

FREE!



INTRODUCING CURRIE CREATIVES, p9



CURRIE BOWLING 150 YEARS, p7

C&B NEWS

CURRIE • BALERNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON



BLOOMS AT MALLENY, p11



FAREWELL TO HARMENY, p5



Orphan lambs attract local attention, p24

Ramblers enjoy BST Delights, p22

SPRING TIME!

INSIDE: NEWS p2 LOCAL HISTORY p18 FEATURES p21 VIEWS p31 WHAT'S ON p43

Photos: Caroline Courtney; Harmeny Education Trust; Graham Daine; James Bell; Currie Creatives.

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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DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

ADVERTISING & LISTINGS: 14 MAY
EDITORIAL: 19 MAY
ISSUE DISTRIBUTED: 30 MAY



Above: Some of us were surprised by decidedly snowy April showers on the first Friday of the month. Certainly, the daffodils outside Balerno Parish Church weren't impressed! Photo: Paul Fisher Cockburn.

Below: In a "dreich" Campbell Park on Easter Monday, Sue Webber MSP (second from left) presents one of the final orchard tree plaques to Roma Södaberg while Stewart Wilson (left) and (right) Ally Price and Mike Harrower look on. Roma was apparently caught out by the weekend's switch to British "Summer" Time, with her oven clock timer not starting cooking the bacon in time for a large batch of community soup she had donated to the Friends of Campbell Park's event. Despite that, all of her incredibly hearty stew was enjoyed and finished by the cold and damp Easter Monday picnic crowd! Photo: Shona Harrower.



Above: Katya Klak volunteered to dry out soggy ground in Campbell Park, Colinton, with soil aerating tools and large bags of sawdust. Behind her, artist Chris Rutterford and his assistant attach painted mural boards to decorate the on-site container.

Left: local resident Archie (with owner) appears unimpressed.



Below: Scottish Opera helped Currie Primary pupils perform Vikings: Quest for the Dragons Treasure. See page 39.



Bottom: In April, Colinton Parish Church published the final edition of its bimonthly magazine, Colinton News—which debuted in February 1980. (This was a successor to Colinton Parish Magazine, which had been launched in November 1910!) The new Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church of Scotland – the unified Colinton and Juniper Green congregations – will be served by a new magazine put together by current Colinton News editor Kath Hay.



BRIEFLY...

ELECTION (UPDATE)

The confirmed candidates for the expected UK General Election, due this year, are (at time of going to press, and in alphabetical order): Cllr Scott Arthur (Scottish Labour), Joanna Cherry KC MP (Scottish National Party), Cllr Dan Heap (Scottish Green Party), Richard Lucas (Scottish Family Party), Sue Webber MSP (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party), and Bruce Wilson (Scottish Liberal Democrats).

TOILETS DESTROYED

Police Scotland are appealing for any information on the fire which totally destroyed the new toilet block at Threipmuir Reservoir. A spokesperson said: "Call 101 quoting incident number 0562 of April 19, 2024."

COLINTON PHONE BOX

On 15 April, the City of Edinburgh Council's planning officials approved the proposed repair and restoration of the listed K6 telephone kiosk on Bridge Road, Colinton. Work on behalf of Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO is expected to begin shortly; replacing damaged (glass) panels (like for like), the addition of a discreet lock and internal shelves, and the repainting of the box in the "correct" British Standard Currant Red (BS381C-539).

NEW ST MUNGO'S?

Rev Ollie Clegg, Rector at St Mungo's Episcopal Church in Balerno recently announced to the congregation that they should explore the potential in building a new church on the Woodcroft field, gifted to the church in 1941. The site lies opposite Balerno High School, where the church currently holds their highly popular 10.30am Sunday services. No budget, timetable or planning application has yet

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Gordon Macdonald MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency



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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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Sue Webber MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Lothian Region



Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

Contact Sue Webber
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Harmeny Chief Executive Moves On

ALISON ACOSTA
FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER, HARMENY EDUCATION TRUST

In April Harmeny staff, children and volunteers bade farewell to Neil Squires who had, as Chief Executive, led the charity for nearly 14 years.

At a special leaving event Neil paid tribute to everyone who has supported him throughout his tenure, including the Currie and Balerno community. "At Harmeny we provide the foundations for turning young lives around," he said, "and I consider myself very fortunate to have worked with such a remarkable group of children and fantastic team of staff."

"Harmeny is a very special community of adults and children where relationships are at the heart of everything," he added. "We have an incredible estate to work in and also a fantastically supportive wider community."

"I hear so many stories from other residential providers about challenges with the local community. Whereas, for Harmeny, being situated in Balerno feels the opposite—our children and young people are welcomed with open arms into the local schools, local youth organisations, the Balerno Gala



Former CE Neil Squires is presented with a work by Scott Irvine of Harmonies in Wood, by Jennifer Scott, Chair of Harmeny Education Trust's Board of Trustees.

day, and so on. All this is really appreciated and allows our young people feel like they are really included and belong. I'd like to thank everyone from the local community who has supported Harmeny and I know that I am leaving Harmeny in great hands."

Neil's 14 years of service were commemorated in a beautiful piece specially created by local artist, Scott Irvine of Harmonies in Wood, presented to Neil by Jennifer Scott, Chair of Harmeny's Board of Trustees.

Gavin Calder, previously Headteacher of the Junior School at Edinburgh Academy, has now joined Harmeny as its new Chief Executive and is looking forward

to getting to know the team and the local community during the coming months and years.

"It is a great privilege to have been given the opportunity to take on the role of Chief Executive of Harmeny Education Trust at this exciting time in the life of the organisation," Gavin said. "I am looking forward to working with everyone and playing my part in making Harmeny a place to live and a space to thrive."

• <https://harmeny.org.uk/>

It's Pentland Community Chest Time Again!

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Applications are now open for grants from the Pentland Community Chest, which will be allocated this summer.

The Chest provides grants of up to £600 to local clubs and organisations (based in Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green, Kirknewton and Ratho), supporting projects seen as of benefit to the local community. The guidelines favour small projects where the grant amount will make a big difference to the organisation.

The Chest is administered and funded jointly by Currie Balerno Rotary and the Balerno Village Trust (BVT).

Since its introduction

the Chest has made grants in response to a wide range of applications, including: Brownies, Scouts and Air Cadets, junior football and basketball clubs, tennis clubs, schools, dementia support groups, environmental projects and both Currie Community Centre and Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled.

• Closing date for the latest tranche of grants is 31 May. Don't delay!

• Information about the Community Chest, including up-dated application forms, can be found via Currie Balerno Rotary and Balerno Village Trust websites: www.cbrotary.org or www.balernovi.org.uk

• You can also follow Currie Balerno Rotary: [facebook.com/cbrotary1020](https://www.facebook.com/cbrotary1020) and twitter.com/cbrotary1020



51st Pentland (Balerno) Scouts Need You!

"The 51st Pentland (Balerno) Scout Group currently has 224 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Across the week there are three Beavers colonies that meet, four Cubs packs and three Scouts Troops," writes Sally Cavers. "This means that every week during term time all these six to 14-year-olds in the Balerno area get to learn new skills, work together and have lots of fun. Keeping a group like this running requires the time and dedication of a team of adult volunteers. We currently have 22 leaders running our sections. However, we need some more."

"Scouts leaders are needed so that we can keep running our Scouts troops which run a range of activities for 10 to 14 year olds. We are also looking for trustees to support the running of the Group and help us with things like fundraising and events."

"We'd love you to join our Group and experience the benefits of providing activities for children in our community, meet others and be part of something amazing!"

• Contact Sally Cavers for more information: chair@balernoscouts.org.uk

BRIEFLY...

p3>>>

been confirmed for the green belt-designated site.

BYE-BYE 40

The last remaining 40 mph speed limits on Edinburgh's streets will be reduced to 30 mph this summer: the 21 listed streets include Lanark Road, Riccarton Mains Road, and Wester Hailes Road.

CHURCH UNIONS

At the end of April, the Church of Scotland congregations in Colinton and Juniper Green are expected to have united to create the new "Edinburgh Pentlands Parish". Further up the Water of Leith, the "Kirk of Currie and Balerno" appears the most likely name for the new unified congregation. We're currently keeping a lawyer on speed-dial just in case the latter opts to start publishing a church magazine called *Kirk of C&B News*.

TEEN BOOK GROUP

Currie Library now hosts a regular book group for 12-17 year olds, held between 2pm and 4pm on the first Saturday of the month. The next meeting, on Saturday 4 May, will discuss *The Rest of Us Just Live Here* by Patrick Ness. The talk on 1 June will focus on Annalise Avery's *The Immortal Games*. Note: copies of selected books are available to borrow for each meeting—so no need to buy!

UKRAINIAN STORIES

Ukrainian refugees across Scotland are sharing the stories of civilians and soldiers in the country since the Russian invasion in February 2022. www.ukrainianwarstories.com

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications remain open for local projects seeking grants of up to £5,000 via CEC's Community Grants Fund—previously >p7



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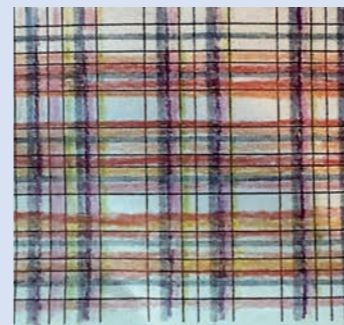
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"Last term our P3 and P4 classes entered a competition run by Gordon Nicholson Kiltmakers, and children's author Malcolm Campbell (aka, "Malcolm the Weaver"), writes Sally Hourston, Head Teacher, Currie Primary School. "As part of the colouring competition the children had to design a new tartan with the winner's design being made into a kilt. We were delighted to hear that Erin in P4 had won the competition! Erin received copies of three of Malcolm's books while the school received £200! Erin has decided to spend this money on games and toys for the playground so that everyone in school can enjoy her win. Congratulations to Erin! We are all very proud of her work."



Future Plans for Juniper Green Tennis Club

PAUL MURPHY
CHAIR, JGTC

Plans are afoot to replace the current blaes playing surface at Juniper Green Tennis Club with a modern synthetic version.

Crucially, this would enable all-year-round play, rather than the existing truncated playing season between, typically, April and October.

Admittedly, this will be a huge undertaking for a modest-sized



Currie Bowling Club 150

GRAHAM DANE
C&B NEWS

Currie Bowling Club, founded in July 1874, is 150 this year! It's also half a century since the club commissioned its impressive entrance gates in 1974 from local blacksmiths (and Club members) Tom and Ramsay Blair, whose then-smiddy are now the houses next to the Riccarton Inn. Growing in strength over the years, the club built a pavilion in 1912 and another in 1953. The present pavilion is heated by environmentally-friendly heat pumps.

Although women have played a major role in supporting the club throughout its existence, it was only in 1925 that they were

allowed to join as members, while a ladies section wasn't started until 1961. The present Ladies Match Secretary, Marge Barker, has been in post for more than 25 years.

The foundation of the club coincided with the opening of the Balerno branch railway line, so it was a time of great change locally. New foundations that year also included Heart of Midlothian Football Club and Mayfield Bowling Club. Both will be sending teams of four for a celebratory competition this summer in Currie, along with Balerno, Sighthill and Colinton clubs.

Currie will be fielding a dozen men and a dozen women to play against the visitors. Dates will be announced in a future issue of C&B News.



club such as JGTC, but it is in line with the organising committee's goal of future-proofing playing facilities at a club which has served our local community well since 1891.

A list of prospective funding sources and grants has already been pulled together and the committee is currently working its way through each set of requirements as and when their respective submission deadline approaches.

The club will be expected to raise some of the funds itself

and, with the help of our local community, we will soon launch a number of events to contribute towards our financial goals.

We have met with a number of Tennis Scotland approved contractors to better understand the costs and the timeframes to complete the necessary works, and are currently negotiating a formal, long-term lease arrangement with the owners, the City of Edinburgh Council, to provide us the necessary security of tenure to proceed with our strategic plans.

BRIEFLY...

p5>>>

successful applicants in C&B-land include Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO, Community for Food, and Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled. For more details, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mryj87mz> or email: communitygrantsfund@edinburgh.gov.uk

STATION ADOPTED

Wester Hailes Community Trust has formally adopted Wester Hailes Train Station, and are looking for volunteers to help build garden boxes, install information boards, and bring other creative ideas to improve the look and feel of the station. Anyone want to help look after Curriehill Station?

BARBARA RETIRES

Barbara Johnstone MBE, who founded Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled in 1986, stepped down from her organisational role in April. Commencing with one borrowed pony, Barbara guided the growth of the organisation which currently provides riding therapy for more than 70 individuals, thanks to more than 120 volunteers and well-cared-for horses.

BUS STOP MOVED

The bus stop and shelter on Redford Road, Colinton (opposite the sheltered housing complex at number 26), was unexpectedly moved around 87 yards (80 metres) to opposite 26A Redford Road, apparently following complaints of anti-social behaviour at the former location. According to somewhat surprised local councillor Scott Arthur (who also happens to be convenor of CEC's Transport and Environment Committee) a shelter will be installed once a power connection is established at the new location.

COLINTON MERGER

The latest (and, as far as we're aware, 40th) issue of Colinton

>p9

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"This April we celebrate Balerno Art Club's 13th birthday!" Writes Cara MacDonald. "During the 13 years we have experienced many different locations: Dean Park Primary School's Art Hut, Balerno Library, Balerno High School, the Water of Leith, Online (during lockdown), Balerno's forests, the beach, the National Galleries of Scotland—oh, and even in the garden! Even when the odds were stacked against us – with floods, burst pipes, broken heating systems, and the eventual demolition of the Dean Park Art Hut – we still continued to have fun and even got some art done!"



