

FREE!

BIG NOISE WESTER HAILELS JOIN RSNO, p36



CAMPBELL PARK/LATEST, p13



C&B NEWS

CURRIE ◦ BALERNO ◦ JUNIPER GREEN ◦ BABERTON MAINS ◦ COLINTON

FESTIVE DELIGHTS

Celebrate the Festive Season locally. See What's On for more details, p41



It's Our Bumper Winter Issue!

PHOTOS: SHONA MOVES; STEWART ATTWOOD; SHONA HARROWER.

INSIDE: NEWS p2 LOCAL HISTORY p15 FEATURES p19 VIEWS p27 WHAT'S ON p41

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.

PRODUCTION

Editor: Paul Fisher Cockburn
editor@candbnews.com

Advertising Manager: Moira Peterson
advertising@candbnews.com

What's On Editor: Catriona Matheson
whatson@candbnews.com

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MANAGEMENT TEAM

Chairperson: Gail Rankin
chairperson@candbnews.com

Donations Manager: Ros Salton
donations@candbnews.com

Treasurer: Michelle Donegan
treasurer@candbnews.com

Distribution Manager: Derek Douglas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Balerno: Gillian Davies, Michelle Donegan, Catriona Matheson, Kirsten Pringle
Currie: Graham Dane
Juniper Green: Derek Douglas, Ros Salton, Gail Rankin.

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DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

ADVERTISING & LISTINGS: 14 JANUARY
 EDITORIAL: 19 JANUARY
 ISSUE DISTRIBUTED: 31 JANUARY



Above and left: At Balerno Farmers' Market in November, members of the Balerno & District Schools Pipe Band raised more than £600 from a variety of delicious home-baked goodies—the Hired Help bought some tasty scones! The money will most likely go towards new items of uniform – young band members keep growing! – and equipment.



Right: Some of the fences along Lanark Road West, all installed many decades back, are now visibly rusting and flaking—not least a short section across from the junction with Newmills Road, Balerno.



Above: That was 2024, here's to 2025! Another year, another 10 issues of *C&B News*—including our 500th edition in October! As we take our traditional winter break during December, the management and production team would like to thank all our contributors, advertisers and – of course! – readers for getting us through another year. We'll be back soon enough, with our next (February) issue due at the end of January 2025—see you then!

BRIEFLY... NEWS

• **FILM NEWS:** Last issue we erroneously suggested that Samuel L Jackson's Scotland-based thriller *Damaged* was not worth watching for a brief glimpse of Balerno. However, we've been reliably informed that the film shot in and around Balerno Community Centre last year was actually *The Fall of Sir Douglas Weatherford*, the yet-to-be-released debut feature by Edinburgh film director Sean Robert Dunn, starring Peter Mullan. We apologise for taking social media seriously.

• **SIGN OF THE TIMES?** We've heard that some CEC employees, while erecting signage warning residents and passing motorists that they were entering November's temporary Firework Control Zone in south Balerno, allegedly placed at least some of the signs on the wrong side of the relevant lamp posts—suggesting that they didn't know where the FCZ was either!

• **REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE CONTROL:** Pentland Hills Councillor Graeme Bruce has formally requested that CEC leader Cammy Day write to BBC News (among other news providers) to correct their coverage of Edinburgh's Firework Control Zones; in particular, to emphasise that the Balerno FCZ (a) covered only part of the village and (b) was not introduced because of previous anti-social behaviour in the area.

• **MP'S OFFICE:** Despite some initially-expressed reservations, Edinburgh South West MP Scott Arthur has taken on the lease of his predecessor Joanna Cherry's constituency office at 139 Dundee Street, Edinburgh, EH11 1BP. We're assuming the decidedly SNP-yellow door will be repainted something closer to Scottish Labour-red!

• **COMMUNITY COUNCILS:** Want to sit on your local community council? You'll be able to submit your application between 6 - 27 February

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Below: Friends of Campbell Park member Eileen Jubb holds 30 meters of Campbell tartan bunting, made especially for FCP's growing community orchard—in particular, the newly-planted sweet chestnuts.



Below: On 27 October, local resident Rosemary Gold successfully completed a fund-raising wing walk, raising £3,500 for Teenage Cancer Trust. An earlier attempt in July had been thwarted by poor weather. See page 7 for more details of “an amazing and wondrous experience”. www.justgiving.com/rosemarygold



Last month, members of music-teaching initiative Big Noise Wester Hailes joined the Royal Scottish National Orchestra on stage at Edinburgh's Usher Hall, performing *Mission Mars* and *Enchanted Carousel*, two pieces by Joelle Broad. See page 36 for more details.

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Gordon Macdonald MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency



Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Contact Details

By email	gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot
Home visit	Available for those who cannot travel
By phone	0131 443 0595
By letter	9 Kingsknowe Park, Edinburgh, EH14 2JQ

Gordon Macdonald MSP @GMacdonaldMSP

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

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Lothian Region



Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

Contact Sue Webber
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Here Comes Santa!

ALASDAIR GORDON
CURRIE, BALERNO & DISTRICT ROUND
TABLE

Christmas is coming and Santa will soon be visiting our streets again, with the assistance of Currie, Balerno & District Round Table volunteers!

Find out which day he'll be coming to your area below—and keep an eye on our website (cbdr.com) and Facebook page for any updates.

Santa will also have a GPS tracker on his sled which you can follow through our Facebook page.

As has been the tradition now – for 50 years! – Round Table elves will be collecting money for local charities and good causes. Our fundraising during the past 12 months has supported more than 20 groups and individuals. People's generosity has been truly amazing.

Thank you so much to all the volunteers including Currie Chieftains Youths, Harmeny School, Ravelrig RDA, Community for Food and the Scouts. It takes over 120 people to assist Santa and we couldn't do it without you!

We still have places on our rota, so if you want to get involved, get in touch by emailing: enquiries@cbdr.com

SANTA'S 2024 SCHEDULE:

- Baberton: Sunday 15 December; 4pm.
- Bells: Sunday 22 December; 5pm.
- Bonaly: Saturday 21 December; 5pm.
- Colinton: Monday 9 December; 6pm.
- Currie Castle & Cherry Tree: Monday 16 December; 6pm.
- Currie Central: Sunday 8 December; 5.30pm.
- Currie East: Saturday 14 December; 5pm.
- Currie Spine: Thursday 5 December; 6pm.
- Currievale: Thursday 12 December; 6pm.
- Dean Park & Marchbank: Tuesday 17 December; 6pm.
- Harmeny School, Kingfisher Park & Pilmuir: Thursday 19 December; 6pm.
- Johnsburn & Lovedale: Tuesday 10 December; 6pm.
- Juniper Green: Saturday 7 December; 5pm.
- Ravelrig & Ravelrig Heights: Wednesday 18 December; 6pm.
- Wester Currie: Wednesday 11 December; 6pm



Did you know that there is a local food bank, open to the wider Currie Primary School community right outside the School? For the past two years, Currie Primary School has had a food bank cupboard, just opposite the main doors of the school, purchased with help from the Currie, Balerno & District Round Table, and Currie Balerno Rotary. It has been kept stocked with donations from generous shoppers from Morrisons at The Gyle and hugely supported by Tess, the store community champion. Primary 7 pupils help to unload a car-full of groceries every three weeks, store the food neatly in a cupboard inside the school and they also keep the outdoor cupboard well-stocked with tins, packets and other basic items. There is no need to ask inside the school for permission to access this food bank. Simply open the door and help yourself. There are carrier bags inside the cupboard for you to use.

Balerno Community Council 'Invites' Apology from Edinburgh's CEO

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Balerno Community Council has written to the Chief Executive of The City of Edinburgh Council, Paul Lawrence, inviting an apology for CEC's ongoing failure to properly consult and work with local residents.

The immediate triggers for the letter were the recent "upgrade" of the Bridge Road/Lanark Road West junction and what BCC considered an "amateurish" designation of part of Balerno as a Fireworks Control Zone. There was also annoyance that CEC had failed to correct misleading press reports that Balerno was subject to a FCZ because of previous anti-social behaviour.

"The City's proclaimed Core Values include that the council 'listens, is responsive, and treats people with respect,'" wrote BCC chair Richard M Henderson. "It does not seem to us to be treating people with respect to do things which will plainly inconvenience the community while failing to advise or consult with them in

advance."

The letter went on to suggest that, while "avoiding consultation may make things simpler for the City in the short term [...] in the longer term it only makes things more difficult." The letter highlighted how BCC "in common with all Community Councils, has a statutory function to represent the community's views to the City.

"If we, and the community, are not 'kept in the loop' then not only does our job become more difficult but the Community as a whole feels left out of account. It will then respond accordingly, and the City's job will become more difficult."

The letter concluded: "There has been real anger over the City's failure to consult over these road works, and over the City's several failures in relation to the Balerno Firework Control Zone.

"We are entitled to expect better of our City Council, and in all the circumstances we therefore invite the City to offer an apology to the Balerno community."

<http://www.balerno-communitycouncil.org.uk/>

BRIEFLY...

p3>>>

2025. Any CCs receiving more nominations than their designated membership will be subject to elections—which will be held on Thursday 27 March 2025.

• **BIN HUBS:** On 18 November, CEC's Transport and Environment Committee agreed the Council should implement more flexible criteria when it comes to the siting of the council's bin hubs. This follows particularly strong opposition from residents across the city—including Spylaw Street, Colinton.

• **BUS NEWS:** According to CEC, current "supported" bus services in West Edinburgh "are operating well", with monitoring "of patronage and performance [...] ongoing"—though Lothian Buses deem passenger figures for specific routes "commercially sensitive" information and so not for tax payers' eyes. However, there are already calls to at least partially increase the (currently hourly) daytime frequency of service 32 (Balerno to Cramond) to accommodate the growing number of Balerno and Currie High School students studying part-time at the Edinburgh College campus in Sighthill.

• **DELL ROAD:** Following previous claims that full repairs would cost more than £1 million, the bill for the recent work stabilising the path from Dell Road into Colinton Dell – closed by CEC in February 2020, following a landslide – turns out to be less than £80,000. These works, however, "are not considered long-term engineering solutions", and will require regular monitoring by Council officers "to mitigate the risk to the public of a further failure". A 20-year life span for the work has been mentioned—so, be particularly careful in the area come November 2024!

• **LANDSLIDE:** Colinton Community Council believes there is "no excuse" for CEC not to act on another, more recent landslide – which "officially" closed the path from Gillespie Road to

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Hello and Goodbyes from Colinton Councillors

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Voters in the Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward face another by-election on Thursday 23 January, following the surprise resignations of councillors Marco Biagi and Louise Spence.

Biagi, elected in 2022, has taken up a post as a special adviser with the Scottish Government. He explained that, having investigated the possibility of combining his new role with his duties as a councillor, "the legal requirements proved to be unworkable".

His departure came barely a

week after the election of Scottish Liberal Democrat candidate Louise Spence on Thursday 18 November.

Ms Spence, who previously stood in the Ward at the full City of Edinburgh Council election in 2022, received nearly one in three of the first preference votes (2,683 out of 7,446), well ahead of the Scottish Conservative,

Scottish Labour and Scottish National Party



candidates.

Barely a week after her election, however, Spence tendered her resignation, meaning the by-election already announced by CEC officials for 23 January will now elect two councillors.

Formal notice of the by-election will be published by CEC on Friday 6 December, with the full list of candidates confirmed after 4pm on Thursday 17 December.

According to the Electoral Management Board of Scotland, quoted by former Ward councillor Dr Scott Arthur MP on X (formerly Twitter), the cost of a local government by-election is between £50,000 and £80,000.

Remember to Register Your Interest in Joining Mallyen Angling

NIGEL DUNCAN
NIGEL DUNCAN MEDIA

Membership applications to join Mallyen Angling to fish at Harlaw and Threipmuir next season remain open until the end of December.

Interested parties can apply online via the Mallyen Angling website, which will link you to an application form which takes just minutes to complete.

The season resumes on Tuesday 1 April 2025 but there is only one entry date, which is why anglers should register their interest before the end of December.

Members and season ticket holders are reminded to send in their catch returns for the season as quickly as possible on the form provided on the back of the permit—a requirement from Rosebury Estates who lease the water to Mallyen Angling.

• Visit: <https://mallyenangling.com/membership-permits>

• Note: Random poaching patrols are now in operation at Harlaw and Threipmuir throughout winter.



"My fund-raising wing walk finally took place on 27 October," writes local resident Rosemary Gold. "The wing walk was amazing. After signing all disclaimers I was strapped to the plane and set off for the end of the runway. Unfortunately there was a delay at that point and I had to wait around 15 minutes. I used the time well, singing to myself and convincing myself that it would be like being in a Harry Potter book or on Aladdin's magic carpet. And it was. It was a gentle take off, flying around for around 10 minutes, followed by a gentle landing. Wow. An amazing and wondrous experience, which raised £3,500 for Teenage Cancer Trust. Thank you all so much." • www.justgiving.com/rosemarygold

The Joy of Christmas

THERESA DOUGLAS
CLUB SECRETARY, CURRIE BALERNO
ROTARY

Once again the members of Currie Balerno Rotary are collecting Christmas gifts for the children and young people of the families using Holy Trinity Church foodbank in Wester Hailes. There are around 60 youngsters in total, a few babies who we have already catered for, 24 five to 11-year-olds and 24 12-16 year olds. The remaining six are 17-18 years old. All groups have an equal spread of boys and girls.

As before, I would like to try dividing the year groups among us to try and ensure all groups are covered. The best way to do this is alphabetically by surname. Those with surnames starting with A to J should buy for 5-11 year olds.

If your surname starts with K to T buy for 12-16 year olds and the remaining should buy for 17/18 year olds.

All donations, unwrapped, will be gratefully received; I will be happy to also accept cash donations. If you would like to discuss anything my email/mobile are listed below.

All donations must be with us (Theresa Douglas and Ken Lindsay) by Wednesday 11 December.

We know there are many demands on you, but every year your generosity has brought a lot of joy where there may not be much otherwise. For this we thank you very much

• Email Theresa and Ken on: tmdouglas@hotmail.co.uk or text 07738288636

BRIEFLY...

ps>>>

the Water of Leith Walkway – despite the land being privately owned. "Inspection suggests the soil is not cohesive and susceptible to progressive erosion towards the bus stop in winter conditions, potentially endangering traffic and individuals on Gillespie Road," writes co-chair Tom McDonald, on page 35.

• BRIDGE ROAD (BALERNO): Dean Park Primary Parent Council have publicly expressed concerns about overall pedestrian safety at the Bridge Road/Bavelaw Green junction in Balerno—with specific concerns about speeding traffic and poor sight lines.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

You can view plans, forms and other documents connected with individual planning applications on The City of Edinburgh Council's Planning and Building Standards Online Services website: <https://tinyurl.com/dzSatrcd>. Under statutory legislation, comments on recently registered planning applications should relate to "material considerations" connected with the use of land and buildings—such as adherence to City Plan 2030, appearance, residential amenity (eg, noise/overshadowing) or traffic/parking/access issues.

