

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS MAGAZINE • EST 1976 • 500 • OCTOBER 2024

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THE **500th ISSUE** of
C&B NEWS

CURRIE • BALERNO • JUNIPER GREEN • BABERTON MAINS • COLINTON

‘...the paper
is here to stay.’

Graham Priestley,
Currie & Balerno News, April 1976



COVER ILLUSTRATIONS: JOHN VELDHOFF

INSIDE: NEWS p3 LOCAL HISTORY p15 FEATURES p19 VIEWS p31 WHAT'S ON p43

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: 15 OCTOBER
EDITORIAL: 20 OCTOBER
ISSUE DISTRIBUTED: 1 NOVEMBER

500 NOT OUT!



We are delighted to say that all 1,000 copies of our March number were sold out," reported this publication's then-"convenor" Graham Priestley, in a brief editorial column on the front page of the April 1976 "Bumper Spring Issue" of *Currie & Balerno News*.

Why was this worth mentioning? Because the previous issue – the second ever for this "independent non-profit community newspaper" – had been the first to ask people to pay for the privilege of reading it—coughing up (hopefully not literally) 5p. (Within a few months, 1970s' inflationary pressures would raise the cover price to 6p.)

Would readers actually pay for what is now termed "hyper local" news? Turns out that, at least back in 1976, they would. Graham was clearly relieved: "This makes us financially secure for the moment and means that the paper is here to stay."

Despite Graham's much-reported positivity and determination – though he was sufficiently realistic to curb his enthusiasm with that all-too-prescient "for the moment" – I do find it difficult to believe that even he seriously imagined a team of his successors producing a 500th monthly issue of the same publication in 2024.

And yet, here we are, having done just that!

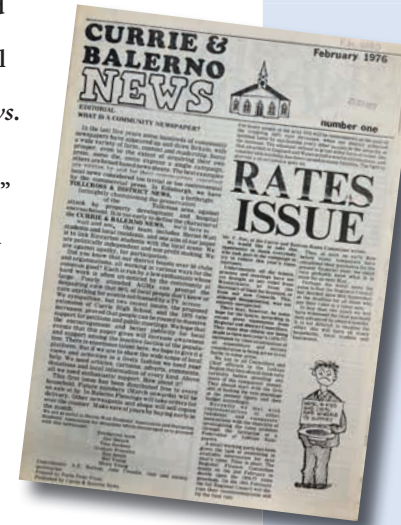
Writing in this publication's 300th issue, published in October 2004, long-standing (give him a seat, please) contributor Archie Clark noted: "It is not sufficient to start a project and expect it to continue. Graham's leadership ensured that the volunteers who compiled it had the accommodation to put the paper together, the financial resources to maintain it viable, equipment to produce it and the right personnel to keep it going. None of this was easy and on many occasions the paper was in danger of folding."

Ultimately, *C&B News* survived. Many hundreds of people have been actively involved, in one way or another, with its production down the decades—indeed, almost two dozen had come and gone after the first couple of years! To each and every one of those volunteers, no matter the duration or nature of their contributions, we offer our thanks. Without them, we wouldn't have the publication we have today, a magazine that – though I say so myself – is something of a local institution, without which these five neighbouring communities along the upper Water of Leith valley would be likely very different.

And yet, despite *C&B News* clearly being a team endeavour from the start, as the current "lucky 13th" editor I keep turning back to Graham. "For a number of us who at one time or another volunteered to work on *C&B News*, Graham was *C&B News*," Archie wrote in 2004.

Graham finally stepped down from the publication in March of that year: he died less than five months later, just weeks before work began on the publication's 300th edition. Two decades – and 200 issues – later, I still feel a particular need to dedicate this issue to him. Also to everyone who has ever helped *C&B News* down the years, of course. But especially to Graham.

Thank you. Thank you all.



BRIEFLY...

WARD BY-ELECTION

The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) has confirmed that the Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward by-election triggered by the resignation of Scott Arthur MP will take place on Thursday 14 November.

Polling stations will be open between 7am and 10pm. The election uses the Single Transferable Vote system where voters can rank candidates (as many or as few as they like) in order of preference. Photo ID is not required.

The full list of candidates will be confirmed by CEC after nominations close at 4pm on Monday 14 October. Former CEC Councillor (Moredun Ward) and MP (Edinburgh East) Sheila Gilmore has been selected as the Scottish Labour candidate, joining already-confirmed Neil Cuthbert (Scottish Conservative and Unionist) and Louise Spence (Scottish Liberal Democrats) on the ballot paper.

C&B News plans to run a hustings feature in our November issue with contributions from all the candidates.

'SHED' GETS GO-AHEAD

Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO has received planning permission to develop 'The Shed' in Spylaw Park into a community hub, including multi-purpose spaces hosting a café, workshops, exhibitions and community events. "We are overjoyed to receive this approval," said Lorraine O'Shea, the charity's Chair. "This building will become a wonderful resource for our community."

CANCER BENEFITS

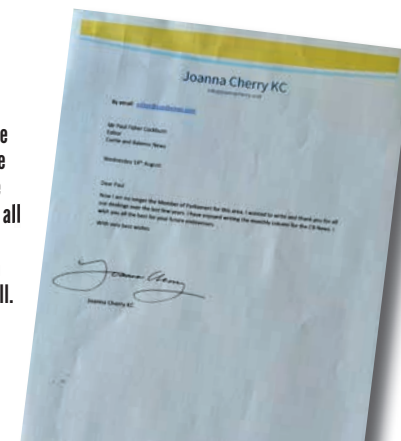
Swanston-based national charity Cancer Card Scotland has partnered with Social Security Scotland to urge cancer patients to check their eligibility for disability



Members of the *C&B News* team had a great day at the end of August, handing out copies of our brand new September issue – plus free pens and sweets! – at this year's Art in the Park summer fair, organised in Spylaw Park by Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO. As well as meeting many readers (both long-standing and new), we also caught up with (above) councillors Jason Rust and Graeme Bruce (the latter all the way from Balerno!), (left) new Edinburgh South West MP Scott Arthur, and – a blast from the past – former *C&B News* editor Alex Schweitzer-Thompson! (See below.) For more about what proved to be a great day, turn to the centre spread. Photos: Moira Peterson, Lorraine O'Shea, Michelle Donegan.



Former Edinburgh South West MP Joanna Cherry KC wrote to *C&B News* in August: "Now I am no longer the Member of Parliament for this area, I wanted to write and thank you for all our dealings over the last few years. I have enjoyed writing the monthly column for *C&B News*. I wish you all the best for your future endeavours." The *C&B News* team also thank Joanna for all her contributions, and wish her well.



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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

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Sue Webber MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Lothian Region



Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

Contact Sue Webber
@ sue.webber.msp@parliament.scot
0131 202 3005
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Heriot-Watt Marks 50 Years at its Riccarton Campus

CRAIG PHILIP
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MEDIA TEAM

A new photography exhibition has opened celebrating 50 years since Heriot-Watt University opened the doors of its Riccarton campus.



Heriot-Watt Fifty Years at Riccarton captures key moments, societies, and former staff and students who have all been part of the Heriot-Watt story, especially during the decisive move from various central Edinburgh locations to the purpose-built Riccarton campus, six miles south west of the city centre.

The 50 images from the University's archives department have never gone on public display as a complete collection before. The first phase of academic buildings at Riccarton opened to students and staff in 1974, but the move from central Edinburgh "wasn't without its challenges as there were poor transport links and very few facilities," according to exhibition curator Julia Stephen.

"The exhibition offers a fascinating insight to this period and will be of interest not only to our alumni but I'm sure to members of neighbouring communities."

The exhibition, in the James Watt Centre adjacent to the main reception building, will be on display until next summer.

Opening times vary so anyone interested in viewing the archive should email: heritage@hw.ac.uk to check availability in advance of their visit.



SGN Apologise for Crushing Flowers

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Gas distributor SGN has apologised for its contractors dumping signage and barriers on wild flowers planted along Nether Currie Lane, and has offered to help re-seed the flowers when it's appropriate to do so.

As featured in our September issue, the pedestrian path connecting Lanark Road West (across from the Sainsbury's garage) and Nether Currie Road had been considerably brightened over the summer by colourful wild flowers which had been planted by a local resident, who wishes to remain anonymous.

However, soon after the issue hit the shops, a reader informed us that workers for gas distributor SGN had dropped fencing and signs directly on top of them,

crushing not just the flowers but also the spirits of many local residents who had really enjoyed the environmentally-friendly display.

C&B News contacted the company which immediately apologised for the damage caused.

"As soon as we were notified we had the barriers moved, but understand this is unacceptable to the local community, and we're offering to re-seed any damaged areas at an appropriate time agreed with those who look after the area," said a spokesperson for the company.

"We have issued a reminder to all of our teams and contractors to take care and respect the environment when dropping barriers off at any of our work sites," they added.

C&B News understands the re-seeding will most likely take place next spring to ensure best results for summer 2025.

There'll Be Fireworks!

ALASDAIR GORDON
CURRIE, BALERNO & DISTRICT ROTARY

As we head into autumn, your local Rotary are looking forward to the annual fireworks display on Tuesday 5 November at King George V Park, Currie.

Gates will open at 6.30pm and the fireworks will light up at 7.15pm. Tickets are available at www.cbdr.com/ and www.facebook.com/cbdr/

Entry will also be available on the night by cash or card, but please note that numbers in the front field are limited and will be "first come, first serve".

Profits made on the night will go towards local charities and good causes.

Want to volunteer? There are lots of jobs needing done during the afternoon, evening and morning after. Email: enquiries@cbdr.com



BRIEFLY...

p3>>>
benefits. "There is a perception that to get disability benefits someone needs to have a physical disability that is there all the time, but that's not the case," explained CCS founder Jen Hardy MBE. For more details, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4fw8aatt>

NEW MEMBERS

Juniper Green and Baberton Mains Community Council is looking for new members—and they insist that it can be a lot of fun helping make your community a better place to live in. For more details, email: correspondence@junipergreenc.org.uk or drop in to one of their regular meetings, held at 7.30pm in the Hub, 531 Lanark Road, on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

ART TREASURER

Pentland Art Club is looking for a new Treasurer. The role "is not onerous: mainly keeping tabs on the bank account, co-signing cheques when bank transfers to visiting artists are not possible, and reconciling the books after the annual exhibition. No knowledge of art or ability to sketch is required." Email Ros (ros.salton@outlook.com) for more details.

POPPY APPEAL 2024

Currie and Juniper Green & Baberton Mains Community Councils will be selling poppies leading up to 11 November, including a street collection in Juniper Green and cans issued to local businesses and schools. Cash and electronic payments are most welcome.

CURRIE CHS ON SCHEDULE

Head teacher Jenny Hutchison recently confirmed that construction of the new Currie Community High School remains on schedule, with staff expecting to move >p7



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Birthday Surprises for Juniper Green Centenarian

FIONA BURNETT
PROUD DAUGHTER!

Juniper Green resident Dolly Wylie recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Days before she headed north to her former family home on Loch Eriboll, Sutherland, Dolly visited her hairdresser, Eileen Evans – owner of Mane Attraction in Juniper Green – where she was overwhelmed by the presentation of three balloons in the shape of 100, as well as a cake with candles, a bottle of fizz and a generous salon gift voucher! On the morning of her actual birthday Dolly woke in the same house where she had been born, and where her daughter Fiona Burnett, partner John and their daughter Molly now live. Later that day she enjoyed a party with family and friends in the Kyle Centre community hub in Tongue. Clearly a long-lived family, Dolly was delighted that her 101 year old sister, Mary Morrison from Droman, was also able to attend.



On Dolly's return home an unexpected surprise awaited her. Friends had organised a grand

finale and visited Dolly minutes before a piper, in all his finery, marched along the street and into Dolly's front garden! A number of tunes were played, including "Happy Birthday" and "Flower of Scotland". Dolly's late husband Ian Wylie, a captain in the Merchant Navy, took her to many far eastern countries during the earlier years of their marriage. She has danced with a Russian captain, dined at the famous Raffles hotel, and seen poverty beyond belief. She has been in and out of Saughton Prison many times—as a volunteer! She's also delivered meals on wheels with the WRVS, worked in accounts departments of dairies, Post Office Telephones and the Civil Service. Dolly, formerly from Currie, has now lived in Juniper Green for more than 30 years. She wishes to thank everyone who gave cards and gifts, which were not expected but very much appreciated. "I am so fortunate to be living in such a caring community," said Dolly.

Juniper Green Tennis Club - Fundraising Appeal

PAUL MURPHY
CHAIR, JUNIPER GREEN TENNIS CLUB

Juniper Green Tennis Club is fully committed to transforming the existing blaes-based, under-utilised seasonal-play-only tennis courts into an all-weather, all-year-round playing facility with acrylic painted macadam-based courts. We strongly believe that this renovation project will also safeguard the continued presence of a tennis club, since it's formation in 1891, in the heart of our village for future generations. The Head of Facilities at Tennis Scotland previously visited our club and has given full backing to the aims of our project which also enjoys the support of our club membership and our local community council. We currently have a fantastic opportunity to participate in the LTA Park Tennis Project which, in the bluntest of terms, would effectively mean the club being able to upgrade the courts, fencing and main gate for roughly half the normal cost. The catch is that this LTA Project is now winding down and we are still short of our target to raise our half of the costs to enable JGTC to benefit enormously from this scheme. To date, we have received fantastic support from



our local community including Juniper Green Village Hall, Currie & Balerno Round Table, Juniper Green & Baberton Mains Community Council, Pentlands Community Space, Belmont Road Garage, Gilchrist Property Consultants, RiTemp Services and C&B News allied to interest free loans from club members and supporters. We would therefore like to make an appeal for further donations to help the club to take advantage of this one-off, gilt-edged opportunity to transform the playing facilities of the local tennis club for a fraction of what the total cost would normally be expected to be. If we are

unsuccessful then we will follow a more conventional approach to fund raising via potential grants available; however this will be for the full amount of the costs and will naturally take a lot longer to secure. Possibly years. On behalf of the club, we respectfully ask you and/or your organisation to consider making a donation towards our ambition of delivering an excellent sporting asset for our local community within the next year. If you are able to do so or wish to discuss the matter further then please contact the club at junipergreentennis@gmail.com

BRIEFLY...

p5>>> in from around 17 February 2025. Tours of the current and new buildings will occur in November and December.