Introducing Currie Creatives

In March 2024, the management team at The Currie and Balerno News Limited approved the latest tranche of donations to good causes funded by the company's annual surplus. One of the recipients was locally-based Currie Creatives

SHONA MOYES CURRIE CREATIVES

As a parent of a young man with additional support needs (ASN) I became more and more aware, as my son grew, that there were very few social activities that he could access—and almost none in our community.

Young people with ASN typically attend special schools outside their local area and community. This means they have no close friends, which can lead to them to being socially isolated, which in turn can impact their mental health and wellbeing.

Music is a means of communication, self-expression, and interaction for people with learning disabilities and/or autism, which I witnessed first-hand with my son.

This fed my desire to set up a music group that my son and other young people like him could access.

Following a discussion with Allister McKillop, the then-chair of Currie Community Council, I set the "ball rolling". Allister gave me advice about potential funding and how to go about setting up a local community group.

Currie Creatives was founded in November 2022 after securing a three-month grant from "Thrive



Above: Some participants get involved. Left: musicians (left to right) Dominika Czerniga and Shona Moyes



Edinburgh".

Currie Creatives provides an opportunity for disabled adults aged 16 and over to come together

weekly to sing and create music led by a music specialist.

In addition, it enables the parents and carers who attend with their adult children, the opportunity to connect and make friendships as families.

This group could not happen without the support of the Kirk Session of Currie Kirk who allow us to use the Gibson Craig Halls to host our music sessions. We are very grateful to have had very generous donations from various charities and groups that are enabling us to thrive.

At present we are currently full, but we do have a waiting list in case any spaces become available.

• Contact Shona Moyes: shona.moyes@btopenworld.com



Plans to erect 14 flats on the site of the former children's nursery at 305 Lanark Road were rejected by The City of Edinburgh Council's planning department on 16 April. The current building, which was destroyed by fire in early May 2021, remains a burnt-out ruin, with reconstruction long-since rejected as a viable option. However, CEC officials concluded that the proposed re-development (24/00663/FUL) failed "to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of Colinton Conservation Area".

BRIEFLY...

p7>>>

Magazine reports that ongoing discussions between Colinton Amenity Association and Colinton Community Conservation Trust will likely lead to an amalgamation of the two organisations, based on their mutual focus on local heritage and amenity plus the growing challenges both groups face in recruiting new members and sourcing funding for their ongoing commitments.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Juniper Green: Replace existing "white" upvc sash and case window with new "white" upvc casement top over top window, 11 Juniper Avenue. (24/01511/FUL) Comments by 3 May.

Colinton: Replace current rear windows and door with bi-fold doors, replace current cladding to match existing properties and upgrade windows to new aluminium, etc, Flat 14, 40 Woodhall Road. (24/01636/FUL) Comments by 3 May.

Currie: Proposed rear dormer loft conversion, 9 Kinleith Mill Road. (24/01781/FUL) Comments by 6 May.

Colinton: Extension to rear; new roof windows; alterations to ground floor to create new utility room and open plan living, dining and kitchen space; provision of new stairs and formation of new bedroom/shower room on first floor, 32 Redford Drive. (24/01834/FUL) Comments by 8 May.

Colinton: Install two internally illuminated gantry signs and six pole-mounted di-bond panels, Tesco, 10 Colinton Mains Drive. (24/01855/ADV) Comments by 13 May.

Currie: New front porch, 46 Thomson Drive. (24/01872/FUL) Comments by 13 May.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Currie: Erect front porch with slate roof tied into property's

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MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

That's how Claire Dancer sees it. Claire is Depute Head at Wester Hailes High School and she recently came to Currie Balerno Rotary to tell us of the school's success in developing the confidence and the achievements of young people from an area which has its difficulties. Nearly 85% of the school's pupils are from households classed in the lowest two categories but, despite this, the parents – without exception – have aspirations for their children and support the school in seeking the most successful outcomes at school and beyond. Wester Hailes High School does everything it can to



encourage participation in all its activities and these go beyond academic teaching. It is here that Youth Vision, led by Sara Beauregard (who is well known to Currie Balerno Rotary), plays

an important part in leading projects that include developmental activities outside the school. Pictured here are two examples of those projects. Claire told us of the lasting effect of school closures due to Covid-19, which set back the development of many children—especially those from less advantaged backgrounds. The school, along with Youth Vision, is now succeeding in involving the youngsters at Wester Hailes High School in the wider community and in the natural environment around them. We wish them every success.

- <https://www.youthvision.uk>
- <https://www.westerhaileshighschool.co.uk/>

Everything is Growing at Malleny Garden

JAMES BELL
HEAD GARDENER, MALLENY GARDEN

Everything is growing: the plants, the flowers—and the weeds! Plans are also growing for our "Malleny Garden Plant Fair" on Saturday 29 June. Many years ago, an open day was held in the garden by a previous "Friends of Malleny" group: now, after some 15 years, we're reintroducing a similar occasion. With the setting of a "National Collection of 19th century shrub roses" in full flower and fragrance, you can join us for a plant-focused day of local plant nurseries, horticultural organisations, community groups and food and drink. Rain or shine, it will be a lovely day. Please do come along. Meanwhile in the garden we have welcomed our new part-time gardener, Eoghann. He has hit the ground running and setup our small propagation greenhouse after its recent refurbishment. New seedlings for plants destined for the garden are well underway. New Pelargoniums (geraniums) are being grown on for the display greenhouse. It's always an exciting time of year for growing new things for the garden. However, we mustn't take our eye of some of the less-welcome seedlings. The weed seeds are also well underway. We will endeavour to keep those at bay! Like the small propagation greenhouse, the large display house is home to new plants. A range of Primula auricula are being grown here: flowering well from early



the flowers, giving us a picture record of these little gems. (Some of his photos are shown here.) Once they've finished flowering, we will propagate these to give us at least three of each and help preserve them safely. We will also collect seed to grow on and see what weird and wonderful new flowers appear. Perhaps we may get one good enough to be Auricula "Malleny Garden"?
• *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, please do get in touch at mallenygarden@nts.org.uk.*
• <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/malleny-garden>

April to mid-May, these charming little plants have vibrant flowers, some even quite fragrant. One of our volunteers, Bob, is carefully photographing and recording all

BRIEFLY...

- p9>>>**
- existing slate roof, 30 Hermiston. (24/00673/FUL) Granted, 9 April.
 - Currie: Proposed rear extension, 49 Bryce Road. (24/00991/CLP) Granted, 12 April.
 - Currie: Remove existing porch and erect small porch, 107 Nether Currie Crescent. (24/01191/FUL) Granted, 12 April.
 - Balerno: Construction of single storey rear extension, 5 Gifford Crescent. (24/01063/CLP) Granted, 16 April.

PLANNED ROADWORKS & ROAD CLOSURES

- Balerno: Mansfield Road below the SSPCA centre; CEC carriageway subsidence and repair, requiring road closure and diversion via Cockburnhill Road - East Rigg. Ongoing.
- Oxgangs: Oxgangs Road North at junction with Colinton Mains Drive: SGN gas main alteration, requiring temporary traffic lights, until 12 May.
- Currie: Footpath between Nether Currie Road to/from Lanark Road West (roughly opposite Sainsbury's garage) closed for Scottish Power substation work, 6 - 26 May (approx).
- Balerno: Bavelaw Gardens, closed for CEC bridge inspection, 7 May.
- Balerno: Harlaw Road, temporary traffic lights for bridge inspection at Harlaw Bank, 8 May.
- Dreghorn: Redford Place at Colinton Primary School, closed for delivery of portacabins, 8am - 4pm, 4 June. Parking restrictions in neighbouring Redford Walk/Bank/Place/Gardens/Grove.
- Colinton: Bonaly Road between Woodhall Road and Bonaly Avenue, closed for resurfacing, 22 July - 3 August.

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES

Round Table Update

ALASDAIR GORDON
CURRIE, BALERNO & DISTRICT ROUND TABLE

At Currie, Balerno and District Round Table we always welcome applications for funding from local people and organisations. We're also proactively on the lookout for potential recipients, and we encourage people to make nominations if there's something we can help with.

A real standout recently was Fern Macgregor's fabulous voluntary work around our streets—litter picking, gritting, clearing, and more besides. We've recently contributed towards new equipment.

We've had two great requests for hands-on educational initiatives that we're delighted to be supporting. The children at Currie Primary School Nursery are going to be growing edible plants and learning where their food comes from: we're helping with the purchase of gardening equipment. Meantime, the BIG Project in Broomhouse, which provides activities and opportunities for 5 to 18 year olds (and particularly those who are disadvantaged) are running cooking sessions—we're helping with the purchase of electric hobs, pans, mixing bowls and utensils.

We've also been a long term supporter of Pentlands Book Festival and we've funded replacement advertising banners for this year's event.

Exciting times are ahead, with final preparations for the Beer and Curry festival (7 - 8 June) taking shape, and further event planning and beer selections underway. (See page XX for further details.)

Last, but not least, we also have various social events coming up including an outing for the Curry Club, a Vinyl Night, and the next leg of the coastal walk... Further updates on progress will follow in the June edition of C&B News.

• Email: enquiries@cboard.com



Water of Leith Clean-Up

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Last month I wrote of the planned "Mother of all Community Spring

Clear Ups" on the Water of Leith. This month I can report that it went well on a dry and clear day.

Volunteers met at the Water of Leith Conservation Centre on Sunday 14 April—including Rotary members from across Edinburgh. Currie Balerno Rotary was well represented and (above left) Percy



Farren and Jim West are shown here with members from the Braids Rotary Clubs as they take a breather, while (above right) Roy Stirrat gets on with the work.

The day was a great success, helped of course by the weather. The Water of Leith looks better for it—for now!

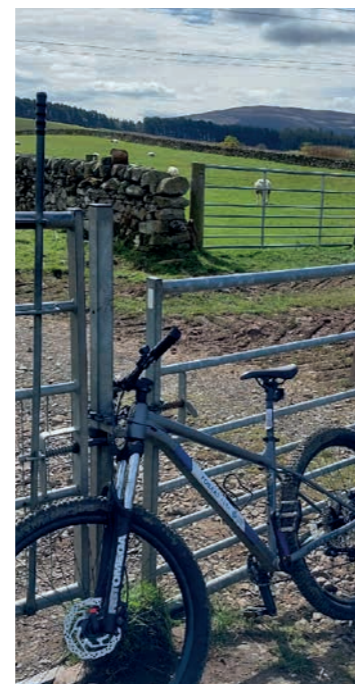
Community Policing Update: Spring is Here!

MARK COULL
PS 5040 SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM

Spring is here: well, almost! Still cold and wet at the time of writing but hopefully improving soon allowing us to patrol on bikes too. While we have been patrolling in the Pentlands as part of Operation Harefield in lambing season, we have been very disappointed to see the damage caused by fire to the new toilets at Threipmuir Reservoir. If you have any information please call 101 quoting incident number 0562 of 19 April 2024.

PC Serafin has attended Dean Park Primary School for Internet Safety talks aimed at primaries five to seven. If any other local Primary schools are looking for officers to attend then please get in touch. Our School Link officers have various planned talks suitable for various years groups discussing hate crime, drugs and alcohol, anti-social behaviour and knife crime.

As the weather does improve there will be many more people making use of the Pentlands and we will patrol this area to combat antisocial behaviour. If you are going up to socialise then please consider other users and the



wildlife. Leave no evidence that you have been there.

Currie and Balerno High School senior pupils were at Harlaw reservoir recently and were commended by members of the public and the Pentland Rangers for what little litter was left behind, having gone prepared with bin bags.

• If you need to contact Police in an emergency dial 999, 101 for a non-emergency and if a Community issue please email EdinburghCPTSouthWest@scotland.police.uk

Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled AGM

ELAINE JEFFERIES
CHAIR, RAVELRIG RDA

Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled held their AGM on 23 March at Ravelrig Gait to discuss work, events, and fundraising, and to commend coach and participant successes. We also celebrated volunteer awards with RDA UK and Horsescotland

The meeting acknowledged the contributions of Laura Shishodia and Debs Heatly who stepped down as trustees during the year. Three new trustees were voted in and welcomed onto the Board: Emma Goodman, Roseanne Ogden and Rebecca Chalmers. Their appointments were confirmed at the following meeting in early April.

There was also an update on the indoor arena development; it was confirmed the project is on track and it is hoped the arena will be completed by the end of 2024.

• Rider placements and general enquiries: organiser@ravelrig-rda.org.uk

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES



Breakout Cafe Community Update

CALUM MCKEOWN
CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

Since its February 2021 opening on the Currie Chieftains grounds near Balerno High School, the Breakout Cafe has welcomed the local community, offering hot drinks, fresh rolls, and local bakes throughout the week. Having been a focal point for families during the weekend sports fixtures at Currie, the cafe is always open for passersby, professionals using the co-working spaces the cafe has to offer, and families and friends



looking for a place to unwind and catch up.

Breakout has now also introduced a lunch menu available throughout the week, which has seen favourable reviews by visitors in recent times. It is also a welcomed space for private events,

Above: Some recent visitors to the Breakout Cafe.

having seen the success in March hosting the visually impaired tandem club Vie Velo for coffee and rolls.

As we move closer to the summer, the Breakout Cafe serves as a gathering place for locals and visitors alike to enjoy everything Balerno has to offer. Tucked just left of the Currie Chieftains Clubhouse and on the way to Malleny Gardens, our cafe is the perfect spot to drop by before checking out the beautiful heritage site.

• To experience all that Breakout has to offer, don't hesitate to drop by for a visit or reach out to us at hello@curriechieftains.org. We look forward to welcoming you!

What Next for The Shed in Spylaw Park?