• CURRIE: Internal and external alterations involving rear extension, proposed basement and associated landscape works; 1 Kirkgate. (24/05267/FUL) Comments due by 6 December.

• BALERNO: Single storey extension to form dining space/open-plan kitchen, minor internal alterations, and single storey workshop behind existing garage; 54 Cassidy Wynd, Ravelrig. (24/05476/FUL) Comments due by 4 December.

• COLINTON: Proposed new rear decking and stairs to rear garden, garage conversion

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'New Year, New Us'

GORDON FORREST
GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER, 51ST PENTLAND
(BALERNO) SCOUT GROUP

The joys of local communities is that whatever we do individually can contribute to the greater society around us. This is no different if you're a business, an organisation or just you and your loved ones. What we can do for ourselves can ultimately be done to promote others and we should all be proud of it.

Youth groups in the area have been going on for decades and no more so than Scouting. For years it has been an institution which has been passed down through the generations and created a bond not just in a family but in our society. From being able to perform first aid, camp in tents, knots, water activities and so much more. But these are all the physical things you see. The things you don't are the true meaning and ethos of Scouting, such as teamwork, knowledge building and – most importantly – confidence in your own abilities.

Scouting is changing and has its own challenges. No longer will we have leaders, commissioners and the like. We all develop together as young people and adults alike and work as a team to do so. Creating our own futures with the help, support and guidance of all around us.

The 51st Pentland (Balerno) Scout Group would like to thank everyone who has helped Scouting develop in the past and would welcome those interested to help and develop the future.

In the meantime have a safe and enjoyable festive season and together we will all work as a team for the many years to come. Merry Christmas.



Hands-on Experience of Nature-Friendly Farming

REBECCA BARR
PENTLAND LAND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
AND PROJECT MANAGER, L-AND

A group of farmers in the Pentland Hills have banded together to share their passion for nature-friendly farming with local school children. Partnering with Rabbie's Tours and the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) the group transformed Cairns Farm near Kirknewton into a messy, noisy, animal-filled classroom for 90 school children.

Rebecca Barr, representing the farmer's group L-and, explained: "Outdoor education in schools is being encouraged as part of the Scottish Government's 'Learning for Sustainability Action Plan', but many children struggle to access these opportunities due to the costs of transportation.

"We are very grateful to Rabbie's who provided their minibuses free of charge as part of their commitment to RHET's Festival of Farming Week. Their generosity has allowed us to share this working family farm with school children and introduce them to the people who care for the land in our local hills. These kinds of visits often inspire students to start their own conservation projects within their communities."

During the course of the day the children learned about where food comes from, planted tree seeds, and used plasticine to block drains while replicating peatland restoration. They practiced recognising bird calls to track biodiversity, and learned about sustainable farming methods while meeting sheep, alpacas and chickens.



The initiative is part of Project L-and, an enterprise that brings farmers, communities, and businesses together to protect and enhance ecosystems and biodiversity in the Pentland Hills. The initiative has received funding from NatureScot's Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland (FIRNS) fund.

NatureScot Chief Executive Francesca Osowska added: "Funding for project L-and is part of our commitment to offer communities, companies, charities and individuals across Scotland the opportunity to develop bold business cases and financial models which will attract the investment required to restore nature. I'm inspired by the creativity and ambition of projects such as project L-and which will help us scale up our efforts to halt biodiversity loss and create a nature-rich country for us all."

• Further information on L-and can be found here: <https://l-and.co/>

BRIEFLY...

p7>>>

including removal of garage door with replacement window, new cladding and bench seat; 33 Bonaly Crescent. (24/05386/FUL) Comments due by 9 December.

• COLINTON: Proposed one and a half storey rear and single story gable extension, with internal alterations; 20 Torphin Road. (24/05597/FUL) Comments due by 6 December.

PLANNING DECISIONS

• COLINTON: Erection of building for residential accommodation and ancillary uses linked to existing rural business, including demolition of domestic open-sided outbuilding, landscaping, boundary treatment and parking; 164A Woodhall Road. (24.03325/FUL) Refused, 29 October.

• BABERTON MAINS: Proposed rear extension and internal alterations; 64 Baberton Mains Drive. (24/05202/CLP) Granted, 14 November.

• BABERTON MAINS: Proposed first floor extension and ground floor alterations; 176 Baberton Mains Drive. (24/04522/FUL) Granted, 15 November.

• COLINTON: Remove two sycamore trees due to boundary wall damage; 36 Woodhall Road. (24/05104/TPO) Withdrawn, 15 November.

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: Woodhall Road at Barnshot Road, three-way temporary traffic lights for Cityfibre cable, ducting and cabinet installation; estimated 10 days from 9 December.

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Rotary— Getting Ready for Christmas

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Christmas isn't just a busy time for shops—it's a busy time for Currie Balerno Rotary, and we have started already.

The first event in our Christmas calendar is the lighting up of our *Tree of Life*.

Every year we invite people to sponsor a light on our *Tree of Life* in memory of loved ones or to mark special occasions or events.

We ask for a donation for each light sponsored. This year all donations will go to the Marie Curie Hospice in Fairmilehead to fund a specialist reclining chair costing £3,000. We are grateful to our new Rotary Community Members – Lindsay & Gilmour and Circle Security – for starting us off with generous donations.

The *Tree of Life* stands in the grounds of Balerno Parish Church and will be lit up on Thursday 5 December, starting at 6.15pm with music from the Balerno and



District Pipe Band. We believe Santa will be there for the occasion.

The date's in our diaries. It's in Santa's diary. We hope you'll put it in yours. We hope, too, that you can see your way to sponsoring a

light, by using the QR code at the end of this article.

• Next it's our Christmas gift wrapping at the Gyle. This year we shall be there from Thursday 19 December up until 3pm on Christmas Eve. We hope to see you there.

• Currie Balerno Rotary serves the communities of Ratho, Kirknewton, Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green, Baberton, Colinton and Wester Hailes.

• To find out more go to our website at cbrotary.org, follow us on facebook.com/cbrotary1020 or contact Mike Rowe at PR@cbrotary.org or on (0131) 449 5701



'Still Here to Serve'

GORDON FORREST
GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER, 51ST PENTLAND
(BALERNO) SCOUT GROUP

When I was a young boy growing up in the community, I remember all the groups and organisations that were available for every young person staying in the area.

It was with extreme pride to see our own 51st Pentland Scout Group joined, once again, by the Boys Brigade at this year's Remembrance Sunday Service at Balerno Parish Church to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to ensure we are all able to live the lives we do today, and to show respect to those serving today who are prepared to do the same now. Lest we forget.

• If you're interested in joining our team of volunteers, you can email me directly at: gsl@balernoscouts.org.uk

Currie Show '25

SHEILA MASON
SHOW SECRETARY

The committee have selected the classes for the Handicrafts for the Annual Show to be held in Balerno High School on 30 August 2025.

While the evenings are dark and we enjoy "sitting by the fire", it is the time to get out your knitting needles or sewing needles to "manufacture" an item for the Show bench. The items selected are: Macrame Plant Holder; Something New from Something old sewn; Cross Stitch item from a kit; Pin Cushion; Sewn Coin Purse; Six Crotchet Granny Squares, 18cm square sewn together for donation; Knitted Balaclava (to be donated); item from left-over yarn, 200gms max knitted, woven or crocheted; Baby Hat; Knitted Tea Cosy; A4 Watercolour Painting; a Greetings Card; Item from recycled material; A wooden Boat; a Photograph of a "Sunset", 7 inches (17.8 cm) x 5 inches (12.7 cm).

We look forward to welcoming your entries.

• In due course all this information will be entered on our website, www.currieshow.weebly.com

Another Year Ends for Balerno SWI

SHEILA MASON
BALERNO SWI

How quickly the year has passed by! November was once again the month of our Annual General Meeting.

Our retiring President, Catriona, welcomed us and said we would have the short talks before we got down to "business". Moira Stewart, one of our own members, had brought her dog "Boss" with her as he is a Therapist. She had decided she would like a mature dog, not a puppy and had tried all sorts of places to find one—but this type of animal is not what everyone would be willing to take on so was hard to locate. Eventually she opted for a "retired" gun dog and he soon settled in to his new home.

However, she then felt that he still required to enjoy some "work" and found a group which

goes round care homes, colleges and anywhere where people gather to get help. She now enjoys watching "Boss" interact with the groups who came to speak to him, play with him and pet him. Heriot Watt, Queen Margaret, Napier are among the places she goes with "Boss"—the students love him, and he them! Care Homes aren't his cup of tea, though, as instead of "speaking" to people in their beds, he hid under them! It's clear that Moira has as much enjoyment with "Boss" as do the students!

Our competition this month was for a knitted Balaclava to be donated to Doctors Without Borders. Morag Shankland is a member of this group and she—herself an avid knitter—told us of its invaluable work. In some parts of the world there are people who quite literally have nothing. So the needles click away using whatever wool the knitter has making absolutely anything that could be used by these people—hats, scarves, toys, blankets, and whatever takes your fancy. We were delighted to be able to have made 11 balaclavas for her good cause.

Tea was next on the agenda followed by the "business". Reports were made by the "retiring" office bearers. Catriona then explained that the committee felt that we should have a rota system of members taking their turn to arrange the various things we do as an Institute, as changes were good to maintain the Institute.

The main positions were filled by volunteers and are: President—Rita Poulter; Vice President—Lorraine McCafferty; Secretary—Angela Bogue; Treasurer—Susan McDonald.

Competition Results: Flower of the Month—Diane Johnston; Animal Photo—Lorraine McCafferty (first), Enid Lowe (second); Boak Trophy Balaclava—Bridgid Moncur (first), Moira Stewart (second), Isobel Johnstone (third).

This is my last report so thanks for reading them over the years.

• Our next meeting is on Tuesday 3 December to enjoy a "Tramp's Supper" with a Christmas theme in Balerno Community Centre from 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

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Santa's Visit to Colinton

LORRAINE O'SHEA
COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE SCIO

As the culmination of a busy year of celebratory events draws to a close, Colinton Village Enterprise is pulling out all the stops to present their magical finale—*Christmas in the Park*, on Thursday 12 December, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm!

Visitors will be welcomed to "The Shed" (the old coach house) and adjoining area, in Spylaw Park, where CVE has been busy throughout 2024 advancing plans for Colinton's Community Heritage Hub.

You are most cordially invited to wend your way – via Colinton's Spylaw Street, or West Mill Road – down the path to the Shed, through our illuminated stalls to Santa's fairy-lit grotto in its magical setting.

Remember to dress up warmly and have lots of handy change in your pockets for a glass or two of warming mulled wine and mince pies, or mugs of hot chocolate and fabulous home-baking.

Once again, there will be opportunities to win a tombola prize, while the children can enjoy creative Christmas activities in the Shed.

Best of all it's a real chance to meet friends and neighbours before the rush toward Christmas, when everyone can join in the good conversation, fun and laughter of the occasion, with enthusiastic carol singing in the good company of Bonaly Primary School's choristers in splendid voice.

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



End of an Era for Pentland Flower Club

WENDY WILLIAMS
PENTLAND FLOWERS CLUB

Having celebrated its 40th anniversary earlier this year, the Pentland Flower Club now faces its final meeting.

The motto of the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies (NAFAS) is "Flowers, Fun and Friendship", which has certainly been enjoyed here in Balerno for all of those years. However, rising costs and lower numbers means that – like many organisations – it is no longer viable.

Our remaining loyal members will be able to say goodbye at our final meeting when we will be welcoming Jayne Bluet from Helenburgh with a demonstration called "Tradition and Techniques".

• Our final meeting is on Friday 6 December. As usual we will meet in the Ogston Hall, Balerno, at 7pm. Members and visitors welcome.



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Friends of Campbell Park Update

SHONA HARROWER
FRIENDS OF CAMPBELL PARK

We were very glad that several members of Colinton Garden Club came along to help at our latest tree planting event on 31 October.

The trees are a Medlar Pear tree and two sweet chestnut-pollinating partners for our 2022 Jubilee Tree—a tree wedding of sorts!

Our new Campbell tartan cloth bunting, donated by Oxfangs-based local Community Interest Company "Best Bib & Tucker", was wrapped around all three trees to help connect them. It will be left in place for a while to let as many people see it as possible. We'll likely retrieve it before the winter sets in fully, so that it can be reused for future events.

Quite a few local "witches" and "wizards" reconvened in the community orchard later that evening to share food and drink around a cosy fire. FCP member Roma Söderberg brought traditional Irish colcannon and barmbrack, which all the guisers enjoyed very much. Stewart Wilson brought his firepit in a wheelbarrow to keep us all warm and safely wheeled it home again at the end of the evening!

• <https://www.facebook.com/FOCPK>

Top: CGC members Jonathan Davey, Richard Ennos and Diana Ennos have great fun welcoming the newly planted Medlar Pear tree into the community orchard by showering it with paper confetti! Middle: Richard and Diana Ennos are joined by CGC Committee members Avril Scott and Ken Whitson to help plant two new sweet chestnut pollinating partners for our 2022 Jubilee Tree. Left: Some local witches and wizards – allegedly – share food and drink around a cosy fire!



There WERE Fireworks!

HAZEL LUMSDAINE
CURRIE, BALERNO & DISTRICT ROUND TABLE

Remember, remember the Fifth of November—well, we always do!

It's one of those nights on our calendar that we all look forward to. It's so lovely to see the local community coming together to share in what, we hope you agree, was a great show.

As ever, huge crowds gathered in King George V Park and the surrounding areas to watch, helping keep our bucket shakers and trinket sellers very busy. Thanks to your generosity we raised just short of £7,000, which is absolutely phenomenal. This money has been banked and will be distributed to local charities and good causes as soon as possible.

All that is left to do now is to say a massive thank you to: everyone who bought tickets and came to see the show; to all the volunteers who made it possible (our friends at Currie Chieftains' Youth teams); to Blacklight for the equipment and set-up support; Currie Football Club for providing First Aid cover; Currie Community Centre for providing hot drinks and toilets facilities; and, finally, the clean-up crews, both on the night and the morning after.

Next: SANTA! (See page 5!)



Improving the Local Environment

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Earlier this year Currie Balerno

Rotary joined other Edinburgh Rotarians and the Water of Leith Conservation Trust on a Clean-up of the Water of Leith at Slateford. On Monday 21 October, we again joined other clubs in clearing away litter and leaf-fall from Coalie Park in Leith, demonstrating Rotary's commitment to local communities.

On Sunday 10 November we

worked with Pentlands Eco Network, planting more than 1,000 bulbs in King George V Park, Currie, to enhance this local park along with our orchard, planted with help from a Rotary Environmental Grant.

Members Colin and John are pictured (right) at the bulb planting, doing what comes naturally.



