

FREE!



LOCAL ANGLING SUCCESS, p47



'THANK YOU', FROM SGN, p7

C&B NEWS

CURRIE • BALMORNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON



Youth Anti-Social Behaviour Rises along Water of Leith Valley.

Local Community Police write for C&B News, p11

Local Schools' News and Reports, p22

PLUS Remembrance and Festive Celebrations across our Communities.

Horses for Courses

Christmas comes to Ravelrig RDA, p18

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 winter and summer 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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Juniper Green: Derek Douglas, Ros Salton, Richard Watt, Gail Rankin.

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DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

ADVERTISING & LISTINGS: 16 JANUARY
EDITORIAL: 21 JANUARY
ISSUE DISTRIBUTED: 1 FEBRUARY



That was 2023, here's to 2024!

Another year, another 10 issues of C&B News successfully "put to bed". As we take our traditional winter break, the committee and production team would like to thank all our contributors, advertisers and readers for helping us through another year. We'll be back with our first issue of 2024 at the start of February—see you then!



Above: Fraser McKinlay (centre), Chief Executive of The Promise Scotland, officially opens the new Learning Hub at Harmeny Education Trust, with (left) current Harmeny CEO Neil Squires and (right) Mandy Shiel, Head of Education. Photo: Paul Fisher Cockburn

Right and below: Walkers from the Currie, Balerno and District Round Table are a determined bunch: nothing will stop them completing the next leg of their coastal walk from Dunbar to North Berwick. With that particularly wet day in the bag they now have "just" 6,645 miles to go to reach Gretna. Walkers on this particularly wet leg were (in alphabetical order): Ron Grigor, Ross Henderson, Christine Owen, Mike Perrin, Andrew Speake, Andy Taylor, and Pam Williams.



Top: The local Round Table-organised fireworks display in King George V Park, Currie, was a great success, attracting more than 5,000 spectators on 5 November. Photo: Graham Dane.

Above: The 65th Edinburgh Company Boys' Brigade paraded their Colours at Currie Kirk on Remembrance Sunday.



Above: November's Remembrance display at Balerno Parish Church. Photo: Caroline Brown.



Left: Nether Currie Primary School is pleased to report that pupil Rhys Brown has been selected to play in the P7 Edinburgh Select Football Team. He has already played his first match at Oriam, winning all of his games!

BRIEFLY...



CHOIR SUCCESS

Forth Valley Chorus – the female a cappella barbershop group which recently performed as part of the 2023 Balerno Music Festival, and includes members from Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green – last month achieved sixth place out of 32 in the annual Sweet Adelines International competition—the highest ever placing for a UK chorus in a contest attracting barbershop harmony choirs from around the world. Congratulations!

STREETWISE

New research, by students at Heriot-Watt University and the walking/wheeling/cycling charity Sustrans, has unsurprisingly discovered that better pavements and roads would encourage older people to stay more active. Participants (aged between 60 and 91) reported that barriers to staying active included "poorly designed and maintained streets and pavements, with hazards from potholes and drains, and not enough road crossings, street lighting, parking or public transport". Who'd have thought it?

NEW ARENA

US entertainment company AEG (owners of the O2 Arena in London) has lodged initial details of a proposed 8,500-capacity arena development at Edinburgh Park (next to the railway station and tram stop). Two consultation exhibition events will be held at 1 New Park Square, Edinburgh Park, EH12 9GR between 3pm and 7pm on Monday 4 December 2023 and Tuesday 9 January 2024.

>p5

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Gordon Macdonald MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency



Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

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f Gordon Macdonald MSP **@**GMacdonaldMSP

Representing: Baberton, Balerno, Blinkbonny, Bonaly, Broomhouse, Buckstone, Calders, Colinton, Colinton Mains, Currie, Dreghorn, Fairmilehead, Firrhill, Hermiston, Juniper Green, Kingsknowe, Longstone, Oxgangs, Parkhead, Ratho, Redhall, Saughton Mains, Sighthill, Spylaw, Stenhouse, Swanston, Wester Hailes and Whitson.
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Christmas Card Competition

GORDON MACDONALD MSP
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

This year marks the 10th anniversary of my "Primary School Annual Christmas Card Competition", in which I invite local primary school pupils to submit their entries with

prizes of vouchers totalling £100 generously provided by a range of local supermarkets.

It is timely that this year's sponsor Sainsburys at Longstone will once again kindly provide the generous vouchers, having done so for my first competition back in 2013.

This year has been no exception to the response from schools and their pupils including local primary school Nether Currie. The competition provides

an opportunity for local children to display their creativity, with the winners having their design printed on my annual Christmas card.

It is with thanks to the schools, staff and pupils that the competition has been – and I hope will continue to be – very popular.

<https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info>

Here Comes Santa!

ALASDAIR GORDON
CURRIE, BALERNO & DISTRICT ROUND TABLE

Christmas is just around the corner—and that means Santa will once again be visiting our streets, thanks to the support of the "elves" from Currie, Balerno & District Round Table.

You can find out which day he'll be coming to your area (see right). Also, keep an eye on our website (cbdrt.com) and Facebook page for any updates.

Santa will also have a GPS tracker which you can find on our Facebook page to follow his journey towards you.

As always, Santa's elves will be collecting money for local charities and good causes. Our fundraising during the past 12 months has supported more than 20 groups and individuals including the 1st Girl's Football Team at Currie Community High School, Community for Food, the Scouts, and abuse-support charities, to name just a few. Given these difficult times, people's generosity has been truly amazing.

A big thank you to all the

volunteers including Currie Chieftains, Harmeny School, Riding for the Disabled Association, and Community for Food. Every year it takes more

- Saturday 2 December: Juniper Green, from 5pm.
- Sunday 3 December: Currie Central, from 5.30pm.
- Monday 4 December: Colinton, from 6pm.
- Tuesday 5 December: Johnsburn/Lovedale, from 6pm.
- Wednesday 6 December: Currie Spine, from 6pm.
- Thursday 7 December: Currievale, from 6pm.
- Saturday 9 December: Currie East, from 5pm.
- Sunday 10 December: Baberton, from 4pm.
- Monday 11 December: Currie Castle/Cherry Tree, from 6pm.
- Tuesday 12 December: Dean Park/Marchbank, from 6pm.
- Wednesday 13 December: Ravelrig & Ravelrig Heights, from 6pm.
- Thursday 14 December: Pilmuir & Kingfisher Park, from 6pm.
- Friday 15 December: Wester Currie, from 6pm.
- Saturday 16 December: Bonaly, from 5pm.
- Sunday 17 December: Bells, from 5pm.

than 120 people to put this on, and we still have places on the rota. If you want to get involved, please get in touch using the email address below.

And thank you to our sleigh sponsor - Western Toyota - for providing Santa's transport completely free of charge.

To get in touch, email: enquiries@cbdrt.com



BRIEFLY...

p3>>>



THANKS!

The Reverend Nicki McNelly (above), Rector at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church in Colinton, would like to thank everyone who supported her recent trip to Nepal in support of World Vision UK. "My fundraising is currently standing at £7,771.25, including Gift Aid," she reported. She added that her "just giving" page will remain open for a few more months: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nicki-mcnelly

FILMING

Both the Community Centre and Hardware Store in Balerno recently featured as locations for a new film—although details of the project currently remain top secret! (Unless you're Cllr Graeme Bruce, see page 33.) The Balerno Village Trust have promised to reveal all—just as soon as they're contractually allowed to do so! And, indeed, have been told themselves...

BUS SHELTER

A new bus shelter in Colinton will be installed adjacent to the north end of the Bowling Club car park. According to local Cllr Jason Rust, the work will likely take place in February 2024.

GOODBYE 63?

Proposed revisions to existing City of Edinburgh Council-supported bus services in west Edinburgh – discussed by CEC's Transport and Environment Committee on 16 November 2023 – will likely see the replacement >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.

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@ sue.webber.msp@parliament.scot
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Pavement Parking Ban to be Introduced

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
 C&B NEWS

Drivers across Edinburgh who park on pavements or at dropped kerbs, or who double park, will face a fine of £100 – or £50 if paid promptly – from January 2024, thanks to new powers given to The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC).

Although the original legislation was passed by the Scottish Parliament in 2019, the required regulations to support enforcement and appeals processes have only now been finalised by Transport Scotland, and will likely come into force from 11 December 2023. Once this occurs, CEC will be able to proceed with further work on the policy.

According to a report compiled for the council's Transport and Environment Committee (TEC), ensuring that "Edinburgh's roads and pavements are accessible for all is a key factor in delivering the Council's transport policies and supporting the travel hierarchy."

In preparation for the introduction of the new regulations, CEC officials assessed 5,217 city streets following a "Red, Amber, Green" classification system, with "Red" streets experiencing significant pavement parking issues: 11.3% of the surveyed streets were designated "Red".

The assessment classified a total of 27 streets in the Pentland Hills ward and 41 in Colinton/Fairmilehead as "Red". There is a notable "cluster" of red-classified streets in the latter, where it's expected there will be "significant parking displacement as a result of the introduction of the new legislation".

CEC's tough approach has been supported by organisations representing visually-impaired people and other pedestrians. Stuart Hay, director of Living Streets Scotland, said: "Edinburgh is taking the right approach to the enforcement of pavement parking, recognising that footways are for people, not parking spaces for cars."

"Exemptions should only be applied in exceptional cases based on evidence, which can only be collected via careful monitoring and consultation," he added.



'Thank You Currie, Balerno, and Juniper Green!'

CHLOE BOYCE
 SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, SGN

As you know, SGN began our £740,000 project to upgrade our gas network along Lanark Road West in July.

We chose to carry out our work this year as a permanent solution to the recent emergency work we've carried out in this section of the road, to prevent future disruption to motorists and the local community.

Our project progressed well and was completed six-weeks ahead of schedule on Saturday 18

November.

This was a complex engineering project which required road closures and the use of temporary traffic lights. We understand this caused inconvenience and, once again, we apologise for the disruption this caused.

We'd like to say a big thank you for your continued patience and understanding while we carried out our essential upgrade work, to ensure a continued safe and reliable gas supply to the homes and businesses in the area.

• Smell gas? Call 0800 111 999

Balerno Crowned Best Village Inn

BEN WATSON
 THE BALERNO INN

You may have heard that Balerno Inn was recently crowned Scotland's Best Village Inn at the 2023 "Hotel of the Year Scotland Awards".

It was an exciting evening through in a very dreich Glasgow. Rubbing shoulders with some of Scotland's top hospitality operators, it was unsurprising to learn that many of the people I had the chance to chat with, knew Balerno and its surroundings very well—though I must admit to be more than a little surprised to hear repeatedly how well regarded the Balerno Inn is within the vibrant Scottish hospitality sector.

This award means such a great deal to our small team and comes on the back of us being named a close runner up in the "Casual Dining" category at the Scottish Bar and Pub Awards 2023.

We love that the Balerno Inn is so well regarded by learned judges



and professional colleagues alike. We like even more that we have so many thousands of repeating, regular customers who trust us to deliver consistently great food and beverage alongside our cozy and stylish accommodation.

• The Balerno Inn, 15 Main Street; (0131) 202 3220; hello@balernoinn.co.uk

BRIEFLY...

ps>>> of current Service 63 (running between Balerno and South Queensferry) with a proposed new route linking Balerno, Currie, Hermiston, Sighthill, Edinburgh Park and the Gyle with Cramond—improving north-south links in the west of the city and also – being a shorter journey – hopefully a more reliable timetable.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Juniper Green: Remove Sycamore tree, 480 Lanark Road, Woodhall. (23/06587/TCO) Registered, 1 November.

Colinton: Dismantle sycamore, 7 West Carnethy Avenue. (23/06625/TCO) Registered, 3 November 2023.

Sighthill: Proposed partial demolition of existing offices and redevelopment of site as mixed-use, including purpose-built student accommodation. (23/06658/PAN) Earliest date for planning application, 26 January 2024.

Balerno: Felling and removal of silver birch and mature conifer, 49 Johnsburn Road. (23/06750/TPO) Registered, 10 November.

Colinton: Fell multi-stem mature Sycamore and grind stump before wall reinstatement, Redord Barracks, 265 Colinton Road. (23/06863/TCO) Registered, 17 November.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Currie: Renew planning approval for erection of single-storey property in garden, with garage, (20/01886/FUL, 23/02650/FUL) Withdrawn, 10 November.

Balerno: Change of use of residential dwelling to short-term letting purposes (in retrospect), 1 East Rigg Farm. (23/03785/FULSTL) Withdrawn, 30 October.

Currie: Proposed optical ground station telescope, land 75 metres north of 28 Research Avenue South. (23/04129/FUL)

>P9

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PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

It's now well over three years since we started distributing C&B News for free. We can continue to do so thanks to the many local businesses which continue to advertise within our pages—for which we're (of course) extremely grateful!

By also keeping on top of production and distribution costs, this advertising income is sufficient to leave us with a modest annual surplus. The management committee of The Currie and Balerno News Ltd has once again decided to share this money among charitable and voluntary groups and organisations across our five communities.

If you would like a share of this money – especially if your group or organisation hasn't already received a community donation from C&B News this year – please get in touch!

• Email: donations@candbnews.com, giving your bank account details and a brief explanation of what you do.

• NOTE: The deadline for applications is 31 January 2024.



On Friday 13 October, Bethany and friends from PG at Dean Park Primary School ran a very successful Bake Sale for Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS). This is a charity close to the hearts of Bethany's family, and she raised an amazing £570! Well done Bethany!

FIONA DONALDSON COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATOR, TIPHERETH

It was with great sadness that members of the Tiphereth community watched the Sequoia tree in the grounds of The Hollies care home, in Colinton, cut down during the October break.

This occurred after a recent survey identified a risk of collapse due to the impact of the root structure on the retaining wall on Bridge Road.

Sequoia trees are some of the oldest living species in the world; certainly, this tree had become a long-standing resident of Colinton very much valued by members of the Tiphereth community, residents of The Hollies, and the wider community.

As a fitting tribute, we are planting a cedar tree in its place. Over time, crevices develop in the trunk of these trees, providing nesting places for owls and roosts for bats. Cedar trees also symbolise purification, protection and eternal life.

Farewell, Sequoia!



• For more information on the Tiphereth community for adults with learning disabilities, visit: www.tiphereth.org.uk

BRIEFLY...

- p7>>>**
- Granted, 3 November.
 - Colinton: Felling of two Scots pines, downy birch and ash tree. (23/04636/TPO) Mixed decision, 3 November.
 - Currie: Alter and extend house to side with pitched roof extended over, new dormer to front, new and existing roof re-tiled; demolish and erect new garage, 44 Lanark Road West. (23/04657/FUL) Granted, 6 November.
 - Colinton: erect lean-to, 25 Bonaly Terrace. (23/05548/CLP) Granted, 7 November.
 - Colinton: fell row of cypress trees, 24 Barnshot Road. (23/06510/TCO) Not make a tree preservation order, 7 November.
 - Juniper Green: removal of Sycamore, 480 Lanark Road. (23/06587/TCO) Not make a tree preservation order, 8 November.
 - Colinton: Dismantle sycamore, 7 West Carnethy Avenue. (23/06625/TCO) Permission not required, 13 November.
 - Colinton: Form raised terrace area to rear, remove window and install fold-aside doors, replace existing windows/doors, 72 Redford Avenue. (23/03923/FUL) Granted, 14 November.

PLANNED ROADWORKS & ROAD CLOSURES

- Blinkbonny: SGN gas main renewal. Final phase: Blinkbonny Road closed at Blinkbonny village, until December 2023.
- Balerno: Lanark Road West at Bridge Road; Scottish Water ironwork repairs requiring three-way temporary traffic lights, 11 January 2024.
- Balerno: Main Street closed beyond The Balerno Inn for water pipe renewal. 11-18 January 2024.