LORRAINE O'SHEA
COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE SCIO

At our first event of 2024, on Easter Sunday (the "Spring Fling" in Spylaw Park), CVE was bowled over by the interest and support for the Shed Project, which we have been working on since 2019. Everybody was surprised and delighted to hear of the recent wonderful bequest we have received from Colinton resident Angela Miller (see last issue) which brings us nearer to our dream of restoring and preserving the historic building and bringing



it back into regular use as an inclusive community space in Colinton Village.

As a result, we are planning to open the Pit Stop Café at The Shed on Friday afternoons during May

(between 1pm and 4pm), when there will be teas, coffees, juice, and home baking par excellence for walkers, cyclists and families enjoying Spylaw Park, the Water of Leith Walkway or a visit to the nearby Colinton Tunnel.

This will be a golden opportunity to view the plans we have for the two-storey transformation of the Shed, talk about the ideas for its future developments, and find out how to support this exciting project.

• "Find Out Fridays" begin on Friday 3 May at the Shed in Spylaw Park.

• Join us for a brew, a bake and a good blether!

• More: <https://www.facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise>



PEN at Fairtrade Morning

KATIE GERARDOT
PENTLAND'S ECO NETWORK

In March, Pentland's Eco Network (PEN) were very pleased to be invited to take part in the annual Fairtrade Morning at St Joseph's Church. Our Seed Swap proved to be very popular, as did our quiz highlighting the environmental benefits of buying Fairtrade products.

• On Saturday 11 May we will be holding a Seedling and Plant Swap at Balerno Farmers' Market; bring any extra/unwanted seedlings to swap and come and find us on the BVT stall, between 9am and 1pm.

• The following week, Saturday 18 May, we will be at the Currie Community Orchard, King George V Park, from 11am - 1pm to do some important tree maintenance and (hopefully) enjoy the blossom. All welcome, no experience necessary. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear. Bring gloves if you have them—and a picnic!

"Balerno SWI's April meeting featured a talk by Kendra Flockhart, a fully-qualified Homeopathic practitioner with her own clinics in Haddington and Fife," writes Sheila Mason. "Kendra made it a most interesting presentation, presenting a history of this global system of medicine – the second largest in the world – as a safe and holistic system. Everyone is an individual so it treats the whole person and never just their symptoms. Following Kendra's enthusiastic presentation, members asked some very interesting questions afterwards and she gave us all 'food for thought'."

• Our next meeting is our Open Night at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 May, in St Joseph's Hall (The Mill cafe) including a painting demonstration by Jenny Matthews RSW.

Visitors welcome. Entry £5, including raffle..

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What a Donation of a Box of Cereal Can Mean

CAROLINE BROWN
CHAIR, COMMUNITY FOR FOOD

A picture, they say, is worth a thousand words. For the last four years Community for Food has been serving local school families who need support for food provision. We continue to serve up to 46 families and 97 children every week, costing on average £400 per week—and we go through a lot of food! The above photograph was of our shelves some weeks ago. Cereal is one item that we go through a lot, along with UHT milk. Cereal can be a breakfast, snack or even an evening meal for someone who is short on food. It's a great filler for hungry teenagers. If you are out and about this week think about dropping an extra

box of cereal and/or UHT milk into your shopping and donate it through one of our drop off points: Currie Library, the three local Scotmids, or the Juniper Green Village Hall (on Monday evenings, 7pm - 8pm, or Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 6pm and 7pm).

Any other in-date non-perishable food is also most welcome—thanks for all your continued support.

As a final note we want to give a huge shout out to all our direct debit supporters, who donate weekly and monthly, and also to C&B News and Currie, Balerno & District Round Table for their recent generous donations, helping us offer our services week in week out.

Thanks again—we could not do this without all our community volunteers and supporters.

If you would prefer to support us directly please check out www.communityforfood.com and follow the link for "What you can do".

https://www.facebook.com/communityforfood

May Update from Pentland Flower Club

WENDY WILLIAMS
PENTLAND FLOWER CLUB

We're back with a new session of the Flower Club! Last month we welcomed Kathleen Doggett from Musselburgh with a lively demonstration of arrangements entitled "This Time of Year". Kathleen has only recently moved to the area and is a very welcome addition to the local flower arranging community.

With our new season underway we now meet in the Ogston Hall, Balerno Parish Church—please enter from the Scotmid end. Also, we have two meetings in May instead of just the one!

On Friday 3 May we will welcome Julia Loudon from Earlston, who will show us a "Spell of Wizardry"

On Thursday 30 May we look forward to seeing Debbie Davies (all the way from Formby, Lancashire) with a demonstration entitled "Floral Fashions".

Both events start at 7pm. As usual, we welcome members and visitors.

Meeting Menopause with Mindful Compassion

ANNETTE WILSON
POND WELLNESS

Menopause is mentioned everywhere just now! Quite a change since I began my MSc research project just two years ago, investigating the impacts of learning mindfulness and self-compassion for women in the earliest phase of menopause—peri-menopause.

That's a great thing, because it's broken the taboo! Women in their 40s and 50s are now speaking to their partners, colleagues and friends about how menopause affects them. So much more information is now available and, gradually, women are able to access more support to help them understand and manage their menopausal symptoms.

One of the drivers for my research topic was my own personal experience. As many others find, the earliest years of peri-menopause were particularly challenging, made even more-so by the combination of other things that were happening in my life at the same time. And that's the thing—this can be a complicated time, coinciding perhaps with career transitions, juggling seniority at work, caring for ageing parents or children at various stages. Menopause can happen to younger women too, as a result of certain medical conditions or treatments, causing unexpected and exaggerated symptoms.

Some psychological impacts of menopause can include anxiety, forgetfulness, loss of confidence,

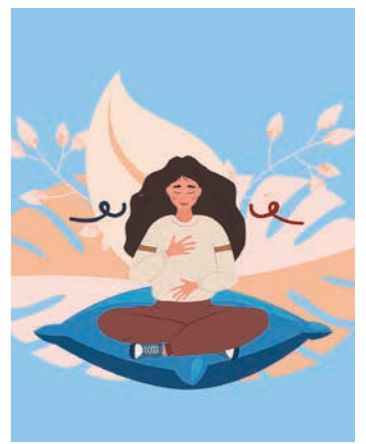


Image by Rosy/Bad Hamburg/Germany from Pixabay.

low mood and feelings of sadness or depression, poor concentration or brain fog. One potential antidote to these complicated and confusing experiences is learning mindfulness and self-compassion.

Mindfulness – "knowing what is happening while it is happening without preference" – is a set of techniques that can be learned and practised, with real, evidence based, positive impacts on your psychological health. Self-compassion, described as treating yourself as you would a good friend, can underpin a more mindful approach to life experiences.

Both mindfulness and self-compassion were game changers for my own approach to menopause! As with the women who took part in my research project, I felt much more contented and accepting of what was happening to my body and in my life. It gave me much needed space around my thoughts, as I processed all the changes and complicated life variables that were underway. I had some tools to use when I felt overwhelmed or anxious, and became more self-aware and able to make better choices about the sort of mum, partner and colleague I could be. Basically, I felt like I tamed the menopause monster!

Now I am working to support other women who find struggles with menopause. My research project has led to developing a six-week course to teach mindful self-compassion within the context of menopause.

The next course is at Hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, on Tuesday evenings from 21 May, 7.15pm - 9.30pm.

For more information, contact annette@pondwellness.co.uk





Richard Watt, a Gentleman

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

By the time I became this publication's "hired help" in late March 2020, Richard Watt was already a well-established member of the magazine's management team, having in 2017 become a director (and later vice-chairperson) of its publisher, The Currie and Balerno News Ltd. Although our initial interactions were via Zoom, I quickly came to realise that his contributions to the monthly business meetings were invariably insightful and considered, yet never forceful. He was, without doubt, a gentleman in the full sense of the word. And, unless grandfatherly duties intervened, he was also a diligent and sharp-eyed proofreader—an invaluable asset in the publishing world!

However, it was only as I undertook my own deep dive into the *C&B News* back catalogue (as part of the process of getting to know the publication I'd taken on) that I began to appreciate Richard even more—as a writer, one of the invaluable group of contributors I had been very lucky to inherit from my predecessors in the editorial chair.

Since 2015, Richard had principally contributed numerous well-penned previews and reviews promoting the annual Pentlands Book Festival which was held each November. Later, of course, I learned that he had been a founding member of the festival and a mainstay when it came to chairing events with both tact and a genuine understanding of authors' and audiences' needs.

This was doubtless, I now realise, thanks to his long and successful career as an English teacher, and later – when supposedly "retired" – as a guide for foreign visitors to Scotland, sharing the country's

wildlife and landscapes—in German!

In terms of his writing, it was his articles on nature – and, in particular, the natural world as it could be experienced in south-west Edinburgh – that he will likely be best remembered within these pages. Succinctly, carefully, beautifully, he shared the small wonders of the natural world which he saw and delighted in, both within and beyond his own gardens in West Lothian, Balerno and latterly Juniper Green.

For those keeping notes, Richard contributed 17 "Wildlife Watch" columns between February 2017 and July/August 2018. That's no mean achievement, but it pales in comparison with his near-50 "Nature Corner" articles which appeared regularly – if not every issue – between April 2009 and February 2021. If nothing else, this means he had successfully put up with the unique foibles of five different editors!

Many of those articles are, quite simply, among the most beautifully composed pieces I have read in *C&B News*, and it's fair to say that – as a freelance journalist – I would have been jealous if I hadn't been so full of admiration. It felt only proper that, during the recent celebration of his life at Mortonhall Crematorium, one of his Nature columns was read out by his eldest son.



Top: Jenny Robertson, Dr Susan Stewart and Richard Watt during a 2019 Pentlands Book Festival "local authors" event.

Photo: Martin Bone. Above: Richard and his wife Julie, who predeceased him, on their golden wedding anniversary in 2015.

I didn't know Richard well; essentially, we met only once a month to discuss the magazine, and our communications were limited beyond those management meetings. I only came to recognise his life-long love of nature and history, so selflessly shared with his wife, their children and grandchildren, as the family shared memories and stories of the man they knew during his funeral.

But I will certainly miss Richard, ever the gentleman, round the table discussing the magazine. But I will regret even more being no longer able to share his love of nature with the readers of *C&B News*.

Goodbye, Richard. And thank you.



Remembering Clare Thomson

NICOLA KURTH
HEAD TEACHER, DEAN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

In March our much loved friend and Depute Head Teacher, Clare Thomson, sadly died after a prolonged period of illness. Clare was central to the Dean Park team and is missed every day. There has been an outpouring of love for Clare and her beautiful family across the community and beyond and we would like to share a tribute to the wonderful person we were fortunate enough to know and love.

In the early 1990s Clare started a dedicated, passionate career as a teacher that has touched the lives of many staff, children and families. For more than 20 years she took care of the children at Lasswade Primary and later joined Dean Park Primary in Balerno where she was central to the running of the school and pastoral support for families.

Throughout her career at both Lasswade and Dean Park, Clare was passionate about sport and sporting experiences for children. At Dean Park her sports days were legendary and the children remember them as a highlight of their school experience. Her organisation was second to none.

Following her dedicated time at Lasswade, Clare joined the Dean Park team as a teacher and quickly became part of the Senior Leadership Team. She very ably supported different head teachers over time and, during a period of change, brought a steady hand as Acting Head Teacher.

Parents, staff and children at Dean Park loved and respected Clare. With responsibility for



supporting the youngest children and their families, Clare was the first face of school at Dean Park for all of our current children. Even during difficult Covid-19 times, she made their first experience of school really special by hand delivering badges and books and welcome packs to their doorsteps.

Clare always went the extra mile. Nothing was ever too much, whether for the children, for

colleagues or wider families. She never shied away from tricky tasks if they would lead to something great for the children. As well as the epic sports days, every year she organised Burns competitions and worked with the local Burns Clubs to make it really meaningful and special for the children.

Clare's experience and ability to see things from varying perspectives made her an excellent

teacher and Depute Head in her time at Dean Park. Her views were well considered and she often shared excellent ideas. Parents were grateful for her unwavering support and she went the extra mile to help anyone who needed it. Her compassion meant she received messages daily from families looking for help and, for many children at Dean Park, she was their person. She always had time to listen and made each and every visitor to her office feel heard and loved.

Aside from Clare as a dedicated professional, to her friends and colleagues at Dean Park, she was a lovely person. The most thoughtful person. She remembered small details that mattered a lot. She did things that meant so much. She was an absolute delight to know, to work with and to love. All of our lives are better because we were lucky enough to have her in them. Her love will live on in our hearts forever.

The traditions she started and supported will be continued. She will always be remembered and loved by all in the Dean Park community. We are so grateful to have known Clare's love.

Martin W Bone—Not an Obituary

COLIN BONE
SON

Martin W Bone was his own man; loved by some, tolerated by many. He specifically stated he did not want an obituary.

So there will not be one. However, if there were to be one, it would say things like: how he was conceived in a crop field the day before D-Day, and that before a longterm illness took hold, he built a large events company where his work took him around the world.

If it were to be written, his obituary would go on to say: ever the provider, he left his family in loving, happy, stable and comfortable homes with every horizontal surface filled with mini paperwork projects and puzzles of confusion and chaos to keep him in our thoughts and us "entertained" for a long time.

For more than 30 years he made us proud as he fought a longterm illness as stubbornly as only he could, racking up a score of hospital visits we lost count of. So many times he beat it and lost to it only once. Throughout his years of retirement he gave freely to his community. He provided his professional expertise to



local political hustings from 2010, excellent sound quality at the Pentlands Book Festival events from 2015 and, through Currie Community Council, collaborative transport planning with academics at Heriot-Watt University.