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'Old Stuff'

Snapshots of the Past

DOUGLAS LOWE
CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Well the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" of our Autumn has now passed. I remember the mists! But fun was still to be had shuffling through the leaves, the mixer-maxter of reds, yellows and browns. (When dry obviously; it loses some of the fun when they are soggy!)

I remember, when my children were young, we made quite a regular autumn outing of shuffling through the leaf fall in the surrounding woods or in "The Old Park", now sadly submerged beneath Balerno Community High School. The high school covers the site of both the railway goods station as well as the old park, which provided many opportunities for fun and excitement. There were trees to climb, and "bounce" games of football to be had. But it was also a great place for doing nothing, just hanging about with your pals. There was an open pavilion for when the weather became inclement and we also had a shingle beach beside the burn from where we fished for baggie minnows – "beardies" – which looked like small sharks, or sticklebacks.

The park, as it happens, had been a gift to the village: as reported in the *Edinburgh Evening News* for 28 May 1896, Lord Rosebery had

"granted in perpetuity, at a nominal rent of one shilling a year, a park about three acres, as a public recreation ground for Balerno".

Clearly, "in perpetuity" didn't last beyond Lothian Regional Council's decision to build the High School on that site—so the name of the old park has disappeared into history.

Walking down the Water of Leith Walkway, or "the railway" as some still call it, you pass the site of "the distant signal". The post with the

sign "Signal" has now gone. John Tweedie in *Our District* (published in 1976) says that the distant signal "was a well-known phrase in railway days". And that "Places on the Lanark Road were described as being before/after the distant signal".

It's strange how some old names cling on. Kinauld Farm, now completely redeveloped, was "the piggery" to us and, to a previous generation, "The Old Distillery". A little further along the walkway is "the tannery"—now redeveloped as high-ish blocks of flats, the final blocks towering above the Water of Leith, reminiscent of clifftop nesting perches.

Leaving the Walkway at the Kirkgate, we cross Currie Brig and find ourselves in the area we call Currie Toll, although I noticed the local bus stops are named "Currie Library". Although the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1889 transferred responsibility for the maintenance of roads to county and district authorities, bringing an end to road tolls, it nevertheless remains "Currie Toll" to many folk.

Currie Toll had been set up on this site around 1829, having been transferred some two miles eastwards from its original site at Ravelrig, just west of Balerno. This was, it's been suggested, to catch any cross traffic going to or from the Union Canal to the north.

There was another tollhouse in our immediate



Main image: Currie Tollhouse. Above: Keirshill Toll, Curriehill. Below: the Currie Toll area, pre-1965. Photos: CDLHS.



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

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PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

LOCAL HISTORY AS REPORTED BY C&B NEWS.

THIS MONTH IN... 1994



It's generally not a good idea for any newspaper's lead story to be about itself but, in this case, we're happy to make an exception, given it referenced the publication's then-remarkable achievement of reaching 200 editions—copies of which, Graham Priestley explained, had been bound into four red-clothed volumes and donated to Currie Library. (A similar presentation was planned for Balerno Library; they just needed to find copies of a few "missing" issues.)

Community Librarian Eileen Wiltshire was "delighted to accept this generous gift," describing the publication as "a valuable source of information, both past and current, about the local area and is a wonderful resource for the public library"—which we like to think remains true, 30 years later. Admittedly, the "volumes" of subsequent issues of *C&B News* now available in Currie Library generally lack the quality bindings of those first four volumes, but the publication's entire run remains essentially available there to this day.

Elsewhere, Pentland Flower Club reported on its "long awaited" 10th anniversary celebration lunch at the James Watt Centre at Heriot-Watt University, while Currie Bowling Club reported on its recent activities—you'll find both still reporting in this issue, albeit with an end in sight for the former. Other local organisations updating readers on their activities included the Juniper Green & Balerno branches of SWRI, the Currie Parish Horticultural & Industrial Society (aka "the



Horti"), the Currie Balerno Rotary, Currie District History Society, and the Juniper Green Village Association—the latter given almost a full page to discuss speeding traffic in the village, the installation of a new partition within the Village Hall (which had admittedly experienced a few "teething problems"), and the challenges inherent in judging the local primary school fancy dress competition!

Other news was bubbling away in the Readers' Letters pages (yes—there were more than three!), including somewhat acrimonious discussions about how to deal with local crime, details of the new play equipment being introduced in Bloomiehall Park, and Barnardo's defence of their unexpected rehousing of (Ravelrig) Riding for the Disabled. Local regional councillor Hugh Fraser

meantime confirmed that the then City of Edinburgh District Council was progressing with its plans for the bus-based City of Edinburgh Rapid Transit (CERT) scheme between the city centre and the airport—much of which, as transport correspondent Archie Clark, pointed out, "appears to have been devised in isolation from any other transportation system". Much of the proposed route is now covered by Edinburgh Trams, another scheme not without its critics!

Also ongoing were the then-refurbishment plans for Currie Community High School, which involved consultations with local groups, parents and even pupils. "Encouragingly many pupils commented on the importance of the School's environmental work and the need for disabled access," head teacher E G Melvin wrote. Those students would

presumably be impressed by the new school building due to open in early 2025.

While having four bound volumes of back issues in Currie Library confirmed *C&B News* now had a sizeable past, the future still beckoned, with the paper's "co-ordinator" (aka Editor) Neil C Scott announcing that they could now accept contributions saved on three-and-a-half-inch floppy discs—remember those? "If you cannot save in a Word format, then we can still accept in the following formats – Wordstar, WordPerfect or simply as a textfile [sic]". To be honest, while no spring chicken, the Hired Help hadn't even heard of those, but then he's always been an Apple snob! Looking back from 30 years on, though, it's a useful reminder of how nothing dates quite as quickly as yesterday's idea of tomorrow!

from p15

area—Keirshill Toll, at the foot of Curriehill Road where it joins the Calder Road (A71). There was also a tollhouse about six miles west of Balerno at Little Vantage, near the start of the Cauldstaneslap drove road.

From a surviving photo Keirshill Toll looked like it was also a shop, but there is nothing on the site now. The Currie toll house, a regular feature in many old photos of the area, was demolished in the mid-1960s, having existed as a road-man's house for many years. The row of Easter Currie farm cottages and the Society Hall, which stood on the southern side of the road were also demolished around this time



to facilitate the widening and straightening of Lanark Road West.

So as the names of some things are disappearing into our memories we have collectively continued to refer to Currie Toll, something that ceased to be a functioning entity well over a century ago!

One of my relatives recently complained to me that I was always writing about "old stuff". I did point out, gently, that as I was usually writing historical pieces they were, by definition, "old stuff". Anyway my best wishes for Christmas and New Year to all *C&B News* readers and, with the editor's kind permission, I will return with more "old stuff" in the New Year.

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Cooking the Books

with Balerno Resident STEF LYONS



A Year In The Kitchen. As a person who lives on a budget which doesn't allow for going out to eat much, coming to the end of 2024 really does feel like I've spent a year in front of my oven.

More than that though, *A Year In The Kitchen* is also the name of a cookbook by Blanche Vaughan, formerly of the famous River Café in London and recipe writer extraordinaire.

When you spend as much time cooking as I do you want there to be the occasional bout of variety in what you make and eat. Yes, I have a three-week menu of foods for dinner on rotation so that I don't go mad wondering: "What on earth am I going to cook for them tonight?!" Even so, there comes a time for everyone where you need something to break up the routine.

With a book like *A Year In The Kitchen* you have just that. The book's tagline says: "Seasonal recipes for everyday pleasure". I would agree that this is a pretty good estimation of what you will find inside. It is seasonal in spades, being divided into four parts that focus on each season in turn. Pleasure? Absolutely. Everyday? Hmm. I'd change that to: "Some of the days". To me, "Everyday" is pasta with a bit of tomato sauce, or chicken in wraps and salad. These recipes require a wee bit more than the everyday unless you have not much else to do.

As we are in Autumn I've been focussing on that section during the last few weeks. There

are pages upon pages of things to do with squash and pumpkin. I've got no idea what half the pumpkins are that she talks about—"Blue Hubbard"? "Ironbark"? I don't live in a middle class farmers' market with access to 14 different types of pumpkin; therefore I have made do with what I can from Tesco, with a little help from a delivery from East Coast Organics. I made soup with the pumpkins, an Italian offering which you serve with crumbled-up amaretti biscuits and cinnamon sprinkled on top. I was sceptical but they were delicious additions. The soup itself was a bit on the thin side but I am going to experiment with the liquid ratios next time.



By far the best food in the Autumn section is the blueberry and apple cobbler. Vaughan provides a recipe for custard to use with it but honestly most of the time life is too short to stand at the hob for ages making your own custard – you have spent a year in the kitchen after all, isn't that enough? – so I bought mine. It was Halloween last time I made it so I cut out the cobbler topping with witch-hat and cat-shaped cookie cutters. It made no difference to the flavour but it was fun. There is far too much of the pillow-soft scone topping in the recipe, but I don't care. That's the best bit and is a perfect match for the lemon and vanilla-scented apples and blueberries nestling

beneath. It is ideal for when the dark is coming in early and you fancy a bowl of something delightful and comforting.

We ate through this book during summer as well, and when winter comes I can't wait to try the slow-cooked beef shin with creamy mashed potatoes and roast vegetable gratin. I may have spent a year in the kitchen but with food like this it is totally worth it. Happy New Year In The Kitchen to you all!



From the Bookshelf



VANESSA FORD
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT LEADER: CURRIE, COLINTON, BALERNO LIBRARIES

At Currie, Colinton and Balerno libraries, we have had a very busy month! With the continued success of the Pentland Book Festival, Currie and Colinton have hosted a number of wonderful authors, which has been another huge success and also tied in with our celebrations for Book Week Scotland!

We held a very spooooky Halloween party day at Currie, including a Halloween-themed Bookbug session, author visit and "Dragon Story Time" from Madeline Pinkerton (above), face-painting and "paint your own pumpkins". We have a similar event coming on Friday 6 December, so keep an eye out for our "Christmas Bonanza", with a performance of the interactive bilingual musical book from The Singing Willows, and a boogie with local ceilidh band Auld Spice! Check our social media for times!

At Colinton Library, we have the Commonwealth War Graves Commission talking about their history, work and impact across the world at 6pm on Wednesday 4 December. Also at Colinton on Monday 16 December, again at 6pm, we have the very talented Joss Cameron hosting a Sea Shantie Workshop, looking into their history, values, and harmonies. Tickets can be found on our Facebook page through Eventbrite.

Looking to join a new book group? Currie and Colinton are starting new times—please call the libraries for details. Just simply looking for a cuppa and a bletcher? We'll be hosting a new "Coffee and Conversation" group at Balerno Library every Tuesday from 11am to noon!

Thank you all again for your continued support!

• Our Christmas Bonanza is on Friday 6 December, Currie Library—check our social media for times!

• Balerno Library: 1 Main Street; (0131) 529 5500; balerno.library@edinburgh.gov.uk

• Colinton Library: 14 Thorburn Road; (0131) 529 5603; colinton.library@edinburgh.gov.uk

• Currie Library: 210 Lanark Road West; (0131) 529 5609; currie.library@edinburgh.gov.uk

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Currie Community Centre is looking for new Trustees to decide the strategy for the Charity and Centre. The position is unpaid. If you have a strong connection with Currie or the surrounding areas, this is an invitation to consider applying to become a Trustee of CCC. Trustees do not directly manage the Centre, but set policy, appoint staff, and make sure it remains a viable and growing concern.

If you can give a minimum of one evening a month and have experience or skills you think might be useful to the Centre, please get in touch. Send an email, with or without a CV, explaining your interest to info@curriecommunitycentre.org

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Currie Kirk's Garden of Remembrance

FIONA PIGOTT
CURRIE KIRK

Currie Kirk looked to mark Remembrance Sunday differently this year—with not just a Garden of Remembrance, but also with a project to find out more about the servicemen and woman commemorated on the Memorial Boards within Currie Kirk—turning names into people.

Using websites such as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and Scotland's People (Scottish National Registrar of Scotland), the research began many months ago.

In addition to providing some biographies for the 109 names, the information uncovered is an amazing insight to the social history of the villages of Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno during the first half of the 20th century.

Of the 80 names on the two First World War boards, 31 men were members of the Royal Scots—the local Edinburgh Regiment. Four men, while born here, served with the Canadian Infantry, and two with the Australian Infantry. Three men served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Other Scottish Regiments in which the men served include: Kings Own Scottish Borderers; Scots Guards; Highland Light Infantry; Cameron Highlanders; Gordon Highlanders; Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders; Seaforth Highlanders; Black Watch; and the Royal Flying Corps.

One woman, a nurse, is also commemorated.

Of the 26 names on the Second World War boards, six men served with the Royal Air Force, one with the Canadian Air Force. Three men were in the Royal Navy. Meantime, traditional Scottish Regiments still feature: Seaforth Highlanders; Royal Scots; The London Scottish; Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders; and Lothian & Borders Horse.

One man was with the Royal Army Medical Corps.

There is now a book containing all the information: if you would like to read it, please contact the Kirk office on (0131) 451 5141.

• The information will soon be accessible on our website: www.curriekirk.org



SW Edinburgh Tool Library in Colinton—Call for Volunteers

PAUL BULLEN
EDINBURGH TOOL LIBRARY

The South West Edinburgh Tool Library, located in CVE's "The Shed" in Colinton's Spylaw Park, has quickly become an invaluable resource for many members of the local community.

Launched in 2023 by SW20 as an hub of the Edinburgh Tool Library (which is based in Meadowbank), it provides affordable access to tools and equipment for DIY enthusiasts, gardeners, and those looking to carry out small home repairs. The library has seen great success with more than 500 loans since we started.

A yearly charge of £30 (concessions available) provides access to our collection of more than 2,000 tools and our workshops. The library's focus on sustainability also helps reduce waste by encouraging the sharing and reuse of tools, as well as fostering a sense of community responsibility.

ETL recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary and 60,000th tool loan—saving our members more than £3 million and

reducing CO2 output by 420 tonnes..

Beyond lending tools, the library has helped members with skills-sharing, providing advice and running DIY workshops for beginners—keep an eye out for our next one in early 2025.

However, to continue its growth and reach even more people, the library is seeking additional volunteers. You don't need any experience with tools or DIY—we are a friendly bunch and welcome people from all backgrounds.

By volunteering, you can help ensure that the library continues to thrive as a valuable resource for south-west Edinburgh, as well as getting to know new people and learning more about tools.

• For more information on how to volunteer, please visit the SW Edinburgh Tool Library website or stop by the library in Spylaw Park to learn more!

• To learn more about volunteering, please email: sw20.etl@gmail.com

• For more about borrowing from the SW hub of ETL, visit: <https://bit.ly/etl-signup>



Currie Primary School pupils recently took a trip up to their local library, write Abigail and Jamie of P5C. "It is important that people keep borrowing books in order to keep the library open for the local community. We will be visiting every three weeks so we can return our books and borrow more. We love reading!"