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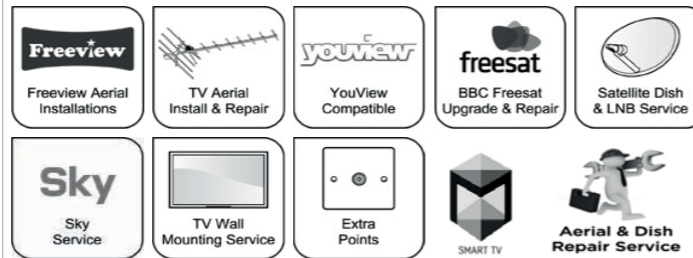
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Rise in Local Youth Antisocial Behaviour

MOIRA PETERSON
C&B NEWS

Our quiet villages have been experiencing a spike in serious antisocial behaviour by a group of local youths. A group of young teens spent the run up to Fireworks night setting off fireworks in a variety of locations and building bonfire piles with wood stolen from the Pentland Men's Shed. Thanks to the initiative and bravery of Currie residents, several attempts at bonfires were thwarted.

On Fireworks night, I witnessed and challenged youths setting fireworks at Pentland View Court while hundreds of families with all ages of children streamed out of the main Fireworks event. Throughout the evening, car owners reported having to run

the gauntlet of Lanark Road while having fireworks launched at their vehicles.

Other children reported being chased terrified down Lanark Road by a group of youths wearing balaclavas, with a fireworks launcher on their shoulder. Only luck ensured that no one was hurt in these incidents.

In separate but repeated events, youths have also been using the Water of Leith Walkway as an off-road motorbike track, as well as taking the motorbike illegally onto Lanark Road.

On top of these highly dangerous activities, further incidents of racial harassment and abuse are being levelled at Currie residents by a group of youths, as recently reported to Currie Community Council.

Due to the ongoing antisocial

behaviour at their premises, the 42nd Pentland (Currie) Scout Group invested in a state-of-the-art CCTV system and have captured images of the perpetrators there. They have met with police and shared their evidence.

These deplorable actions are not reflective of our mostly positive community and there is an obvious need for more to be done to put a stop to these criminal behaviours.

Currie Community Council are raising these issues with the local Chief Inspector, Currie Community High School Head Teacher, and our elected representatives, so that they are aware of the impact of these crimes upon affected residents and to start building a community-wide response to this problem.

• If anyone has additional information on antisocial behaviour to offer to Currie Community Council, please contact: curriecommunitycouncil@gmail.com. Any information can be anonymised.

• Any member of the public who witnesses antisocial behaviour should report it to 999 if there is an immediate danger, or 101 if there is not.

• You can also report incidents (anonymously) to Crimestoppers: online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org> or by calling 0800 555 111. All reports to Crimestoppers are sent to the police so it can help to build up a picture of the levels of crime in an area.

To read more on this subject from our local political representatives, please turn to their regular columns on pages 33 and 35.

"It is disheartening to hear that local communities are frightened by the behaviour of a few and I know that the local police are taking this seriously with additional patrols in the Currie and Balerno area."

GORDON MACDONALD MSP

"I feel compelled to raise this issue and make the wider community aware of what our neighbours are enduring. I believe that we all have the right to live in our own homes without fear and people should be able to live their lives in peace."

SUSAN WEBBER MSP

"I attended a meeting alongside other community representatives. It was good to hear that there is a commitment to ensuring the safety of the community and we were reassured that reports are taken seriously."

CLLR FIONA GLASGOW

Community Policing—We're Back!

MARK COULL
PS 5040 SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY
POLICING TEAM

Well, we haven't really been away—just not writing for C&B News! Your Officers for the area are James May and Brian Breen (see right) and they are trying to get to as many local community events as possible. Recently we have enjoyed getting to know local children from nurseries, cubs and scouts whose theme has been "People who help us". If you would like your officers to come and speak to your community group then please get in touch. We like coffee and biscuits!

Unfortunately we have been dealing with crime in the area. Three teenagers were recently charged with theft of a quad bike from a farm in Balerno. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the youths riding on Lymphy Road and



Community PCs Brian Breen and James May, recently met staff from Lothian Buses.

the Water of Leith Walkway on a motorbike. Some youths from outwith the area have been charged with vandalism, having broken into the Marriott Hotel at Heriot-Watt University and sprayed tomato ketchup on the walls. Patrols have been increased in each area.

We met recently with south west councillors and attended a meeting of the Juniper Green & Baberton Mains Community Council at the superb new community hub@531 Lanark

Road. Your councillors raised their concerns with us about anti-social behaviour in the area, in particular issues on the Service 44 bus route. Free bus travel for under 22s has vastly increased travel by young people and many other routes are also reporting similar issues. Please have that conversation with your child if they use that route. Buses have excellent CCTV and we will

investigate any reports of anti-social behaviour and criminality.

Complaints and concerns have been also raised about vehicles parking and driving in the pedestrian zone, Main Street, Balerno—in particular at nursery drop off and collection time. Please help to keep your children safe by parking in the Scotmid car park, the car park at the top of Main Street or behind the Balerno Inn—all less than two minutes' walk from the nurseries and shops. The City of Edinburgh Council's Parking Attendants will also be patrolling the area.

As the darker nights draw in it is important to think about the security of your home. Make sure your home looks as if someone is in by leaving lights on, especially if returning home after dark. Consider installing CCTV, security lights and alarms—and check your lock entry points.

• You can phone 101 for Crime Prevention advice.

• You can email us at Edinburgh-CPTSouthWest@scotland.police.uk

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES

Happy Birthday, Hub@531!

ANNETTE WILSON
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, HUB@531

On Saturday 27 January 2024, the Hub@531 will host an open afternoon to celebrate its first birthday!

We invite everyone from our local communities to join in the celebration and come along to find out more about what we've achieved during our first year—as well as our plans for the coming years ahead.

You can also meet some of the volunteers, trustees and groups who already use hub@531, and contribute your ideas for the future—perhaps suggesting groups and activities you would like to see available in the community.

You will receive a warm welcome, a cuppa or a glass of fizz and, of course, a piece of our birthday cake. Doors will be open from 2pm

• For more information about the hub@531 Lanark Road, visit: <https://hub531.appointedd.com>

Let's Talk Care

ANNETTE WILSON
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, HUB@531

“Support for Unpaid Carers” will be the focus of the final free talk in our 2023 lunchtime series for anyone interested in care support. It will be held at the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, at 12.30pm on Thursday 14 December.

“As well as being rewarding, caring for a loved one can be difficult and at times stressful,” says Andrew Senew, director of talk-provider Homes Instead Edinburgh. “The person you care for relies on you, so it's important you prioritise your own wellbeing as well as theirs. Two of the best ways to do this are: investing in your caring knowledge and skills, enabling you to get things done more easily; and accepting regular help to share the care.”

The “Let's Talk Care” talks will continue from 11 January 2024.

• You can register your interest in attending by calling Home Instead Edinburgh West on 0131 609 0244, or visit: www.homeinstead.co.uk/edinburgh-west Alternatively, just pop along and meet the team.

www.candbnews.com

Autumn Planning

LESLEY HENDERSON
BALERNO FAIRTRADE VILLAGE GROUP

During November, local Fairtrade/Fair Trade (FT) supporters got going again. Why, and how?

First, some great news: Jane Forster (right) – one of our founder members, who has for decades championed Fair Trade/Fairtrade (FT) in Balerno, across Edinburgh, and in the One World Shop – recently received a truly well-deserved Scottish Fair Trade Forum Special Recognition Award. We're so glad that, as energetically as ever, she inspires and helps us to plan ahead.

So what is planned next? With our local

schools' backing, an FT Schools Art Competition early in 2024 is definitely on. This helps our young artists develop and show their understanding of how we need to care fairly for each other and our world. The winners' display in The Mill Café afterwards lets everyone enjoy their shared insights.

Then, a date for your diaries: from 10am to noon on Saturday 2 March 2024, we'll be running a FT morning in Balerno Parish Church Halls. Plans at this stage include a Scotmid-supported prize-giving to young artists, FT (and we hope climate) stalls, children's refreshments, and the famous FT banana smoothie bike! Too good to miss: more details later. Meanwhile, please keep asking for FT in



Balerno SWI AGM

SHEILA MASON
PRESS SECRETARY, BALERNO SWI

In November our President, Catriona Reid, welcomed everyone to the Ogston Hall, Balerno Parish Church, as our regular meeting place, the Community Centre, was “otherwise occupied”. This being our official Annual General Meeting, we heard reports from the various office bearers on our meetings during the last year, before they were approved for the next year, following discussions as to the way forward.

Our principal Office Bearers for 2023/24 are: Catriona Reid (President), Angela Bogue (Correspondence Secretary), Moira Stewart (Minutes Secretary), Susan McDonald (Treasurer), Margaret Lindsell, Lorraine McCafferty, Aileen Wilson, and Edingell Thomson (Committee members).

Before appreciating our “Rural cuppa” we observed a minute silence for Joan Graham who died recently. Joan was a highly thought of member of Balerno

Rural for 50 years, having served on the committee many times, including as Vice President, when she became unwell. She was a very talented craft lady who loved taking part in lots of our competitions and activities, and will be sadly missed.

Tea was welcome after we had presentation of the trophies for points accumulated from all competitions over the year:

Rose Bowl: Lorraine McCafferty. Runner up: Moira Stewart. Third: Bridgid Moncur.

Flower of the Month: Moira Stewart.

Best Trier: Margaret Lindsell.

The competition for our November meeting, which is now part of the points for the next operating year, was for a Cross Stitch item from a kit. First: Lorraine McCafferty. Second: Catriona Reid. Third: Bridgid Moncur.

Flower of the Month was a beautiful Rose grown by Donna Pride.

Also at our AGM, we present the Boak Trophy, donated many



the shops. Thaw out with The Mill Café's warm welcome and lovely FT drinks. Look out for the FT-themed tree at this December's Balerno Christmas Tree Festival.

Our Group keeps minimal funds for future costs, but have decided to pass on half right now. A quarter has gone to Transform Trade, campaigning for fair treatment of some of the world's poorest and most exploited home-based clothing workers. And a quarter has gone to the humanitarian relief appeal routed by Hadeel (their George Street shop sells fairly traded Palestinian goods) via Palcraft, whose crafts and foods have for years in better times been sold at Balerno FT events too. Both these causes are easily found online.

Thank you so much for your continuing support, and all our very best for a happy, fair Christmas.

• To get in touch with Balerno Fairtrade Village Group, email: balernofairtrade@gmail.com

years ago in remembrance of a very long-standing member of our Institute, for a piece of work selected by the committee. This year our challenge was to knit a Blanket for SiMBA (patterns to be found on their website); the Trophy was won by Sheila Mason. There were a good few knitted for donation to the cause.

Some of us had brought along some crafting work we were doing, now that winter is upon us, and there was much natter as we showed our skills.

Balerno SWI wishes all readers a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2024.

• Balerno SWI welcomes new members. We normally meet at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday evening of the month – except during July and August – in the Balerno Community Centre.

• Our next meeting is on Tuesday 5 December, in which we shall have some fun with a Snowman Beetle Drive to set us up for the festive season.

• NOTE: our first meeting of 2024, will be held on the second Monday of the month, 9 January, via Zoom.

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Currie Orchard Officially Opened

KATIE GERARDOT
MEMBER OF PENTLANDS ECO NETWORK

On an otherwise rainy weekend in October, the sun came out just in time for the official opening of Currie Community Orchard in King George V Park.

Visitors arrived to the wonderful pipe music of Joshua McLauchlan and Hamish Grant, two young pipers from Balerno & District Schools Pipe Band. A crowd soon gathered, speeches were made, and the fantastic new sign was unveiled. Visitors were then invited to explore the fledgling Orchard by taking part in a Scavenger Hunt, and the brave amongst them “dooked” for apples.

The new Orchard came about thanks to the collaboration of Pentlands Eco Network, and Currie Balerno Rotary, and was funded by an Environmental Global Grant from Rotary International. Particular thanks go to: Craig Dunlop, Community Parks Officer with The City of Edinburgh Council for his support liaising with officials; Chris Macefield of The Orchard Project for helping to oversee the planting of the trees; and to Stewart Still of The Men's Shed for crafting the new sign.

The project was also made possible thanks to the support of many other groups and individuals: Pentlands Ukrainian Support Group; The Village Green; and Communities for Food, to name a few.

Thank you to everyone who came along to help us celebrate the opening of the orchard as a space to be enjoyed by all. We hope it marks the beginning of many happy community orchard events.



Photo: Graham Dane

Remember, Remember... (Again!)

ALASDAIR GORDON
CURRIE, BALERNO & DISTRICT ROUND TABLE

More than 5,000 people gathered in and around Currie's King George V Park to enjoy our annual fireworks display on 5 November. Thank you to everyone that came to support the event. It's great to have the display on our doorstep, and that so many people come out for it.

A big thank you also to Currie Chieftains, who collected donations and picked up litter.

As always, profits from the event will go to local charities and good causes which we'll write about in future editions of C&B News.

Our next focus is on Santa's

tour of our local streets. His dates are published in this issue and preparations are well under way.

During our November business meeting we had a presentation from Val and Tiggy at Community for Food. We're constantly amazed by their ongoing work and initiatives, and we're delighted to be a supporter. It's in our business meetings that we consider charity proposals and agree on donations, and this month we agreed to give £1,000 to Edinburgh Women's Aid.

There's always lots to do, whether it's helping with events or working with charities. We meet once a month for business meetings and we have several social events throughout the year. If you're interested in joining us, please get in touch using the email below.

• Email: enquiries@cdbrt.com

Currie Horticultural Society

SHEILA MASON
SHOW SECRETARY, CHS

Following the last-minute cancellation of our scheduled Annual General Meeting on 24 October, due to the failure of Balerno High School's heating, the committee have now re-scheduled the meeting. (See below.)

We should welcome your support. We also would appreciate appointing some more people on to the committee. It is very rewarding seeing how pleasurable it is for entrants to spy a Prize Ticket next to their handiwork!!

At a recent meeting we also reviewed the Schedule for the 144th Annual Show, which will take place on Saturday 31 August 2024. The following are the subjects for the Home Skills and Handcraft sections, which I let you know about now so that you can perhaps work on them during the dark evenings? You might like to sew a Christmas bauble; a spectacle case; something new from something old; cross-stitched item from a kit; sewn baby comforter; crochet toy; knitted snood; item from leftover yarn 200gms max(knitted, crochet or woven; knitted mittens; scarf for donation to a charity. The handcraft section is much the same as this year with the only changes being an “insect hotel” rather than a bird box, and the subject for the photography being “Transport”.

Also on our Schedule, which we intend to have ready for purchase in the early Spring, will be the competitions we have for adults and young people in our catchment areas of Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green, Baberton, Colinton, Ratho and Kirknewton.

On behalf of the committee of the “Horti” may I wish you a very happy Festive Season. Oh and perhaps you could make a New Year Resolution to support your local Horticultural Society Show in 2024!

• The AGM will now take place at the Scout Hall, 45 Lanark Road West, starting at 7.15pm on Monday 28 January 2024.