BUS LANE 777

Colinton Community Council remains concerned about plans by CEC to upgrade the west-bound bus lane at the Lanark Road/Gillespie Road junction to 777 usage (7am - 7pm, seven days a week) as part of a trial along Lothian's Service 44 bus route early next year. ColCC has suggested CEC should first undertake a full 12-month survey of the lane's current usage – especially the number of fines being issued to motorists for misuse – to provide a year-round base-line against which any subsequent 777 usage could be more effectively compared.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Currie: Change the use of property from Class 9 house to Sui Generis short term let (limited to seven months/213 days a year); 8 Currievale Farm. (24/04361/FULSTL) Comments by 2 October.

Colinton: Car parking for church; land 30 metres (32 yards) south of 5 Dell Road. (24/04392/FUL) Comments by 11 October.

Colinton: Alter and extend dwelling to form open plan kitchen/living room, utility room, additional bedroom and ground floor shower room, including installation of new stove and chimney; 10 Bonaly Grove. (24/04434/CLP) Registered 12 September.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Currie: Proposed single storey extension forming new bedroom, utility room, shower room and front porch, 11 Thomson Grove. (24/03280/FUL) Granted, 5 September.

Baberton Mains: Rear extension to domestic dwelling, >p9



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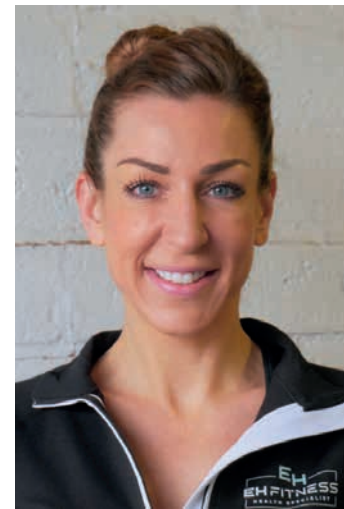
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Local Fitness Business Pivots Online

EMMA HOKAYEM
EH FITNESS

Single mother Emma Hokayem has overhauled her successful fitness business into an online platform, in order to balance her passion for empowering women with supporting her young son's special educational needs.

EH Fitness has long been a beacon of support for women in Edinburgh, specialising in menopause health and postnatal recovery. Emma has guided hundreds of women to regain their confidence, helping them feel better, move better, and look better.

However, her now-five-year-old son Daniel – who has autism and Global Developmental Delay – faces barriers to accessing a specialised education suited to his needs due to a shortage of places and funding for special schools in Edinburgh.

By shifting all her fitness services online, Emma can continue to empower women through health, wellness, and fitness, while providing the dedicated care her son requires.

"Any working mum will understand that our children come first," she says. "Daniel needs me now more than ever. Moving to online coaching not only enables my clients to achieve their desired outcomes while managing their busy lives, but it also gives me the flexibility to focus the energy needed on my son."

• For more information, visit [Instagram.com/eh_fitness_edinburgh](https://www.instagram.com/eh_fitness_edinburgh)



Local Volunteer Raising Funds for Project Trust Trip

GEORGINA GRAHAM
BALERNO RESIDENT

My name is Georgina, I am a pupil at Balerno High School and have been accepted by Project Trust to volunteer in Ghana for 12 months, from September 2025.

Project Trust is a Scottish charity which organises volunteers like me to help people in less fortunate circumstances abroad.

I really hope you can join me

on an exciting adventure to help me raise £7,450 I need for the trip, through a variety of fundraising events. You may have already seen some of the posters I have put up around the local areas.

An upcoming event is a Tabletop Sale fundraiser on Saturday 5 October in Balerno High School concourse from 10am to 4pm.

All contributions to my fundraising are greatly appreciated.

• For more details, visit: <https://bio.link/georginagraham>

Travelling Alone at Night? Lothian Buses Partners with Strut Safe

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Lothian Buses is the first public transport provider in UK to enter into a partnership with Strut Safe, a volunteer-operated support telephone service offering a friendly voice at the end of the phone for those travelling alone at night.

"Lothian is committed to delivering inclusive and accessible bus services," said Gaynor Marshall, Lothian's Communications Director. "Our partnership with Strut Safe promotes awareness of an organisation which can offer our customers the opportunity to feel supported and connected through every part of their journey."

The automated system links callers to an available volunteer who, after confirming their name and location, will chat to them about whatever they want until they are safely at their destination—regardless of where they are going or where they have come from.



All volunteers are thoroughly assessed, trained, and hold valid disclosure and barring service certificates.

• Call Strut Safe on 0333 335 0026. For more details visit: <https://strutsafe.org>

• Lines are open on Fridays and Saturdays between 7pm and 3am, and on Sundays from 7pm to 1am.

BRIEFLY...

p7>>>

replacement of front porch and installation of proprietary garden pod; 18 Baberton Mains Grove. (24/03834/FUL) Granted, 12 September.

Currie: Proposed conservatory to rear of dwelling; 34 Germiston, Riccarton. (24/03353/FUL) Granted, 11 September.

Colinton: Proposed garage to side of detached dwelling; 18 Hailes Gardens. (24/03838/FUL) Granted, 12 September.

Colinton: Proposed single storey side and rear extension; 7 Hailes Terrace. (24/03648/FUL) Granted, 13 September.
Colinton: Sub-divide existing plot to form new dwelling house; 1 Pentland Road. (24/02003/FUL) Refused, 12 September.

PLANNED ROADWORKS & ROAD CLOSURES

Note: Start dates indicate earliest anticipated beginning of work; finish dates represent conclusion of formal notice periods—actual work may finish earlier or be extended due to circumstances.

Colinton: Colinton Road at Old Farm Court/The Cedars; two-way temporary traffic lights for new gas service (SGN). Until 7 October.

Colinton: Lanark Road at Gillespie crossroads; four-way temporary traffic lights during clearing of blocked cable ducts. 14 - 18 October.

Juniper Green: Lanark Road between Mired Avenue and Foulis Crescent; temporary traffic lights 7.30pm to 6.30am weekday nights during carriageway resurfacing. Six to eight weeks from 2 September.

Balerno: Main Street at Bridge Road/Johnsburn Road; four-way temporary traffic lights for BT/KN ducting installation. 14 - 18 October.

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New Ideas for Currie Community Centre

IAIN BURGESS
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES, CURRIE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Currie Community Centre is a volunteer-run charity dedicated to serving the residents of Currie, Balerno, and Juniper Green. Our mission is to enhance the community by providing space for recreational, educational, and social activities.

Currently, the Centre hosts a variety of groups and activities, including the Kids Insight after-school club, Games at the Gate holiday club, ASN after-school club, Cyrenians social group, and Morning Star Church. Additionally, we offer facilities for basketball, badminton, football, pilates, taekwondo, Irish dance, art, crafts, and band practice. We also run a welcoming Saturday morning café during term time.

There's always room for more at the Centre, and we're eager to hear your ideas! Whether you're a business looking to offer a class, an individual passionate about art, music, history, or languages, or someone needing help with skills like computer literacy or CV writing, we'd love to collaborate.

If you have any ideas that could benefit the community, please reach out to Louise at: info@curriecommunitycentre.org

If you are quick enough to pick up this October issue of C&B News early when it first comes out, you may be lucky enough to still get tickets for this year's (very short) Music Festival, writes Wendy Williams.

The Edinburgh Police Choir entertains us on Saturday 5 October with a mix of music from pop to classics. It'll be good to welcome them - fresh from the Fringe (!) - for the first time to Balerno. The concert takes place in the Church at 7.30pm. Tickets: £12 (adults), £6 (children) - money will be raised for Marie Curie. The following evening (Sunday 6 October), the Jazz Party - featuring great music by Stirling Crisis - needs no introduction. Again, this starts at 7.30pm in Balerno Parish Church. Tickets cost £18 including light refreshments.

• Tickets for both events are available through the Balerno Parish Church website: balernochurch.org.uk



Climate Café at Campbell Park Pavilion

MIKE HARROWER
FRIENDS OF CAMPBELL PARK

Friends of Campbell Park are hosting a "Climate Café" event on Saturday 12 October as part of the "National Day of Action" prompted by one of the organisations in the Climate Coalition and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland.

This event - running from 1pm - 5pm - aims to help provide the local community with educational information, advice, support, green promotions, home improvement application guidance, etc, to help everyone reduce their carbon footprint and find a greener lifestyle.

Our new local Labour MP for Edinburgh South West, Scott Arthur, will meet with constituents to develop a deeper understanding of the support they need and want in order to improve their local environment, insulate their homes, reduce their energy use, and improve local transport systems.

Invited exhibitors - including

Home Energy Scotland, Harlaw Hydro, SW20 e-bike hire, Edinburgh Tool Library, Bike Station, and Changeworks - will provide advice, assistance, literature and information displays. We will also have informational displays and leaflets for other charities and businesses supporting local community action or green lifestyles.

Much of the destruction of our natural planet occurs to feed our "developed lifestyles", so learning how to reduce our consumption of raw materials and fossil fuels is key to the urgent correction of our climate. Green life-hacks and demonstrations of recycling and reuse will also be available to kindle your creativity.

Free tea, coffee and cake will be provided by the Friends of Campbell Park, with the option for voluntary donations.

• Friends of Campbell Park's "Climate Cafe" will be open 1pm - 5pm on Saturday 12 October, at the Pavilion in Campbell Park, Woodhall Road, Colinton, EH13 0HS.

• Visit: www.theclimatecoalition.org, https://www.stopclimatechaos.scot

Forthcoming Fundraising Events from CVE SCIO

LORRAINE O'SHEA
COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE SCIO

Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO will be selling more of its "Angela's Treasures" at our Pit Stop Café at the Shed, Spylaw Park, on Saturday 5 October, 1pm - 4pm. Do join us for a cuppa, a cake, and a chat about the progress on the Shed project.

We expect a busy December,



starting with *Christmas in the Park* on Thursday 12 December between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. Expect fairy-lit stalls leading to a magical Santa's Grotto. You'll be able to partake of excellent mulled wine, hot chocolate, and home baking—and try your hand at our tombola.

• Email: colintonvillage@gmail.com

Fairtrade Fortnight

LESLEY HENDERSON
BALERNO FAIRTRADE VILLAGE GROUP

With times tighter everywhere, farmers worldwide are working via Fairtrade (FT) for fairer conditions, even survival. FT's price guarantees and community premiums are needed more than ever.

Nationally, last month's FT Fortnight campaign (9 - 22 September) urged us to Be the Change: buy FT goods, and petition our politicians to show real FT commitment. Though ours already do, they have encouraged us with even more. Our new Edinburgh South West MP Scott Arthur early on signed the Fairtrade Foundation's support pledge, promising also to work on Edinburgh's planned August 2025 International FT Conference. Local constituency MSP Gordon MacDonald's Parliamentary Motion, tabled on 10 September, endorsed FT generally, and specifically among our local schools, helpful retailers and many other supporters.

Our local FT Fortnight included the Mill Café's tasty special FT-themed cakes, bright FT flowers in Balerno Parish Church, and the September Farmers' Market's bustling FT stall. Cheery Currie and Balerno FT postbox toppers will remind us shoppers of the serious need, way beyond the Fortnight, to choose FT whenever we can, to ask for disappeared items to be re-stocked, and persuade retailers it pays to offer them.

For now the last word from FT's younger supporters, brings great hope for their future care of each other and the world. All three Balerno schools heartily agreed during this Fortnight to back another Balerno Schools FT Art Competition, early in 2025. So please watch this space!



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Pentland Flower Club Ruby Celebration

WENDY WILLIAMS
PENTLAND FLOWER CLUB

On the first Friday in September we met to celebrate 40 years of the Pentland Flower Club. We were lucky to be joined by Lillias Hoskins, the present chair of the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies (NAFAS) and Linda Soutar the chair of the Scottish association (SAFAS), who also entertained us with some beautiful arrangements and cheerful anecdotes.

A cake was shared and a toast raised to the history of the club and memories of both present and past members.

The club will continue to meet until the end of this year.

• Our next meeting is on Friday 4 October when we will welcome Lottie Longman from East Linton with "Autumn Delights".

• Following that, on Friday 1 November, our guest speaker will be Blairgowrie's Jillian Page demonstrating "Winter Warmers".

• All meetings are in the Ogston Hall, Balerno, starting at 7pm. Members and visitors welcome.



Balerno SWI Update

SHEILA MASON
PRESS SECRETARY, BALERNO SWI

Where has summer gone? We had our first meeting of our "winter" session on a cool evening when we had a discussion on the way forward for the Institute. It has been felt that the longer standing members knew how things went while anyone joining nowadays didn't really understand the reasoning behind what happens at meetings. There were some very useful thoughts to be pondered.

After our Rural cuppa we enjoyed demos in two corners: in one corner we were shown by Lorraine how to make very simply a Christmas card from scraps of Christmas materials, while in the other we were shown macramé folding—a bird resembling a seagull was demonstrated by Edingell, who has

taken a dislike to seagulls following one appropriating her ice cream cone while on holiday!

Our September Competition results: Flower of the Month—Edingell Thomson, Sewn Bag for a Guiser—Catriona Reid.

• Our meeting on 1 October is our 89th "Birthday" when we hope to enjoy a Silent Disco!

• We hold our AGM on 5 November.

• Unless otherwise indicated, all our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, from 7.30pm, in Balerno Community Centre, Main Street. Any interested ladies will be made very welcome.

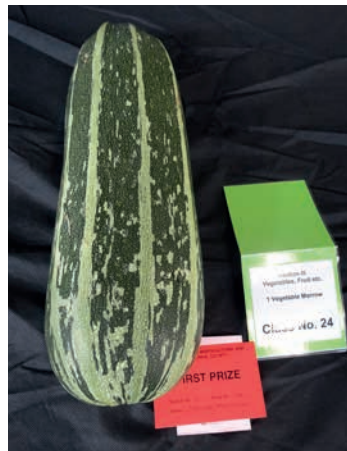


Currie Horticultural Society—Our Annual Show 2024

SHEILA MASON
SHOW SECRETARY, CURRIE HORTICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

Show day this year dawned bright and quite autumnal, following a difficult summer for growing flowers, fruit and vegetables. However there were a satisfying number of entries on the Show bench of most things on the Schedule making a colourful display.