MORE E-BIKES AND CARGO TRAILERS TO BORROW IN SW COLINTON

SW20 have recently expanded their free-to-borrow e-bike fleet with a wider selection of bikes and trailers to enable members of the community to have access to "the right bike for the job". Our current fleet currently comprises of the following electric pedal assisted bikes:

- Cargo bike—ideal for carrying up to 3 children, an adult, a dog, the weekly shop or anything you can fit in. Can be supplied with rain cover and also adapter for Maxi-cosi baby seat;
- Step-through—a great introduction into a simple and easy to ride e-bike, for carrying the rider plus whatever you can fit into the provided panniers;
- Rickshaw—for carrying up to two adult passengers and providing easy access to the freedom of cycling for those who may be less able or less confident at cycling. Comes with rain / sun shade;
- Small cargo trailer—helpful to carry shopping or small / medium items that won't fit in panniers;
- Large three-wheel cargo trailer—this is a large trailer (as used by delivery companies) can carry up to 200kg and so needs to be towed behind a powerful cargobike or similar (such as our cargo bike). However you can then carry very large objects just using a bike.

We are currently expanding our fleet with more bikes, trailers and devices to carry and tow children's bikes. If you have any requests, please contact us. All the bikes have motors making cycling them a breeze and effectively eliminating hills.

The bikes are all free to borrow (donations are welcome to help pay maintenance fees), full training is provided to new borrowers.

• Please have a look at our inventory at <https://bit.ly/SW-ebike> or contact us on hellosw20@gmail.com



Darker Nights—Home Security

PC SAMANTHA CAMPBELL
POLICE SCOTLAND, E-DIV - EDINBURGH CITY - PREVENTIONS, INTERVENTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

As the seasons are changing Police Scotland - Edinburgh Division will be running a Darker Nights Campaign. You may have officers visit or leaflet your home.

However, in case you are not visited please take this opportunity to review your home security and consider the following points:

- Check outside lights are working, located out of easy reach and orientated as required.
- If you have a house alarm, use it at night and when you are out.
- Consider using timer switches on lights so your home is not in darkness when you are out.
- Fit key operated windows locks—but don't leave the keys in them!
- Check doors are secured by British Standard 5 lever mortice locks or multi point locks—don't depend on a single Yale-style rim lock to secure a door.
- Fit a letter box guard/brushes and do not leave keys or bags near or behind doors.
- If you have a keyless entry car, store the keys in a Faraday pouch/tin.

If you have a shed or garage:

- Fit a shed alarm or if possible, extend the house alarm into the garage.
- Replace some of the hinge, hasp screws with coach bolts.
- If the doors are secured with a padlock, chose one with a closed shackle.
- Lock garden tools up—these may be used to break into a house.
- Lock any bicycles or motorbikes within the shed/garage and consider anti-grinder locks such as Hiplok D1000/LiteLok X Range.
- Fit a garage defender to prevent garage doors being opened.
- Cover up any windows.
- Mark and register bikes: see www.bikeregister.com

If you see anyone acting suspiciously near to your premises, please contact the police immediately with as detailed a description as possible of any person or vehicle involved.

• Please call 999 if an emergency and urgent police assistance is required or 101 to report the matter to the police.

• For further advice contact, Edinburghpreventintervent@scotland.pnn.police.uk or visit: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-informant/>

Craft Corner:



Photos: Lucie Novoveska, Paul Watt.

Winter Wreath— Full Circle

Last year, my husband and I wrote a brief thank you letter to the *C&B News* team and The Friends of the Pentlands for providing us with a twig base and some Christmas tree cuttings for our winter wreath. We proudly named it the “Water of Wreath” because we incorporated items collected during our walks along the Water of Leith. The letter, published in *C&B News*, was a catalyst for writing this monthly column about my two passions: crafting and upcycling. So can you guess what we are making this month? Yes, we are coming “full circle”: upcycling the wreath base and creating a brand new wreath.

The instructions for making this wreath are very straightforward. Collect the items that you like and secure them to the wreath base. In my case, I was aiming for a natural look. I collected pine cones, dried oranges, limes, and apple slices and purchased dried fruit potpourri.

You can dry fruit in a dehydrator, oven, air fryer or just on a radiator. This can take a while. I dried my fruit at 65°C for at least three hours. I did this in several batches and I was squirrelling dried fruit away for weeks. Remember to ensure your fruit is completely dried, otherwise mould can set in.

I treated the dried fruit like a large button and, using a needle, secured a string to each piece and tied them to the base. I like the abundance of decorations, but leave an empty space on the wreath, so you can hold it while working on it. At the end I placed a ribbon in that space. Last year, I put white garlic on our wreath and I thought that would start a fun tradition. This year I ended that tradition! The smell of oranges and garlic does not say Christmas to me...

I would like to thank *C&B News* and you, the readers, for allowing me to write this column every month. I enjoy writing the column, coming up with new ideas and endlessly wondering if anyone ever attempts to follow the column and create their own. Fear not, there are more craft columns coming. I am hoping to kick-off 2025 with hand knitting. And on that cliffhanger, I wish you Happy Holidays and Happy Crafting!



City Plan 2030— Approved At Last!

City Plan 2030 began in 2018—six years later, it’s complete! Former City of Edinburgh Council Planning Convenor, Cllr Neil Gardiner, explains why it matters.

City Plan 2030 is the Local Development Plan for Edinburgh, setting out policies and proposals to guide and identify appropriate sites for development. Initial suggestions and alternative proposals having been developed with technical supporting reports, wide consultation and an approvals process, before going off to the Scottish Government for minor suggestions, then back to planning committee. Its “journey” was completed on 7 November when the full City of Edinburgh Council adopted it as our new Local Development Plan

Remember in around 2016, when there was insufficient housing land available and developers were able to win appeals to develop green belt sites, although supporting infrastructure was limited? Many are now built and provide homes. However, going forward there’s clearly limited capacity on Lanark Road West, which would struggle to cope with any more major developments.

Standing for election in 2017, I made a commitment to protect the green belt countryside around the city going forward, as far as I could. The green belt acts as our communities’ lungs and avoids sprawl. Although an architect and urban designer, little did I know that I’d then become political lead for planning. Despite a few more grey hairs, as Planning Convenor during the 2017-22 Labour-SNP administration when the plan was formulated, I’d say it was worth it—although latter stages have been a little bureaucratic! What’s important is the *City Plan 2030*’s contents: a clear and agreed vision and template for how Edinburgh will be able to meet residents’ needs during the next five years: providing sufficient housing, greenspaces, schools, places of employment and infrastructure, all in the right places.

Given finite funding, the new Plan locates development where available infrastructure capacity already exists. For example, land north of the A8 next to the tram was, many years ago, zoned as an “International Business District”—an office development which never happened. Here it makes sense for mixes of uses—workplaces, housing, alongside schools and green spaces. After years of stalling, different

landowners, including a redundant runway, came together linking to Edinburgh Gateway station and a proposed pedestrian/cycle bridge to Corstorphine. New bus routes have potential to extend to areas in semi-rural SW Edinburgh currently starved of public transport.

In areas which can support regeneration, developing “brownfield” land previously built on can stitch the city together. For example, Murrayburn’s former council depot can provide much needed housing accessing green space at Hailes Quarry Park, as well as providing links to Dumbryden, Longstone and Parkhead. At Granton Waterfront – abandoned since heavy industry moved on a generation ago – new investment will provide places to live, work and of course play, providing coastal access to neighbouring communities and the whole city. At Seafield, car showrooms currently hide a beach as long as Portobello.

Important aspects of *City Plan 2030* include: developments of over 10 houses must provide 35% affordable housing; with student housing on larger sites, half the site must provide general housing. Mixed use is encouraged, so facilities can be nearby. Green and blue nature networks along rivers and streams are protected to enhance biodiversity. *City Plan 2030* also addresses climate change through higher standards for new development and reusing available land within the urban area. I’d like to thank everyone who contributed to *City Plan 2030*

With *City Plan 2030* finally adopted and the green belt protected, the pressure is off our Water of Leith communities. The whole process will shortly start again for *City Plan 2040*—will my grey hairs turn to white this time? At least new legislation means that Local Development Plans must now take account of community-led Local Place Plans, which is a good thing.

• For more information, visit <https://www.ourplace.scot/home/local-place-plans>, <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cityplan2030>

• If I can be of assistance, email: neil.gardiner@edinburgh.gov.uk

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Senior Snippets

with ANDREW SENEW

Christmas Gift Ideas for Older Loved Ones

In the second of a new series, Andrew Senew shares useful advice for older members of our communities.

Buying for older adults can be a heartfelt way to show you care, but it's important to choose gifts that are thoughtful, practical, and tailored to their interests or needs.

Here are some ideas:

- **Comfort Items:** consider cosy blankets, slippers, or heating pads to help them stay warm and comfortable during the winter. Weighted blankets are also popular for relaxation.
- **Personalised Gifts:** a photo calendar, custom photo book, or engraved jewellery adds a personal touch and cherishes family memories.
- **Tech for Ease:** gadgets like large-button phones, voice-activated assistants (like Alexa), or digital photo frames can simplify daily life and keep them connected to family.
- **Hobby Enhancements:** find tools or accessories to support their hobbies—gardening tools, craft supplies, puzzles, or audiobooks for readers with vision challenges.
- **Experiences:** gift cards for favourite restaurants, subscriptions to streaming services, or tickets to local events can create memorable moments.
- **Health & Wellness:** consider a massage pillow, aromatherapy diffuser, or a subscription box for healthy snacks.

The key is to match their preferences and consider any mobility or health needs. Thoughtfulness beats extravagance every time!

Christmas is also a great time to check whether local charities and community groups are looking for specific donations. Why not contact Dementia Friendly Pentlands (<https://www.facebook.com/dfpjb>) or Dove Centre (<https://www.dovecentre.org/>) to find out.

Andrew Senew is owner and Director of Home Instead Edinburgh, a provider of bespoke home care services: <https://www.homeinstead.co.uk/edinburgh-west>



Winter Comes to Mallyeny



JAMES BELL
HEAD GARDENER, MALLENY GARDEN

Moving from autumn to winter, changes the feel of the garden. The sun low in the sky shines through the trees and puts a temporary spotlight on different areas of the garden. It's a peaceful place on a crisp frosty morning.

The big task of autumn is largely complete. Leaf clearance around paths, roads and lawn edges was the priority. Some leaves are left on borders and woodland areas to break down and act as a mulch while feeding nutrients back into the soil. Many leaf colours are spread around the garden and our volunteers took the opportunity to put together a quick collage of our autumn colour. Collected in one place, it highlights the array of colours which exist across the Garden over autumn and winter.

Recent weeks have also given us the opportunity to process much of our seasons pruning's and compost. As you might imagine, a nine-acre estate builds up material quickly. Branches and brush have been chipped. Green waste, grass clippings and old herbaceous added to our compost system and been turned—all with a view to getting it ready to go back out and mulch 'n' feed the garden over the next year. There is still more material to process, and mulching the garden will keep us partly occupied during the colder months.

As we move into winter, our concern moves towards the greenhouses. The two greenhouses protect our tender plants over winter and are an invaluable asset.

We usually don't heat the large greenhouse through winter—it's big, open and difficult to keep warm. (Even a frost-free level is quite

Main image: "Lavender Lassie". Middle: Mallyeny leaf collage inspiration. Above: leaf collage. Next page: top: Mallyeny sunset. Middle: Hollyhock. Photos: James Bell



Balerno Ramblers: 'Winter is Coming!'

GAIL COUSINS
BALERNO RAMBLERS



We have all enjoyed the recent mild temperatures, rain free days, and wonderful autumn colours on our walks.

But, as they say, winter is coming—along with longer dark evenings. At the winter solstice on Saturday 21 December, in terms of daylight, the day is 10 hours 39 minutes shorter than the June Solstice.

With Edinburgh 55.95° north, daylight lasts approximately six hours 57 minutes on the shortest day. So walk leaders need to plan for shorter, more local walks to minimise travelling time, and be aware of seasonal conditions. A minor mishap on a walk could cause a delay and you may find yourself being overtaken by darkness.

In addition to the usual gear in your daysack, it's advisable to take a woolly hat, scarf, waterproof gloves, a spare pair of socks (that can be worn as mittens incase you lose a glove), a powerpack charger for your mobile phone, a head torch with spare batteries, a bivy bag, emergency rations, a hot drink and an extra fleece jumper to keep you warm.

It may seem a lot to carry, but it is better to be safe than sorry.

Upcoming Walks and Events

The Midweek Ramblers are currently looking forward to their Christmas lunch at Merchant's Golf Club, on Wednesday 4 December.

Meantime, a further two walks are planned for December: a Water of Leith "circular" on Wednesday 11 December; and a morning walk on Wednesday 18 December (with festive hats),



Above: Autumn colours by the River Almond. Photo: Roger Jonathan. Below: On Cockleroy. Photo: Liz Robertson

along Threipmuir reservoir, around Harlaw reservoir and a coffee stop with Christmas fair on the menu.

On Saturday 7 December, the weekend group are offering a 6 mile (9.7 km) "Pentland circular" from Torphin starting at 9.30am from the Lothian service 16 terminus on Torphin Road. The route: ascend White Hill, Capelaw Hill, and Harbour Hill, returning via Torduff reservoir to the starting point.

Just before Christmas, on Sunday 22 December, there's a 9.5 mile (15.3 km) "Currie circular", starting at 9am at the Pentland View Car Park. The planned route: Lymphoy, Harlaw Road, Whiteside Plantation, Maiden's Cleuch, Kirkton Cottage, Phantom's Cleuch, Bonaly and Clubbedean reservoirs, initially descending Poet's Glen. Walking boots and gaiters recommended for both of these walk.

We'll begin 2025 with a local social walk on Saturday 4 January. More details to follow.

New members are always welcome. We offer you three "trial" walks as a non-member, hoping that your experience with us will encourage you to join! We regret no dogs are allowed on our walks, and advise you do not come on any walk if you are feeling unwell.

• For more details of our upcoming walks please click the link to access the Balerno Ramblers page on Ramblers Scotland website. <https://ramblers.org.uk>

• If you are interested in joining us, sign up to our mailing list: balerno-ramblers+subscribe@googlegroups.com

• With Ramblers walks please register with the walk leader and advise them if you have a medical condition relevant to your walking.