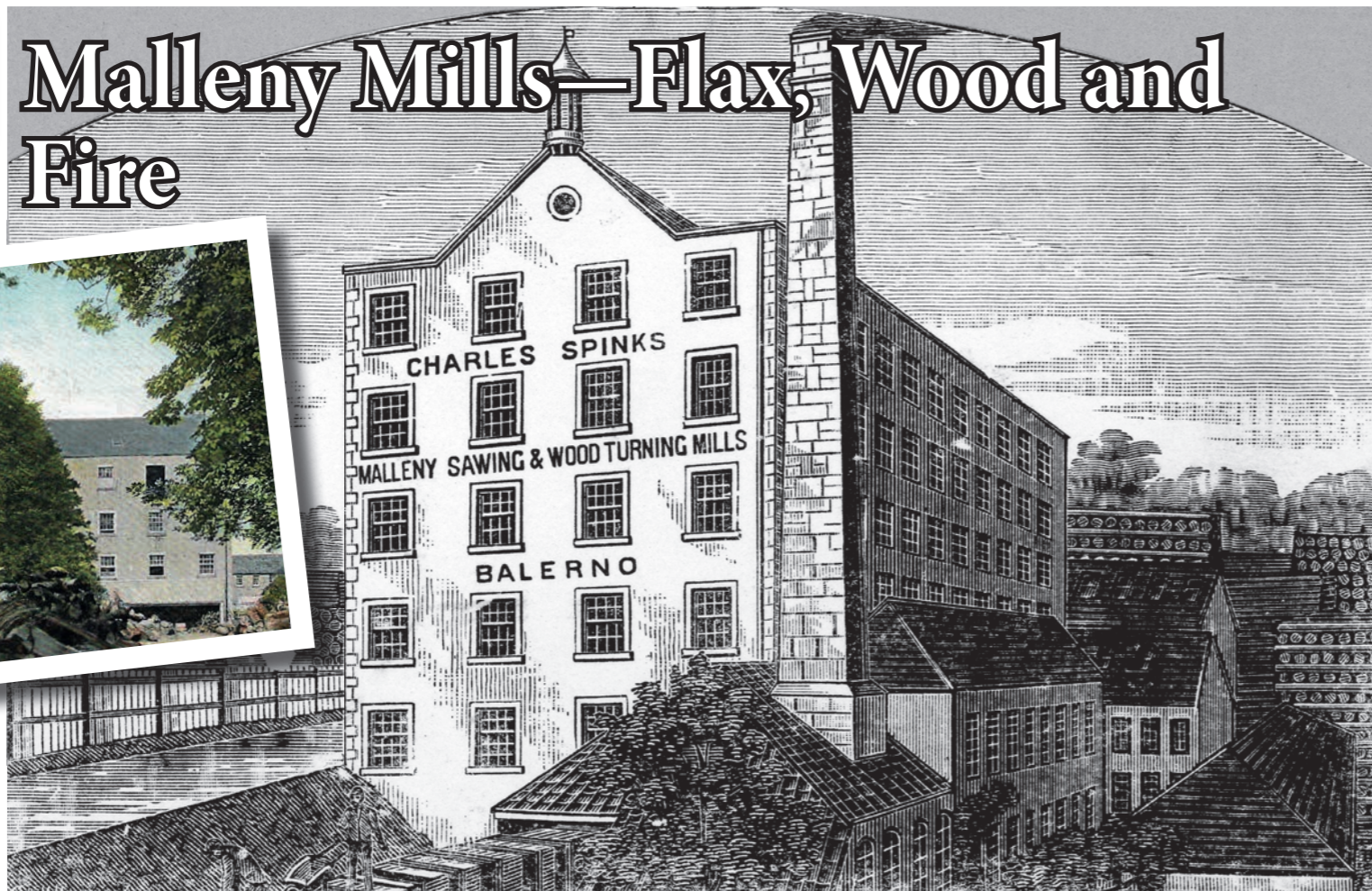
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Snapshots of the Past

Malleny Mills—Flax, Wood and Fire



Scene Of Devastation At Balerno



DOUGLAS LOWE
CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

When I give history society talks and show old pictures of the Malleny Millgate area, folk are often astonished to see a picture of the six-storey Flax Mill, or the later wood turning mill. The area is mostly now all modern private housing.

The Flax mill was started by the Edinburgh and Leith Ropery Company in 1805, which – as its name suggests – also had part of their works in Leith. They imported flax from the Baltic States: bales of flax were transported to Balerno and were firstly soaked in the retting ponds—rectangular canals that still exist in the pine wood to the west of the site. The softened flax was then taken to the mill where the threads were extracted and spun into reels, giving the mill its old local name of the “spinning mill”. These threads were, in turn, sent to the works in Leith where they were woven into sailcloth or linen.

The sailcloth was then returned to the Malleny Mills site where it was thickened by “beetling” and then bleached. This was still the age of sail: Malleny Mills was an industrial hamlet providing all of these processes, plus houses for workers and, latterly, a school for the workers’ children.

In 1883 the flax mill moved its processes to Leith once the company found that there was now sufficient water flowing down the Water of Leith for its needs following the enlargement to the Reservoirs. The large mill then became “Charles Spinks, Malleny Sawing and Wood Turning Mills” making chair and table legs, golf clubs and wooden “bung” for barrels. This gave it a new local name—“The Bung Mill”.

Sadly, the mill suffered a devastating fire in March 1954; the Edinburgh Evening News of the time headlined “A Scene of Devastation at Balerno”, and included a photo showing firemen hosing down the ruins of the six storey mill. The mill was only partially rebuilt and kept trading for a few more years, I think into the 1960s.

The area forms a popular local walk between Mansfield Road and Harlaw Road. Successive generations have walked round by the “Spinning Mill”, the “Bung Mill”, and by the “Low Ponds” (the retting ponds—thus differentiating them from the “high ponds”, aka the local reservoirs). From the late 1960s onwards, it was often referred to as the “Red Road” as the Malleny Millgate track was laid with red shale from West Lothian by local builder John Mathers, whose Pentland Building company had a yard along the track.

There are very few remnants of the area’s industrial past still to be seen today. The retting ponds are now overgrown with weeds and trees; up until the 1960s there were swans in residence. They were initially retained as an additional water supply for Balerno Bank Mill and the company secretary had to make a regular report to the Keeper of the Queen’s Swans.

At the western end of the bridge that has crossed the Bavelaw Burn from Harlaw Road since 1805 stand two large stone bottles that were used to contain bleach. (There was a bleach works a little way upstream.) The building “The Glen”, a little way up Harlaw Road, was the beetling mill and also the school for the children. It later became a grain mill and is now a private house. Many of the houses on this side of Harlaw Road were “mill houses” with the larger ones being for managers.

Anyway that’s all for this year! Hopefully see you all in 2024.



There was an error in my “Snapshots” article last month, pointed out by one of my Currie History colleagues. I mentioned that the street well across from the Gibson-Craig Hall was now “long gone”—it isn’t. It stands embedded in the wall outside Ivy Cottage, across from the Gibson-Craig Hall.

THIS MONTH IN... 2009 LOCAL HISTORY AS REPORTED BY C&B NEWS.



Left: Juniper Green Scouts Ramsay McEwan (left) and Peter Shaw with their successful fund-raising fireworks night “Guy”.



PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Although published towards the end of 2009, several of this December/January edition’s main stories were very much looking ahead to 2010 and beyond. Front page news, for example, was (finally!) the establishment of a Community Council in Juniper Green. Its 10 inaugural members – including four residents from neighbouring Baberton Mains – were listed on page 2, and you might recognise some names from local community activities today!

(Not to be completely outshone by these newbies, Currie Community Council – which could trace its history back to the early 1980s and the work of the earlier Residents’ Association – showed off its newly elected committee, which had met “in optimistic mood” in November, and explored “the expertise each member had to offer and ways to make use of it”.)

Also significant, if only in hindsight, was the page 2 news that Balerno Village Trust (BVT) had been awarded £6,000 by Community Energy Scotland’s Community And Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) to “carry out a feasibility study on installing a Micro Hydro Generator at the Harlaw Reservoir Dam where the outflow pipe enters into the Bavelaw Burn”. While the proposed project wouldn’t directly power any Balerno homes, BVT Energy Group Co-ordinators Lynn Molleson and Allan Laing highlighted how such a facility could, in principle, “provide an income from selling the green energy to the National Grid which can then be invested in further community developments”.

It would be nearly six years before this local hydro-electric scheme was actually up and running (with the big switch-on reported in the October 2015 edition of C&B News). Back in 2009, however, it’s fair to say that much “planning and wrestling with bureaucracy” still lay ahead for the determined team of talented and driven volunteers behind the project.

Talking of volunteers, and fundraising, a “smart

piece of entrepreneurial thinking on the part of four young Scouts” from the 31st Pentland (Juniper Green) group raised an “unexpected” – according to the article writer – £70 for Scout funds. Probably not something anyone would do today, but on fireworks night the four lads – Peter Shaw, Ramsay and Ian McEwan, and Blair Russell-Simpson – had made a “Guy” and “went out guising round houses in the neighbourhood”. The report gave a big thank you to all four youngsters and also to the members of the public who had made a contribution.

The local Rotary Club, meantime, reported on its recent activities, including a special event organised with Heriot-Watt University’s School of Management, in which a panel of “forthright” experts had led a “lively and informative debate” on the country’s then financial woes. They had also offered “advice to local businesses on subjects ranging from improving cash flow through to looking after your customer, and how to hedge against currency fluctuation”.

Despite the issue’s “What’s On” listings covering not just December 2009 but also January 2010, there was an inevitable focus this issue on Christmas—from details about the Rotary-organised “Tree of Life” at Balerno Parish Church, and the Pentland Singers’ impending Christmas Concert, to a recipe for the “perfect accompaniment to your Christmas roast” – caramelised parsnips and shallots – which the Balerno Food Co-op reckoned would cost you just 38p to make, assuming some ingredients (such as soya oil and a table-spoon of honey) could be pulled “from the [kitchen] cupboard”. Kate Kerr from Dumfries, meantime, was set to demonstrate some “Festive Fun” at the December meeting of the Pentland Flower Club.

Most important of all, of course, was the now-traditional fund-raising “warm-up” tour of the local district by a certain Mr S Claus, courtesy of some hard-working, charity-bucket-shaking “elves” from Currie and Balerno Round Table. As per usual, C&B News was pleased to publish the big man’s planned schedule. (For this year’s itinerary, please turn to page 5!)

• For more information on Currie and District Local History Society, email: secretary@curriehistory.org or fill in the contact form at <https://www.curriehistory.org/contact/>

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Currie-born engineering prodigy Daniel Mitchell has won not just an Institute of Engineering Technology (IET) "Rising Star Award", but also a Visiting Student Researcher Position at Top Ivy League University, Caltech. Currently working on his PhD at the University of Glasgow, after graduating from Heriot-Watt University, Daniel's award specifically acknowledges his pioneering work in the realm of Symbiotic Multi-robot Fleets, a field that holds immense promise for the future of technology. Daniel is passionate about creating inclusive and disruptive new thinking in the space of "symbiotic autonomy". His Symbiotic Multi-Robot Fleets include a diverse range of robots that are coordinated to greatly improve inspection missions in the offshore renewable energy and nuclear sectors. • For more information on Daniel's work, watch this one minute video: <https://youtu.be/wSeZj3H-BA>.



'Valley Friends' – Making a Difference in Our Community

HELEN YEW DALL
 PROJECT LEAD, VALLEY FRIENDS

Valley Friends is a befriending project run by St Mungo's Church in Balerno. It aims to offer connection and friendship to isolated people aged over 65 in the Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green area. One of our volunteers, Elaine Rae (right), shares how she came to be involved and why others might like to consider joining to play a part in tackling loneliness in our community. "My journey as a 'befriender' has its beginnings during the Covid-19 lockdown. I became the 'bubble' for my elderly mother, who was used to having an 'open door' to her house. I was working from home full time, so my mother was unfortunately left on her own for many hours, even days, at a time. Despite my visits and family phone calls, it was obvious just how lonely and isolated she was becoming. I knew another elderly lady slightly, who had not long lost her husband and whose children lived abroad. It occurred to me that she may be feeling the same as my mother, so I gave her a call and asked her if I could drop in (on a Covid-19 compliant basis). She welcomed me in and so began



another regular visit. "Sadly, my mother died at the tail end of lockdown, but the experience had made me aware of how important even a short visit could be to someone who may be otherwise isolated by age, infirmity, or just circumstances. It occurred to me that not only had my visits made a difference to someone, I had enjoyed them too. As I am not the most sociable of people, this was something of a surprise! Seeing just how appreciated my visits had been made me realise that there must still be people around who would benefit from the simple pleasure of having someone to chat with, and to listen to them, even if it was just for a short while. "The problem was that I had no idea how to be put in contact with these people. Then, I heard of a proposed new scheme to be called 'Valley Friends'. I would be provided with appropriate

training and monitoring, but my 'befriender' and I could arrange our meetings to suit ourselves. All that would be expected of me was to have a natter with someone for an hour or two on a regular basis, to be agreed between us. This seemed to be exactly what I was looking for, so I put my name forward. "Valley Friends quickly matched me with a befriender and I excitedly arranged my first visit with 'Mary' (not her real name). Despite my previous confidence in my ability to 'chat', I approached Mary's front door feeling extremely nervous and ready to turn tail if the doorbell had not been answered at the first ring. Luckily for me, the door was quickly opened, Mary and I greeted each other by name – and the two of us have not stopped chattering since! "I now visit Mary for around an hour and a half once a fortnight, and that suits us both. It's just enough time for us both to recover and to gather a few more memories and funny stories to share!"

• If you would like a befriender or you would like to become a befriender yourself please contact Helen Yewdall, Project Lead at helen.yewdall@stmungos.org

Currie Primary Receives Saroj Lal Award

CEALSA, VIVI, ALEX, WILL, MILLIE & LION CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As students of Currie Primary, we were incredibly grateful to be invited to the Saroj Lal Award Ceremony at the City Chambers on Thursday 16 November. Saroj Lal was an influential activist who campaigned against discrimination towards ethnic minorities. She worked tirelessly for 30 years promoting equality and diversity in Edinburgh and the Lothians. She was the first Asian Justice of the Peace in Scotland and also worked with the then-Lothian and Borders Police to give them a definition of a racist attack, and provided important education on racial discrimination. Saroj died on the 12 March 2020. Her son, Vineet Lal, created an award in her honour. All three Primary 7 classes at Currie Primary learned about the excellent work that Saroj did. We wrote poems, studied different inspirational people, thought about our identities and what makes us unique and used art as a way of expressive feelings and emotions when thinking about difficult situations—what's called "Artivism". Seven lucky pupils from Currie Primary were asked to attend the award ceremony. This event is in its second year, with a total of nine schools nominated. There were three main categories: "Proud To Be Me", "How Prejudice Makes Me Feel" and "Artivism". Currie Primary was nominated for two out of the three categories. A surprise came when we found out that Currie Primary had won the overall "Judges Commendation Award", presented by Vineet Lal himself! We also had the chance to listen to brilliantly performed music thanks to a number of pupils from other Edinburgh schools. We deeply appreciate the effort in organising the ceremony and thank all who took part, including staff and teachers.



Cooking the Books

The month of January is named for Janus, the Roman god. This two-faced deity looked in opposite directions and presided over transitions, gateways and change. One of his faces looks back over December: the past, the heady month of frolic and festivity, of hedonism and headaches. His opposing face turns its eye to January: new beginnings, of resolutions and the clean start of winter.

Nothing, to me, symbolises this so perfectly as how we celebrate the month of December with rich food and plenty of drink, only to follow it with a month now marked by the more puritanical promises of Veganuary and Dry January. I must say, by the time the end of December rolls around I really do feel ready for a lighter touch. Over Christmas I will have my fill of meats and cheeses and I find that, naturally, my body asks to ease it, just a little bit. If you don't mind, thank you very much.

I have tried Dry January once. I made it to day 12. I have even attempted what I named, "Vague-anuary" because I still ate the occasional egg and bit of cheese. I admire people who can go the whole hog (so to speak) and spend what some believe to be the bleakest month (it's not, it's actually February) without vice. I just think if you're going to do it, you might as well do it properly.

