

FREE!



Balerno Police Station for Sale? p5



Currie Football Club's SFA Award, p47

C&B NEWS

CURRIE • BALERNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON

Climbing to the Top

Balerno's Andrew Goodall on his increasingly successful Speed Climbing career, p24

PLUS: What's the future for the Pentland Skyline Race? p17

C&B News joins



THE SCOTTISH BEACON



It's Our Bumper Autumn Issue!

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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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C&B NEWS
DEADLINES FOR OCTOBER 2023
ADVERTISING & LISTINGS: 12 SEPTEMBER
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Our wonderful advertising manager, Moira, writes: "I was recently checking the community orchard and found an apple! Organisers will need to remove it to keep the tree growing, rather than putting its energy into fruit, but I was so excited and thought the community might like to see it."



The Friends of Campbell Park are delighted at the success of their "Adopt an Orchard Tree" scheme with – at the time of writing – just four of the 30 trees left unclaimed! Above: Pip Costello, through the 2Gether Partnership Ltd which she runs with partner Tom, have adopted neighbouring apple and plum trees. Right: Penny McKee, Chair of Colinton Garden Club, holds up the club's D4 apple tree ceramic name plate.



During the summer the Friends of the Pentlands have reconstructed the much worn and damaged flight of steps on the popular but steep path between Bonaly and Dreghorn, on behalf of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, writes Rob Melville of Friends of the Pentlands. "This was a joint project, with a Parks Ranger present to supply the material, aid in the project and give guidance. The demanding work was completed on consecutive days by teams of FOP volunteers to minimise restrictions on access. The relatively narrow and steep path, with the bank falling away on one side and walkers and groups of Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates continuing to pass up and down, added to the challenges of the task though all expressed support and thanks."

The new steps will give users more confidence in passing up and down the track, especially in wet and muddy conditions.



BRIEFLY... CURRIE KIRK

Rev Easter Smart, Minister at Currie Kirk since June 2015, has decided to move on, and will return to the USA in September. Her departure may well speed up the timetable for Currie Kirk's "deferred union" with Balerno Parish Church, as the vacant position cannot be filled in advance of the union taking place. [Source: *Balerno Blether.*]

BADMINTON, ANYONE?

The badminton season restarts at St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, on Monday 25 September. The club is not competitive, and draws membership from Balerno to Craiglockart. Much else is discussed apart from the game. Members meet on Monday evenings at 8pm. For details, contact Archie Clark on (0131) 449 4703.

LOTHIAN BUSES

New revisions to Lothian Buses' timetables, which take effect from Sunday 10 September, involve: no changes to Services 10 and overnight N16; "revised timetable on all days to improve reliability" of Service 16; and "minor timetable changes" to Services 45 and 400. Service 44 will benefit from an additional afternoon journey (weekdays) from Princes Street to Balerno. Note: eastbound Service 44 will no longer serve Waterloo Place (Stop ZK), instead stopping at Waverley Steps (Stop PN, near the Apple Store).

EASTERN SCOTTISH

McGill's Buses have agreed to continue operating The City of Edinburgh Council-subsidised Services 20 (Ratho to Chesser), 63 (South Queensferry to Balerno), and 68 (South Gyle/Drumbrae/Corstorphine circular) until CEC's re-tendering process is completed—McGill's contract was due to end on 31 August. Significant complaints concerning service unreliability and cancellations, especially experienced by residents in



Tickets are now on sale for this year's Balerno Music Festival, with the Forth Valley Chorus (above) performing in Balerno Parish Church at 7.30pm, Saturday 7 October. Tickets cost £12 for adults, £6 for children. On the previous Sunday, 1 October, neighbouring St Joseph's Hall hosts the Jazz Party, a lively evening of music presented by "Stirling Crisis" (left), with wine and snacks provided by The Mill Cafe. Regulars to this event will be familiar with the band's mix of jazz – traditional and modern – which has proved very popular. The evening starts at 7pm, and tickets cost £18.

More information on both shows can be found on the Balerno Parish Church website and tickets are available through Eventbrite and at the Balerno Farmers' Markets on 9 September.



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Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency



Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

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What Future for Balerno Police Station?

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Concerns have been raised locally about the intended sale of Balerno Police Station, which has been closed to the public for many years.

Announced in late July, with the consultation running until 14 September, Police Scotland insisted they were “seeking views” on the “potential disposal” of the building.

“Effective and efficient use of public funds remains a local and national imperative, and whilst the station is no longer in operational use, it continues to incur day to day running costs and ongoing repairs and maintenance, monies which could be redirected to better support our policing activities and commensurately safeguard local communities,” wrote Chief Superintendent Sean Scott.

At a recent meeting of Balerno Community Council, however, it was argued that the station was a community asset that should be viewed flexibly as such, and must remain a community asset—if not as a police station, then possibly as some other community resource, such as a new GP surgery or medical centre.

There were also concerns about the shortness of the consultation period, the all-too-evident intention by Police Scotland to sell a former public asset into the private sector, and the potential for such a central site and location to attract unwanted developments close to the heart of Balerno.

All comments to Police Scotland should be addressed to Sergeant Ross Nicol by email: ross.Nicol@scotland.police.uk



‘Curry in the Park’ is Back!

LORRAINE O'SHEA
COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE

After a year of successful events held in Spylaw Park, Colinton Village Enterprise (CVE) is preparing its pièce de résistance this September—“Curry in the Park”!

Past attendees still talk about the original and very successful Curry in the Park we hosted in 2019. We are delighted to announce that the dream team – CVE Trustee Ian Cowie, aka “Mr Snax”; his chef-in-arms Kim Khan, of the Bonaly Store; and James and Iona Gultar at The Spylaw – have happily agreed to repeat the fun on Saturday 16 September between 1pm and 5pm.

Ian and Kim will present authentic curries from the Punjab,

while James and his team will select suitable local craft beers to accompany the food. CVE hopes to have an army of willing volunteers to help the whole day go with a swing. Please contact us if you want to get involved.

Tickets for Curry in the Park 2023 must be purchased in advance at a cost of £10 which will enable adults to have their own favourite dish, or a plate of choice curries for children to share.

As tickets will be limited to 400, we suggest you make sure you secure your meal by purchasing tickets at the Bonaly Store, or online via bookwhen.com/cventerprise.

Please contact us at colintonvillage@gmail.com with any queries. For latest news follow us on [facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise](https://www.facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise).



“It is with great excitement that Harmony Education Trust announce that we've reached our £3,152,711 target to fund the build of our new secondary learning facilities!” reports Alison Acosta, Fundraising and Communications Manager, Harmony Education Trust

“The last three months have been a flurry of activity as our supporters have crawled through mud, climbed mountains and walked miles (or kilometres) to raise funds for our Learning for Life Appeal, as part of our JoinUsInJune campaign which raised over £115k alone.

“Harmony still needs to raise further funds to kit out all the spaces ready for learning to start after the October school holidays. We've got £20,000 left to raise to ensure the Learning Hub is equipped with everything needed to enable our young people to continue their learning through their teenage years and build vital skills for life and work.

“We've got more fundraising activities coming up between now and October, with a team from T Clarke and CEF taking on Ben Nevis, more amazing Harmony Heroes taking on epic cycling and triathlon challenges, plus a team from RBC Brewin Dolphin abseiling off the Forth Bridge!”

BRIEFLY...

p3>>>
Ratho, will form part of a new independent consultation into all of the bus routes currently subsidised by CEC.

SCARECROWS

Voting on this year's Balerno Scarecrow Competition runs between noon, Saturday 2 September and noon, Saturday 9 September. You can register your vote by “liking” the scarecrow of your choice on Facebook, using the voting slips or by emailing your vote to farmersmarket@balernovt.org.uk The winners will be announced at 12.30pm at the Farmers' Market on 9 September, with prizes including a specially commissioned trophy (from Harmonies in Wood), Farmers' Market vouchers, sweets and certificates. There will also be a “Farmers' Market Winner” based solely on physical voting slips given on the day of the Market.

BALERNO INN

The Balerno Inn was one of five finalists in this year's Scottish Bar & Pub Awards' Casual Dining category. The winner was announced at a special event in Glasgow on 29 August – sadly after we went to press – so you may already know if they won!

NEW WOODLAND?

Stirling-based Fountains Forestry UK Ltd is looking to establish a new 31.73 hectares “productive broadleaf woodland” in two fields to the south west of Cockburnhill, Balerno (bordered to the west by the Cock Burn). The fields are described as “improved grassland”—one “has been worked for silage in the last season and the other field is currently being grazed by sheep”.

OFFERS OVER £6M

In July, Woodhall House (Juniper Green) – described as a “truly outstanding property of historic significance” and “one of the finest homes in Edinburgh” – went up for sale, with property company Rettie looking for offers over £6 million. The eight-bedroom, >p7

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
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"Dear customers and friends, it is with a heavy heart that we are making this announcement. Carlyle's closed its doors on Saturday 26 August, after serving the community during the last 12 years. Thank you to all those who came to celebrate with us on our farewell day and wished us every happiness for the future. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the great staff that we have had a pleasure working with, all the customers who have chosen to visit and celebrate with us over the years. Also, our fantastic suppliers, wonderful food bloggers and journalists who have supported us over the years. Thank you all."

— Sharon, Steven & Team Carlyle



BRIEFLY...

ps>>>
17th century detached house had been "comprehensively refurbished and restored" during the last decade. <https://www.rettie.co.uk>

"HOLIDAY HUTS" APPROVED

In July, a Scottish Government-appointed Reporter gave planning approval for three "armadillo style" holiday huts at East Rigg Farm, Balerno, on the grounds that "the proposed development would not give rise to any significant landscape or visual effects".

PARK & RIDE

Concerns have been raised at Currie Community Council about the continued closure of the building at Hermiston Gate Park and Ride, and especially its toilet facilities—causing potential difficulties for disabled travellers or indeed anyone "caught short" or seeking shelter from the elements.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Colinton: Alter house to remove window and form double doors on north-west elevation, for mew patio, and form bi-folding doors on south-west elevation, 10 Spylaw Park. (23/03523/LBC, 23/03525/FUL) Comments by 8 September.

Colinton: Pine—reduce lowest branch by 1-1.5 metres away from Birch below. Leylandii—reduce height by 1.5-2 metres to old cuts, and tidy/trim sides, 31 Woodhall Road. (23/03657/TCO) Registered 11 August.

Colinton: full removal of one conifer in front garden, and silver birch, 31 Woodfield Avenue. (23/03623/TPO)

Currie: Rear extension, 19 Muir Wood Drive. (23/03279/FUL) Comments by 8 September.

Balerno: Extend existing house and minor internal alterations, 2 Johnsburn Green. (23/03743/FUL) Comments by 11 September. **>p9**

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Ramble Round the Reservoirs: Charity Walk is Back!

COLIN MACLEOD
PENTLAND COMMUNITY SPACE

Are you ready to embark on a journey that combines breath-taking landscapes, invigorating exercise, and a touch of community spirit?

Look no further, because the "The Hub@531 Ramble Round the Reservoirs" is back on Sunday, 1 October, and promises all this and more! Lace up your walking shoes, pack your enthusiasm, and get ready to traverse the picturesque Pentland Hills.

Where and When? Gather at the Hub@531 on Lanark Road. The adventure begins promptly at 10.30am.

We all know that we have the natural splendour of the Pentland Hills on our doorstep, so everyone's invited to embark on this 10 mile (16.1 km) journey like no other. Starting and concluding at the Hub, the route will take walkers across the Water of Leith and up towards the first reservoir, Torduff.

The path continues onto Clubbiedean where those who wish to can recharge with a cup of coffee and a slice of cake. For those with smaller strides, an option to head back to the Hub at this point is available.

From there it's onto Harlaw Road and towards Harlaw Reservoir and then the halfway point at Threipmuir which provides a chance to catch your breath and set off onto the homestretch.



A Call for Support

Pentlands Community Space, the charity behind The Hub, is hosting this event and have asked for a suggested donation of £10 per adult and £5 per child. Additionally, all walkers are invited to seek sponsorship, contributing a suggested £1 per mile covered. The generous contributions will enable The Hub to continue running the much loved activities such as sporting memories, book clubs and baby groups.

You can join the walk by making the suggested donation via: <https://checkout.justgiving.com/t9h9l8yux> or by scanning the QR code to the right.

Celebratory Drinks

Finally, refreshments shall be provided at the Hub for all walkers and supporters at the finish.

Alternatively, if you're in the

Pentland Community Space Chair Professor Cliff Beavers OBE, with his wife Liz and current guide dog Ozzy, while taking part in the 2021 walk.

mood for a well-earned treat, join us at the Kinleith Arms for a celebratory drink!

So pop 1 October in your calendar, gather your friends and family, and let's make this charity walk a day to remember. See you there!

For further information please email pentlandscs@gmail.com



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Puzzling news from the Colinton Tunnel

MIKE SCOTT
COLINTON TUNNEL MURAL PROJECT

The puzzle in the above headline is our recently-released 1,000 piece jigsaw, which features a selection of the most popular images from the Colinton Tunnel mural.

The crowd awaiting the arrival of the Balerno Pug is at the centre, surrounded by a border of smaller images from within the mural. It's a great jigsaw for puzzle enthusiasts. We gave a copy to the Swing Cafe at Colinton Kirk and their visiting puzzlers took almost two weeks to complete it.

Our initial production run sold out more quickly than we expected, so our tunnel elves have had to get busy making more. By the time

that you read this, we'll have stock ready. Visit our wee web shop at <https://thecolintontunnel.bigcartel.com> or go through the link on our website (www.colintontunnel.org.uk). At £20 including

p&p, it's a great idea either for a Christmas present (hint!) or just for yourself.

