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MARKET FORCES

INSIDE: NEWS p2 LOCAL HISTORY p16 FEATURES p21 VIEWS p28 WHAT'S ON p43

PHOTOS: PAUL FISHER COCKBURN; DOUGLAS LOWE/COLHS.

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 (July/August and December/January) marking our summer and winter breaks.

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

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DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

ADVERTISING & LISTINGS: 13 MAY
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ISSUE DISTRIBUTED: 30 MAY



Above: The sun shone brightly on April's Balerno Farmers' Market, during which organisers Balerno Village Trust (after a little reminder from *C&B News* – we love cake!) celebrated the Market's 20th anniversary. Below: Arran Cheese was one of the first stall-holders to attend the Balerno Farmers' Market and, 20 years later, they're still turning up! Right: How *C&B News* reported the inaugural Market in 2005. Photos: Richard Henderson, Alan Laing, Paul Fisher Cockburn.



Above: After a highly successful 2018 intake for Currie Football Club, we have in excess of 30 boys that have joined the club at our youngest age group, writes Nick Hogg. The team have now started playing Fun 4s every Sunday against a variety of clubs across Edinburgh. It's good for the boys to start playing friendly matches but the focus is very much on having fun.

Below: Work has begun on making-safe the landslip close to Gillespie Road, including a slightly strengthened barrier which, nevertheless, some independently-minded locals – yes, even in Colinton – have clearly chosen to ignore. Hopefully the path can be reopened somewhat sooner than the Dell Road entrance further downstream—which was closed for four years. Photo: Paul Fisher Cockburn.



Above and right: work continues on the “regeneration” of Dr Mackay's Wood, with local volunteers – some pictured – continuing to make a real difference to a previously overlooked community resource. Photos: Emily Ronaldson.



BRIEFLY NEWS

- **FIRE RISK SCHOOLS:** In April, *The Herald* newspaper exclusively reported that – after inspections in November 2023 – Balerno High School and Currie Community High School had posed “substantial” fire risks to pupils and teachers. CEC insisted that a “significant proportion” of recommendations for BHS had been actioned, while more than 720 pupils at CCHS will move this summer into a new state-of-the-art, Passivhaus-standard building.
- **PENTLAND HILL FIRES:** In early April, firefighters had to tackle two major blazes in the Pentland Hills within 48 hours of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service issuing an “extreme” wildfire warning across Scotland.
- **BABERTON MAINS:** In mid-April, work finally began demolishing the homes on Baberton Mains Avenue seriously damaged by a fatal gas explosion back in December 2023. Local residents had been frustrated over how long it has taken to demolish the properties, which will be replaced with new houses.
- **BROKEN WALL:** In early April a van crashed through the low wall separating Pentland View car park from the adjacent pedestrian footpath next to the shops. It was reported on social media that the driver drove off without leaving their details. Although CEC technically doesn't own the wall, a Currie Community Councillor has suggested they should repair it as part of their duty of care to pedestrians.
- **ACTION!:** While it's clear that many people actively involved with Malleny House have signed NDAs, the rumour is that last month's closure to the public was due to the house and grounds being the focus of filming—though whether it's for the small or big screen is unclear.
- **EDINBURGH AWARD:** Nominations for the prestigious annual award honouring an outstanding individual who has made a positive impact on the city, or gained national/international recognition for Edinburgh, are open until noon on Friday 16 May. Last year's winner was Homeless World Cup and *Big Issue* in Scotland founder Mel Young MBE, who we also think was one of the Heriot-Watt students who

Advice Surgeries:

I hold surgeries on the **first Saturday of every month** at the following places:

- Fountainbridge Library • Wester Hailes Library
- Colinton Mains Tesco • Oxgangs Library

No issue is too big or too small for me to take up, so if you think I can help you, please get in touch!

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Gordon Macdonald MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency



Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

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Sue Webber MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Lothian Region



Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

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Tickets On Sale for Currie Beer & Curry Festival

ALASDAIR GORDON
CURRIE, BALERNO AND DISTRICT ROUND
TABLE

Tickets are now available for this year's Currie Beer & Curry Festival, held on the first Friday and Saturday of June in the Currie Community Centre. The highly-popular annual event – organised by the Currie, Balerno & District Round Table – will this year offer a choice of 40 tasty real ales, lager, wines, cider, Prosecco and alcohol-free offerings. There'll also be live music on both nights. A limited number of "early bird"



tickets are currently available at £20, covering entry, a fancy commemorative one-third-pint glass, a stylish dayglo wristband

and three drink tokens. Once these are gone, the standard price is £22.

If you want to join other local companies as an event sponsor, please get in touch. All sponsors will be featured in next month's edition of C&B News!

All profits raised are given to local charities and good causes.

• *Currie Beer & Curry Festival runs on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 June, from 6pm to midnight.*

• *Tickets can be ordered in advance at: cbdr.com/events/beer-festival/2025/*

Pennies from Heaven, £1 Million in Power Sales

Community-owned electricity generator Harlaw Hydro has earned more than £1 Million during its first decade, writes *Martin Petty* – to the benefit of the communities along the Water of Leith valley.

Many walkers enjoying a stroll on the Water of Leith will be unaware of the fact that this stream, which used to power a wide variety of mills a century ago, is currently generating electricity upstream, and has been doing so for almost a decade. How did this come about?

The idea started with the Balerno Village Trust. It had the concept of creating a community-owned company to raise cash to generate electricity into the grid and use the profits from the business to support local charitable efforts and events. The company formed was called Harlaw Hydro Limited (HH).

A public meeting in 2013 raised over £400,000, allowing the turbine to be commissioned in 2015 without expensive bank borrowings. The prospectus projected an annual return of some 4% for shareholders.

During the last 10 years HH has added an average of 290,000 kWh of electricity into the National Grid each year. In layman's terms, that's enough power to supply 107 average households. The impact, nationally, is minute; locally, the



Above: The Hydro project, by Harlaw Reservoir. Right: In April 2013, C&B News promoted the launch of the Harlaw Hydro share prospectus.

impact has been massive.

Electricity sales in HH's first 10 years have exceeded £1 million. Of that total, some £439,000 has gone to local causes. By any financial measure, HH is an extremely well managed and financed business. Much of this is down to the unpaid time, expertise and dedication of the HH team who oversee the running the company. Little surprise then that HH has become a model for other community-based enterprises across Scotland.

Of course, the success of HH is also dependent upon the weather. Rainfall ultimately generates the potential energy which the turbine converts to cash for the community—just a thought, next time it's raining!

• *HH is always on the look-out for new volunteers. If you are interested in helping with the monitoring and maintenance of a hydro system then e-mail: mpetty712@gmail.com*

• *To learn more about HH or the good work done by Balerno Village Trust, visit: <https://www.harlawhydro.org.uk/> and <https://balernovt.org.uk/>*



BRIEFLY...

p3>>>

helped launch C&B News—not that he appears willing to admit it! To nominate someone, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/bddyvem5>

• **NO CONSULTATIONS:** The city council's Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) has agreed that early consultation with residents over proposed new Controlled Parking Zones and Priority Parking Areas should be scrapped to help speed up implementation and reduce costs. Some critics have suggested this is CEC belatedly bringing official policy in line with its long-established poor reputation for genuine consultation with residents affected by its proposals.

• **ARTWORK:** Pupils at Currie Primary School have designed artwork for the entrance hoarding to a prospective six-dwelling residential development by Carlsson Properties Ltd at Currie Park. The design will be unveiled during the school's May Fayre on Saturday 10 May.

• **CURRIE TOILETS:** More than a year after CEC confirmed that the long-closed toilet block in Currie (across from the library) was "under offer", the sale has still not been concluded. This apparently explains why the "For Sale" sign remains in place—just in case the whole sales process has to be started again!

• **CONCERT:** Heriot-Watt Choir & Orchestra, at Greyfriars Kirk, Greyfriars Place, EH1 2QQ; 7.30pm, 10 May. Programme: Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, Dvorak's dramatic Polovtsian Dances, and music by Butterworth, Chilcott, Brown and Marquez. Tickets £10 from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/heriot-watt-university

• **NO EVICTIONS:** Local constituency MSP Gordon Macdonald has reported that CEC, currently negotiating with the Ministry of Defence DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) to buy 38 homes in the Dregghorn estate, would be willing to do so with sitting tenants, avoiding previously feared evictions.

• **NICKED!:** January - March 2025, Police Scotland's "Operation Pillar" co-ordinated their responses to antisocial behaviour in south west Edinburgh—including a 14 year old male, responsible for damaging a football pitch in Currie with his off-road bike, being charged with

>p7



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Bus Service 18 Subsidy Continues

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

The City of Edinburgh Council's Transport and Environment Committee formerly approved continued financial support for Lothian Buses Service 18, which runs between Edinburgh Airport and Fort Kinnaird via the Gyle, Colinton and Royal Infirmary Edinburgh.

At the TEC meeting on Thursday 3 April, some committee councillors complained that the subsidy for the route – previously branded by Lothian Buses as Skylink 400 – had not been actively highlighted during the committee's 2024 discussions on fully "contracted routes", despite it amounting to around £158,000 a year. Current fully "contracted" routes include the Lothian-run service 32 between Balerno and Cramond, running via Currie, The Gyle and Cammo.

Accepting this oversight, council officers confirmed that the route's current fare revenues did not cover the full commercial operating costs of what was nevertheless considered an "important" service, which provided "a public transport connection to and from the airport for communities across the south and south west of the city".

A similar subsidy was also approved for Service 38, which links the Western General Hospital and Royal Infirmary Edinburgh. The overall cost to the council for both routes during the rest of 2025 was estimated to be £646,817, which will come from the existing supported bus services budget allocation—apparently without affecting any other current supported bus services!

SGN's Fresh Flowers for Nether Currie Lane

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

As distribution company SGN has kept its word to help re-seed wild flowers along Nether Currie Lane.

In October 2024, C&B News reported how SGN contractors had unthinkingly dumped signage and fencing on wild flowers planted along the lane by a local resident. When contacted by C&B News, SGN had immediately apologised and offered to contribute to the re-seeding "when it's appropriate to do so".

SGN has now purchased and sent new seeds and it is hoped these will be shortly planted in readiness for another delightful summer display along the lane connecting Lanark Road West (near the Sainsbury's garage) and Nether Currie Road.

The only concern now is that the flowers might be cut down as



part of regular mowing by The City of Edinburgh Council.

Local Pentland Hills ward councillor Stephen Jenkinson, who is also convener of CEC's Transport and Environment Committee, told C&B News: "I have opened a case with the Parks team in South West to see if we can exempt this specific area from the mowing schedule this year."

"I'm hopeful that this is a request that can be easily satisfied."

Cup Scout Receives Camp Champion Award

JACQUI MCCOLL
51ST PENTLAND SCOUTS

Zara Kumar of Bear Cubs, 51st Pentland Scouts, was recently presented with a Camp Champion award for her calmness and quick thinking during a medical emergency at cub camp at Fordell Firs, near Dunfermline.

On the last day of cub camp, one of the camp leaders started having an anaphylactic allergic reaction to something in the air. While all the cubs and their parents were quickly dismissed from camp, Zara stayed with her mum, a paediatric doctor, and another doctor who had both come to assist.

During the medical emergency Zara remained calm, asked her mum

questions when appropriate and, when she heard that a blanket was needed, ran to get her own sleeping bag, camping mat and pillow without being asked. Doing this meant the leader could be placed on the ground in the recovery position and covered to keep warm while waiting on an ambulance to arrive.

Zara's calmness and quick thinking was noticed not only by the camp leaders but staff at the scout centre. The leader who had the anaphylactic reaction recovered well in hospital and is grateful for the help received from everyone on the day, but especially Zara.

Massive thank you to Zara from Jacqui McColl and Gordon Forrest, Lead Group Volunteer at 51st Pentland Bears.



Zara Kumar (right)
with Jacqui McColl.

BRIEFLY...

p5>>>

vandalism, threatening behaviour and road traffic offences.

• **COURT JUDGEMENT:** Campbell Duncan Taylor, listed as a director of horse-share company Pentland Ponies, and Castlemains Farm, was convicted of sexually assaulting three women and verbally abusing a fourth, following a four-day trial at Edinburgh Sheriff Court in April. Taylor was placed on the sex offenders register on an interim basis, with sentencing deferred for social work reports.

• **CHURCH NEWS:** The Rev Roy Henderson, currently of Pollokshaws, Glasgow, has been appointed as Interim Minister for the linked charge of Currie Kirk and Balerno Parish Church. From mid-June, his role will be to help guide the two churches on the path towards union as part of the Church of Scotland's Radical Action Plan.

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/dz8atrcd>. 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.

• **COLINTON:** 10 new buildings including medical centre, transport building, offices, storage, garage/workshops and accommodation (a mixture of single and two-storey buildings), plus refurbishment of existing Category C-listed barracks building for office and storage use, as part of wider relocation of army facilities due to scheduled closure of Redford Barracks; Dregghorn Barracks, 82 Redford Road, Redford. (25/01681/PPP) Comments by 4 May.
• **BABERTON MAINS:** Demolish existing detached garage, construct single storey extension to side including

>p9

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DEEANNE GRANT
PENTLAND CALEDONIA PIPE BAND

Members, friends and family of Pentland Caledonia Pipe Band have just returned from a week-long trip to America, having taken part in the 27th annual New York Tartan Day Parade on Saturday 5 April 2025.

The parade, this year led by Grand Marshal Alan Cumming, took place up 6th Avenue and, in true Scottish style, they took the rainy weather with them!

The parade is the main attraction in a week-long catalogue of events held all over New York, celebrating Scottish

heritage and culture and drawing thousands of participants and spectators each year.

The band wanted to bring the rich sound of Scottish pipes and drums to the heart of Manhattan. "We did so with pride, gratitude, and a deep appreciation for the journey that has brought us here as a band and as a community," said Pipe Major Gary Newton.

"This year marks our 25th anniversary as a band and we wanted to celebrate in style."

Following on from the New York parade, the full band are registered to take part in the inaugural Edinburgh Tartan Day Parade, which takes place on Saturday 10 May, from

the iconic Royal Mile to the Mound Precinct—alongside musicians, performers, dancers, organisations, and individuals who want to celebrate Scotland and everything it has to offer.

The band will then have a well-earned rest of a few weeks before their gala season starts, taking them to various towns and villages across the Lothians.

The band practice in Balerno Community Centre from 7pm every Friday night and welcomes new members and visitors. They offer tuition and a friendly atmosphere for all players and learners and can be contacted via Facebook, Tiktok or Instagram.

Free Heart Screening Opportunity in June

ROSS AND SHIVA COWE
PARENTS OF CHRISTOPHER COWE

Local residents aged between 14 and 35 are invited to sign up for a free heart screening event in Balerno this June.

This is the second heart screening event organised in memory of Christopher Cowe who we lost, in January 2021, from an undiagnosed heart condition just a couple months shy of his 16th birthday.

Invites have been sent out to Christopher's friends and peers to fill some of the 200 available screenings across the two days. However, there will be spaces available which we would like to offer to any young people across the local community.