Christine Anderson showed the "Best Exhibit" in the pot plant section; "Best Exhibit" for flowers went to John Sawkins while Patricia Hampton was awarded "Best Exhibit" for her dahlias and Douglas Muir was awarded for his roses. In the Vegetable section "Best Exhibit" went to Rob Horsefield while Willie Hunter – a new entrant - won for his potatoes.



There are many other prizes in the shape of trophies, most bearing the names of competitors from bygone days, whose families presented them to the Society when the family member no longer was able to compete.

Weather does not interfere with Home Skills so the judges for this section had a bumper display to taste and award places on merit. First up was the Floral Art and there were some colourful exhibits. "Best Exhibit" went to Fiona Robertson for her arrangement in a miniature watering can. In recent years we've included a cake recipe for people to follow and,

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again, it proved very popular this year. It was a challenge but Morag Sawkins' cake was selected as "Best Exhibit" in Home baking; "Best Exhibit" in Preserves with Lemon Curd went to Patricia Hampton; in sewing "Best Exhibit" was awarded to Alison Hynd while in Knitting it was given to Susan Stride. There is also a section for entrants under 16; this year's winner was Amy Traub-Hampton.

The Society always likes to encourage younger people to enter the Show so there were a few entries showing excellent skills of handwriting, art work, miniature



gardens, animals from fruit and/or vegetables. Also, all P6 pupils in the Society's catchment area were given a potted up plug plant this spring to grow over the summer and exhibit at the Show. Sadly this wasn't too successful this year!

The Horticultural Society AGM will be held from 7pm on Tuesday 22 October in Balerno High School, where cash prize monies will be given. Anyone interested in attending will be most welcome. Best wishes for a peaceful season.

• For more information, visit: www.currieshow.weebly.org



Bonaly Pupils Join Campbell Park Volunteers Day

SHONA HARROWER
FRIENDS OF CAMPBELL PARK

During the Friends of Campbell Park Volunteers Day on 12 September, many of the Bonaly P6 pupils could remember which trees they had planted in the CPK native woodland when they were in P5. So they were excited to see how much their trees had grown.

Shona Harrower from FCP demonstrated how to carefully

young trees, the children enjoyed finding plenty of caterpillars and earthworms, as well as some exotic looking beetles and spiders—and even a frog, which didn't hang around long enough to be photographed!

• For more details, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/FOCPK/>



Wood Chip Trail

The wood chip trail which meanders through the natural regeneration zone and new native woodland in Campbell Park has proven very popular with the local dog walkers. However, it does have a tendency to disappear under long grass, particularly where the path narrows towards the children's playpark.

So Natwest community volunteers worked with Friends of Campbell Park to clear weeds and spread fresh woodchip along the 100 metre trail. They also weeded in front of the container mural and spread woodchips between it and the sports pitch zone.

It remains to be seen whether it will be enough to prevent that area becoming boggy and muddy during the winter.



Scouts Help Out with Weeding

ANNIE MACDONALD
PESTICIDE FREE BALERNO

Scouts were all out manually weeding shared areas across Balerno, supporting Pesticide Free Balerno and the City of Edinburgh Council's chemical-free initiative!

Main Street, car parks, sheltered housing areas and behind The Balerno Inn were attended to. It was great to see such teamwork, community spirit and enthusiasm, making sure all around Balerno village was not only tidy but – most importantly – safe and free from harmful chemicals.

It was also inspirational to see the next generation taking pride in where they live, enjoying looking after their community – especially the most vulnerable within it – and making positive change for health and the environment.

Pesticide Free Balerno would like to thank the Balerno Scouts for volunteering to help this positive initiative and we hope local residents will join us in thanking the Balerno Scouts too!

• Please continue to support our work by:

• Taking ownership of the small strip in front of your property, manually removing weeds when safe and able to do so.

• Helping your less able neighbours to manually remove their weeds.

• Reporting "weedy" spots to us.

• Get in touch: email: Pesticidefreebalerno@gmail.com, text: 07979 717485, or visit: www.pesticidefreebalerno.com

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The Harlaw Road Tip

Snapshots of the Past



Main: An aerial shot (dated 1933) of the top end of Balerno, featuring Balerno Bank Mill. Photo: Canmore. The site of the tip is marked with an "X". Above: The flattened top of the tip, as it looks today. Right: The overgrown top of the tip—the two large border collies are the author's own. Photos: Douglas Lowe.



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

DOUGLAS LOWE
 CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

I am often asked about the large hill towering over the houses on both Harlaw Gait and "Piano Row".

This is the Harlaw Road Tip/Bing. Much of this was probably formed after 1924 when John Galloway bought Balerno Bank paper mill and started to expand and modernise it. The old mill had suffered a catastrophic fire in 1909 which destroyed the machine house and salle. There is a description of the fire in John Tweedie's *Our District* book; it includes an eye-witness account by the late Robert McNeill, a beaterman describing steel beams going red hot then white and crashing down, destroying much of the mill.

The tip contains ash and clinker from the mill fires plus other residue from the paper-making processes; caustic soda, used lime, and china clay which ended up in the settling ponds. Once the residue had settled the water was drained off and either returned to the Bavelaw Burn or directed down a sewer for effluent which ran down the length of the Bavelaw Burn to join a main sewer. The remaining sludge from the settling pond was shovelled into lorries and taken the short distance up Harlaw Road to the tip entrance and then dumped. The top of the tip became a mixture of ashes from the fires, rocks, bricks and basically anything the mill had to get rid of.

The clean water was put back into the Bavelaw Burn but it did have a bleachy smell. The mill required 200 tons of water to make one ton of paper—so there was a lot of water going from the burn into the mill and then back into the Bavelaw Burn. I don't think that any fish lived in that stretch of water, from the mill to the confluence with the Water of Leith—we never saw



p15> any anyway. We used to paddle in the bit just above where it joined the Water of Leith and the water was warm. It kept our feet clean, if a bit white from the bleach!

Above: The overgrown "zig-zag" path from the top of the tip. Alas, the canine models were too busy exploring to pose for any photography. Photo: Douglas Lowe.

Prior to becoming a tip, the area was part of Malleny Estate. It had been a rough grazing area and had been used locally for quarrying purposes. It was called the Bog Park and the trees beyond the Bog Wood. It abounded in springs. I found an advert in the Edinburgh Evening Courant of 2 February 1858, placed by Malleny Estate: "Freestone Quarry On The Malleny Estate To Let."

"The rock has been bored through to the extent of 70 - 80 feet in the Bog Park of Malleny," they reported, suggesting that a stone mine of around 70 yards towards the Bavelaw Burn at the Blacklinn Bridge might be profitable. Old Ordnance Survey maps do show a number of small quarries and ponds on the site; however this would all have stopped in the 1920s when the site was acquired as a tip for Balerno Bank Mill. It continued to grow and be used as the mill tip until 1971 when paper-making ceased, although the paper coating plant continued operating until 1989.

Around 1990, when various

parts of the mill grounds were being developed for housing, the top of the tip was levelled and grassed over as a bit of useable public open space. There is a track up to the top from behind the garages on Harlaw Court. A zig-zag path was also put in from the entrance beside Harlaw Gait.

This area was provided as a casual "kick-about" area replacing, in part, our "Old Park" that disappeared under Balerno High School. The top is flattish and forms a bit of an amphitheatre with the edges of the old tip surrounding it. Initially it was well used by local youth groups - such as cubs and brownies - but, at the moment, it is heavily overgrown with nettles, hogweed and the like. It's only really used these days by hardy dog walkers and adventurous youths.

I can only suggest that the council arrange to include this grassed area in their grass-cutting rota so that this area can be returned to what it was supposed to be—an asset to the village.



We've Got It Covered!

LOCAL HISTORY AS REPORTED BY C&B NEWS.

C&B News has come a long way since its inaugural 10-page edition back in February 1976. Here we remember 10 notable front pages...

Could you be our cover star next month? Get in touch!



1: ISSUE 1 (FEBRUARY 1976)
Free copies of the very first *Currie & Balerno News* are distributed to homes across the two titular villages. By hand. (And it was very much put together that way too!)



2: ISSUE 50 (JUNE 1980)
Back when reproducing any photography cost money, this photo-filled 16-page edition rightfully celebrates the paper's 50th "number"... though inflation has required the cover price to rise to 10p!



3: ISSUE 121 (CHRISTMAS 1986)
Buses! The longest running concern of *C&B News* receives the two-colour front cover treatment on what would prove to be the last bespoke "Christmas" (aka December) edition.



4: ISSUE 198 (JULY/AUGUST 1994)
Well into his 88-issue editorship, Neil C Scott has changed the paper's masthead! Goodbye, Cooper Black and hand-drawn lettering, hello "Bookman Demi Bold". He'll also see in computer-based design!



5: ISSUE 213 (FEBRUARY 1996)
The paper celebrates its 20th anniversary with another burst of full colour photography on the front cover. This has become an increasingly common occurrence, albeit usually reserved for the summer and winter issues.



6: ISSUE 294 (MARCH 2004)
This front page announces the retirement of *C&B's* founding editor and long-standing chairperson Graham Priestley after 28 years' involvement with the publication. He would die just four months later.



7: ISSUE 385 (APRIL 2013)
"Here comes the rain again... Yippee!" *C&B News* previews the impending Harlaw Hydro Share Prospectus, which will raise the finance for what remains a highly successful community-owned renewable energy project.



8: ISSUE 413 (FEBRUARY 2016)
The start of a year-long celebration of our 40th anniversary, though the front page continues to focus on current news, such as the opening of "Balerno's first veterinary surgery".



9: ISSUE 438 (JULY/AUGUST 2018)
Not for the first time, local protests against proposals to close Currie Community High School require a last-minute redesign of the front page. Did this particularly happy campaigner help the cause?



10: ISSUE 475 (APRIL 2022)
Now self-identifying as a "local community news magazine," *C&B News* matches its biggest ever "bumper" issue - 48 pages! - and celebrates local community solidarity with the people of Ukraine.



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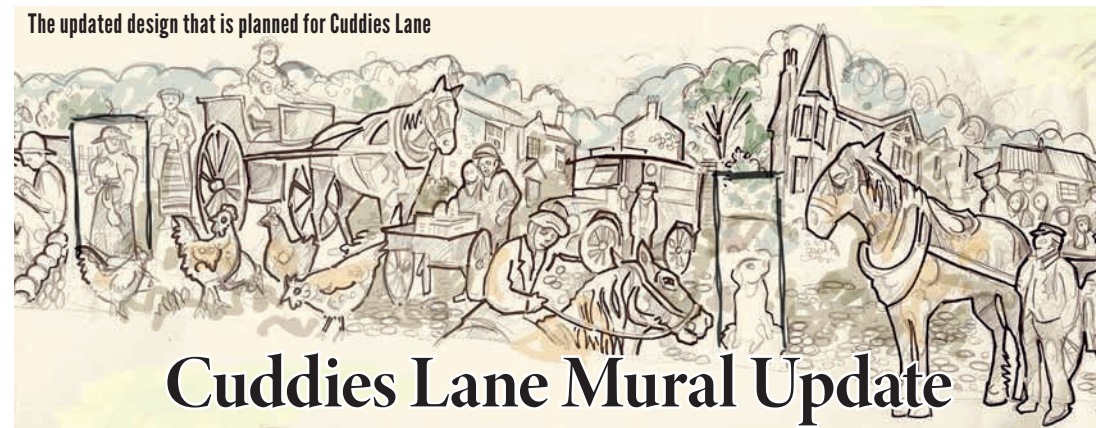
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The updated design that is planned for Cuddies Lane



Cuddies Lane Mural Update

MIKE SCOTT & EDDIE BANKS
THE COLINTON AMENITY ASSOCIATION
ARTWORK TEAM

Back in 1784, one hundred years before trains began travelling through the Colinton Tunnel, the finance minister of France reportedly responded to Queen Marie Antoinette's request for money by saying: "The difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes a little longer."

We were starting to feel the same way about our plans to create the Cuddies Lane mural. (See the March 2024 issue of C&B News for more details.) It is now our pleasure to report that, after more than two years of consultations and meetings, we have planning permission to do the job, and that Listed Building Consent – a potential hurdle – is not required. As you may have noticed, we have already started!

Cooking the Books

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. Etc. It's clear to me from this quotation that Keats wasn't just talking about Autumn in general terms, he was specifically discussing jam. It's that time of year where the harvest comes in, everything ripens, ready to fade into wintry emptiness. Luckily we are not quite there yet so we collect our earthly bounty and ready ourselves to make it through the colder months where, historically, fresh food would be sparse, root vegetables ruled the roost and we had to find ways of making the flora we brought in over summer and autumn last.

and raspberries. Kilos of them. And what to do with them? Yes, eat them of course but not even we Lyonses could eat that much. We had them with cream, I made a pavlova, we snacked on them but it didn't make a dent.



Luckily I have an excellent cookbook, *Jams And Chutneys: Preserving The Harvest* by Thane Prince which is a fantastic guide on doing exactly what it says in the title: preserving food. This book gave me recipes and guides for turning our collection into several large jars of raspberry jam, strawberry jam and raspberry curd. These now line the pantry shelves and mean the fruit we picked will last for months to come whether used in a cake or slathered on a crumpet at tea time. Thane Prince talks you through all the stages and equipment needed, making the whole process less daunting (pots of boiling fruit and sugar and

boiling hot glass jars can be a scary prospect). I've used this book for years, making delicious apple chutneys, quince jelly and spiced plum jams too. 'Tis the season to go along hedgerows and see what other fruit can be picked and preserved (if it can't all be eaten fresh). Apples galore and blackberries abound. Thanks to books like Thane Prince's it is food that you can enjoy in months to come, spreading on a slice of toast, or eating with a piece of cheese and recalling the warmer, sweeter days as you do so.

boiling hot glass jars can be a scary prospect). I've used this book for years, making delicious apple chutneys, quince jelly and spiced plum jams too. 'Tis the season to go along hedgerows and see what other fruit can be picked and preserved (if it can't all be eaten fresh). Apples galore and blackberries abound. Thanks to books like Thane Prince's it is food that you can enjoy in months to come, spreading on a slice of toast, or eating with a piece of cheese and recalling the warmer, sweeter days as you do so.