His sense of humour and stubbornness to carry on were the last signs of his character to fade on the early morning of Tuesday 2 April, with his wife Norma, daughter Karin and son Colin at his side.

Just as he asked that nobody wrote an obituary, he also stated he did not want a funeral. So

after a short period we will be announcing a get-together where all are welcome – against his wishes – to gather to eat, drink, celebrate his achievements, recollect and most importantly, joke and laugh—knowing that, for just this one time, we will have managed to beat his stubbornness that we will dearly miss.

The family wishes to thank all who contacted us with their support. The surprisingly large number of cards, messages and flowers received has genuinely helped us through these times.

Christopher Cowe Memorial Fundraising Update

ROSS COWE
THE CHRISTOPHER COWE MEMORIAL FUND THROUGH CRY

At a time of writing we are approaching what would have been Christopher's 19th Birthday—a bittersweet time for friends and family, but we all remain committed to ensuring that Christopher leaves a legacy within the area.

The inaugural Christopher Cowe Memorial Heart Screening event will take place at Balerno High School on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 June. We are currently going out to Christopher's year group, friends and siblings to offer places for this screening but, if places remain, we will share details of how to register in the next *C&B News*. We are aiming to screen 200 young people at this event, and any donations received over the weekend will go towards further screenings. A further event is already confirmed for June 2025.

From 4 May until the Sunday of the screening, we will also be running a charity football memorabilia raffle to raise funds to put towards a 2026 screening. Prizes on offer include Hearts and Hibernian 2023/2024 tops signed by the first team squads, a signed Celtic top from the 2019/2020 quadruple treble season and a signed Rangers Training Top from season 2008/09.

We also have: signed Hearts, Hibs, Celtic and Rangers player and team prints; two tickets for a Hibs game in 2024/2025; and museum and stadium tour tickets for parties of four at both Parkhead and Ibrox. We will be selling tickets – £5 a strip – via PayPal and will also be in attendance at Balerno Gala Day (on Saturday 25 May) and all through the screening days, so please pop down and support us and feel free to buy tickets to be in with a chance of winning a great prize. (The draw will be made at the conclusion of the screening on Sunday 23 June.)

Our third activity of the summer will be a "Wee Wander for Christopher" at the Kiltwalk on Sunday 15 September.

If you would like to join our team, and raise funds for Cardiac Risk in the Young, please contact Ross Cowe: rosscowe5@gmail.com

More Currie 'Witches' and Mary Shanks, the Last 'Witch' of Currie

Above left: Balleny Farm. Above right: Currie Kirkyard showing the back of the Kirk, where the young man said he encountered several "cats" (although it would have been the old church and a smaller churchyard at that time). Right: The ruin of Buteland Hill Farm. Below: Mount Parnassus, originally the cottage where Jamie Thomson, the Kenleith Poet, lived. All photos: Douglas Lowe

DOUGLAS LOWE
CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Back in February 2023, I regaled you with something I had found in the Currie Parish records of 1699. I have now found some further information.

This concerned a local man, aged 16, who had complained to the Kirk Session of meeting the wife of another parishioner in the Kirkyard "about ye twilight in ye shape of a cat". He further advised that "there came several cats out of the quire window [of the Kirk] who were immediately represented as women to him, and he" – going to the south stile – "was gripped by one of them and his cravat was taken from his neck".

This local went on to name a number of women said to be involved. All appeared before the Kirk Session to defend themselves. The first the youth named was a married lady "aged above forty years of age" and she complained about the youth spreading these lies. The compiler of the records, Robert Langwill, regretted that the findings of the Session in this "ludicrous and intricate case has not been placed on record". Bearing in mind the times they were living in, had the matter been considered true there could have been an unfortunate reduction in the number of ladies

in Currie Parish in 1699—or did the Kirk Session just treat it all as a young man's "fantasy"? We will never know.

The above was brought to mind when I was researching old local place names within the work of local poet

Jamie Thomson (1763-1832). Jamie was known as both "the Weaver Poet", after his trade, and "the Kenleith Poet". He lived at Mount Parnassus cottage, between Mid and East Kinleith farms. At the time Jamie was hailed as "a second Burns" by the *Historical Magazine* in 1799, and had two books of his poetry published during his lifetime.

I had previously used Jamie's poem, "The Discourse of Mary Shanks, a Supposed Witch, to her Daughter" to illustrate a number of old farm names which have since disappeared, or reappeared as modern street names. I obtained copies of 18th and 19th Century maps of our area and set off to follow Mary Shanks' route, as described in the poem.

In the poem, Mary deals with her daughter's complaints of being called names because her mother was a witch. Mary supplemented her meagre income from the Parish Relief fund by appearing at various local farms where she received offerings of foods, bread and grain—presumably to ensure that no ill-spells were cast in their direction, a sort of cheap insurance policy.

Mary's trip starts at Buteland Hill (now a ruin on the old track to Leithhead), then on to Ramslack near Marchbank (of which nothing remains, but has now returned as one of the new street names), down to Balleny (a still-active farm) and "through the water up by Harlie" (Harlaw, an active farm).

Then it's on to Cowslap (another lost farm between Harlaw and Wester Kinleith farms), and the Lone (the house "Crossroads" at the top of the Kirkgate), finishing at Mid-Kenleith and East Kenleith farms. For Mary, it proved a 14 mile (22.5 km) round trip with little to show for it: at the end of the poem we find Mary's "pension" from the parish funds has been stopped, so she decides to move on from Currie Parish. But that's the next poem!

This 18th century poetry enables us to dip into the language and attitudes of the time, as well as the old place names. Though, certain things – such as bureaucracy and moaning daughters – are timeless!



Above: Local bus services dominate the front page. Right: The local Round Table marks its 10th anniversary with guest Noel Edmonds (circled)!

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Let's be honest: an issue of *C&B News* isn't really an issue of *C&B News* unless it includes something – usually complaints – about local bus services. It's been a common thread in this publication since its very first issue, and a subject which has made it onto the front page on numerous occasions.

To be fair, the impending route changes highlighted on the front of the May 1984 issue weren't just minor timetable changes, or the later unpopular (at the time) decision to send buses up Balerno's Johnsburn Road and Cockburn Crescent instead of Bavelaw Green and Mansfield Road. This was a ground-up reorganisation and renumbering of the routes linking Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green with central Edinburgh and beyond.

Longstanding Eastern Scottish routes 52 and 53 – which headed into town via, respectively, Lanark Road and Colinton/Tollcross – were renumbered depending on their final destinations beyond St Andrew Square—services 64 and 65, for example, both continued southwards to different parts of Penicuik. Meantime Lothian Region Transport (now Lothian Buses) at last extended its Service 45 beyond the pre-1975 city boundary at Juniper Green, finally reaching out to the students at Heriot-Watt University campus at Riccarton, via Currie.

The changes, according to a quoted Eastern Scottish spokesman, were "a result of a big market research exercise we mounted two years ago", but nevertheless they had arrived with little or no public consultation—a complaint that's still often raised today. Also, the impending changes included potential service withdrawals, not least the publicly-subsidised Service 51 connecting Currie and Newbridge.

Of course, this 16-page issue wasn't all about buses. Domestic rates, the legality of horses and vehicles on the Water of Leith Walkway, and recent examples of local river pollution were the big subjects of readers' letters, although the

LOCAL HISTORY AS REPORTED BY C&B NEWS.

THIS MONTH IN... 1984



most outraged missive came from an anonymous contributor bemoaning the lack of dancing at (and early departure of many attendees from) an otherwise "wonderful" Juniper Green Bowlers' Annual Dance.

Talking of such local celebrations, members of the then Currie and Balerno Round Table were pictured at a dinner marking the group's 10th anniversary. It looks all rather male, to be honest, as – dressed in their black jackets and dicky-bow ties – they shared a moment with their "celebrity guest" Noel Edmonds [sic]. Well, actually, we think the *C&B News* team meant Noel Edmonds, the former BBC Radio 1 DJ then best known for hosting hit Saturday-night entertainment *The Late Late Breakfast Show*.

Talking of 10-year anniversaries, the local "Scout Market" (AKA Big Sale) was preparing to mark its first decade. The self-described "bargain hunter's paradise" had already discovered some rare items down the years, though the organisers of the "White Elephant Stall" were apparently "anxious to trace the whereabouts of the 'Clothes Wringer' which was collected and sold for four consecutive years but has not been seen since 1981". Perhaps, they suggested, "it is now an antique"?

In other news, Currie Kirk was pleased to have been given £1,500 by the Scottish Churches Architectural Heritage Trust to aid their "programme of renovation works"; the forthcoming Balerno Children's Gala, starting towards the end of May, was on the lookout for local volunteers to help keep things going; and one G Brocklebank won a bottle of whisky for being just 3p out in his estimate of how much money had been collected in the large-sized bottle on the counter at the now-departed Abbot's Choice public house in Currie. (The total was £208.44; they had guessed £209.47.) Some of the cash raised was to be used "to purchase a block booking at the Odeon Cinema, for children at the Currie Children's Home"—we hope they all enjoyed the film, although we presume it wasn't one of that year's surprise hits, *The Terminator!* (Altogether now: "I'll be Back!")

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Cooking the Books

Ah, baking. One of my favourite pastimes. There is little that can bring me more joy than the mixing of eggs and flour and sugar (give or take a few ingredients) sticking it in the oven. Bread baking has come later to me in life. There was a time it was intimidating but now I have developed an easy way with yeast. And yes, I did once have a sourdough starter. In Lockdown 2.1, I managed a fabulous one, but dropped the glass jar on the floor, murdering my delicious cultured bounty in one fell swoop. I am still grieving, hence why I haven't bothered again yet.

As for baking books, there are approximately *eleventy-billion* out there, of which I have around ten billion. Some are fail-safe old friends, others are experimental. Long-time readers will know I don't have much of a sweet tooth, so baking is for others and I am always willing to hand my creations out to neighbours, friends or passers-by.

The first book I will mention is a beautiful one: gorgeously written and designed by the Belgian *Bake Off* judge, Regula Ysewijn. A Belgian by birth, she professes to love British baking so much she wrote a book (two books actually) about it. The one I will mention now is *Oats In The North, Wheat From The South*. It is a culinary adventure across our entire United Kingdom, detailing bakes from all the many corners: Eccles cakes, Yorkshire parkin, Tottenham cakes, Bara Brith and Aberdeen Butteries, to name a few.

I've made a fairly successful and well-received Swiss Roll (first attempt at making one) with strawberry jam and cream (perfect on a summer's day with a cuppa). Last month I tried my hand at Chelsea Buns. I am used to yeasted and enriched dough. However, I was not prepared for the consistency and how it clumped together in my kneading bowl. I believe it was to do with the order of putting in the wet and dry ingredients, a pattern which I've seen across the yeasted dough recipes in this book. It didn't work. In the end, with exceedingly lumpy dough, full of clumps of flour I could not mix in, I had to abandon ship and chuck it. On the plus side it still rose in the food waste bin, so if I work on it, the problem could be fixed, I'm sure.

The other book I've been trying is a new one, by *Bake Off* winner Edd Kimber, entitled *One Tin*



Bakes. And it's exactly that. He takes one tin and sees what he can bake in it. My kind of cooking. I made Apple Fritter Monkey Bread (a delight from America's Deep South) with apples I got from East Coast Organics. It went down so well it was hard to stop my children and partner from eating it before I was ready to serve it (warm, with ice cream). The neighbours enjoyed the leftovers because it was huge. The other bake was tahini and chocolate cookies (made with browned butter, drool). They went to a family gathering and were eaten before I could even try a bit.

I'm going to try again with the Chelsea Buns. One day. So if you like them, just follow the scent of baking cinnamon, or the sound of my tears as I chuck another ruined batch in the bin. If that happens and there's none in, there'll be something else coming out the oven soon enough, I'm sure.

• *East Coast Organics fruit, veg, meat and store cupboard items can be ordered from www.eastcoastorganics.co.uk*



with Balerno Resident **STEF LYONS**



Local Round Table Turns 50

HAZEL LUMSDAINE
CBDRT

During the last half-century, Currie and Balerno District Round Table has contributed more than its fair share to the local community, and seen many members come and go.

There was a time when any Round Table was entirely made up of men of a certain age (under 45 to be precise) but times have changed. Your local Round Table has moved away from the norm and now welcomes men of all ages, and women! But we still keep our local community at the heart of everything we do. During the last 15 - 20 years it has evolved into what has now become CBDRT and we have focused on providing three key local events.

Every year CBDRT assists Santa Claus on the streets of Currie, Balerno, Junpier Green, Colinton, Baberton and Bonaly, with new routes being added to include the newer estates in our community. This is a massive undertaking with many local groups stepping into to help, but seeing the delight on the faces of children (and adults), and passing on donations to local good causes makes it worth every step.

Next is the annual fireworks display; every year this brings families in their droves to a safe, organised event where they can "Ooh!" and "Ah!" to their hearts content.

Lastly, there's the very successful Curry and Beer festival. This event has now been running for 11 years: each year, local groups support by volunteering to staff the packed two-day event, bringing the community together for the biggest party around.

Behind the scenes, CBDRT members pepper the serious work of organising events with an array of other activities. We work together to agree on what local charities or community initiatives will benefit from the funds raised and recently, in memory of two greatly missed former members, planted more than 70 trees in Bonaly.

Outside of official duties, we are a sociable bunch and enjoy regular social nights—and even walking the coastline of Scotland! If this sounds like something that you would like to get involved in, we are always keen to welcome new members.

• <https://cbdrt.com>, or email: enquiries@cbdrt.com

British Summer Time Delights



GAIL COUSINS BALERNO RAMBLERS

It's now British Summer Time and what a difference that has made to lighter evenings, especially when the sun is shining. It is good to have dry, sunny days—albeit a bit chilly at the moment, with the threat of night-time frost. Even this is preferable to rain and high winds that seemed to be endless.