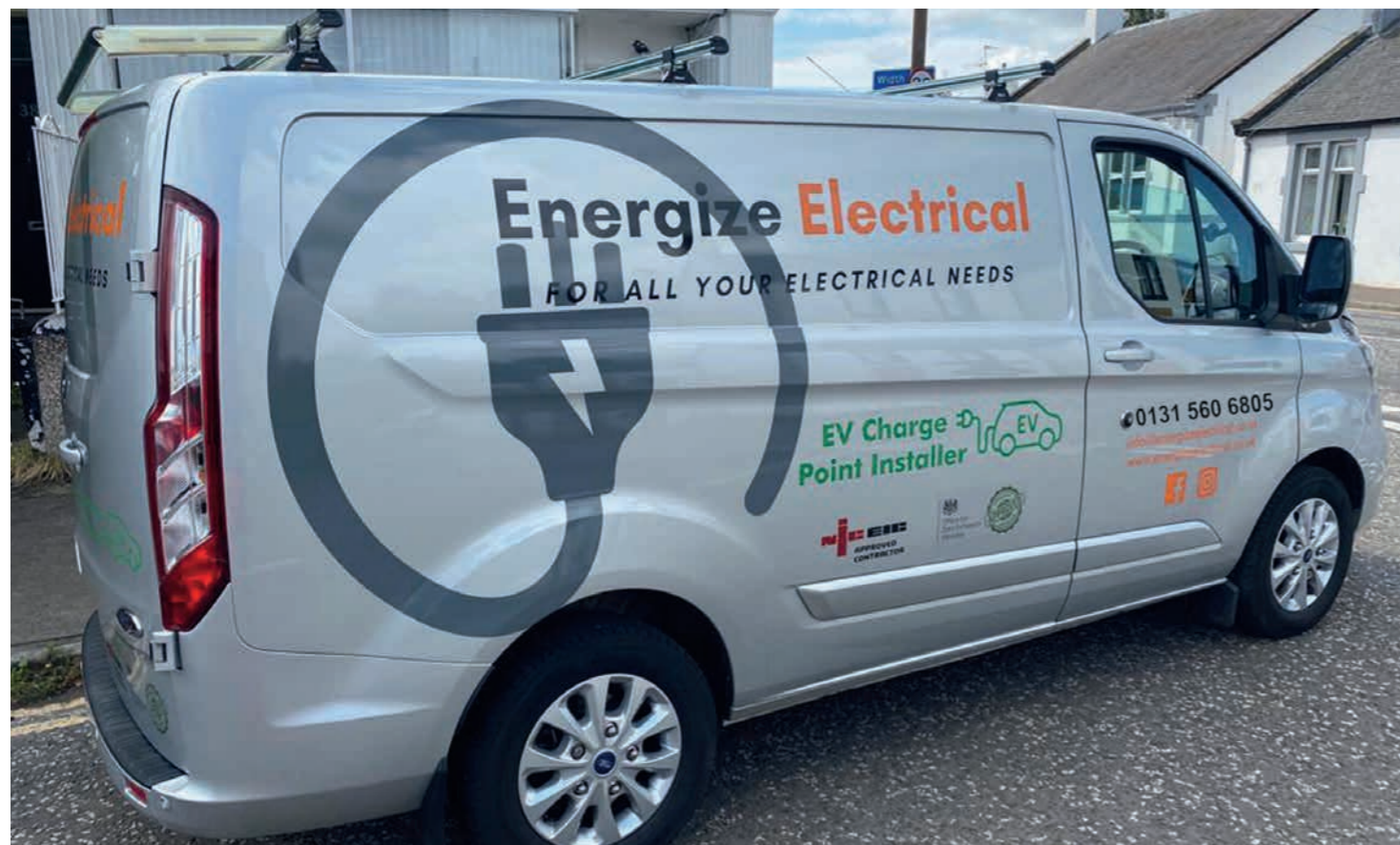
expensive.) All the tender plants are crammed into the heated smaller greenhouse. It's a full wee greenhouse over winter but, before we know it, everything will be back out on display in spring. The plants left in the large greenhouse don't really need any heat over winter. They benefit from the bit of extra protection that being under glass provides—essentially being cold but dry. The dry is the important bit. Cold and wet is what kills off many a plant! Keep your more delicate plants that bit drier over winter.

Despite the weather getting chillier, we still have plenty plants in flower—if you know where to look. They certainly brighten the shorter days!

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

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

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LETTERS etc!



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

Illustration: Marjorie Beaumont



Oops!

A partially-delayed “Oops!” this month, regarding our otherwise much admired 500th issue in October. (Yes, the *Hired Help’s* still going on about that—but as there wasn’t room for a Letters, Etc page last month, this is the first opportunity he has to come clean about it all!)

For reasons that are now beyond his comprehension, the “Editor” published an article about the 5 November Fireworks in King George V Park under the wrong byline and affiliation. By doing so, he effectively suggested that the much-loved annual fireworks display was being organised this year by the local Rotary—which must have come as a bit of a surprise to them!

Of course, as last issue and the event itself confirmed, the much-celebrated display was actually once again coordinated by members of the Currie, Balerno & District Round Table—along with other local volunteers.

Belatedly, we would like to apologise to both organisations—and thank them for being so understanding. Personally, the *Hired Help* deserved a rocket!

Fishing

I was disappointed to see that November’s issue contained an article (“Currie Angler Claims Silver Medal”) celebrating a fishing competition, along with a photo of many of the victims—and this on the back page!

No animal should be subjected to violence in the name of sport or competition, and *C&B News* should not promote trophy killing.

Please dedicate your sports pages instead to the wealth of true sport happening locally—where all participants have chosen to take part, and none get killed.

Gavin Pennycook
Currie

Thank You, Whoever You Are!

On the morning of 13 October my husband had a fall in the middle of our street outside our house in Newmills Road, Balerno.

Very quickly there were a number of people looking to help and I want to thank them all, especially the lady who supported my husband for nearly an hour until the ambulance arrived.

Thankfully my husband did not suffer lasting injury.

I am so grateful to everyone for their help and support.

Balerno Resident

The advice on the right is reprinted from the *Scam Share Bulletin*, published by Trading Standards Scotland and shared by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. We hope to include more such information in future issues of *C&B News*.

In Scotland, you can report all scams to Advice Direct Scotland by calling 0808 164 6000 or visiting www.consumeradvice.scot



The above photograph of the Bridge Road/Lanark Road West junction was taken at 1.18pm on Saturday 16 November—hardly the busiest of times, we think. While all the vehicles did get through the junction on the green light, the *Hired Help* can’t help but wonder how well the “upgraded” junction will cope during rush hour...

Beware Winter Fuel Payment Scams

There have been more reports of scam text messages which ask you to click on a link to apply for a cost of living payment or winter subsidy.

One recent message says it is a “UK Home Office Notice” about a “living expenses subsidy”. It says that you have qualified to apply for this subsidy, but that the “application channel” will close in the next 24 hours. This is a common tactic used by scammers - using a sense of urgency to encourage you to click on a link or take action.

Another message says it is from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and urges you to click on a link to apply for a cost of living subsidy to “reduce the financial pressure in your life”.

Another example has the heading “Winter Heating Subsidy Reminder” and says you are eligible to apply for a subsidy to “help you survive this cold winter smoothly”.

Links in these messages lead to a scam website with UK

Government branding, where you are asked to enter your contact details and your bank account information.

Be suspicious of any message or cold call asking you to apply for a cost of living subsidy or payment.

If you are eligible, you do not need to apply for the cost of living payment. You will be paid automatically in the same way you usually get your benefit or tax credits.

Any call or message asking you to apply for a cost of living payment or to contact someone about the payment is likely to be a scam.

DWP will never ask for your personal details via text message or email.

If you receive a text message, email or cold call asking for your details or for a fee to ‘apply’ for the payment, do not click on any links or provide any details.

You can forward any suspicious text messages for free to 7726 and send suspicious emails to: report@phishing.gov.uk

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PLANNING BY ARCHIE CLARK

Climate Change - What happens when Britain is 'Full Up'?

In November, I noted that as both Britain's and the world's populations steadily increase, simultaneously the area of land we have available to occupy is diminishing. But by how much—and how quickly?

For most of us, this is not a question we are likely to face, though during our lifetime, several coastal settlements will have collapsed into the sea. Headlands such as Orkney's Old Man

of Hoy, which in 1750 was still part of the cliff face, will eventually disintegrate. The point is our islands are getting smaller and that reality has to be understood by those who plan how our land is to be used, inhabited and cultivated. Increasingly unreliable ageing ferries will probably accelerate depopulation.

Around 5500 BC, it appears Britain was still connected to the European continent from about the Wash southwards. In a relatively short terrestrial timescale, land was lost to the North Sea, with the Dogger Bank disappearing under the waves. Small wonder our ancestors migrated to dry land on which to settle—simply to survive.

If one believes that "modern day" climate change will see this process continuing globally, then our planners

need to be taking the issue seriously over food security. Do we have a choice as to whether to build houses on fertile ground or reinforce the need to retain (and expand?) the amount of farmland we have? Houses built on stilts instead of on floodplains is one consideration. One for the politicians at their COP sessions.

Looking at maps produced by historians, while we may be able to accommodate migrants just now, at some distant date, the inhabitants still remaining in this country may need to emigrate. By that time, we could be living in another part of the solar system, using the latest edition of the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* to travel to Earth for our holidays and to explore the lost cities of Atlantis, Venice, Amsterdam—and London!

City Plan 2030

On Thursday 7 November 2024, The City of Edinburgh Council advised that it had adopted the "bold and ambitious" *City Plan 2030* as the new Local Development Plan. This is aimed at producing land for 53,000 new homes.

New developments would incorporate a minimum of 35% affordable houses. Brownfield rather than greenfield land would be promoted for new developments,

Councillor James Dalglish, Planning Convenor said: "The Plan will allow us to adopt policies to strengthen communities and look after the health and wellbeing of

our residents. We'll build neighbourhoods for local living where people can afford to buy or rent their homes, have job opportunities [be able to] walk, or wheel [i.e. travel by wheelchair] to educational and healthcare facilities, enjoy cultural and sporting activities and easily access public transport to visit other parts of Edinburgh.

"We can also take forward policies on student housing which will minimise the number of studio flats, and on larger sites developers will be asked to provide other housing, particularly affordable homes, allowing students to live alongside a mix of other people within communities."

The Council would promote a mixed-use approach for commercial developments.

The Plan will implement environmental policies to tackle and adapt for climate change, protect our green spaces, increase biodiversity, encourage physical and mental wellbeing, reduce flooding and other climate impacts, and improve air quality.

The Plan can be viewed on CEC's website at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cityplan2030>.

In south west Edinburgh, the most obvious elements of the Plan show 188 houses proposed at Curriemuirend Park (HSG31—a site vigorously opposed in 2016), 800 units at Redford Barracks (H85) and 80 Units (mostly built) opposite the Water of Leith Visitor Centre (H75), but no green belt/countryside proposals.

Bonnington Mains Quarry Goes to Appeal

In 1972, we moved to an old house in Currie. At the time, we were unaware that – despite Canmore advising that the Torphin Quarry "went out of use sometime before 1949", occasional blasting occurred there that shook our building, just over half-a-mile away.

So when I read that Breedon Trading were seeking to expand their operations at Bonnington Mains Quarry, Newbridge (under application 24/01146/FUL—see the

October 2024 *C&B News*) it was not difficult to understand why so many people living much closer in Bonnington Village were concerned.

The application was rejected by CEC on Wednesday 18 September. Within three weeks, Breedon Trading lodged an appeal (PPA-230-2541) with the DPEA against the refusal.

The reporter handling the case is Mr Keith Bray BSc. MRTPI. The DPEA's target date for a decision is Monday 30 December 2024.

DPEA Receiving STL Appeals

It is hardly a surprise that with over 4,000 applications for planning permission to operate a Short Term Let (STL) in Edinburgh alone, that the many refused permission would appeal to the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) of the Scottish Government.

The STL legislation introduced in October 2022 has now, unsurprisingly, led to so many people appealing to the DPEA, that it would be strange if the Scottish Government didn't see the need to take action—if only to ensure there were enough reporters, pens and paper to handle the avalanche!

Taking at random an appeal for a property on George IV Bridge, in a short six-page report, the reporter favoured the appellant. The reporter concluded that "There is no indication that the council's short term let control area is intended to be a blanket ban on all short term let use." But the reporter, having inspected the site and given careful consideration to the proposed use of the property in relation to the policy requirements of the development plan, and taking other matters into account, found that in the particular circumstances the proposal accorded, overall, with the relevant provisions of the development plan. The reporter concluded that refusing to grant planning permission could not be justified.

The centre of town is not the only place where people have applied for and been refused short term let permission—there are some in this paper's readership area. Whether or not CEC is effectively operating a blanket ban on all short term let use, reading the Weekly lists, that is what it looks like.

Hopefully somebody has been tasked with the job of appraising the legislation to see if it is solving the problems it was intended to.

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SCOTT ARTHUR MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

NEW OFFICE

Establishing my constituency hub (139 Dundee St, Edinburgh EH11 1BP) and assembling a dedicated team has been a time-consuming process, but I am delighted that we are now able to serve Edinburgh South West.

While I've chosen to be prudent with our staff budget, the current team of five is already making a substantial impact, diligently addressing the overwhelming volume of emails and letters I receive daily.

The team is well-equipped to handle a wide range of casework, from potholes to pension credit applications. **Lucie**, our experienced caseworker, is the primary point of contact for most incoming requests for help. **Salim** specializes in Home Office casework, including passport issues, residents stuck overseas, and immigration matters.

Recognizing that some may be hesitant to seek help, **Hannah** proactively identifies those in need. She has already made significant strides in supporting Currie and Craiglockhart Primary School parents with additional support needs provision and organising a meeting for over 30 heat network users facing increased energy costs.

Solomon ensures that my actions in Parliament align with the needs of our constituency, and is key to progressing my Private Members' Bill on rare cancers. He also drafts responses in order to explain my position on issues, from the climate emergency to Donald Trump.

Finally, **Noel** manages our office operations and coordinates seamless communication within the team.

When I ran for election, I said all I wanted was a chance to serve people and businesses in Edinburgh South West. My office is designed to fulfil that promise in full. My entire staff is committed to serving you right here in the constituency, so please don't hesitate to ask us for help when you need it.



GORDON MACDONALD MSP
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

CHRISTMAS

Many readers will be on a countdown to Christmas with preparations already underway. I'm looking forward to once again attending the Balerno Christmas lights switch-on, which is a great start to the festive period, and I give my thanks to everyone involved, both those behind the scenes who organise it and everyone who participates.

I do not want to detract from what should be a happy time of the year, but the expense of Christmas – coupled with the drop in temperature and an increase in fuel costs – will leave many finding it difficult to make ends meet. In particular many pensioners will be worried about their finances as a result of the cut to the winter fuel payment. The new UK government changed the rules for eligibility and now only those on pension credit will be eligible. It will come as no surprise that I do not agree with this cut which will leave many older people genuinely struggling, which is galling given we live in an energy-rich country. With the change to the rules, it is only right that the UK Government extended the qualifying period to 21 December 2024. I would urge those of state pension age to check their eligibility which they can do at <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator> or you can call the helpline on 0800 99 1234 to ensure those who are eligible are not missing out.