For those of you who enjoy a good drink, whether alcoholic or not, I have undertaken the task of trying cocktails and mocktails for you this last month. I know. It's a hard life. I chose two drinks recipe books this time, as this is our bumper issue, to ready you for the gaiety of a festive December, and then for the more abstemious month of January.

Tequila Mockingbird by Tim Federle is a book full of cocktails with a literary twist. Perfect for any book lover and general enjoyer of puns. From drinks such as "Brave New Swirled", "Howard's Blend" and "Rye and Prejudice" I decided, for your delectation, to make "A Rum Of One's Own". It said it was perfect for a cold



to make it. I managed to find Edinburgh Rum, blended right here in Auld Reekie. By the gods it was lovely. I'm not normally a rum drinker but this certainly did it for me. Smooth and with a buttered toffee finish it has gone down very well at Casa Lyons. The cocktail itself was very nice, but I had to tweak it a bit as I felt there was far too much cinnamon in it, which left a concentrated pile of it at the bottom of the glass. I used about half the stated amount and added it to some brown sugar, a little butter, some hot water and the aforementioned rum.

As for the mocktail, I used the book *Dry* by Clare Lardet. As you could tell from the title, it's all non alcoholic beverages, but for grownups. This book does want you to have juicers and all kinds of equipment, which I find a little off-putting, but the recipes sound great. From this I put together a Ginger, Lime and Angostura fizz. It required making a ginger and peppercorn syrup, but that wasn't too taxing. It was delicious and I got to feel very virtuous while consuming it.

Even so, it's not Dry January yet, it's Wet December. For now I shall retox before the detox and enjoy every moment. Another rum please, barkeep.

• *Edinburgh Rum can be bought online at www.edinburgh-rum.com*



with Balerno Resident STEF LYONS

Volunteering Opportunities and the Christmas Fair at Ravelrig RDA

DEB HEATLY
RAVELRIG TRUSTEE, EVENTS & PROMOTIONS

As we come to the end of another busy year at Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled, our work continues as the stables thrive with the continued care of the nine horses that currently live here and provide an invaluable service to our 72 disabled riders.

The Ravelrig volunteer numbers are increasing, but so too is the care for the horses which takes up so much of their time. We have come to realise that there is an opportunity to invite our local neighbours, who may have a few spare hours and have a mind to help, to come forward and be a part of our "Fundraising Team".

Fundraising is a very important part of life at Ravelrig RDA. The Indoor Development is well underway and we are hopeful that construction will start in the new year. While funds for that have been sourced through successful grant applications, the everyday expenses of the horses' feed and care are covered by the various events that we organise throughout the year.

So, if there is anyone out there who can't quite see themselves getting mucky with the horses,



FRONT COVER STORY

but who can see themselves being part of a team helping with the fundraising events being planned for the rest of the year, please come forward and get in touch!

Our final event of 2023 will be our "Christmas Fair" on Sunday 10 December, at our home in Balerno. Santa will be riding around the village before returning to our stables, while other ponies will be available for short rides for our younger visitors.

You'll be able to catch up on some Christmas shopping from our stalls, and refreshments will be available between 1pm and 3pm.

• *The stables are located at 21 Ravelrig Gait, Balerno, EH14 7NH. Note, there is only limited onsite parking available.*

• *Anyone interested in getting involved with future fundraising opportunities, please email Deb Heatly, fundraising@ravelrig-rda.org.uk, to arrange a stables visit.*

A Traditional Rotary Christmas

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

The Christmas festivities start in Balerno on the evening of Thursday 7 December with the switching on of the village Christmas lights. The evening commences at 6pm with Santa switching on the lights of the Rotary Tree of Life at the Balerno Parish Church. Everyone is welcome.

The lighting up of the Rotary Tree of Life is part of a joint event organised in conjunction with the Community Council and Balerno Village Trust. Live music



'Christmas in the Park'—Time to Celebrate with Colinton Village Enterprise

LORRAINE O'SHEA
COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE

Santa with some elves. Photo: Siobhan Stewart Photography.

If you have enjoyed any of the celebratory events created by Colinton Village Enterprise this year, you will no doubt want to come to our magical "End of Year Finale"—Christmas in the Park!

Did you know that this traditional Colinton gathering began way back in 2011?

That was the first year of Christmas on the Corner, when children could meet Santa in his grotto at the top of Spylaw Street, mulled wine and hot chestnuts were served from "number 23", and neighbours and friends from all across Colinton (and beyond) joined a merry throng to enjoy music and carol-singing together. A welcome start to the festive season.

Severe winter weather in 2014 made for a challenging event and forced a rethink. The following year Christmas on the Corner moved down the hill into the Dell Room of Colinton Parish Church, which played magnanimous host to a splendid series of seasonal surprises, including Santa arriving by sleigh with his loyal reindeer—following a stop in the Cairngorms!

Unfortunately, when Covid-19 arrived in 2020 all festivities had to be postponed for two years. Last year, with the help of a wonderful team of volunteers braving the freezing December temperatures, Christmas on the Corner was turned into the first fairy-lit Christmas in the Park.

will be played by the Balerno and District Schools pipe band and from brass ensemble players. There will be refreshments available from 6.45pm at the Community Centre.

The lights on the Tree of Life represent dedications, providing the opportunity at this special time of the year for local people to remember loved ones or celebrate events important to them. The dedications are recorded on the Currie Balerno Rotary website at www.cbrotary.org and people

making the dedications are invited to make a donation of £10.

All donations to the Tree of Life will go to a special Christmas initiative for the Holy Trinity Church Foodbank at Wester Hailes. For guidance on how to join in with this event, just contact Brian Buchanan on 449 5378.

Then on Saturday 9 December, Rotary will have a Christmas stall at the Balerno Farmers' Market, where we will be offering a range of Christmas gifts, all

This will be the culmination of a very busy year for CVE at the Shed which, with an array of local expertise and volunteers, we are gradually developing into our Community Heritage Hub.

Now it's time for the pièce-de-résistance to our year, when families, friends and neighbours can find their way to our magical Santa's Grotto in Spylaw Park, through illuminated stalls where you can win a tombola prize or two, purchase tickets for a bumper raffle, and partake of excellent mulled wine or hot chocolate, accompanied by our delicious home baking.

To top it all off we will be welcoming Bonaly Primary School choristers to sing some favourite carols for everyone to join in, before wending their way back through the park and safely home.

• *Please join us for a spectacular Christmas in the Park on Wednesday 14 December between 5.30pm and 7.30pm at The Shed in Spylaw Park.*

• *To become a member of CVE, or to donate to our project, please visit cventerprise.org or email us at colintonvillage@gmail.com*

• *For updates, please follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise>*

hand-crafted by Rotarians Colin Aspinall and Don McLeod. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, we offer our traditional gift-wrapping service at the Gyle Centre. We will be there from 11am every day from Saturday 16 December right through to – and including – Christmas Eve.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

• *For more information, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4wwj4e23>*

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Turing Trust Teams Up with Currie Football Club

LORNA SHIELDS
 CURRIE FOOTBALL CLUB

The Turing Trust supports education in Africa, Asia and the UK by reusing redundant computers and improving teacher training. They are strong believers in giving IT a second life, which also reduces the carbon impact of a new one being manufactured. One computer means 18 more students in Malawi will learn computer skills. The Trust also provide IT skills development in their Edinburgh workshop while reducing waste and contributing to an environmentally friendly society. What's not to love?

However it costs a lot of money to send computers to Africa—that's where financial donations come in and, of course, they need the donations of reusable unwanted IT kit too. This needs to be packed well for safe passage so they are always happy to receive bubble wrap and other dedicated filler materials.

Currie Football Club have recently helped the Turing Trust with the packaging with aplomb! The Turing Trust's partners on the ground in Malawi, Computers for Enhance Education (CEE), have connections with the Malawi National Football Academy. The academy will be receiving football shirts and



Photo: The Turing Trust's Marta Eleniak, with Brodie and Benjamin Shields—two of Currie FC's 2009 team.

deflated footballs after they have served to protect monitors while being shipped by container. As it was time for a clear out, 2009 players Brodie and Benjamin Shields put down their iPhones to help deliver this most interesting of donations. (This was hard for them to do, you understand, but as their mum I can be very threatening—I mean, persuasive!)

When considering what to do with your unwanted IT kit please consider donating to the Turing Trust. You can also support them with financial donations—or your time. Volunteering would do wonders for your CV and a stint with The Turing Trust has helped many get a job in IT. (Volunteers under 18 years old will require an

adult to come with them.) Or, if your CV is a dusty old document, then you are probably of an age where your experience and knowledge would be priceless!

• The Turing Trust are open Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm, for deliveries and volunteer opportunities. Address: Unit 7c, Pentland Industrial Estate, Pentland Road, Loanhead EH20 9QH

• For more information, visit: turingtrust.co.uk

An Environmental Day for Currie Balerno Rotary

MIKE ROWE
 CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Saturday 28 October was an outdoors day for members of Currie Balerno Rotary.

In the morning, volunteers joined Harlaw Land Remediation, a sub-group of Balerno Village Trust, in clearing a gap site area on Harlaw Road, which had long been a site for fly tipping, and preparing the land for the sowing of meadow grass and wild flowers.

Then, in the afternoon, we had the official opening of the Currie Community Orchard by our very own Past President, and Past District Governor Allan MacLaughlan (right), recording the joint initiative of Currie Balerno Rotary and Pentlands ECO Network (PEN).

The official opening was well supported by members of Currie Balerno Rotary and Pentlands ECO Network, and by local people including Ukrainian

guests living in the community, by local community representatives and even Paul Fisher Cockburn—editor of this very journal!

This project began with the planting of three fruit trees following a grant at the end of 2021 from the Community Chest administered by Currie Balerno Rotary Club and Balerno Village Trust. Those three trees then became 25, thanks to a grant from Rotary International.

The establishment of the Orchard was led by Pentlands ECO Network and Currie Balerno Rotary but it involved hard work, dedication, and commitment by volunteers.

The official opening marks the



end of the beginning but there is much still to be done in terms of maintenance, related educational activities and open events. This has been a wonderful example of a collaborative community project which will have a lasting community benefit.

• For information about Currie Balerno Rotary visit: www.cbrotary.org or follow us on: [facebook.com/cbrotary1020](https://www.facebook.com/cbrotary1020) and twitter.com/cbrotary1020

'Christmas Dinners' Appeal by Scottish SPCA

SUSAN WEAVER
 COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, SSPCA

The Scottish SPCA is appealing to generous animal lovers in Edinburgh and the Lothians to donate food and other items to their Balerno centre to ensure the animals in their care have a happy Christmas.

Among the items the centre needs are cat meat in jelly to keep felines fed and happy this festive season while they wait for a forever home.

Scottish SPCA head of rehabilitation operations, Jennie Macdonald, said: "Our centres are busier than ever this Christmas with many operating close to, or at, capacity."

"As many of the animals in our care have sensitive tummies, we try to keep their diet consistent so our Edinburgh centre is looking for some specific brands of food such as Dr John's Gold, Dr John's Hypoallergenic Lamb & Rice, Dr John's Grain Free Sweet Potato and Chicken, Dr John's Titanium and Chappie Complete Chicken.

"Our Edinburgh centre also needs tins of Chappie and adult dog meat in jelly of any brand. For smaller animals, they are in need of Burgess rabbit food, Burgess Guinea pig food, cuttle fish and millet spray.

"The centre is also on the lookout for newspapers, as well as used blankets—as long as they are clean and freshly laundered with no large holes.

"You can see what the centre is most in need of by checking their Amazon wishlist and either ordering through Amazon or ordering the same product through another retailer offering delivery or in-person at a store.

"We know times are tough for everyone but we'd be so grateful for anything anyone can spare this Christmas."

• The Edinburgh centre's Amazon wishlist can be found here: <https://bit.ly/47jwFH4>

• Items can also be dropped off in person to the centre reception at Mansfield Road, Balerno, EH14 7JU.



JUNIPER GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

P7 Camp, and a Halloween Disco

Primary 7M Pupils Lilia and Isla share recent events at the School.

SCHOOL CAMP

This year P7 learners from Juniper Green Primary school went to Lagganlia Outdoor Centre, Kingussie, for a week-long school camp. Learners travelled by coach, leaving on 4 September and arriving back on 8 September. We were also joined by our “cluster” friends from Nether Currie Primary, which was amazing. All learners took part in different outdoor learning activities throughout the week. Lagganlia is located in the Cairngorms in Aviemore, and is often used for school camp.

There are many outdoor activities learners may take part in such as hillwalking, gorge walking, abseiling, canoeing, and kayaking—we loved them all! These activities taught P7 learners life skills such as putting yourself out of your comfort zone and getting on with people you wouldn't normally work with.

This was an incredible adventure for all of the P7 learners and we had an amazing time!

SUSTAINABILITY

Learners from Juniper Green Primary 7 were lucky enough to visit an outdoor performance at the Water of Leith, teaching us about the environment.

This performance, put on by Rowanbank Environmental Arts & Education, was called Positive Imaginings – Climate Circus. This was great because it taught us in an entertaining way about the world, the problems and natural disasters that were happening. This was a hard trek, but it was worth it! Happily for us we got given some small cups



of berry tea while sitting around a cosy roaring fire near the end. This changed our thoughts and feeling about climate change and other disasters. There was some fun acrobatics and singing involved, which made it more interactive.

Overall, this was a great experience, and hopefully the learners of Juniper Green will spread the word.

LEADERSHIP ROLES

Being a P7 learner in Juniper Green Primary School comes with many privileges, such as leadership roles, which are a great way to

expand our responsibility.

Each of our leadership roles focus on ways that learners can improve our school. The “Get Connected Group” are focused on sharing information about the school with the community and helping young learners with educational apps on the school iPads. The “Get Playing Group” are teaching and helping younger learners to play nicely and respectfully with each other. The “Get Fundraising Group”, at time of writing, are focusing on this year's Children In Need day, which was on 17 November. The “Sustainability Group” is focused on making a newspaper for the school and keeping the school sustainable.

The “Get Creative Group” are working on a display to make the school a brighter place full of art. The “Get Active Group” are promoting health and well-being throughout the school, with the eight house captains showcasing the “Juni way”. (“Juni”, short for Juniper Green.)

“JUNI” HALLOWEEN DISCO

Juniper Green Primary School holds a yearly Halloween disco for learners at the school which is always lots of fun. This year it was held on 2 November, the Thursday after Halloween. All learners from P1-P7 were able to attend the event which was organised by the Juniper Green

Parent Council Group.

A professional DJ came into our school hall to play music and games with us! There were lots of coloured flashing lights and the hall was very dark. The DJ organised lots of games such as “Corners”, “Who's the best dancer?” and more—with good prizes to be won.

This amazing party was only £2, with all money raised benefitting all learners in the school. Everyone was encouraged to dress up in spooky costumes. It was a great way to celebrate Halloween.

• We hope you enjoyed learning a bit more about our school and we will be sure to write more!



NETHER CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Developments, Transitions and the Class of 2024

KIRSTEN JOHNSTON
HEAD TEACHER, NETHER CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENTS

If you have been past the front playground at Nether Currie Primary School in the last couple of weeks, you will see that our pirate ship is taking shape! The P1 and P2 children have been watching patiently as Steve Dale has been working on building this beautiful piece of natural play equipment.

The pirate ship was one of the very first “big ticket” items that the children wanted to see in their playground, but Steve has also been commissioned to take on the other areas of this project including: providing monkey bars, an “A-frame” climbing wall and a sand pit. He is also going to build a shelter for the outdoor classroom which sits in front of the football pitch at the back of our school. These additions to our playground will truly enhance the options and experiences for the children's break and lunch times.

These installations would have remained as hopes and dreams if it wasn't for the generosity of our parents and carers and the hard work of our PTA committee.