In my house, thanks to my partner and our two younglings, it is the sweeter sort of preserve that is a mainstay. Jams and curds go down very well and, luckily for me, my mother-in-law makes the best lemon curd in the known universe. However, when she hasn't visited for a few weeks, it's up to me to keep us stocked. Thanks to a visit in August to Craigie's Pick Your Own Farm near South Queensferry, I left with a lighter wallet but an extremely well stocked fridge full of strawberries

Craigies PYO Farm - West Craigie Farm, South Queensferry, Edinburgh. EH30 9A



with Balerno Resident **STEF LYONS**



STAGE ONE
The first stage of the project – which aims to link the heart of Colinton Village with the Water of Leith Walkway and the Colinton Tunnel – was to place a mural on the end wall of Colinton Village Pharmacy. That was completed at the end of August, and we have been overwhelmed by the number of positive comments we've received about it.

The sepia-toned image depicts the former blacksmith's forge, or smiddy, which was at the Bridge Road end of Cuddies Lane from the early 18th century until the 1920s. One of the many blacksmiths was William Oliver, whose grandson still lives locally and is represented in the mural with his wife.

As "horseless carriages" started to replace horses during the early 20th century, the Waddell family – who by then owned the smiddy – turned their skills to become motor mechanics, and added two petrol



Well being 'Walking to Health'

ANNETTE WILSON CONTINUES HER NEW COLUMN ON TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF.

I'm a keen walker, and have happily spent many days in the hills over the summer. But, as the days shorten and the weather changes, what might keep me motivated to get outside and walk? Well, mostly it's the health benefits of walking, particularly at this time of year.

Did you know that 30 minutes walking per day can reduce your risk of diabetes, heart disease and some forms of cancer? It also boosts your mood and immune system, reducing stress and risk of depression.

Walking is free and available to most of us, and the benefits are there regardless of how far or fast you go. It can help reduce joint pain for people with conditions like osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, and it's a great form of physical activity for people who are overweight, elderly, or who haven't exercised in a long time. And we're lucky enough to live in a beautiful area of the country, with views across to the Firth of Forth and the Highlands beyond, or nature along the river banks or parks, so there is always something interesting to look at.

If you enjoy some company, then walking can be a sociable activity. There are plenty of groups such as the Ramblers who offer regular walks for all abilities, where you can walk with company, chat and share the joys (and challenges) of your walking route. Organisations like Paths For All offer local health walks specifically designed to support people who feel less confident about getting out and about.

If you are keen to walk to improve your health, then you should plan to walk every day or as often as possible, walk fast enough to be able to feel your heart rate rise (but still be able to talk!), and for between 20 and 30 minutes.

So whether you are walking alone with the sounds of nature, or listening to an audio book or podcast, or joining a group or some friends, why not try to get outside for a walk every day. Invest in some waterproof shoes and pull on your jacket, and let's see how many of the 183 days between October and March we can get out for a wee walk!

Annette Wilson is a health coach, teacher of mindfulness, complementary therapist and walk leader at Pond Wellness: www.pondwellness.co.uk

p19>>>

pumps and a paraffin pump on Bridge Road. They later moved to their current base on Spylaw Street, with the old smiddy replaced, by 1952, with the Colinton Village Pharmacy.

STAGE TWO

Stage 2 of the mural project will be – when funds permit – more about painting and decorating than murals. The harled walls along Cuddies Lane and up Spylaw Street – currently a mix of reds, browns, greys and other colours – will be repainted an off-white shade of masonry paint, matching the historic cottages along Spylaw Street.

We would welcome offers from any painting and decorating firms which would be prepared to offer their skills at a reduced price (or free!), as this isn't a job for our art team.

STAGE THREE

Once the buildings have been repainted, we will begin Stage three. Artist Chris Rutterford, assisted by Eddie Banks, will again create the mural in his studio. Like the Smiddy mural, it will be strongly sepia toned, with very muted use of colour.

It will be painted onto marine plywood, which will then be encased in a special varnish to protect it. This technique means that, when mounted on the walls, the visual impact of drainpipes and messy wiring will be minimised.

The mural, as designed, will only be around a third of the height of the buildings along Cuddies Lane and will continue a short distance around the corner onto Spylaw Street.

We have worked with Colinton Local History Society to identify the types of transport that would have been used around 1900, and what people would have been wearing at the time, in order to create a scene that represents as accurately as possible the use of the lane at the turn of the 20th century.

• Donations to help with the project can be made through the Colinton Amenity Association's website (www.colinton-amenity.org.uk) or directly into CAA's bank account: Colinton Amenity Association, A/c: 00125283, Sort code: 83-19-01. Please quote "Mural" as the reference.

• To take advantage of HMRC's GiftAid scheme, which adds a further 25% to your gift, you will find a form on the website or we can email a printable GiftAid form to you.

Preparing for Winter (!) at Malleny Garden

JAMES BELL
HEAD GARDENER, MALLENY GARDEN

How is it Autumn already? We've barely had summer yet! But it is... and we start to think about tidying away some of the garden in preparation for Winter. (Yes... Winter!)

The traditional way of managing a garden was to cut all the herbaceous plants back to ground level leaving open bare soil. This was to keep the garden neat and tidy, to leave it open to kill off any pests and diseases, and to leave space for new growth in Spring. While some of this is still true, we adopt a more nuanced approach these days. Plants which collapse into a pile of mush are cut back. Plants which remain standing over winter are left. These provide cover for many insects which inhabit the garden: ladybirds, solitary bees, bumblebees, and butterflies all need some sort of home in winter. The standard herbaceous may also provide seed for birds. It's a delicate balance to keep the garden "tidy" for us but also friendly for wildlife.

September is when we cut the meadow in front of Malleny House. Grown through the year, it has an array of wildflowers in it—more than 100 common spotted orchids this year! If you visit the garden this autumn, though, you may notice the meadow hasn't been fully cut down. The traditional hay-making endeavour is to cut and remove everything, but we have deviated by leaving uncut stripes of grass until spring. These will provide cover over winter for insects, small mammals and maybe the odd frog. Aesthetically the stripes are just for our benefit, the wildlife aren't fussed about the shape.

This time last year, using a cherry picker, we pruned the Four Evangelists yew trees. (See the October 2023 issue of C&B News, right.) We cut them back hard to an old profile and left them very bare and sad looking. Today they still look quite bare and slightly less sad looking but they are alive and very well. The new growth coming through is slow but healthy. We knew the regrowth would not be quick, but they are where we were expecting them to be. It will take two or three years for them to be "green" again—at which time we will need a cherry picker again for their next haircut!

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

• <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/mallenygarden>



Craft Corner:

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

Fabulous Felting

Needle felting is becoming my new passion. Mindlessly stabbing a piece of wool while listening to the radio? Sign me up!

The principle of needle felting is very simple. It uses a long needle with small notches around it and as you poke the wool, the wool fibres get entangled, and the wool becomes firmer and firmer. You can poke the wool into any shape, blend colours and connect several pieces together. I find the whole process quite therapeutic—well, minus the stabbing of my own fingers.

We are making a felted unicorn to get us into felting. You will need: felting wool (the more colours, the merrier), felting needles, a felting mat and finger protectors. The needle is very sharp. The mat is there to protect your surfaces while working (instead of buying a felting mat, I used an old coaster). You can purchase different gauges of the needle (counterintuitively, the higher the gauge number, the thinner the needle). I would start with a medium gauge 38. The finger protectors are needed, especially for the finer details or working on small items. Did I mention the needle is sharp? Don't be like me and think you won't stab yourself. You will. For less than £10, you can purchase a felting kit which will include all the items you need and more.

To make a unicorn body, fold the wool tightly into an oval and start poking. Keep rotating the oval and poking from all angles until you are happy and reach the desired body shape. In a



similar fashion, individually create four legs, a neck with a head, a horn, two ears, a mane, and a tail. My horn initially looked like a banana, but the beauty of felting is that you can just reshape it as needed. To connect our unicorn pieces into a functional unicorn, undo a little bit at the end (for example the upper leg) and stab it into place – it blends quite nicely. Mix and match colours as you wish.

As you may have guessed, this unicorn (Ursula) is not for me, but for our niece – a lovely and lively seven-year old girl. Happy Birthday Nadia!

Balerno Ramblers Autumn Update

GAIL COUSINS
BALERNO RAMBLERS

For more general details about Balerno Ramblers, visit: <https://balernoramblers.org.uk>, www.facebook.com/Balerno-Ramblers or email: enquiries@balernoramblers.org.uk

All our walks are open to all members and non-members. Regrettably, dogs are not permitted on our walk.

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

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER

INTRODUCTORY WALK: Start time: 9.30am, from Pentland View car park.

Route: Ascending Poet's Glen to Easter Kinleith Farm. The right of way goes through the farmyard, which can be muddy. The track goes eastwards across the hillside to Tiphereth, with wonderful

views to the North. A refreshment break at Campbell Park, then returning to Currie by Water of Leith walkway. There is an option to shorten the walk by catching a bus from the Lanark Road.

Difficulty: leisurely
Distance: 4 - 5 miles (6.4 - 8 km), ascent: minimal, though Poet's Glen is all uphill.

What to wear? Comfortable clothes appropriate for the weather forecast; hopefully not raining but be prepared. Footwear should be supportive; some tracks may be very muddy especially through the farmyard. What to bring? Drink/snack; poly bag or sit mat; bus pass or money for bus.

• Please register with walk leader, Josephine, to join this walk: 07941 041660

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER

EAST CAIRN HILL & MOUNT MAW CIRCUIT: Meet Pentland

View Car Park, 8.50am for 9am start. Strenuous 8.5 miles (13.7 km) walk in the more remote Western Pentlands with good views and return via the Thieves' Road, an old cattle droving route. Walking poles and gaiters, if used, are recommended for rough and wet ground.

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER

WEST EDINBURGH LINEAR WALK: Meet Lanark Road Footbridge leading to Union Canal, 9am. Strenuous 11 miles (17.7 km) walk: Union Canal, Water of Leith Visitor Centre, Chesser, Saughton Park, Balgreen, Carrick Knowe golf course, Broomhouse, Hermiston, Edinburgh Park, Gogar Station Road, Kellerstain Stables, Roddinglaw, Millburn Lodge, RBS Gogarburn, Edinburgh Gateway, Gyle Centre. The walk leader advises that the track and pavements may be muddy in places.

www.facebook.com/candbnews



You took over in April; how are things going?

I was really lucky because the Harmeny Board gave me a month's handover with [former CE] Neil Squires. Neil has left a brilliant legacy; not only that, the handover that he had prepared was exceptional. He didn't want to leave anything to chance. Even now, he's at the end of the phone, but I've not [called him]—because he's in Greece and I want him to relax and enjoy himself, because it's a hard job and he was ready – he said himself – to finish, to decompress.

How did you end up here?

Brought up in the Borders, moved to Edinburgh for university. I wanted to work with young people. My dad was actually Head of Children and Families in Galashiels, but I went down the teaching route. I worked in the maintained sector for a while, then in the private sector, and was in education leadership from 1999—so 25 years in education. While I really enjoyed being in education, there was always that slight hankering for the care side as well.

I knew about this place because I had an ex-girlfriend who had worked here back when it was Save the Children—I'm still in touch with her, I'm pleased to say, and



GAVIN CALDER

Gavin Calder became Chief Executive of Harmeny Education Trust in April, after a 25 year career in educational leadership—most recent as Headteacher at Edinburgh Academy's Junior School.

crisis on. There is a huge need but it's expensive, in a place like this. We're talking 36 children with a staff group of 180, so it's a specialist service and it does cost. Councils in particular are stretched, it's a big commitment for people.

In 2020, the Scottish Government under Nicola Sturgeon, made "The Promise" to all care-experienced children in Scotland that they would be "loved, cared and respected". One of the things I warmed to as soon as I walked in to Harmeny is that we've got "Cottages" not "Units", we've got "Adults", not "Staff". I'm "Gavin", not "Mr Calder"—or, worse still, "Sir". These children have been harmed through relationships; we need to do the best we can to heal them through relationships.

The other big thing that is coming out of The Promise, which has taken up a lot of my time, is the commitment to making Scotland a "restricted practice" free environment; ie no safe-holds of children. I think that will change, I think they will go back on that rhetoric slightly, without being too political here. We want to drastically minimise the use



of restrictive holds but if a child – who maybe has just disclosed something terrible in their past – is in danger of harming themselves or harming people around them, then they need – professionally and in a safe manner – to be held for their own safety.

More prosaically, we've got an oil leak under our gym, which has been out of commission since November (2023). We're still battling with our insurance company; we're no longer forward, as yet. The oil leak is still leaking and they can't find the source!

How valuable is your relationship with the local community here in Balerno?

My understanding is that there's a good relationship in terms of the young people taking part in clubs around the local area – tennis clubs, gymnastic clubs. Some of our young people go to Balerno High School. We're not "that place that nobody knows about at the top of the hill". But I would like to make it more solid than that. Anybody in the community who wants to know more about us or would like to invite us to be part of something, we're very happy to meet with them.

Obviously we have vulnerable young children in our care. But we're not a gated village, we're not a secure unit, and I think the people of Balerno, certainly from what I can see, respect that. Within the bounds of keeping the children protected and safe, we want to be as open as we can, so any suggestions that people have got on how we can be involved, I'm more than happy to hear.



she tells me it's a very different place now. When this job came up last year, I was actually contacted by three or four different people about it: "It's care and education, we thought about you." So I contacted the recruitment company, and they went: "Oh, funnily enough, we've heard your name". Right, OK! I applied for the

job and have not regretted a bit of it since.