The lighter evenings energise us and our walks can now take us further afield, knowing we have more daylight hours for walking and travel.

Signs of spring are everywhere: bird song, green buds and leaves in the hedgerows and trees. Wild Garlic, Lesser Celandines, Few Flowered Leek, Marsh Marigolds, Primroses, and Bluebells were all seen along the Water of Leith in recent days. Not forgetting two grey squirrels playing chase. Definitely spring.

Since March, Balerno Ramblers has offered two walking opportunities a week—altogether, 11 walks involving 136 ramblers.

Our midweek and weekend groups are compiling their summer programmes and are encouraging walk leaders to volunteer and commit to leading a walk. So far, six routes have been confirmed for May and June.

Top: Weekend group on Braid Hill. Photo: John Smith. Above left: Falkirk Wheel. Photo: Hamish Clark. Left: City walk in Circus Lane. Photo: Roger Jonathan. Right: At the Avon Aqueduct. Photo: Hamish Clark

MAY WALKS

A dozen Balerno Ramblers are travelling by road, then sailing from Wemyss Bay to Rothesay to be part of the Scottish Gathering. 100 ramblers from all over Scotland will be staying at The Glenburn Hotel for three days of organised walks catering for all abilities, plus a couple of talks, a ceilidh and a chance to socialise with fellow ramblers.

Our own weekend walks tend to be more challenging and strenuous due to the distance and height climbed, though there are gentler walks too: it all depends on the preferences of the walk leader.

A coastal walk along the Fife coastal path is planned for Sunday 12 May: oarking at St Monans, Fife, taking a bus to Lower Largo then walking westwards, enjoying the beaches and coastal scenery.

The weekend walk on 18 or 19 May will be in the Eddleston area, going round Portmore Loch, pass Portmore House and cross to the other side of the main road where it will join the "Old Post Road" before turning off past Barony Castle and the Great Polish Map of Scotland to return to the start. This walk is through varied landscapes with

good views of the surrounding hills, farmland, loch side and woodland. An enjoyable day out especially in good weather.

A week later (25 or 26 May) there's a circular 6.5 mile (10.5 km) lower Pentlands walk, with a 656 feet (200 metre) ascent. From the meeting point at Pentland View Car Park, we will walk along Water of Leith towards Juniper Green, then Torphin, Warklaw Hill, Clubbiedean Reservoir, and Wester Kinleith. The group will then take the footpath on the right a couple of hundred metres after Wester Kinleith Farm and back to Currie via Lymphoy. At the end of the walk we will stop for refreshments at Currie Kirk. So remember to bring some cash!

JUNE WALKS

At the beginning of June there will be an opportunity to climb a "Munro", Ben Chonzie (3,054 feet / 931metres) at a slow pace from the car park at Loch Turret dam. The route goes on the track along the east side of the loch and up Glen Turret, round Loch Uaine, up to the ridge and summit, and then return. The total distance is 8 miles (12.9 km), with an ascent of 1,870ft (570 metres). This walk

Craft Corner:

Tips for upcycling, art and craft projects by Balerno's Lucie Novoveska

Pebble Picture



When looking for new crafting ideas, I leave no stone unturned. (Literally!) This pebble picture project combines my two favourite activities: beach combing and crafting. Yes, I am one of those people who, rather than looking at the romantic ocean, mostly stares at the ground looking for undiscovered beach treasures instead. In my case, these can be as trivial as a pebble in a certain shape or seaweed of the right colour.

What do you need for this project? Pebbles, paper for the background, strong glue, and a frame. Pieces of fabric, paint and small accessories (sticks, driftwood or seaweed) are optional. If you are wondering what the difference between a rock, a stone and a pebble is, I'm afraid geologists don't agree on the answer. But we all agree that pebbles are small rocks with edges that were smoothed by water or erosion and they are also relatively flat. This is exactly what we want: if the pebbles are good for rock skimming, they are perfect for pebble pictures. Just arrange them to create a figure or a scene you want and glue them to the paper. I enjoy the abstract feel of these pieces, not every figure has to have arms, legs or eyes but you can add or even draw any features you want.

I made this pebble picture for my future mother-in-law Christine's birthday. The theme

was simple: "Charming Malcolm is giving Christine flowers (dried red algae) and the couple, together with loveable golden retriever Rosie, are relaxing on the boat." I painted the background and the boat was made with leftover Harris Tweed from the cushion cover project (see February's C&B News). The pebble used for Rosie's head proudly comes from Harlaw reservoir.

I would recommend a frame with a mount and a plastic cover. Using a frame with a plastic cover adds a luxurious feel and also pushes onto the pebbles, helping the glue to hold them in place. A general rule of thumb with any craft project is to place your creation into the frame. Somehow once it's in the frame, others will magically perceive it as art.

You will rock this. Happy Birthday Kitty!



is graded as "strenuous" and requires an early start at 8.20am from the Pentland View car park.

The following weekend there will be a 9 mile (14.5 km) circular walk from Balerno to Listonshiels, across the Bavelaw Estate via Red Moss and the Nail trail.

More details can be found on Balerno Rambler's Facebook page, which has a link to Rambler's website.

- To join any walk, use the link to Balerno Ramblers website www.balerno.org.uk/Ramblers or follow us on Facebook.

- Please register with the walk leader to attend and advise if you have a medical condition relevant to your walking. We regret dogs are not permitted on our walks.

- All our walks are open to all members and non-members. New

weekend ramblers are always welcome.

- For more details and contact numbers please email enquiries@balenorramblers.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@googlegroups.com

All for a Good Cause—Local Community Feed Orphaned Lambs



CAROLINE COURTNEY
CURRIE RESIDENT

THANKS TO CAROLINE BROWN

My family and I have always loved animals, bringing our kids up in the countryside and the farming way of life.

We have a small plot and ponies at our home in Blinkbonny, Currie and, for the past 10 years, have sheep and horses at our farm in West Calder. The venture into helping orphan lambs was an effort to get the whole family involved but it seems we are also bringing the whole community on this journey.

Our seven orphaned lambs in Currie have attracted many visitors from the local area. Families have enjoyed bringing their kids to bottle feed the lambs and enjoy a snuggle!

Keen on getting our three children – Sienna (9), Archie (8) and Lottie (4)

– involved with our sheep, we decided to adopt lambs from a number of other farms, some as far away as Ayr! We visited their orphan lambs to see if we could help rear them. The farms were delighted with our offer and we initially took on two; this was so successful we extended to taking on seven in total. One of the lamb breeds is the same type from which dolly the sheep was cloned, a Dorset black face.

Regardless of breed, we feel it's important to bring up our kids knowing how to care and appreciate the nuances of lambs and sheep. These orphans require round the clock care and it proved the perfect opportunity to get our whole family – and indeed the whole community – involved.

We need to feed the sheep until they are around four months old – around June – so at time of writing (April) we still have some months of work ahead of us. Anyone wanting to help out or visit our lambs can get in touch—see below for details.

Afterwards, they will become part of our wider flock in West Calder. Donations for this spring experience are going to “Canter For a Cure” a cancer charity which myself and my family have been supporting through initiatives including pony rides.

ORPHANS WHITE

The lambs have made quite a stir in the local community—on some days we have had more than 500 requests to come and see them! Our two most famous lambs, Tom and Jerry, have so far visited most of the local schools (including school assemblies!), nurseries and playgroups, and we hope they can make an appearance at The Royal Highland Show towards the end of June.

There are many reasons lambs can be orphaned. Their mother may not have enough colostrum to

feed them, meaning the farmer has to intervene. Also human actions can affect a mother's ability to accept her lambs, which is why it's important during lambing season not to touch new born lambs.

• *If you're interested in coming to visit our Fuzzy flock, please give us a call or text on 07938 987196.*

• *For more info on Canter for a Cure, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ysxpv2a2>*

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KIRSTY HEADDEN
PENTLAND SINGERS

The story of the Pentland Singers began 40 years ago on these very pages. An article published in C&B News in 1984 invited aspiring amateur singers to form a new community choir in Balerno: 15 people turned up to that first rehearsal, with the simple aim of sharing the joy of singing. (Four of them are still singing with us today!)

From these humble beginnings, the choir flourished under the musical guidance of its founding conductor, Iona MacKinlay. After our first ever performance – serenading commuters and Christmas shoppers in Waverley Station – the choir soon established a tradition of putting on twice-yearly concerts for the local community, as well as travelling to perform in exotic, far-flung locations like Pitlochry, Blair Drummond... and even Currie!

Three years later, the Pentland Junior Singers was formed to bring the fun and friendship of singing to the next generation. While numbers have ebbed and flowed over the years – with just three brave members performing in one concert, followed by 30 the following year – the dedication, enthusiasm and raw talent of the Juniors has never faltered. Importantly, the adult choir provides financial support to the Juniors so that the choir can be accessible to any child in the local community who loves to sing.

As well as being a community choir, the Pentland Singers is a registered charity. Having been founded in the year of Band Aid, the choir first donated funds to support famine relief efforts in Ethiopia, and has been raising money for good causes ever since. During its 40-year history the choir has donated tens of thousands of pounds to charity, including local favourites like Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled, as well as musical activities in the area.

Above all, the choir has never lost sight of its core mission: to enjoy making music together, and to share that enjoyment with others. As our musical directors have changed over the years, so too has the choir's repertoire, spanning everything from masses to musicals, carols to jazz, and Burns to the Beatles. We have performed alongside distinguished soloists, chamber orchestras and fellow choirs. Even the choir's social events have a musical spin, from musical quizzes to ceilidhs to a particularly memorable piano-shaped cake.

Our current musical director, Ian Munro, joined in autumn 2019, little suspecting what challenges his first year with the choir would bring. With the exception of a couple of Christmas concerts cancelled due to snow, nothing in the choir's history would prepare us for the challenges of a pandemic and national lockdown. However, as anyone who has heard our sopranos hit the high notes will know, the Pentland Singers always rise to the challenge, and so we embarked on a programme of online rehearsals. As this involved muting the other participants and singing alone in the living room, it was with some relief that the choir resumed socially-distanced rehearsals in 2021.

Just a few short years later, and happily free from restrictions, we are looking ahead to a fitting celebration of our 40th anniversary: two special summer concerts on 11 and 12 June 2024 at Balerno High School. The ambitious and eclectic programme includes a selection of favourite pieces we have performed over the years, many of which were specially written or arranged for the choir, along with beautiful choral classics and crowd-pleasing hits.

We hope the local community will come and share in the joy of singing with us, as we say thank you for the last 40 years—and toast to the next 40!



Cloch Forest Wind Farm
Connection Project



We'd like your views!

Scotland is a world leader in the fight against climate change.

Our country has a target of Net Zero carbon emissions by 2045, with the UK aiming for Net Zero by 2050.

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Our transmission work includes the provision of a new 132kV wood pole overhead line connecting the proposed Cloich Forest Wind Farm substation to the grid at Currie substation.

We have identified a preferred route for the proposed new overhead line, and we would like to hear local people's views to help us develop our plans.

Our public consultation runs from Monday 13 May 2024 to Monday 10 June 2024.

Public exhibitions

Date	Location
28th May 2024, 11:30am to 6pm	St Andrew's New Church Hall, Main Street, West Linton , EH46 7EE
29th May 2024, 1pm to 6pm	Tarbrax Village Hall, Crosswood Terrace, Tarbrax, West Calder , EH55 8XE
3rd June 2024, 1pm to 7pm	Balerno Community Centre, 7 - 11 Main Street, Balerno , Edinburgh, EH14 7EQ

We are holding three public exhibitions where you can view our plans and talk to the project team. Information relating to the proposed overhead line, including a virtual consultation room, will also be made available online from the **13th May 2024** at:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cloch.aspx

You can leave comments on the website, and you can also contact us in the following ways:

Email: Clochprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Post: Cloich Project Manager, SP Energy Networks, Land and Planning, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow, G32 8FA

At this stage, your comments are not representations to the planning authority. If we do make an application for development consent in future, you will be able to make formal representations to the planning authority at that stage.

Let's face it
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LETTERS etc!



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Illustration: Marjorie Beaumont

Oops!

Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed that, last issue, the same three adverts appeared on two consecutive pages (pages 31 and 32). This was due to a literally last-minute slip-up while preparing the issue for printing. The *Hired Help*, for it was he “what did it”, would like to apologise to not just the advertisers which failed to appear opposite Archie’s planning page, but also to our superb advertising manager, Moira, who was utterly blameless, yet nevertheless had to deal with the consequences. The *Hired Help* promises to be much more careful – and awake – in the future.

Overtaking Riders

I was very saddened and distressed this week to witness cars in Balerno not slowing down for a child riding a pony; the man escorting them was signalling to traffic to slow down but was being ignored.

Thankfully no-one was injured in this incident but the ignorance of some is astonishing. I posted on Facebook (Balerno Cares) to raise awareness to realise this is a long standing issue here and riders will avoid roads wherever possible because of the way they are treated.

It is justifiably a requirement of the Highway Code, as cars can frighten horses causing them to bolt and cause injury to all. Seeing a horse and rider in our village should be a delightful aspect of living in a rural area. They should feel safe, respected and considered, and once were.