This work continues to be the focus of our fundraising

and you can now support us by visiting the Tesco stores at both Hermiston Gait and Corstorphine and putting your blue tokens in the middle box!

LAGGANLIA

On Monday 4 September our P7 children – accompanied by Mrs Baker, Miss Grant and Ms Steele – headed off to Lagganlia for their P7 residential experience. I'm not sure that we could have chosen a better weather week for them to go, it was stunning!

The children enjoyed a full range of outdoor, adventurous activities including gorge walking, canoeing, hillwalking, mountain biking and abseiling as well as some activities onsite including archery and the nightline. The photographs coming each day were terrific to see and it was brilliant to hear that the children were pushing



themselves to try things they hadn't experienced before and some even conquered their fears.

Lagganlia is all about team building, encouraging one another and making memories and I can safely say that there will be lasting impact for this group of wonderful P7 children

BEACH VOLLEYBALL AT PORTOBELLO

On Monday 2 October, a group of eight children from P6 took part in a beach volleyball skills session and tournament at Portobello Beach. Once again, Mother Nature was kind to us by providing us with warmth and no rain... Why is it not like this all the time?

Our children absolutely got stuck in and very quickly got the hang of the rules of beach volleyball. They enjoyed playing mini matches against other schools and were quick to decide which schools had the best sporting behaviour! Our group A team were proud to share they had won all their matches whilst

group B got stronger and stronger with every match they played.

After a leisurely lunch, we made our way back to school, exhausted after all the excitement and salty sea air!

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS SUCCESS

On Monday 6 November, a group of P6 and P7 children from Nether Currie took part in the Sportshall Primary Festival at Meadowbank. As we are a smaller school, we were in the category to compete against schools who are of a similar size to ourselves.

Our children participated in a mixture of track and field events, including various relay races, long and triple jumps and javelin throwing. There were 12 events in total and points awarded for each.

Nether Currie took first place and achieved a massive 624 points, beating their nearest rival by a full 50 points! Nether Currie will go through to the grand final in January. “Come on the Kingfishers!”





GAIL COUSINS
BALERNO RAMBLERS

The clocks going back by one hour at the end of October certainly makes for darker evenings, with the thought that winter is coming. The reality for walkers is that they have less daylight to return safely, necessitating earlier starts plus shorter walks.

Nevertheless, the autumnal colours have been superb, and a joy to capture, though the fallen leaves have been very soggy. Hedgerows have been laden with rosehips, haws, rowan, and holly berries.

Balerno Ramblers have continued to offer two walking opportunities per week, totalling 10 walks involving 139 ramblers.

Also, 15 ramblers enjoyed “Three Nights Away” (TNA) at the Pitlochry Hydro, exploring the Hermitage, Glen Tilt, Linn of Tummel and Faskally Wood. The weather was very wet but that did not dampen their spirits. Autumnal colours were glorious, with rivers and waterfalls in full flow. The next TNA will be organised for Autumn 2024.

Before then The Scottish Gathering, organised by Ramblers Scotland, is being held at the end of April at Rothesay on the Isle of Bute. Three days of organised and led walks of varying distances, from “easy” to “strenuous”. So far 10 Balerno Ramblers have signed up and booked their accommodation. This is a great chance to meet fellow Ramblers from all over Scotland.

Upcoming Walks

A midweek bird watching-themed walk is being offered, led by Grant from the RSPB. Aberlady Bay is the venue on this occasion. Walkers are asked to bring their own binoculars in addition to the usual gear in their day sack.

A couple of local walks are scheduled for December: one around the grounds of Heriot-Watt University, the other a festive picnic at Harlaw. Festive hats are required for this event; please bring festive food for the picnic and bird food too.

There will be no midweek walk on 6 December; we'll instead be enjoying Christmas lunch at Merchant's Golf Club—a chance to swap walking boots and waterproofs for some glitz and glam at a



Main: Autumnal colours in the rain. Photo: Jacqui Bonnell. Above: Views from the top of Maiden's Cleuch. Photo: Linda C. Right: Ramblers at Yester Castle. Photo: Roger Jonathan.

warm, dry indoor venue.

Our weekend group, meantime, are offering a Fife walk for December. The circular walk starts from Kingseat, heading over the causeway of beautiful Loch Kitty, and up East and West Ninians. St Ninians – originally a deep coal mine, then a vast opencast mine until closure in 2013 – is an interesting site for walkers; the bings or landscape mounds are ascended by paths which are very steep in places (although they can be climbed via longer spiralling paths). On the summits are unique art forms and a machinery avenue.

The first walk of 2024 is our New Year Walk on Wednesday 3 January. This is a local walk with a social light lunch at Blossom Tree café. The walk programme for January is being collated and will be found on www.ramblers.org.uk/balerno

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

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

• To sign up for our mailing list email: balerno-ramblers+subscribe@googlegroups.com

December Introductory Walk

Saturday, 2 December 2023

Circular walk of approximately 4.5 miles (7.2 km), suitable for all ages. (Details below.)

Start time: 9.30am, from Pentland View car park. (Estimated finish time: 12:30pm)

What to wear: Sturdy walking shoes or walking boots, and suitable clothing for wet weather.

What to bring:

- Walking poles, if you have them, in case of wet and muddy ground;
- Drink and snack for break.
- A mat or poly bag to sit on as the ground will no doubt be wet!
- Money for bus if required

The route: This is an easy-going walk with only one slight incline – passing Currie Kirk, taking in the first part of the Lymphoy path, and going up into the shelter belt route and along farmland paths which comes out onto Harlaw Road. We walk towards Balerno and enter Sawpit Wood which takes us back on to the Lymphoy path, going through the Mallyen Gardens and through Currie Rugby grounds. Cross the bridge over the Water of Leith into the Balerno High School grounds, coming out on to the Water of Leith walkway and back to the start at Currie.

Anyone unable to complete the walk can leave when we reach Mallyen, or once we cross the bridge through the school grounds and walk through to the bus stop on Bridge Road.

We regret to advise dogs are not permitted on our walks.

Please register with the leader Sandra to join the walk on 07504 306062.



JAMES BELL
HEAD GARDENER, MALLENY GARDEN

We are well into autumn and the garden is slowing down, with many of the plants ready to go dormant for winter. There is of course still plenty of work to do. Fallen leaves require constant clearing from our paths: after just a day, more have fallen to replace those cleared the previous day! Some of the leaves are collected to make leaf mould, a fantastic soil conditioner. For us, it will be an important part of our compost mix for all the greenhouse plants.

Elsewhere in the garden, we start to cut back much of the herbaceous plants. Some will be left standing as cover for wildlife, while most will be removed to our compost heap. Once rotted down, the compost will be put back out to help feed the garden. Compost from last year is ready now and will start to go out into the garden during January and February.

During November, we welcomed a couple of group visits to Mallyen. Early in the month, horticulture students from Oatridge College visited as part of their “Managing Gardens and Greenspaces” module. It was great to meet a new generation of horticulture students and discuss with them how we manage Mallyen garden—both its successes and its challenges and limitations.

We also welcomed Pentlands Book Festival in mid-November for a tour around the garden. We were able to talk about some of the history of the garden, offer insight into the little known aspects of the garden and give a general update on what is going on now. A lot of questions were asked and answered, hopefully a sign of the interest people have about the garden.

As shown in the picture, to show off the Autumn colours of the garden, two of our volunteers, Kath and Susan, created a Mallyen Autumn rose. Made from the array of colourful Autumn leaves in the garden, it unites the fleeting and wonderful colours of Mallyen into a temporary art piece. Thank you to them both for their patience in carefully constructing this unique rose.

• Volunteers make a huge difference to the National Trust for Scotland. There are many benefits to volunteering with the Trust. If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer with us, email: mallyengarden@nts.org.uk.

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



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Remembrance?

I am writing this to the pheasant shooters who decided to continue shooting throughout the two minute silence on 11 November. It is a sad state of affairs that people cannot stop for two minutes once a year to remember all those who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world. To have the sound of gunfire echoing around Balerno and Glenbrook during a period of reflection to mark the time the guns of the First World War fell silent is, I think, the ultimate sign of disrespect. I do not believe that they did not know the time as I'm sure at least some of their number were carrying devices that tell the time.

Could they please take note and never repeat this breaking of the peace of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month?

Name withheld
 Balerno

Invisible Disabilities

I have read with interest the articles on "Invisible Disabilities" in the past few issues of C&B News. I particularly enjoy the cartoons which accompany them. The article in the November issue struck a chord with me. I am in my mid-70s, but had not thought of myself as having any invisible disabilities. However, this article made me think that perhaps I had.

These days when I go into the centre of Edinburgh I have to make sure that I know where my nearest loo is. Now that the public ones appear to be closed, I rely mostly on big shops which do have customer toilets. I pity visitors to Edinburgh who may not be lucky enough to know where they can find a loo unless they go into a café or restaurant.

The articles made me also think about another problem I have. Frequently in big stores I am unable to reach items on the top shelf. I search the store for a sales assistant but, having failed to find one, often resort to asking a passing customer. At 5 feet (153 cm) tall I know I am four inches (10 cm) below the height of an average Scottish woman but there must be a lot of people who are shorter than average and have the same problem as me.

I guess most people have some form of "invisible disability"!

Name withheld
 Currie

Pavements

I have just been reading the September C&B News and can sympathise with the person who has the mobility scooter, as I too have one and find some of the pavements dreadful, and on occasions have had to go on to the road!

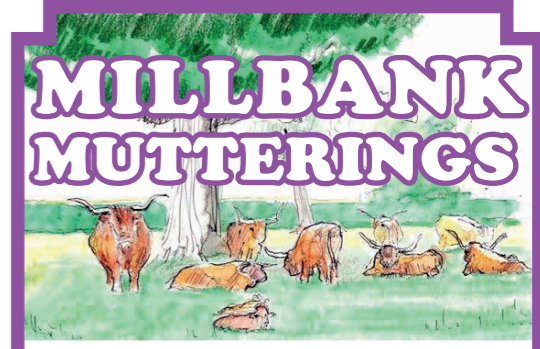
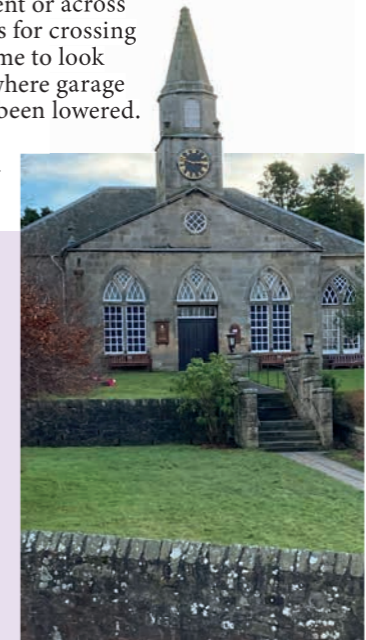
I would give any councillor my scooter for a day to go

round Currie! Vans and cars are another hazard, parking half over the pavement or across the dropped bits for crossing points, forcing me to look for pavements where garage entrances have been lowered.

Name withheld
 Currie

What the...?

November's Balerno Parish Church *Blether* newsletter raised the question of potential names for the new unified Currie and Balerno congregation. Having rejected portmanteau options for a lack of meaning, "Water of Leith" for potentially annoying Juniper Green and Colinton, and "Pentland Parish" - already taken, in Caithness! - the somewhat prosaic "Currie & Balerno Parish Church" was felt to have a certain ring to it. We agree: just as long as they don't launch anything called *C&B Parish News!*



MILLBANK MUTTERINGS
 by TAURUS CERAMICUS BARBATUS
 198: VANISHING TRADES

Until you need to repair some cherished item, you don't realise what skills we have lost. The 1837 Edinburgh and Leith Post Office Directory and other sources reveal how we have moved from a society dependent on horses - on skimmers, tanners, curriers (leather dressers), saddlers, coach builders and wheelwrights - to one dependent on powered transport requiring mechanics specialising in steam, petrol, diesel and electric engines that may one day be superseded by robotically-constructed self-driving on-demand vehicles.

Before photography became commonplace, you could engage a portrait painter, miniaturist, engraver or cartoonist to produce a more (or less) flattering image of your loved one. The Directory includes some of the trades you would engage to enhance your appearance - from corset makers, stocking engravers, hosiers, gloves, haberdashers, dressmakers, milliners and straw hat makers for the ladies to the shirt and stockmakers, tailor and habit makers, wigmakers and silk hat manufacturers for the gentlemen.

While we "moderns" use supermarkets, you can still find bakers, fishmongers, fruiterers, grocers and cheesemongers—though tea merchants and tobacconists are harder to discover. The brush and trunk-maker, candlemaker, cow feeder, chimney sweep, coal merchant, organ builder, smith and bell-hanger have almost disappeared while I doubt there are any lamplighters or night-cart men around. In our lifetime, the number of bus conductors, lift operators, copperplate printers and milkmen have declined while town criers are pretty rare.

Not all skills disappear—they may reappear, like lacemaking and painting, as hobbies. Many office-based activities are being replaced by robots (try contacting HMRC). Retraining into something else is the way we exist. Will your job survive?



PLANNING BY ARCHIE CLARK



West Edinburgh 2050

I was a little surprised that Currie Community Council appeared to be supporting the extension of a tram route into the Green Belt to Hermiston Park and Ride, and the Heriot-Watt University. [C&B News 491, November 2023].

The pre-Covid version of the City Plan 2030 included a diagram showing transport/tram routes piercing the Green Belt, which conflicted with the City of Edinburgh Council's stated "brownfield first approach, locating future development where there is infrastructure". [Neil Gardiner, issue 468, July/August 2021].

However desirable a tram line penetrating the countryside may seem, as we have seen with railway development, the effect is to encourage housing construction on quality farmland.

Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green Community Councils have worked very hard to retain our green landscape, and with climate change and the soaring costs of importing foodstuffs to an island threatened with rising tides and diminishing farmland, we need to be careful to maintain food security. As I said in issue C&B News 454 [March 2020], "We have a finite amount of fertile land—once used up, it's gone."

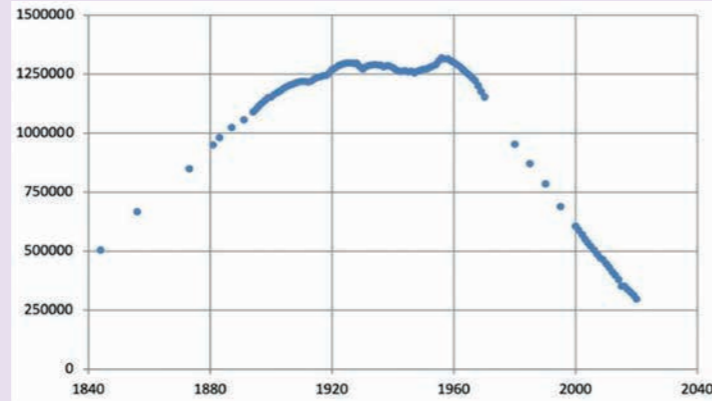
However, 2050 is a long way off and, looking at the last 25 years, there will be many changes of direction before then!

When Will the Bells Fall Silent?

It's Christmas time. Our television sets advertise goodies to fill our tummies and we are reminded to leave out mince pies for Santa (bought from you know who) when he comes down the chimney to fill our children's stockings. The Christmas cards are all very jolly, but amid the robins and pictures of skaters on frozen ponds, how many hint at what "Xmas" means?

From St Mungo's in Balerno to St Cuthbert's in Colinton, there are seven "mainstream" churches – comprising the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic and Episcopal churches. Four are without a resident priest/minister. Broadly speaking the buildings where people currently worship were constructed, or reconstructed between 1869 and 1908, though the present Currie Kirk dates from 1785 while the RC Church of Our Lady was built in 1966.