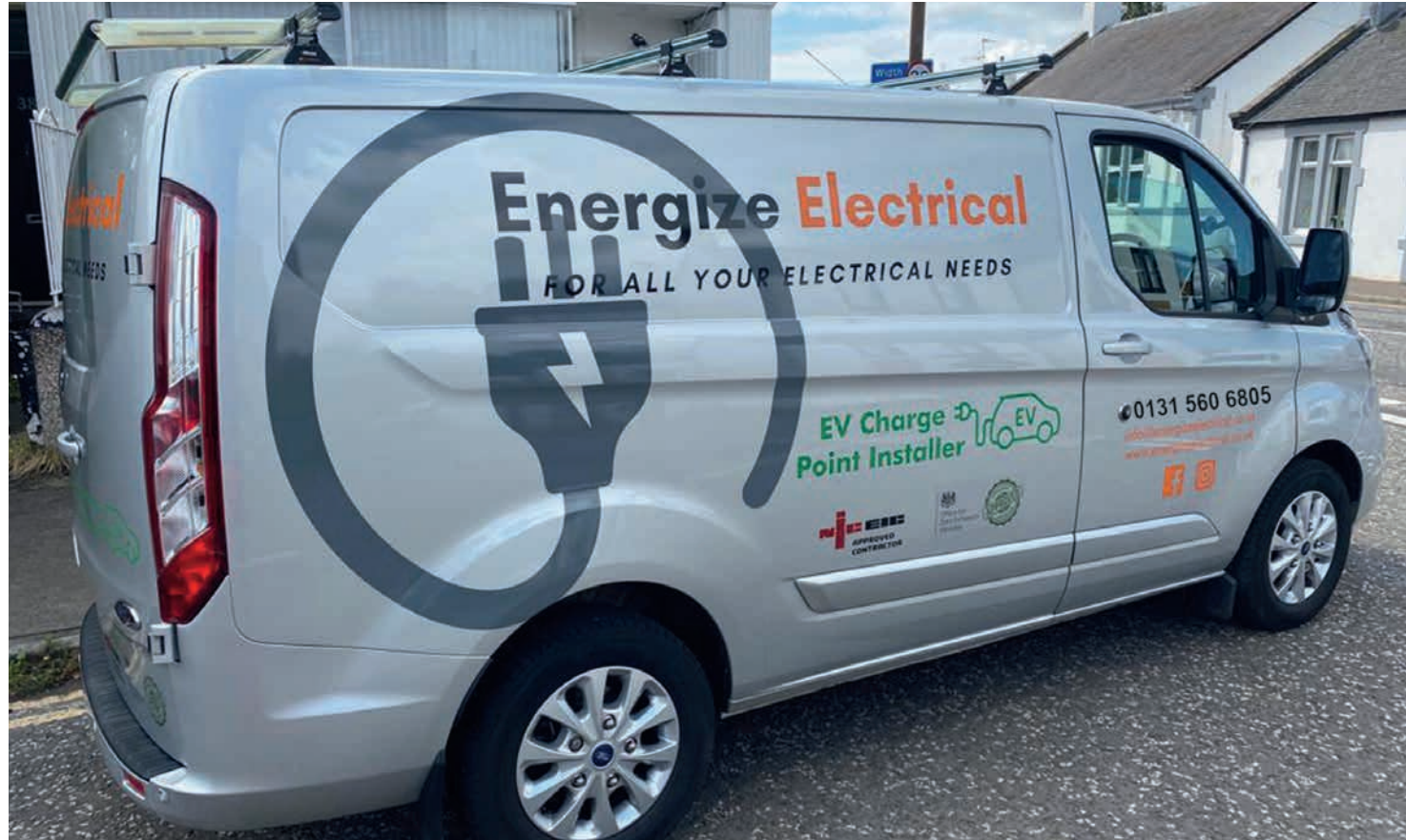
What do you think are the challenges and opportunities Harmeny faces now and in the future?

How political do you want me to be? [Laughs]

In terms of the challenges, it's funding. There's a cost of living



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Art in the Park 2024 a Great Success!



THE COMMITTEE COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE SCIO

Colinton Village Enterprise is delighted to feature in the 500th edition of the C&B News, while paying homage to our flagship event – Art in the Park – which this year took place on arguably the sunniest and hottest day of the summer!

Some 20 years ago three of our gallant Trustees were the progenitors of the very first Art in the Park, inspired by Bill Alexander of Colinton Arts, to show the work of a number of local artists and craft makers in a small exhibition in Spylaw Park.

How this great idea has grown!

Hosted by CVE Trustees, CVE members, and other volunteers, Art in the Park has become our biennial Village

Fair, complete with 30 art and crafts stalls, as well as many representing local community groups, churches, businesses—and, of course, C&B News!

Also included was a delightful range of old-fashioned games for the whole family, an amazing array of pre-loved books, the ever-popular dog show, “Bark in the Park”, plus a host of talented musicians and dancers to entertain the crowds. Food and drink purveyors were out in force to feed the masses—from local restaurant, Dantes (with pizza and pasta) to Bonnie Events serving a Scottish twist on Mexican food, plus crepes from “With a Cherry on Top” and hot drinks from “Brew 52”. We once again welcomed our partnership with The Spylaw’s very busy pop-up bar.

What a triumph Saturday 31 August proved to be for everyone this year.

As the sun shone and the crowds rolled in, the ever-popular CVE games area delighted young and old alike. They tested their throwing skills at the coconut shy. They wished for a lucky stick out of the hay bale to win a prize. They enjoyed getting soaked or soaking whoever was brave enough to go into the stocks.

There were prizes galore to be won on the Tombola stall, thanks to kind donations by many local businesses and residents. “Bark in the Park”, meantime, fascinated many with the paw-some entries on the day. CVE is grateful to Anita and Anne-Marie, local pet-sitters, for organising and running this fun dog show on our behalf.

CVE put together a team of volunteers from its members, with the able assistance of Firrhill High School, to help run the entire event. This was

an amazing display of teamwork from the community and CVE is very grateful to everyone who came out to help, not only “on the day” but also the night before.

This year we were thrilled to be musically entertained by Buskin’ Sharks jazz, local duo Amethyst, and the amazing Ceilidh Caleerie’s traditional Scottish dance tunes—irresistible for the younger members in the audience.

The pleasure of seeing brilliant dances performed by talented pupils from the Mhairi Hogg and Angela Watson dance schools and the return – by popular demand – of the Twisted Tails belly dance troupe, all added to the celebratory atmosphere.

Other highlights included Bastion, The Clumsy Musician (aka local resident, Luis) who kindly donated his time and

skills to the delight of children young and old. Edinburgh’s Batman was on site with the Batmobile happily meeting and greeting attendees. Another very important part of this event was Corstorphine First Aid, a registered charity providing invaluable assistance for our event.

All of the different elements – stalls, games, food, fun, and sun – meant quite possibly the best-attended event in its long history. Much planning is involved beforehand, and we are thrilled that everything went so smoothly, thanks to the vital help from additional volunteers on the day.

Our greatest delight was the response to our very special CVE stall, “Angela’s Treasures”. Angela Miller, CVE’s first secretary, bequeathed her flat and its contents to the organisation after she passed

last year. Our star volunteer, Iris Mitchell, managed the stall on the day and presented some of the jewellery, hats and clothes to be sold. The table was a hit and a major boost to the funds we need to transform the ex-coach house, “the Shed” into Colinton’s new community hub.

Such was the success of Art in the Park we were thrilled by the grand total of over £5,000 made in CVE donations and sales alone; a record high. So, we are on a mission now to raise the additional funds for the construction work at the Shed to begin!

• To join CVE or volunteer at one of our events, please email: colintovillage@gmail.com or message us through our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise>



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Bikeability

LILY & ZARA
CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

From 9 - 13 September, P6 pupils at Currie Primary took part in Bikeability, write Lily and Zara. The instructors Mrs Morrison and Mrs Johnston led the training and were really great! Bikeability's purpose is to prepare children for cycling on roads. We also did fun games like "Simon Says" and "Follow the Leader". We learnt how to signal, look behind our shoulders to check if any cars are coming and stop suddenly while also being aware around other cyclists.

People said things like: "We really enjoyed Bikeability." Another pupil said: "My favourite part was when we got to do follow the leader and take my hand off."

We also asked some people about their ideas on Bikeability as a concept. They said things like: "Bikeability is fun and I would like to do more."

To conclude, we think Bikeability is an incredible experience for those who can ride bikes. We all thought that it was phenomenal and we really enjoyed it too!



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'Family Ride' in Currie

GRAHAM DANE
CURRIE RIDING OF THE MARCHES

The "Fun Ride" on the evening of Friday 6 September was a big success, and very enjoyable.

Organised by Currie Riding of the Marches, 32 horses and riders registered and followed a route from Wester Kinleith Farm down Kirkbrae, then to Balerno and back along Lymphoy Road and the Water of Leith. Former Ensign Karen McGhee carried the Currie flag; Karen's granddaughter Marley was also on the Ride, which symbolised the continuity the event was promoting.

At Currie Community Centre, riders were presented with souvenir medals by Scott Arthur MP, Sue Webber MSP and Keith Symington (Chair of Currie Community Council).

Millie was awarded the prize for Best Turned Out, having groomed not only Marley's pony Destiny (27) but also Karen McGhee's horse Pie.

Feedback from participants was 100% positive and comments on social media showed great enthusiasm for a repeat event next year.



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CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

P3a at Currie Primary School are exploring their new Outdoor Learning setting, Muir Wood Park., writes Class Teacher Jen Cunningham. They enjoyed finding tiny treasures to fit inside a match box and learning about some of the things they hadn't seen before, especially the wild garlic bulbs. They made good use of the many twigs that had fallen to create sculptures. They are looking forward to going back next week!



P7s at Currie Primary Love STEM!

**MURRAY & FINLAY
CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

STEM is a mixture of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths. We have been learning about the engineering section of STEM in class and, for our recent project, we have undertaken a challenge that has pushed the boundaries of what you can do with certain resources.

During this challenge we developed new skills such as teamwork, building and using our imaginations. For this challenge we were set a challenge, by Edinburgh College, to make a bridge using given resources. These bridges had to be sturdy, creative, and reliable. To test the bridges, we placed them over a "gorge of doom" made by separating two desks. As we gathered round, the group whose bridge was currently on display, added weights in order of heaviness. As the bridge was buckling and shaking the group would call out how much weight it was holding, then it would



crash to the ground. At the end of the challenge the winner was decided by which one held the most weight.

Before the winning team was revealed, a video call from Edinburgh College flashed up on the smart board. On the call, the winning teams showed their creations to the college's STEM organisation who complimented and discussed the bridges as they were shown to them.



Five Benefits of Children's Multi-Sports Classes at Oriam

**LORRAINE HALCROW
COMMUNITY & WELLBEING ASSISTANT,
ORIAM**

Multi-sports classes provide a wide range of benefits for children of all ages. From physical benefits such as improved agility and co-ordination to developing social skills and interacting with other children, sports classes offer a perfect environment for kids to flourish. Here are five reasons why your children should give multi-sports classes a try.

1. Try New Sports

Coming to a multi-sports class means that your child can experience and try a range of different sports before deciding which one is their favourite to pursue further. With each week being a different theme, your child can use their imagination to learn different sports in a relatable manner. From throwing rockets to get into space to walking along a balance beam to escape pirates in the ocean, multi-sports classes offer the perfect opportunity for children to learn and build their skills in a fun environment.

2. Learn New Skills

Multi-sport classes are age appropriate and planned to develop gross motor skills—the movements that we make with large muscles like our arms and legs, such as walking and running. These are related to balance, coordination, body awareness and reactions. Your child will gain confidence and flexibility as they improve their gross motor skills by kicking a ball and scoring baskets.

3. Make New Friends

Multi-sport classes are a great way for kids to make new friends and get a sense of belonging. Playing sport helps children to develop social skills like teamwork, cooperation, listening and sharing. The classes are fun and active, encouraging children to use their imagination and grow in confidence each week.

4. Physical and Mental Growth

Active movement is fantastic for people of all ages. So why not get your child into sporting activity as early as possible? Participating in sport helps to build physical and mental resilience, which can strengthen children as they grow and develop. Having encouragement from a coach and other children in sports classes, praising their efforts, can go a very long way to boost self-esteem and confidence.

5. Coaching and Support

Coaching provides support for children to grow and develop their skills in a fun and safe environment. From helping to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to have fun and experience a range of activity, to supporting the development of both physical and mental skills, coaches are there to ensure that every child leaves the class with a smile on their face. Coaches can leave a lasting impact on children creating memorable experiences and nurturing confidence that will help kids grow and develop throughout their lives.

Multi-sports Classes at Oriam

Oriam's Mini Multi-Sports classes offer a safe and welcoming environment for pre-school children (2 - 5-year-olds) to have fun and stay active. The classes offer children the opportunity to learn a range of different sports from athletics and yoga to tennis and hockey. Each week there is a different theme that captures the imagination and inspires children to move and be active. Our Mini Multi-Sports coach has more than 10 years' experience of delivering classes to children in an age-appropriate and fun manner to create a fun and exciting class.

• We have a range of action-packed sports classes for children of all ages and abilities. Visit: <https://oriamscotland.com/kids-activities/>

• Alternatively, email: hello@oriam.hw.ac.uk

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Minis are no longer 'mini'!

In February 1996 (Issue 213), Betty Dagg reflected on the "Growth of the Bairn"—the then-24-page *Currie & Balerno News*. Most issues are now twice that, but growth also applies to Alec Issigonis's iconic Mini. The modern "mini" has fattened up too.

I learnt to drive in an Austin A35 – 3.5m long, 1.42m wide and 1.6m high. It was neat and manoeuvrable. Then along came the smaller BMC Minis – 3.05m long, 1.42m wide and 1.4m high. An inexpensive car that enabled thousands more to travel farther. However the current BMW "Mini" will no longer squeeze into an original Mini garage as it is 810mm (2'7") longer, 330mm (13")

My! See how the bairn has grown! (Like the C&B News!)



wider and 70mm (3") higher, quite an increase.

Put another way, the space you needed to park five 1968 Minis end-to-end will now only hold four current models and, if you needed to park Minis end on to the kerb, six 2024 Minis would take up the space of the original seven.

Small wonder people put their kerb side wheels on the pavement to preserve what is left of the road for our wider cars.

While accepting that safety issues have contributed to the expanded Mini, shouldn't manufacturers design their cars

to fit the available road space—and be taxed accordingly? Fat cars and their projecting wing mirrors impact on pedestrians using our not over-wide pavements, many of which are sub-standard in width and may be over-sailed by plump hedges. The bigger the car, the more space it uses in our crowded car parks.

Looking ahead, it seems that cycling machines, fat-tyred cargo bikes, and their ilk are heading in the same direction, getting wider to increase their carrying capacity. How will it end?



Why Buses Run in Pairs

Over the years, readers of *C&B News* have recorded their surprise when the bus they were on or waiting for took an unexpected turn into a housing estate or just disappeared. Bert Burnap recorded this in a cartoon back in July 1992 – see above! – where one old codger turns to the guy behind to ask: "When's the Next Pair of Buses Due?"

Lanark Road is part of a favourite route for learner drivers of cars, HGVs, and buses—an arrangement that helps keep speed down below 20mph. I dare say this includes Lothian bus drivers learning the route. However, I think I've discovered why buses go in pairs.