We will be in attendance at the screening all weekend. Please pop in and see us if you can. We will have a stall set up at the front desk with information about Cardiac Risk in the Young. Any donations



received during the weekend will go towards funding further heart screenings for young people in the local area.

We will also again be selling a limited run of fused Glass Hearts kindly donated by Scott and Mandy Irvine from Harmonies in Wood, with all funds again going towards funding future screenings.

The second heart screening event, organised in memory of local pupil Christopher Cowe, will be held

at Balerno High School over the weekend of 21 - 22 June 2025.

To register your appointment, visit: www.testmyheart.org.uk/private/ and use the password CHRIS2025 to book a slot for either the Saturday or Sunday, subject to availability.

All participants are required to complete a brief medical questionnaire. Young people under 16 years old will need to have parental consent.

BRIEFLY...

p7>>>

porch area, install new vellum roof light on pitched roof to rear, and alter existing French doors to form window; 15 Baberton Mains Wynd. (25/01823/FUL) Comments by 4 May.

• **CURRIE:** Proposed front extension and garage works including raised roof; 46 Thomson Crescent. (25/01714/FUL) Comments by 8 May.

• **CURRIE:** Enlarged window and Juliet balcony; 9 Provost Haugh. (25/01915/FUL) Comments by 9 May.

• **COLINTON:** Minor alterations to restore and upgrade existing cottage and to create new ancillary accommodation in rear garden; 12 Spylaw Street. (25/01744/FUL & 25/01746/LBC) Comments by 10 May.

• **COLINTON:** Remove existing extensions and construct new kitchen and garden room, and replace existing windows and other alterations to main house; 2 Pentland Road. (25/01854/FUL) Comments by 10 May.

• **BALERNO:** Proposed 1.5 storey rear extension with glass link and single-storey entrance porch with store; 29 Belmont Road. (25/01887/FUL) Comments by 16 May.

• **BALERNO:** Remove leylandii tree; 17 Johnsburn Road. (25/03051/TCO) Comments by 13 May.

• **CURRIE:** Garage conversion with side extension and timber decking/steps; 37 Thomson Road. (25/01958/FUL) Comments by 13 May.

PLANNING DECISIONS

• **CURRIE:** Existing car park accessed from First Gait, Riccarton Campus; Heriot-Watt University. (25/01215/CLE) Granted, 10 April.

• **COLINTON:** Remove dead wood from oak crown, fell ulnas glare to ground level, remove epicormic growth and sever ivy on elm, remove dead wood from alder; flat 1, 303 Colinton Road. (25/01557/TCO) Not make a tree preservation order, 10 April.

• **CURRIE:** Proposed two-bedroom detached villa; land 15 metres north west of 158A Lanark Road West. (24/03075/FUL) Granted, 15 April.

• **CURRIE:** Replace existing porch to front with new porch of approximately 4.3 metres square internal floor area; >p11



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Delivering a Climate-ready Edinburgh

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

The City of Edinburgh Council's Policy & Sustainability Committee has identified which parts of CEC's Climate Ready Edinburgh Implementation Plan 2024-2030 it will prioritise during the next two years.

The Council has a statutory obligation under section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to adapt to climate change. This is separate from the need to reduce the city's carbon emissions.

The Plan – developed with numerous partners including the city's universities, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and Historic Environment Scotland – comprises 66 actions, 47 of which either do not require funding or are already funded, and seven of which are unfunded or need resourcing. This includes infrastructure delivery projects which are complex and costly and will take many years to deliver.

- Read the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan here: <https://tinyurl.com/2yerw4r8>
- Publishing an Edinburgh-specific report based on residents' experiences of climate change.
- Working with large land owners, including the Pentland Hills Regional Park, and sports providers on adapting their facilities and grounds, using nature-based solutions.
- Deliver climate resilient university campuses across the city, through planning and knowledge sharing.
- Manage the increased risk of lower river and reservoir levels associated with droughts through reduced leakage and water efficiency, sharing best practice on water management and adaptation.
- Actively engage with Edinburgh's local, regional and national transport providers on the risks and impacts of climate change on their services and infrastructure.



National Recognition for Heriot-Watt's Impact in Education

SCOTT HOLMES
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

Heriot-Watt University, near Currie, has been shortlisted in four categories at the Herald Education Awards 2025, recognising its innovative approach to teaching, research, and community engagement.

Shortlisted for Outstanding Business Engagement, H-W's GRID ecosystem connects researchers, students, and industry to tackle real-world challenges. From supporting start-ups to hosting the Converge programme, GRID is a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic impact.

In the Research Project of the Year category, Professor Jemina Napier's work on Justisigns2 and SILENT HARM is transforming how Deaf women access support services. The projects have

produced bilingual resources and training tools that are improving service accessibility across the UK.

Engineering the Future, shortlisted for Partnership with Schools, pairs primary pupils with university teams to solve sustainability challenges. Led by Dr Alex Maclaren, the project culminates in a hands-on science fair that brings STEM learning to life for young minds.

Heriot-Watt's campaign on quantum internet research has been recognised for Best PR and Marketing Campaign. Through compelling storytelling, the campaign showcased breakthrough science to audiences across media and policy.

These nominations reflect Heriot-Watt's mission to shape a fairer, more sustainable world through innovation, inclusion and global engagement. Winners will be announced on 29 May.

Campaign Shines Light on City's Unclaimed Millions

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Households in Edinburgh could be owed up to £80 million in unclaimed benefits, according to the City of Edinburgh Council, which has rolled out two new self-help tools to make it easier to check what you're owed.

These include a DIY benefits calculator, *Entitled To*, and a "one-stop-shop" for other forms of financial support, *Lightning Reach*.

"It's a worrying time for lots of people who are struggling with rising costs and we want to make sure that every household is claiming all the benefits they are entitled to," says CEC leader Jane Meagher. "Our efforts to

tackle poverty in Edinburgh have put almost £24 million into the pockets of those who need it most, but around £80 million in benefits remains unclaimed. It's my hope that this campaign will help to challenge the barriers – stigma, complexity and lack of awareness – that prevent people from accessing the support they should be getting. I urge everyone to check their cost-of-living support and to get in touch for more advice or support as needed."

• Access the Entitled To benefits calculator here: <https://edinburgh.entitledto.co.uk/home/start>

• For other forms of financial support, go to Lightning Reach: <https://tinyurl.com/2fvuhrxp>

BRIEFLY...

p9>>>
48 Lanark Road West. (25/01429/ FUL) Granted, 16 April.

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.

- **BLINKBONNY/CURRIE:** Blinkbonny Road at Kirkgate, road closed for sewer repairs (Clancy Docwra for Scottish Water); 1 - 2 May.
- **BABERTON MAINS:** Baberton Mains Drive, various locations from Baberton Mains Crescent clockwise to Baberton Mains View, temporary traffic lights for clearing blocked cable ducts (BT Morrison); until 2 May.
- **CURRIE:** Lanark Road West at (closed) Bryce Road, two-way temporary traffic lights for lead renewal (Scottish Water); 5 - 9 May, dates TBC.
- **OXGANGS:** Oxgangs Road North at Redford Road, temporary traffic lights for manhole repair (Scottish Water); 20 - 21 May.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- THURSDAY 1 MAY**
- **BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL:** Community Centre, Main Street; 7pm. (First Thursday of the month.)
- TUESDAY 13 MAY**
- **COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL:** Colinton Bowling Club, Redford Road; 7:30pm. (Second Tuesday of the month.)
- WEDNESDAY 14 MAY**
- **CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL:** Gibson Craig Halls (rear), Lanark Road West; 7:30pm. (Second Wednesday of the month.)
- WEDNESDAY 28 MAY**
- **JUNIPER GREEN & BABERTON MAINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL:** the hub@531 Lanark Road; 7:30pm. (Fourth Thursday of the month.)

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Knitter Natter

ANNE WIMBERLEY
TRUSTEE, HUB@531

Every Tuesday morning the Hub@531 is full of knitters!

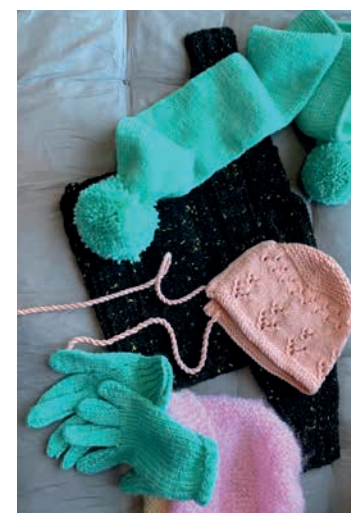
The Scottish and British LiThe women who attend knit for themselves or their families, but they also make hats for the Seaman's Mission and warm clothes for Direct Aid. The skill level is very high, so recipients must be delighted.

Because space is limited, the group is currently full so we have a waiting list—but we'd love to hear from new members nonetheless.

In the meantime, if you have any spare yarn, or unwanted patterns, we would be very grateful for them. You can drop them in when the knitters are there on Tuesday mornings, or contact me for other times.

• The Knitters are at the Hub@531 Lanark Road every Tuesday from 10am to noon.

• Anyone interested in joining the group's waiting list should email Anne at: colinann7@aol.com



Pedestrians on Balerno's Main Street might have noticed a difference in the derelict flower bed in front of the Community Centre, after the removal of the overgrown Cotonneaster trees last year, writes Bob Douglas. Over a period of two weeks, a team from Balerno Village Gardeners literally rooted out the old shrubs—along with around two decades' worth of buried litter! In their place, we are planting a mixture of native wildflowers and some locally grown native garden plants—all of which are pollinator friendly. A lot more plants are being "brought on" elsewhere and will go in, as and when they are ready. It may be a year or two before all the perennials have established sufficiently to flower but, in time, we hope to see a colourful patch that's very pollinator friendly.

Fairtrade May

LESLEY HENDERSON
BALERNO FAIRTRADE VILLAGE GROUP

With so much happening worldwide, and trade especially unpredictable, even Balerno's upbeat March Fairtrade (FT) Morning feels like history already. But Fairtrade needs to stay alive, well and active; with the nights still lightening, what better time to help it grow, right here?

Why? Have a look at current publicity from Transform Trade (formerly Traidcraft Exchange), to whom the FT Morning's profits went. They focus this month especially on the cocoa crisis in Tanzania: climate-related crop failures, a volatile market doubling cocoa prices while traders and middlemen often still pay farmer-producers barely enough to live on—they're lucky to get 6% of a chocolate bar's value. Transform Trade also aims to invest much further afield by 2030, in 1,000 producer-led businesses able to process many more of their own products – whether cocoa, tea, or garments – bringing much fairer shares to producers, their families and communities.

How did all this creep into a "local update"? How's it our business, when it sounds so far

away? We Water-of-Leithers may sometimes feel powerless small fish, but we are still part of one world, with tongues in our heads and scope to make ripples. Practically, we can often buy the FT option when we shop, for ourselves and our organisations, and encourage our local traders to start or go on stocking FT. We can encourage our local political representatives to include world fairness among their practical aims, as happily our current ones do. We can celebrate the work of local families, schools and organisations as they bring up our young ones also caring about fairness worldwide.

We can enjoy the long-time favourite Fairtrade Banana Hoopla at Balerno Children's Gala on Saturday May 31st, a fun way to support and remind ourselves, across the generations, of FT. Please come!

And how about joining the local network supporting FT and hence our fellow-people worldwide, encouraging our young ones to do so as well?

• Whether you can spare a little time or lots, we always welcome and need new members, and would love to hear from you. Email: balernofairtrade@gmail.com or you can use Facebook messenger.



William Purves Joins Currie Balerno Rotary as Community Member

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Funeral Directors William Purves, which have supported Currie Balerno Rotary in recent years by contributing to the Christmas Tree of Life appeal, have taken the relationship to a new level by becoming a Rotary Community Member.

There are now five Community Members associated with Currie Balerno Rotary: Circle Security, Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club, Jack Brown Eyecare, Lindsay & Gilmour Pharmacy, and William Purves.

These companies look to enhance their contributions to their local community by working alongside Currie Balerno Rotary as Rotary Community Members.

Rotary Community Members nominate representatives to become members of Currie Balerno Rotary, facilitating the exchange of ideas and proposals to benefit the local community and working together to take those proposals forward.

• Currie Balerno Rotary and its partners serve the communities of Ratho, Kirknewton, Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green, Baberton Mains, Colinton and Wester Hailes.

• To find out more, contact Mike Rowe at PR@cbrotary.org or visit: cbrotary.org or facebook.com/rotary1020

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES

Beautiful Birds, Cutting Trial, and Safe Weeding

ANNIE MACDONALD
PESTICIDE FREE BALERNO

Early spring is very much a time to see young birds flying around. We in Balerno can be proud and reassured in the knowledge that these baby birds are being born into a pesticide-free environment.

With their investigative nature new birds are bound to wander onto our streets and pavements where councils normally use pesticides to treat the street weeds and indirectly poison insects. Birds are extremely vulnerable to pesticides and are unable to tell if they have been applied.

Simple changes like weeding without chemicals can make the world of a difference to birds. By giving them support and a welcoming environment, we protect the next generation of wildlife!

CUTTING CHOICE

The City of Edinburgh Council recently bought electric brush cutters with cutting heads, which will be trialled in the Alnwickhill area, south of Liberton.

We do wonder why CEC have chosen to do the trial in Alnwickhill rather than Balerno, which has requested safe alternatives since 2019! Balerno was the first area in Edinburgh to become pesticide-free when it came to weed control in 2020, and the council said they would carry out trials of pesticide-free weeding methods in Balerno, looking at the possibility to roll out city wide.

Balerno would have been better placed to trial these electric brush cutters, especially after residents and volunteer weeding groups have shown support to the council since 2020.

WEEDING

As the weeds start to pop out please, if it's safe and you are able to do so: manually weed the small strip in front of your home; help any less-able neighbours; and let us know which weedy areas in Balerno need attention.

• Email: Pesticidefreebalerno@gmail.com or visit: www.PesticideFreeBalerno.com

www.candbnews.com

Balerno Farmers' Market is 20 Years Old!

VAL REID
BALERNO VILLAGE TRUST

Balerno Farmers' Market celebrated its 20th anniversary on a fabulously sunny Saturday 12 April.

Thank you to Balerno Gala for lending us their sound system, which gave a true party feel to the market. We hope everyone that wanted also got a piece of our birthday cake, created by the very talented Emma Galloway.

It was lovely to see Village Trust members and volunteers from past and present come along to mark the day and thank you to an original member, Mike Martin, for cutting the cake—see the front cover of this very issue of C&B News!

We still have three of our original stall holders from 20 years ago: Rae from Monarch Venison, Gordon from John Muir Country Foods, and Cedar Cottage. They've been turning up every month come rain or shine—that's some commitment!

Most of all, though, thanks go to our customers – more than 1,000 of you were at April's Market! – who come along to visit, buy and socialise. We wouldn't be here without you!

• <https://balernovt.org.uk/farmers-market/>

Currie 'Horti' May Update

SHEILA MASON
SHOW SECRETARY

Here we are in May and our gardens are quite colourful as the plants have wakened out of their winter slumbers. Our Annual Show is this year on Saturday 30 August in Balerno High School, and we would be very happy if you could grow some flowers, fruit, vegetables to be entered then.

