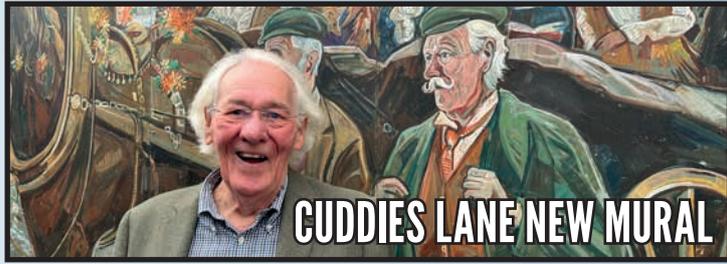


FREE!



CUDDIES LANE NEW MURAL



BAVELAW GREEN FOOTBRIDGE - AT LAST!

C&B NEWS

CURRIE ◦ BALERNO ◦ JUNIPER GREEN ◦ BABERTON MAINS ◦ COLINTON



New Term - New School

INSIDE: NEWS ◦ LOCAL HISTORY ◦ FEATURES ◦ VIEWS ◦ WHAT'S ON

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.

PRODUCTION

Editor: Paul Fisher Cockburn
editor@candbnews.com

Advertising Manager: Moira Peterson
advertising@candbnews.com

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

Advertising rates are listed on our website. Adverts must be booked by the published deadlines. We reserve the right to refuse or amend adverts and accept no responsibility for any omission or inaccuracy.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Chairperson: Gail Rankin
chairperson@candbnews.com

Donations Manager: Ros Salton
donations@candbnews.com

Treasurer: Michelle Donegan
treasurer@candbnews.com

Distribution Manager: Derek Douglas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

The Currie and Balerno News is a private company limited by guarantee and without shareholders. Registered in Scotland No. 275967. c/o 11, Turner Avenue, Balerno, EH14 7BS.



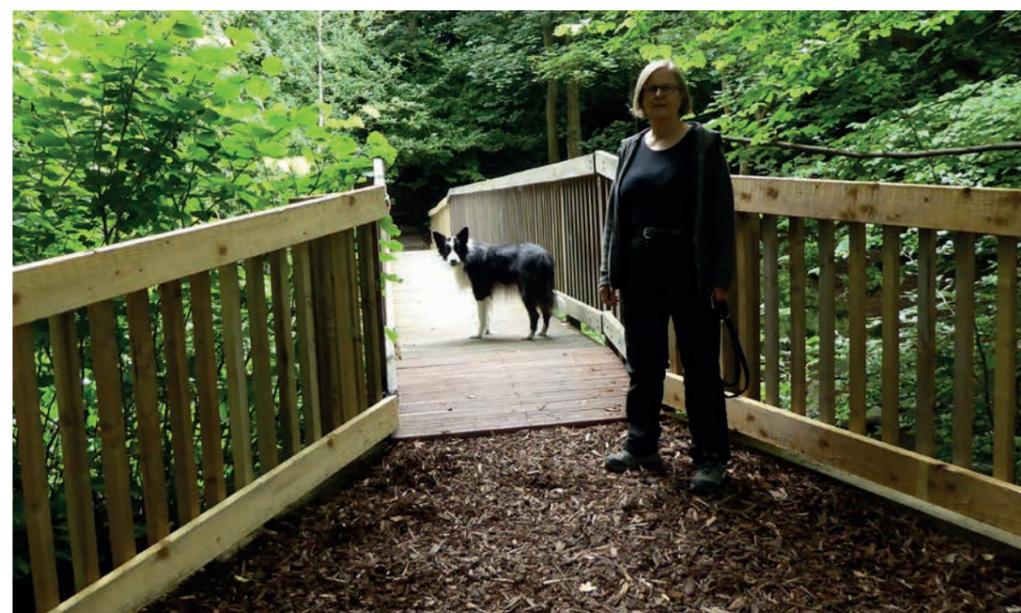
DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

ADVERTISING & LISTINGS: 16 SEPTEMBER
EDITORIAL: 21 SEPTEMBER
ISSUE DISTRIBUTED: 3 OCTOBER



Above: In June, Currie FC 2018s celebrated the end of their first full football season with coaches and parents, with all players receiving a medal for their efforts. Photo: Nick Hogg.