As you may have spotted, some elements of the mural have been brightened up, others have been completely replaced and there are a few new images for you to find. Even better, the whole mural had a wash thanks to the efforts of our friends at the Water of Leith Conservation Trust and a group of Scouts from Royston in Hertfordshire, who were having their annual camp at the Bonaly Scout Centre. They were brilliant!



C&B News Joins The Scottish Beacon

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Eighteen independent local and hyperlocal news publications – including C&B News – have come together to create *The Scottish Beacon*, a new national online publication.

The Scottish Beacon website is the first collaborative journalism outlet of its kind in the country, and aims to strengthen the independent community-based media sector, bringing stories from Scotland's communities to a wider audience.

The website will republish articles on topics including community empowerment, social equality, local democracy and the environment, from Shetland in the north to Dumfries and Galloway in the south.

The publications currently involved – some are print only, others digital, many both – are all independently-owned and produce original journalism in the public interest, firmly rooted in serving the communities in which they are based. The new site is regulated by IMPRESS (Independent Monitor for the Press).

Other publications involved in the project include: *The Bellman* (Stonehaven), *Broughton Spurtle* (Edinburgh), *Clydesider*, *Crail Matters* (Fife), *The Edinburgh Reporter*, *Forres Local*, *The Ileach* (Islay/Jura), *Glenkens Gazette* (Galloway), *Greater Govanhill*



(Glasgow), *The Hawick Paper* (Scottish Borders), *Inverclyde Now*, *The Lochside Press* (Rosneath Peninsula/Helensburgh), *Midlothian View*, *Migrant Women Press* (Glasgow), *The Orkney News*, and *Shetland News*. It is hoped that more will join in the future.

The Scottish Beacon network holds regular meetings, sharing resources, skills and working together to identify collaborative investigations. The aim is to re-invigorate local public interest news and overcome common challenges such as long-term sustainability.

Rhiannon J Davies, founder of *Greater Govanhill* community magazine and *The Scottish Beacon* project, explained: "I truly believe that the future of journalism is collaborative. I developed the

idea for this project after being inspired by similar established collaboratives in the US. There are some brilliant community-based publications in Scotland—I'm really excited to see what we can do together."

You can sign up to *The Scottish Beacon* newsletter, or become a member, at: members.scottishbeacon.com/join

For more information, visit www.scottishbeacon.com, and follow the project on X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram, Facebook and Threads.

BRIEFLY...

p7>>>
Colinton: Garage building including new gates and access, 17 West Carnethy Avenue. (23/03549/FUL) Comments by 15 September.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Colinton: Proposed change of use from dwelling to holiday let home, 28 Torphine Road. REFUSED, 4 August.

Currie: Proposed two apartment development on land, 15 metres NW of 158A Lanark Road West. (23/02074/FUL) REFUSED 16 August.

Colinton: Proposed single story rear extension and side extension with developed roof space, dormer windows front and rear, Juliet-style balcony to rear, plus alterations to existing garage block to accommodate new utility room, plus alterations to front driveway. (23/02278/FUL) Granted 7 August.

Balerno: Install 10 solar panels on south facing roof, 3 Ravelrig Drive. (23/02558/FUL) Granted 16 August.

Balerno: Proposed dormer extension, 8 Lovedale Avenue. (23/02609/FUL) Granted 1 August.

Currie: Proposed two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension, 22 Thomson Road. (23/02941/FUL) Granted 15 August.

Currie: Proposed alterations and extension, 12 Riccarton Crescent. (23/02822/FUL) Granted 15 August.

Currie: Two-storey extension to side and single storey flat-roof extension to rear, 34 Dolphin Gardens West. (23/02849/FUL) Granted 14 August.

Juniper Green: Form flat roof extension to rear, 21 Baberton Mains Hill. (23/02920/FUL) Permitted development 15 August.

Colinton: Reduce crowns on beech trees on left & right boundaries at bottom of garden; remove 3 topped Ash and one Beech; reduce >p11

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES

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Fair Summer

LESLEY HENDERSON
 BALERNO FAIRTRADE VILLAGE GROUP

It's official: the Fairtrade Foundation (FTF) decided in July that Balerno, ten years a Fairtrade Village, counts as a 'Fairtrade Community' - their new way to mark practical local commitment to the aims of Fairtrade. Thank you so much to all our schools, churches, organisations, businesses, politicians and representatives, shoppers and many other individuals, young and older, who've helped to make this happen. Special thanks to the 'C and B'; we really value all you do to keep everyone in touch about Fair Trade/Fairtrade (FT) locally, and to help it thrive.

What's next? FTF have radical new plans to organise and refresh FT generally. These include from 2024 changed Fairtrade Fortnight dates, and a new awards system to encourage communities' focus on specific FT issues. Others are



trying to rebuild after Traidcraft's trading arm collapsed. Our local group is just starting to work out what all this might mean here; we're consulting right now, and hope by the next 'C&B' to share and ask for readers' views on some early plans. As ever, all new help is most welcome; please get in touch!

Why does this matter? It helps remind us in this mostly stable area that sharing fairly our one world gets even more

urgent. Trade justice isn't a new idea, and everyone's now heard of climate change. Has it got too easy to forget the lethal mix many producer communities increasingly face: climate-related crop failure, plus trade deals giving them too small a share even to avoid starvation? FT contracts guarantee producers' prices, ethical working conditions and eco-friendly practice, and additional community premiums for locally agreed infrastructure projects (educational, medical, transport, etc). Our fastest supportive action locally is often simply to buy FT products.

We know FT isn't perfect, nor the only scheme pursuing fairer, greener production, and it will take lots more than FT to tackle all the world's big issues. But even sceptics grant it's well-known and much better than nothing. It can help grow our younger generations' vital caring for our fellow-people, and its support transcends many boundaries.

Thank you again for sticking with FT. Let's keep it up.

Community Grant for PFB

ANNIE MACDONALD
 PESTICIDE FREE BALERNO

Pesticide Free Balerno are delighted to share with the community that Scotmid have recently awarded PFB with a community grant. Thank You Scotmid!

Upon children returning to school we are glad to update that strimming was the method chosen to be used around Dean Park Primary School perimeter to remove the weeds safely by Edinburgh Council

Using non toxic methods are especially important around areas like schools, Safe guarding childrens health, staff health and the environment. With harmful chemicals known to be persistent in our soils and waterways it crucial that safe methods are used BOTH during term time and throughout non term holiday time.

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Pentland Ladies Probus Club

BARBARA HANNAFORD
 SECRETARY

It is great to be up and running smoothly again following all the Covid-19 restrictions and cancellations.

Pentland Ladies Probus Club is now in its 18th year and has a membership of 40. We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month from September to May, with a great variety of speakers. This past season we had an update from Harmeny School, a talk from a retired hotel inspector, a presentation by the Police on fraud at home and by phone—to name just a few. The season concluded with a very successful spring lunch in May.

Our Annual General Meeting is held in April when a list of proposed speakers for our next session is voted upon. This season

we are starting with a presentation on "The Wee Museum of Memory", which should be entertaining—and memory provoking. This will be followed each month by a variety of subjects.

We always welcome visitors or new members to our meetings, which are held in Gibson Craig Church Hall, Lanark Road West, starting at 10am with coffee and a chance for members to catch up. Any official business follows at 10.30am, along with our speaker for the morning. Meetings end at 11.45am, to clear the hall by noon.

If you feel you would like to visit we would be delighted to see you—our new session will be starting on Tuesday 26 September 2023.

If you would like any further information on Pentland Ladies Probus please do not hesitate to telephone me on 0131 453 3012 or contact by e-mail barbarahannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

New meetings begin for Currie Kirk Guild, reports Louise Lamont. "The Guild meets twice a month between September and May in the Gibson Craig Hall. Meeting times are 10am on the first Tuesday of the month and 2pm on the third Tuesday of the month and we have a varied assortment of speakers. Our first meeting this year will be at 10am on 5 September, when we will be learning about our chosen charity. Then on 19 September (at 2pm) our guest speaker is Jane Howitt, Chaplain at Heriot Watt University." Annual subscriptions are £15 but new members do not pay for the first year. However, £3 is paid for each meeting, with visitors paying £4. Email: elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk

BRIEFLY...

p9>>>
 crown of Beech by 30%, 85 Woodfield Park. (23/02960/TPO) Permission is not required, 9 August.

Currie: Top of Yew in front garden pruned by 3 metres, all branches pruned to match current proportions, 105 Lanark Road West. (23/03121/TCO) Not make a tree preservation order, 9 August.

Colinton: Healthy 20% reduction of cherry tree clarified as crown reduction, and full removal of one Willow, 62B Hailes Gardens. (23/03618/TCO) Not make a tree preservation order, 11 August.

PLANNED ROADWORKS & ROAD CLOSURES

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. Continuing until January 2024.

Balerno: Mansfield Road at Harmeny School, water main connection to school requiring three-way temporary traffic lights, until 8 September.

Pentland Hills Regional Park: Development of Threipmuir car park, with no parking on Mansfield Road between Scottish SPCA and 200 metres south of Threipmuir car park, and on East Farm Rigg for c400 metres from Mansfield Road. Until end of November (TBC).

Juniper Green: Lanark Road at Gillespie Crossroads; Scottish Water pipe renewal, with city-bound (left turn) lane closed on approach to crossroad, 2-9 October.

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LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES

Play Your Cards Right with Pentland Bridge Club

KEN BROWN
 PENTLAND BRIDGE CLUB

If you enjoy playing bridge with your friends or at home, why not broaden your horizons and join us at Pentland Bridge Club?

We meet every Thursday evening at 7pm in St Margaret's Court, Juniper Green. We play duplicate bridge, which means you get to compare your scores with other players who had the same cards. The cards are pre-dealt; the hands are produced by a dealing machine so that the contents can be stored electronically. At the end of play results can be found on the club website showing what the cards were on each hand together with what everyone bid and made.

In addition there is software available so that you can replay the hands card by card to see how the optimal result can be obtained.

We are a friendly and relaxed club and make new members very welcome.

Further information can be found on the club website www.bridgewebs.com/pentland/

Is Probus For You?

LESLIE HANNAFORD
 PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB

Probus Clubs provide an opportunity for retired professional and business people to meet and enjoy the company of similarly-minded people who live locally.

Originating in the mid-1960s, the clubs provide a continuation of social activity for men entering retirement, who suddenly find themselves cut off from the daily activity of working life. The clubs have expanded and there are now clubs for men and for women throughout the country, and worldwide.

The Pentland Probus Club, founded in 1982, provides an opportunity for retired or semi-retired men to meet socially on a regular basis at a local venue.

Our members come from an area stretching from Balerno in the west to Colinton and Kingsknowe in the east. (There is also a ladies' Probus Club who meet in this area.)

Our meetings are held on Wednesday mornings throughout the year, when members meet for coffee from 10am. Twice monthly speaker events are arranged between September and May on the first and third Wednesdays of the month (at Juniper Green Parish Church Hall), finishing around noon.

On other Wednesdays coffee mornings take place at the Kinleith Mill public house, Juniper Green, ending at 11.30am. With wide ranging former employments present, there is always a lively atmosphere with much discussion on the topics of the day.

Our programme usually includes a morning outing to places of interest twice a year.

We also try to arrange a full day outing when wives and partners are welcome.

The speaker programme will start again on Wednesday 6 September when we will welcome back Brigadier Ian Gardiner to talk about "Oman - The Vital Unknown War 1965-1975". This will be followed on 20 September by Fiona Watson talking on the organising and running of the "Holy Trinity Foodbank". Subsequent presentations this year include "Arctic Convoys", and "Housing Disabled Veterans".

If you would like to find out more, why not try one of our meetings or coffee mornings where you will be made very welcome.

Full details of membership can be had by contacting the Secretary, Leslie Hannaford, on (0131 453 3012) or emailing: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk.

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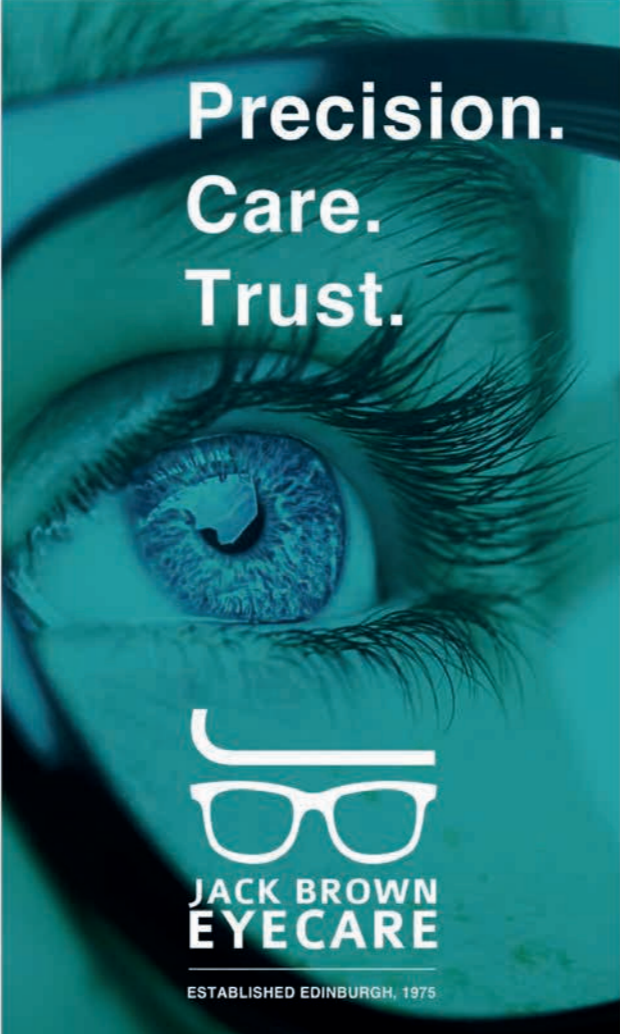
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Colinton 'Lit' Looks Forward to 11th Season

COLIN FISCHBACHER
 PROGRAMME COORDINATOR, COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY

The Colinton Literary Society (the "Lit") starts a new season on Wednesday 11 October.