To this end the Schedules showing what can be entered by competitors should be available at the May Balerno Farmers' Market—free of charge. We're open to participants from Currie, Balerno, Juniper Green, Colinton,



and Baberton Mains.

Schedules will also be available at shops in the areas for you to access. Of course, there are also competitions for plants, fruit and flowers, vegetables, floral art, crafts, baking and many for young people to attempt for the Show.

This is a very long standing



Society – this will be our 145th Show – and the committee would like it to continue for many more years to come!

• Details of the Schedule and photos from previous Shows are on our website: www.currieshow.weebly.com

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES

Deadline Looms for 'Grown Your Own' Grants

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Time is running out for local community groups across Edinburgh to apply for funding from a £50,000 pilot scheme from the City of Edinburgh Council to establish new local food-growing projects.

CEC's "Grow Your Own" initiative is looking to support new food-growing projects—to help the creation of new growing spaces, support the establishment of growing groups and promote education around urban food production.

Grants of up to £5,000 will be awarded to constituted voluntary and community groups across the city, and are intended to help with the purchasing of seeds, plants and tools, of equipment, as well as helping support education and training activities and staff time directly related to establishing new growing areas.

"This year's scheme will operate as a pilot program, and its impact will be assessed," explained a spokesperson for the Culture and Communities committee. "If successful, and funding permitting, we could see this becoming an annual initiative."

• Applications should be made through the Council's "Your Voice" platform: <https://yourvoice.edinburgh.gov.uk/growyourown>

• The deadline for applications is noon, Monday 12 May.

Car Security

PC SAMANTHA CAMPBELL
POLICE SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH DIVISION,
PREVENTION, INTERVENTIONS AND
PARTNERSHIPS DEPARTMENT

If you own a car this information is for you—simply locking your car may not be enough to keep it safe and secure.

Below are a range of options which will make stealing your car more slow, noisy and difficult—especially if several are combined:

- Physically check the vehicle doors are locked before walking away.

Dalmahoy's David Briks Joins Currie Balerno Rotary

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club has joined Currie Balerno Rotary as a Community Member and nominated David Birks as their Rotary representative. David, pictured here at the entrance to the Dalmahoy Hotel, has been Head Concierge for nearly 15 years.

Previously, David had many years of experience in catering and hospitality, managing bars and restaurants across Edinburgh and further afield in Scotland. He was one of the opening team at David Lloyd Leisure in Edinburgh, but he also spent a number of years working for Scottish National Heritage on the island of Rum in the Inner Hebrides.

In April, David was welcomed as a member of Currie Balerno Rotary and Rotary International, bringing the full support of



Dalmahoy together with his own wide experience to make a valuable contribution to the local community.

• Currie Balerno Rotary and its partners serve the communities of Ratho, Kirknewton, Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green, Baberton Mains, Colinton and Wester Hailes.

• To find out more, contact Mike Rowe at PR@cbr Rotary.org or visit: cbr Rotary.org or facebook.com/rotary1020



- Do not leave keys near windows or doors—this aids relay theft and makes it quicker for thieves to locate them.
- If your car is "keyless" keep the key device in a "Faraday pouch" or metal tin which prevents it receiving or transmitting radio signals to and from the car.
- If you buy a second-hand keyless car, get the key reprogrammed.
- Make sure the key and any spares are stored securely.
- Consider fitting a lock to the On-Board Diagnostic port (OBD), to prevent keys being easily reprogrammed.
- Use a steering wheel lock.

- Fit a pedal box, which encases the driving pedals in a high visibility secure box.
- Fit a parking bollard to your driveway to prevent thieves easy driving your car away.
- Prevent thieves obtaining your car keys via good home security—lights, alarms, quality door and window locks.
- When parking in the street try, find to find a location that is well lit and, if possible, covered by CCTV.

• Report any suspicious behaviour or incidents to Police on 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency).

Balerno SWI: April Report

EDINGELL THOMSON
BALERNO SWI

With our scheduled April speaker unfortunately being unable to attend for health reasons, member Edingell Thomson offered to show us her puppet theatre and puppets.

She had made these for two of Harburn Players' Christmas shows in Harburn Village Hall. The theatre itself, designed to be light to carry and easy to transport, was made from plastic plumbing pipes, with fabric drapes and hand painted backdrops.

Edingell showed us how the two different types of puppets were constructed. The stick puppets, very simply made from bath sponges for heads, with felt features and fur fabric hair glued on, all stuck on to a piece of dowel. Rolled up newspaper was then attached crosswise for shoulders, and the rest of the body, arms and legs made from fabric. These puppets were used to illustrate the stories of The Owl and the Pussycat, and St George and the Dragon.

The other puppets were Muppet-style hand puppets, with foam rubber heads and bodies covered in fleece fabric, dressed as various characters from the pantomime Mother Goose. All were designed for the Harburn children to be able to operate on stage.

The clear favourites with the Balerno ladies were the Pussycat and the Owl puppets.

• Our competition for a fruit loaf was won by Phyllis Tait; our new competition, for a side plate, was won by Enid Lowe. The Flower of the Month was won by Isobel Johnstone.

The City of Edinburgh Council's Policy & Sustainability Committee has identified which parts of CEC's Climate Ready Edinburgh Implementation Plan 2024-2030 it will prioritise during the next two years. The Council has a statutory obligation under section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to adapt to climate change. This is separate from the need to reduce the city's carbon emissions. Read the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan here: <https://tinyurl.com/2ygrw4r8>

www.facebook.com/candbnews

Remember 1975?

Snapshots of the Past

Enter Lothian Region—a 'Back Door' into Edinburgh?

DOUGLAS LOWE
CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

For this month, the Editor asked me to consider 1975: particularly 16 May 1975, when the semi-rural ex-"mill" villages of Balerno and Currie were "swept" from Midlothian County Council into the newly created administrative "bloc" of Lothian Regional Council and, more significantly, the lower-tiered City of Edinburgh District Council.

Initially I had to think of me back in 1975. I was married, had one daughter and my wife was carrying the next edition (which turned out to be our second daughter). I was living in a council house, allocated to me by Midlothian County Council in 1973, after I'd approached one Mr Gray, the then-chairman of Currie District Council.

Currie District Council had been the local civil administration covering both Currie and Balerno since 1931, and appeared to have involvement in housing and other village matters—until, that is, it ceased to exist, thanks to the implementation of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Part of that legislation had described the creation – assuming there was sufficient support "on the ground" – for local community councils to act as a way for local communities to have their voices heard by the new District and Regional councils. Initially, the new Edinburgh District Council had a simple policy regarding them—they decided not to have any, declaring them a

• 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/>

waste of time and money. However, in June of 1977, following initial campaigning, the city agreed to set up community councils in five areas. These were Balerno, Currie, Kirkliston, South Queensferry and Ratho—unsurprisingly, the areas the city had taken over in 1975.

[As reported by the September 1978 issue of *Currie & Balerno News*, the Secretary of State for Scotland was eventually forced to push Edinburgh "into line with the rest of Scotland", ordering the District Council to set up a scheme for potentially 55 community councils across the city. Even so, it wouldn't be until the end of 1980 that the paper was able to finally report the official launch of the first community council in Balerno—Editor.]

'OUR DISTRICT'

Readers below the age of 50 may be interested to learn that our two country villages were, at the time, linked to central Edinburgh (specifically, St Andrew Square) by the green-liveried "country buses" of Eastern Scottish (aka "SMT"): specifically, service 52 (via Slateford, comparable with the current Lothian service 44 route) and service 53 (via Colinton and Lauriston Place, a route at least partly covered now by Lothian service 45).

[Bizarrely, it would take several years and not-inconsiderable



Above left: The Water of Leith Walkway near Juniper Green, c1973. Above: the last Currie District Council, as featured in John Tweedie's and Cyril Jones' *Our District*, a history of Currie and Ratho up to 1975. Below: a Water of Leith Walkway sign in Colinton, dating from 1981. Photos: Douglas Lowe/CDLHS.

deregulation of bus services across the UK before Edinburgh's "city" buses dared to cross the pre-1975 city boundaries, meaning that west of Juniper Green remained the sole preserve of increasingly old and unreliable "green" buses until the 1980s—Editor.]

Interestingly, one of the final acts by Currie District Council was the 1975 publication of *Our District*, a local history of the area by John Tweedie and Cyril Jones. It included a forward by the then-Lord Balerno, Alick Buchanan-Smith who commended the District Council "for having the foresight to arrange for the production of this volume to mark the impending change in local government".

He went on to add that the book – still available in Currie Library to this day – would preserve the character, the individuality and distinctiveness of the old parishes of Currie and Ratho—into which the book was split. "We don't want to become just another suburb of Edinburgh. But Edinburgh itself is an amalgam of very different communities. If therefore we lose our identity in the mass, it will be our own fault."

[Note: *Our District* just happened to be reviewed (favourably, of course) in the first edition of a new local community newspaper, *Currie & Balerno News*, published in February 1976. I'd ask what happened to that endeavour, except (of course) I already know. And you're reading it!—Editor.]



C&B NEWS • MAY 2025

MILLS & INDUSTRY

At the start I described us as "ex-mill villages; by 1975, the two major employers in the area had already closed—Kinleith paper mill, in 1966, followed by Balerno Bank Paper Mill in 1971 (although a remnant of the latter – the paper coating plant – continued for a few years). Only J Hewit's Leather and Tannery at Kinauld was still going.

The Balerno railway branch line (pre-British Railways nationalisation, part of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, formerly Caledonian Railway) had finally closed in 1967. Thankfully, Midlothian County Council – taking note of locals already treating it as a path – decided to develop the old line as a walking leisure route, which rather forced the then Edinburgh Corporation into doing the same with their part of the line between Juniper Green and Slateford. So in our area we have, for more than 50 years, preserved this community asset.

Following the construction of the "bypass" or Bavelaw Road in the early 1970s, the Balerno bus terminus was moved from what is now the roundabout is in front of the Kirk south to

Douglas Lowe also submitted some details about a local show, *Mixed Currie 1976*, put on in Currie High School Hall on 19 - 20 March 1976. He writes: This was a fundraising event bringing various parts of the local community together, through song and laughter, raising funds for the then-Harmeny House School in Balerno. I found the programme for the show in some old CDLHS papers, although I didn't attend the show. I have scanned the back page with a local take on the 'Welly Boot Song' made famous by Billy Connolly. It is quite amusing. I have been singing it to myself since I found it."

Cockburn Crescent. With the completion of the Bells Scheme, on Dean Park farmland, Cockburn Crescent was joined to Johnsburn Road in 1975, creating an "outer circle" still used by buses to this day. .

All of our council houses had coal fires back then, presumably because Midlothian County Council were trying to protect the jobs of those working in the Midlothian coal industry. My family was in a more modern council house and so had coal-fired central heating. When the Council housing schemes were built there were no gas pipes installed. However, once we became part of Edinburgh District, gas pipes were laid and gradually many houses took advantage of the gas installation converting to gas cookers and central heating.

In 1976, an announcement in the press from the newly-established Lothian and Borders Police advised that they were closing the police station next to the Gibson Craig Halls in Currie (the building would be demolished and replaced by a branch of the Bank of Scotland, itself now long-gone). Policing in the Currie-Balerno area would, from that point, be undertaken from the new police station erected on Bridge Road, Balerno. (It had been rebuilt following a fire.)

Lothian Regional Council was abolished in 1996; the region's four district councils – East Lothian, Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian – took on all local government functions. Sadly, perhaps, their boundaries remained unchanged—as you will realise we remained in Edinburgh, rather than being returned to Midlothian!

ABOVE THE 'SNOW LINE'

The SWRI book *Balerno, The Village and District*, published in 2015, makes a telling point: "We have an interesting climate in Balerno, quite different to that of the city, something the council, the supplier of gritter and snow plough services, has not yet come to terms with."

That was quite evident following the last snow fall. I recall many times dressing for the "Siberia" that was Balerno and getting stared at when emerging from the bus in what was a spring day in Princes Street!

THE WELLY BOOT SONG

If it wisnae for the Region,
Where w'd we be ?
We'd still be in Midlothian,
An' happy as can be;
We wouldnae be re-organised
An' better off we'd be -
If it wisnae for the Lothian Region.

If it wisnae for the District,
What w'd we do ?
We'd still be in the country,
An' lower rates we'd pay;
We wouldnae be re-organised
Like Borders, Strathclyde, Tay -
If it wisnae for the Lothian Region.

If it wasn't for our village,
What w'd we do ?
We'd be part of Edinburgh,
Like Corstorphine Zoo;
Maybe re-constituted
From Currie to a stew -
So we'll have to watch the Lothian Region.

Despite re-organisation
We can still get by,
The message is for all of us,
Let Currie never die;
Although our County is no more
Our village flag shall fly -
And be seen throughout the Lothian Region.

LOCAL HISTORY 17



Going Postal -an Update!

C&B News readers are a knowledgeable bunch—as the 'Hired Help' discovers...

Our wonderful readers – yes, that includes you! – are an undoubted fount of knowledge on subjects useful, esoteric—and even downright peculiar.

For example, the hired help would like to thank Currie-based reader Bill Hume for sharing his memories of visiting, at some point in the late 1950s, an open day at the then RAF Turnhouse aerodrome. Although increasingly used for "civilian" flights to and from the Scottish capital, at the time it was still – as its name implied – an active military base.

"I was delighted to see an Edward VIII crest on the pillar box near the entrance to the base on Turnhouse Road," Bill wrote—effectively contradicting our previous issue's assertion that there were no ER VIII royal cyphers to be seen on post boxes in south west Edinburgh, given the relative shortness of his reign.

Bill had later attempted to see the pillar box again but, as he explained, "riding a bike even only yards into that area led to an unsympathetic guard's firm refusal!"

Both RAF Turnhouse and the neighbouring military housing are long gone – the base was closed in 1996 – but we're pleased to report that Bill was also right in suggesting that the Edward VIII pillar box survives—albeit in a somewhat forlorn and overlooked historical display hidden away in the car park behind the Royal Mail complex in Sighthill.

The box (pictured above) stands next to pillar boxes bearing the royal cyphers of Edward's great grandmother Queen Victoria, his father King George V and brother King George VI. His grandfather, King Edward VII,

>p19

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is, for reasons unknown, missing in action. All of these boxes, of course, are now sealed and no longer in use. The city's final postal collections, however, can be made at somewhat more modern boxes slightly further up the road!

• The collection of boxes can be found in the Royal Mail car park at the end of Mid New Cultins, just off Cultins Road, Sighthill.

• For anyone with a particular need for "useless" information, this particular Edward VIII pillar box is a "B" type, cast by the Carron Company, Falkirk in November 1936, possibly just a couple of weeks before Edward's abdication on Thursday 10 December. The box, which remained at RAF Turnhouse until the base's closure in 1996, was then restored by Royal Mail Engineering and Construction (now part of Royal Mail Property & Facilities Solutions).



THIS MONTH IN...

