

## Summer at Juniper Green Tennis Club

**PAUL MURPHY**  
JGTC

**T**he summer months sees the tennis season at Juniper Green Tennis Club reach its peak with a number of great activities for everyone to enjoy. From the start of July our summer school tennis camps for children of various age groups will run each week during the extended schools holiday period. This will be followed by the resumption of the popular Friday morning coached social tennis for adult members, from Friday 18 August. (See photo, below)

Our annual summer BBQ is scheduled for Saturday 19 August, including small size, fun tennis sessions for children and some entertaining group tennis games such as La Vache for adults—all under the supervision of our club coach Kenny Petrie. Traditional BBQ refreshments will be provided; however don't forget to BYOB. This social event will be open to all, players and non-players alike, with a small charge for non-members attending. On the back of Kenny successfully securing funding from The Physical Activity & Sport Fund, we shortly plan to

launch a new coached social tennis class for the over 50s, both members and non-members of all abilities. Membership packages are still available via the following link: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/JuniperGreenTennisClub/Membership> Full details of all forthcoming events will be published closer to the time on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/juniper-greentennis](http://www.facebook.com/juniper-greentennis)) and club website (<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/JuniperGreenTennisClub>).







## A Strong Rigg Race

**STEVEN BROWN**  
RACE DIRECTOR, BALERNO RIGG RACE

Above: The Start of the 2023 Rigg Race.

It was a beautiful Monday evening for this year's Balerno Rigg Race, which saw a strong field of club and local runners line up for the challenging 10 km (6.2 miles) annual race as part of the Balerno Children's Gala.

Climbing the 3.2 km (2 miles) up to the Rigg in the sunshine was hard work but, once up to the top, the runners cut loose for the run back down to Balerno, with some excellent times throughout the field.

Men's winner James Dunn of Corstorphone AC turned in the second-fastest time ever on the course, just 14 seconds away from the 30 minute barrier that has only been broken once before. Natalie Stewart from Penicuk Harriers won the Women's category

with a time just a minute off the course record—another excellent performance.

In the local category, Fiona Burley and Craig McBride scooped up the female and male first prizes respectively.

Once again, it was a hugely enjoyable night round the Rigg, helped by the superb volunteer marshals from Harmeny Athletics Club and the Balerno Children's Gala.

The Race organisers would also like to give a big thanks to local sponsors Prime Sports Physio, Scotmid, Appin Sports, and Unicorn INC/goodr UK.

*Harmeny is a local running club very welcoming of any new members of all levels: for more information visit harmenyac.org*



## Great Success At Hyrox

**EMMA HOKAYEN**  
EH FITNESS

Currie-based business owner Emma Hokayen, with client and friend Ann Enneguess, enjoyed real success at the Hyrox World Championships, ranking 55th out of over 14,000 women.

Hyrox is a global fitness race attracting participants from all around the world to compete in the exact same format: starting with a 1 km run, followed by one functional movement, which repeats eight times.

The Hyrox season, which runs from September to May, concludes with an annual World Championships, held this year in Manchester on 27 May.

Emma, owner of EH Fitness, and Ann, originally competed against 383 other competitors in Glasgow on 11 February, with their 12th place securing their spot in Manchester on behalf of Scotland and the UK.

On the day of the World Championships, Emma and Ann competed against 203 other teams from more than 38 locations, the best of more than 14,000 women competitors during the season.

Emma said: "We are so happy and proud of what we have achieved. When we went to Glasgow, it was with the aim of experiencing our first functional fitness competition, so to qualify for the World Championships and to finish 55th out of over 14,000 is just incredible.

"We are preparing for the next season and will be aiming high in our rankings now"

*You can follow their journey at: EH\_Fitness\_Edinburgh*



## Tackle Height Changes Are Fundamental

**PHIL THOMAS**  
CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

For several years Scottish Rugby (SR) has engaged with World-Rugby-endorsed research programmes designed to reduce the incidence and severity of head injuries and concussions in rugby. Now, it is adopting new tackle-height laws for a trial during the 2023-24 season.

The evidence from the research indicates that 74% of concussions derive from contacts in the tackle area and that 70% of the injuries relate to the tackler. The risk of concussion is 4.2 times greater when the tackler's head is above the bottom of the ball-carrier's sternum, implying that lowering the tackle height will reduce concussions. Consistent with this, data from France with below-the-waist tackling show a 64% reduction in head-on-head contacts and a 23% reduction in concussions.

SR's Club Rugby Board has approved the laws for the trial. They will lower the permitted level of a tackle from the current shoulder level to below the sternum. The new arrangements will be introduced at all levels of male and female adult and youth competitive rugby up to and including the Premiership, at all levels of youth representative rugby, and at all alternative rugby formats, including 7s and 10s.