Last season was very successful, with around 60 members attending on Wednesday evenings

through the winter to hear a wide variety of talks on subjects of local interest, on history, culture, music and current affairs.

Meetings start with coffee, tea and wine at 7.30pm. Our first talk, on 11 October, is from well-known local speaker Kath Hay, who will tell the modern Nordic saga of the mysterious Shetland Bus.

On 18 October Frith Robb explains how she came from Iran to a new life in Scotland, and copies of her book, *In the Shadow of the Shahs*, will be available for £10 (cash only). On 25 October the journalist, broadcaster and

author Alex Renton will tell the story of slavery through the experiences of his own family, based on his book *Blood Slavery*.

Details of our full autumn programme are available at <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>.

Meetings are held in the Dregghorn Loan Hall, 22 Dregghorn Loan, EH13 0DE. Membership is £15 for the full programme of 17 meetings, or £3 per meeting for visitors. Unfortunately we are unable to accept payment by card.

New Season Begins for Balerno SWI

SHEILA MASON
 PRESS SECRETARY

Balerno SWI meets on the first Tuesday evening each month throughout the winter months at 7.30pm, in Balerno Community Centre, Main Street. We would like to welcome any ladies who would find our "talk" subjects interesting.

Our next meeting is on 5 September when we will have a demonstration of making Felt Flowers. We also enjoy a "Rural" cuppa and time to chat.

For more information on what else we do - and have done - why not check out our Balerno SWI Facebook page?

Autumn Term for Pentland Flower Club

WENDY WILLIAMS
 PENTLAND FLOWER CLUB

As the end of the summer approaches we see the start of the new term for the Pentland Flower Club.

We have an exciting programme ahead as we march towards our ruby anniversary next June. We have booked some well regarded demonstrators who we hope both our regular members and newcomers will enjoy.

At our meeting on Friday 6

October we will welcome Audrey Buchan from Arbroath with the very aptly named demonstration: "Autumn Watch".

Our meetings start at 7pm in the Balerno Parish Church and we look forward to seeing you there.



A new season begins at The Thursday Group, writes Tessa Kelly, based in St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church on Westgarth Avenue, Colinton. "We are looking forward to welcoming members old and new. Previously known as Colinton Townswomen's Guild, as the number of Guilds across Scotland fell, we decided to go it alone. We have an interesting programme to look forward to this autumn and, as always, there will be tea/coffee, biscuits, the occasional lunch club, and of course friendship. The following talks are planned: 14 September: Egypt-Luxor to Aswan. 12 October: A Schoolmaster and Sport. 9 November: The Old Walls of Edinburgh. 14 December: A Musical Afternoon. We meet every second Thursday of the month from 2.15pm, and hope to see you there!" If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Tessa Kelly, on 07766 232184.

Snapshots of the Past

All Life: Education, Money and Milk

DEREK DOUGLAS
SECRETARY, COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Downloading a number of my late uncle John Mathers' photos, I found one that I thought I would feature this month. It is an old postcard, dating from around 1900.

The image might be confusing but the large wall is that surrounding the Balerno school of 1878. This was the school built following the 1872 Education Act, which brought in compulsory education for all children.

It looks much higher than the wall today, and there are a number of large trees in the playground, but you can just make out the red brick of the school building beyond. I was told that there were iron railings round the school wall that were removed at the start of the second world war to be melted down and used for war materials.

However no size of school wall or railings would have deterred an escaping James Lowe in 1959. My brother, during his first week in primary one, presumably felt that he had had enough education for the day, and so absconded from the confines of the playground. I was duly despatched by his

Primary One teacher, the redoubtable Miss Dagg, to find him and bring him back. It was an easy task finding him as he was only 100 yards away having a cup of tea and a biscuit in our granny's house. Convincing him to return was more difficult!

In the picture we are looking towards the Main Street. Peeping over the edge of the cottage is the original Balerno subscription school (dating from 1813-4), now demolished. There were, however, smaller "simple" or basic schools around the outskirts of the village; at both Goodtrees and at "The Glen", where the children from Malleny Mills were taught—usually until age 10 or 12 when they moved to the main village school. (Some of the children also worked in the mill.) St Mungo's in Ladycroft opened as an Episcopalian school in 1869.

All of these eventually closed and the pupils were transferred into the expanding 1878 Balerno public school. Pupils were able to undertake advanced studies at Balerno, as well as at Currie and Juniper Green. However, following the opening of the junior secondary school at Currie in 1931, Balerno became a primary school with Balerno pupils, after primary 7, going to Currie



Main image: An old Balerno post card.
Above right: A more recent photograph taken from "roughly" the same spot as where the image on the postcard was taken from. Above: Goodtrees farmhouse - once used as a basic school - is now privately let or sold, with the nearby farm buildings also redeveloped for letting.

THIS MONTH IN... 1983

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

There was real justification in making the opening day of Balerno High School this issue's lead headline: *Currie & Balerno News* had, from its very first issue back in February 1976, "given blow-by-blow accounts" of the decade-long campaign for the new school—"to get the plans off the ground and get the thing going," as editor Joyce Ross had explained several issues earlier.

"A dream came true in Balerno on Wednesday August 17th when the first pupils came along to the new Balerno High School," explained the paper. This marked the end of a long campaign by local residents going back to 1972, when the then-Midlothian County Council (Balerno and Currie didn't fall within Edinburgh's boundaries until May 1975), having originally planned to build a High School in Balerno, changed their mind and "decided to expand Currie High School rather than build a new school in Balerno." Residents in both Balerno and Currie objected, and the campaigning began.

Surprisingly, given this was such a potentially momentous occasion, there was very little other attention paid to the new school in this particular issue—the only other mention was in a letter from local councillor Eric Milligan "setting the record straight" after the previous issue, in which Balerno Community Council Chairman Mary Whitehouse (no, not the campaigner against rude TV and the permissive society) had written about Labour councillors allegedly opposing the project. According to Milligan, Balerno High School and an equally new establishment in Penicuik were "monuments to the Labour Party's belief in public spending".

There were, however, other concerns: the editorial bemoaned the vandalism of old and new trees in local parks; there were thoughts on the poor reputation of local horse-riders thanks to unfriendly actions by "the thoughtless few"; and Archie Clark's took half a page to explain the background to a new appeal to the Secretary of State for Scotland by builders Hermiston Homes Ltd, concerning an application to develop housing at Woodhall Mains Farm, Juniper Green. (Spoiler: this particular green belt land remains unbuilt on to this day.)

On the plus side, though, the

paper was able to report that the Trefoil Centre in Edinburgh had successfully raised £3,850 (£12,458 in today's money) from its summer fete and raffle in June, while a darts marathon organised by the Currie & Balerno Round Table had raised approximately £500 (£1,618). The 31st Midlothian Cubs, raised £60 (£194) by running "an anagram quiz on Scottish towns", donating



the money to the Viewpoint Benevolent Association, which provided sheltered housing and residential homes for elderly people.

As was common during the paper's early decades, this particular issue of *Currie & Balerno News* was ably filled with cartoons – eight in all – by local artist Bert Bernap. Some are, admittedly, clearly inspired by then-contemporary issues which are difficult to remember 40 years later, but a few still easily raise a smile today. Not least what appears to be a rare self-portrait explaining how he didn't like anyone. So we guess that's all right then?!



Waiting for the Bus...



Don't jump to conclusions: this may look like an old Edinburgh Corporation bus heading north along Mansfield Road, Balerno, but – as a small handwritten sign in the front passenger window indicates – it was actually operating on an Eastern Scottish route! Back during the 1980s, the Scottish Omnibus company was so short of serviceable vehicles that it started buying old buses from wherever it could. Sadly, it couldn't also afford to repaint any of them, much to some passengers' confusion! A contemporary issue of *C&B News* reported that Eastern Scottish had paid Lothian Region Transport £600 for each of their old vehicles, described as "a fair price"! Photo: John Clark.



Colinton Bowling Club, which this month hosts the Ninth International Deaf Bowls Championships, goes back to 18 April 1938 when some "local gentlemen" met at the Library Hall, Colinton to constitute a Bowling Club. A site was offered by local resident Miss Margaret Kennedy who, on 10 June 1939, officially opened the Club.

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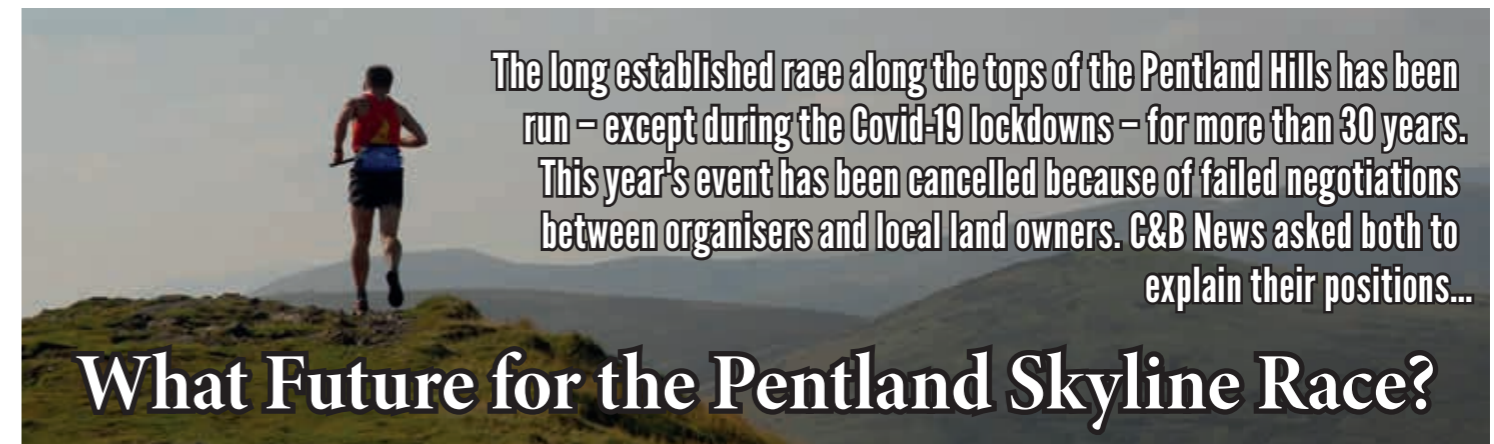
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The long established race along the tops of the Pentland Hills has been run – except during the Covid-19 lockdowns – for more than 30 years. This year's event has been cancelled because of failed negotiations between organisers and local land owners. C&B News asked both to explain their positions...

What Future for the Pentland Skyline Race?

DECLAN VALTERS
SECRETARY, CARNETHY HILL RUNNING CLUB

The Pentland Skyline is a hill race covering 13 peaks in the Pentlands that has been organised by Carnethy Hill Running Club since 1986, and attended by amateur hill runners from across the country as well as local runners. The club had tried to reach a mutual agreement regarding the route of the race with the recently-formed Pentland Land Managers Association (PLMA), but sadly were unable to do so within a timeframe to make the race viable this year.

We are always willing as a club to work with landowners to minimise the impact of the race on the hills, and have on several occasions in the past made reasonable route changes to accommodate these concerns. Unfortunately, due the combination of land access fees now charged by PLMA, the increasing administrative burden of environmental impact assessments requested, and numerous route changes imposed that we felt were not in the spirit of the original race route, we made the sad decision to cancel the race this year, before the club incurred any substantial costs that could not be recovered.

The club does not run the race to make a profit, and regularly donates any surpluses raised from the race entry fees to the Pentland Hills Regional Park to help with the upkeep of paths and other projects in the Pentlands. Last year's race alone raised over £1,600 for such causes. The race had followed its current route for almost 40 years, and was a key fixture in the Scottish Hill Running calendar, as well as an enjoyable event for the local community.

I am hopeful however, that both parties will be able to find common ground again to see the Skyline race return one day in the future.

EVENTS TEAM
PENTLAND LAND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Local farmers and land managers are happy to support well organised events in the Pentland Hills Regional Park, but it is essential to consider the impact of these events on the local environment, farming operations and other users of the park.

We all expect a lot of the Pentland Hills. Since the pandemic, the pressure from access has never been greater, and we are also now in a climate and nature crisis. To protect nature and the landscape, we need to find a more sustainable approach to all events, both established and new.

Most small events on foot and on the path network will have minimal impact. Problems have occurred with larger events, in wet weather or over wet ground, and when routes are on eroded paths or off-path. Some hill races in previous years have caused significant damage to vegetation and underlying soil on Hare Hill, Black Hill and South Black Hill. The ground in these areas is peaty, which holds carbon, and is fragile and prone to erosion. Advice was sought from an ecologist and NatureScot who both confirmed that there is a danger of the moorland habitat being negatively impacted by running

events and advised directing them away from the more sensitive areas.

The network of paths in the Pentlands is badly eroded. £2.5m is needed for repairs and public funding has stopped. Local farmers are helping, alongside local charities, to repair urgently needed sections. Examples of work already completed can be seen on the PLMA website. A small donation of £5 per competitor is requested from event organisers to "give back" to the landscape they use.

Regarding the Skyline hill running race that has been commented on elsewhere in the media, land managers are happy for the event to go ahead again this year, subject to a small number of requests, which take all pressures into account. A few minor route diversions were proposed to avoid some off-path sections over fragile hill ground. A cap on the numbers was introduced to reduce overall footfall and impact. All requests are consistent with published Government guidance relating to outdoor events.