Below: July's volunteer sessions at Dr Mackay's Woods included a preliminary visit to the Inch Nursery to pick up a variety of plants – Juniper, Geum, Cornus (dogwood), Scabiosa, Viburnum and some annuals (Begonias and geranium) – to add some instant colour to the entrance. What a difference in less than a year! Plus improved railings! Photos: Emily Ronaldson, ELGT.



Above: Some 29 months after being put in place (and nine-and-a-half years since its predecessor was closed by CEC), the new Bavelaw Green Footbridge is now open – and attracted some sadly unoriginal and poorly rendered graffiti (NOT shown) within a couple of days. We've heard that complications around CEC's adoption of the bridge were the main reason for the frustrating delays. Photo: Douglas Lowe.



Below: In June, Shirley Jamieson, who had worked for many years as a crossing lady on Lanark Road in Juniper Green (assisting generations of local children and their families), was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours. Congratulations – and Thank You!

Left: Primary 5 are very proud of the produce that they planted last year, writes Kerri McKay, P4 Teacher at Currie Primary School. They were delighted to see the current P4s having great fun harvesting a wide range of vegetables out in our sunny school garden.



Below: Jafar Ouso proudly points to the certificate confirming his Mealzo Takeaway Award as the Best Pizza Chef in Edinburgh, writes Nigel Duncan. Originally from Kurdistan, Jafar learned to cook the world-famous dish with his boss, Isso Isso, at the Balerno Fry. The certificate hangs proudly inside the establishment at 57 Bavelaw Road and is also displayed in the front window. Jafar has no idea how many other outlets were involved in the judging process, but is honoured by the award.



BRIEFLY WHILE WE WERE AWAY...

- **THE RAILWAY INN:** The new owners of this long-closed venue in Juniper Green applied for planning permission to make significant internal and external alterations, including the addition of a new restaurant and kitchen extension to the rear of the building.
- **CAREHOME:** The Salvation Army proposed the closure of the Davidson House care home in Colinton, as part of a UK-wide “transition from providing residential care for older people to grow its community-based support model”.
- **BUS LANES:** Plans to trial “7-7” bus lanes (7am to 7pm, seven days a week) along the Lothian Buses 44 route (between Gillespie Crossroads and Musselburgh) were postponed – likely until next year – because of “administrative” and “financial” issues.
- **PARK LIFE:** Muir Wood Park (Currie), Bloomiehall Park (Juniper Green), Spylaw Park (Colinton), and the Pentland Hills Regional Park were among 37 areas across Edinburgh which received a coveted “Green Flag Award” from the Keep Scotland Beautiful charity, in recognition of the way they are managed as “green spaces”.
- **MUIR WOOD PATH:** Currie Community Council officially submitted a planning application for the creation of a new properly-surfaced path between Currie and neighbouring Juniper Green, which would formalise the current muddy (sometimes very muddy) route across the Muir Wood Field between the two communities.
- **WEEDS:** The number of complaints about weeds across Edinburgh hit their highest level in more than a decade, according to a Freedom of Information request by Miles Briggs MSP, with 636 complaints received during 2024.
- **OLD COP SHOP:** Balerno Village Trust was granted £239,005 to redevelop the former Police Station on Bridge Road, Balerno, into a community centre—including meeting rooms, a workshop, and an after-school club. An application has been made to the City of Edinburgh Council for planning permission. (See page 7 for more details.)

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!

Contact Scott:

- ☎ 0131 322 3225
- ✉ scott.arthur.mp@parliament.uk
- 📘 facebook.com/DrScottArthur
- 🐦 @drscottarthurmp.bsky.social
- ✂ @DrScottArthurMP
- 📍 139 Dundee Street, EH11 1BP



Gordon Macdonald MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency



Monthly Advice Surgeries

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

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Contact Details

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

📘 Gordon Macdonald MSP 🐦 @GMacdonaldMSP

Representing: Baberton, Balerno, Blinkbonny, Bonaly, Broomhouse, Buckstone, Caldors, Colinton, Colinton Mains, Curne, Dregghorn, Fairmilehead, Firrhill, Hermiston, Juniper Green, Kingsknowe, Longstone, Oxgangs, Parkhead, Ratho, Redhall, Saughton Mains, Sighthill, Spylaw, Stenhouse, Swanston, Wester Hailes and Whitson.
Published by Gordon Macdonald MSP, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Cost of publication has been met by parliamentary allowances. Parliament is not responsible for the content of other internet sites.