The roll-out of the new system is being supported: by regional roadshows for players, coaches and match officials in May and June (see photograph of Chris Paterson making a point at the Mallyen Park roadshow, inset); and by practical workshops, webinars and courses for players, coaches, match officials and spectators in June and July. The trial starts from the beginning of August and there will be updates as the results become available.

The trial laws are intended

to reduce the number of head-to-head contacts and related concussions, but it is also anticipated that the rate of off-loads and line breaks will increase, making the game faster and more flowing.

However, many rugby followers are pointing out that the nature of the tackle height changes may have unexpected consequences to the positioning of the attacker and defender as they approach each other and will influence the way teams adjust their tactics at the breakdown of play.

Overall, the tackle height changes are fundamental and may have unexpected impacts on the way the game is played, some of which will reflect the ingenuity of the coaches and players in adjusting to the new requirements. Thus, supporters may be in for an interesting 2023-24 season, with a lot of game analysis and discussion taking place in the clubhouse!

## Pentland Gymnastics Club—Back in Action

**MARION MILNE**  
PENTLAND GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE

With a big thank you to all the coaches and helpers, as well as the committee members, we did it—after several years of Covid-19 restrictions, we had our first full club competition at Currie Community High School on Saturday 10 June.

It was fabulous to see all the gymnasts on the floor for the march on and that wasn't them all— June is always a busy month, and we knew that there was going to be dance shows etc on the same weekend.

It was lovely to see, from the youngest P1 to some of our older young ladies in the competitive rhythmic section, taking part—as well as the boys competing in the

artistic sections.

It's now time for a wee break. Well, there are still some summer camps being organised by active schools, while our coaches and the competitive girls still have some competitions in the calendar. The competitive group did very well representing Scotland recently at a competition in Wales—well done girls, and thanks to all the coaches for the

work put into the routines, as well as the parents who travelled with the team.

We currently still do have a waiting list but are trying hard to get more coaches and training times so that we can reduce this.

*Please don't hesitate to contact a member of the committee or email the club at pentlandgymnastics@gmail.com for further information.*



## Summertime, and the Fishing is... More Challenging!

**ROBERT ROSS**  
MALLENY ANGLING

The fishing at Harlaw Reservoir has been superb with anglers landing up to 20 fish in a session. Now, in mid-summer, bright sun and warm weather heralds a change to both trout and the angler.

Fishing becomes challenging and requires a more versatile approach. The view is often that the fish will be feeding deep down on the reservoir bottom. More likely, the trout are finding the depth of water where they are most comfortable.

In warm water conditions trout tend to feed less and may become

quite sultry. Unless the fish are seen to be active on the surface, the correct depth for feeding fish is found only by trial and error, coupled with experience.

The trout will be fast to react to changing conditions when flies are on the water surface and the sun is not in their eyes. In these conditions dry and subsurface flies will account for a lot of the fish being caught, particularly early and late in the day.

If I am fishing small lures, I will be focussed on fly patterns such as Yellow Dancer, Orange Dancer, Orange Fritz or damsel nymph. Orange is a colour for lures in high summer with yellow a close second choice.

Fishing small lures tied on size 10

or 12 standard length hooks nearly always has success. Harlaw has a lot of minnows and sticklebacks which are a main food item for the trout.

On the surface with CDC (cul de canard), dry flies, sedges, hoppers and, if a wave is on the water, then the muddlers can be effective. The top metre of water is nearly always the most productive. A dry fly on

**NOTE: A number of poachers and anglers using methods not approved at Harlaw and Threipmuir – such as live bait fishing – have been caught and cautioned by Police Scotland, with possible prosecutions pending.**

the point with a nymph or buzzer on the dropper is a successful method and covers both the surface the top layer of water.

Buzzer fishing can also be good. A team of buzzers can cover a water depth from just below the surface to many, perhaps three metres down, and can locate the trout in the feeding zone of water.

If releasing fish, then only use barbless hooks and get the fish to the net as fast as possible. Keep the fish in the water and release the fish as quickly as possible. Always ensure the fish has recovered before releasing.

Permits must be purchased on line at mallenyangling.com before fishing and do not leave or discard nylon at the waterside.



**FREE!**



**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL RIGG RACE, p46**



**FRIDAY SOCIAL TENNIS AT JUNIPER GREEN, p45**

# C&BSPORT

CURRIE • BALERNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON



**4**  
Pages of  
Sport  
Inside!

## Making FootGolf History

Balerno Resident Kelly Menzies on being Part of Scotland's First Women's Team at the FootGolf World Cup 2023, p44



**Currie PS Success, p45**

Photos: Kelly Menzies; Currie Primary School; Rigg Race; IGIT Club