1985

LOCAL HISTORY AS REPORTED BY C&B NEWS.

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

If there's one subject which has received greater front page prominence down the decades in *Currie & Balerno News* than even local bus services, it's "planning applications"—and this bright-red-masthead edition from 1985 is a prime example. The lead story by Archie Clark focused on the proposed demolition of Kinleith Mill, Currie and the construction of new housing on both sides of the Water of Leith. The site had been vacant for almost 20 years by this point (the Mill having closed in 1966), with – as Archie explained – the then-current Currie/Balerno "Local Plan" declaring "the mill site zoned for industry and the area south of the public walkway as open space, where no development would be allowed".

Archie added that, three years earlier, the then-Secretary of State for Scotland had rejected an application to build five houses on the neighbouring Brooklea site (slightly downstream from Kinleith Mill) on the grounds that the proposed development "would detract from the character and passive recreational potential of the Valley of the Water of Leith and would increase traffic dangers, particularly for pedestrians on Blinkbonny Road". Archie therefore concluded "that if five houses could create such a problem, then say 50 to 80 houses would create a bigger one".

Now was the time, Archie suggested, "to redevelop the site not with houses but with well-designed workshops, warehouses and offices of varying sizes for those who without such accommodation at the right rent would be quite unable to commence or carry on their business". More houses, he suggested, were simply not wanted. Fast forward 40 years, of course, and the site is a well-established Calabuilt housing estate, so one can only assume that official opinion on land usage changed!



Other planning applications also mentioned in the issue concerned a new quarry in Balerno (opposed by Balerno Community Council) and plans for a new medical centre at Pentland View Court, Currie (which BCC looked upon favourably). Interestingly, both Currie and Balerno community councils – along with the neighbouring Juniper Green Village Association – opposed the then-Lothian Regional Council's admittedly somewhat vague proposal to designate the Pentland Hills as a Regional Park.

However, there is – apparently – more to life than planning applications, and this packed 16-page issue did its best to cover it all. Not least with a report on the snowy March double wedding of 22-year-old twins Catherine and Lesley, whose parents Charles and Peggy Fisher ran the post office and newsagent's shop in Juniper Green. The article included a rather poorly reproduced photo of the brides with their new husbands, along with the Juniper Green Church minister, Rev Gordon Cameron. "The twins are very much alike in many ways," their mother told the paper. "Their husbands get along very well together, too. So well, in fact, that they decided to have a double honeymoon." (In Corfu—Editor.)

Long-standing contributor Douglas Lowe, meantime, provided a heart-felt tribute to the late George D Cheyne, formerly "a very active resident of Juniper Green". A lawyer for more than 40 years, George had been a member of the Scottish National Dictionary Association, one of the founding members (in 1931) of the Scottish Youth Hostel Association, and had been chairman of the Scottish Rights of Way Society for almost 20 years. "It was he more than any other who supplied the drive and enthusiasm which was needed to reform the Society at the end of the last war and build it up into an effective body with a steadily increasing membership and influence," Douglas wrote.

Local creativity also continued to be reported: a recent Juniper Green Players' production of Michael Brett comedy *The Full Treatment* "soon had their audiences rocking with laughter", while the newly-formed Pentland Singers had given a "polished" performance of Easter music in Currie Kirk—"sounding and looking marvellous". Alas, having now already written more than 650 words so far, it seems only fair to take note of this issue's editorial – titled "Short and Sweet" – which asked contributors "to make your articles, anecdotes, etc brief and to the point".

The reason? "We have only 16 pages into which we must fit topical news, letters, adverts, photographs, forthcoming events, features and poems," wrote editorial coordinator Joyce Ross. Four decades later, despite normally having *three times* that number of pages, the same problem remains! The more things change...

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Cooking the Books

STEF LYONS

It's my birthday! Well. It was. In April. It was a rather significant one, truth be told. I know, right? I've accomplished so much for only turning 21! Ahem...

It's traditional at birthdays to eat cake. Long time readers know I'm not that keen on most cakes. I find them too sweet, often dry and just not worth it. I know, I know. I'm a killjoy. Personally I would prefer a Birthday Dark Chocolate Mousse (with the candles somehow staying upright), or even a Birthday Cheese Board, complete with fruits, pickles, chutneys, and crackers.

That being said, I would never deprive others of cake. I actually really enjoy making them; it's a very calming activity. The measuring out, the mixing and assembling it at the end. I have very few skills in decorating as I am not patient enough and I'm far too accident prone to be able to make things like flowers out of sugar and not drop them or squish them somehow.

There's a certain someone, a Queen Of Baking if you will, whose recipes are my go-to if I want to whip up something sweet without bother. Got guests arriving last minute and need to feed them something? Children complaining about being bored and you want something fun to do that they



Above: Blueberry muffins. Below: Victoria Sponge.
Photos: Stef Lyons.

can reap the benefits of once it's done? Look no further than Mary Berry's Baking Bible. My children adore her. Quite literally. Child The Second is still not over her leaving Bake Off and won't watch the episodes she's not in. Sorry Prue Leith!

Last summer, the kids and I started what we called a "Mary Berry Baking Challenge". We decided we wanted to work through her Baking Bible, chapter by chapter, picking one thing from each to make. The book has seventeen chapters, therefore we would end up having done seventeen bakes. Well, we love this book so much that even though we've not finished it (five chapters still to go), we've actually made eighteen things from it. This is not just because everything looks so good, but also because Mary Berry's style is simple, no-nonsense and exudes understanding of what it's like being a home cook.

I recently asked my two children which of the bakes we made were their favourites. Child The First said "Everything!" and Child The Second declared that the Iced Fairy Cakes were his. For me it was the Mississippi Mud Pie, the Tarte Tatin and the Soda Bread that stood out.

Recently, Dame Mary had a significant birthday as well. In late March she turned 90. I feel that the fact her birthday is so near to mine is a sign that we are intertwined by destiny. Maybe one day her car will break down round the corner and she'll knock on the door asking for help just as I'm getting some of her scones out of the oven and we will bond over tea and jam and clotted cream and become the best of friends. I can but dream.

In the meantime my children and I will make our way through her book, bake by bake, bite by bite. Our next challenge is decided already: Banana and Honey Teabread. Will I like it? Who knows. Will I love baking it with my two young'uns? Darn tootin'.

Happy birthday to you Dame Mary, the undisputed Queen of Cakes.

Senior Snippets

ANDREW SENEW

Welcome to our latest Senior Snippet - an advisory column with the older members of our communities in mind. Please send any ideas for future topics to: andrew.senew@homeinstead.co.uk

Keep Moving

Staying physically active as you age is one of the best things you can do for your body and mind. Regular movement helps maintain muscle strength, balance, flexibility, and heart health. It also supports mental sharpness and emotional wellbeing. You don't have to train like an athlete—just aim to move your body each day in a way that feels good and safe for you.

Start with activities you enjoy. Walking, swimming, dancing, or gardening are excellent low impact options. Gentle strength training with light weights or resistance bands can help maintain bone density and muscle tone. Balance exercises like tai chi or simple heel-to-toe walks can reduce the risk of falls. If you've been sedentary, talk to your doctor first and start slow—every bit counts.

Consistency is more important than intensity. Even 10-minute sessions throughout the day make a difference. Look for local senior classes, walking groups, or virtual programs that match your pace and interests. Movement also has social benefits - connecting with others keeps your mind engaged and your spirits lifted.

Remember, it's never too late to begin. Your body will thank you for every stretch, step, and smile along the way. Staying active helps you remain independent, confident, and ready to enjoy the years ahead on your own terms.

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



What is wellbeing? Apart from the most overused marketing term out there (Grrr—annoying if, like me, you work within the sector), wellbeing can simply be thought of as an internal sense of comfort and satisfaction with life. It's what we raise a glass to, given the opportunity—good health and happiness. Cheers!

Wellbeing relates to the whole self and includes our mental and physical health. It's about contentedness and feeling a sense of worth. It's about relationships with other people—feeling loved, being connected to friends and family, or being part of a community. There are lots of ways in which daily life might negatively impact our wellbeing, increasing our feelings of stress or anxiety, loneliness or isolation. But we can counteract this by “dialling up” some of the things that might have a positive impact.

Spring is a perfect season to focus on the positives, because there's a natural lift as we come out of winter. Days begin to lengthen, sun shines a little more, the natural world around us begins to sprout and flourish. This time of year might offer you the perfect chance to think about ways you could improve your own sense of wellbeing, and here are just a few ideas you could try:

- **Get Outside!** Take the air, feel the sun on your skin, look at the natural world... whether you find a spot to sit, or you take a stroll, or head into the hills, we are wired to positively respond to being outdoors. Just 15 minutes can have be beneficial to your stress levels.

- **Eat in season.** Spring brings a bounty of nutrient-rich fruit and veg. Look for locally produced fresh seasonal produce like asparagus, broad beans, radishes, spring onions, leeks and rhubarb. You might even grow your own! Prices tend to be cheaper too than for imported, out of season produce.

- **Spring Clean!** Time to throw open the windows (clean the windows!) and freshen your home. Wipe those harder to reach surfaces, shake out the rugs, dust the cobwebs, and tackle those little jobs that just don't get done!

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



Mollie's Garden: Spring Forward

JAMES BELL
HEAD GARDENER, MOLLIE'S GARDEN

After the garden's closure for a private event through March, we are back to normal opening hours in time for the best of spring. Every day can be a busy day in the garden, but this is especially the case in Spring when everything is growing! Keeping the lawns short, the weeds at bay and getting the new greenhouse seedlings to grow healthily is all part of the fun at this busy time.

Another big part of the fun was our Easter Egg Trails weekend on 19 - 20 April. The first one for many, many years was enjoyed by all. Over 230 Egg trails were completed with a chocolate egg prize the reward for successfully completing the trail. Thank you to everyone who came along - many for the first time - and made the weekend a success. We hope to see you visiting the garden again soon. More egg trails to come in 2026!

Elsewhere in the garden, we have installed a new bike rack. This was made possible via a generous grant from the Pentland Community Chest small grant scheme. The grant helps benefit the local community. Our new bike rack is intended to enable people who cycle be confident in the knowledge they can secure their bike when they reach their destination. In turn it should help encourage more cycling around Balerno and the wider area. A huge thank you to PCC for supporting the bike rack. As you can see, it has already been very well used and overflowing with bikes!

The garden coped well with the hot and dry March and the following cooler and damp April. Some of our plants are ahead of where they might normally be (hot March) and some behind (cool April). Our



bright yellow daffodils are on their way out but will be followed through May by our Bluebell woodland and our flowering Alliums in the walled garden. The bluebells seem a little early this year (hot March?) while some of our roses are late into leaf (cool April?).

In the greenhouse, our Auriculas have started flowering well. An array of strong bright colours makes these plants quite desirable. It is building into a fantastic collection. Unfortunately, four went missing in early April. Part of the challenge of managing plant collections means sometimes we must manage for plant losses and how they are replaced and protected. For those that perish and, regrettably, for those that are pinched.

• *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 mallenygarden@nts.org.uk.*

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



Local Volunteer Helps Care & Repair Edinburgh

ALLISON STRACHAN
CARE & REPAIR EDINBURGH

Colin Moss is a local volunteer for the city-wide charity Care & Repair Edinburgh, which helps older and vulnerable people stay independent, comfortable, safe, and secure in their own homes.

Colin currently visits home older and disabled people in Currie, Balerno and further afield who have booked some DIY work with the charity. Colin, who has been volunteering for the charity since 2016, is an IT expert and has completed 43 jobs during the last year—including setting up an iPhone to link to a complicated sound system for a blind client who needed everything to be done through voice



Delightful Decoupage!

The art of *decoupage* is a traditional technique, in which cut out images are used to decorate objects. The word “decoupage” itself comes from the French word “decouper”, meaning “to cut out”. There are so many objects that you can *decoupage*: boxes, tins, baskets and even furniture. Does your item show any wear and tear? Just decorate it (or completely cover it) with paper cut outs. In a nutshell, *decoupage* is a dream technique to spruce up the look of objects and give them a second life.

In this month's column, we will *decoupage* a flower pot, a biscuit tin, a rock and a scallop shell bowl. All you need are a paper napkin, scissors and glue. Additional paints for decoration and varnish are optional. These days you can purchase special *decoupage* paper with beautiful designs, but traditional paper napkins will do the job



and are much cheaper. Although there is a wide selection of paper napkins, for me, fine floral designs work really well, as you can see on the biscuit tin and the scallop shell. I cut a heart shape out of a poppy napkin for the flower pot and a fox with an owl from a different napkin for the rock. In the spirit of the “cut out” *decoupage*, I could have traced the outline of the animals but I decided for an oval cut out at the end.

The next stage is the most satisfying: glue the cut outs onto your item. (Yes, it is that easy!) I use all-purpose glue and the only thing to watch out for are paper creases and wrinkles. You can also layer your cut outs and patch any accidental rips or holes. I used gold paint to decorate the edges of the shell to add more of a luxury feel, but I did not use any varnish on any of the items. Varnish creates a hard protective coating but I went all natural here. If you are an up-cycling enthusiast, why not give *decoupage* a go?

commands.

Care & Repair Edinburgh was established in 1985 with the premise of “helping elderly people who are in most need and whose homes require repair or improvement”—40 years later, the charity still provides affordable DIY and repairs, albeit to a dramatically increased number of people.

Jobs can range from changing lightbulbs and putting up pictures to installing key safes so that individuals can stay independent in their own home with a little bit of help from friends, family members or carers.

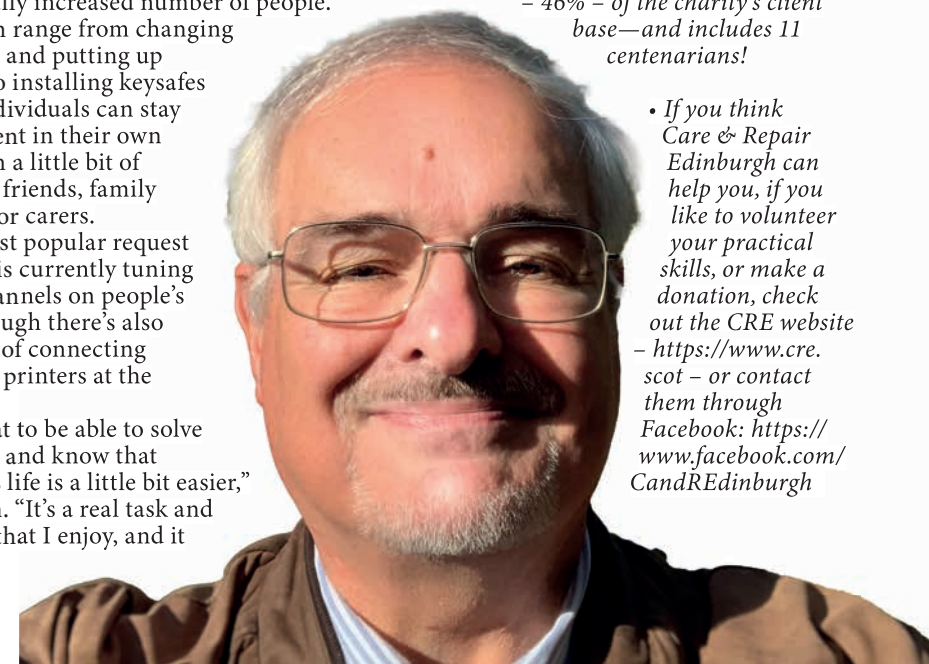
The most popular request for Colin is currently tuning digital channels on people's TVs, although there's also been a lot of connecting laptops to printers at the moment!