Local farmers and land managers, many of whom are keen runners themselves, want to support sustainable events and we welcome organisers to engage with us.



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Tiphereth Pallet Competition



Above: Amy, one of Tiphereth's Pallet Competition organisers. Right: Colin and Kath working on the Garden Group's entry. Far right: Pallet Competition organiser Barbra, with Alan and Ben of the Garden Group



FIONA DONALDSON
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATOR

Prior to the pandemic, Tiphereth – a Camphill community in Colinton – took part in an annual pallet competition at the Gardening Scotland Exhibition. This posed the challenge of designing a one metre square garden—no actual pallets necessary.

Co-workers and members designed and developed our entry intensively over a period of months. Our many certificates are proudly displayed in our garden shed. Although the exhibition had returned, the palette competition was no more.

Never to shy away from a challenge, we decided to run our own mini event here at Tiphereth. We enlisted The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society and the Scottish Gardener's Forum for support in planning and judging the event. Having reached out to our wider community, there were six entries from across Tiphereth as well as our friends at Upmo and Columcille. These included a tribute to the Pentland Hills, a Highland landscape and sensory gardens.

As the pallet gardens were set up in the competition area, there was such joy and excitement around the community. Each pallet beautifully symbolised the group who had designed it. Entrants received a certificate, a rosette and a handwritten letter from the judges for their efforts.

The day after judging, the gardens formed a unique exhibition for those who attended our annual Summer Fayre, held on the third Saturday of July. There was great enthusiasm and interest from visitors as to whether the competition would be held next year. Tiphereth is certainly up to the task of hosting this unique and creative event for our wider community to participate in.

We would love to hear from you if you are a community group, school or fellow support service and would be interested in finding out how you can enter.

You can contact us at admin@tiphereth.org.uk

Cooking the Books



I have another life. Something else I do to pass the time and hope to one day be paid for. I write these articles because I love cooking, I love recipes, and I love the abundance of wonderful food where I live. However, I am also a struggling novelist. I've written a couple of slightly rubbish books, but recently I finished one I quite like.

Naturally it's full of references to food and cooking, but more than that... it's a crime novel. That's right. I love crime. I should qualify this before anyone calls the police. Since I was a child I have adored Marple, Poirot, Holmes and the many detectives solving puzzles and murders all around the world (or even Discworld, in the form of Terry Pratchett's indomitable Commander Sam Vimes). It's not that easy plotting a mystery, but I was desperate to give it a go. And so I did.

This murderous novel, as all the best ones are, is set in a fictional village and also in the past. Not just any time period though. It's the decade that style forgot. You guessed it: the 1970s. As a food obsessive, and someone who also wants historical accuracy, it meant going on a journey to find recipes my characters would cook and eat. Of course there is a dinner party scene and of course there is a cheesy-pineapple hedgehog and of course there are cocktails. Snowball anyone? Harvey Wallbanger? Babycham?

Luckily for me and my research, I stumbled on a cookbook first published in 1970, imaginatively named, The "Lots of things have happened in the kitchen since you last bought a cookbook" Cookbook. There are camp photos of "Haddock Boats", something called "Cobweb Pudding" (a mix of tinned rhubarb, raspberry jelly, lots of double cream, raspberry jam, all topped with a glacé cherry), "Oranges in Syrup" and even "Melon and Prawn Salad". Some of these are classics, some of them are more... ahem... "interesting". Like "Herrings with carrot and orange salad", and "Scampi Thermidor" and the literally named "Strawberry Avocado". (And no,



it's not made with fresh strawberries; only tinned will do, thank you very much.)

It's not all tasteless though. The book is divided into months of the year and even tells you what's in season (though thanks to climate change that may not be quite as accurate for 2023).

One thing that struck me is the amount of Smash (you know - the powdered mashed potato, advertised by aliens) that is in most of the recipes. It turns up where you are least expecting it. Was the book sponsored by Smash? I can't see that it was, but you never know. It's a mystery I need Marple to solve for me.

For my 1970s' dinner party there was a Waldorf Salad served inside a carved out apple for starters, a tinned apricot tart for dessert, and an absolute family favourite from my own childhood, Chicken Paprika. It was a weeknight dinner and I loved it.

To really get into the research, I bought succulent chicken thighs from my favourite local butcher, M McGill's in Currie. They are cooked in butter, with onions, tomatoes, green peppers, sour cream, stock and paprika. A lovely stew, served in an earth brown tureen with "plain boiled rice". It tastes as good now as it did then, proving that the seventies weren't all that bad after all. Time to pour myself a glass of Mateus Rosé, nibble on a cheesy-pineapple thingy and stick Demis Roussos on the record player. To not enjoy that would be a crime indeed.

M McGill Butchers is at 124 Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5NY



with Balerno Resident STEF LYONS



KIRSTY HEADDEN
PENTLAND SINGERS COMMUNITY CHOIR

Four decades ago, years before the invention of the World Wide Web and even before the son of Vodafone's chairman made the first mobile phone call in Britain (to his father, soon after midnight on 1 January 1985), something even more thrilling came to Balerno—the Pentland Singers Community Choir.

September marks the beginning of the choir's 40th anniversary season, culminating in a celebratory concert next summer. Some members have been with the choir since it started, while others have only just joined. What brings them together is simple: the joy of singing.

With this in mind, the choir have been busy making plans for the year ahead, including some exciting community events and experimenting with different formats. They have also been delving into the archives, unearthing hidden gems and old favourites for this year's repertoire.

As fascinating as the choir's history may be, it's important to focus on the future. It's fitting that the first event of the season is hosted by the Pentland Junior Singers. Come and Sing: Musicals! is a fun and friendly drop-in event for ages six-plus. It takes place on Saturday 23 September 2023 at St Joseph's Hall, Balerno, from 10am to noon. Tickets are £8 and are available via Eventbrite, the choir's website (see below) or on the door.

With a big year ahead, the choir would love to welcome more members from the local community. No experience or audition is necessary and you don't have to read music (although it helps). The choir meets every Tuesday during term time at Balerno Parish Church, with the juniors running from 6pm to 7pm and adults from 7.30pm to 9pm. Rehearsals start on Tuesday 5 September 2023.

Come and share in the joy of singing with the Pentland Singers. You might find you're still there in 40 years' time!

Follow the Pentland Singers on Facebook or visit www.pentlandsingers.org.uk

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New Activities at the 'Shed in the Park'

LORRAINE O'SHEA
COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE

If you've had the good fortune to visit Spylaw Park in Colinton in recent months you may have found the Pit Stop Café – the latest venture by Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO, as we bring back to life the old coach house fondly known as “the Shed in the Park”.

We have been able to organise our Pit Stop Café with the help of brilliant local home-bakers and talented volunteers, who on each occasion create the perfect pop-up café for walkers, cyclists, and families in and around Colinton and along the Water of Leith walkway.

The idea was launched in April on Easter Sunday, with all sorts of egg-related activities and fun to win small prizes—a real Spring Fling in the Park to get us going.

In May, together with the Pentlands Ukrainian Support Group and Sunflower Scotland, we hosted “Eurovision in the Park” featuring sparkling glasses of Buck’s Fizz and amazing traditional Ukrainian baking, with glamorous costumes, dancing, and music from our brand-new PA system—fully funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

In June, Repair Café Edinburgh worked their magic on broken/ ancient electrical and mechanical devices, bikes, and textiles. A total of 23 items were successfully restored to their former glory, including a lovely globe lamp and antique doll’s house—much to the delight of their respective owners. Following this, it was a real pleasure to attend the official launch of the South West Edinburgh Tool Library Hub which is now established in the Shed in partnership with SW20 and ETL.

“Music in the Park” in July was an opportunity to applaud traditional folk band Curmudgeon, while in August we were privileged to have demonstrations from Yoga, Reiki, and Mindfulness specialists in the area, at “Wellbeing in the Park” in August.

We are now eagerly preparing for our pièce de résistance in September—“Curry in the Park”! (See page 5 for details!)

Tickets for Curry in the Park 2023 must be purchased in advance at a cost of £10 which will allow adults to have their own favourite dish, or a plate of choice curries for children to share. Tickets are limited to 400, so make sure to secure your meal by picking up your tickets at the Bonaly Store, or online via bookwhen.com/cventerprise.



Tool Borrowing in South-West Edinburgh

PAUL MAKIN
EDINBURGH TOOL LIBRARY

Purchasing or hiring tools can be very expensive. Often, tools are purchased for only a few jobs or hired from expensive commercial outlets. The most annoying bit of buying any tool is how little use the tool gets after the initial purchase: the average drill is used for 13 minutes during its ‘lifetime’—not good value when a decent one costs in excess of £50, and you can spend a lot more! However, there is another solution: the SW branch of the Edinburgh Tool Library!

A tool library is first a simple idea – it works like a normal library but with tools instead of books. You can borrow everything from drills to car jacks to bubble machines to sledge hammers to 3D printers!

The SW Edinburgh Tool Library opened up in June. We are lucky enough to use “the Shed” in Spylaw Park as our base, operating as a partnership between South West Edinburgh 20 Minute Neighbourhoods, Edinburgh Tool Library and Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO (CVE).

Membership of the tool library is via the main Edinburgh Tool Library – giving all users full access to the vast inventory. Annual membership is either £30 or £10 for concessions (if you are in full-time education, receiving benefits or over the age of 65 and can't afford £30). We also offer a Pay-it-Forward price at £40 if you can give a little extra to cover someone else's membership. Once you are a member, you can borrow as many tools as you can use during the year plus you can also access ETL's amazing workshops. Our inventory can be browsed via <http://bit.ly/etl-inventory>.

To find out more about how it works, have a look at <https://bit.ly/sw-etl-faq>. We welcome more volunteers to support growth of the hub, so please get in touch via sw20.etl@gmail.com.

Follow us on Social Media at @sw20ed @sw20etl @ CV_Enterprise

Top: Volunteers ready to feed the masses! Middle: Eurovision in the Park, with our thoughts on Ukraine. Bottom: Members of Woodland Wheel Cycles and June Scott, Yoga Instructor, at the recent Wellbeing in the Park.



Some Summer Memories



GAIL COUSINS
BALERNO RAMBLERS

It feels as though summer is over, pupils and teachers are back in school, and the nights are drawing in. But what has happened to our summer?

Flaming June with a mini heatwave, gave way to July sunshine. In Currie there was only a sprinkle of rain on St Swithin's Day, so optimistically we were hoping for a dry summer. The Midweek Ramblers always comment on their "Wednesday weather window" and though we always carry lightweight waterproofs, and some carry an umbrella, these items are rarely used in summer. But this year they have been required, albeit waterproof jackets with shorts.

Since mid-June, Balerno Ramblers have organised two walking opportunities a week and two social events—altogether 17 walks involving 195 Ramblers.

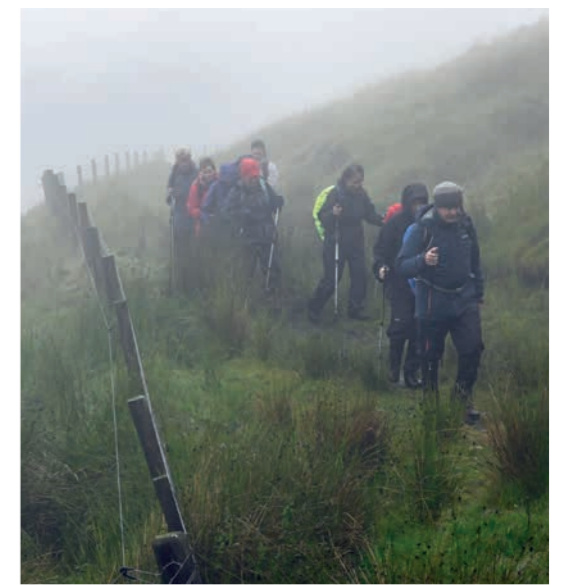
This year our summer social meant a road trip to Abbotsford for a riverside and woodland walk along the River Tweed with a couple of the ladies going for a paddle (see above) before we returned to Abbotsford House for a picnic lunch and a group visit to the home of Sir Walter Scott. An impressive house and headphones for an audio tour meant we

did not miss any interpretation. The gardens and the walled garden were superb, lovely, scented roses, very pleasant sitting in the sunshine. Then tea, scone with jam and clotted cream or traybake. A delightful day out. Thanks to organiser Sandra.

Twenty ramblers enjoyed a tense and sometimes funny croquet competition at Balgreen Croquet and Bowling club, followed by afternoon tea in the pavilion: 15 games were played, and two winning teams emerged, having won three games. Each pair was coached by club members, and organisers Pat and Phil. A fine and sometimes sunny afternoon of conviviality, challenge, and a lot of chat.

Short sleeves were the attire for a midsummer walk starting and finishing at Swanston. A couple of brief showers were refreshing. Overcast skies with wonderful views were experienced on a Tynninghame to Seacliff circular walk. Heavy rain for the last 15 minutes meant the waterproofs and rucksack covers were required. Blue skies for an Eddlestone circular, overcast but dry for Cockburnspath to Dunbar coastal walk.

Our largest group of the year signed up for Bo'ness and Kinneil Circular: 31 ramblers enjoyed the sight, sound and smells of steam trains, wonderful coastal views across the Forth, wildflower meadows and swans, coots and ducks and their offspring on the



loch. One brief heavy shower after lunch, waterproof jacket on, but shorts dried quickly. We stopped at McMoo's ice cream shop in Bo'ness, a perfect end to a lovely walk, and we saw the steam train arrive back too.

Mid-July grey skies and jackets for Beecraigs Country Park. Sunshine for the Falkirk Wheel and Antonine Wall, Bishop's Hill Fife, and a circular walk south of Peebles. The weather forecast for a Croy Hill and Antonine Wall walk was not encouraging but we escaped with only a couple of showers.