'Immensely Disappointing' Consultation on 'Arbitrary' Firework Control Zone for Balerno

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Balerno Community Council has described the City of Edinburgh Council's consultation process and resulting proposal for a Firework Control Zone (FCZ) covering the southern part of the village – between Friday 31 October and Sunday 9 November 2025, as well as approved for a similar period in 2026 – as "immensely disappointing".

In a letter to CEC Chief Executive Paul Lawrence, seen by C&B News, the community council – which officially neither supports nor opposes a FCZ for the village – suggested that "in the absence of good and sufficient reasons [...] a singling out of part of our community simply suggests that the City Council's proposal is arbitrary".

"There was a fireworks ban in part of Balerno last year, and it seems that the City may be prepared to grant a ban this year simply because there was one last year and it has been requested again. There is no statement in the consultation as to why a ban is proposed for Balerno. If the proposed ban is based on animal welfare considerations, as we think was the case in 2024, then CEC are again open to criticism that they have ignored the reality that substantially similar animal welfare considerations are relevant across the whole area of



Balerno, and beyond."

Back in February 2025, the CEC Culture and Communities Committee noted that "to develop a FCZ, an evidence based and proportionate foundation is required". The Scottish Government had also noted that any local authority "should be able to demonstrate why it is considered necessary for a geographic area to be covered by a zone".

BCC accepts that CEC might have evidence supporting the proposed FCZ, but points out that this has not been shared with the local community. As a result, BCC "cannot see any rational basis for

We want everyone to be able to enjoy Bonfire Night safely and responsibly and these FCZs are part of our efforts to ensure that," insisted CEC's Culture and Communities Convener Councillor Margaret Graham, following the decision to approve nine Firework Control Zones across Edinburgh. "The new FCZs being introduced are based on community requests and respond to real concerns around the safety of people and animals in these areas. This is in addition to the FCZs first introduced last year, which we found had a really positive effect."

However, even a brief glance at the published feedback from Balerno – hardly itself a statistically reliable survey – suggests that the vast majority of participants didn't actually answer most of the questions.

CEC confirmed that it is intended that FCZs will align with any Dispersal Zones planned by Police Scotland around Bonfire Night – an admittedly unlikely scenario for Balerno.

drawing the boundaries as they have been. Looking at the map, at one point the division between the proposed FCZ and the unaffected area seems actually to pass through a house. Elsewhere it twists and turns and seems absolutely random."

The community council's conclusion is that CEC's proposal for an FCZ within Balerno is not based on any real assessment "of evidence, proportionality, or the problem to be addressed". Nor have they seen any evidence of "proper and careful assessment of the need for and implications of [the] new rules".

Local Pipe Band at World Championships

ANGELA MCLAUCHLAN
BALERNO & DISTRICT SCHOOLS PIPE BAND

The sun was shining and excitement was high as 19 talented youngsters from Balerno & District Schools Pipe Band made their way to Glasgow Green on Friday 15 August to take part in the 2025 World Pipe Band Championships.

Competing in the Novice Juvenile B category, the band were the very first to perform in a field of 30 bands from across the globe. They gave a strong performance and rose to the occasion, but missed out on a top 12 placing this year.

It was a memorable day for everyone involved, especially for those taking part in "the Worlds" for the very first or final time with the band. Their



commitment, hard work, and team spirit shone through, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

The band now look ahead to their next competition at the

Peebles Highland Games on Saturday 6 September. Why not come along and cheer them on?

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

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.

- 📧 sue.webber.msp@parliament.scot
- ☎ 0131 202 3005
- 📘 /SueWebberMSPLoethian/
- 🐦 @SueJWebber

Contact Sue Webber

The cost of this publication has been met from Scottish Parliamentary resources. The SPCB is not responsible for the content of other internet sites.

The Door Depot

- UP & OVER DOORS
- ROLLER SHUTTERS
- SECTIONAL SLIDEOVERS
- ALL TYPES OF GARAGE DOORS SUPPLIED, FITTED OR REPAIRED
- REMOTE CONTROL SUPPLIED FOR DOORS

5 YEAR GUARANTEE
FREE ESTIMATES

THE DOOR DEPOT IS A LOCAL FAMILY RUN BUSINESS, WITH THE MOST REASONABLE PRICES IN THE AREA

Better Garage Doors Guaranteed

Phone Alex Williamson 0131 228 8828
or Email: info@thedordepot.co.uk

McCANN & PARKIN JOINERY

uPVC windows & doors
fitted kitchens & bathrooms
Solid surface worktops: granite, quartz, earthstone, corian supplied & fitted
B&Q and Magnet approved kitchen installers
free estimates

call Graham on 0131 449 2008
or Derek on 07971 952 925

BRIEFLY...

p3>>>

• **ELECTION 2026:** Pentland Hills ward councillor and Transport convener Stephen Jenkinson came third in a contest to select the man and woman to stand as candidates for Scottish Labour in the "twinned" Scottish Parliamentary constituencies of Edinburgh North (current List MSP Foysoil Choudhury) and Edinburgh South Western (Catriona Munro).