Thanks to the response team at Wester Hailes Police Station for inviting me to accompany them on their Friday backshift, especially the response officers I teamed up with. There was a variety of interesting call outs ranging from persons of concern to suspected break-ins. Despite essential roadworks in the south west of the city, the patrol car managed to blue-light from Wester Hailes to Dalry in a matter of minutes, thanks to the skillful driving of the officer.



SUE WEBBER MSP
LOTHIAN REGION

TROUBLEMAKERS

In recent weeks so much of Edinburgh has been gripped by anti-social behaviour related to Bonfire Night and I'm more convinced than ever that the time has come to call a halt to the open sale of fireworks.

But fireworks are only part of the problem, merely the weapon of choice at this time of year by gangs of youths who seem to delight in terrorising honest, hard-working people. My inbox is full of messages from constituents who feel intimidated in their own homes and neighbourhoods, and I've written about the problem here before.

I went out on patrol with police officers from Wester Hailes and witnessed the frustration of being stuck in traffic jams, unable to respond to alarms raised about groups of teenagers. A firework attack on the Calder Road service station, was the most serious for obvious reasons.

Another man witnessed a brazen raid by another masked gang at the Longstone Sainsbury's store, helping themselves in the booze aisle and making their escape after subjecting staff to extreme aggression and abuse. They were well gone by the time police arrived.

The troublemakers know the police can't cope, and even if we had more officers they'd be stuck in traffic queues caused by lane narrowing and interminable roadworks.

Set aside arguments for tougher sentencing—although these feral gangs have little fear of the law, it makes no difference what happens in the justice system if they cannot be caught. The blame cannot be pointed at overstretched individual officers operating at breaking point, but police need the resources to do the job we expect.

When people cannot pick up groceries from their local supermarket without the risk of encountering violent thieves, then something has gone badly wrong.



CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

ROADS!

Some people may have noticed roadworks that yet again felt like an eternity to complete. Of course, I'm referring to the new traffic light signals and extended pavements at the junction of Bridge Road and Lanark Road West in Balerno.

While I was aware of a traffic light upgrade, I was not made aware of the narrowing of the roads and the extended pavements. CEC did not consult with me, Balerno Community Council or indeed local residents. I will have to admit that I find this extremely disappointing. I'm not convinced these works will make this junction any safer when double decker buses need to make a left turn off Bridge road or when vehicles turn left into the village from the east where they may clip the kerb and put a pedestrian at risk of being hit. Of course, there will be more traffic delays thus causing more pollution as well.

Recently, I was made aware about concerns of the lack of white lining for parking bays next to the playpark outside Dean Park Primary School, and to ask for more bollards as well to set down on the pavement areas, which are not for cars. Concerns were also raised about the safety of school children crossing Bavelaw Road at the junction with Bridge Road, and whether pedestrian lights could be installed. I will follow up to see what is possible going forward.

I have also asked for Riccarton Mains Road in Currie to be looked at yet again for resurfacing. The roads in Edinburgh are surveyed each year and, from the data received, CEC determines which roads are included for resurfacing in the coming financial year.

Lastly, it was a pleasure to be invited to the launch of Edinburgh's Christmas 2024 and join the official "switch on" of the Norwegian Christmas Tree on the Mound a few weeks ago. On that theme, may I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for the 2025!



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CLLR NEIL GARDINER
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

LOCAL UPDATES

A City of Edinburgh Council "Living Landscapes" officer attended Currie Community Council in October to discuss open spaces maintenance. Hearing concerns, he returned with maps in November so locals could identify areas of concern and make suggestions, including areas for children to play and planting. It was agreed a 'Friends' group (a CCC sub-committee) should represent residents views.

At October's meeting parents expressed concern about an "internal" education department 45-day staff consultation about additional learning support Inclusion Review. Altering provision for children with support needs could have significant wider impact should teachers become overstretched. Hearing concerns, I informed colleagues. Thereafter our group successfully brought a council motion: with excellent deputations from CCHS and other concerned parents, we eventually persuaded other parties, ensuring our motion passed. This means parents can have better input, and proposals must now come to committee, so councillors make any strategic decisions.

Balerno residents have raised serious concerns about congestion delays, through installation of new traffic lights at the Lanark Road West junction. Balerno Community Council is extremely disappointed about lack of engagement. I've raised this matter with senior officers.

At Blinkbonny, Roseberry Estates responded to resident concerns about flooding issues and will carry out works, although not exactly what residents had suggested. I'll monitor progress, staying in touch with locals and estate.

Following years of consultation, development of proposals, approvals processes, CEC adopted City Plan 2030 on 7 November. I also supported the refusal of a planning application for a new house at Woodlea, defending the important Green Belt policy restricting development in the countryside.



CLLR FIONA GLASGOW
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

DECEMBER UPDATE

It's been a busy month with some amazing things to do, including a bit of Christmas shopping at the craft fair in Ogston Hall and the Balerno Farmers' Market. I had the chance to hear about the ideas being discussed by the Balerno Village Trust who are looking into the possible use of the old Balerno police station. If you have a suggestion please let them know. As a community resource it is important that local people become involved in the future of the building.

The next day I had the great pleasure of attending the Remembrance Sunday Event at the City Chambers: it was a privilege to lay a wreath on behalf of the families and friends of those lost on HMT Lancastria. My uncle served in the army and died in service over 40 years ago, a poignant experience remembering him and all those others lost.

I attended the Balerno High School Wider Achievement Evening, a magnificent event organised and presented by the pupils. There was an array of amazing achievements, highlighting the school values of resilience, excellence, respect and inclusion. Chris Duncan, head coach of the National Women's Hockey Team, gave an inspiring speech and there was music from Balerno and District Schools Pipe Band, as well as a beautiful performance by two young female pupils and the Ceilidh Band. Mr Blair, the very new deputy head teacher, also took on his first public task and what an amazing introduction to the wider community he had.

I am writing this article after meeting one of Currie Community High School's students, who is doing her Duke of Edinburgh Award and volunteered in a litter pick along with Wester Hailes Community Action group. We are a group of volunteers who get together to improve the local area and we would be happy to join other groups in the Pentland Hills Ward who want to do similar activities! You can find us on Facebook!



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LESSONS LEARNED?

Recent experience in Balerno with the A70 junction Upgrade at Bridge Road poses real questions about the relationship between the City of Edinburgh Council and the local community.

It would be unfair if criticism of CEC were to be our default position in every situation; but it is absolutely fair to hold them to account for avoidable failures.

Little if anything was known about the roadworks at Bridge Road in advance of commencement. Neither residents nor Balerno Community Council were consulted; and local City Councillors also appear to have been kept in the dark. CEC says constantly that it is listening to residents but, in the case of the Bridge Road works, that has been far from obvious. CEC's apparent failure to discuss what was intended prompted considerable anger.

The road works were "High Impact" involving a "major junction layout upgrade", extending over a month's work; they were bound to cause significant disruption. Local reaction extends well beyond the immediate disruption to traffic, to include safety implications of the new junction layout and the overall efficacy of that layout.

BCC's role is to communicate residents' concerns and to hold CEC to account; that job is more difficult when the community council and the community at large are kept in the dark. CEC's failure to ensure that people knew the "what" and "why" of the road works seems, at the very least, dismissive of community opinion; it also undermines local democracy.

The burden of ensuring a proper dialogue between CEC and the community lies with the local authority. We can hope their failures in communication will not be repeated in 2025, although experience is not encouraging. CEC's failure begs the question whether they realise what is at stake.

Meanwhile, Happy Christmas, to all, from Balerno Community Council.



DR KEITH JAMES SYMINGTON
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ROUNDING OFF 2024

The last Currie Community Council meeting of the year was a busy one. The number of agenda items has grown steadily over the year and attendance has been good.

Stephen McGregor from "Living Landscapes" was back with updates on where grass had been cut and bulbs are being planted in advance of spring. As promised, maps were supplied that outlined cutting, planting and maintenance strategies in particular areas. Unfortunately, the amount of detailed discussion required was beyond what was possible in the meeting, so it was resolved that a sub-committee be set up to actively look at each area in detail (and fill in any blanks).

The group is called "Currie Green Spaces" and they are actively looking for community input which they will collate and communicate to the landscaping teams. It is difficult for the community to get what it wants when it's not communicated, so please do send your ideas to curriergreenspaces@yahoo.com along with a map pin so we can identify the area.

Youth antisocial behaviour was discussed with reports of e-bikes tearing around the community, riders dressed in black with faces obscured. The police are stretched to the extremes, but aware, so please do report any incidents on 999 if urgent, or 101 if not.

Good news was reported with the proposed December cuts for third sector organisations via Edinburgh IJB given a three-month reprieve. For the moment it has delayed the inevitable, but it does give them extra time to find funding elsewhere.

All that remains is to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when it comes. Do come and see our Christmas tree entry at the Balerno Christmas Tree festival on the 14 December; with a bit of luck, our entry will get your vote!

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TOM McDONALD
COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

THREE CONCERNS

Three items dominated our recent meeting:
Crime Prevention: Thanks to PC Sam Campbell of Police Scotland for her presentation on techniques and products available to help keep premises and valuables secure. Sam's contacts are on our website.

An Over-Mighty Servant?: Our community council is still trying (through our local councillor) to arrange a meeting to review bin positions in Spylaw Street with the relevant senior official. Despite established Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council policies on local involvement and consultation, regularly and loudly proclaimed in Council documents, we are facing reluctance to the point of intransigence. Consequently, by the time this goes to press, Colinton Community Council may have lodged a formal complaint.

Landslips: After four years of delay, CEC deserve congratulations on the speed and efficiency of the works to stabilise the landslip at Dell Road and reopen access there to the Water of Leith Walkway. Originally costs were reported as too expensive, so CEC's implemented solution is a temporary measure—only expected to last around 20 years! One wonders how many other delayed projects might benefit from "temporary" solutions?

The path from Gillespie Road to the WoLW, affected by another significant landslide, is privately owned, but that is no excuse for inaction by CEC. Inspection suggests the soil is not cohesive and susceptible to progressive erosion towards the bus stop in winter conditions, potentially endangering traffic and individuals on Gillespie Road. We will seek an immediate inspection and professional report from CEC's engineers to assess the risks.

Our final CC meeting of 2024 will be in-person in Colinton Bowling Club, at 7:30pm on Tuesday 10 December, with seasonal drinks and nibbles. We'll be happy to meet anyone considering taking an active part in their local community.



WINTER CRAFTINESS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY KATIE

What brings lightness into these darker days and colder months for me is making things. Given the wealth of seasonal crafting traditions it seems there must be some age-old wisdom in this.

Exploring for clippings to make into a wreath for the door I feel like a child on a treasure hunt. This year has seen a bounty of red holly berries which brightens a wreath beautifully, but I gather whatever catches my eye each year so that after some time spent twisting the cuttings together on the living room floor the wreath never looks traditional but always feels like a celebration of what is growing locally.

I've also come to love making Christmas cards and it's with joy that I can look back over the last few year's designs. As I don't manage to keep in touch much anymore, I take my time writing a little personal love and snippet of news into each card. Rushing any part of this loses all pleasure, so I start this months ahead!

A few Christmases ago I suggested to my small circle of friends that we exchange handmade decorations instead of gifts. As well as saving loads of money and stress it means that decorating the tree each year is delightfully full of quirky reminders of love.

Of all the craftiness though, craftiest of all is how I'm slowly making traditions that are joyful, meaningful and more manageable, bringing connection to the people and places around me rather than being full of the pressures that this time of year can otherwise bring. Crafty, huh!

Life Lines

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Christmas Concert in Colinton

MARGARET KIERAN
COLINTON & MERCHISTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

We warmly invite you to get into the festive spirit early by joining the Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir for our Christmas Concert at 8pm on Monday 9 December, in the Memorial Hall at Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road. Tickets £10 (£5 for under-18s) available from choir members or at the door which opens at 7.30pm. (Cash only.)

We will be singing the beautiful *A Light in the Stable* by Alan Bullard, which tells the Christmas story through a blend of original settings and well known carols, with some audience participation. The audience will also be invited to sing other carols.

NEW YEAR, NEW SONGS

If you would like to see what it would be like to sing with us, please come along to our Open Rehearsal in the Memorial Hall on Monday 6 January, between 7pm and 9pm. You don't need to have any experience at all of choral singing and there will be no pressure or commitment to join.

We will be learning Extracts from Handel's *Messiah* to perform at our Spring Concert with our enthusiastic and inspiring Director of Music Tim Coleman and our excellent Accompanist, the well known Morley Whitehead.

We rehearse in the Memorial Hall on Monday evenings from 7.15pm to 9 pm. It's not a problem if you can't be there for the start or have to leave a bit early.

As always, we thank Merchiston Castle School for the use of the Memorial Hall and the school's music library.

• **Christmas Concert at 8pm, Monday 9 December, in the Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School. Tickets £10 (£5 for under-18s) available from choir members or at the door, which opens from 7.30pm—cash only.**

• **Visit: www.colintonchoir.org or our Facebook page.**



Big Noise Wester Hailes Performs with RSNO

RYAN HARLEY
PR & PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSISTANT, SISTEMA SCOTLAND

Young people from a community music and social change programme in Edinburgh recently took part in a unique concert alongside the world-renowned Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO).

A total of 32 young musicians from Big Noise Wester Hailes, all aged between seven and nine, performed side-by-side with the RSNO at Edinburgh's Usher Hall on Friday 1 November.

The joint orchestra, led by the RSNO's music director Thomas Søndergård, performed "Mission Mars" and "Enchanted Carousel", both by Joelle Broad.

The concert gave the young participants an opportunity to play alongside accomplished professional musicians as part of Scotland's national orchestra, while demonstrating their musical skill to friends and family.

Big Noise is a high-quality music education and social change programme, which launched in Raploch in 2008. It sees children and young people learn music after school, creating a community symphony orchestra which supports them in gaining vital life skills such as confidence, resilience, creativity, and aspiration.

There are now six centres supporting almost 4,000 children and young people across Scotland, including Raploch and Fallin in Stirling, Govanhill in Glasgow, Douglas in Dundee, Torry in Aberdeen, and Wester Hailes in Edinburgh.

Big Noise is designed to strengthen the communities where it is based, developing relationships with participants and their families based on mutual respect, trust and a commitment to working together and tackling inequalities for the long term.

Stewart Wilson, head of centre at Big Noise Wester Hailes, said: "We are incredibly proud of the outstanding performance by our young musicians alongside the RSNO. This has been the culmination of months of hard work from our young people, and we're all delighted to have seen them perform on one of the country's biggest stages."

"Witnessing the dedication and hard work of our young people come to fruition on such a prestigious stage fills us with immense pride and

reinforces the profound impact of music in their lives.