The Fife coastal path offers excellent walking and wonderful views, and its sections are a favourite at any time of the year. The Inverkeithing to Aberdour section attracted 16 ramblers at the end of July. A damp start to the day and a dreich, misty drive over the Queensferry Crossing. Full waterproofs on as we headed east from Inverkeithing. Coffee stop in the dry though on the beach before St. David's Bay. Captivating views of the Forth Rail Bridge and across to Edinburgh, low cloud, and misty vistas. A woodland walk and wildflowers followed by lunch at the ruins of St Bridget's Kirk overlooking the sea. A gorgeous coastal walk.

Then came a nine-mile burn circular walk at the beginning of August. This offered wonderful views of the Pentlands.

Unfortunately, it was a damp, dreich day but 10 ramblers ignored the weather forecast and braved the elements. The mist came down and no one saw the view. The rain was so relentless that the group decided not to stop for lunch but kept walking to reach the comfort of their cars. The walk was repeated two weeks later. The weather was dry, with superb panoramic views, and they enjoyed a leisurely lunch with the beautiful heather in full bloom.

Upcoming Walks

Balerno Ramblers are offering two walks along the Fife Coastal Path, a Kinghorn to Kirkcaldy circular and a linear walk from Kirkcaldy to East Wemyss with bus return. Continuing the coastal theme, a coastal walk will be organised involving Archerfield estate via Dirleton, Yellowcraigs and Gullane. Further afield will be Melrose and the Eildon Hills beckon.

Nearer to home a linear riverside walk from Slateford to Leith along the Water of Leith is planned, starting at the visitor centre following the Water of Leith to Saughton Gardens, Roseburn, and Dean Village. There will be a detour to walk around the Botanic Gardens before returning to Canonmills and onto Leith, returning home by bus.

All our walks are open to members and non-members and new members are always welcome. For more details and contact numbers please refer to: enquiries@balernoramblers.org.uk; www.ramblers.org.uk/balerno or www.facebook.com/Balerno-Ramblers.

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Main: Cooling off! Photo: Betty Murray. Top middle: At Manor Sware. Photo: Jane Smith. Top right: Descending in the rain. Middle: Bo'ness. Photos: Roger Jonathan. Bottom middle: Ramblers at Donibristle, Fife. Photo: Kit Ng. Bottom Right: A very wet Wednesday! Photo: Jongky Harlim.

C&B Q&A

C&B News recently caught up with former Currie Community High School pupil Andrew Goodall, who won this summer's European Youth Speed Climbing Championship in Inst, Austria.

Climbing to the Top

CAROLINE BROWN
C&B NEWS

Andrew Goodall from Balerno has been climbing since the age of three. Encouraged by his Dad, who previously worked in mountain rescue, he has reached new heights in his climbing from a competitive standpoint—achieving 6.63 seconds at the European Championships in Inst, Austria in June. Andrew's journey to this point has been one of immense passion, commitment and a total love for speed climbing.

What is Speed Climbing?

There is Lead Climbing, Top Roping, Bouldering and Speed Climbing. The latter is based on speed and the former three are about getting to the top regardless of the time.

The Speed Wall is a fixed height of 15 meters and the holds are set out in predetermined distances according to IFSC standards. All speed walls worldwide are built according to the same configuration and standards with wall texture being the only variation. A slippery texture was an issue in Austria but I am used to that as the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena (EICA) wall is the same.

What equipment do you need for speed climbing?

Climbing shoes and a very light harness, the bare minimum!

To avoid sweaty palms, I chalk up before I start and leave my chalk bag on the floor.

Your younger brother is also a climber – Is he following in your footsteps?

Ruraidh (pictured right) is a great climber but is setting his own trail in bouldering and lead-climbing. He won the National Championship last year and is spending a lot of time training this year away from competitions for now.

What does your typical week look like?

Training three-to-four times on the wall and three-to-four off-wall in the gym.

I build in rest days to recover as I give 100% effort to every run on the speed wall. I also love mountain biking with friends, playing the guitar and our annual family ski trips to France.

What challenges have you faced with your training?

Winter training is a big challenge due to the low temperatures with ice on the holds. Great mental strength is required to show up for training in the cold and sometimes alone, as the GB team train down south.

The impact on my hands is a challenge. I build in rest days to recover from the sheer strength of climbing at speed but also to rest my hands. I get splits in my hands and very tough fingers!

What preparation do you do before a competition?

Four days in advance, I hit the gym and do off-wall training.

I spend lots of time on the EICA speed wall, and practice dialling in certain moves on the wall and lock these into my mind. At the end of my training, I run a clear run, so it is fresh in my muscle memory.

Rest days are important to focus on rest and good food.

How do you prepare on the actual day?

I chill with music and warm-up running back and forth.

On the wall my mind is clear. I never look at my feet, but I do

glance for my next hold. I once tried to climb the wall blindfolded to see if I could do it without looking at the holds, but I couldn't do it.

A big challenge is avoiding a false start. Every competitor starts with hands and one foot on the wall with the other foot on a sensor pad. The start button gives three beeps to go, but we cannot leave before 0.1 seconds, otherwise it's a false start. Between 0.1 and 0.2 seconds is the ideal point I feel to leave the pad. Imagine flying out to South Korea and getting disqualified for a false start? It's a lot of pressure!

Tell me about Community Support?

I wish to thank Currie High for giving me time off for competitions; The Rotary who donated towards expenses I incur to get to competitions. (The GB Team fund our kit, but we must fund our own travel and accommodation—my job at EdenRock goes some way to help, but

any community funding is really appreciated. The staff at the EICA in Ratho have been great at cleaning the holds ahead of my training runs.

Would you change anything about Climbing in Scotland?

More recognition for the Speed Climbing discipline. There is very little push towards this sport and more recognition or encouragement is needed to get folk into it. It is becoming more popular, but we are not there yet.

There are few speed walls across Scotland especially up north.

The climbing community is so welcoming, and everyone is willing to share tips. I would encourage anyone to try climbing. Our local EICA is an amazing facility.

Are you a naturally competitive person or just have sheer passion?

Passion and my love for Speed Climbing gets me through the training, especially over the winter. However, when I go to a competition, I'm there to win it! To be the fastest!

What's the format of a competition?

- Day 1: Two practice runs – these are simply to get an idea of what the wall feels like. You can fall off without getting disqualified!
- Day 1: Two Qualifying runs – a race against the clock – eight or 16 qualify, depending on competitor numbers.
- Day 2: Quarter final, semi-final and final—knockout rounds against the competition.

Photos: Andrew Goodall



The Next Climb

Huge congratulations on winning the European Youth speed climbing championship in Inst, Austria. What's next for you?

The Youth World Championships in Seoul, South Korea. It's an annual event run by the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC).

GB Climbing have selected me as one of the fastest competitors, so I have been put forward to represent Britain. It's a huge honour and I travel out with the rest of the GB climbing team for the qualifier runs on the 23 August, and the finals on 24 August.

GB Climbing set out a time each year required to qualify. It is less than 7.2 seconds this year for the "Youth" level (18-to-20-year-olds) and 6.2 seconds for the "Seniors"—my personal best is 6.3!

In Seoul I will get to compete against a great bunch of nice guys who are really fast! There were 30 competitors at the World Championship in Dallas for Youth last year, so you can get a feel for the size of it.

My target after this is the Olympics in 2028 in LA. Paris 2024 feels a bit too close and I want to focus on my speed for the next few years.

I start sports science at Heriot-Watt University in August, and I am really looking forward to it.

HARMENY EDUCATION TRUST



New Year, New Uniform for Harmeny

ALISON ACOSTA
FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER, HARMENY EDUCATION TRUST

It's been an exciting start for pupils at Harmeny with the return to school being marked

with our brand-new uniform, proudly displaying our new award-winning logo!

The new uniform is now blue for our primary and remains black for our secondary pupils and we had great fun taking our new class photos to celebrate its launch. The introduction of the new uniform is the final piece following the refresh of our logo and website which launched in March this year and recently won a silver award at the Scottish

Design Awards.

The new term also started with some fantastic collaborative music making with the highly talented Budapest Festival Orchestra, which visited Harmeny as part of the Edinburgh International Festival. The children were able to explore a variety of percussion instruments including a tam tam, carillon and the bongos.

"It was a real pleasure to get a personalised performance from the Budapest Festival Orchestra,

Above: Alison Acosta and Victoria Roberts from Harmeny with the Silver Scottish Design Award for Harmeny's new look.

exploring rhythm and sound and how music can be formed through collaboration," said Harmeny's Head of Education, Mandy Shiel. "Music plays a key part in our education and therapeutic approach and this was a fantastic opportunity to make music with such innovative and inclusive artists."

NETHER CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Transitions and the Class of 2024

KIRSTEN JOHNSTON
HEAD TEACHER, NETHER CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

After six weeks of summer holidays, the long-awaited transition into P1 and S1 has arrived!

Our brand new Primary 1 children have made a wonderful start to their primary school journey. Not a tear was shed, and everyone managed a full day at school as though they had been doing it for years! We are very proud of all our new children and look forward to watching them grow and develop over the course of the year.

We also hope that our outgoing P7s, now S1s – our "Class of 2023" (below left) – have enjoyed their first few weeks at High School. We know that they left Nether Currie fully prepared for their next adventure.



Below right: Here's our Class of 2024. Our new Primary 7s have an exciting year ahead, with a residential experience at Lagganlia coming up in September. They will also be appointing House and Vice Captains very soon, who will help shape the running of the school and be excellent role models for the younger year groups. Here they are looking very smart in their new uniforms.



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Scottish Country Dancing is such a great way to exercise so why not come along and join us and have a lovely social evening at the same time? We have a great teacher and music to accompany us. Tea and biscuits are there to sustain us at half time!

Our classes begin again on Wednesday 22nd September in the Juniper Green Community Village Hall at 7.30pm and continue every 2 weeks until our Party Evening on Wednesday 13th December. You can either pay £35 for the term or £5 per evening. Some experience of Scottish dancing is required

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Illustration: Marjorie Beaumont

The Gas Men

When SGN announced that they were about to renew the gas main in Lanark Road West many hearts sank; there were visions of endless queues, temporary traffic lights stuck at red and holes in the road with nobody even looking into them.

However, since they started at Stewart Road, the team from GRS Utilities have worked quickly and methodically up the road. The traffic lights did falter, the Wi-Fi link between the two sets wasn't good enough, so they manned the controls until a better set was put in place.

They start promptly and there are no days when we have disruption and no work. They have a good project manager and a team of people who know what they are doing, they have the right equipment and because they don't subcontract the hole digging and the reinstatement, they have the whole job under control.

They are making excellent progress.

Congratulations to GRS Utilities on a very good start, keep it up; congratulations too to SGN for choosing them and a note to Scottish Water and CEC, this is how to manage projects.

Martin Petty
Balerno

Horse Owners

If you use the Water of Leith walkway you will have noticed the wonderful resurfacing and drainage job the council have done. Made from recycled tyres I'm told and beautifully gentle to walk and cycle on.

The surface is so forgiving that horses' hooves do not even leave a mark, but their poo does, being flattened into that pristine surface. I saw a runner near the Currie bridge stalling, looking as if he was playing Hop Scotch dodging the splatters. It is carried: on dogs' feet, pushchairs, prams, tricycles, bicycle wheels and the grooved soles of trainers. It is showing no sign of disappearing in the ample rain we have had this summer.

I'm told those dollops are just recycled grass; however, it is still messy and sticks to anything which happens to run through it until it forms a hard resurfacing mass.

Horses which draw carriages, saddled donkeys giving tourists a wee treat have a collection system which the owners use and the animals don't seem to mind. It is a catch-all bag attached to the back of the saddle, which is slung under the rear end of the animal, just below the tail.

Here are a few ideas. How about you horse owners get yourself some of these collection bags and make using the path much more comfortable for the rest of us? Take it home to fertilise the rhubarb or give it away in strong reusable bags at the field gate, as they do in the Scottish Borders just outside Melrose. Add an honesty box and collect a few pounds for the Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled in Balerno.

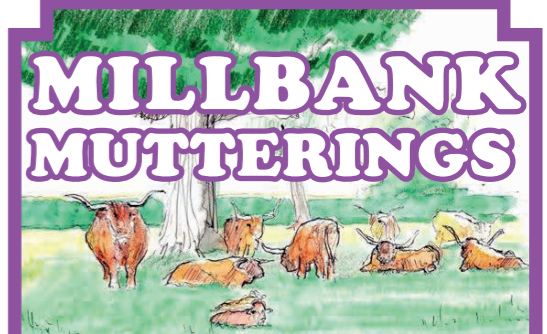
Let's see the difference this will make to using the well loved pathway along the river.

Reta MacLennan
Currie

What the...?



The placing of benches along the Water of Leith Walkway, although much appreciated by many a tired soul, appears to be determined more by distance than aesthetics, as suggested by this particularly "outstanding" view, fairly close to the Balerno end of the route.



MILLBANK MUTTERINGS

by TAURUS CERAMICUS BARBATUS

195: 'VALUES' AND RELATIONSHIPS

Now in my ninth decade, I see that £1 invested at my birth would be equivalent to £60 today. Changed "values"!

We were more physically active then, pedalled our push-bikes, used libraries instead of "search engines", read newspapers, calculated big numbers by long division and long multiplication and made or grew things we now buy in stores.

The many small shops saw us exchanging our coins for items selected from the shelves behind the shopkeeper and the news (or was it gossip?) with people in the queue. We discovered how others were faring, who had gone into hospital, where people were living after their house burnt down, the good and bad and local news. We communicated person to person—landline telephones were not readily available. As Cubs, we were taught how to make a 999 call from telephone boxes—and learned to respect older folk and the six-foot high beat bobby.