Recently a family member boarded a lone Service 44 travelling into town. All was fine till it reached the top of Ardmillan Terrace where, instead of turning down to Dalry Road, it continued straight on to Dundee Street. Quite how it managed to travel to its normal route is a mystery – no doubt the passengers gave the driver some helpful advice. However, it now becomes clear that the reason Service 44s travel in convoy is so that an experienced driver will lead the way and all the novice has to do is to follow him. There's no problem if they get separated because the schedule doesn't seem to be so exacting that the lead driver can't wait till his companion appears behind him.

Bring back the bus "conductor"!

Short Term Lets Controversy Continues

As mentioned last month, CEC is consulting on its short-term lets (STL) licensing policy. That review closes on 14 October. Responses are invited from STL operators, STL customers, and those living and visiting Edinburgh, among others.

The original flood of applications, and subsequent decisions, has reduced in size but processing is taking a long time. Clearly the majority are being dismissed, notwithstanding that a great many applicants have been operating well before the legislation was introduced in 2022. There is little doubt that this market needed some controls but the approach by the Scottish Government and the City of Edinburgh Council is now under the microscope.

One recent submission for a popular city centre location reveals the frustration of an applicant who says: "Our application for a Certificate of Lawfulness should be granted because we have demonstrated that the use/ development has been continuous for over 10 years, supported by credible

evidence. No enforcement action has been taken within this period, indicating implicit acceptance by the local authority. The use/ development aligns with local plans, fulfilling the legal and evidential requirements under Section 191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990".

It will be interesting to see how the Council responds.

• The consultation can be accessed here: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/short-term-lets-2024/consultation/intro/>

BONNINGTON MAINS QUARRY, NEWBRIDGE

Application 24/01146/FUL by Breedon Trading Ltd to adjust a planning condition respecting the control of the environmental effects of its mineral workings (notably noise, vibration and dust) was recommended by Planning officials for approval. However, after lengthy discussion with Ratho Community Council leading local representations, the application was rejected by the Planning Committee.

Must Everything Be Online?

The other day, I had a malfunction with my credit card. It wouldn't accept my PIN. So, off to my bank in town to get it sorted. The bank couldn't do it themselves, but did contact their card provider to ask them to post me a PIN reminder. Hope that works.

Meantime, I was taken aback to find that it was possible to make a substantial purchase just by presenting my card.

Now I am told by another organisation that they will send me a "one-time password" to help me manage an account. I hope that, when all these guys reach my age, they will understand why I have a problem and simplify things—but that will be too late for me.

The justifiable hue and cry over the destruction of CEC-provided toilets at Threipmuir sits oddly against the Council's repeated legal disposal of public toilets throughout Edinburgh—the latest being the sale of the former toilet block in Currie. Is there less need for toilets in the city than in suburbia?

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SCOTT ARTHUR MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

ALL-PARTY GROUPS

One of the many things that I have discovered since being elected as your MP in July are "All Party Parliamentary Groups". APPGs are cross-party groups which examine issues of policy – they discuss developments, inviting stakeholders and government ministers to speak at their meetings, and hold inquiries.

Those that know I feel we have a moral duty to respond to the climate crisis will not be surprised to hear that I have joined groups which cover the promotion of walking, wheeling, cycling, buses, trams and Fairtrade.

There are two others I have joined, however, which I am particularly excited about.

The first relates to eating disorders. An eating disorder is a mental health condition where the control of food is used to cope with feelings and other situations. Anorexia, bulimia and binge eating are common types of eating disorders—they account for well over 20,000 hospital admissions per year, with the number of children and young people starting eating disorder treatment each year more than doubling since 2016. At the first APPG we heard that the NHS is struggling to cope, and from a father who lost his daughter to the condition. We will take evidence in the coming weeks, and publish a summary report in January 2025.

The second APPG relates to the planned National Holocaust Memorial. It aims to support establishment of a holocaust memorial and learning centre. The planned site is adjacent to parliament, the home of democracy in the UK. At the meeting we heard testimony from a holocaust survivor—Eve Kugler BEM. She shared her memories of Kristallnacht, and of how her life and family was torn apart by the Nazis. Eve is a very energetic 92, and all of us are determined that she will soon see the national memorial completed.

Although none of these APPGs can set policy, I hope they will influence it on a cross-party basis.



GORDON MACDONALD MSP
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

LOCAL UPDATES

It is shocking that the first decision made by the new UK Labour Government, given their promises to cut energy bills prior to the election, is to cut the winter fuel allowance to thousands of pensioners during a cost-of-living crisis which will see energy bills rise by 10% as we approach the coldest months of the year. I have already had many constituents contact me who are extremely worried about the impact of losing this extra money. If you or you know of someone who will find it difficult to cope financially, please get in touch with my office on 0131 443 0595 alternatively you can contact the DWP directly to check if you are eligible for Pension Credit which would ensure you still receive the winter fuel allowance. You can contact them on 0800 731 0469.

There was some good news regarding the housing crisis facing the city with a £15m funding package allocated to Edinburgh from the Scottish Government. Tackling the housing emergency is one of the major issues across the city and one of the key ways we can solve it is by bringing empty and vacant buildings back into use. Everyone in Edinburgh deserves to have a safe and warm place that they can call home.

It was a special Fairtrade Fortnight this year with the Fairtrade movement marking two special milestones, one nationally (the UK movement celebrating 30 years) and Balerno Fairtrade Village celebrating their 20th anniversary. I took the opportunity to highlight the achievement and lodged a parliamentary motion acknowledging the incredible efforts of the members of Balerno Fairtrade Village, local retailers, local schools, and residents. They have enthusiastically supported Fairtrade Fortnight and Fairtrade throughout the years, by raising awareness for fairer trade by stocking and buying Fairtrade which supports farmers in low-income countries.



SUE WEBBER MSP
LOTHIAN REGION

POLICING E-BIKES

My first day back after summer recess is akin to a teacher's first day back at school. Popping into a supermarket to get my packed lunch, I made a fleeting remark to the cashier. She asked me if I was a teacher and I replied, "No, I am a politician". Without pausing for breath, she told me of her exasperation at anti-social behaviour and thefts caused by people on e-scooters and e-bikes, in the retail park where she works and in her neighbourhood in Colinton. Only once during summer had she seen a police patrol, despite numerous calls to make them aware of the issue.

Over summer I heard regular reports of havoc being caused by the misuse and illegal use of e-bikes and e-scooters. I experienced fear and alarm myself when two young people, faces covered in the obligatory black scarfs or balaclavas, came tearing along the Water of Leith walkway on souped up e-bikes, when I was out walking my dog Alfie.

With official statistics now showing that Scotland has the lowest number of police numbers in at least 17 years I am repeatedly told that Police Scotland is under resourced and overstretched. It was welcome news that our local police team were able to apprehend a 25-year-old male and charge him with various traffic offences and his e-bike was seized. I asked the Minister responsible for Community Safety what more could the Scottish Government do to protect our communities and punish those who chose to cause trouble with these e-bikes and scooters. Her answer was to remind me that e-scooters are illegal. Well, that will stop them! I was hoping for a bit more. Why are we permitting them to be sold? Why are we not seizing them in greater numbers? I am still waiting.



CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS

IMPROVEMENTS

Good to see, after a few years complaining to the council, that Long Dalmahoy Road has finally been resurfaced. I drove over it recently and the contractors appear to have done a good job. I will now be turning my attention to Warriston Farm Road and Pentland Place in Currie as there have been a number of complaints for these areas.

Another positive outcome recently was the installation of a bus shelter at Hermiston Park & Ride, along with a bus tracker. However, as I type I am led to believe it is not active; this may change by the time you read this because it has just been announced that bus trackers are finally working across the city.

At the recent Currie Community Council meeting we had local residents expressing concerns about the state of the grass area that separates Balerno from Currie. While they are not against forms of biodiversity and planting of flowers, they feel that this area has just been neglected by the Council with weeds that are now out of control. I have made the parks and green space team aware of their concerns and hopefully this area will be cut back to grass with some sort of plan for flower beds, etc.

Keeping on the theme of weeds, I had complaints about the state of Woodhall Millbrae in Juniper Green. I raised this with the council and they have confirmed it's been added to their action list to be dealt with.

Residents in Balerno will be aware of a new Firework Control zone in this area. To be more accurate it's from Marchbank Park south towards the Scottish SPCA Animal Shelter. If anyone would like to see the area in more detail in which setting off fireworks is banned, then please get in touch with me.

Lastly, in another positive bit of news - the 3G pitch at Balerno is due to be replaced with works starting on 14 October.



CLLR FIONA GLASGOW
PENTLAND HILLS

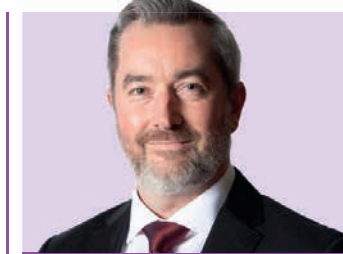
UPDATES

Congratulations on the 500th edition of C&B News, a real achievement—well done to all the hard working team and contributors who make sure local news is available and relevant on a regular basis.

Since my last contribution I had the opportunity to attend the Film Festival finale in my role as a Culture and Community committee member. It was an incredibly interesting film depicting the nature of Scottish Girl Bands—who knew there were so many?! It was a super event and was attended by many of the band members who were involved. I met Rose McDowall who I remembered from the 1980s from the band Strawberry Switchblade. I was reminded of how important it is to support and encourage our young people to engage in opportunities around music and singing as a way to build up self esteem and recognise skills. I noticed that Edinburgh Rock choir are looking for volunteers and I have it on good advice from a couple of local people that it is a fantastic fun group to be part of!

I also wanted to let you know that I have been appointed to the Transport and Environment committee alongside my ward colleague Stephen Jenkinson, who is now the Committee Convener. I wish him luck in this new post. While this is new to me, I have had the opportunity to gain experience through the many transport issues I have come across during the past two years and will have the opportunity to further support local issues.

I recently attended a workshop on Communal Bin Review alongside Community Council representatives where we had the opportunity to see the complexities of how different areas are affected by refuse collections. It was interesting to hear how difficult it is to meet the needs of the very different communities in our large diverse city but great to involve local residents in the process.



CLLR STEPHEN JENKINSON
PENTLAND HILLS

TAKING ON 'TEC'

With my good friend and colleague Cllr Scott Arthur MP recently moving to Westminster, it has fallen to me to step up to the challenge of convening the City of Edinburgh Council's Transport & Environment Committee.

TEC, as it is affectionately known, is undoubtedly the biggest (and often the most controversial) council brief. Its reach is city-wide, with decisions relating to transport, roads, pavements, waste, recycling, weeds and – yes! – potholes affecting C&B-land just as much as wards across the rest of the city. Edinburgh is congested, as we often see with issues on the Lanark Road, and I am going to do all I can to improve the user experience of moving around the city while also doing my best to enhance our local environment. I have been very fortunate to have a wide and varied career and, when taking on a new role, I have always found it useful and helpful to set some guiding principles.

Here are mine for TEC:

- Keeping Edinburgh Moving:**
- We need to combat congestion.
 - We need to encourage a public transport-first mindset.
 - We need to continue to invest in our roads and pavements to bring them up to standard.
- Enhancing Edinburgh's Environment**
- We need to improve how we handle waste and recycling.
 - We need to clean up and rejuvenate our public realm.
 - We need to increase the pace at which we deliver infrastructure projects.

I care deeply for Edinburgh, its citizens, its environment and its economy. I'm fully aware of the challenges we face as a city and the leadership it will take to tackle them. I believe in constructive community consultation and, working with colleagues on my committee, I'm confident we can take the data-led decisions we need for Keeping Edinburgh Moving while also enhancing the city's environment.



CLLR JASON RUST
COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD

COLINTON DELL

At August's Full Council meeting I was pleased that my motion on Colinton Dell Footpath was passed. The motion regretted that four-and-a-half-years had passed since a relatively minor (in size) landslip had impacted the lower of the two footpath routes along the Water of Leith in Colinton Dell, as well as local properties.

It recognised that the City of Edinburgh Council had felt obliged to close access to the path; that the steepness of slopes throughout Colinton Dell (and elsewhere along the Water of Leith) may be affected by damaging slope movements in the future, and that CEC has a responsibility to repair and to maintain these areas.

It also noted that there has been extensive communication with the Council regarding the landslip, with a long tendering timescale, but limited progress to date. Therefore, the motion called on clear action with a report to the Transport and Environment Committee in October detailing costs, timescale and timeline to ensure stabilisation and reopening of the path, including all potential budgetary options.

In advance of the report, the motion requested officers meet with local community groups (including, inter alia, representatives from Colinton Community Council, Colinton Amenity Association) and proprietors of Dell Road properties, to include a full discussion of options. At the time of writing, we await the date of this meeting.

It was fabulous to see so much community support for the motion, including an online deputation by Colinton Village Enterprise, an in person deputation on behalf of residents and an independently arranged petition. This reflects the significance of the closure for local people.

Finally, best wishes to C&B News as it reaches its 500th issue. It plays a key role in communicating important local issues and news such as in relation to the Dell.

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RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

EXPECT FIREWORKS?

While there ought to be no room for debate on whether public safety trumps freedom to enjoy fireworks, or whether animals should be protected, there is certainly a debate to be had over whether a £5K to £10K fine is a proportionate response to the igniting of a catherine wheel, or whether it is a proper exercise of executive power to draft an apparently arbitrary line through a community to delineate a criminally sanctioned zone of prohibition. And there is also a debate about whether government may be confusing laudable aims of protection of animals with discouraging anti-social behaviour.

The creation of firework control zones smacks of gesture response. If there is genuine concern about the effect of fireworks on animals and vulnerable people then the zone line should not be arbitrary. Animals and vulnerable people live on both sides of that line. A proper policy response would have demanded an even application of a ban to prevent the injury from fireworks wherever it occurs. Besides which the imposition of hefty fines – or imprisonment for up to six months – for setting off a Roman Candle suggests that policy makers were uncertain whether they were aiming at the back garden rocketeer or the hardened anti-social hooligan. One size will rarely fit all.

But, in the end, does it actually matter? After all, and without tempting providence, there is no history of significant anti-social behaviour in our area; nor is there much in the way of firework activity beyond organised displays.