"I'd like to thank the RSNO for its continuing partnership with Big Noise Wester Hailes, and with the Big Noise programmes across Scotland, which has provided an incredible opportunity for our talented young musicians and the rest of the Wester Hailes community. I'd also like to thank the parents and carers for all their support and to our partner schools."

Andy Stevenson, RSNO director of engagement, added: "The young people from Big Noise Wester Hailes were fantastic in their performance with the RSNO, and particularly impressive as they are the youngest group we perform alongside."

"Our side-by-side experiences with Big Noise are real highlights of the RSNO season and build special connections within the orchestra, young people and their schools, families and friends."

"We look forward to working together with Sistema Scotland across their other centres in the coming months."

Amnesty Igdinedion, whose daughter Osasuyi (aged 7, below), played cello in the concert with the RSNO said: "The concert was absolutely fantastic, it was an amazing opportunity for the kids to play with professionals on the big stage—and it gave them all a huge boost!"

"Big Noise has been fantastic for Clovenstone and for my kids. They both love music, and Osasuyi is always practicing her cello at home. I can only imagine how amazing their performances will be in the next three or four years—it's something we really look forward to."



Christmas Carol Celebration Returns to Heriot-Watt University

CRAIG PHILIP
MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER, HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

If you're looking to embrace the magic of the festive season, Heriot-Watt has the perfect event for you.

The University's beloved annual Christmas Carol Celebration returns to the Edinburgh campus on Friday, 13 December, from 6.45pm. Held in the heartwarming atmosphere of the James Watt Centre, this event promises an unforgettable evening of music and cheer.



Above, left to right: Andrew Blair, Imogen Stirling and Kirsty Logan

Live Literature Events at the Hub@531

ANNETTE WILSON
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER HUB@531

During October and November, the Hub@531 in Juniper Green hosted and supported four "Live Literature" events, partnering with local schools to welcome some fabulous Scottish writers along for four exciting and different creative workshops!

Our first visitor was Andrew Blair – journalist, poet and podcaster – who offered an engaging talk to Journalism classes from Currie CHS and Forrester HS entitled "Write What You Care About". Andrew encouraged his audience to find creative ways to share their message, and to find topics about which they can feel passionate and engaged, potentially over many months or years if they decide to create a podcast about a specialist interest.

Imogen Stirling is an experienced performance poet, and she shared some creative processes with a group of students from Currie CHS, encouraging them to produce their own group piece of poetry in a fun session. Kirsty Logan, meantime, specialises

in writing creepy, slightly supernatural stories for young people and she led an engaging session about descriptive writing that uses all the senses to create atmosphere and the unexpected.

Finally, we arranged for children's author Nadine Aisha-Jassat to visit Juniper Green Primary school, where she entertained P5, P6 and P7 pupils with excerpts from her books in a fun assembly.

All our sessions were part funded by Scottish Book Trust and supported by donation from C&B News. The team at the Hub@531 were delighted to receive funding, and thoroughly enjoyed working with our local schools to bring these events to young people in our communities.

• *The Hub@531 is run by local charity, Pentlands Community Space, and we always welcome donations of any size to help us continue to offer free and low cost groups and activities.*

• *Contact hub@531lanarkroad@gmail.com*



Enjoy a pitch-perfect performance of festive carols by members of the University Choir accompanied by the University Orchestra with complimentary mince pies and mulled wine available beforehand.

Matthew Brown, Heriot-Watt's Director of Music, shared his excitement: "The Christmas Carol Celebration is a highlight of our year, bringing together the community to share in the joy and beauty of the season through music. We can't wait to welcome you and make this a truly memorable evening."

Mark your calendars and enjoy an enchanting evening of festive cheer.

• **Tickets are FREE and can be secured through Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/5cvtvcvp> Early booking is strongly recommended to guarantee your spot and avoid disappointment.**

Pentland Singers—Not One Concert, but Many!

KIRSTY HEADDEN
PENTLAND SINGERS



The Pentland Singers are packing up the sleigh, donning their Santa hats and embarking on a festive tour of "C&B Newsland" this December!

In honour of our recent 40th birthday celebrations, and in the spirit of being a true community choir, we want to share the joy of singing with as many local people as possible.

We start the season in style with an appearance at Currie Community Centre's Christmas Fayre on 1 December, where we will be filling the air with a joyful

mix of traditional carols and Christmas favourites from 2pm.

The jewel in the crown is our annual Christmas concert, which this year will be taking place across two different venues—so there's no excuse for missing it!

Our theme is "A Great British Christmas Concert", featuring

music from across the British Isles—with traditional favourites, lesser-known gems and a good old-fashioned carol singalong, we hope there'll be something for everyone. The singing will be followed by mince pies, a baking and craft stall, and the chance to win a prize from our local sponsors, Pentland Hills Gin!

The concerts take place on Wednesday 4 December in Currie Kirk and Tuesday 10 December in Balerno Parish Church, both starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale now.

Finally, we round off the festive season in style in Juniper Green, performing at The Hub @531 on Tuesday 17 December.

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To enter, please scan or photograph the completed puzzle and email it to: editor@candbnews.com before noon, Friday 17 January 2025.

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

Good luck everyone!

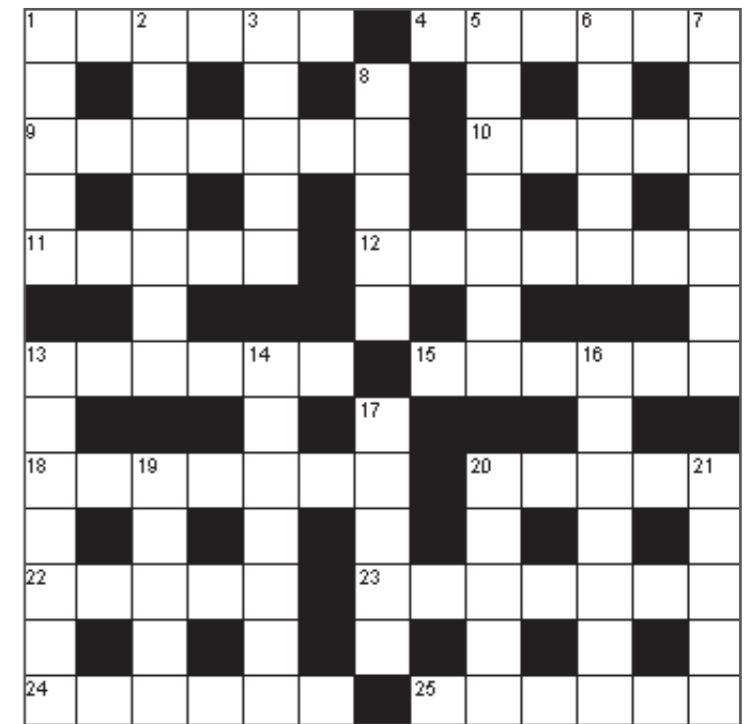
ACROSS

1. Plaid. (6)
4. Inveigle. (6)
9. Plane figure with straight sides. (7)
10. Publish. (5)
11. Creep. (5)
12. Plant with prickly-edged leaves. (7)
13. Schedule. (6)
15. Despot. (6)
18. Producing a sensation of touch. (7)
20. Investigation. (5)
22. Performed. (5)
23. Gathered together in large numbers. (7)
24. Objective. (6)
25. Formal proposal to buy. (6)

DOWN

1. Subject. (5)
2. Let go. (7)
3. Investor in theatrical production. (5)
5. Nimbleness. (7)
6. Beginning or early stages. (5)
7. Best environment for a plant or animal. (7)
8. Become one. (5)
13. Draw in. (7)
14. Diminish. (7)
16. Kept away from. (7)
17. Impart skills or knowledge. (5)
19. Supply food ready to eat. (5)
20. Provide evidence for. (5)
21. Type of duck. (5)

NOTES



NAME

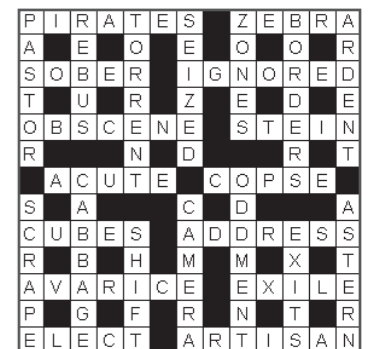
ADDRESS

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.

NOVEMBER 2024 WINNER!

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



EASY				MEDIUM				HARD			
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What's On

DECEMBER

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

NOTE: While accurate at the time of going to press, weekly schedules may yet be interrupted during the festive period. Please check with organisers for further details.

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.

• **MONDAY MORNING POP IN CAFÉ:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. Community Cafe—come for a cuppa every Monday morning. Monday 16 December is our last cafe before Christmas. Join us for a mince pie tasting (taste and rate a variety of mince pies!) and a fun festive quiz! Donations welcomed but not required.

• **MONDAY MAHJONG PRACTISE:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10am - noon. Join our regulars, any experience level is welcome, newcomers can watch and learn and join in when you feel ready—the tile game is like rummy with layers of complexity but easy to start!

• **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

each Monday to enjoy a guided relaxation to calm the mind and ease stress. No booking required - please drop in.

• **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. Stories and songs for babies and toddlers. Meet other parents/carers for friendship, peer support and share a cuppa. Lovely warm and welcoming space.

• **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 CAFES

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

• **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.

• **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 07917878955. Follow Balerno Ramblers on Facebook.

• **PENTLANDS SPORTING MEMORIES CLUB:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 1.30pm - 3pm. Pentland Sporting Memories—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 Rd West; 7pm - 9pm. Contact Claire Maloney: 07999 410721

THURSDAYS

• **NEW ACCESSIBLE YOGA COMMUNITY CLASS:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2.45pm-3.45pm. NEW Accessible Yoga community class (free / donation welcome) Join experienced yoga teacher Bijam who offers a fully accessible class, suitable to anyone including wheelchair users or those with chronic health conditions who may find benefit from gentle exercise, breathwork and meditation.

• **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 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

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>

SATURDAYS

• **HYPNOTHERAPY GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2 - 3.30. JANUARY ONLY from 4th - Hypnotherapy Group with Lloyd Robinson - support for better mental health by understanding how the mind works - FREE, all welcome (booking optional)

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@balenoramblers.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

Mental Health and Wellbeing



Relaxed social events with informative and engaging short talks with a mental health and wellbeing focus, and opportunity to ask questions, discuss with others and socialise. Tea, coffee, juice, biscuits and fruit will be available.

Monday 2nd December 7pm - The Joy of Board Games! Playing games is fun and sociable, but did you know it can have a positive impact to our mental health too? Join us for an evening of sociable and fun, simple board games - no skill or previous experience needed - it's just a chance to have a go and meet some new people.

Monday 9th December 7pm - Writing for Mental Health Interactive session to explore ways in which writing can improve mental health and wellbeing, led by David Ford. David is a local author, with experience in writing and publishing short stories, as well as being a creative writing educator.

JANUARY - we're planning to host a regular peer support group at the Hub in the New Year. If this is something you would be interested in, please email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com



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VACANCY Café Supervisor Required



Balerno Parish church's initiative -The Mill Café is a thriving community café for all in the centre of Balerno which is open 4 days-a-week and on the monthly Farmers' Market Saturdays. It is staffed mainly by volunteers working with a small staff team. The Mill Café is 12 years old. Positions rarely come up making this a wonderful opportunity for someone to work locally.
Café Supervisor - Tuesday 8am-3.30pm (7.5 hours) and a share of Farmers market Saturdays
This position will have the opportunity for additional hours as we move into March next year.

Your main responsibilities will be:

- To work with Mill volunteers and other staff to maintain a pleasant and efficient working environment that provides a high standard of service to all Mill customers.
 - To prepare food from the menu, bake scones and cakes.
- To maintain a clean and safe working environment in line with relevant legislation and The Mill House Rules.
 - To be able to cover all café roles in the café environment to support the volunteer team.
 - In consultation with the café manager, ensure stock levels are monitored and maintained.
 - To ensure that all daily kitchen records are maintained accurately and appropriately.
- To ensure that goods received are in accordance with required standards and stored correctly ensuring stock rotation is maintained.
 - To highlight any equipment deficiencies to The Mill Manager in a timely manner.
 - To deputise for other Mill staff when required.
 - In consultation with the Mill manager, to suggest changes to the menu.
- To work with The Café manager to maximize The Mill's opportunities within the community and to encourage new volunteers.
 - To minimize wastage within the Café and to work with a respect for our Eco and Fair Trade principles.

We would expect you to:

- Have a REHIS Elementary food hygiene certificate or be willing to work towards it
 - PVG scheme enrolment (protecting vulnerable groups)
 - Have excellent inter-personal skills.
 - Cover holiday periods with other staff
- Open and close the café securely (key holder role)

Send CV with appropriate qualifications and relevant experience to:-
The Mill Café manager:- Lynsey Inglis themillatstjosephs@gmail.com. Closing date for applications: - 31/01/25

We reserve the right to offer the position to the right person should they come along earlier.
Balerno Parish Church has been accredited as a real Living Wage Employer

FORTNIGHTLY

ALTERNATE MONDAYS

• **FORGET ME NOTES GROUP:** St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, 2pm-4pm. Sing and socialise with old friends and new. Followed by refreshments. For more details, contact: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com

ALTERNATE THURSDAYS

• **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.

ALTERNATE FRIDAYS

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

ALTERNATE SATURDAYS

• **FREE ART & CHAT:** Currie Library, 210 Lanark Road West; 10.30am - 11.30am. An opportunity to practice 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

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER

• **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE:** Currie Community Centre, 280 Lanark Road West; 12pm - 4pm. Fun for all the family: 30+ stalls from local crafters, artists and businesses; meet Santa Claus, face painting, tombola stall, Community for Food, cafe serving hot drinks. Performances from Forth Valley Chorus, The Pentland Singers and Razzamatat Theatre School.

MONDAY 2 DECEMBER

• **CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY,** Gibson Craig Hall, Currie, (back hall); 7.30 pm. "Railways in East Lothian" presented by Kenneth Williamson. See <https://www.curriehistory.org/>

• **THE JOY OF BOARD GAMES!:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; Time TBC. A mixture of board games to gently challenge and an opportunity to learn new fun games and meet other people. Relaxed social events with informative and engaging short talks with a mental health and wellbeing focus. Tea, coffee, juice, biscuits and fruit will be available. Booking essential. Visit <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

• **COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: On Zoom; 8pm.** "Robert Baird - Edwardian photographer," by Bruce Jamieson. For more information visit <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER

• **BALERNO SWI: Balerno Community Centre; 7.30pm.** A "Christmas"-themed Tramp Supper.

EDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER

• **PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB:** Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am. "Bletchley Park Exposed," an illustrated talk by Derek Douglas. 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 on the work of the St Vincent De Paul Society by Aeongus McCarthy. All welcome.