Now we shop in almost unstaffed supermarkets, bank online, use mobile phones and Zoom calls and do less together, face to face. The occasional police are in cars. We are encouraged (or forced?) to fend for ourselves while the churches that provided places to meet (and to worship) decline as their legacies dry up. Our lives are being "restrained" by LEZs, CAZs (Low Emission and Clean Air Zones) and other government devices to make life more costly. Is "community spirit" being transferred to protest groups?

Even "spending a penny" is difficult when Edinburgh, a tourist attraction, calculates that public toilets are dispensable, not being revenue earners.

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PLANNING BY ARCHIE CLARK

Edinburgh's Transport 'Consultation'

I confess I was unable to wade my way through the 400 pages of the Consultation before exhaustion overtook me. I reckon that if you want to bury something, have a "Consultation".

Consultation has been described as "a formal system for ignoring public views while patronising them at the same time". A writer to this paper said that CEC uses consultations to support its predetermined position.

What is a "Consultation"? Firstly it should be a two-way process engaging all those affected, within and beyond the area, the initiator providing "suitable and sufficient" information before a decision is made.

The information must allow "intelligent consideration", must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible and easily interpretable so that people can provide informed responses. Adequate time has to be allowed for consideration and replying—complex issues will require longer response times. Then "conscientious consideration" must be given to the consultation responses before decisions are made. The decision-makers should be able to provide evidence they took them into account. These are recognised in Law Courts as the "Gunning Principles".

How many people responded to this "Consultation", let alone read the accompanying volumes? I didn't feel the City of Edinburgh Council had learned much from the Covid-19 epidemic, the developing Climate crisis, the need to prevent urban sprawl or spiralling living costs. It paid scant attention to its new concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods which I hoped would be illustrated by examples. Unfortunately one councillor's comment that "the

questions [in the consultation] are presented in a way that means that there is no need to read the documents" made me think this "Consultation" was prepared to tick a box rather than invite "intelligent consideration". To my mind, the consultation should be re-run by a fresh Mobility Team, detached from lobbying interests, with short explanations, examples of how 20-minute neighbourhoods would work in our communities and an assurance that green field development has been binned.

As the Pentlands Ward has a population of 32,700, significantly more than the self-governing Orkney or Shetland Islands, we should have sufficient expertise to manage most of our affairs without relying on a remote executive to do it for us. CEC tells us what it is going to do, and dictating what we must do. When the Scottish Government is encouraging Local Place Plans, perhaps we should have our fair share of finances and local executive officers?

Lanark Road

One Sunday in July, I was surprised to find Lanark Road from Inglis Green Road to Gillespie Crossroads being given an unexpected thin top dressing to cover road markings created under a TTRO (Temporary Traffic Regulation Order)—or was it an ETRO (Experimental Traffic Regulation Order)?

Even though the contractor relied on cars to roll the surface flat, people commented that traffic was once again free-flowing with the loss of the chicanes. People "reclaimed" the space outside their houses to neatly park beside the kerb while vehicles that had not moved remained on their little patches of tarmac.

However, good things don't last forever. The road marking team appeared and lined out lanes either for the few bikes using Lanark Road or kerbside parking bays.

Within weeks, imperfections appeared. One might have expected that, unless the City had set aside Scottish Government monies to reinstate the surface after the Covid-19 emergency was over, that it would have been wiser to leave lining out till our community councils had been consulted on whether to continue the cycle lane scheme. The uninformed might get the impression that pressure groups are running this Council, and not the electorate!

So who is going to pay for all this work, which may need to be removed if the current ETRO is not confirmed? The Scottish Government, the Council—or us? We are entitled to a convincing explanation.

Bring Binoculars

Three years ago, the Service 44 bus tracker nearest Lothian Buses' office in Shandwick Place disappeared. It is now being replaced.

The engineers testing the new trackers have proved how much they can get on to them. But may I suggest what bus travellers need are short, rapidly comprehensible messages, on screens fully visible to the majority in the queue, wheelchair users and those with visual impairments, in text large enough not to require binoculars. The previous version met most of these needs. Are Lothian Buses intending to combine town and country services at fewer bus stops and remove



Edinburgh Bus Trackers c2005 and in 2023, for the sake of comparison...

the helpful printed timetables by cramming the screens with more information than we can absorb? What is this costing?

If Lothian Buses had asked their customers, they would have been advised to: Keep

it simple, clear—and not flick over to the next page so quickly!

According to Greenpeace, single-use vapes have a serious environmental impact.

90 tonnes of lithium went into their manufacture

Enough for **11,000** electric vehicle batteries

Environment Rights Centre for Scotland believes that both the UK and Scottish Governments are in contravention of human rights legislation because of their refusal to allow communities to challenge planning decisions—except at enormous cost. The case is now being investigated by the UN body tasked with upholding environmental law. Will we ever get an Equal Right of Appeal?

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- Rivermill Resident

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- Rivermill Resident

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FINAL APARTMENT REMAINING



JOANNA CHERRY MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

THIS MONTH

It's been great to see the Festival returning to full strength this year, making Edinburgh so vibrant. I was pleased that the "In Conversation" event I had been invited to by The Stand went ahead despite the efforts of those who oppose free speech to shut it down. Edinburgh was the home of the Enlightenment and, without free speech and artistic freedom, our festivals would be greatly diminished. I'd like to thank all the constituents who have been in touch to support my quest for civilised debate. I really appreciate it.

Parliamentary recess is a great time for me to visit community groups, businesses and events in the constituency and I was pleased to visit the Balerno Farmers' Market again recently, catching up with people and hearing about their projects. I also attended the Wellbeing event in Spylaw Park, organised by Colinton Village Enterprise, and I'm pleased to see they are planning another Curry in the Park soon. I had a lovely visit to the Men's Shed in Currie; the men there made the planters for Balerno nursery, rabbit hutches at Currie nursery and some fences and signs at Currie Primary School. I have also been visiting businesses in the constituency including the North British Distillery in Gorgie and the biscuit factory in Sighthill.

I enjoyed a visit to Heriot-Watt University to find out more about the Industrial Decarbonisation Research and Innovation Centre (IDRIC). IDRIC are focussed on research and innovation in developing decarbonisation solutions, and working towards the green future for industries that we need. I have a meeting with a UK Government minister to champion IDRIC when I return to Westminster.

Finally, I had a valuable catch up with Police Scotland's Chief Inspector for this area and the local Community Inspector at which I raised a number of matters of concern to constituents with very positive outcomes.



GORDON MACDONALD MSP
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

POLICE STATION SALE

Many of you may already be aware of the local consultation on the future of Balerno Police Station, which has been closed for several years now. Police Scotland launched the consultation at the end of July, running until 14 September seeking views from members of the local community on the future of the building.

While the local station has been closed local policing services have been effectively delivered by Response and Community Officers and police staff colleagues based in other local stations with ongoing support offered by officers and staff from across Police Scotland's Specialist Divisions.

With the station not being in active use for many years it no longer complies with Police Scotland's 2019 Estate Strategy. As a public body, Police Scotland are required to make effective and efficient use of public funds, and, therefore, dispose of unused assets because whilst the station is no longer in operational use, it continues to incur day-to-day running costs and ongoing repairs and maintenance.

The views of the communities, including local representatives and stakeholders will be considered and no formal decision has been made so far. The matter will also be considered by the Culture and Communities Committee of the Council and the Edinburgh Partnership. Given the pressure on public finances, it is imperative that we make the best use of the police budget which also reflects the views of the people of Balerno and community needs.

I am keen to know what people's views are on the future of the police station and in what capacity it can best serve the local area.

If you have any ideas please let me know at gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot or you can write to me at 9 Kingsknowe Park, Edinburgh EH14 2JQ. Alternatively you can call my office on 0131 443 0595.



SUE WEBBER MSP
LOTHIAN REGION

CROSS ABOUT CROSSING

I have written here frequently about road safety schemes, and recently have been focussed on ensuring the long awaited pedestrian crossing at Stewart Road materialises as promised—an issue going as far back as CLR Hugh Fraser's tenure.

Over a year ago, The City of Edinburgh Council published a waiting list of 87 pedestrian crossing schemes "under development", each one representing a safety concern across the city.

We all know the local authority can act very quickly when it wants to close streets or narrow roads. When local people raise issues, it might be expected that at least those at the top of the list would be a matter of priority.

Lanark Road West/Stewart Road is number nine on the list—or it was 12 months ago.

It was supposed to have been built in 2021-22 but was pushed back to 2023-24 as the traffic department switched priorities onto the *Spaces for People* programme. So, while Currie people were waiting for their crossing, the council was busy installing bollards further down Lanark Road where residents didn't want them.

At a recent Colinton Community Council meeting there was an intense discussion about their road safety priorities at the Bridge Road junction with Spylaw Street. I soon released that the City of Edinburgh Council is re-doing the road safety prioritisation list.

They appear to be moving the goal posts. I was advised: "Unfortunately, I am not therefore currently able to provide you with an anticipated date for the implementation of this crossing improvement."

So, no delivery of the crossing later this year, after all. I have been promised an updated list of road improvement priorities at transport committee on 14 September. It seems that, if we are very, very lucky, this small but vital improvement might happen some 20 years after it was first promised.



CLR SCOTT ARTHUR
COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD

ROAD REPORT

Each week a "road report" is issued to Councillors detailing all current and imminent road works and closures in our capital. This week's report stretches to a modest 17 pages and documents almost 200 sets of works.

The bulk of the work, however, is being undertaken by utility contractors—SGN, Scottish Water, SPEN, Cityfibre, BT, etc. The Scottish Government gives companies the "right" to install and maintain their infrastructure, and leaves the Council only very limited powers to co-ordinate the works. The result of this asymmetrical relationship is more congestion in an already congested city.

Recent utility works at Fairmilehead Crossroads came with extensive delays to public transport, and traffic queuing all the way to the bypass. While the works lasted for only two weeks, residents in my ward were furious that, most of the time, no work was taking place. Despite the massive delays, there was no apparent sense of urgency from the utility company.

Due to issues like this the city's councillors have now agreed that we need the power to force utility companies to work smarter and faster.

In England, a lane rental scheme allows local authorities to charge utility companies for the time that roadworks occupy the road—£2,500 per day. Edinburgh Councillors want the Scottish Government to give our capital the same power, and set a rate that forces utility companies to work faster.

Will it happen? This was the answer Ralph Roberts, CEO of McGills Buses, gave to me: "It is unlikely, unfortunately but I wish you luck. Bus companies will be right behind you. Utilities work the way they do to keep their costs low, but damage local economies as a result. Local economic impact should take precedence."

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CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS

BUS UPON A TIME

Last issue, I mentioned the state of pavements across the Pentland corridor. Although I had a section of pavement resurfaced in the Currie area I am still awaiting other sections being dealt with but, as I said before, the council can only work with the funds they have been given.

Although the wall and surrounding area has been tidied up next to the Pentland car park, due mainly to local kind-hearted volunteers, Currie Community Council did ask me to see if small kerbs could be put in place rather than an unsightly brick wall. I have chased for an update and await further news. Staying in Currie, I chased up with regards to remediation on Roley's Bridge. I have been advised contractors are happy to deal with the cosmetic repairs but will be getting in touch with a specialist to ensure the structure is sound.

The Service 44 bus to Balerno has not been the most reliable of late and the lack of the X44 service west of Haymarket doesn't help. Lothian Buses have responded in the past saying there is not enough demand for the X44. However, with the complaints I have been receiving of late from Juniper Green all the way up to Balerno and my own experience of waiting nearly an hour for a 44 on a late Saturday evening (after watching at least three 25s go past), I will be getting in touch again with Lothian Buses.

There have been many vehicle accidents over the past few years on Lanark Road West as you head into Balerno via the twisty bends. There is one last tight turn as the road straightens out where a number of drivers lose control, hit the embankment and career into the other side of the road knocking walls down in the process. I met a council officer from Road Safety on site recently and they are going to come up with a number of recommendations to put to local residents for discussion. Hopefully measures that are agreed will help reduce the number incidents.



CLLR STEPHEN JENKINSON
PENTLAND HILLS

ANDREW KERR VISIT

I have always believed in the merit of leaders of organisations getting out and about to hear and see what is going on in the organisation they lead. It was therefore great to welcome The City of Edinburgh Council's Chief Executive Andrew Kerr to the Pentland Hills Ward this month. Our Ward is large and diverse with each individual area having slightly different issues or concerns, so trying to give Andrew a real sense of what it is like to live, learn and work in our ward in the time we had available to us was always going to be a real challenge.

We started our tour in Wester Hailes, meeting at the Plaza outside the excellent library where we discussed the current High School development work, transport links and our plans to help improve the use of the Union Canal. We walked to Murrayburn where we were able to show Andrew the excellent Mixed Tenure Housing redevelopment work that is happening there, followed up by a visit to the Murrayburn & Hailesland Community Garden. We then headed up to Balerno where we discussed parking, weeds, the future of the High Street, and the current plans for Police Scotland to sell Balerno Police Station and what opportunities that might lead to.

There really is so much going on across the ward that we were never really going to do it justice, but I do know, having spoken with him afterwards, that Andrew really enjoyed his visit. It has given him a real sense of the issues we face in the ward but also shown him the fantastic opportunities available to us here. I personally found it useful and I'm very keen to repeat the process soon. So, Currie, Juniper Green and Baberton Mains you are next, promise.



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LOSING PUBLIC ASSETS

Police Scotland effectively closed the doors of Balerno Police Station in 2015 when the public counter was withdrawn. There is now a consultation on disposal of the property that's short on detail and time. The threat of the removal of a public asset from a community deserves longer than just over a month for responses.