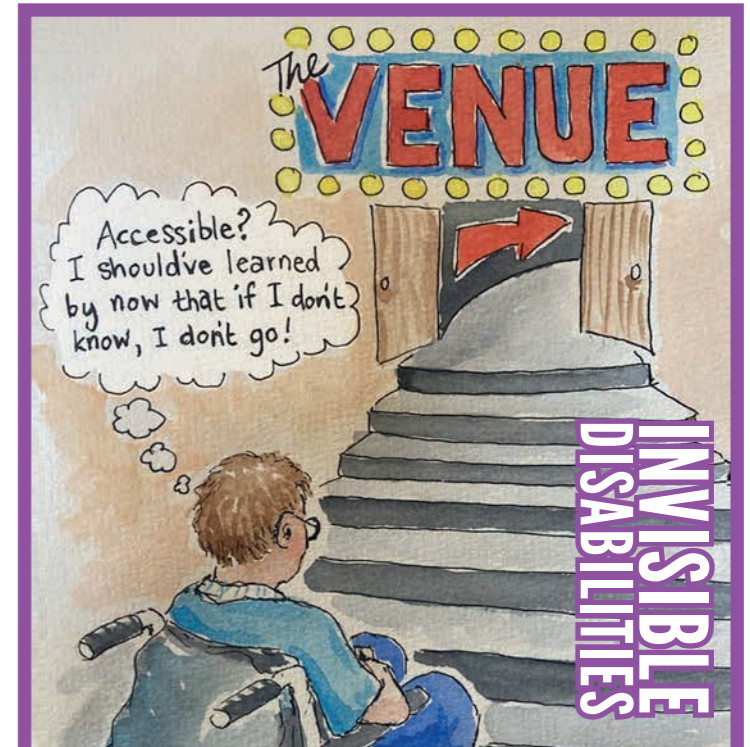
So please drivers: think, slow down and welcome the riding community in our midst when we see this now rare appearance.

Sandra Wilson
Balerno

Although the *Invisible Disabilities* column has always been published semi-anonymously, some in-the-know readers will already be aware that its author, Martin W Bone, recently died. (See page 17 for a tribute from his family.) His widow has kindly given us permission to print the following entry...



A sign located at the entrance to a woodland path on the south west side of the Heriot-Watt University campus, warning of the potential risk of falling trees/branches. No particular indication of where these particularly fragile examples of arboreal life might be found (and there certainly were no other similar signs elsewhere along the path), or indeed, if such falling items make a noise... or not!



8: WHAT ABOUT THE ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS?

WORDS BY M
ILLUSTRATION BY KMCL

Pottering around shops you find a great variation in aisle widths—in some clothes shops, for example, getting a wheelchair around without leaving a trail of clothes on the floor is impossible.

And on your own why are some doors almost impossible to open? One example: at Ikea, the accessible toilet is first rate—if you can get in and out. The door needs all the strength you and your carer have to push or pull open.

Just planning a trip takes time and much energy and ingenuity. I spotted a quote in a paper published by the Office for National Statistics in which someone said: “If I don’t have that information in advance, I don’t go”.

Getting close to shops and facilities can be an issue and a car is often essential and the only solution. What really irks disabled people is when there is an inadequate Disabled Access Statement. “So, if it says wheelchair accessible, I know there’s going to be a ramp, there’s not going to be any steps. But some places don’t do that.”

The Edinburgh International Festival programme for 2024 arrived recently with a superb booklet on access and other issues. The organisers have got their act together and collated a coherent and simple disability guide. They’ve also added a free shuttle bus this year to and from Johnston Terrace up to the “The Hub”—solving the drop off issue and an impossible push up one of the city’s steeper hills.

Let’s hope the Disability Commission adopts the same simple language rather than obfuscating all the time—we shall see.



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PLANNING BY ARCHIE CLARK

Climate Change Preparations?

A recent holiday in England made me wonder whether we have made any meaningful preparations for Climate Change. We were accompanied on the long drive (in our diesel-engined vehicle) by huge numbers of like-powered cars and trucks. Travelling for miles at 60mph in a four-lane carriageway packed from side to side with fellow travellers (and no continuous “hard shoulder”) was unnerving when you wondered what would happen if that truck two feet to your right blew a tyre and needed to cross to the inside lane. The silent Covid-19 days are long forgotten.

The skies were marked by numerous saltires drawn by airliners carrying their passengers to far-off destinations. The pot-holed roads (Edinburgh’s are worst), tree-hidden signs and vanishing lane markings revealed both the heavy traffic the roads are carrying and that local authority budgets seem directed to other priorities.

Food labels remind us that we only produce 58% of our food (2022 statistics), the rest being imported. Labels on clothes show how many were made on the far side of the globe while white goods, cars, solar panels and batteries are significant imports. So to survive, we are dependent on overseas suppliers—which means burning fuel to convey them by air, land or sea. Then one starts to think where the ferries and cargo ships are built and where the steel comes from.

With our countryside pockmarked with part-time working wind turbines (lifespan 30 years, made overseas), and large tracts of land being covered by forests, it does look as though there is no co-ordinated plan regarding food security and investing in the industries we lack. We use computers and cars incorporating microchips made overseas, and produce reams of legislation, but what happens when someone pulls the plug on our electrical supplies? Where are our manufacturing skills?

Perhaps we should look at ways to reduce the need for transport while preserving face-to-face contact. That suggests building to higher densities to retain/ recover farmland. But our planning system needs to be less tortuous without bolted-on legislation.

RBS Closures

Last month, I learned that the Royal Bank of Scotland is to close its Bruntsfield Branch, no doubt on the grounds that more people are going online to do their banking.

As many people have been forced to bank online against their will, perhaps it is time that an Investigation on the scale of the Post Office Inquiry into wrongful prosecution of its staff, should be held to extract the facts.

Is the Bank not still substantially owned by the public?

Lanark Road Nursery

Last month, I recorded that application 24/00663/FUL had been lodged to replace the nursery at 305 Lanark Road with a four-storey block of 14 flats. When the fire in 2021 destroyed the building, the nursery was registered to care for up to 96 children at any one time and employed 25 staff.

The application was refused on 16 April. The reasons were (1) the proposal was not acceptable respecting legislation covering Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Historic Environment Scotland guidance as it failed to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Colinton Conservation Area; (2) the proposal was

contrary to NPF4 (National Planning Framework) policy as it failed to preserve or enhance the Colinton Conservation Area; (3) the proposal was contrary to Local Development Plan (LDP) policy as characteristics of the surrounding area had not been enhanced through the design; (4) the proposal was contrary to LDP policy regarding impact on setting, as it did not have similar characteristics to the surrounding buildings and urban grain; (5) the proposal was contrary to LDP policy on Housing Density as it would result in unacceptable damage to local character within the established residential area; (6) the proposal was contrary to LDP policy on Conservation Areas (Development) as it failed to preserve or enhance the Colinton Conservation Area; and (7) the proposal was contrary to LDP policy

respecting Design Quality and Context, as it did not draw on the positive characteristics of the surrounding area.

The Conservation Area boundary outlined in the “Colinton Conservation Area Character Appraisal” covers six separate zone types. It is surprisingly extensive. Roughly speaking, the irregular boundary touches Lanark Road at Kingsknowe and at the Outer City Bypass, then follows the Water of Leith back to West Mill Road before proceeding south to West/ Carnethy Avenue thence east to Dreghorn Loan, north towards Colinton Road, east incorporating Redford Barracks to Firrhill before returning west along Colinton Road to enclose the Merchiston Castle School site.

The Planning Portal states the application drew 11 objections and no support.

2030 Plan Examination Completed

The six Scottish Government reporters have just released their 1,965-page report on the City of Edinburgh Council’s proposed CityPlan 2030. Their recommendations appear in a further 44-page document. Meanwhile CEC is getting started on its 2040 and 2050 CityPlans. From the earliest reference in C&B News to the 2030 Plan (December 2018, by Neil Gardiner) and the hope that that Plan will be adopted this summer, six years will have elapsed. That is ridiculously long. As I said in March 2024 (issue 494), we need Local Plans for communities of about 25,000, not Edinburgh’s 525,000 population.

In my submission to the Inquiry, I said that: “the change over the years to a single Plan covering urban, suburban and rural areas means that we now have an unwieldy document that attempts to serve different and disparate communities under a single broad brush. Climate change and Covid have come together and have already caused this Plan to change direction. These two factors alone are likely to force additional changes with relatively short lead-in times. The Plan needs to be made much more flexible so that rapid changes are possible.

“One avenue is to have an over-arching ‘Strategic’ Plan for general items and truly ‘Local’ Plans for NE, NW, SE, SW, Central Edinburgh and Rural Edinburgh. These could be matched by a Greater Edinburgh administration for the Strategic issues with separate administrations for NE, NW, SE, SW, Central and Rural Edinburgh, generally placed within the communities they serve, reinforcing the 20-minute neighbourhood concept”.

The present constipated system isn’t working.



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JOANNA CHERRY MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

WORKING TOGETHER

Thanks to Easter's parliamentary recess I was delighted to be able to attend the recent Spring concert at Balerno High School. I was pleased to see the strength of the pupils' musical skills and talent, from bagpipes groups to woodwind, guitar and vocalists. Balerno High School must be proud of their achievements. It made me realise how central the music department at the school must be to the pupils.

At Westminster I was asked to attend the Justice Select Committee while it took evidence relating to the quashing of convictions that arose from the Post Office scandal. The UK Government is currently legislating to quash the convictions of people convicted due to faulty Horizon software in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

There has been some criticism that the Scottish Government should pass its own legislation. However, I was persuaded by the evidence of Professor James Chalmers, Regius Professor of Law at the University of Glasgow. He said the Westminster Bill should be extended to cover Scotland. The purpose of the Bill is to make sure convictions can be quashed quickly so that innocent people can be compensated. This scandal originated with a faulty computer system and dubious investigatory procedures within a UK-wide institution. The scheme for compensation is to be UK-wide, so the paving legislation should be UK-wide too.

We often hear the UK Government lecturing the Scottish Government that "Scotland's two governments should work together". This situation is a perfect example of where that should happen, and it's a shame that the UK Government is being so uncooperative. I hope Professor Chalmers' evidence will provoke a change of heart and provide a firm foundation for the amendments necessary to bring Scottish victims of the Horizon scandal within the scope of the Bill to be made at Committee stage.



GORDON MACDONALD MSP
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

COST OF LIVING

Many people continue to grapple with the excessive cost of living, but there was some recent good news with the announcement of all Scottish social security benefits increasing by 6.7% from April. This will provide more support for disabled people, unpaid carers and people on low incomes across the country.

The Scottish Child Payment, which helps the families of more than 327,000 children, with more than 20,000 children in Edinburgh in receipt of the benefit, is now worth £26.70 per child per week. A person eligible for the highest rate of Adult Disability Payment will receive £184.30 per week of which there are over 3000 people in Edinburgh accessing the payment. Carer Support Payment, Scotland's newest benefit, has gone up to £81.90 per week. The benefit for unpaid carers launched in three local authorities last year will be available across Scotland by Autumn 2024.

This investment in social security helps low income families with their living costs, enables disabled people to live fuller and independent lives, and supports older people to heat their homes in winter. Social Security Scotland have a wide range of benefits and I would urge readers to check if they are eligible either by calling the helpline on 0800 182 2222 or you can go online at www.socialsecurity.gov.scot

I took the opportunity to attend the recent exhibition at Balerno Bowling Club regarding the proposed extension plans for Tarmac's Ravelrig Quarry, a major source of aggregate for Central Scotland. There was a very good turnout from the local community and it was encouraging to see so many professionals on hand from Tarmac to answer the vast range of questions local people had on their plans and any consequent impact. I was impressed with the level of information provided by Tarmac and encouraged by their eagerness to engage with local residents and stakeholders.



SUE WEBBER MSP
LOTHIAN REGION

YOUR CONCERNS

Whether out walking my dog Alfie round Harlaw and Threipmuir reservoirs or up at Bonaly, or on the 44 bus into the Scottish Parliament, local people regularly share their concerns with me.

It's a good measure of your priorities, like access to health care, what's happening in local schools, social care for elderly relatives and – you've guessed it – potholes and the state of the roads.

Crime and anti-social behaviour crop up regularly too, often when prompted by incidents like the recent burning down of the new toilets at Threipmuir reservoir carpark before they had even opened.

Details of government legislation doesn't often feature, but that changed after 1 April when the new Hate Crime Act took effect. It was passed in 2021 prior to my election, but only went "live" this month, so there were three years to prepare for its introduction.

It would be a considerable understatement to say its introduction has been difficult, with the arrest of a 74-year-old lady after a vexatious neighbour accused her of a hate crime amongst thousands of complaints, and local people have noticed. There have been umpteen assurances from the First Minister and the Justice Secretary that police will not waste time pursuing every spurious complaint, but the people I've spoken to want more reassurance.

We want our police officers to investigate real crime, like the spate of car thefts and burglaries in poorly lit streets in the area, for which I asked the council for additional lighting, only to be refused as unnecessary.

We want those who burnt down the Threipmuir toilets caught and punished, and we want police to clamp down on the masked quad bikers who cause so much damage and disturbance in the community. Our over-stretched police do not need politically-motivated thought crime added to their duties.



CLLR SCOTT ARTHUR
COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD

ACCESSIBILITY

Edinburgh is one of the UK's most congested cities, and that impacts on our wellbeing and our capital's economy. There is a real need to tackle this problem, and also ensure our transport system can accommodate those who will live in up to 37,000 new homes that will be built in the city during the coming decade.

This transition will impact on every corner of our capital, and come with huge challenges. But it's also an opportunity to create a more equal city where transport is concerned. Indeed, the pavement parking ban has shown the country that Edinburgh is serious about fighting inequality.

Nonetheless, we have seen in recent years how poorly considered changes to the transport system can leave disabled people marginalised. We have also seen that some people see accessibility solely through the lens of simply providing more spaces for blue badge holders. We need to protect and extend provision for blue badge holders for sure, but also accept the needs of disabled people go far beyond that. In particular, we need to improve public transport, and access to it.