Well, yes, it does matter. If government, national or local, does not have a clear idea of why it is doing something, then it runs a risk of failing to achieve any mix of aims which might have prompted its intervention. Underlying problems will remain unresolved, and government viewed as simply cynical.



TOM McDONALD
COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CONSULTATION A MUST

Our recent meeting mainly focussed on three issues. All three highlight the importance – if not the necessity – for Council departments to engage meaningfully with local communities.

Local residents took direct action to prevent injudicious placing of a new “bin hub” in Spylaw Street “rubbishing” the visual amenity in our Conservation village. CEC officials cite four-year old policies and technical positioning requirements as compelling reason to ignore local feeling and circumstances.

The defence that similar hubs have been installed in Central Edinburgh is naïve, if not downright ridiculous—the clue is in the names: the New TOWN is not Colinton VILLAGE.

Another argument is that the adjacent footway is inadequate—though somehow it has been satisfactory for many years. Anyway, engagement would have shown residents’ willingness to contribute to making it suitable, but this is being fiercely opposed!

Stabilising the landslip in the Dell has been an issue for four years now. It’s CEC’s responsibility but they keep putting it off, apparently because there is no cheap solution. However users are increasingly ignoring incomplete barriers and disappearing notices. I wonder how long it will be till we see a serious accident or even a fatality?

Another landslip behind the bus stop on Gillespie Road is not immediately obvious. It is exceptionally dangerous for pedestrians or cyclists using the track, which connects to the Water of Leith walkway. Casual inspection of the ground indicates it is very unstable and very likely to slip again as winter takes its toll.

It seems this is not a public road or footpath. I hope the argument is not that CEC can therefore ignore it—it is highly likely another slip sooner or later will affect the bus shelter or Gillespie Road itself. Action now is in everyone’s interest.



DR KEITH JAMES SYMINGTON
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

TO COMMUNITY

At a recent Currie Community Council meeting, there was a sense of changing narrative with discussions evolving from the antisocial behaviour of a few, to positive engagement with students and the recent achievements of Currie Community High School.

Jennifer Hutchison (CCHS Head Teacher) and local Police Officers were both present and discussions were on how best to support positive change. The Police did highlight their successful efforts tackling previous issues such as vandalism and antisocial behaviour at the medical centre; however, they also outlined the proactive approach they were taking—such as offering football events to engage with selected teenagers and give them somewhere to go.

Jenny was keen to highlight two recent awards received by the school. Firstly: the Digital Schools Scotland Award, which is given to schools that recognise and encourage the use of digital technology. Secondly: an SCQF Silver Award, due to the school’s efforts to expand the curriculum beyond traditional qualifications, and offer pathways such as barista training, construction, and journalism.

Three representatives were present from the school’s Student Leadership Team. Finlay shared plans for ongoing litter-picking efforts and the re-design of the school uniform. Artie, reflecting on his own past experiences with peer pressure, emphasised the importance of solutions to antisocial behaviour, and suggested revitalising planters to improve the appearance of Currie. Carl raised the issue of drug misuse and the potential for a mentor program for older students. All three are great ambassadors for the school.

Jenny confirmed there were no delays with the scheduled “handover” of the new School from 10 February 2025. In celebration of this significant milestone, there will be tours of the old and new schools during November and December—so watch this space!



Local Children’s Art Club is Back

C MACDONALD
BALERNO ART CLUB

After a long, much needed Summer break Art Club is back! This coming term we are excited to start preparing our Art work for the annual Art Club Calendar.

At Art Club each member has the opportunity to take part in a bi-annual “paper to print” project.

This gives children the real hands on experience of the professional process -learning about how art work progresses from a simple drawing to a finished product.

It is great to give to children the real life experience of actually seeing how the process works rather than just reading and hearing about it.

• For more information, visit Instagram: everychildisanartist_ or call: 07591 990020.



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It's a 'Draw' at Pentland Art Club!

ROS SALTON
PENTLAND ART CLUB

Visitors to Pentland Art Club's annual exhibition during August had the power to decide which artist's work will adorn the flyers the following year, simply by casting their ballot for their favourite piece in the show.

Since 1997 this voting has determined the winner of the Chalmers-Brown Award. Two years ago we adopted the practice of using the winning paintings for our flyers.

With the exhibition over and votes counted, the winner of Pentland Art Club's Chalmers-Brown Award can now be revealed.

For the first time two wonderful entries tied for top position: Janet Dyer's tranquil watercolour, "Malleny Sketchbook" (above left), and Ann

Morrison's dramatic "Sunset: Aberlady" (above right) – also in watercolour – both wowed visitors. Janet is no stranger to the limelight, having won the award twice before. Ann, meantime, is a relative newcomer to the club, having only joined in 2022. However, she has been quick to make her painterly mark.

Unfortunately, this issue of *C&B News* went to press before the Club's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 26 September, during which the awards are planned to be presented.

Well done Janet and Ann!

• *Pentland Art Club sessions resume at Balerno High School on Thursday 3 October. See "What's On" for more details. We welcome new members.*

• *We are still urgently seeking a Treasurer. Contact ros.salton@outlook.com for information.*

Pentlands Book Festival Update

JOHN ELLIOTT
PENTLANDS BOOK FESTIVAL

Further to our previous articles we are pleased to advise that tickets are now available for all PBF events on the PBF website (<https://pentlandsbookfestival.org/>) and through Currie and Colinton libraries.

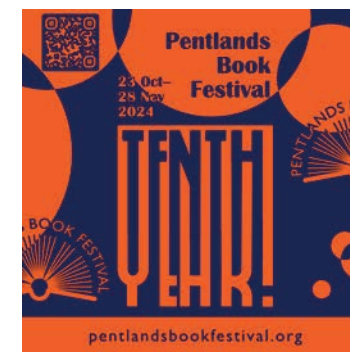
As always, all events are free, but you must have a ticket.

• Wednesday 23 October: Colinton Library, 14 Thorburn Road; 6pm. "Vikings, Monks and Mead—David Greig talks about his comedy thriller, *Columba's Bones*."

• Tuesday 29 October: Juniper Green Bowling Club, 600 Lanark Road; 7:30pm. "Derek Forbes: A Very Simple Mind On Tour."

• Wednesday 30 October: Currie Library, 210 Lanark Road; 6pm. "Nicholas Kinloch: From the Soviet Gulag to Arnhem."

• Monday 4 November: Colinton Library; 6pm. "Billy Kay: Born in Kyle: Guid Sowels an Braw Lasses



tae Sleekit Nyaffs an Heidbangers."

• Wednesday 6 November: Currie RFC Breakout Room, Malleny Park, Balerno; 7:30pm. "Allan Little: The State of Play – A Dangerous Game."

• Wednesday 13 November: Porteous, 589 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 6:30pm. "Marsali Taylor: Words and Hard Work: How a Book Comes Together."

• Thursday 14 November: Porteous, Juniper Green; 6:30pm. "Linda Cracknell: Doubling Back...and Walking On."

• Saturday 16 November: Currie

Library; 1:30pm. "Local Authors."

• Monday 18 November: Currie Library; 6pm. "Lin Anderson: Forensic Fact meets Crime Fiction."

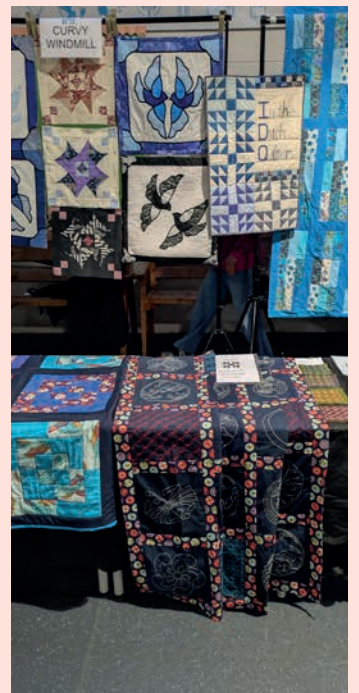
• Tuesday 19 November: Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 9 Queen Street; 2pm. "Doctoring: the books. Visit the Royal College's Library."

• Wednesday 20 November: Currie Library; 6pm. "Graeme Johncock: Scotland's Stories – through Legs and Legends."

• Friday 22 November; Currie RFC Main Hall, Malleny Park; 7:30pm. "Kate Foster: a Bewitching Historical Evening."

• Thursday 28 November: Tanners, 459 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7:30pm. "Alan Bissett: *Moirra in Lockdown*."

Keep tuned for announcements: for more information, contact us via the website (<https://pentlandsbookfestival.org/>) or Currie Library.



A Warm Welcome from 'In the Ditch Quilters'

ALISON HYND
DITCH QUILTERS

I have recently taken up patchwork and quilting and have joined In the Ditch Quilters in Balerno

For those who don't know, sewing "In the Ditch" is the term used when stitching three layers of fabric together, stitching along a line of pieced fabric. This results in a near invisible join when quilting the top patchwork layer to the middle wadding layer and the backing layer. Experienced quilters can produce wonderful swirly designs when quilting.

The programme for the year ahead includes demonstrations of different patchwork blocks and techniques. You may have seen examples of members work at the recent Currie Horticultural Show at Balerno High School.

We are a friendly group and I have been made to feel very welcome. We currently have spaces for new members.

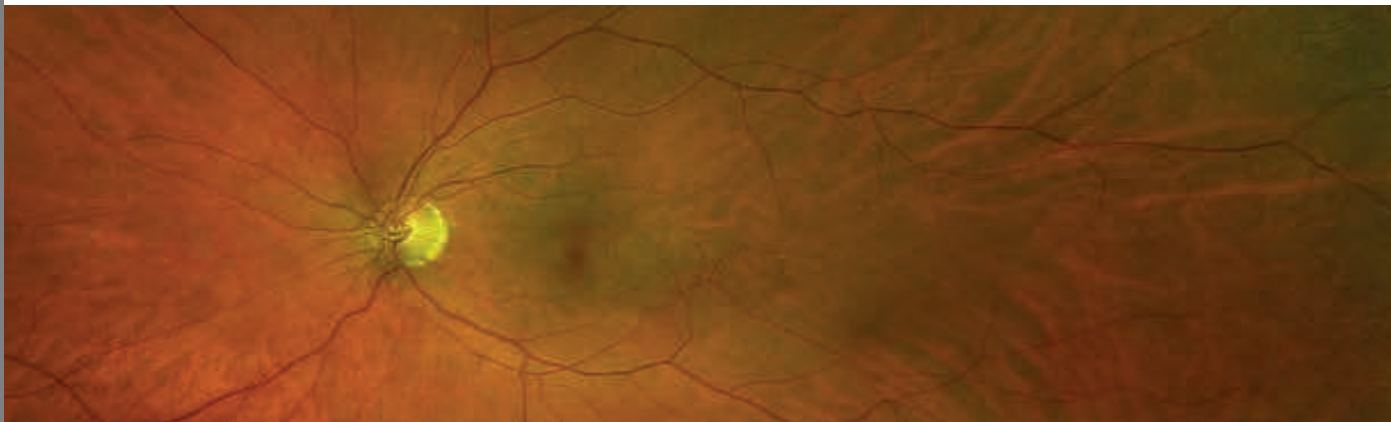
• *For more details, or if you're interested in joining, please contact owl.house@talktalk.net*

• *Some sewing experience is required.*

• *We meet on the third Wednesday of every month in Balerno.*



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To enter, please scan or photograph the completed puzzle and email it to: editor@candbnews.com before noon, **Friday 18 October 2024**.

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

Good luck everyone!

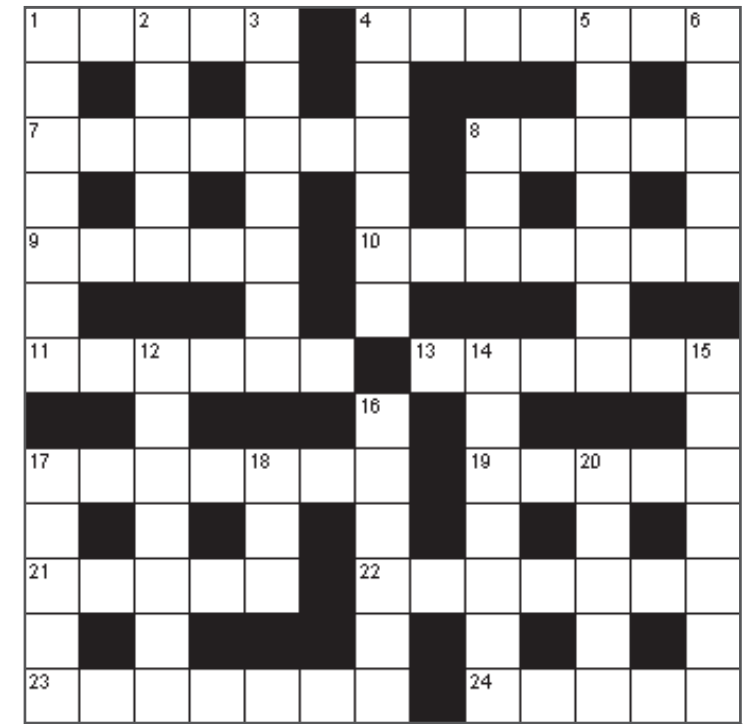
ACROSS

1. Garret. (5)
4. Communicative interaction. (7)
7. Hassle. (7)
8. Smithy's block. (5)
9. Tooth. (5)
10. Reaches out. (7)
11. Pact. (6)
13. Strategy. (6)
17. Time off. (7)
19. Stroll. (5)
21. Rough. (5)
22. Eight-sided polygon. (7)
23. Imagined. (7)
24. Watercourse. (5)

DOWN

1. Try. (7)
2. Supernatural creature. (5)
3. Floorshow. (7)
4. Mentally quick and resourceful. (6)
5. Go forward. (7)
6. Stories. (5)
8. Pertinent. (3)
12. Gourmet. (7)
14. Disorderly. (7)
15. Everlasting. (7)
16. Unit of time. (6)
17. Perspicuous. (5)
18. Employ. (3)
20. Start. (5)

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.

SEPTEMBER 2024 WINNER!

Our congratulations go to Ian Hall from Currie, randomly selected from all correct entries to receive last issue's £25 prize.



EASY

1	7	6	9	8
		2	1	4
	8		1	5
	2			
	3			5
5	7	3		
	5	4	3	
6			9	7
9		6		4

MEDIUM

4	9			
			7	
5		6		1
			8	7
		4		3
2	7			9
		1		
	4	6	5	
8	2		6	

HARD

9			2		6
				1	4
	3	4		5	
	6	8		5	
					1
	7		4		2
2	9	6			5
			9		
6		5	3		

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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.