“It's great to be able to solve a problem and know that someone's life is a little bit easier,” says Colin. “It's a real task and objective that I enjoy, and it

also makes my wife happy because it gives me a break from being under her feet for a few hours!”

• *Back in 1985, only 17% – less than one in six – of CRE's clients were 80+ years old; today, this age-group makes up almost half – 46% – of the charity's client base—and includes 11 centenarians!*

• *If you think Care & Repair Edinburgh can help you, if you like to volunteer your practical skills, or make a donation, check out the CRE website – <https://www.cre.scot> – or contact them through Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CandREdinburgh>*



Remember 1975?

'WELCOME TO EDINBURGH'

16 MAY 1975

50 years ago Currie and Balerno officially became part of Edinburgh—thanks to what was, at the time, the biggest reform of Scottish local government for nearly half a century. Why did it occur? And what happened next?

WHAT?

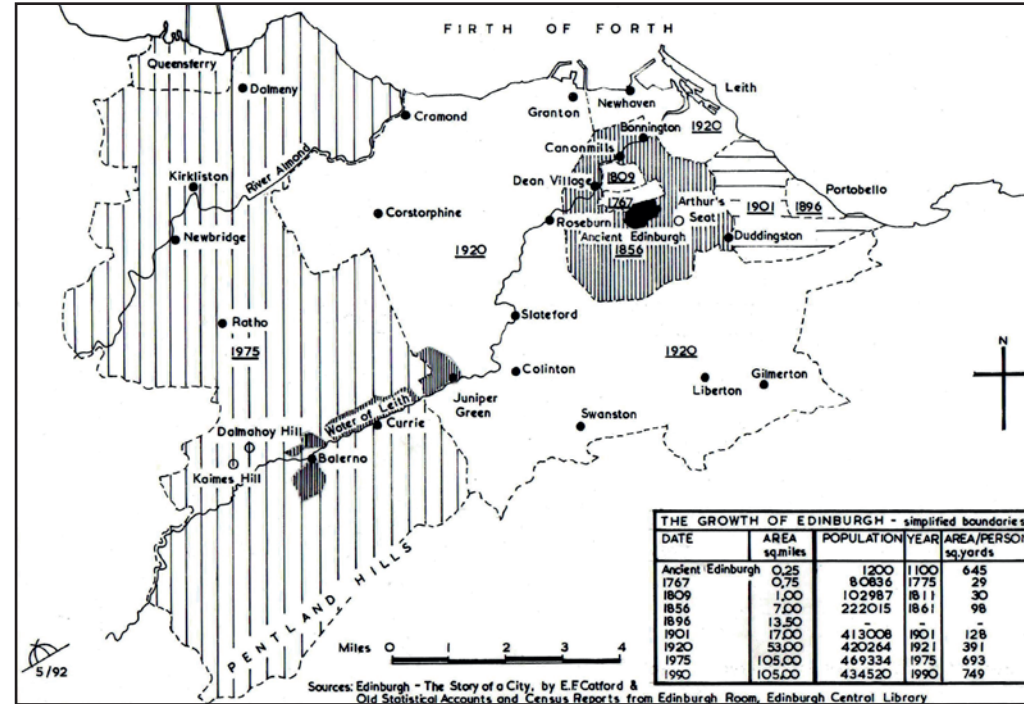
• Across Scotland, nine new regional, 53 district and three island councils took on their executive powers from the former city, burgh and county councils—some of which had been dismissed as too small and “inefficient” despite histories going back centuries.

• Balerno and Currie shifted from the control of Currie District Council, under Midlothian County Council, into the expanded City of Edinburgh District Council under Lothian Regional Council.

• The changes were introduced by *The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973*.

• This, in turn, was based on a report by the Royal Commission on Local Government in Scotland, chaired by the Rt Hon Lord John Wheatley, a Senator in Scotland's College of Justice.

• The so-called “Wheatley Report”, published in September 1969, established the principle of uniform two-tier local government across Scotland; it proposed seven upper “regional” and 37 lower “district” councils—the final legislation introduced nine regional, 53 district and three island councils. (The commission's original suggestion to split up Fife and lump the Borders in with Edinburgh and the Lothians didn't go down well, for example.)



Left: Road signage still marks the pre-1975 city boundary on the western edge of Juniper Green. Above: A map showing the scale of Edinburgh's expansion in 1975. Map: Archie Clark, first published in the April 1984 issue of *Currie & Balerno News*

• The Wheatley Report consistently favoured extending the boundaries of Scotland's then-four cities—Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

• Balerno and Currie, individually described in the Report as small “parish” communities and together forming a larger “locality”, were nevertheless considered to be “suburbs” and “virtually extensions of” Edinburgh—cheek! Hence the recommendation that they be absorbed within the city's expanded boundaries, along with Ratho, Newbridge and South Queensferry.

• A minority report by two of the Commission proposed a considerably larger number of significantly smaller “district” councils, on a scale comparable to the then-existing Currie District Council.

• The final legislation was delayed partly thanks to a “surprise” change of UK government following the General Election in 1970. While the Royal Commission had been instigated by Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson, the final legislation received Royal Assent under his successor, Conservative PM Edward Heath. The new system would, however, come into force during Wilson's final premiership.

The *Edinburgh Evening News* editorial on Friday 16 May 1975 stated: “The main danger is that government is becoming more remote and control of local affairs is in danger of moving into the hands of officials rather than elected representatives. [...] It is important that a sustained effort is made to maintain close links with all the communities, big or small, embraced by the new regional and district authorities.”



It wasn't just local government which changed from 16 May 1975. Construction of a new local police station in Balerno (on the Bridge Road site of its 1950s' predecessor) had started under the aegis of the Lothians and Peebles Constabulary but, when it officially became operational on 28 June 1976, it was as part of the still-freshly minted Lothian and Borders Police—formed from LPC's merger with Edinburgh City Police and Borders Police. The new force's first Chief Constable, John Orr, became responsible for 3,500 officers and staff, covering an operational area of more than 1.5 million acres.

Asked, by Edinburgh's *Evening News* if he was confident that the merger would go smoothly, CI Orr insisted: “Police officers are adaptable and integration seems to be painless.”

Possibly the biggest challenge at the time was moving thousands of files and records from the other forces into what had previously been the capital's own police HQ on Fettes Avenue. Initially, some departments – such as community involvement and pay & finance – remained in the former Lothians and Peebles HQ on the city's Albany Street. The former Berwick, Roxburgh and Selkirk force's HQ in Hawick, meantime, essentially remained unchanged as a divisional centre



'SHOME MISHTAKE SHURELY'

In the May 1985 issue of *Currie & Balerno News*, a Balerno resident reported that, after taking up a City of Edinburgh District Council offer to receive “a breakdown of their 1985/86 rates demand”, they were informed by letter that their Lovedale Road residence was “out-with the area that this revaluation study unit is dealing with” and recommended that they should contact “their own District Council”. The reader asked if this apparent ignorance – 10 years after local government reorganisation – of Balerno's location within Edinburgh's boundaries, was “the reason for the second rate service so often provided for this area?”

MEANWHILE...

• The big films in Edinburgh's cinema include *The Towering Inferno*, *The Odessa File* and *Earthquake* (all Certificate A) plus sexy *Emmanuelle* and controversial musical *Cabaret* (both Certificate X).

• In the Charts, Tammy Wynette was at number one with “Stand By Your Man”, while Mud, The Carpenters and Gary Glitter were all in the top 10. Edinburgh's Bay City Rollers were at 19 with their former number one “Bye Bye Baby”.

• New shows on TV include historical drama *Edward the Seventh* (starring Timothy West), self-sufficiency sitcom *The Good Life* (with Richard Briers and Felicity Kendal), and wish-granting entertainment *Jim'll Fix It*, which would run for 19-year run.

• One of the biggest local stories in May 1975 was the expected UK Government takeover of struggling Edinburgh-based electronics firm, Ferranti—they ultimately paid £15 million (£114.8 million today) for a controlling stake. Meantime, there were continuing protests and campaigns to keep the city's public laundries – the “Steamies” – open, despite an annual loss of £200,000 (more than £1.5 million today). And STV was off the air because of striking technicians.

• The main national stories included: the impending referendum (on 5 June) regarding the UK's continued membership of the Common Market, the trial of alleged Scottish terrorists, and the ongoing travails of PM Harold Wilson

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GAIL COUSINS
BALERNO RAMBLERS

In 1995 Shirley Gibb and Keith Gordon, members of Balerno Ramblers, started a midweek group as retired members had more leisure time to walk on a Wednesday. Initially the advertised walks were once a month. The inaugural walk on Wednesday 26 April 1995 was up Tinto. A mere 10 miles (16 km) with approximately 2,000 feet (610 km) of ascent.

Monthly walks in the summer of 1995 included a 10-mile circular of Devil's Beef Tub and Hart Hill, and another 10-mile circular of Eildon Hills. Of course, 30 years ago those Ramblers were younger and fitter.



The walks proved to be popular so became fortnightly. Shirley and Keith led all the walks, some challenging, some a gentle stroll, locally or further afield in the Borders, Fife or Tayside. The social aspect of walking was and still is very important.

Shirley retired from the group which left Keith as the sole walk leader. To ease the burden, a committee was formed with members asked to become walk

leaders. Some members had more experience in walking outwith the Pentlands, so a varied walk programme evolved—with more local walks during the winter, when short days and icy roads limited the distance, and more adventurous trips thanks to summer's longer days and warmer weather.

We're celebrating the 30th Anniversary of our Midweek walking group on Wednesday 7 May, with a light buffet lunch at the Breakout Café in Currie Rugby Club in Balerno. This will include the cutting of a celebratory anniversary cake.

Weather permitting, and for those who would like a pre-lunch walk, we're organising a fairly short circular walk—starting from the Rugby Club car park at 10.15am, along the Water of Leith Walkway to Currie, up to Lymphoy and back down to the Rugby club in time for lunch (noon for 12.30pm).

We look forward to seeing as many past and present members as possible, although there is a maximum of 70 set by the premises.

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

• We regret no dogs are allowed on our walks.

• Please do not come on the walk if you are feeling unwell.

• New members are always most welcome. We offer you three "trial" walks as a non-member, hoping that your experience with us would then encourage you to join.

• For more information, why not sign up to our mailing list to receive information on forthcoming walks. Email: balerno-ramblers+subscribe@googlegroups.com



FORTHCOMING WALKS

SATURDAY 24 MAY

DUNDAS ESTATE, NEAR KIRKLISTON; A leisurely 7.5 mile (12.1 km) walk in the beautiful Dundas Estate, where we will hopefully see the rhododendrons in full bloom and ducklings on the loch. We start at Conifox Adventure Playground where there is a large car park. We walk to Kirkliston, to have a look at the village and church, before heading along the railway path to Almondhill and on to the Dundas Estate via fields and pavement. A circular walk around the estate takes us past the loch, an old walled garden, a tower and the castle with llamas in the field nearby. There are lovely views towards the Forth Bridges. We return to Kirkliston by the outward route.

SATURDAY 31 MAY

CURRIE TO PHANTOM CLEUGH. This 9 mile (14.5 km) Pentland circular includes 787 feet (240 metres) of ascent. Starting from the Pentland View Car Park, our walk into the Pentlands is via Poet's Glen and Whiteside Plantation, through Maiden Cleugh and into at Phantom Cleugh. We return via Bonaly, Torduff and Clubbidean reservoirs and Poet's Glen, ending our walk at Currie Kirk for tea, coffee and home baking. Please remember to bring cash for the home baking!

Main: A host of golden daffodils. Photo: Sylvia Cooke. Below left: A sunny Wednesday. Photo: Ann Henderson. Below: At top of Maiden's Cleugh. Photo: John Smith

To Currie's Class of 2025



JENNY HUTCHISON
HEAD TEACHER, CURRIE COMMUNITY
HIGH SCHOOL

What a historic moment for our school on Friday 4 April: the final S6 year group to leave the existing Currie Community High School building.

This year group were also my first "first year" at the school, so we have been through lots together during the last six years.

They are the most incredible



group of young people: "babies" in S1 to well-rounded, hardworking, ambitious and fun, wonderful young adults.

All the very best for the future. Stay true to yourselves, listen to those you trust and embrace the good. The best is yet to come. We will never forget you.

Congratulations to all the parents and young adults who are the very last S6 cohort to leave the old Currie Community High School building—wishing them all the very best on their onward destinations and life post-school, writes Currie resident Caroline Brown. As a local piper played the pupils out, she was inspired to write this...

The Piper Plays to Mark a Noteworthy Day

CAROLINE BROWN

And in the blink of an eye

The piper will play

The boys and girls with confidence grew

Those small steps now large strides

Those worried faces now smiles wide

It seemed long days and slow years

But in the blink of an eye it was final year tears

... and laughs at memories made

Friends found for life's next chapter in this school book story

Many pupils walked through your door

Your careful ways and words shaped their confidence more

They can do anything

They can shine

They can realise their own dreams as they set out in a line

The piper plays

A song of joy

for the last S6s at old Currie High.



Illustration: Marjorie Beaumont

LETTERS etc!

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

Oops!

The Hired Help would like to apologise to Paul Murphy whose article in our April issue – on the 100th meeting celebrations of Pentlands Sporting Memories – was erroneously credited to Bob Douglas from Friends of the Pentlands, who we expect was equally surprised by the accreditation. Sorry!



Horse Power

I attach an advance glimpse of what is possibly the latest “active travel” initiative soon to be launched by CEC, before public consultations begin in earnest. In addition to encouraging healthy travel and fine weather, this mode of travel is unlikely to conflict with any 20 mph speed restrictions, will be vegetarian, and emissions will of course be compostable. What’s not to like?

Bob Pritchard
Currie

We’re informed that repair work on the Colinton public toilets is due to start in the week *C&B News* goes to press. Apparently, the new lock on the accessible toilet was intended as a temporary measure to stop continued use while the water was turned off. A new power isolator is due to be installed and then the water system will need to be cleaned out to remove any traces of Legionnaires bacteria. We’re hoping that everything might be sorted out by the time you’re reading this issue! (Fingers, and legs, crossed.)



What the...?