Church membership has been declining for years, reaching the point where it is predicted that – by 2030 – 700 churches will close in Scotland, affecting all denominations. Older more traditional churches



Church of Scotland Membership—Actual Numbers

will be hardest hit while Pentecostal and Evangelical denominations are better able to survive. A series of graphs prepared by Dr John Hayward of the University of South Wales indicates that mainstream churches in Scotland and Wales will disappear by the middle of this century. John Burnside reminded us last month ["Our Local Churches: Another Threat to our Community Spaces"] that our own churches will be severely affected.

The various denominations must rediscover their purpose and decide how and where to propagate their message effectively. Viewed another way, the buildings often provide useful landmarks at the centre of their communities. Unfortunately they may be difficult to access because local authorities pay more attention

to keeping traffic moving than enabling elderly worshippers to park nearby. Can church buildings (including manse) be adapted to be hubs in their community, places to sit and chat, to have meetings, to support food banks, and maybe provide temporary shelter for the increasing number of our dispossessed? Should the maintenance of their deteriorating fabric be grant-aided by government or local authorities? (Many are "listed".) Could they be places where people get advice on secular as well as religious matters?

Housing estates rarely incorporate churches. Churches that cease to provide a community focus tend to become ruins or be converted into flats or carpet warehouses. If we lose these important landmarks, what are we going to put in their place?

Pavement Parking

While in principle I support a ban on pavement parking, one might ask whether this problem has been partly created by CEC not ensuring there are adequate parking places where they are needed. Perhaps the £100 fines imposed for parking on pavements, at dropped kerbs, and double parking should be ring-fenced to enable the Council to create suitably located parking, and not used to bolster Council coffers.

The ban will begin in January 2024. The Council hopes an "awareness campaign" will help change



drivers' behaviour. Emergency vehicles will still be allowed to park on the pavement and, if there is no alternative, delivery vehicles can do so too provided there is a

1.5 metre (5 feet) space for pedestrians to pass. (Many of our village footpaths are narrower than this, what with "street furniture" and bin-day buckets reducing what is left.)

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PLANNING BY ARCHIE CLARK

Bus Trackers

When you stand at a stop with a functioning bus tracker, it's pretty obvious there's something wrong when it says your bus is due in five, four, three, and two minutes before vanishing. When it appears six minutes later – when you are between stops heading for a public toilet that you will shortly find locked up – it is hard to believe that there isn't some malevolent hand at work in the control room deciding that you should be walking anyway, or using your old bike when it's bucketing down.

So you contact your city councillor to find what's going on. As they can only repeat what the department tells them, you begin to collect some curious excuses. Like these:

“Due to certain constraints around the legacy system and the Council's new system real time feed requirements, a temporary feed using the existing bustracker.co.uk data service has been implemented while the Council and Lothian transition between old and new platforms. Unfortunately the real-time information may be subject to inaccuracies from time to time, for which we sincerely apologise. We are working very hard to improve this.”

When asked why the tracker board advised that the 44 apparently went via North Merchiston, Gorgie, Slateford, Kingsknowe and Colinton on its way to Balerno, the explanation given was that: “Scheduled data, or the raw data submitted by Lothian Buses that is the basis of both timetabled information



and real time information must now be processed using different software through the Edinburgh Council system. As well as timetable information, departure times, destination and via alias [?] are all submitted in this new format. Lothian are still learning this new format and unfortunately, during the data upload, the destination alias were not submitted correctly and the system defaulted to stop names kept in a national database. As this is not a local system the destination names were incorrect and this is unfortunately what you are seeing on the screens. Edinburgh Council and our contractors are working hard with Lothian to supply the best information possible and this issue will be rectified soon.”

The Council's official stated that: “The original Bustracker system has performed extremely well for many years but the system is now reaching obsolescence and needs to be replaced. The Council is now implementing a more inclusive multi-modal solution that can receive and subsequently display information from all public transport operators (local bus, inter-city services

and tram), which sits independently of Lothian.”

The official concluded that “By mid-2024, the City of Edinburgh Council will have replaced all on-street signs and Lothian will have completed the transition from the legacy vehicle tracker to the new, modern platform. With it, new data feeds will be available which will improve the departure accuracy to the quality level expected. There are penalty clauses contained within the contract, however, the current issues are no fault of our supplier; they are directly related to the information from bus operators. All stakeholders are working together to provide the best system possible.”

As for relocating poles so that trackers can be viewed from most locations in a bus queue, (like the outward bound tracker at Slateford Station) it seems the Council will only (eventually) respond when pressed very hard to do so.

You'd think that in planning for change, all these issues would have been foreseen. Are we prepared to wait another six months (but probably more) before this muddle is (maybe) sorted?

STL Applications

The City of Edinburgh Council-published weekly planning lists are normally about 30 pages long, but in early November the page-count reached 82, including 180 applications for Short Term Lets (STLs). In the same week, only five of these applications were granted. While many were lodged by homeowners, a surprising number of properties seem to be owned by businesses, with addresses elsewhere in Edinburgh, out-of-county or overseas.

It seems that there are insufficient staff processing the applications, that the system is unnecessarily complex, that applicants have difficulty submitting the necessary details or that some policy decision excludes certain applications. Clearly a superabundance of premises to let will upset the balance of communities. CEC has known that for years, for as one applicant stated: “The property has been used as a short term let for almost eight years and has been registered as self-catering accommodation with the council for that period.”

The Council's 2016 Local Development Plan states that: “Planning permission will be granted for purpose-built student accommodation where [...] the proposal will not result in an excessive concentration of student accommodation (including that in the private rented sector) to an extent that would be detrimental to the maintenance of balanced communities or to the established character and residential amenity of the locality.”

Does that principle not apply to all communities to ensure they are not “hollowed out” by short term residents in accommodation owned by absentee landlords uninterested in local affairs?

If CEC had adopted that approach earlier, would we now have a problem with Short Term Lets?

More Student Accommodation?

A proposal of application notice (23/06658/PAN) for the partial demolition of the recently constructed office pavilions (Heriot House and Currie

House) at 595 and 597 Calder Road, and their replacement with a mixed-use development including purpose-built student accommodation and offices, will shortly be presented for public comment.

The present buildings are up to three-storeys high, located on a narrow strip of land between the Union Canal and

the City Bypass beside the Calder Roundabout. The access road is immediately east of the roundabout. The tow-path is on the opposite side of the canal.

• The proposals will be on display at Heriot House between 3pm - 7pm on Wednesday 15 January 2024.

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JOANNA CHERRY MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

THE COST OF WAR

For Armistice Day I laid a remembrance stake in the Constituency Garden of Remembrance at Westminster, dedicated to 2nd Lieutenant Ralph Ruthven Wheatley. Ralph became a cadet at 17, studied Law for a year, then joined the Officers' Training Corps. He enlisted at the outset of the first world war, aged 22. He was injured in March 1918, and survived to see the Armistice, but passed away from his injuries in Colinton in February 1919, aged 26. He is buried in Colinton Parish churchyard.

My constituency office has been inundated with emails from constituents watching with horror as events unfold in Gaza. The desire for a ceasefire was almost unanimous. At a recent packed meeting of parliamentarians, the Palestinian Ambassador pointed to the failure of the UK Government and opposition to mention international law until pressurised to do so by public opinion.

I voted for the ceasefire amendment on 15 November with the rest of my party. I also chaired a panel at Westminster with Medical Aid for Palestinians, Amnesty UK and Oxfam warning that we have a short window of opportunity to prevent what could amount to ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Gaza. I wrote to the Foreign Secretary calling for a full independent international inquiry into the recent events and a proper process of accountability to investigate and prosecute war crimes.

Last month I read from the laws of war as part of an event organised by the Centre for the Study of Colonialism, Empire and International law at the School for Oriental and African studies at University College, London to help bring public attention to their applicability to the conflict in Gaza and to the international legal duty of the UK Government to "do everything reasonably in their power" to ensure that these rules are respected.



GORDON MACDONALD MSP
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

POLICE WARD FORUM

Our new Chief Inspector for the South West Locality, Paul Gillespie, set up a series of ward forums to discuss local issues with MSPs, Councillors and Community Councillors. I attended the recent meeting at Currie Community Centre where a number of issues were raised including anti-social behaviour and the future of Balerno Police Station.

It is disheartening to hear that local communities are frightened by the behaviour of a few and I know that the local police are taking this seriously with additional patrols in the Currie and Balerno area. However, given the seriousness of the situation I will also be attending the emergency meeting organised by Currie Community Council at the beginning of December.

I know from discussions with local residents that retaining Balerno Police station for community use is the preferred option, which I support. One suggestion I have been pursuing is utilising the building as an additional health service hub: unfortunately, neither NHS Lothian nor Pentland Medical Practice (which covers the Balerno area) believe this would be viable.

I will continue to liaise with local members of the community and the Community Council as well as Police Scotland on community use of the building.

WINTER FUEL PAYMENT

Energy prices remain almost double to what they were in 2021 and I know households continue to struggle.

There is some assistance through the new Scottish Government cold weather payment; unlike the DWP Cold Weather Payment, it is paid automatically, once a year, to those eligible and is not triggered by the weather.

In total it is expected to be worth almost three times the amount paid out in equivalent support from the UK government.



SUE WEBBER MSP
LOTHIAN REGION

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

I know that we are a proud and resilient community but there are times when we must confront issues that take us to the brink of despair.

In Currie there are a handful of young people who are indulging in sustained anti-social behaviour. It's not just theft and vandalism but intimidation of locals, including racist abuse.

When I wrote to the police, I received an almost immediate reply from the area Chief Inspector who outlined plans for patrols across the area. We met to identify longer-term solutions and I will attend a further meeting in December where police, community councillors, the school community and those experiencing antisocial behaviour can share ideas. However, the community will expect some direct police intervention.

I have heard from residents from Hermiston Village about the extreme disturbances they are experiencing. Not from youths but adults. Boy racers are gathering at the park-and-ride and using it as a skid pan and a base for racing on surrounding roads, with all the danger that entails. This is obviously an unbearable environment to live in, and it is creating an intimidating atmosphere for bus passengers. Police did respond to complaints; however only one patrol car was dispatched to tackle the disturbance created by a crowd that numbered in the hundreds.

There is no escaping from the fact that there is a basic need for more officers on the streets to ensure troublemakers have nowhere to hide.

This is not my usual Christmas column, but I feel compelled to raise this issue and make the wider community aware of what our neighbours are enduring. I believe that we all have the right to live in our own homes without fear and people should be able to live their lives in peace. After all, at Christmas we should be celebrating peace and good will to all.



CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS

HOLDING PATTERN

Firstly I'd like to share my disappointment to hear about increased incidents of anti-social behaviour in shared spaces within the Pentland corridor. If you have any concerns then please report them to the Police using 101.

A few infrastructure projects large and small have been delayed for various reasons but I'm assured they will be completed in this financial year. These include: the handrail in Juniper Green to the Water of Leith Walkway; the replacement of the railings at Currie at the "T" junction of Lanark Road West and Riccarton Mains Road; and the Pedestrian lights that are to be installed on LRW at its junction with Stewart Road. I will keep pushing for these to be done ASAP.

I was notified recently about the burn overflowing next to Cockburn Crescent during the heavy rain. The flooding team saw the trigger being hit remotely and despatched a team to deal with the issue. The grill was cleared of branches and logs, along with many leaves, thus preventing any overspill onto the road. I would like to say publicly a big well done to the Flood Prevention Team on behalf of the community on dealing with this problem so quickly and effectively.

Last month, the centre of Balerno was used as a location for a feature film called The Fall of Sir Douglas Weatherford, which is being funded by the BBC, the BFI and Screen Scotland. Hopefully we will all get to see it on the big screen in the not so distant future!

On a lighter note it was a pleasure to attend the official opening of the Currie Community Orchard in King George V Park to see at first hand the work that has been done to generate healthy local food while helping biodiversity at the same time.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year. All the best for 2024!



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CLLR FIONA GLASGOW
PENTLAND HILLS

WINTER IS COMING

Winter is well and truly on its way. I am writing this after having had the fantastic opportunity to attend a Pentland Book Festival event at a local pub. What a treat to listen to Len Pennie: Warrior Poet, who read out her truly amazing poetry. I felt really lucky to have this opportunity locally and am grateful to the organisers who must have put a lot of effort in to organise and plan such a great series of events.

Balerno Farmers' Market never fails to inspire and it was lovely to be part of the well-organised Remembrance Day event where the whole place fell to silence and ended with the wonderful sound of the Balerno and District Schools Pipe Band. I stopped at a few stalls and enjoyed a coffee in the Mill Café that was as busy as ever!

Having attended local Community Council meetings, it reinforces the need for people to come together to address the issues that affect everyone from roads, parking and pavements to dealing with antisocial behaviour. Please consider joining your local community council to help ensure local people are represented. I attended a meeting alongside other community representatives in Currie Community Centre with the Police to discuss local issues and ensure that the concerns of local residents are being heard. It was good to hear that there is a commitment to ensuring the safety of the community and we were reassured that reports are taken seriously. All concerns should be reported either to Crimestoppers or to local police teams. I also attended a Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour strategy consultation event in the City Chambers.

I am looking forward to the Christmas light switch in Balerno on Thursday 7 December, as well as taking part in a craft workshop in Hub35!



CLLR STEPHEN JENKINSON
PENTLAND HILLS

HOUSING CRISIS

Recently The City of Edinburgh Council took the unprecedented step of declaring a housing crisis in the city.

I'm sure many of you are wondering why and what that actually means. Well, with approximately 5,000 households currently in temporary accommodation (which is the highest figure in Scotland), and a severe shortage of socially rented homes resulting in approximately 200 bids for each and every property advertised, it is clear to see we have a real problem on our hands.

It isn't just in the social rental sector we have a problem: we are increasingly faced with issues in the private rental sector too. Edinburgh currently has the highest rental price inflation in the whole of the UK at 13.7%. This means that many people who can only dream of owning a home now are beginning to dream of renting a home as it is just so expensive.

Despite all these pressures CEC hasn't been sitting on its hands. In the last year it has created a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, a new Affordable Housing Policy, a Strategic Housing Investment Plan and we have been lobbying the Scottish Government hard for additional and more-targeted funding. A real focus has now been placed on reducing the number of empty homes the Council owns and I am encouraging CEC to increase the number of homes it buys from the open market, as currently it is often cheaper to buy a home than to build one.

Declaring a crisis in Edinburgh was a bold move. It shines a light on a problem all too often unseen and also one that has been swept under the carpet for many years. It is hoped that by highlighting this issue the government will step in to help us solve it. I suppose we'll have to wait and see.



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GROUNDHOG DAY?

Last December I wrote that food banks were virtually unheard of 20 years ago and that few would have believed credible any suggestion of a need for "heat and meet" centres. Yet there are calls for "heat and meet centres" again this winter.

On 2 November 2023 the Trussell Trust released new figures revealing that, between April and September 2023, 1.5 million emergency food parcels were provided to people by food banks in its UK-wide network. This is apparently the greatest number of parcels that the network has ever distributed at this point in the year and represents a 16% increase from the same period in 2022. Community for Food provides food parcels for families in the Upper Water of Leith Valley. It has seen similar rises in demand within our own locality.

On 3 November the Office of National Statistics (ONS) reported that gas and electricity prices rose at 1.7% and 6.7%, respectively, in the year to September 2023. They also reported that around half of adults are using less fuel in their homes because of cost of living increases, and that around 40% surveyed say they are having difficulty paying. Last year that figure was 42%, but there is nothing to suggest a major reduction in the number of people experiencing difficulty.

Unlike last year, there does not seem yet to be the same sense of urgency over the cost of living crisis. There probably should be, despite the reported drop in Inflation this November to 4.6%.

So what's to be done? Locally we do need closer co-operation within, across and between our communities. We all have to help to make that happen. As I write this, it's still November, but – once again – making things more joined up might be a basis for at least one New Year's resolution. Again.