WEEKLY

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.

MAHJONG MONDAYS: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10am - noon. Throughout October we will continue to offer the chance to practise / learn the Chinese tile game, Mahjong. Join Jo and Rita who can share the rudiments of the game. This will be happening in conjunction with our Monday Morning Cafe.

NEW MONDAY MORNING POP IN CAFÉ: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. Find a warm welcome at the Hub every Monday morning for a cuppa, cake and a chat. Donations welcomed but not required.

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

LUNCHTIME RELAXATION: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 12.15pm - 1pm. Join Raymond at lunchtime to enjoy a guided relaxation to calm the mind and ease stress. No booking required - all welcome to come along and give it a go.

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

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What's On

OCTOBER

WEEKLY

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

BOOKBUG AND BABY GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 1.30pm - 2.45pm. 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. We have a waitlist in place for this popular group, and we'd love to start a new social book group to meet monthly, later in the week or at the weekend, but we need a small group of friends to perhaps kick this off. If this is of interest to you please get in touch: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

KNITTING GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. A very popular, welcoming group for novice and experienced knitters alike. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

COMMUNITY YOGA CLASS: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 1pm - 2pm. Spaces are available for this popular lunchtime class with Monica from Karma Tree yoga. Cost £6. Please email to enquire: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

PENTLAND JUNIOR SINGERS: Balerno Parish Church; 6pm - 7pm. Fun, friendship and singing for ages 8-14. New members welcome! More information, email: 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, email: 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 07917 878955. Follow Balerno Ramblers on Facebook.

PENTLANDS SPORTING MEMORIES CLUB: the hub@531

Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 1.30pm - 3pm. Sports blether with a group of enthusiasts who enjoy a great sports story both old and new, questions and laughs (usually at each others expense) in a very relaxed and friendly environment.

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

THURSDAYS

65th EDINBURGH COMPANY, BOYS' BRIGADE Anchor Boys (P2 & P3) and Junior Section (P4-P6): Gibson Craig Halls, 158 Lanark Rd West, Currie; 6pm - 7.30pm. For more details, contact Bill Brown: bill.brown53@yahoo.com

PENTLAND ART CLUB: Balerno High School; 7pm - 9pm. Join us and allow your creative juices to flow. We practise a variety of skills in a range of media with occasional demos from guest artists. Plenty of chat and a friendly atmosphere. New members welcome. Contact: ros.salton@outlook.com

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

CURRIE COMMUNITY CHOIR: Currie Community Church, 16 Kirkgate; 7.30pm - 8.45pm. Weekly from 5 September. Come along and have fun singing and making new friends over coffee—no auditions!

FRIDAYS

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

GARDENING GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. Anyone with an interest in gardening, from pots to plots, all welcome to share ideas and experience with other gardening enthusiasts. Our Autumn programmes includes: 4 October— Planning Spring bulbs; 11 November— Garden Quiz; 6 December— Festive Christmas decorations.

LOVE TO MOVE: the hub@531

Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 11am - noon. Dementia friendly exercise class, fun guided movement to music with retired British gymnastics coach, Vivien Gourlay. (Not Friday 4 October.) This class is a free community class, donations welcome. Please drop in or contact us for more information: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAYS

STRESS MANAGEMENT: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2pm - 3.30pm. Weekly group session with hypnotherapist Lloyd Robinson, who will introduce tried and tested methods to reduce stress and support your mental health. This group will return to the Hub every Saturday afternoon throughout October. You can just drop in any week, or book online to reserve your space. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

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

SUNDAYS

65th EDINBURGH COMPANY, BOYS' BRIGADE Company Section (P7 - 18 years old): Gibson Craig Halls, 158 Lanark Rd West, Currie; 6pm - 8.30pm. For more details, contact Bill Brown: bill.brown53@yahoo.com **>p45**

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

• **BALERNO:** Community Centre, Main Street; 7pm, Thursday 3 October. (First Thursday of the month.)

• **COLINTON:** via Zoom (login details: colintoncc.org.uk); 7.30pm, Tuesday 8 October. (Second Tuesday of the month, alternating between virtual and face-to-face meetings.)

• **CURRIE:** Gibson Craig Halls (rear), Lanark Road West; 7.30pm, Wednesday 9 October. (Second Wednesday of the month.)

• **JUNIPER GREEN & BABERTON MAINS:** the hub@531 Lanark Road; 7.30pm, Wednesday 23 October. (Fourth Wednesday of the month.)

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FORTNIGHTLY

MONDAYS 7 & 14 OCTOBER

BOARD GAMES: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7pm - 9pm. A fun introduction to some simple board games—come along and have a go! Playing games can have a positive impact to mental health, offering a chance to use your brain at the same time as socialising and having fun! Please just drop in! Online booking is available at <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAYS 7 & 21 OCTOBER

FORGET ME NOTES GROUP: St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, 2pm-4pm. Sing and socialise with old friends and new. Contact: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com for more information.

THURSDAYS 10 & 24 OCTOBER

COLINTON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB: St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue; 7.45pm - 9.15pm. Come and enjoy Scottish country dancing with us. We have an excellent, very patient teacher, live music and lots of fun. £5 per evening, pay on arrival. Come on your own or with a partner, you'll be made very welcome. Tel: 07751 186359 or 07483 814099.

FRIDAYS 4 & 18 OCTOBER

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

SATURDAYS 5 & 19 OCTOBER

FREE ART & CHAT: Currie Library, 210 Lanark Road West; 10.30am - 11.30am. An opportunity to practise your art, and enjoy a free cuppa too! PS: Bring your own art materials. Questions? Call: (0131) 529 5609, email: currie.library@edinburgh.gov.uk, or just come along on the day.

DAY BY DAY

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER

BALERNO SWI: Balerno Community Centre, Main Street; 7.30pm. A Birthday Night Silent Disco with DJ Sage.

WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER

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

BALERNO PARISH CHURCH GUILD: Ogston Hall, Balerno Parish Church; 7.30pm. Dedication and Communion Service led by the Rev Douglas Nicol.

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER

BALERNO SWI: Balerno Community Centre; 7.30pm. A Quiz Night for our 88th Birthday

FRIDAY 4, 11 & 25 OCTOBER

PHOTOGRAPHY: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2pm - 3pm. Ages 8-12. Join us for three weeks during October when you will learn how to improve your photography skills using your phone camera. Space is limited and booking opens soon! Online booking is available at: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE: St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue; 10am - noon. For more details, email: info@colintongardens.org.uk

SECOND-HAND BOOK SALE on behalf of Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled: The Gyle Shopping Centre; all-day. Great bargains to be had in adult, teen and children's books. Cash Preferred.

PIT STOP CAFE: "The Shed", Spylaw Park; 1pm - 4pm. Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO will be selling more of its

"Angela's Treasures": join them for a cuppa, a cake, and a chat about the progress on the Shed project. For more details: email: colintonvillage@gmail.com or message us through our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise>

MONDAY 7 OCTOBER

CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Gibson Craig Hall, Currie, (back hall); 7.30pm prompt. "The Water of Life"—Speaker, CDLHS Hon. President Hamish Coghill. For further details see <https://www.curriehistory.org/>

COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Dreghorn Loan Hall, EH13 oDE; 8pm. "Scotland Beneath the Surface, Mines and Tunnels." Talk by Bruce Keith. For more information visit www.colintonhistory.org.uk or email: dereks1441@gmail.com

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER

BALERNO FARMERS' MARKET: Main Street, Balerno; 9am - 1pm. More details, including stall-holders: <https://balernovt.org.uk/farmers-market/>, email: farmersmarket@balernovt.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER

PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB: Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am. "Did 'Dolly' Change the World?" An illustrated talk by Karen Walker. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on 0131 453 3012 or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

BALERNO PARISH CHURCH GUILD: Ogston Hall, Balerno Parish Church; 7.30pm. A talk by Samantha Myers from Shelter Scotland.

THE 'LIT', COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY: Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton; 7.30pm for 8pm start. Professor David Purdie reviews the impact of intellectual and philosophical movement, "The Scottish Enlightenment". Membership £15 for full programme, £3 per meeting. Card payments accepted, cash or cheque preferred.

MONDAY 21 OCTOBER

SMALL STEPS & MENTAL HEALTH: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7pm - 9pm. Join Paul, mental health nurse specialist, to chat about things that work to improve mental health. First in a new regular Monday evening offering to support mental health and wellbeing and tackle loneliness in the community. Online booking is available: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

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

COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Dreghorn Loan Hall, EH13 oDE; 8pm. "A History of Morningside, 1800-1930." The speaker is Bob Cunningham. For more information visit: www.colintonhistory.org.uk or email: dereks1441@gmail.com

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER

CURRIE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AGM: Balerno High School, Bridge Road; 7pm. Anyone interested in attending will be most welcome. <https://currieshow.weebly.com>

COMMUNITY CAFES

• **COMMUNITY CAFE:** Currie Community Centre, 280 Lanark Road West; Saturdays, 9am - noon. Barista coffee and delicious home baking.

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

• **THE MILL CAFE:** 2 Main Street, Balerno; Tuesdays - Fridays, 9am - 2pm. (Also, the second Saturday of the month when the Farmers' Market is on.) Balerno Parish Church Community Cafe provides a sociable warm space with home-made baking, Fairtrade barista-style coffee and a light breakfast and lunch menu.

• **THE SWING CAFE:** Colinton Parish Church, Dell Road, Colinton; Tuesdays - Saturdays, 10am - 2pm. Nestling in a quiet corner by the Water of Leith is a lovely setting to enjoy hot drinks and home-baking with friends, or our breakfast and lunch menus. Last hot food orders: 1.40pm.

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Currie Primary School Ski Team

HUGO, BELLA, OLIVER & JAMIE
CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

On 10 September we represented Currie Primary School in the SSSA freestyle competition at Hillend. We gained three medals: a bronze and a gold in the female category and one silver in the male category.

“It was an absolutely amazing experience! It was so cool to be representing our school in a ski competition,” said Hugo and Oliver.

Ms Hourston, our Head Teacher, said: “I am delighted to have a ski team in our school and I am so proud of everyone who took part and in their achievements at this, our first ski competition.”

WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER

THE ‘LIT’, COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY: Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton; 7.30pm for 8pm start. “Phoebe Anna Traquair: Art, Craft and the Colinton connection.” Professor Elizabeth Cumming speaks about a leading artist in the Scottish Arts and Crafts Movement. Membership £15 for full programme, £3 per meeting. Card payments accepted, cash or cheque preferred.

FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER

LET’S TALK CARE: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 12.30pm - 1.30pm. We are once again partnering with Andrew Senew, from Home Instead, to offer a short series of lunchtime information sessions for anyone who has an interest or need to chat about care. Tea /coffee and biscuits will be available. Online booking is available at: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAY 28 OCTOBER

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS’ MEETING: Dreghorn Loan Hall; 8pm - 9.30pm. Lynn and Keith Young’s: “Flowers of the Swiss Alps.” New members always welcome. For more information visit: <http://www.colintongardens.org.uk/>

TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER

BALERNO FOLK CLUB: Balerno Bowling Club, 5 Ladycroft, Balerno; doors open 7.30pm for 8.15pm start. This month’s guests are Tom McConville and Michael Biggins who have both been BBC Folk Musicians of the Year. A great evening of songs, tunes and entertainment. Members and Guests welcome.

WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER

‘THE LIT’ (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall; 7.30pm. “The Wild Swimmer of Kintail.” Kellan MacInnes tells the story of a journey through water to self-discovery. Membership £15 for full programme, £3 per meeting. Card payments accepted, cash or cheque preferred.

HALLOWEEN CRAFT: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7.30pm - 8.30pm. Our monthly social craft evening will be Halloween-themed. All materials will be provided as well as tea, coffee and nibbles and, as we like to provide a chance to enjoy a child free evening, please feel free to bring your own tittle to enjoy! This crafting event is free of charge but we welcome your optional donation. Booking essential. Visit: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com



Currie Chieftains—Your Community Club

GAVIN MCMURRAY
CLUB CHAIR, CURRIE CHIEFTAINS



This month’s article from Currie Chieftains is a little different to the norm – and it is the first time I have written this in my capacity as Chair – or any capacity for that matter! I’d like to tell you about our role in the community and how we propose to expand that, but first of all a quick intro.

I’ve been on the Board at the Chieftains for four years now and have served as Chair for the last two. Born and brought up in Currie, and living in Balerno for the last 27 years, I attended Nether Currie Primary, Curriehill Primary then Currie Community High School, leaving after fifth year in 1981. During that time, I was introduced to rugby by the legend that is Richie Dixon, then worked my way up through the teams at Currie RFC (as it was then known), playing wing and latterly scrum-half, which was much more involving and consequently much more fun! I then coached our two sons through the Youth section at Chieftains, which led to my re-engagement with the club – that is the short version!

Part of the reason for telling you all that is if you want to reach out to me personally you know who you are talking to - someone who was born and brought up locally and knows a bit about our community.

We are very keen to increase our Community connections and engagement—we want to speak to as many local groups as possible and explore how we can work together for the good of our community. What can we lobby for together by way of local facilities and improvements? What knowledge or experience do we have that we can use to help each other? Are there opportunities for our volunteer support networks to learn from each other? Are there roles at Chieftains that might help

you acquire useful skills that will enhance your CV or just enrich your life?

Would our Breakout Café facility, open to all, be a useful local space to either work in or relax in – or host a function? And did you know we have plans to extend the clubhouse facilities (see above), including the changing facilities, new toilet facilities including much more convenient accessible toilets and extend all the function rooms? What would be useful for your group by way of facilities? What would help the clubhouse facilities be more useful and accessible for you?

I really believe we can help make a difference to our community if we engage with each other and help each other. Thank you for staying the course on a very different Chieftains update this month!

• If that sounds like something you’d like to explore, please contact me directly at chairman@curriechieftains.org

FREE!

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CURRIE CHIEFTAINS-COMMUNITY CLUB, p47



JGTC FUNDRAISING APPEAL, p7

C&B SPORT

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Photos: Mether Currie Primary School; Friends of Campbell Park; Currie FC.

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Win Medals
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Competition**

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