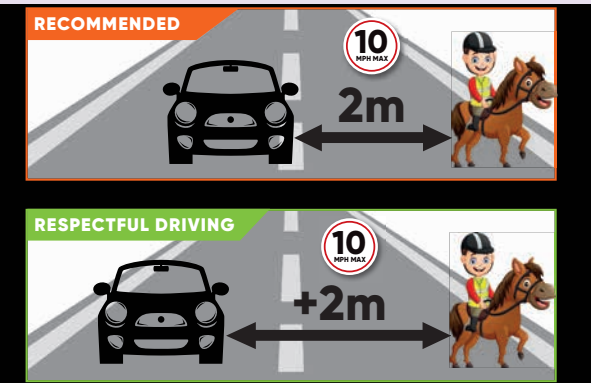
kAtie

‘COMPANION CREATURES’

This lovely weather [at time of writing—Editor] has me thinking how companionable it can be sitting outside in a garden. Just as sweet as the cheerful sounds of neighbourly chatter drifting in on the breeze, are the crossings of paths with the other creatures going about their daily business nearby. The bee that stops for a rest on my bare knee, her feet tickling and the gentle wind made by her wings as she flies to her next task. The industrial hammering of the woodpecker seeking a mate. The overworked bird-parents earnestly gathering nesting materials, where if I sit close and quiet enough in a few weeks I’ll hear the chirrup of greedy chicks. Or maybe we’ll even be fortunate enough to be visited by some spindly legged fox cubs like

we were last year. My favourite though is watching, from my place lying on the grass, the endless safari of beetles, bugs and insects hurrying about in the wildflowers. Who are they, where are they going and what are they up to? Watch long enough and I might find out! There are many circumstances that might lead to one feeling lonely or isolated, and while nature is not a cure-all, this burgeoning of company just on my doorstep has been, over the years, a balm for my soul. Watching and listening to these creatures connects me to the wide wildness of life, reminding me that if I pay attention and get still and patient, I am never alone. There are many wordless wisdoms to learn from these fellow creatures about what it is to be alive.

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY kAtie



Highway Code 215

I belong to a group of local horse riders who regularly use Curriehill Road. It is not unusual for drivers to speed past us and, recently, we had one delivery driver toot his horn at us. Please think twice, slow down and give us space. Highway Code Rule 215 concerns how you approach, overtake and move away from horse riders. It reminds us that horse riders “are often children, so take extra care and remember riders may ride in double file when escorting a young or inexperienced horse or rider. Look out for horse riders’ and horse drivers’ signals and heed a request to slow down or stop. Take great care and treat all horses as a potential hazard; they can be unpredictable, despite the efforts of their rider/driver. Remember there are three brains at work when you pass a horse; the rider’s, the driver’s and the horse’s. Do not forget horses are flight animals [sic] and can move incredibly quickly if startled.” And perhaps most importantly: “Always pass wide and slowly. When you see a horse on a road, you should slow down to a maximum of 10 mph. Be patient, do not sound your horn or rev your engine. When safe to do so, pass wide and slow, allowing at least two metres of space.”

Sally Clark
Local Resident



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PLANNING, ETC BY ARCHIE CLARK

A One Stop Shop in Balerno?

The welcome news that Balerno Village Trust seems set to take over the former Balerno Police Station might, among other things, enable a “One-Stop Shop” to be provided where people can go to discuss their concerns about planning, highways and social work matters.

In last month’s Climate Change article, I should have said that we need properly funded Community Councils in district offices, empowered to respond quickly to community needs. A “One-Stop Shop” could provide some of that by enabling access to councillors and council staff in our rural villages, restoring some of those facilities we lost when our villages expanded decades ago.

Is Anybody in Charge?

I sometimes wonder if infrastructure repairs to our roads and pavements are co-ordinated by the CEC or whether they are all “emergencies” that seemingly allow service providers to barrier off access routes without warning.

The extended closure of Wester Hailes Road at Gillespie Crossroads and signage clutter on roads and pavements suggest that things are allowed to happen without reference to the people most affected—us. Signage should be minimal, simple and addressed to those who need to know and not to protect the backs of the instigators. A 24/7 contact number should be provided.

Rather than relying on contractors to overdo the health and safety bit, can’t officials first check that what is provided focuses on need rather than profit margins?

The chief beneficiaries of all those signs, bollards, barriers and temporary lights are those who provide them—not the public nor drivers who need to search out a diversion nearby.



Baberton Mains—House Replacements Approved

After a very long wait, the six houses at 23-33 Baberton Mains Avenue, damaged in the fatal explosion on 1 December 2023, can now be removed and replaced. Application 25/00908/FUL for the work was quickly approved on 3 April 2025.

One elderly man died following the blast and several families have had their lives disrupted when they had to move elsewhere. The protracted delay dealing with the issue also affected people living

nearby. One, commenting on the bureaucratic process said: “Greater sensitivity and consideration must be shown going forward, including more transparent communication and a genuine effort to prioritise the needs of those most affected.”

The City’s ability to respond to such an emergency shouldn’t take two years to come to a conclusion. It must find ways to accelerate the process, with compassion, understanding and swift positive action. This wasn’t a unique incident.

Planning and Climate Change-3: 20-minute Neighbourhoods

The initial 2030 City Plan Consultation included proposals to extend transport links into the Green Belt, encouraging new housing beyond the Bypass. Then Covid-19 struck and we were told to work from home, making us focus on our most significant needs.

The amended City Plan introduced a new idea: “20-minute neighbourhoods”. These were defined as “places where people can access services which meet daily needs within a 10-minute walk/wheel [ie using a wheelchair, pushchair or buggy] of their house, equivalent to a 20-minute round trip.” This was subsequently diluted to: “living well locally, giving residents the ability to meet most of their daily needs from within their own community by building on models of shared service delivery with public, private and voluntary sector partners. This could be by walking, cycling, taking public transport or using wheelchairs and other ‘wheels’ like scooters or prams.” Thus the “20-minute” concept disappeared before the end of the definition.

What do communities need? In November 1998, Graham Priestley drew attention to the declining number of local shops under the headline: “Use them or Lose Them”. In 2014, the banks started closing all their

branches up the valley, which soon affected the local shops as people either travelled into town to do their banking – and buying goods – or went online. By 2019, the 30-odd businesses on Juniper Green’s main street in 1964 had reduced by 25% to 22.

Can we reverse this trend and strengthen our communities? As long as we must travel outwith our dormitory estates to work, we will always need to refuel our vehicles. That wasn’t an issue when local factories relied on local labour and supporting trades. Can we reshape our villages by repurposing selected buildings as neighbourhood hubs when they come up for sale?

In the December 2019/January 2020 issue, I suggested we should look at all-purpose communities where people live, work, shop, socialise and are educated within their settlements. We should require CEC planners to produce master plans for our villages. I believe we need to secure our “Foodbelt”, green spaces and village footprints, incorporating car parking, banks, a wide variety of shops, workplaces, a “One-Stop Shop” for local authority services including the police, and higher density “Council” housing.

And our local community councils must influence the outcome.



New proposals for Currie Bank of Scotland Site

Firstcall Trade Services have lodged application 25/01216/FUL for flats and parking for four vehicles in front of 158A Lanark Road West. A previous application for the same footprint was granted in 2021. There would be 10 flats (previously six) and no commercial element. The site is in the Currie Conservation Area. A bin enclosure features at the corner beside the Gibson Craig Halls boundary.

Meantime, behind this development, application 24/03075/FUL for a two-bedroom villa has been granted. One of the two objections stated that, as the applicant (Whyalla Investments) for the BoS site, he was concerned that the proposed development would overshadow the rear garden to the detriment of the amenity for his development’s occupants.



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PLANNING, ETC BY ARCHIE CLARK

Another Car-Dependent Development at Gogar?

The new Community Council scheme from the City of Edinburgh Council, which is now in force, outlined 47 revised community councils across the city: seven, after a second-time of asking, failed to attract sufficient local support.

Some of these councils cover quite small geographical areas and populations but others, like Ratho & District, are long overdue for subdivision so that their now heavy burden can be shared with another community council.

Given their workload, it is hardly surprising that community councils focus on their own areas, but there are times when what goes on in one CC's patch could affect others significantly.

Take the string of planning applications being lodged to develop land beside the Bypass south of the Gogar Roundabout, between the A71 Calder Road and the A8 Glasgow Road.

The site – now called “Redheughs” – is proposed for 1,350 houses—3,000 people? So far as I can determine, it would have one traffic-light controlled tunnel to the east to Lochside Avenue for single-deck buses, with all other traffic looping off and back to Gogar Station Road on the west. As few workplaces would exist on-site, and high school provision is off-site, considerable commuter traffic can be expected, supplemented by vehicles servicing the settlement. This new traffic will add to that going to the nearby Royal Bank of Scotland offices and end up on the A8 and the congested A71. As yet, traffic control



proposals at these junctions have yet to appear. While planning legislation expands to enable or protect development, quite how creating an enclosed “town” and extended transport links to meet “20-minute neighbourhoods” and the “sustainable” criteria governments aspire to is unclear.

Experience says that traffic generated far away will affect roads passing through other community council areas, the more so when housing estates are built without workplaces. Hence the A71, in Currie Community Council's area, will be affected as Gogar Station Road is accessed off the Hermiston Roundabout. So also will Balerno and Juniper Green & Baberton Mains CCs as traffic from these communities, using Riccarton Mains Road, ends up at the same point. The fact that this development is not in “our” area does not mean that we shouldn't be concerned, but we might draw councillors' attention to the implications. Mistakes created to meet housing targets may be impossible to later reverse.



SCOTT ARTHUR MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

VE DAY-80

C&B News this month is published just a few days before the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, so it's fitting that we use this opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made during the Second World War. Edinburgh South West has a rich military history, being home to both Redford and Dregghorn Military Barracks.

I recently learned that RAF Kirknewton, currently home to 661 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, was the base for No. 309 “Land of Czerwień” Polish Fighter-Reconnaissance Squadron, equipped with North American Mustangs (Mk 1/A). Their brief presence reminds us that the UK did not stand alone against tyranny. Industries across Edinburgh South West also focused on the war effort, notably the North British Rubber Company (now home to Edinburgh Printmakers), where women produced everything from gas masks to tyres for army vehicles and barrage balloon fabric.

It was not until the final days of the war in Europe that the public understood the full extent of the murderous ambitions of the Nazis. To mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp by British troops, I recently had the honour of meeting two remarkable individuals who witnessed the scenes firsthand.

One was Susan Pollack OBE, now 94, a survivor of both Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz-Birkenau, and she shared her story of liberation. I also met Mervyn Kersh, now 100, a Normandy veteran and Bergen-Belsen liberator. He vividly recounted what he saw in Belsen, and has faithfully returned to Normandy each year to commemorate D-Day.

In the build up to VE day, I co-sponsored a debate in Parliament led by Jim Shannon MP asking that SAS legend Lieutenant Colonel Robert “Paddy” Mayne (DSO & Three Bars) be awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. I am delighted that the MoD has agreed to consider the matter.



GORDON MACDONALD MSP
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

BALERNO MARKET

Balerno Farmers' Market recently celebrated their 20th anniversary and, to mark this milestone, I took the opportunity to lodge a motion in Parliament. From its aims at the very beginning to revitalise the Main Street it has undoubtedly gone from strength to strength over the course of the past 20 years with attendance on average 800-1500 people each month. Originally organised and run by Balerno Conservation and Development Forum it transferred in 2010 to the Balerno Village Trust (BVT) who, along with a team of dedicated volunteers, have overseen the setting up of stalls and stewarding of the market and events such as the Tattie Day or Apple Day. Being a regular visitor to the Farmers' Market I have witnessed its popularity with more stalls and a fantastic variety of local produce on sale. However from its origins in reinvigorating the Main Street I believe it has contributed more than that, making Balerno a better place to live, work and visit and that is all thanks to the efforts of BVT and the local community.

We are all acutely aware of the financial difficulties people are facing, no more than those trying to buy a home with many people in the local area being priced out the market. Some of you may remember the Scottish Government's LIFT Open Market Shared Equity (OMSE) scheme which helps buyers purchase a home by providing up to 40% towards the price. The OMSE has reopened and is available to people who can't afford the full price of a home: including social renters, disabled people, people aged 60 and over, members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

Applicants can apply for between 60% and 90% of the property's value without having to purchase it in full, with the Scottish Government owning the remaining share. You can find out more here: <https://linkhousing.org.uk/LIFT/>

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SUE WEBBER MSP
LOTHIAN REGION

CRIME

A by-product of a relatively affluent city like Edinburgh is the vulnerability to housebreaking and acquisitive crimes, and it's also one of the problems of an under-resourced local force.

According to the Police Federation, there were 17,496 officers when Police Scotland was formed in 2013; now it's below 16,000. Police Scotland say the real figure is 16,631 but, either way, it's still far fewer officers than before. And in Edinburgh things are even more challenging: three years ago Edinburgh had 120 fewer officers than its population needed and by March last year there were 22 less than the year before.

Edinburgh has top place in the housebreaking league, with 1,416 break-ins in 2024, a rate of 27 crimes per 10,000 people, while East Lothian is the third worst, and Midlothian fourth.

In our corner of the city we are never far from hearing about a car theft, house break-in or bikes stolen from garages. Far too many friends and neighbours have been victims of such crimes, with many of us approached for Ring doorbell footage to provide much needed evidence.

What is really concerning is the fact that only 18.1 per cent of the Edinburgh cases are solved, which means those responsible for over a thousand break-ins a year are never brought to justice.

The Scottish Government is responsible for making resources available to the force; it is their choice not to prioritise policing.

It's not difficult to understand then why so few serious crimes like housebreaking in Edinburgh are solved. I believe that it is simply unacceptable that so many Edinburgh residents' homes have been violated by callous criminals who know the police can't investigate every incident.

It is time Edinburgh had a fully resourced police force, one that reflected the growing population and the additional complexities of policing the capital.

CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

CLEANING UP THE CITY

As part of my remit on the Housing Homelessness and Fair Work committee I have been pushing for voids to be brought back into use. This has successfully been done next to Bloomiehall Park in Juniper Green but there was a lot of debris left within the park. After constant pressure to the council, the final mounds of earth have been removed and levelled along with reseeded.

I was alerted via social media about a van which had crashed through a wall at the Pentland car park in Currie. I notified my concerns with the council and urged them to repair this wall ASAP. I'm glad to report they are obtaining quotes to undertake the works. They are also checking with the Road Safety team to see whether it is deemed necessary to provide additional vehicle restraint in this area.

Staying in Currie, I had a request from a resident to see if it was possible to have a bus tracker at the Currie Library city-bound bus stop. I checked with the council and found out that work was already scheduled and was about to start immediately. Hopefully this should be up and running by the time you read this article.

It was reported to me recently that there was a large tarpaulin flapping in the wind high up a tree next to Mansfield Road in Balerno. It would probably have worked better around Halloween but I felt the need to inform the council to get a cherry picker and remove it.

Finally, our group had our "scrub our streets" initiative – which was approved back in 2024 – finally put into action across the city. This project going under the name of "Pride in our City" will see enhanced cleansing service across the city on a ward-by-ward basis, including removal of dog fouling, dumped items, graffiti, chewing gum, gullies, weeding and many other environmentally unfriendly issues.

CLLR NEIL CUTHBERT
COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD WARD

'PERI-URBAN'

As spring finally wins the ongoing struggle against the last remnants of winter, I am increasingly drawn to the lovely countryside around the area we live in.