These challenges and experiences are why Edinburgh has established an independent "Accessibility Commission", chaired by Zara Todd. The organisation's membership is broad, but front and foremost are organisations which have long campaigned to create a more equal city—such as Edinburgh Access Panel, HCL Transport, Sight Scotland, Guide Dogs Scotland and Inclusion Scotland. It also has Living Streets Edinburgh, who made the A-Board ban happen, and RNIB Scotland who successfully campaigned for a pavement parking ban.

The Accessibility Commission is free to set its own agenda, and will help ensure that Edinburgh becomes a fairer city as it responds to the challenges it faces. I hope it will push Edinburgh to go further and faster on tackling inequality in our capital.



CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS

'NO ENTRY'

Although not directly in our ward, the council in their wisdom have decided to open up a consultation on Dalry. Their thoughts are to close off through traffic to cars in each direction in Dalry (people who live and have cars in this area won't be affected). This will just displace more traffic onto the A8 or Western Approach Road and will no doubt have a detrimental impact on businesses. Want to take a car load of household goods from one family/friend to another, then add 10/15 mins to your journey and create more pollution. What about the residents of Gorgie and Slateford or beyond who need to use their car to do their weekly shop, etc? Our freedom to move about the city by car is slowly being eradicated. You can air your views on the Council website in the section "Have Your Say" under consultations.

I've had many complaints about the state of our roads again with potholes appearing especially in the Currie area and in particular Riccarton Mains Road next to the railway bridge. I have asked for this stretch of road to be re-inspected with a view to be resurfaced in the not so distant future.

Thankfully the two faults (gas and electric) are now completed on Lanark Road West/Lanark Road. I have no doubt more issues will appear on this road in the future. It begs the question, should there be a Juniper Green/Currie/Balerno bypass to alleviate congestion especially when road works occur or indeed when the road is blocked and public transport cannot get to West Currie or Balerno. Please let me know your thoughts.

Lastly, it was very sad to see that the new toilets at Thriepmuir have been vandalised and effectively destroyed. The Police are engaging with the council and are following up with a crime investigation.



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LESSONS FROM DALRY

Dalry - Living Well Locally is a consultation by The City of Edinburgh Council on an initiative to "improve Dalry and its town centre to make it greener, healthier and more thriving". No-one is likely to dispute such a laudable aim. The consultation is, however, plainly aimed at local consumption, since it effectively involves the closure of the A70 at Dalry Road to most through traffic.

That, necessarily, has wide-ranging effects. Suggesting that through-traffic to and from the city centre would use "other routes such as the West Approach Road" confirms that the policy has not been thought through. Enhancement of one locality to the detriment of others is not proper government.

Separately, the Dalry case is amongst CEC's first "Twenty Minute Neighbourhood" projects. Huge shifts in planning policy, including that strategy emphasise the importance of locality. The strategy aims to produce places where "everyone can meet most of their daily needs within a short walk, wheel or cycle of their home. [CEC's] aim is to create places where most of people's daily needs can be met within a 20-minute round trip."

Creating such neighbourhoods is about much more than simply re-ordering road layouts and displacing traffic (thereby also damaging others). Nor will one be achieved merely by aggregating villages. The right services have to be available, including relevant retail as well as public services.

As matters stand it is very difficult to see how the majority of Balerno residents' daily needs could be met within a 20 minute round trip from their homes. Nor does the Dalry case suggest that CEC have yet grasped what might be involved for its more rural areas. Whatever else, commitment and resources lie at the heart of the matter. The sale of public assets, like Balerno Police Station, suggests that public authorities have yet to develop joined up thinking.



ALLISTER R MCKILLOP
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VICTORIES & LOSSES

As the state of roads and pavements descend into farce, I wonder what, if any, difference all our efforts have made?

Our record certainly shows some hard-fought victories as well as losses. We have dealt with everything from huge proposed developments, general and local elections, vandalism right down to dog fowling—and everything in between!

So why do we do it? Because we want to improve the quality of life within our community—to make a difference! We need to keep fighting to represent the needs of Currie and ensure The City of Edinburgh Council take our needs into account

The pressure on villages like ours is enormous: CEC have basically run out of money, as indicated by the HUGE cuts being implemented, ranging from closing essential services to cutting funding for the Third Sector. This will undoubtedly have an impact on our elderly population, the frail and the needy. The further away from the city centre the more these cuts will have an impact.

Now, more than ever, we need to find our community spirit. We need to stick together and look after each other—be it reporting bad behaviour to the police or looking after an elderly neighbour. It all makes a difference!

Some will know of Martin Bone, a true community activist, sadly passed away recently. He will be missed.

Meantime another "well kent face", Barbara Johnstone, is retiring after many many years with Ravelrig RDA. Her legacy goes before her and we all thank her for the amazing work carried out during many decades. Her work with disabled people, enabling them to ride and be a part of a lovely community, is legendary.

Barbara made a difference. Can you?

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Teen Voice Pop-up Book Festival Comes to Hub@531

ANNETTE WILSON
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, HUB@531

We are delighted to host six incredible writers and creators over the weekend of 4-5 May, at the Hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green—bringing an exciting opportunity to younger people in our local communities.

We have invited Scotland-based writers to come along and offer interactive, engaging and fun workshops to meet a diverse range of creative interests, from P7 up to S6. (See age guidance on specific sessions).

Our theme is *Teen Voice* and we are focusing our events on older children up to 18 years old—to explore different creative ways to express themselves and their ideas. Media is changing rapidly, so our guest speakers will be able to share their own experience and offer support and guidance to young people interested in writing, spoken word, poetry and verse, journalism, podcasts and comic making. Something for everyone!

YOUNGER AUDIENCES (P7+)

- *Creative Learning with Kai Holmstrom, Dekko Comics: Saturday 4 May, 1pm - 2pm.*

Join Dekko Comics for a practical and entertaining workshop that explores the power of creative learning. Using the Dekko Technique, pioneered by Dekko Comics' founder Rossie Stone, this workshop will share practical tips and strategies that can help you master those tricky school subjects in enjoyable and accessible ways.

- *Podcasting - how to develop your ideas, with Kirsty Logan: Sunday 5 May, 2pm - 3pm*
If you'd like to make your own podcast but don't know where to start, this is for you. Develop your idea further and learn the basics with Kirsty Logan, an award-winning author and co-host of Teenage Scream podcast: lovingly dissecting the best (and worst) of 90s teen horror books.

- *Author Talk with Nadine Aisha Jassat: Sunday 5 May, noon - 1pm*
Join Nadine Aisha Jassat, author of *The Stories*



Grandma Forgot (And How I Found Them) and *The Hidden Story of Estie Noor*, to talk about the inspiration behind her novels, and to have the chance to come up with author ideas of your own. This engaging and interactive author talk is ideal for P7 upwards, and will explore the themes behind both books as well as engaging the audience to have fun with their own creativity.

OLDER TEENS (14+)

- *Creative Writing and Spoken Word with Imogen Stirling: Sunday 5 May, 4pm - 5pm (14+)*
Writer and performance poet Imogen Stirling (BBC, Sky Arts, Glastonbury) hosts a welcoming, sociable and inclusive workshop centred around spoken word poetry and creative writing.
Through writing exercises and discussion, Imogen will show how spoken word poetry can be a tool to boost self-esteem, empowering you to find your voice and express it with confidence to talk about the things important to you. She will demonstrate the benefit of creative writing to aid mental wellbeing and mindfulness, all within a relaxed environment. All experience levels are very welcome.

- *Write What You Care About - an introduction to journalism in the modern day with journalist & writer Andrew Blair: Saturday 4 May, 3pm - 4pm (15+)*
Embracing our theme of *Teen Voice*, Andrew Blair – poet, performer, event producer, journalist and

podcast maker – will draw on his own professional experience of creating blogs and podcasts to help young content creators find ways to develop and share their own ideas and messages.

- *Author Talk with Tendai Huchu: Sunday 5 May, 6pm*
Join the author of *The Library of the Dead (Edinburgh Nights Book 1)* to talk about the inspiration behind his writing, and in particular exploring the urban fiction genre and taking inspiration from the history and stories of Edinburgh.

Our event wouldn't be possible without support from Scottish Book Trust Live Literature funding and C&B News—thank you!

TICKETS

We are keeping ticket prices to a minimum and hope the events we're offering as accessible to all. As we are such a small venue, tickets are limited and entrance will be for under 18 ticket holders only. Accompanying adults will not be able to attend, unless by prior arrangement with the organisers.

- <https://Teenvoice-1-Dekko.eventbrite.com>
- <https://Teenvoice-2-AndrewBlair.eventbrite.com>
- <https://Teenvoice-3-NadineAJ.eventbrite.com>
- <https://Teenvoice-4-KirstyLogan.eventbrite.com>
- <https://Teenvoice-5-ImogenStirling.eventbrite.com>
- <https://Teenvoice-6-TLHuchu.eventbrite.co.uk>

Art Classes & Weekly Social

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Tuesdays

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- Based on the techniques of Betty Edwards. You will develop your own style, refresh your basics and boost your confidence as an artist!
- Whether it's learning a new skill **or** picking up where you left off after school - this is a great gradient for all levels.
- After the initial drawing portion you and your class will decide which medium to move onto next!

nicole@justvillagesocialevents.co.uk
justvillagesocialevents.co.uk

Currie Community Centre, Lanark Road West

£60/ set of 6 classes/materials included



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by 27.5.24 for more details

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Vikings: Quest for the Dragon's Treasure!

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JUNIPER GREEN TENNIS CLUB OPEN DAY

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FREE COACHING SESSIONS

Children (Age 4+) from 12.30 to 1.30
Adults from 1.30 to 2.30
Open Play from 2.30 to 4.30

SATURDAY 11 MAY
12.30 to 4.30

Please Book Coaching Sessions at:
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/JuniperGreenTennisClub/Events>

MAGNUS AND OSCAR, P6 CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Scottish Opera introduced the world of theatre to Currie Primary on 17 April. In preparation for this, P6 have been working hard for the last term to perfect *Vikings: Quest for the Dragon's Treasure*. This production tells the story of Vikings setting out on an epic quest to steal a Dragon's treasure. This quest has its challenges as when crafty and rebellious sorcerers hatch an evil plan to steal the gems.

On the run up to performance day, every spare moment we had was spent practising. The sound of singing echoed through the school and around the playground. We were all really excited about the performance and were counting down the weeks with frantic anticipation.

On the day, Scottish Opera spent the morning rehearsing with us. They taught us the transitions between songs and how to stand during our performances. They were blown away by how hard we had been practicing.

After all our rehearsals, we finally got to perform our show to our parents. Even though the costumes were hot it was worth it to see our parents' proud smiles. The show was a huge success.

"I can honestly say that it was absolutely amazing!" remarked Mrs Pope after the show. Our headteacher, Mrs Hourston, said it was the best performance she had ever seen.

We would like to thank the Scottish Opera and Currie Primary for giving us the opportunity to perform in this show. A huge thank you also to our teachers who helped and supported us along the way.





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To enter, please scan or photograph the completed puzzle and email it to: editor@candbnews.com before noon, Friday 17 May 2024.

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

Good luck everyone!

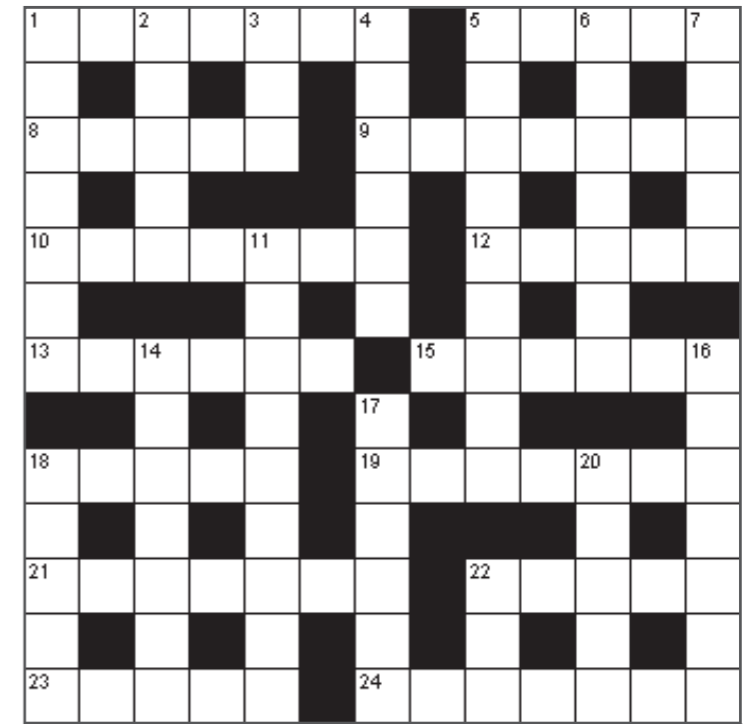
ACROSS

- Entrust. (7)
- Small thin biscuit. (5)
- Dissonance. (5)
- Projecting upper floor. (7)
- The sheltered side. (7)
- Unvarnished. (5)
- Scheme. (6)
- Become visible. (6)
- Flowed back. (5)
- Athlete. (7)
- Hinged window blind. (7)
- Slight push. (5)
- Two or more contesting groups. (5)
- Striking. (7)

DOWN

- Tapers. (7)
- Inexperienced. (5)
- Frozen water. (3)
- Personify. (6)
- Decorative covering. (9)
- Photographic film. (7)
- Synthetic silklike fabric. (5)
- Short accounts of incidents. (9)
- Quashed. (7)
- Private place with peace and quiet. (7)
- Marine mammal. (6)
- Alleviates. (5)
- Emblem. (5)
- Nothing. (3)

NOTES



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.

APRIL 2024 WINNER!