• **SICK DOGS:** On Monday 4 August Edinburgh Live reported two dogs had fallen ill after eating a strange "globular" substance along the Water of Leith in Bogsmill woods, according to a member of Longstone Community Council.

AND NOW...

• **PHONE WARNING:** The national system for sending emergency alerts to mobile phones in the UK will be tested again at 3pm on Sunday 7 September, according to the UK Government. (<https://www.gov.uk/alerts>) Compatible phones will vibrate and may make a siren sound for 10 seconds while displaying a message—even if they are set to silent. The system is intended to inform the public regarding situations in which there is an imminent danger to life, such as extreme weather, natural disasters or terrorist attacks.

• **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:** Balerno Community Council confirmed, at their August meeting, that they will once again organise the village's Christmas lights this year, with the official switch-on scheduled for the evening of Thursday 4 December.

• **ROAD WORKS:** The City of Edinburgh Council has committed to replace the road barrier to the west of the Sainsbury's garage on Lanark Road West. At time of writing, however, the approved contractor has yet to confirm a start date for the work.

• **PARK LIFE:** According to a local resident at the August Currie Community Council meeting, Blinkbonny Park appears to have been "abandoned" by CEC, with little regular maintenance work being undertaken.

• **CANCER CARD BALL:** Swanston-based charity Cancer Card is hosting a



PENTLAND DOMESTICS
CRAIG COCKBURN

Electrical/white goods
appliance repairs and new installations.
Email: repairs@pentlanddomestics.co.uk
Office: 0131 374 6777
www.pentlanddomestics.co.uk

Electrolysis by Pamela
Say goodbye to unwanted hair!
Free Consultations
Waxing, Eyelash Dyeing, Eyebrows
Shellac nails

22 Laichpark Road Pamela J Robertson
Edinburgh EH14 1XB BIAE Registered
0131 443 7776
pamrobertson91@hotmail.com



Kenneth Bayne Lamb Ltd
PAINTING & DECORATING

Quality Service Since 1989

We offer a fully comprehensive
decorating service

No job is too small. FREE estimates and advice.
Quality work guaranteed.

0131 443 5310
0777 083 1380
enquiries@kbldecorators.co.uk
@kbldecorators

10% discount with this advert



Richard McGregor
Painter & Decorator

Interior / Exterior
0131 449 7154
22 Currievale Park Grove, Currie EH14 5XA

GP LUMBING & HEATING MCDONALD
(Corgi Registered)

Phone 0131 449 3389
Fax 0131 622 5622
Mobile 07956516695

All domestic Plumbing including Drainage (Local Authority Approved)
Local Service Renewals (Grant Work) Shower Repairs & Installations.
Bathroom Suites Installation. Storage Tanks. Radiator Renewals.
Heating Control Repairs.

Free Advice Friendly and Efficient Service

HOLLIS ACCOUNTING LTD
Local Chartered Accountant

Services include:
Tax Returns
VAT & Payroll
Business Accounts
Bookkeeping
Charity Specialist
Consultancy

Contact Sarah Hollis to arrange a free initial meeting and obtain a fixed price quote at reasonable rates.

Address:
26 Nether Currie Road
Phone:
0131 225 2821
Email:
sarah@hollisaccounting.co.uk

Website: www.hollisaccounting.co.uk

Jones Electrical Services

- Re-wires
- Additional Lights/Sockets
- Electrical showers
- Alarms/Security Lighting

Quality and Service Guaranteed
Call David on
Tel: 0131 451 5436 Mobile: 07762 200642
Free Estimates and Competitive Prices

95 Muir Wood Road, Currie, EH14 5HE
E-mail: jones.david@blueyonder.co.uk

Digital Security

IT security training
for older adults
at Hub@531
531 Lanark Rd,
Juniper Green EH14 5DE



In person training delivered over 3 sessions to help older adults feel more confident and safe online.
FRIDAYS 12th 19th & 26th SEPT
from 10am-12noon

Booking is essential
FREE but a booking deposit of £10 is requested,
refundable if you attend all 3 sessions.