Police Scotland say that, notwithstanding the current non-operational state of the Station, local police services have been effectively delivered. What is effective delivery? Were options to disposal considered? Or is this simply a case of raising cash to compensate for underfunding?

Those questions are relevant but they are separate from identifying future options for an apparently a redundant public asset. This must involve local consultation, as well as genuine attempts to fit Balerno into The City of Edinburgh Council's concept of a 20 Minute Neighbourhood.

The disposal of Balerno's Police Station is symptomatic of a broader problem for local communities.

Once upon a time Balerno had a Community High School, the management of which lay with the school. Then CEC restructured schools, placing the "Community" aspect in the hands of stand-alone body Edinburgh Leisure. Management is now more distant and remote, costs have spiralled and the whole operation is less responsive to local needs.

The more distant government is from communities, the less likely it is that communities will be able to develop and flourish, and the more likely it is that they will feel that things are simply done to them.

No matter how Police Scotland's letter about Balerno Police Station is cast, their current exercise does not look like a real consultation. What it does do, however, is highlight a serious issue for Balerno and for all communities. Privatisation of community assets diminishes the essence of all communities, and it has to be called out.



TOM McDONALD
COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

As our Community Council is in summer recess there is little new to report except a preliminary questionnaire to help inform changes to the boundaries and operations of CCs, which will be followed by a statutory consultation.

Our current boundaries reasonably reflect our community. A previous boundary revision proposal seemed to be driven by bureaucratic convenience – a worthy enough objective in itself – but to be achieved by ignoring the very concept of community? Groupthink blindness! Without an active CC such ideas could go unchallenged.

So many proposals for change (mostly necessary) are routinely published by The City of Edinburgh Council that it is impossible to keep track and evaluate them fully. It would be a tall order even for interested and committed individuals on narrow issues.

CCs can and do try to identify matters of concern and react wherever community interests appear to be affected but, as voluntary bodies with only limited resources, we depend on local contact to inform us about issues affecting our area.

I am acutely aware that, as I grow older, my own peer group, contacts and interests are less and less representative of the wider community. Issues affecting young mothers or school students (for example) can go largely unnoticed; those affecting the elderly and disabled are in sharp focus.

If our own version of groupthink is to be avoided we need more involvement from younger active people.

Our systems are severely constrained by CEC rules which largely reflect paper-based systems. Covid-19 forced some modernisation in using digital communications but a full review is overdue and we would welcome comment and suggestions from the community on the operation of the CC (or any other local issues).

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THIS ISSUE
ARCHIE CLARK
PREVIEWS A
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COLUMN FOR C&B
NEWS EXPLORING
THE CHANGED
PERSPECTIVES
THAT COME
WITH SUDDENLY
BECOMING
'DISABLED'.
ILLUSTRATION:
KMCL.



1: APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEPTIVE

In April 2020, the Scottish Government introduced “temporary measures” respecting the Covid-19 emergency to enable everyone, “especially vulnerable people”, to walk safely. The monies would also fund pop-up cycle lanes. Edinburgh received £6,950,000. But are fit cyclists more vulnerable than people in wheelchairs? As an architect, designing for disabled people was nothing new: there are Building Regulations, Codes of Practice and legislation generated under the Health and Safety at Work Act, the Equality Act and much else demanding compliance. Three-quarters of the UK’s population need spectacles—something rarely regarded as a disability. Disabled facilities are frequently identified by a wheelchair symbol though only 8% of disabled people require them. Physical impairments are usually obvious but we all know someone who has some problem we cannot see—blindness, deafness, breathlessness, cancer, mental health, Long Covid, and so on. While officially-recognised disabilities affect about 20% of the population, perhaps half of these are the visible infirmities we make allowance for. Many disabilities have been aggravated by “the System”: bureaucratic delays, inaccessible services, a nightmare benefits system, exhaustion, despair, emotional distress and a lack of compassion. Next month we begin a series of random reflections from a local person suddenly obliged to use a wheelchair. His life changed. His perspective on life suddenly altered. The illustrations are by a Long Covid sufferer, a former accountant. “Planning” imagines the future but mustn’t ignore those with particular needs and changing social requirements. Can you get to the shops in 10 minutes or must you drive there? Tell us your experiences. Those in authority need to listen.

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 SEPTEMBER

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. Free exercise class, refreshments and games. For further information email themeetingplacejcb@outlook.com

TUESDAYS

PENTLAND JUNIOR SINGERS: Balerno Parish Church 6-7pm. Fun, friendship and singing for ages 8-14. New members welcome! More information: pentland_singers@yahoo.co.uk

PENTLAND SINGERS COMMUNITY CHOIR: Balerno Parish Church, 7.30pm–9.30pm. Come and share the joy of singing! New members welcome. For further information: pentland_singers@yahoo.co.uk

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

THURSDAYS

PENTLAND BRIDGE CLUB: St Margaret's Court, Juniper Green, 7pm. We play competitive bridge in a friendly atmosphere. Less experienced players welcome. For further information visit: www.

bridgewebs.com/pentland/ or email: mthkjb@gmail.com.



FRIDAYS

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

ALTERNATE FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

COMMUNITY CAFE, Currie Community Centre, 9am–noon. Returns after summer break. Barista coffee and delicious home baking.



CURRIE KIRK CAFE, Kirkgate, Currie, 2pm–4pm. (Last orders 3.30pm). Until 30 September. Saturday café serving tea, coffee and baking.

SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS

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

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DAY BY DAY SEPTEMBER

MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

FORGET ME NOTES, St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton; 2pm-4pm. Join us for an hour of music and memories. Bring a friend or come and meet new ones. Followed by refreshments. <https://www.forgetmenotes.org.uk>, <https://stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk> Contact Nicki for more information: stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com, 0131 441 7580.

TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

CURRIE KIRK GUILD, Gibson Craig Hall, Lanark Road, 10am. A talk, "Beating Eating Disorders." The meeting will start with coffee/tea and biscuits.

BALERNO SWI, Balerno Community Centre, 7.30pm. "Felt Flowers" with Tracey Spencer. Visitors welcome.

WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB, Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 10am. "Oman—the vital unknown war, 1965-75", an illustrated talk by Brigadier Ian Gardiner. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary, Leslie Hannaford. (0131) 453 3012 or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER



BALERNO FARMERS MARKET, Main Street; 9am-1pm. Selection of local businesses and food outlets.

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

THE THURSDAY GROUP (Formerly Colinton Townswomens's Guild), St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, 2.15pm. A talk will be given about "Egypt - Luxor to Aswan". This new group would

like to extend a warm invitation to our next meeting.

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER



CURRY IN THE PARK, Spylaw Park, Colinton; 1-5pm. Return of popular foodies event after several years. £10 Tickets, limited to 400, must be purchased in advance from the Bonaly Store or online via bookwhen.com/cvcenterprise

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

C&B NEWS DEADLINE. Please submit your contributions by 9pm if possible; contact editor@candbnews.com if you need to reschedule.

MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

FORGET ME NOTES, St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton; 2pm-4pm. Join us for an hour of music and memories. Bring a friend or come and meet new ones. Followed by refreshments. <https://www.forgetmenotes.org.uk>, <https://stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk> Contact Nicki for more information: stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com, 0131 441 7580.

TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

CURRIE KIRK GUILD, Gibson Craig Hall, Lanark Road, 2pm. A talk, "Being a University Chaplain" by Jane Howitt. The meeting will start with coffee/tea and biscuits.

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB, Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 10am. Talk by Fiona Watson on the organising and running of the "Holy Trinity Foodbank". For more information contact the Secretary, Leslie Hannaford, on (0131) 453 3012 or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

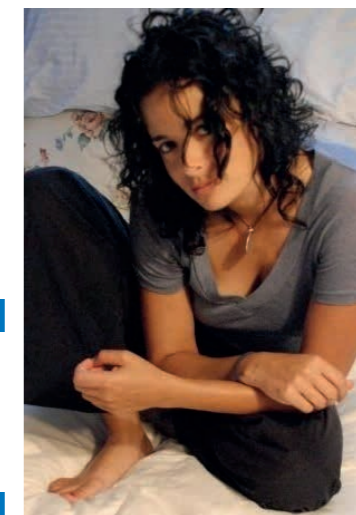
PENTLAND JUNIOR SINGERS—COME AND SING:

MUSICALS! St Joseph's Hall, Balerno, 10am-noon. Singing and games for ages 6-14. All abilities welcome! For further details visit pentland_singers@yahoo.co.uk

MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB, Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton, 8.00pm. Dr Stan da Prato, naturalist and gardener on "Crimes behind the compost heap: the shocking truth about life and death- in your Garden."

TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER



BALERNO FOLK CLUB, Balerno Bowling Club, 5 Ladycroft, Balerno, EH14 7AG. Doors open 7.30pm for an 8.15pm start. Appearing this month is Jen Lowe the renowned singer songwriter from the North East of England. "Members and Guests welcome."

WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

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

FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

C&B NEWS October issue now in the shops—pick up your copy today!

OCTOBER

SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER

RAMBLE ROUND THE RESERVOIRS fundraiser on behalf of The Pentlands Community Space, meeting at The Hub @ 531 Lanark Road, 10.30am prompt. A 10 mile (16.1 km) through the Pentland Hills via Torduff, Clubbiedean,

Harlaw and Threipmuir Reservoirs. Register by emailing pentlandscs@gmail.com

MUSIC IN ST JOSEPH'S—JAZZ PARTY, St Joseph's Hall, Balerno, 7pm-10.30pm. The Jazz Party topped off the first Balerno Music Festival back in 2008 and - Covid-19 excepting - there's been a jazz party every year since. Excellent music, great company, fantastic canapés from The Mill Cafe, and even a little dancing! Tickets are £18 available: after church services in St Joseph's Hall from 11am; at Balerno Farmers' Market in September; online from <https://tinyurl.com/2p8bd2tz>; or using the downloadable form <https://tinyurl.com/2p8bd2tz>

MONDAY 2 OCTOBER

CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, Gibson Craig Hall, 7.30pm. Kenneth Williamson talks about "Old Edinburgh and Leith Trams". More info: <https://www.curriehistory.org/>, email: secretary@curriehistory.org

WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER

PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB, Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 10am. "Members' mini talks"; three of our members will each give a short talk. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH—FORTH VALLEY CHORUS, Balerno Church, 7.30pm-9pm. Concert presented by Forth Valley Chorus, a world renowned women's barbershop a cappella chorus from Edinburgh. Eight-time UK Barbershop Champions, they have achieved international success as a member of Sweet Adelines International, a worldwide network of female barbershop singers with over 20,000 members globally. Musical director, David Sangster. Tickets are £12 (adult) and £6 (child) available: after church services in St Joseph's Hall from 11am; at Balerno Farmers' Market in September; online from <https://tinyurl.com/2t48yx8m>; or using the downloadable form <https://tinyurl.com/2p8bd2tz>

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Pentland Art Club Annual Exhibition 2023

**ROS SALTON
PENTLAND ART CLUB**

A little later than usual, the preview of the Pentland Art Club's annual exhibition was opened on 11 August by artist Ewan John SSA. Ewan – a contemporary artist, indie publisher, and lecturer – has strong relations with the club; not only does he lead regular "crit nights", his mother, Marion, is a longstanding club member.

Committee member Frank Nicol welcomed Ewan and introduced him. Ewan then presented the prizes to the winners of the drawing competition as Frank announced their names. Presentations over, Ewan spoke enthusiastically about the importance of art in the community and the benefits it brings, and encouraged visitors to join or otherwise lend their support.

No sooner had Ewan finished his speech than there was a rush to the sales desk. Some canny visitors had already eyed the paintings and

were poised ready to produce their credit cards. Yes, PAC has finally moved out of the dark ages and now also accepts cashless payments thanks to Frank's tenacity in researching and training us on SumUp. There is little doubt being limited to cash and cheques had been an obstacle to sales and, while we await the final reckoning from Treasurer Edingell Thomson, we are confident of a marked rise in takings.

There was a wide range of work on display and something to suit all pockets. Original artworks in various media (from oils to acrylic, watercolour, ink and graphite) hung from the walls, while browsers brimmed with unframed originals and prints, and our ever-popular cards were set out.

Before exiting the hall, visitors were invited to cast a vote for their favourite picture. If you read about the winner of last year's Chalmers Brown award, you may remember the people's favourite was the lush green painting by Ron Grigor. We

have started the practice of using the winning painting for our exhibition flyers, so Ron's painting has made appearances in many shops and noticeboards around the community. Whose will adorn next year's? You'll learn this soon in *C&B News*.

We would like to thank: all our members who helped produce the event; our flowers ladies Ruth Henderson, Janet Dyer and Janet Munro, who created the beautiful arrangements; and our visitors who made it so successful.

Pentland Art Club resumes at Balerno High School in October. Contact ros.salton@outlook.com, thomsoneere@hotmail.com, or playbourn60@gmail.com for information. New members welcome.



Above: Frank Nicol presents artist Ewan John SSA with a thank-you gift for opening the exhibition. Below: An appreciative audience. Photos: Paul Fisher Cockburn

Two Invitations from the Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir

**MARGARET KIERAN
THE COLINTON & MERCHISTON COMMUNITY CHOIR**

Please join us for our Come and Sing Day at Colinton Parish Church, Colinton

Dell on Saturday 9 September from 10am to 4.30pm, followed by a concert for family and friends at 5pm.

We will be singing Classical

Choral Favourites. No experience of Choral Singing is necessary. All welcome.

Alternatively, to learn more about our choir and what it's like to sing with us, please join us at our Open Rehearsal in

the Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School on Monday 11 September at 7pm for a 7.20pm start. Again no past experience of choral singing is necessary and there will be no pressure or commitment to join the choir.