Our congratulations go to Grant McMillan from Balerno, randomly selected from all correct entries to receive last issue's £25 prize.

T	R	I	C	K	V	I	L	L	A	G	E
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EASY					MEDIUM					HARD					
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Community and not-for-profit listings are free of charge. Email whatson@candbnews.com, including: Day/Date, Event Title, Venue, Time, brief details, and contact phone/email details as appropriate.

WEEKLY MAY

MONDAYS

St CUTHBERT'S CHURCH PLAYGROUP: St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton; 10am - 11.30am. (Every Monday during School Term.) Play, craft, refreshments, singing. All Welcome. Contact: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com for more information.

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 - noon. Come for a Cuppa- 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. We usually have an optional activity going on that you are very welcome to join. No booking needed.

MINDFULNESS SESSION: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; noon - 1pm. Mindfulness 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. No booking needed.

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

BABY GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 1.30pm - 2.45pm. Baby Group/

Bookbug—meet other parents/carers for friendship and peer support, regular Book-bug 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; 7pm - 9pm. Currently full, we'd love to start a new group, please email if you are interested!

TUESDAYS

KNITTING GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. A very popular, welcoming group for novice and experienced knitters alike.

POP-UP CAFE: Gibson Craig Halls, 158 Lanark Road West, Currie; 10.30am - noon. (NO CAFE ON 28 MAY.)

YOGA CLASS: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 1pm - 2pm. There is space available for this popular lunchtime class with Monica.

PENTLAND JUNIOR SINGERS: Balerno Parish Church; 6pm - 7pm. Fun, friendship and singing for ages 8-14. New members welcome! More information at, Pentlandjuniors@gmail.com

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

BOOKBUG AT BALERNO LIBRARY: 1 Main Street; 3.30pm. "Come and join us for songs, stories and rhymes!" Spaces limited: call (0131) 529 5500

to book or speak with staff.

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

THURSDAYS

SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green. A chance to get together to practise speaking in Spanish with others - all abilities welcome.

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>

BABERTON CUBS and BEAVERS GROUPS: Juniper Green Church Hall. Beavers meet 6pm - 7pm and Cubs meet 7.15pm - 8.45pm. For more information, please email: cubs@babertonscouts.org

SATURDAYS

COMMUNITY CAFE: Currie Community Centre; 9am - noon. Barista coffee and delicious home baking.

CURRIE KIRK CAFE: Kirkgate, Currie; 2pm - 4pm. (Last orders: 3.30pm.) Coffee Stop! Saturday café serving tea, coffee and baking. There will also be a craft table this year for any children who come with parents/grandparents/carer.

BOOKBUG AT CURRIE LIBRARY: 210 Lanark Road

West; 3.30pm. "Come and join us for songs, stories and rhymes!" Spaces limited: call (0131) 529 5609 to book or speak with staff.

SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS

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

FORTNIGHTLY

MAY

ALTERNATE MONDAYS (1 & 15 APRIL)

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

ALTERNATE FRIDAYS

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

DAY BY DAY

MAY

WEDNESDAY 1 MAY

PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB: Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 10am. "The History of Glenkinchie Distillery" an illustrated talk by a distillery representative. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie

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Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

COFFEE WITH A COP: Currie Community Centre, 280 Lanark Rd West; 10am. Your local Community Police Officer invites you to meet and chat with them.

THURSDAY 2 MAY

BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL: Community Centre, Main Street; 7pm - 9pm. www.balerno-communitycouncil.org.uk, email: balernocc@gmail.com or contact via Facebook or X/Twitter.

FRIDAY 3 MAY

GARDENING GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 10.30am - noon. A monthly group meeting on the first Friday of each month. For anyone with an interest in gardening, from pots to plots, all welcome to share ideas and experience with other gardening enthusiasts. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 4 MAY

TEEN BOOK GROUP: Currie Library, 210 Lanark Road West; 2pm - 4pm. For teens 12 - 17 years old, meets on the first Saturday of the month. This month the group is discussing *The Rest of Us Just Live Here* by Patrick Ness. June discussion will be on Annalise Avery's *The Immortal Games*. Copies of selected books available at each meeting—no need to buy.

TUESDAY 7 MAY

BALERNO SWI: St Josephs Hall, 7.30pm. Open Night Painting Demonstration from Jennie Matthews RSW. Visitors welcome.

SATURDAY 11 MAY

BALERNO FARMERS' MARKET: Main Street; 9am - 1pm. A wonderful range of stallholders bring fresh local and Scottish produce and services to the market. <https://balernovt.org.uk/farmers-market/>

PLANT SALE: Water of Leith Visitor Centre, 24 Lanark Road;

11am - 1pm. Pick up a bargain and help the Water of Leith. Thousands of plants, trees and shrubs. Entrance FREE, bring CASH.

CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL MAY FAYRE: 59 Curriehill Road; noon - 3pm. "Currie's May Fayre is back once again with lots of fun for the family including pocket money stalls and games, homebaking and tuck shop, raffle, toy and book sale, plant sale, dance and sport sessions and lots more!" Adults £1, kids 50p. Come along and have some fun while supporting the school.

HERIOT-WATT CHOIR & ORCHESTRA CONCERT: Greyfriars Kirk, Greyfriar's Place Edinburgh EH1 2QQ; 7.30pm. Programme to include Carmina Burana featuring soprano soloist Emma Morley, excerpts from Adiemus, excerpts from the Planets and Capriol Suite. Tickets available through Eventbrite.

TUESDAY 14 MAY

COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING: Colinton Bowling Club, 49A Redford Road; 7.30pm - 9pm. For more information, email: secretary@colintoncc.org.uk or visit: <https://www.colintoncc.org.uk/>

WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB: Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 10.30am. Members AGM, followed by lunch at The Kinleith Mill Bar/Restaurant. Contact Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL: Gibson Craig Halls (Rear Hall), 158 Lanark Road West; 7.30pm - 9pm. Visit: curriecommunitycouncil.org.uk

MONTHLY CRAFTING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Design and paint your own terracotta plant pot. We'll supply the pot, paints and even a wee plant to take home. Plus tea, coffee and nibbles. You can come along and enjoy a relaxing social evening in the company of other craft enthusiasts. No experience

necessary. Booking essential. This crafting event is free of charge but we welcome your optional donation, thank you. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

FRIDAY 17 MAY

CRAFTING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2.30pm - 4.30pm. Multi generational crafting session - accompanied children are very welcome to attend. Design and paint your own terracotta plant pot. We'll supply the pot, paints and even a wee plant to take home. Plus tea, coffee and nibbles. No experience necessary. Booking essential. This crafting event is free of charge but we welcome your optional donation, thank you. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 18 MAY

BALERNO CHILDREN'S GALA: Main Street, Balerno; 1pm. The annual Gala Week begins with the float parade round the village (assembles from noon, departs 1pm) concluding with crowning ceremony and fancy dress competition at Balerno High School from 2pm. For more details, check out Balerno Children's Gala's Facebook page.

SUNDAY 19 MAY

C&B NEWS DEADLINE: Editorial deadline for our June edition. All contributions should be emailed to: editor@candbnews.com

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY

JUNIPER GREEN & BABERTON MAINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING: the Hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7.30pm. All welcome.

FRIDAY 24 MAY

CURRIE RIDING OF THE MARCHES FAMILY FUN RIDE: Wester Kinleith Farm; 6pm. Route: down Kirkgate, along Lymphoy Road then back along the Water of Leith Walkway, Waulkmill Loan, Dolphin Road, Curriehill Road, and back up Kirkgate. Join

anywhere on horseback or on foot. Email: currie-ridingofthemarches@hotmail.com for more details.

SATURDAY 25 MAY

BALERNO GALA DAY: Mallyen Park; noon - 4pm. The climax of this year's Balerno Children's Gala. Lots of fun activities, including stalls, games and races. For more details check the Balerno Children's Gala's Facebook page.

TUESDAY 28 MAY

PALM DEMENTIA CAFÉ: St Joseph's Centre, Balerno; 3pm - 4.15pm. The cafe serves the communities of Currie, Balerno and Juniper Green providing a space for people with dementia and their carers to meet others for support and social contact. Activities include music, movement, reminiscence and craft. A small voluntary donation is requested to cover the cost of refreshments. For more information please contact Clare Dow at claremdow@gmail.com

JUNE

SATURDAY 1 JUNE

MINI FIGURE PAINTING WORKSHOP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 1pm - 5pm. A mini figure painting workshop along with Juniper Green board gamers. It's free, mini figures and paints provided.

SATURDAY 1 & SUNDAY 2 JUNE

EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN'S MINIATURE RAILWAY CLUB: George Watson's College, Colinton Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5EG; 10am - 5pm (both days). Edinburgh Model Railway Exhibition, a selection of layouts and traders providing something for all. For more information visit secretary@elmr.org.uk

TEEN BOOK GROUP: Currie Library, 210 Lanark Road West; 2pm - 4pm. For teens 12 - 17 years old, meets on the first Saturday of the month. This month the group is discussing Annalise Avery's *The Immortal Games*.



Journey Begins for Currie FC 2017s

WILLIA SCOTT
HEAD OF SOCCER SCHOOL, CURRIE FC

Currie FC 2017s have just started playing matches against teams from all over Edinburgh at the ESSDA Fun 4s at Sighthill on Sunday mornings.

Unfortunately the weather hasn't been overly kind so far, but the kids have not been deterred, soldiering on through wind and rain a lot of the time! Hopefully

some warm, dry weather is on the way!

The team is privileged to have sponsorship from local businesses Ayton Electrical and Duffy Joinery Limited, enabling them to get kitted out with Currie FC-branded training tops and playing kits.

• Our latest intake – the 2018 year of birth – are now meeting every Tuesday and Sunday at Currie Community Centre. If your 2018 kid would like to join us, please email: willis.scott61@gmail.com



"The recent Easter holidays were not quite the two weeks of sunny spring weather everyone hoped for," writes Paul Murphy, Chair of Juniper Green Tennis Club. "Nonetheless, junior players had terrific fun during the Easter Camps held at Juniper Green Tennis Club. The camps brought children to our courts to enjoy themselves and make new friends as they learned new skills and strokes to help with their game, as well as table tennis and the BlazePod challenge!

• JGTC will be offering free tennis coaching sessions at its annual Open Day on Saturday 11 May – for children (4+) from 12.30pm and adults from 1.30pm. Please book at: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/JuniperGreenTennisClub/Events>



Paladin Cup Success for Currie FC Tigers 2010

RICHARD TAYLOR
CURRIE FC

The boys from Currie FC Tigers entertained a large crowd at Saughton Enclosure on 17 April by winning the Paladin Cup. After a good close game Currie ended up with a comfortable 5-1 win against Edina Hibs.

Currie started strongly and Danny Hill opened the scoring within the first few minutes. This provoked a strong response from Edina but Currie held on and got another goal from Ryan Burt before a well-taken free kick from Edina kept them in the game. Currie came back strongly and another from Nathan Brown late in the first half took us to 3-1 at

half time.

In the second half Currie took control and two more goals from Alex Mackenzie and Grayson Taylor put the game beyond reach.

This cup win finishes a very successful season for the Tigers who are heading for promotion and also still fighting to get the top spot in the league.

Well done boys!



Cup Trophy after a tightly contested match, while the U16 Boys secured a thrilling 37-33 victory against

just eight players last season to 46 across two teams. The development of the women's teams has been remarkable and we're always looking for more players to join and be a part of the community. This impressive progress, and the club's dedication to inclusivity and development, highlight an exciting future for women's youth rugby at the club.

Looking ahead, the club's 1st XV is set to compete in the Premiership Final against Hawick RFC on 4 May at Mansfield Park. This highly anticipated match is expected to be a showcase for fans following both teams' strong seasonal performances. For those unable to attend, the clubhouse at Currie RFC will offer live streaming of the game, complete with pre- and post-match activities.

Furthermore, the off-season promises continued rugby action with the Currie 7s on Saturday 1 June, featuring teams from across Scotland and beyond. Having seen success during its inception last summer, it is sure to bring more activity and entertainment this year-round. The Currie 7s, along with the return of Tartan Touch to Malleny on Friday 3 May, ensures that the rugby spirit remains alive throughout the summer, offering accessible and enjoyable activities for all skill levels.

• For ongoing updates, to get involved or to enquire about membership, visit: www.curriechieftains.org, or engage with our social media via Instagram (@currie_chieftains), Facebook (Currie Chieftains), or X/Twitter (@ChieftainsRC).

Chieftains' Youth and Women's Achievements Ahead of Premiership

CALUM MCKEOWN
CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

As the 2023/24 season concludes, Currie Chieftains RFC is celebrating a string of impressive achievements, exemplifying the dedication of both players and staff.

On 23 March, both the U18 Colts and U16 Boys returned from Hive Stadium with silverware, showcasing their skills and team development on the big stage. The U18 Colts tied with Linlithgow for the East

Melrose. The club's growth is also particularly visible at the well-attended and spirited Easter Camp. Despite "diverse" weather conditions, all players displayed exceptional skill and thorough enjoyment during the Easter break amongst their friends.

The club's commitment to expanding women's rugby has also yielded significant results. The U16 Girls concluded their season with a 52-29 win over Caithness RFC in the Caley Shield Final, reflecting substantial growth from

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JUNIPER GREEN EASTER TENNIS CAMP, p46



CURRIE BOWLING 150 YEARS, p7

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CURRIE SPORTS

Currie Chieftains' Sports Camp and Currie FC enjoy success, p46



Photos: Currie Chieftains, Currie FC, Juniper Green Tennis Club, Graham Deane

INSIDE: NEWS p2 LOCAL HISTORY p18 FEATURES p21 VIEWS p31 WHAT'S ON p43