• **A GREAT BRITISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Currie Kirk, Kirkgate; 7.30pm. Join the Pentland Singers and Pentland Junior Singers for a festive delight. Tickets: £12 (kids under 13 free). Visit: pentlandsingers.org.uk

• **THE 'LIT', COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY: Dregghorn Loan Hall, Colinton; 7.30pm for 8pm start.** Tonight: Buffet Supper with musical entertainment provided by the Glencairn Ensemble.

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER

• **BALERNO MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTS: 6.45pm.** Switch-on of Christmas Tree and light display lights, around 6.45pm, featuring Dean Park Primary School choir and Balerno & District Schools Pipe Band. Note: switch-on of the "Rotary Tree of Life" by Santa Claus, in the Balerno Parish Church garden is at 6.30pm.

• **CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7.30pm - 9pm.** Base materials will be supplied for £5 pp, but you can bring along your own accessories and foliage if you wish. Booking is essential and only confirmed once your payment has been received. Visit <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER

• **GARDENING GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon.** Our group will be making festive table decorations using foliage and materials you bring along.

• **CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2pm - 4pm.**

Base materials will be supplied for £5 pp, but you can bring along your own accessories and foliage if you wish. This event is suitable for adults and young people over 12 years. Booking is essential and only confirmed once your payment has been received. Visit <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER

• **CURRIE KIRK BEREAVEMENT SERVICE; 11am-2pm.** The church will be open from for a quiet time of reflection away from the busyness of Christmas. There will be a short reflective service taking place at 12.30pm. Refreshments will be served.

MONDAY 9 DECEMBER

• **MENS MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING : the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7-9pm.** Join local author David Ford who will share tips for using writing to support your mental health. Visit <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

• **CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School; 7.30pm (for 8pm).** The Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir invites you to get into the Christmas Spirit and to celebrate the beginning of the Festive Season. More info: www.colintonchoir.org

• **COLINTON GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY: Colinton Bowling Club, Redford Road; 8pm - 10pm.** For more details, email: info@colintongardens.org.uk

TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER

• **A GREAT BRITISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Balerno Parish Church, Main Street; 7.30pm.** Join the Pentland Singers and Pentland Junior Singers for a festive delight. Tickets: £12 (kids under 13 free). Visit: pentlandsingers.org.uk

THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER

• **CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK: "The Shed", Spylaw Park, Colinton; 5.30pm - 7.30pm.** You are most cordially invited to wend your way - via Colinton's Spylaw Street, or West Mill Road - down the path to the Shed, through our

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A HELPING HAND
HOME BASED SUPPORT FOR THE ELDERLY

>p43

illuminated stalls to Santa's fairy-lit grotto in its magical setting. Remember to dress up warmly. <https://www.facebook.com/ColintonVillageEnterprise>

• FESTIVE FIZZ FUNDRAISER: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7:30pm - 10pm. Join us for a fun-filled social event at the Hub. Sparkling wine tasting with a twist - the bottles will be hidden! Ticketed (£28 pp) and spaces limited - please book asap. Visit <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER

• CHRISTMAS CAROL CELEBRATION: James Watt Centre, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton; 7:30pm. The University extends a warm invitation to everyone to join in and appreciate the Christmas spirit with our orchestra and choir. Free tickets available on Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/5cvtvcvp>

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER:

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

• BALERNO CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: Ogston Hall; 10am - 1pm. Vote for your favourite tree!

• CHRISTMAS TEA: St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue; 2.30pm - 4pm. Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea with a Christmas theme. Tickets £10 in aid of church funds. Email: stcuthbertsevents@gmail.com

• CONCERT FOR CHRISTMAS: Balerno Parish Church; 7:30pm. The Broxburn & Livingston Brass Band return. Tickets £10 (children £5) on sale via Church Office.

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER

• COLINTON ORCHESTRA WINTER CONCERT: Polwarth Parish Church; 7:30pm. Entry by donation (suggested £8) Refreshments served during the interval.

MONDAY 16 DECEMBER

• CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Gibson Craig Hall, Currie, (back hall); 7:30pm. "Establishments and

Emporiums of Edinburgh's Past" presented by Jackie Sangster. For further details see <https://www.curriehistory.org/>

• COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Dreghorn Loan Hall; 8pm. Society Christmas social. For more information visit <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER

• FESTIVE DOORS OPEN WITH THE PENTLAND SINGERS: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 4pm - 6pm. Join us for some festive cheer with carol singing, musical guests, mulled wine and mince pies. All very welcome. Visit <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com



MONDAY 6 JANUARY

• COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Dreghorn Loan Hall; 8pm. Robert Yates and Donald Adamson will speak about "The Coalmine in the Sea - the Moat Pit at Culross". For more information visit: <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY

• PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB: Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am. "Building the Wet Internet," an illustrated talk by Rod Seville. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

MONDAY 13 JANUARY

• SMOOTHIE MAKING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. Our Monday cafe reopens after the festive break and we're starting 2025 with a healthy glow! Join us to make your own fruit smoothie. We'll supply the fruit and other ingredients and you can try out your own recipe! Visit <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

• CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, Gibson Craig Hall, Currie, (back hall); 7:30pm. "Thomas Muir (the advocate transported in 1793 for sedition)" presented by Eric Melvin. For further details see <https://www.curriehistory.org/>

WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY

• "THE LIT" (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall; 7:30pm. "Gallipoli." Brigadier Ian Gardiner explains this crucial battle of the First World War. For more information visit <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

• MONTHLY CRAFTING - GLASS PAINTING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7:30pm - 9:30pm. Bring along a glass item you would like to paint and we will supply other materials including paints, pens and some inspiring ideas for your own designs. Tea, coffee and nibbles are provided. Free of charge but we welcome your optional donation. Booking essential. Visit <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

FRIDAY 17 JANUARY

MONTHLY CRAFTING - GLASS PAINTING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2.30pm - 4.30pm. Suitable for all ages - children are welcome but under 12s must be accompanied and supervised. Bring along a glass item you would like to paint and we will supply other materials including paints, pens and some inspiring ideas for your own designs. Free of charge but we welcome your optional donation. Booking essential. Visit <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAY 20 JANUARY

• COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Dreghorn Loan Hall, EH13 0DE; 8pm. Andy Arthurwill speak about "The History of Rockville House (Redhall)". For more information visit <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY

• PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB: Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am. "Henry Ford and I," an illustrated talk by Peter Murgatroyd. New members welcome. Further enquiries from

Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

• "THE LIT" (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall, EH13 0DE; 7:30pm. "Roots of the Reformation." Will Sanders takes a close look at the establishment of Protestantism in Scotland in the 16th century. For more information visit <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

MONDAY 27 JANUARY

CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Gibson Craig Hall, Currie, (back hall); 7:30pm. "The Shetland Bus" presented by Kath Hay. For further details see: <https://www.curriehistory.org/>

• COLINTON GARDEN CLUB, MEMBERS' MEETING: Dreghorn Loan Hall; 8pm - 9.30pm. For more details, email: info@colingtongardens.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY

"THE LIT" (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall; 7:30pm. "Burns in context." David Dow and the Dovecot singers explore the life and times of Scotland's national poet. For more information visit <http://www.colinton-parish.com/colinton-literary-society.html>

• MUIR PATH IMPROVEMENT PUBLIC DROP IN SESSION: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 6pm - 8pm. Juniper Green & Baberton Mains and Currie Community Councils have recently appointed a consultant team, funded through Paths for All's Ian Findlay Path Fund, to develop a design to improve the "muddy path" between Bloomiehall Park and Muir Wood Road. Come along and share your views on design options with the consultant team.

THURSDAY 30 JANUARY

• MUIR PATH IMPROVEMENT PUBLIC DROP IN SESSION: Gibson Craig Hall, 142 Lanark Road West; 2pm - 4pm. Juniper Green & Baberton Mains and Currie Community Councils have recently appointed a consultant team to develop a design to improve the "muddy path" between Bloomiehall Park and Muir Wood Road. Come along and share your views on design options with the consultant team.



Charity Football Match is an Autumn Thriller

ROSS COWE
CRY FUNDRAISER & CHRISTOPHER'S DAD

A big thank you to everyone who come along to support the teams at the third annual Christopher Cowe Community Shield game at the Oriam, on Sunday 10 November.

A real back and forth encounter saw the game finish at five goals apiece with Balerno Class of 2023 at various stages 1-0, 3-1 and 5-3 up, only to be pegged back each time by the Currie Class of 2023 team. The teams decided that they wanted the match decided by a penalty shoot out rather than share the shield, just to add to the drama and Currie ultimately came out victorious winning the match 4-3.

The crowd of supporters enjoyed great entertainment but, as always, the real winner was friendship and it was great to see the lads coming together to celebrate the life of their great pal Christopher, who would have been very proud of them all.

Big thanks also to Findlay McInnes – and eagle-eyed Sophie Caldwell – who saved the day at the last

minute by responding to an early-morning SOS to be our referee for the day. Thank you both! Thanks also to Brogan and Neve for being our glamorous assistants, helping with the raffle money and gathering in donations and handing out team sheets.

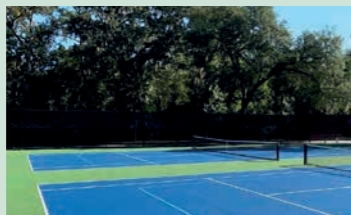
We are delighted to announce that we raised a further £400 which has been donated to the Christopher Cowe Memorial Fund through Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). Well done to the raffle winner, local legend John Henderson. We're delighted the prize went to a great supporter, not only of Hearts but also the work we do to raise money for CRY in the local area.

We will have a fundraising break until the New Year but have plans for further activities during 2025, which will include the Kiltwalk and football match. We will also have our second heart screening event for young people (14 - 35 years old) in the local area, on the weekend of 21-22 June—registration details will follow in April.

Our thanks and best wishes to all for a peaceful festive season. We can't do all this without you, so thanks to the local community for your steadfast love and support. It really is so much appreciated.

Good News for JGTC

PAUL MURPHY
CHAIR, JUNIPER GREEN TENNIS CLUB



macadam-based playing surfaces which will support all-weather and all-year-round play for the first time in the club's 133 year history.

Once all the pending formal agreements between the LTA, CEC (who own the premises) and JGTC have been signed off, planning can start with the designated contractor for a start and target completion date. We will share these details with our

neighbours as soon as they are confirmed. With a bit of luck everything could be in place for our traditional annual opening around the start of April 2025.

On behalf of everyone with a connection with JGTC, we would like express our deep appreciation for all the financial support and words of encouragement from the local community, which has enabled the club to clear the first and undoubtedly the most challenging obstacle of raising the requisite funds to join and benefit from the LTA Park Tennis Project.

• Email: junipergreentennis@gmail.com



An Anniversary Year to Remember at Currie Bowling Club

DEAN FLEMING
SOCIAL CONVENOR, CURRIE BOWLING CLUB

During 2024 Currie Bowling Club celebrated its 150th anniversary, with various events marking the occasion throughout the year—including an invitation rink competition where we invited various clubs to play against Currie, including Mayfield Bowling Club, which also celebrated their 150th anniversary

during 2024.

There was a family fun day on Saturday 20 July – with face-painting, a pop-up village for kids and also a bouncy castle – which was very well attended by the local community and members. We also received a lot of donations from local businesses and members for our raffle, for which we are extremely grateful.

We also had the official opening of our petanque pistes where local dignitaries and East Lothian petanque club attended. Currie Bowling Club would like to thank Ian Merriman, of Hand painted Kitchens, for his generous donation which made the development of the petanque pistes possible.

There was also a Ceilidh/Dance on 30 November as part of our celebrations.

GAME ON

On Saturday 14 September we held our annual “invitation” Triples competition which consisted of 24 teams (72 players). After a full day of bowling it came down to six players: Joyce Campbell, Alan Trotter, Andrew Neill, Rab Hain, Andy McKendrick and David Hill.

This year's competition was won by Andy McKendrick, Rab Hain and David Hill.

The conclusion of our outdoor season for 2024 took place on Saturday 20 September.

On Saturday 19 October we held our annual presentation of prizes to celebrate the clubs achievements, internally and externally, throughout the season.

We would like to congratulate all our internal finalists and

winners for 2024 and to all that entered competitions and have represented the club throughout the year.

The Singles Champions for 2024 were Graham Fergus and Joyce Campbell.

LOOKING BACK

It has been a very successful year on the bowling front externally for Currie, with the Men's section winning Division 3 of the Edinburgh Bowling Association—they will now play in division 2 in 2025.

Graham Fergus also won the West Edinburgh senior singles, while the Ladies section have had a fantastic season too, winning the Scottish District 15 Singles, the Edinburgh Bowling

Association Singles and Rink, the Edinburgh Women's Bowling Association Triples, and the RG Laurie Rink.

We have had a good influx of members during the past two years, which is down to a Bowler/Non-Bowler competition that was implemented by our match secretaries, as well as a “Try Bowls” initiative from Bowls Scotland, which has been led by Stuart Simcock.

Our new members have been part of the winning teams this season, which is great to see, and it is good to see the club going from strength to strength.

We always welcome new members and have Full and Associate memberships available.

• <https://www.facebook.com/CurrieBowlingClub>

Chieftains Back to Their Winning Ways

PHIL THOMAS
CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

The beginning of October saw a return to winning ways for Currie Chieftain's Arnold Clark Premiership team. It started an extended run of wins against Marr, Watsonians, Musselburgh, Selkirk and Glasgow Hawks, which saw the Chieftains rise to their current fourth position in the



Premiership league.

The home game against Kelso on 23 November completed the first half of the league stage of the Premiership competition; and the “reverse fixture” league matches began with a game against unbeaten league leaders Ayr at Malleny Park on 30 November. Thereafter, excepting the three-week seasonal holiday break, the league will continue to determine the top-four play-off group at the end of the season.

Accepting that the early weeks of the season were challenging, the subsequent development and performance of the team has been quite outstanding. It has emerged as

a force to be reckoned with, in style and determination. The stability of the group – based on a core squad of 32 – has been a plus. As has been the combination of talented youngsters and mature players of demonstrable skill and wide experience.

For the second half of the season the team's target will be to consolidate its position as a play-off contender. If you are a rugby fan don't miss the opportunities to see live Scottish club rugby, right on your doorstep.

Not to be undone the Chieftains A have secured league leadership in the East conference of the Inter City

league, with one match still to play. The second stage of this competition involves a six-team cross-conference competition, in which Chieftains A are guaranteed to feature.

The A team is playing with the same style and panache as the Premiership team and are a pleasure to watch. They are attracting a strong following of supporters. Some of their matches are being scheduled for Friday evening, under floodlights. So, if you interested in a new entrance-free experience, keep your eyes on the club's social media and come along to support. It is an excellent way to start a weekend.

FREE!

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C&B SPORT



CURRIE • BARNNO • LIMPERS • BARNNO • BARNBERTON MA • COLINTON



WINNERS!



PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER PATON; CURRIE CHIEFTAINS; ROSS COWE

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