DR KEITH JAMES SYMINGTON
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

As the festive lights start twinkling and the season of giving draws near, it's not just about the presents under the tree that makes our community shine; it's the people who step forward to lend a hand, embodying the true spirit of Christmas—our local volunteers. These everyday heroes aren't looking for rewards or recognition; they're just neighbours like us, who are keen to spread a bit of cheer all year round.

Securing enough volunteers can often be a challenge. According to the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), two-thirds of organisations report difficulties in finding the number of volunteers they need. This was highlighted by Nicky Shillcross, the Volunteering Coordinator at Vintage Vibes who presented at the last Community Council meeting.

Vintage Vibes is making a real impact across Edinburgh by pairing socially isolated and vulnerable individuals aged 60+ with volunteers who share similar interests. Their focus is on fostering friendships, and they don't just stop at one-to-one meet-ups. There are also opportunities to join in social events, including festive gatherings like Christmas and Easter parties. Nicky is eager to bring more volunteers on board to extend their reach into Currie and the surrounding areas.

But it's not only new initiatives that are calling out for help. Our local Scout group is on the lookout for volunteers to assist with Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts. Even committing one night a month could make a significant impact. Then there's The Meeting Place, a welcoming all-day community cafe for the over 65s. If you can spare a couple of hours on a Monday to help serve refreshments and engage in some friendly conversation, your contribution could brighten someone's day.

• If you can help, email: hello@vintagevibes.org.uk

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we want to hear from as many people as possible. We are

Are you aware that the Scottish Government are currently considering how powers and resources could be shared between different levels of government and local communities?

In basic terms, this could mean granting Community Councils or other bodies more autonomy over the participatory budget, and collectively we can decide what to spend it on. Power to the people!

Currie Community Council and Juniper Green & Baberton Mains Community Council have teamed up to ask our retrospective communities to contribute their ideas on what changes are needed to encourage a more local, participatory and inclusive democracy.

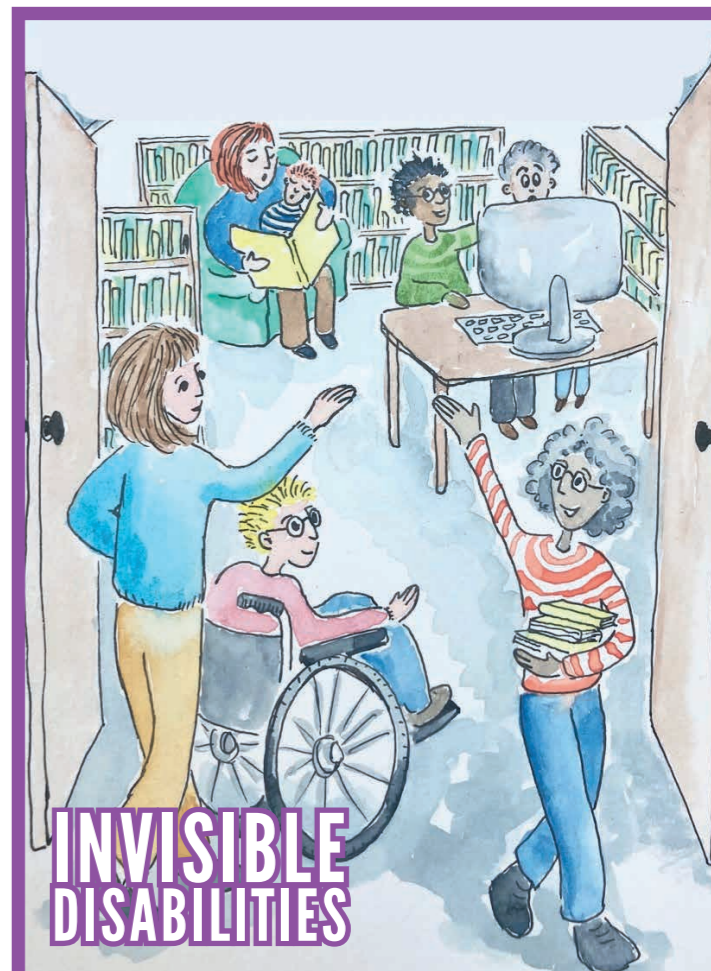
We only have until the end of February 2024 to make our views known, which is why

holding an open “drop-in” event on Saturday 10 February 2024, anytime from 1pm to 5pm at The Hub@531 in Juniper Green. Everyone – and we mean everyone – is invited.

We will keep it light, and show some short clips on the topic, and have a general chitchat and listen to your views. It’s important that we hear from a whole range of our community, and we especially encourage younger members of our communities to take part, as this will shape the future of Currie, Juniper Green and Baberton Mains.

So please pop the date in your diaries or calendars, and we hope to see you there!

• The Democracy Matters drop-in event is open to everyone: 1pm - 5pm, Saturday 10 February 2024, at The Hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green.



INVISIBLE DISABILITIES

4: LIBRARIES—MORE THAN BOOKS!

WORDS BY M
ILLUSTRATION BY KMCL

A 90-year-old friend of my wife is almost blind but refuses to register as such or seek help. Yet there’s so much help out there.

She tries to log onto Zoom meetings but finds it is impossible: seeing the codes to log in, the controls, and having technical skills are beyond her. So she’s excluded.

In our villages we have superb libraries that can and would help her by providing computer access. They help those without technical skills or equipment.

Rumours persist that The City of Edinburgh Council wants to site Currie Library in the new Community High School, which would be a disaster. CEC accountants know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

Such a move would disenfranchise many, as it is well off the bus route, with limited access and parking. Libraries represent immeasurable value in our communities and are in well-established locations. They are valuable and vital social assets.

Wouldn’t it be great if the Juniper Green Hub could act as a Library collection and drop-off point, so every village along the valley would have local access to books?

The artist who illustrates these pieces has Long Covid and voraciously reads. She orders by phone or online, and then collects later.

Our libraries provide computer support, incredible after-school sessions for kids, even study spaces where you get quiet, plus a whole host of city services such as bus passes, help and information, period products, colour photocopying to A3—even hearing aid batteries.

This critical component of our local communities, with super disabled facilities, is there for all to enjoy.



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To enter, please scan or photograph the completed puzzle and email it to: editor@candbnews.com before noon, Friday 19 January 2024.

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

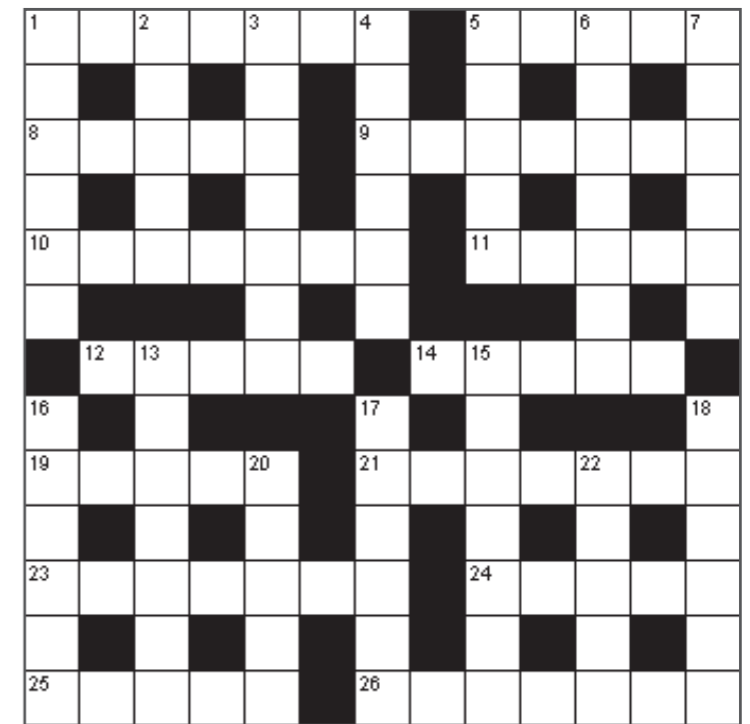
Good luck everyone!

ACROSS

1. On the way. (2, 5)
5. Sound. (5)
8. Dog-like mammal. (5)
9. Free from blame. (7)
10. Entrap. (7)
11. Musici speed. (5)
12. Compare. (5)
14. Book of maps. (5)
19. General kind of something. (5)
21. Unaffected. (7)
23. Pasta strips. (7)
24. Impromptu. (2, 3)
25. Part of a church. (5)
26. Defraud. (7)

DOWN

1. Reverberated. (6)
2. Rolls of film. (5)
3. Oblivious. (7)
4. Jubilant. (6)
5. Valuable item. (5)
6. Quandary. (7)
7. Nocturnal wildcat. (6)
13. Type of rock. (7)
15. Percussion instrument. (7)
16. Schedule. (6)
17. Visitors. (6)
18. Comestible. (6)
20. Figure out. (5)
22. Legally acceptable. (5)



NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE PHONE

Please tick here if - on being selected as the winner - you would be happy to be contacted to arrange a bank transfer instead of receiving a cheque.

NOVEMBER 2023
WINNER!

Our congratulations go to Morag Dunbar from Balerno, randomly selected from all correct entries to receive our £25 prize.



EASY

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5						9
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	7				6	5

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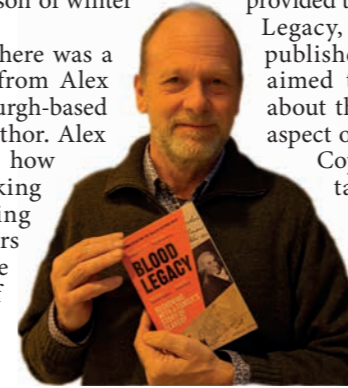
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Colinton Literary Society's 11th Season

COLIN FISCHBACHER
PROGRAMME COORDINATOR, COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY

The Colinton Literary Society has made a great start to its 11th season of winter talks.

In November there was a fascinating talk from Alex Renton, an Edinburgh-based journalist and author. Alex (right) explained how he made a shocking discovery: looking through old papers in a basement, he found lists of cattle, donkeys and slaves from his family's 18th



century sugar estate in Tobago. A significant part of Scotland's wealth came from this trade, which funded the construction of stately homes, schools and churches across Scotland. This story provided the basis for Blood Legacy, Alex's recently published book, which aimed to tell the truth about this less attractive aspect of Scottish history. Copies on sale at the talk quickly sold out.

The season resumes after Christmas with talks on the lasting legacy

of Robert Louis Stevenson, Edinburgh epidemics, Alfred Hitchcock's influence on fashion, Russian history, "wild Scotland" and the American Civil War.

There are also two musical evenings, one from the Dovecot singers and another from the Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan society.

• "The Lit" meetings begin with tea, coffee or wine from 7.30pm in Dreghorn Loan Hall.

• Talks start at 8pm. Membership costs just £15 for the full programme of 17 meetings, or £3 per meeting for visitors. More information: <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

Christmas Concert by The Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir

MARGARET KIERAN
THE COLINTON & MERCHISTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

Readers are warmly invited to join us at our Christmas Concert on Monday 11 December, when we will sing Geoffrey Bush's Christmas Cantata. It is a delightful and joyful work designed for choirs rebuilding after the second world war, and based around old Christmas carols like "I Saw Three Ships", "Lullay" and "Little Jesus Sweetly Sleep", along with lovely new sections. We have had a lot of fun learning it and hope our audience will enjoy sharing it with us.

We are very pleased to have

as our soloists the professional soprano and choir favourite Jessica Leary and the oboist Katherine Bryer of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. They will perform duets and there will also be carols for all to sing—audience included!

We've new recruits singing in our Christmas Concert, many of whom were prompted to join us after taking part in our "Come and Sing Day" in September. Feedback from the event, which attracted nearly 60 participants, was most positive.



• Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir Christmas Concert: 8pm, Monday 11 December, Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School. Tickets: £7.50 to help to defray expenses from choir members or at the door (cash only please).

• For more information, visit: www.colintonchoir.org and on Facebook

Pentland Singers Christmas Concert

KIRSTY HEADDEN
PENTLAND SINGERS COMMUNITY CHOIR

As the fairy lights go up and the distant jingle of sleighbells cuts through the winter air, the thoughts of the Pentland Singers inevitably turn to Christmas music. Well, actually, their thoughts turned to Christmas music about three months ago, thanks to their meticulous rehearsal schedule, but now things are really getting serious.

This year, the choir will be performing beautiful Christmas music from across the centuries. Classic pieces such as Gaudete and In Dulci Jubilo are warmly familiar, while others are new to the choir but rich with history and tradition. With the return of the audience carol singalong for the first time post-pandemic, plus the promise of mince pies and interval raffles, it's a festive event not to be missed!

• The Christmas concerts take place on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 December 2023 in Balerno High School, 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 (12 and under free) and can be bought on the door.

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

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What's On

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

WEEKLY

DEC/JAN

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

COME FOR A CUPPA: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 10.30am. Pop in to have a cuppa, biscuit and a chat, join in a board game, or simply come sit in the warmth and read a book. December programme: Board games—Scrabble or Rummikub (4 December); Music intro game—Christmas hits! (11 December); The Hub Mince Pie Taste-Off (18 December); Closed Christmas Day.

MINDFULNESS SESSION: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, noon-1pm. A chance to join us for a guided mindfulness session with Raymond, no experience necessary, just an open curiosity about what happens when we pay attention to the inner workings of our mind (not on 4th December)

BALERNO BRIDGE CLUB: Gibson Craig Hall, Currie. 1.20pm for 1.30pm start. Contact 07504 306062 if interested.

BABY GROUP/BOOKBUG: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 1.30pm-2.45pm. Meet other parents / carers for friendship and peer support, regular BookBug sessions to learn and share nursery rhymes, songs and stories.

BABERTON SCOUTS GROUP: Juniper Green Church Hall, 7pm-9pm. If you want some more information or would like to join, please email cubs@babertonscouts.org

MONTHLY BOOK GROUP: the Hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 7-9pm. Currently full, please email to join waitlist or to start a second group!

COLINTON TOOL LIBRARY, CVE Shed at Spylaw Park, Colinton. 7.30pm-8.30pm. Opportunity for members to drop off borrowed tools. Visit: <https://edinburghtoollibrary.org.uk>, email: hello@edinburghtoollibrary.org.uk

TUESDAYS

KNITTING GROUP: the Hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 10.30am-noon, for new and experienced knitters alike.

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, 7.30-9.30 pm. Come and share the joy of singing! New members welcome. For further information, pentland_singers@yahoo.co.uk

WEDNESDAYS

PENTLANDS SPORTING MEMORIES CLUB: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 1.30pm-3pm. Sports chat – anything from Scotland's football glory days to next week's rugby – with likeminded sports fans.

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 X (Twitter): @BalernoRamblers

THE OCTAGON CLUB: for Adults with learning disabilities. Gibson Craig Hall, Lanark Road 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.

PENTLAND ART CLUB: Balerno High School, 7pm-9pm every Thursday during term time. Relax, share ideas, and learn in the convivial company of fellow artists of all abilities. New members welcome. Contact ros.salton@outlook.com

FRIDAYS

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

COLINTON TOOL LIBRARY: CVE Shed at Spylaw Park, Colinton. 5pm-6.30pm. Opportunity for members to pick up reserved tools. Visit: <https://edinburghtoollibrary.org.uk>, email: hello@edinburghtoollibrary.org.uk

BABERTON CUBS and BEAVERS GROUPS: Juniper Green Church Hall. Beavers meet 6pm-7pm, Cubs 7:15pm-8:45pm. If you want some more information or would like to join, please email cubs@babertonscouts.org

ALTERNATE FRIDAYS

TABLETOP GAMING IN JUNIPER GREEN/ BABERTON/CURRIE: 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 CAFÉ: Currie Community Centre, 9am-noon. Barista coffee and delicious home baking.

SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS

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

DAY BY DAY

DECEMBER

FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER

GARDENING GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 10.30-noon. New monthly group meeting on the first Friday of each month.

December meeting: making Christmas table decorations together. Feel free to just come along; bring a container for your masterpiece.

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER

THE MONTH BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Balerno Bowling Club, 7.30pm. "One Bar Rest and friends invite you to a light-hearted evening of words and

music to introduce the Christmas season," with Balerno Church Choir. Tickets £7 (inc light supper) from Balerno Parish Church Office.

MONDAY 4 DECEMBER

COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Talk given via ZOOM, 7.30pm. "Drovers and Drove roads in south Scotland" by Willie Waugh. For

more information visit: www.colintonhistory.org.uk

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER

BALERNO SWI: Balerno Community Centre, 7.30pm. Snowman Beetle Drive.

WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER

PENTLAND PROBUS >p44

CLUB: Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 10am. "Housing Disabled Veterans Scotland", an illustrated talk by Bob Kemp. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

FORGET ME NOTES: St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, 2pm - 4pm. "Join us when you can for an hour of music and memories, followed by refreshments." Call Nicki for more information on (0131) 441 7580, www.forgetmenotes.org.uk, www.stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk

COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Via Zoom, 7.30pm. Willie Waugh gives a talk on "Drovers and Drove Roads in this Area". More details: enquiries@colintonhistory.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 6 - SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER

BALERNO THEATRE COMPANY: ALICE IN

PANTOLAND, Church Hill Theatre, Morningside. Fun-filled family-friendly pantomime from your local theatre company. Tickets: £16.50 available at www.balernotheatrecompany.co.uk Performances: Wednesday, 7pm; Thursday, 1pm and 7pm; Friday and Saturday, 2pm and 7pm.

THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER

BALERNO MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTS: Balerno Parish Church and Main Street, 6.30pm. Featuring Dean Park Primary School choir and Balerno and District Pipe Band. Switch-on, around 6.45pm, includes the "Rotary Tree of Life" in Balerno Church Garden.

FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS: The Hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 2.30pm-4.30pm. Family friendly Christmas crafts (suitable for P1 age and above—children must be accompanied and supervised). Join us to make some simple, effective Christmas

tree decorations. Free, very limited space, online booking at: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER

BALERNO FARMERS' MARKET: Main Street, Balerno, 9am-1pm. Spend some of your festive cash with local producers!

THE BROXBURN & LIVINGSTON BRAND BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Balerno Parish Church, 7.30pm. Tickets £10 (under 16s £3rd4) from the Church Office and website, or Eventbrite.

MONDAY 11 DECEMBER

CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Gibson Craig Halls (back hall), 7.30pm. Eddie Shaw speaks on "Holy Trinity Church at Wester Hailes". For further details see <https://www.curriehistory.org/>

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY: Colinton

Bowling Club, 48a Redford Road, 8pm-10pm. With buffet, quiz, carols and entertainmen For more information visit: <http://www.colintongardens.org.uk>

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER & THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER

PENTLAND SINGERS and PENTLAND JUNIOUR SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Balerno High School, 7.30pm. A concert of beautiful Christmas music from across the centuries, including Gaudete. Tickets £12 (under 12s free). For more details visit: pentland_singers@yahoo.co.uk, www.pentlandsingers.org.uk

THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER

THE THURSDAY GROUP (Formerly Colinton Townswomens's Guild): St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, 2.15pm. "A Musical Afternoon with the Townswomen." This group would like to extend a warm invitation to our next meeting. The meeting is ended with a cup of tea and a chat.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK: The Shed, Spylaw Park, 5.30pm - 7.30pm. Santa's Grotto and Post Box, Tombolas and Raffle, mulled wine and mince pies, activities for kids, Bonaly School Choir, pre-loved books. Cash stalls. Entry £1. Organised by Colinton Village Enterprise.

Hub@531 CHRISTMAS SPARKLE EVENT: 7.30-10pm. An evening of sparkling wine tasting, with a difference! Each bottle will be hidden as you try to spot the champagne from the cava! Bring a few friends and join us for some festive fun. Tickets are £15 to cover the cost of the wine, and includes some lovely seasonal nibbles, online booking available at <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER

FORGET ME NOTES: St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, 2pm - 4pm. "Join us when you can for an hour of music and memories, followed by refreshments." Call Nicki for more information on (0131) 441 7580, www.forgetmenotes.org.uk, www.stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk

COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS SOCIAL: Dreghorn Loan Hall, Dreghorn Loan, Colinton, 8pm. More details: enquiries@colintonhistory.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER

CURRIE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT: James Watt Centre, Heriot-Watt University, 7pm. Includes performances from a wide range of the school's musical ensembles, as well as showcasing work from the Drama and Art departments. Tickets £7, available on parentpay or by email: admin@currie.edin.sch.uk

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER

BALERNO VILLAGE SCREEN: St Joseph's Centre, 2 Main Street, Balerno, 5pm. *It's A Wonderful*

Life (Cert U). All tickets Free at www.balernovillagescreen.com Donations welcome.

JANUARY

MONDAY 8 JANUARY

CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Gibson Craig Halls (back hall), 7.30pm. Hamish Coghill on "The Water of Life". For further details see <https://www.curriehistory.org/>

TUESDAY 9 JANUARY

BALERNO SWI: via Zoom, 7.30pm. See Facebook for further information.

WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY

PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB: Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 10am. "Artificial Diamonds," an illustrated talk by Prof Phillip John OBE. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

"THE LIT" (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall, 7.30pm. "Heart and mind — Robert Louis Stevenson's lasting legacy." Donald Smith assesses the continuing impact of Colinton's famous literary connection. Further details available at: <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>.

PAPER CUTTING WORKSHOP: Hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 2pm-4pm. With Ruth Watt @papercut.punk. Free, limited to 10, age restricted to over 18s only, online booking is available at <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAY 15 JANUARY

FORGET ME NOTES: St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, 2pm - 4pm. "Join us when you can for an hour of music and memories, followed by refreshments." Call Nicki for more information on (0131) 441 7580, www.forgetmenotes.org.uk, www.stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk

COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Dreghorn Loan Hall, 8pm. "Understanding Edinburgh's gravestones—their history and meaning, mystery and beauty." Talk by Mark Hatton. For more information visit www.colintonhistory.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY

"THE LIT" (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall, EH13 oDE, 7.30pm "Death in the New Town." Ken Donaldson tells the story of the mysterious epidemic among Edinburgh stonemasons. Further details available at <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

CRAFTING SIMPLE MACRAME ORNAMENTS: Hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 7.30pm-9.30pm. Join us for an adult only, social evening of crafting, no experience necessary. We'll supply all materials and provide guidance. This event is free but booking is required, online booking is available at <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

FRIDAY 19 JANUARY

CRAFTING: GLASS PAINTING: Hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 2.30pm-4.30pm. Suitable for adults and young teens (S1+). Materials and inspiration will be provided. This event is free but booking is required, online booking is available at <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAY 22 JANUARY

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB: Dreghorn Loan Hall, 8pm. Ewan Paterson, from the Merryhatton Plant Shop in Juniper Green, will talk about "Types and Care of Indoor Plants". For more information visit: <http://www.colintongardens.org.uk/>

CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Gibson Craig Halls (back hall), 7.30pm. "The Six Castles, from Colzium to Colinton", speaker Gordon S. Milne. For further details see <https://www.curriehistory.org/>

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY

PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB: Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 10am. "Which car - Petrol, diesel, hybrid or electric?" An illustrated talk by Scott Gammie. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

"THE LIT" (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall, 7.30pm. "David Dow and the Dovecot Singers, explore the life and times of the Scottish author of *Ane Satyre of the Thrie Estaites*," by Sir David Lindsay. Further details available at <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY

BALERNO VILLAGE SCREEN: St Joseph's Centre, 2 Main Street, Balerno, 2.30pm. *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* (Cert 12A), 7.30pm *Oppenheimer* (Cert 15). All tickets Free at www.balernovillagescreen.com Donations welcome.

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY

Hub@531 1st BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: We will be having an open day and birthday celebration, more details will be published on posters and Facebook, The Hub@531 nearer the time. Please feel free to pop in, see the space, meet some of the trustees, enjoy some refreshments and help us celebrate a whole year of the Hub@531!

MONDAY 29 JANUARY

CURRIE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: AGM, Pentland (Juniper Green) Scout Hall, 7.15pm.

WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY

"THE LIT" (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall, 7.30pm. "Hitchcock's heroines." Caroline Young explores the legacy of Alfred Hitchcock's leading ladies. Further details available at <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

THE FIT GIRLS CLUB

by Jane Robertson

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LAUNCHING JAN 2024

Christopher Cowe Memorial Football Match

ROSS COWE FATHER

Thank you to everyone who turned out for Christopher Cowe's memorial football match on Thursday 9 November at the New Astro pitch at Currie Community High School.

We were delighted to see so many of his friends and peers from both Balerno and Currie High Schools at the game. Well done to Shaun Ferguson, Deputy Head at Balerno High School, and all these fine young men for making it happen—and putting on a great show for the watching crowd.

All the boys began proceedings by taking part in a minute's applause at the start of the game, which was very much appreciated and a great tribute to a much missed friend. The match itself was a highly entertaining and well contested game with only late Balerno High School pressure leading to some great goals, seeing them over the line with a 4-2 victory!

The Balerno captain, Josh Costello, accepted the Christopher Cowe Memorial Community Shield from Christopher's Dad, Ross. With two matches played in this now annual event, both high schools



have managed to get their hands on the shield!

We hope to play the third annual match in 2024 and look forward to seeing who comes out on top. No matter the score, however, the real winner is friendship and Christopher would be so proud of you all.

• For more information on Christopher Cowe and Cardiac Risk in the Young: <https://www.c-r-y.org.uk/christopher-cowe/>

• Big Hearts Community Trust: <https://www.bighearts.org.uk>



Connecting Football Generations!

GERRY BUTLER CHAIR, CURRIE FC

EWAN CONNOLLY CHAIR, ORIAM WALKING FOOTBALL

Oriam Walking Football and Currie FC recently celebrated their new partnership with a match on Sunday 5 November between Currie's 2017 players and an Oriam select team.

The average age of Currie FC's players was under seven: the average for the Oriam team was over 70!

The event was a fabulous success. Super sportsmanship was shown throughout. Plenty of skills and tricks were displayed and loads of goals scored. Final

scores? Who knows? Was everyone excited and delighted? A resounding YES!

The day was capped with superb coverage from both Edinburgh Evening News and Scottish Television, turning the players into TV celebrities. [And now, C&B News!—modest editor.]

The clubs are hoping that this is the first of many occasions they can demonstrate how football (and sport) is for life, and that similar future events will

encourage more folk to participate in walking football in the months and years to come.

Both clubs wish all C&B News readers a very enjoyable festive period, and a happy new year.

• For Oriam Walking Football, contact: Deric Oliver 07803 508401, dericandjoan@btinternet.com

• For Currie FC, contact curriefc@virginmedia.com or cfcgirlsfootball@gmail.com



Boys from the 65th Edinburgh (Currie) Boys' Brigade have enjoyed recent success in National competitions in badminton, chess and table tennis, writes Bill Brown. In the chess the Boys overcame a company from West Lothian and followed that up with a whitewash victory in the badminton against the 5th Livingston. In the table tennis the 65th hosted a company from Dunblane and in an excellent contest the 65th triumphed six matches to three. In the next rounds the boys will make two trips to Dundee while Currie hosts a company from the Falkirk area in the other.

Left: Brigade members (left to right) Tony and Conrad Cheung, and Rory and Connor McGill.

• Email: 65edinburghbb@gmail.com



Scotland Wins Angling Gold

NIGEL DUNCAN NIGEL DUNCAN MEDIA

David Harrington is still in shock after earning his first cap and a gold medal as Scotland's six-man team triumphed against highly-fancied Wales, plus England and Ireland, in the Home International bank fly fishing championship in late October.

The Uphall Station resident, who is a member of the Railway Inn fly fishing club at Juniper Green, finished fourth top rod in the Home International at Newhaylie near Largs, leaving some big names in his slipstream.

David said: "It is more of a shock than anything. I mean, I did not think I would get to the final of the qualifiers never mind in the Scotland team.

David succeeded in tempting five fish in the morning session and three in the post-lunch period. The Tartan team totalled 112 points with Ireland second with 135, Wales third on 170 and England fourth on 176. (Yes, the lower the score, the better!)

Conditions were good on competition day at Newhaylie, compared to the practice days. "We did not have the wind on the (match) day until the last half hour," said David. "The water was crystal clear and that means the fish can see everything, which makes things difficult, but the wind [late on in the match] seemed to bring the fish on, to be honest."

David, who normally fishes at Bangour and Glencorse, will not fish much now until around Christmas but, if he does go out, he will venture back to Drumtassie, West Lothian, where the journey to his debut cap and gold medal began.

Top: David Harrington at Largs. Photo: Nigel Duncan



Currie Chieftains Regain Momentum

PHIL THOMAS CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

Currie Chieftains Premiership team opened the 2023-24 season with a run of four winning matches. Then they hit a rough patch—losing to Hawick, Marr and Edinburgh Accies, winning against Kelso and having their match against Glasgow Hawks postponed because of poor weather. These results saw the Mallyen team tumble to a disappointing fifth place in the Premiership league, and to media speculation that the Chieftains had "lost their winning ways". [Not in C&B News!—Editor]

The underlying explanation was, in fact, quite different and reflected a punishing spate of injuries among the team's backs, resulting in the selection of young and less-experienced players from the Currie Chieftains A team. The impact of this was especially apparent in the Chieftains' poor performance against Edinburgh Accies on 23 October. But this match also marked the beginning of a quite remarkable turnaround. As

the new Premiership players have gained experience and confidence, they have shown their capability and skills as players, much to the appreciation of the fans.

Firstly, against Selkirk RFC at Mallyen on 4 November, the Currie side showed its resilience and commitment to win by 40-36 points, in a match that went right to the final whistle. Secondly, against Jed-Forest RFC at Riverside Park on 11 November, the Chieftains secured a mature and well-controlled 7-31 points win against an always lively Jed-Forest opposition. Finally, on 18 November at Mallyen, the home side delivered a hugely impressive performance when they beat Musselburgh RFC 52-10 points, in a match that showed the home side's great character and silky attacking skills. Musselburgh dominated possession in the first half, although the Chieftains went in at half time leading by 21-3 points, thanks to tries scored by Gregor Christie, Rhys Davies and Alex Harley, all converted by Charlie Brett. Then, after the interval, Currie piled on the pressure and scored tries by Ryan Daley (two), Sean Fisher and

Above: Wing forward Sam Cardosi breaks out past three Musselburgh RFC Players.

Charlie Brett, who also converted all the tries and kicked a penalty.

This win, together with the two earlier in the month, has re-established Chieftains in third place in the Premiership table, with a match in hand. All thoughts are now focused on the matches to be played running up to Christmas—in particular the home encounter against Premiership leaders Hawick on 2 December. The outcome of the Premiership is still several months off, but Currie Chieftains has restored its position as a competitive contender.

Not to be outdone, on 18 November, Currie Chieftains A beat Musselburgh 2nd XV by 45-12 points; Currie Chieftains B beat Penicuik 2nd XV by 0-48 points; and Currie Chieftains U18 beat Biggar U18 by 56-17 point. And, the Clubhouse at Mallyen Park was a very happy place!

• Visit: <https://www.curriechieftains.org/>

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MEMORIAL FOOTBALL MATCH, p46

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Connecting Football Generations

Old and Young Play Together at Oriam, p46

Photos: Currie FC; Nigel Duncan Media; Ross Cowie.

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