These sessions are supported by Tap into IT and funded with a grant from Edinburgh City Council community grant fund.



Please book your space online at
<https://hub531.appointedd.com>
or email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com



Pentlands Community Space SC0049766



Latest Awards from Pentland Community Chest

ANDREA BREWSTER
PENTLAND COMMUNITY CHEST

In July the Pentland Community Chest once again awarded grants to applications from local community groups and organisations. Among those benefiting were: Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled; Nether Currie and Dean Park Primary Schools, Balerno Children's Gala, Balerno High School, and Pentlands Open Studios.

The funded projects were wide ranging and will benefit many in our local communities, providing everything from sporting equipment and a new horse riding saddle to securing outdoor storage and reusable publicity banners.

Pentland Community Chest is a joint venture, funded and run by Balerno Village Trust and Currie Balerno Rotary. To date, it has awarded more than £50,000 in grants, in response to more than 175 grant applications.

If you know of a local organisation that may benefit from a grant (up to £600), please visit pentlandcc.org.uk to check out the eligibility criteria and find an application form.

The closing date for the next round of applications is 30 November 2025.

The Pentlands Book Festival returns this year (Thursday 6 November - Wednesday 3 December) with an inspiring programme of 21 events celebrating stories, ideas, and the joy of gathering together, writes Russell Salton. Volunteers play a vital role in welcoming audiences, supporting authors, and keeping the festival running smoothly. If you'd like to be part of this year's team, please get in touch (russell.salton@outlook.com)—your support will help make all 21 events a success.



Scottish Land Fund Supports BVT's Plans for 'Old Cop Shop'

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

The Scottish Land Fund has awarded Balerno Village Trust (BVT) £239,005 to buy and redevelop the former police station on Bridge Road, Balerno. BVT had already submitted an application for planning permission (25/03602/FUL) to the City of Edinburgh Council, proposing that the building be turned into a community centre—including meeting rooms, a workshop, and an after-school club. This followed an extensive community consultation and feasibility study into the potential use of the building. Police Scotland announced two years ago that they

were considering selling properties they no longer had a use for. (See C&B News 489, September 2023.) Emma Galloway of Balerno Village Trust, said: "We are delighted to receive funding from the Scottish Land Fund that will enable the Trust to purchase Balerno Police Station. Occupying a prominent place in the heart of our village, it is a really important and valuable asset to our community. "We are looking forward to renovating it and creating a vibrant community hub with childcare facilities that will make Balerno an even better place to live, work or visit."

• <https://balernovt.org.uk/>

Gin and Chilli Fundraiser at Ravelrig RDA

FIONA GODLEY
VOLUNTEER

Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled (RDA) in Balerno is organising a gin-tasting and chilli evening to raise funds for this local charity. Tickets for the "Gin with Flynn" event on Saturday 6 September - Flynn is one of our horses (pictured) - are £20, and include: a welcome glass of Fizz (plus "nibbles"); three gin tastings, including a cocktail by Pentlands Hills Gin (with non-alcoholic drinks also available); and beef or vegetable chilli. Raffle tickets will be available on the night: all proceeds will go directly to Ravelrig RDA. The evening will also be an



opportunity for visitors to see the charity's brand new indoor arena and learn more about what we do.

• Tickets, £20, must be bought in advance: call/Text 07443 427419, email: manager@ravelrig-rda.org.uk, or visit in person (9am - 1pm).

• Ravelrig RDA, 21 Ravelrig Gait, Balerno, EH14 7NH

BRIEFLY...

fund-raising Ball at Prestonfield House Hotel, on Saturday 1 November. Hosted by Mark Martin (Radio Edge Breakfast Show), tickets (£100 per person) include welcome drinks, a three-course dinner, live music, charity auction, and dancing "until late". Visit: www.cancercard.org.uk; email: hello@cancercard.org.uk or call (0131) 287 3001.

• ADULT EDUCATION: We note in passing that the Autumn 2025 term of CEC's Adult Education Programme, starting the week beginning Monday 22 September, features a choice of more than 400 courses (daytime, evening and weekend) on a wide range of subjects—from creative writing and languages to violin-making and psychology. However, only one - "Painting for Joyment" - is located in Balerno (in the Scout Hall), while two "movement" courses and two (beginner) language courses (Italian and Spanish) are based in the new Currie Community High School. More: <https://adulteducationinedinburgh.spydus.co.uk>

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.