It's not just longer evenings giving the chance for an after-work stroll along one of our many countryside paths—it's also the feeling of life beginning again, with newborn lambs in the fields and the first shoots of fresh crops piercing through the soil and turning fields a vibrant green. It feels like a page has been turned, and we have the (eternal) hope of a warm summer ahead.

Some years ago, I became aware of the phrase "peri-urban" being used to describe areas around cities where a hybrid landscape combines the urban and rural. There are various definitions, and these can be searched online, but what strikes me is urban features such as shopping centres, universities, and factories can sit alongside agricultural fields that remain used for food production, whether that be wheat or livestock.

These green spaces remain open for us all to use and enjoy—in no small part due to the efforts of land managers and conservation volunteers who look after them.

We have a great connection here with the land that the recent 20th anniversary of Balerno Farmers Market demonstrates. This market helps promote local food, sustainable farming, and small independent producers, while at the same time adding to the sense of community and supporting our local economy.

At a time when it feels like farming and local food production is under threat, every little bit we can do to support our (peri-urban) countryside helps. Long may we have green fields filled with lambs and fresh, growing crops to enjoy every spring. I know I will do all I can as a local representative to keep it that way.

CLLR NEIL GARDINER
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

BUSY APRIL

April was a busy month for Pentland Hills at the Council's Development Management Subcommittee with several quarrying applications for both Balerno and nearby Ratho on the agenda. As I am now our group's Transport Spokesperson, I no longer sit on the DM Subcommittee and was therefore able to attend as a ward councillor and represent the views of constituents, alongside Community Councils and other representatives.

Balerno Farmers Market has celebrated 20 years and become a cornerstone of community events and convivial meeting point for people across the Water of Leith Villages. The organisers past and present deserve a big thanks for making this possible.

Also to be celebrated are our local Community Councils, with, after recent elections, their new members, some of whom are not so new, with some longstanding members returning and others retiring. For those who have given many years of local service their efforts can be recognised, bringing the community voice to council matters. If you have local concerns, or ideas how our communities can be even better, then pop along. All the new community councils will welcome you as a visitor and, who knows, potentially as a new member?

At Transport and Environment Committee I brought forward an amendment encouraging officers to engage with transport providers and major sporting and concert venues to see if transport could be included as an option when purchasing tickets. This already happens in other major European cities. I look forward to an update in May. Inevitably all these things take time!

Now the is shining it's a good time to get along the Water of Leith paths, up to the Pentlands, or to enjoy the landscape around Heriot-Watt!



CLLR FIONA GLASGOW
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

LOCAL HEROES

It has been a busy month with lots of activity around the area. My councillor colleagues and I had the privilege of visiting the New Currie Community High School and wow how impressive it was! An incredible asset is about to open in Currie.

I also had the opportunity to meet up with one of our local heroes Fern McGregor. Fern is a local volunteer who keeps our paths and pavements in Balerno clear of debris and overhanging branches. Fern is a feisty woman who has managed to develop a working relationship with council departments. Fern has worked hard to get access to a gritting machine over the winter period that will help towards keeping the streets of Balerno safe. She is a well-known face in the village and quietly gets on with her passion of making sure the streets are clear of obstructions. I know many of you will be thankful for all the work she does, and I just wanted to recognise her efforts for the community! Thanks, Fern!

I also got the chance to visit another local gem in the area The Free Company, a farm and restaurant offering seasonal food and a very nice selection of drinks. A warm welcome is guaranteed in this gorgeous place; it is run by brothers Angus and Charlie and their dedicated young team. Based in Cockburn Farmhouse Balerno, it is on my list for another visit soon.

Local community councils have had their inaugural meetings and thanks goes to those committed volunteers who take their role of community representation seriously. Local residents are welcome to attend these meetings and to bring issues to the attention of the amazing volunteers who will work hard to address them. Thank you and well done to our new community councillors!



CLLR STEPHEN JENKINSON
PENTLAND HILLS

FARMERS' MARKET

As a local Councillor, it brings me great joy to reflect on the incredible journey of the Balerno Farmers' Market as we celebrated its 20th anniversary last month. Since its inception, this vibrant market has become a cornerstone of the community, connecting residents with local farmers, artisans, and small producers—not to mention good coffee!

The Market was launched in 2005, born out of a desire to support local agriculture and promote sustainable food practices. During the past two decades, it has evolved from a small gathering of passionate vendors into a bustling hub for fresh produce, handmade goods, and local delicacies. Each stall tells a story of dedication and craftsmanship, showcasing the best that our region has to offer and all in the wonderful Main Street location.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the organisers and volunteers who have been instrumental in keeping the market thriving over the years. Your hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment to our local community have not gone unnoticed. From setting up stalls to coordinating events and ensuring a welcoming atmosphere, your efforts have created a space where friendships flourish and local culture is celebrated.

As we look to the future, I am excited about the continued growth and innovation of the Balerno Farmers' Market. I'm sure it will continue to expand its offerings and attract new vendors while maintaining a commitment to sustainability and local produce. I'm convinced that the market will remain a beloved gathering place for all, fostering community spirit and supporting the local economy.

So, here's to another 20 years of the Balerno Farmers Market—may it continue to unite our community and nurture our appreciation for all the offerings and opportunity it brings. Thank you all for being a part of this wonderful journey!



CLLR CONOR SAVAGE
COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD WARD

FRESH STARTS

I'd like to start by congratulating the new and returning Community Councillors within Colinton, Oxbgangs and Fairmilehead. I look forward to working with them all in this new term for the betterment of the area. The time, effort, and passion they devote to making our community a better place is immensely appreciated by all of us.

Since my last column, I have been appointed to several Council Committees, attending some for the first time. A particular highlight was my first as a member of the Finance & Resources Committee. A key topic was continuing the subsidy for Lothian Buses 38 and 400 – now 18 – services, which I voted in favour of, citing usage by residents during my statement of support.

I took part in a meeting organised by Dr Scott Arthur MP to speak with residents of Dreghorn Estate affected by the ongoing housing situation, and answer any questions they may have, alongside the Housing, Homelessness & Fair Work and Finance & Resources Conveners.

I continue to support residents with any issues they raise with me directly, with casework covering topics such as transport, housing, litter, as well as others.

If you have any concerns about local services or individual casework you'd like me to look into, I'm here to listen and take action. As always, if you'd like to raise anything please get in touch. You can reach me via email at conor.savage@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone (0131) 529 3248.

I now also have my regular schedule of surgeries on the last Saturday of the month, with the following times and locations: Charwood from 11am; Colinton Library from 12.15pm; and Oxbgangs Library from 1.30pm.

Hope to see some of you there!



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DIFFERING RULES

The first meeting of the new Balerno Community Council, on 3 April, was unusual for several reasons: chiefly because it was almost completely devoted to presentations concerning two local developments—the route of an overhead power line, and a proposed development at Ravelrig Quarry.

The former revealed that local communities have very little control when it comes to matters falling under various Electricity Acts, which is what will govern decisions on the power line. The latter indicated that some developers do listen to concerns from the community and are prepared to adjust development plans accordingly.

The Cloich power line will extend 40 km (24.9 miles) to connect to the national grid at Currie substation, crossing the Pentland Hills and exiting to the west of Balerno before running down the valley to Currie. Few people would wish to have a 132 kv power line running past their home, yet the scope to influence routing decisions appears very limited, and that seems far from acceptable.

In contrast, regarding the development at Ravelrig Quarry, the representative from Tarmac explained that they accepted the force of the objections offered both by Balerno Community Council and local residents. Tarmac subsequently confirmed that position, withdrawing their application so far as it sought permission for more powerful blasting procedures.

Power lines and quarry operations can be equally objectionable; both are a form of nuisance. The “right of redress” should be substantially similar in each case. In the case of the Cloich power lines we have yet to see whether local expressions of concern will be taken into account. If they are not, it would be a very serious matter potentially affecting people in parts of Balerno and Currie.



DAVID BEWSEY
COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

SPEEDY RESURFACING

Both new and returning members were welcomed to April's inaugural meeting of the new session of Colinton Community Council, by returning officer Cllr Jason Rust. Following public confirmation of the new councillors, nominations were accepted for the posts of Chair, Treasurer and Engagement & Inclusion Officer—the latter hopefully being an asset to greater liaison with the wider Colinton community. Sadly, the position of Secretary was not taken up, but a working arrangement was agreed upon.

Onto the first meeting: concerns over the speed of traffic in Colinton Village

have been raised a number of times. The new Colinton Community Council was able to confirm that power sockets for vehicle-activated speed signs (VAS) had been installed at the points specified in the original Road Safety Plan; at the foot of Gillespie Road, and at the Spylaw Street junction. There were also six VAS sockets installed along Woodhall Road, in response to an accident involving a young girl there two-to-three years ago.

Residents have approached CEC's road safety officer about their concerns about excessive speeds on the newly resurfaced sections of both Redford Road and Dreghorn Loan. The latter's previously poor surface certainly restricted speed—in 2020, the free flow average speed recorded near Dreghorn Loan Hall registered 21.5mph.

It's been indicated that a new survey could be carried out in the autumn series of Speed Surveys to assess whether there has been any increase due to the new, much smoother road surface. Despite the 20mph limits it seems almost impossible to persuade drivers to moderate their speed, but luckily there have been no serious accidents. So far.



DR KEITH JAMES SYMINGTON
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEW START, OLD ISSUES

April saw the first meeting of the new Currie Community Council—congratulations to the new CCC members!

Kinauld Dell residents attended the April meeting and raised frustration over the repeated vandalism of locks they had installed on the Water of Leith gate. The developer had informed them that it was a private right of way, solely for the use of residents of the estate. As a result, residents are having to meet the costs of maintaining the path, despite it being used by the general public, leading to issues with litter and misuse. Councillor Bruce explained the process by which the Council can adopt and maintain the path, which would help solve

the problem, and will check that the developer has applied. Meanwhile, residents were advised to form a committee to liaise with the Council and erect signage to alternative routes.

Currie and Balerno Green Spaces Chair, Ken Brown, gave an update on efforts to improve local green areas. The group has been communicating with CEC and holding drop-in sessions at Currie Library, gathering locals' views on where wildflowers should be planted and the grass cut in order to create a balanced approach between play, dog walking and biodiversity.

Following on from last month, the dog subject to the Control Notice was seen roaming the streets. The dog's behaviour has so far been non-aggressive, but breaches were reported to the Street Enforcement Team. Police and CEC have responded, with fencing at the owner's property now repaired.

In other matters, three youths were charged with setting fire to an unoccupied house at Brooklea and a youth was also charged with traffic offences and damage to the football pitch. Police continue to patrol the area and urge residents to report any anti-social behaviour.





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Community Choir's Summer Sessions Return

MARGARET KIERAN
SECRETARY, COLINTON & MERCHISTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

As reported last issue, Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir is again running its popular "Singing in the Summer" Sessions from early May. Under Director of Music Tim Coleman and accompanist Morley Whitehead, participants will learn and sing a mix of classical, popular, jazz and folk songs—one each week. There will then be a concert for family and friends on 23 June followed by a social gathering.

the
**colinton &
merchiston**
community choir

No previous choral experience is required.

• *Singing in the Summer, with the Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir, consists of eight Monday evening sessions from 5 May until 23*

June inclusive.

• *Each session runs between 7.15pm and 9pm at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, EH13 0BB*

• *Cost for the eight sessions is £47, including music hire and tea and coffee.*

• *To book please contact: secretary@colintonchoir.org*

• *For more information about our choir, please consult our website: www.colintonchoir.org or our Facebook page.*



Artists and Venues Selected for Inaugural Pentlands Open Studios Art Trail

JOHN ELLIOTT
POST

After a successful open call, the inaugural Pentlands Open Studios (POSt) art trail will take place over the final weekend in August.

The trail, showcasing the work of 18 professional artists and makers, offers a rare opportunity to experience their work where it is made, while exploring the beautiful upper valley of the Water of Leith.

Created by local volunteers, the POSt art trail provides a unique opportunity

for visitors to connect with artists in their own studios, see live demonstrations, and purchase original works directly from their creators.

The trail features diverse studio spaces, including six working artist studios and four generously-donated exhibition spaces, including: Craw's Nest, Currie; the "Shed" in Spylaw Park, Colinton; the community space Hub@531, Juniper Green; and Malleny Garden, in Balerno.

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience the work of artists specializing in a variety of mediums, including bookmaking,

printmaking, jewellery design, and textile art doll-making.

A printed brochure and map will be available to help visitors navigate the trail and show how you can visit the various studios by walking, wheeling, cycling or using public transport.

• *The full list of participating artists will be announced on the POSt website in May: <https://Linktr.ee/POStudios>*

• *The Art Trail takes place over the weekend of 30 - 31 August 2025.*

• *Interested in helping out? Volunteers are warmly welcome to assist in both preparing for and running the event. For more information, visit the POSt website.*

www.facebook.com/candbnews

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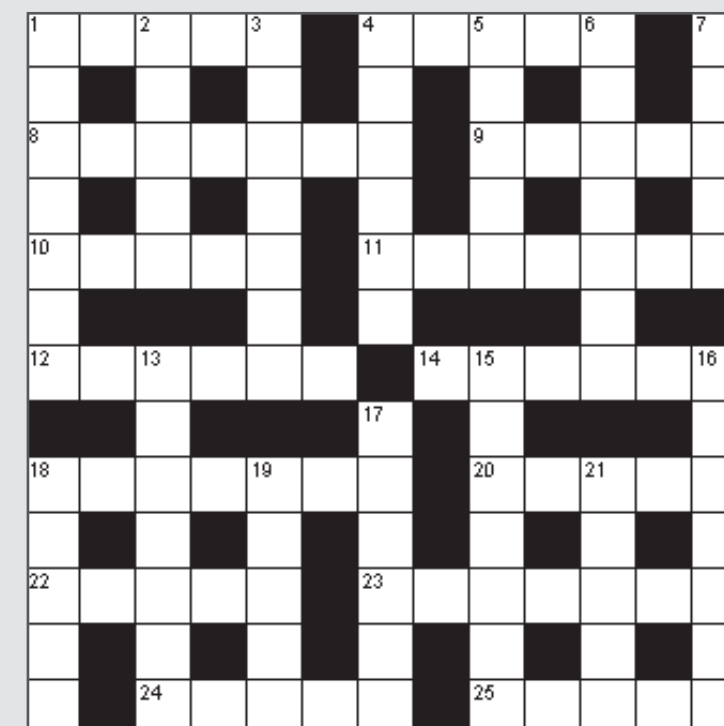
Good luck everyone!

ACROSS

1. Extremely cold. (5)
4. Out of fashion. (5)
8. Communication channel. (7)
9. Crowd scene actor. (5)
10. Part of a church. (5)
11. Unlawful. (7)
12. Natural abilities or qualities. (6)
14. Conundrum. (6)
18. Malleable. (7)
20. Irritated. (5)
22. Spear. (5)
23. Acute. (7)
24. Stringed instrument. (5)
25. Overheads. (5)

DOWN

1. Chivalrous. (7)
2. Guides. (5)
3. Distinguish. (7)
4. Writing implement. (6)
5. Carapace. (5)
6. Lured. (7)
7. Intended. (5)
13. Curt. (7)
15. Ludicrous. (7)
16. Interminable. (7)
17. Sheep known for its high quality fleece. (6)
18. Greek letter. (5)
19. Paragon. (5)
21. Male monarchs. (5)



NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE PHONE

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

EASY

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MEDIUM

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LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

Our congratulations go to Gary Taylor from Baberton Mains who won last issue's Crossword prize.