For more information (and booking tickets), visit www.colintonchoir.org or our Facebook page. Note: there may still be some places available even though the original booking date will have passed.



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Do You Recognise These Edinburgh Statues?

ROS SALTON
PENTLAND ART CLUB

Since the inception of Pentland Art Club's annual drawing competition, which limits the artist to using just a 2B graphite pencil, there has been a wide variety of subjects.

After the fluff of animal fur and toys, in recent years the subject has moved to the firmer textures of rocks (2021) and glass (2022). This year proved to be another hard one – and I'm not just talking about the texture but the level of difficulty too – as we were tasked with depicting a statue or monument in and around Edinburgh.

While some members had no hesitation about their chosen statue, others took several weeks to decide what to draw and even longer still to complete it. I can imagine them scurrying around the capital, camera in hand, desperately seeking "the one". So, it was a close call to add the finishing touches in time for the entry deadline, 18 May—the penultimate club night of the year.

The big reveal was quite exciting. Anticipation was high. What subject had everyone chosen? It was a foregone conclusion there'd be a Greyfriars Bobby in the mix, but what else? Members showed their work and talked about the challenges rendering cold concrete or the patina of brass. It was a really fun night, with lots

of "Oohs" and "Aahs" at the wide range of statues, sympathetically drawn. No-one envied the task of the judge, and it would be 12 weeks before the results were announced.

Finally, Judge Islay's selection was announced at the annual Exhibition preview on 11 August. In first place was David Hume's statue by Ann Morrison. Second was Earl Haig by Julia Hind. Third choice

was "Woman and Child" by Ros Salton. Do you know these statues and where to find them?

The drawings remained on display for the duration of the Annual Exhibition. Thank you to everyone who participated and especially to Islay Graham, who gave her time generously to judge the work and provide each entrant with individual feedback.



SMALL ADS SEPTEMBER '23

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THEMED CROSSWORD 31
BY PUZZLECHOICE.COM

To enter, please photograph the completed puzzle and email to: editor@candbnews.com before noon, Friday 15 September 2023.

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

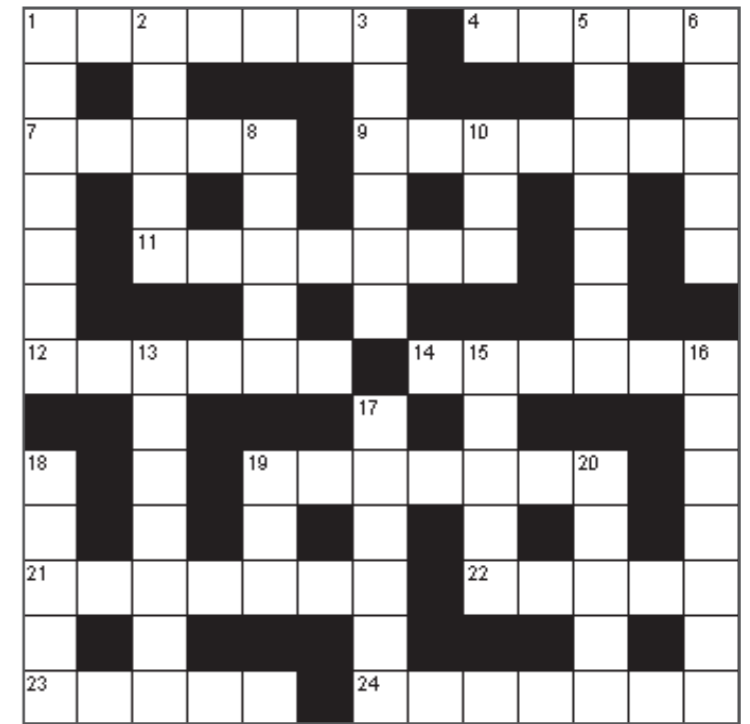
Good luck!

ACROSS

1. Capital of Lithuania. (7)
4. Islands, St Kitts and _____. (5)
7. Capital of Morocco. (5)
9. Texas city. (7)
11. Canadian province. (7)
12. South Pacific island. (6)
14. City on the French Riviera; site of an annual film festival. (6)
19. Atlanta is the state capital. (7)
21. City on Lake Eire. (7)
22. The longest French river. (5)
23. City on the Nile. (5)
24. City in north-west Africa and ancient Mediterranean port. (7)

DOWN

1. A state in New England. (7)
2. Tripoli is the capital. (5)
3. The world's largest desert. (6)
5. Independent state within Rome, the ____ City. (7)
6. Egyptian desert. (5)
8. Asian country in the Himalayas. (5)
10. Country, initially. (3)
13. Capital of Nova Scotia. (7)
15. The world's highest waterfall, ____ Falls. (5)
16. Popular beach on Australia's Gold Coast, ____ Paradise. (7)
17. Capital of Colombia. (6)
18. Capital of Afghanistan. (5)
19. State of southwestern India. (3)
20. Northern Territory town in central Australia, ____ Springs. (5)



NAME

ADDRESS

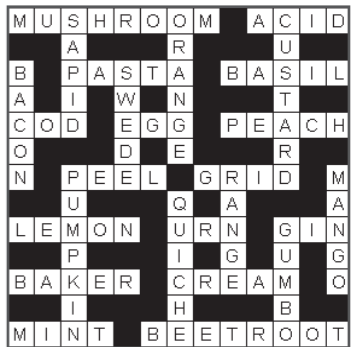
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POST CODE PHONE

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER!

Our congratulations go to Ms Alison Payne of Balerno, randomly selected to receive our £25 prize.

SOLUTION: JULY/AUGUST 2023



EASY

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

MEDIUM

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	7		4	5	
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	6		3		4
	3				1
	2		4		
					9

HARD

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	6	3	2		
7		8			
		5	7	6	
		1	5		3
2		6	7	1	5

BY PUZZLES.CA

Ninth International Deaf Bowls Championship Comes to Colinton

KEITH HYLAND
HOST CO-ORDINATOR

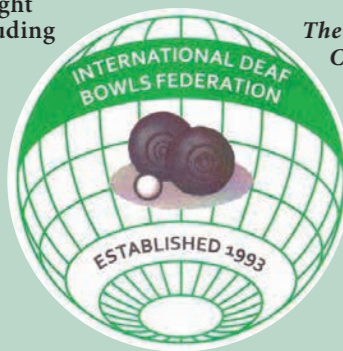
The Ninth International Deaf Bowls Championships is being held at Colinton Bowling Club from 2 to 12 September 2023.

This year's event will attract players from eight countries, including Scotland, Australia, England, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Wales,

and – for the first time – India.

I would like to extend a welcome to Colinton Residents to the event and also like to acknowledge a big thank you to Colinton Bowling Club for their support help in the planning and preparation.

Hope to see you there!



The Deaf Bowls Championship is supported at Colinton Bowling Club by Belhaven Best, Taylor Bowls and Co-op.



New Season Fast Approaching

PHIL THOMAS
CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

The 2023-24 rugby season is fast approaching.

The opening league matches for Currie Chieftains, who play in the Tennent's Premiership, and for Currie Chieftains A, who play in a new Inter City Reserve League, are on Saturday 2 September, but they are both "away"—at Selkirk RFC and Biggar RFC, respectively. The first games at home are on Saturday 9 September when the Chieftains play Jed-Forest RFC and the Chieftains A play Stirling County 2nd XV, at Mallyen Park, with kick-off at 3pm.

The excellent-to-watch Chieftains 3rd XV, promoted last season from East Region Reserve League Div 2 to East Region Reserve Division 1, have their opening match on Saturday 16 September at Mallyen Park, when both Chieftains and Chieftains A are playing away at Musselburgh RFC.

Due to the impact of the World Cup on match scheduling, this year's Premiership and Inter City Leagues are to be played on a compressed schedule, so league matches will be played every Saturday from 6 September to 9

December before a long Christmas/New Year break until 20 January, with the final league fixture being on 3 February. Thereafter, there will be a programme of league play-offs, Scottish Cup matches, and expansion of Inter-District fixtures, leading up to the start of the Rugby Seven's Programmes.

The senior men's squad has looked good in training at Mallyen Park, and they have won the three matches they have played, pre-season. However, it would be remiss of me to mention the regional and national selections that have recognised players in Currie Chieftains U18 and U16 groups. These include Tom Hassle (U-18, Scotland and Edinburgh, see photograph); Finlay Phillips and Sam Forster (U18 Edinburgh); and Ben McDonald, Blair Smith, Euan Gettinby, Hamish Hunter, Jack McLay, Josh Elliot, Rory Tait and Tom Rankin (U-16 Edinburgh). Congratulations and best wishes go to one and all!

So, please do not forget to make a date to be at Mallyen Park at 3pm on Saturday 9 September to see Currie Chieftains or Currie Chieftains A play their first home matches. Otherwise, you may not appreciate what you will be missing!



Currie FC Kicks off Season as SFA Winners

GERRY BUTLER
CHAIRPERSON, CURRIE FC

Currie FC receives its SFA Grassroots Award: (left to right) Ryan Straub (McDonalds), Kumar Pragash (CFC) Gerry Butler (CFC), Barry Rissell (CFC), and Jennifer Malone (SFA).

The tireless efforts of Currie FC's coaches in promoting football for everyone have been recognised by the national football association.

Everyone involved with the club were delighted that we were presented with SFA's Grassroots Award for "Best Community Football For All Project" for the South East Region at a ceremony at Meadowbank Stadium on 19 August.

Candidate clubs had to show how they created opportunities for people from under-represented backgrounds and disadvantaged areas, as well as demonstrating strong growth in participation.

"We have always been extremely proud of our very long standing football provision for children through to youth," said Gerry Butler, Currie FC's chairperson. "In recent years we have successfully developed a much wider football offering. The award is very positive recognition from the SFA for what we have done and are developing within and for our local community."

The submission to the SFA included details on the work in after school coaching with secondary and primary schools around Currie and Balerno. There are also the free "Helping Hands" summer sessions for youngsters in and around Clovenstone.

The Disney Playmaker partnership focuses on a positive, fun and different introduction to football for five-to-eight-year-old girls. Very few clubs in Scotland

provide this experience.

Girl participation in the club is more than 80, up from roughly 10 regular players a few years back. The club has recently been named a Claire Emslie Soccer Centre in recognition for the quality of the set-up.

Currie's partner ladies club, Edinburgh Caledonia FC, have played a valuable role in aligning players as regular coaches. This sows the seed for our player pathway through to adulthood.

In the men's side, our longstanding partner club, Heriot Watt FC, have had an extremely successful season with previous Currie FC players now members of their squads.

The recently formed adult team Currie Amateurs FC, in their first season, have just finished mid-table.

Coming soon too is the club's provision of a boot bank. Parents will be able to donate their child's pre-loved football boots to be reused by the club and beyond. This will help reduce the cost of equipment, especially as children grow quickly through shoe sizes.

Gerry added: "It is especially pleasing to receive recognition from our national governing body. A big thank you to everyone involved. Here's to more of the same in the coming years."

If you or your child want to give the game a go in a positive and fun environment, please get in touch through curriefc@virginmedia.com or cfcgirlsfootball@gmail.com

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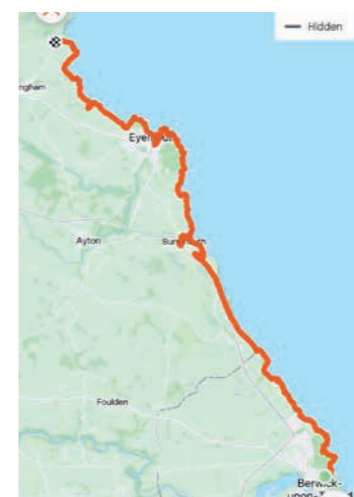


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Members of Currie, Balerno and District Round table are aiming to walk the entire 6,700 mile coastline of Scotland, explains Alasdair Gordon. Five walkers – (left to right) Glenn Grant, Ross Henderson, Mike Perrin, Andrew Speake, and Pam Williams – started the first leg from Berwick upon Tweed to St Abbs, via some refreshment at the First and Last Inn at Burnmouth and some fish and chips at Eyemouth. That's 16 miles covered—just another 6,684 miles to go!

The next leg will be on Sunday 3 September from St Abbs to Cockburnspath. It's a daunting challenge, but we see it as a team effort—so long as we're continuing the walk, people can dip in and out as they like. <https://cbdrt.com/contact>

FREE!



Balerno Police Station for Sale? p5



Currie Football Club's SFA Award, p47

C&BSPORT

CURRIE • BALERNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON

Summer BBQ at JGTC



PAUL MURPHY
JUNIPER GREEN TENNIS CLUB

The sun shone and the wind blew throughout Juniper Green Tennis Club's annual summer BBQ on 19 August.

A very good turn out by both club members and their families, and also interested members of the local community, provided a wonderful atmosphere for everyone in the village to get together at our vintage sporting

venue. It was great to have the opportunity speak to members and non-members alike about the benefits of club membership, the tennis coaching available and how we can all help to support the club which has been going for 132 years.

Everyone was delighted to see the large number of children of all ages thoroughly enjoying themselves, with our club coach Kenny Petrie putting them through their paces. Admittedly a few arms had to be twisted to

boost participation in the adult tennis clinic but that was more to do with the consumption levels of the delicious burgers that were on offer throughout the afternoon.

Thanks are due to the various club committee members and volunteers who helped to plan, prepare and deliver this event. We hope to make the event even bigger next year so would welcome new ideas and of course volunteers.

As always, further details about the club, coaching, events, etc can be found on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/junipergreentennis and on our club website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/JuniperGreenTennisClub>.

For reference, membership packages cost £25 for Juniors, £45 for Adults and £65 for Families with our playing season typically running from 1 April to 31 October.

Photos: Juniper Green Tennis Club; Paul Fisher Cochrane; Currie FC.