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MEDIUM

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HARD

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Email whatson@candbnews.com, including: Day/Date, Event Title,
Venue, Time, brief details, and contact phone/email as appropriate.
Details correct at time of going to press. Inclusion should not be assumed
to be a recommendation by C&B News.

WEEKLY

MONDAYS

- **ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH PLAYGROUP:** St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton; 10am - 11.30am. (Every Monday during School Term.) Play, craft, refreshments, singing. All Welcome. Contact: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com for more information.
- **MONDAY MAHJONG:** 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
- **MONDAY MORNING POP IN CAFÉ:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. Come for a cuppa every Monday morning; our volunteers will welcome you for a cuppa, a chat and perhaps a game of scrabble. Donations welcomed but not required.
- **COFFEE, CAKE & COMPANY:** Redeemer Church Edinburgh, 64 Bridge Road, Colinton; 10.30am - noon. Drop in for free coffee, tea, a cake and a chat every Monday morning. All welcome. For further information see: www.redeemeredinburgh.org/ccf/
- **LUNCHTIME RELAXATION:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 12.15pm - 1pm. Join Raymond at lunchtime to enjoy a guided relaxation to calm the mind and ease stress. No booking required, please drop in.
- **BALERNO BRIDGE CLUB:** Gibson Craig Halls, 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. Please get in touch: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

- **ACE IT DIGITAL SKILLS:** Currie Library, Lanark Road; 10am until noon. FROM 13 MAY ONWARDS. Free, friendly digital skills coaching for over 50s. For total beginners or just needing a refresher, we are here to help. Call 0131 667 2053 for more information.
 - **KNITTING GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. A very popular, welcoming group for novice and experienced knitters alike. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com
 - **COMMUNITY YOGA CLASS:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 1pm - 2pm. Spaces are available for this popular lunchtime class with Monica from Karma Tree yoga. Cost £6. Please enquire by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com
 - **ITALIAN CONVERSATION GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2.30pm - 3.30pm. Please drop in to practise your Italian language skills in an informal setting.
 - **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. 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. Contact Donna Mackey on 07340 560306
- **THE OCTAGON CLUB for Adults with learning disabilities:** Gibson Craig Hall, Lanark Rd West; 7pm - 9pm. Contact Claire Maloney: 07999 410721

THURSDAYS

- **SONG TIME:** Gibson Craig Halls, 158 Lanark Road West; 1.30pm - 2.15pm. Aimed at under fives "and their grown-ups". Join Rachel "to sing songs and have fun". Just turn up—no need to book. Pay what you can (suggested donation £5). Email: rachelpetyt1@gmail.com; mobile: 07814 198715; Instagram: @rachelianamusic
- **ACCESSIBLE YOGA COMMUNITY CLASS:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 2.45pm - 3.45pm. Accessible Yoga community class—free, donations 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. Please email to enquire about spaces: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com
- **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>
- **BOOKBUG AT COLINTON LIBRARY:** 14 Thorburn Road, Colinton; 10.30am. Come and join us for songs, stories and rhymes. Please call the library to book: (0131) 529 5603.
- **BABERTON BEAVERS AND CUBS:** Juniper Green Church Hall; 6pm - 7pm (Beavers) and 7.15pm - 8.45pm (Cubs). Please email: information@babertonscouts.org

SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

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

FORTNIGHTLY

FIRST & THIRD MONDAYS

- **FORGET ME NOTES GROUP:** St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, 2pm-4pm. Join us for an hour of music and memories. Bring a friend or come and meet new ones. Followed by refreshments. Contact: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com for more information.

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.

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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. 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

FRIDAY 2 MAY

• **GARDENING GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. All Welcome - experienced or novice, pot planters or allotments. This friendly group welcomes enthusiasts to share common love of gardens and gardening. This month: a visit to Redhall Gardens. Please email for details and to join us: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

TUESDAY 6 MAY

• **NEW MONTHLY MENOPAUSE SUPPORT GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 8pm - 9.30pm. Our new monthly menopause community group offers a chance to meet up with other women who understand, to

share a cuppa, chat and support. This group will meet every month, on the first Tuesday evening; anyone is welcome to come along.

WEDNESDAY 7 MAY

• **PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB:** Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am. "Building A Brand—Woodrow's of Edinburgh", an illustrated talk by Megan Brown. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

FRIDAY 9 MAY AND SUBSEQUENT 4 WEEKS

• **INTRICATE CROCHET:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - 11.30am. Join Penelope Birch (Crowchez) over four Friday mornings in May to create something a little more delicate using crochet. Ideal for those who would like to extend their skills or challenge themselves. Penelope will provide all your materials as well as her expert guidance, and over the four weeks you will be able to progress with your project and create something beautiful! These sessions are being funded by the Hub and we only ask for you to make a donation to support our ongoing work in the community if you are able to do so. PLEASE BOOK YOUR SPACE ONLINE. Tea and coffee also available. Online booking is available at <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 10 MAY

• **BALERNO FARMERS'**

LOCAL COMMUNITY CAFES

SATURDAYS

• **COMMUNITY CAFE:** Currie Community Centre, 280 Lanark Road West; 9am - noon. Barista coffees and home baking.
• **THE COFFEE STOP:** Currie Kirk, Kirkgate; 2pm - 4pm. **STARTS 10 MAY.** Tea, coffee, home baking and a warm welcome.

TUESDAYS - FRIDAYS (& FARMERS' MARKET, 2ND SATURDAY)

• **THE MILL CAFE:** 2 Main Street, Balerno; 9am - 2pm. 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.

TUESDAYS - SATURDAYS

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



The Mill Cafe

MARKET: Main Street, Balerno; 9am - 1pm. Monthly event attracting local crafts, produce and groups. More information: <https://balernovt.org.uk/farmers-market>
• **BALERNO VILLAGE SCREEN—A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (15):** St Joseph's Hall, Balerno Parish Church; 7.30pm. Free community cinema run on donations. All tickets available online: www.balernovillagescreen.com

SUNDAY 18 MAY

• **COLINTON ORCHESTRA:** Polwarth Parish Church; 7.30pm. Orchestra Spring Concert. All welcome. Entry by Donation (suggested £8) Refreshments will be served during the interval. Further details at www.colintonorchestra.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY

• **PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB:** Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am. Members AGM, followed by lunch at The Kinleith Mill Bar Restaurant. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

SUNDAY 25 MAY (OR SUNDAY 1 JUNE)

• **THE BIG LUNCH AT CAMPBELL PARK:** Campbell Park, Colinton; noon - 4pm. Big musical entertainment including jazz band The Fat Possums and Big Sing with Sandy Brechin. Big BBQ, Big Cake and Big Woof. (It's BIG!)

TUESDAY 27 MAY

• **PALM DEMENTIA CAFE:** St Joseph's Centre, Balerno; 3pm - 4.30pm. The cafe serves the communities of Currie, Balerno and Juniper Green providing a space for people with dementia and their carers to meet others for support and social contact. For more information please contact Clare Dow on palmcafebalerno@gmail.com

TUESDAY 27 MAY

• **BALERNO FOLK CLUB:** Balerno Bowling Club, 5 Ladycroft; 7.30pm for 8.15pm start. This month's guest is East Lothian singer-songwriter George Machray. For quirky and funny ditties or poignant ballads, George is your man! Members and guests welcome.

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Small Ads

Big Match at Balerno Bowling Club

NIGEL DUNCAN
C&B NEWS

Brian Buckner has just started his third term as president of Balerno Bowling Club, and he has one big date on his mind.

It is Saturday 10 May, when he plays in the “President v Vice-President” match on the green at Ladycroft.

His opposition is the club’s vice-president Phil Marshall. Brian has never won the match, and is determined to break his duck.

The season opened on Easter Sunday and the new-look committee has been hard at work behind the scenes ensuring that the club – a fixture of village life in Balerno since 1885 – was ready. That included volunteers painting the downstairs function suite.

Adam Patterson was re-appointed treasurer, with Nigel Duncan as secretary. Other committee members are Maxie Baigrie, Margaret Buckner, Charlie Dalton, Ron Duguid, Sandra Duguid, Neil Russell,

Sharon Rollason, and Hugh Watt.

Ron and Charlie remain in charge of grass cutting – a key role in the club – while Margaret is now in charge of sponsorship and social events.

“We are a friendly bowling club which encourages people of all ages to take part in this popular sport,” Brian Buckner explains.

“Membership entitles people to bowl from 11am every day (weather permitting) from April to September and we have an extensive bar upstairs and a function suite downstairs which can hold over 100 people. It has a separate bar.

“Our members play in a number of domestic competitions, and we hold twice weekly ‘Hat Nights’ when members can turn up, put their names in the hat and then play in a team.

“Furthermore, our teams play in various leagues around the capital and some of our bowlers have gone on to record international success in major events and in the Commonwealth Games.”

Brian added: “Our function suite can be hired by members

Main: (left to right) Brian Buckner and Phil Marshall. Bottom left: The volunteers who recently painted the Downstairs Hall (left to right): Phil Marshall, Brian Buckner, Gordon Cameron (sitting) and George McLaughlin. Bottom right: George McLaughlin filling in the holes in one of the walls. Photos: Nigel Duncan

and non-members for various events like engagement parties and dances and we also host yoga and other events in there. We are very much part of the community here.

“Balerno Bowling Club is very much a family-friendly club and we look forward to seeing you at Ladycroft during the season. Why not pop down and give bowling a try? There are people here who would only be too happy to give you some hints and tips on how to play the game.”

• The new Official Balerno Bowling Club website: www.balernobowlingclub.com

• For more information about Balerno Bowling Club, please call: (0131) 449 3789.



The LTA Park Tennis Project programme of works at Juniper Green Tennis Club recently oversaw the erecting of new fencing around the resurfaced courts and the installation of a smart access main entrance gate, writes Committee Chair Paul Murphy. The resurfaced macadam tennis courts are currently completing a necessary curing period of four weeks to allow the newly laid tarmac to fully settle, prior to acrylic paint being added on top. Alas, due to the weather dependency we can't give a definite date for the re-opening of the courts but, as soon as we can we will communicate the date through all our established channels and invite last year's members and also the wider local community to subscribe for an annual season ticket, mindful that the new courts will be, for the first time, open for 12 months of the year and playable in all weather conditions. <https://www.facebook.com/junipergreentennis> Email: junipergreentennis@gmail.com



Oriam Walking Football Continues to Grow

GERRY BUTLER
CHAIR OF CURRIE FC

BACK
COVER
STORY

Oriam Walking Football is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, having started life back in 2015 following a pilot scheme launched by Heriot-Watt University.

Since then, membership has grown steadily and there are now more than 100 playing members.

“Walking Football is one of the fastest growing sports worldwide,” explained Oriam WF chairman Paul Rendall. “We’re delighted to see so many new players signing up and enjoying the physical and mental health benefits that Walking Football brings.

“As well as our recreational sessions, we also have six competition teams who take part in events across Scotland. At the end of April we had an over-sixties squad heading off to Albufeira, Portugal. Next year we hope to have our first competitive Ladies squad.

“As well as Walking Football, we provide a number of other activities such as Walking Tennis and Badminton, along with a Book Club and Walking Group—all designed to bring people together.”

• Oriam Walking Football meets three times a week at Oriam, located in the Heriot-Watt University campus: Mondays and Fridays, 12.30pm to 1.30pm; and Wednesdays, noon to 1pm.

• Sessions are open to women aged 40+ and men aged 50+. We're keen to add to our growing membership!

• For more information, contact Club Secretary Deric Oliver on 07803 508401.

www.facebook.com/candbnews

Currie Chieftains Round-Up: End of Season, New Beginnings

SUSAN H LEE
CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

SENIORS

The curtain came down on another fantastic season for the Currie Chieftains on Saturday 19 April, as the first XV took on Ayr in the semi-final of the Men's Premiership. In a tightly contested battle against the former Super 6 side, Currie edged ahead with just seven minutes left on the clock. But, in a dramatic finish, Ayr managed to snatch back the lead, securing their spot in the final against Watsonians.

While the result wasn't what we hoped for, there's so much to be proud of. Currie Chieftains have impressively featured in every post-season knockout round since 2015, a testament to the strength, resilience, and consistency of our players and coaching team.

The game also marked a significant milestone as we said farewell to club legend Graeme Carson. With 204 appearances under his belt, Carson has been a rock in the front row and a huge part of the club's story. We wish him all the very best in his retirement from the game.

YOUTH SECTION

There's no slowing down for our younger teams, who are still full steam ahead with matches and training. Our recent Mini Tournament was another roaring success, with



brilliant performances all round and an amazing turnout. A massive thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the day run so smoothly—it wouldn't happen without you! It was also a bittersweet moment as our Primary 7 players enjoyed their final mini tournament before they are officially welcomed into the midi section at next month's club dinner.

On the representative front, we're bursting with pride to see several of our young players stepping onto the national stage.

Ben McDonald has earned a call-up to the Scotland U18 Men's squad, while Kara Borthwick and Niamh Watters have both been selected for the U18 Women's squad. All three were involved in the recent Six Nations event and were fantastic ambassadors for Currie Rugby Club. Huge congratulations to them all—what a brilliant achievement!

We're also thrilled for Aaron Lee and Cameron Gettinby, who have both been named in the Scotland Touch Rugby High Performance Squad. After heading off to university last year, they've continued their rugby journeys, playing for their respective universities and now also getting involved in FIT Touch Rugby. Best of luck to them both as they push for national selection. Currie Chieftains also run FIT touch rugby on a Monday night and are always looking for new players.

And don't forget - “Tartan Touch” is back! Starting soon, our Friday night social, non-contact rugby sessions are open to everyone—players and non-

players of all ages and abilities. Come along from 7pm, join in the fun, and stick around for a bite and a drink in the clubhouse afterwards.

7S RUGBY

With the 15-a-side season wrapped up, attention now turns to the 7s circuit. Training is kicking off soon as our players prepare for a series of tournaments, including the prestigious Melrose 7s.

We're also excited to announce that Currie's very own 7s Festival returns on Saturday 7 June! Last year's event was a sun-soaked day of rugby, food, and entertainment—and we're planning for more of the same this time around. Whether you're a die-hard fan or just fancy a fun day out, everyone in the community is warmly invited to come along and enjoy the action.

• Tickets can be purchased in advance or on the day via our fanbase app: www.app.fanbaseclub.com

FREE!

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BOWLING CHALLENGE, p46



NEW PLAYERS FOR CURRIE FC, p3

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**Oriam Walking Football 60+
Players Travel to Portugal**

WALKING TALL

INSIDE: NEWS p2 LOCAL HISTORY p16 FEATURES p21 VIEWS p28 WHAT'S ON p43