BALERNO

• Alterations and repairs to return the property to good quality tenanted accommodation, including fabric repairs and upgrades, internal refurbishments, reinstatement of the historical octagonal chimney to the Georgian Wing, necessary services upgrades, installation of an air source heat pump with external enclosure, >p9

PENTLAND GAS & HEATING SERVICES LTD

LTD

Fully Gas Safety Registered

30+ Years Experience ACS Qualified

ALL DOMESTIC GAS APPLIANCES INSTALLED,
SERVICED AND REPAIRED

FREE ESTIMATES AND PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

CENTRAL HEATING BOILER REPLACEMENT

CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM INSTALLED/UPGRADED

TO COMPLY WITH NEW LEGISLATION FOR
INTERLINKED FIRE/SMOKE/CARBON
MONOXIDE ALARMS

COMPLETE HOME SAFETY WIRELESS
ALARM PACKS NOW AVAILABLE

GEORGE CLARK

88 Bavelaw Road EH14 7AE

0131 449 5455
0798 668 0258

PentlandGas@gmail.com

Chartie's
Barbers

Opening Hours

Mon-Friday 8am-4pm
Saturday 8am-12pm

Price List

Gents £14 Boys £10.50
Crew cut £10
Seniors £7 (Mon-Thurs Only)

51a Lanark Road
0131 443 5441



Complete Physiotherapy Care

June Lumsden MSc, MCSP, HCPC
Charlotte Brown BSc, MCSP, HCPC
Christina Thomson BSc, MCSP, HCPC
at
Edinburgh Sports Injury Clinic
567 Lanark Road
Juniper Green

0131 629 0215



Every Thursday: Dean Park Car Park from 7am-1:30pm
Balerno Farmers Market: 2nd Saturday of every month

ANDREW MITCHELL CARS

I PURCHASE CARS AND VANS OF ANY
MAKE, MODEL, AGE, CONDITION OR MILEAGE.
SCRAP TO PRISTINE.

IF YOU WISH TO SELL OR DISPOSE OF YOUR CAR
CALL ANDREW ON 0131 449 4105 OR 07866 118636

BASED IN BALERNO,
FRIENDLY POLITE SERVICE
WITH PROMPT ATTENTION ASSURED



HAND PAINTED KITCHENS & FURNITURE

"Changing the face of Scotland's kitchens"

For a FREE no obligation
quote please contact:

0131 478 7339

www.kitchenspainted.com

07740 397669



Lothian Buses Revise Services Again

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

As has become traditional at this time of year, Lothian Buses will introduce a range of service changes from Sunday 7 September to "coincide with the commencement of the new university term"

C&B News readers should note:

- Service 10 (Bonaly/Ocean Terminal) remains unchanged.
- Minor timetable changes will be introduced to services 16 (Torphin/Silverknowes), 18 (Fort Kinnaird/Edinburgh Airport via Colinton), 44 (Balerno/Wallyford) and 45 (Heriot-Watt University/Portobello).
- An hourly service 45 will be introduced on Sundays, leaving the Riccarton campus for Elm Row in the city centre between 9.07am and 6.07pm. It looks as if there'll be a single vehicle on duty.
- Timetable revisions will be introduced on The City of Edinburgh Council-supported weekday and Saturday-running service 32, linking Balerno and Currie with the Gyle Shopping Centre, Cammo and Cramond. In Cramond the service will operate an anticlockwise route via Gamekeeper's Road.
- Night bus services within "C&Bshire" remain largely unchanged: the 1.30am departure of Service N44 (from Princes Street Scott Monument) will instead be at 1.35am; and there will no longer be a Service N25 departure (from Leith Street) at 2.02am.
- Service N16 remains unchanged.

Regular city-bound users of Services 25 and 44 should note that, from Sunday 7 September, those routes will no longer stop on West Maitland Street, Haymarket. (Bus stops HC and HD will instead be exclusively used by out-of-town Lothian and East Coast Buses services.)

More details can be found at <https://www.lothianbuses.com>, or from the company's TravelHubs at 49 Shandwick Place and 31 Waverley Bridge.



The Jazz Party at Balerno Parish Church may be now in its 16th year, but it's still not to be missed, writes Martin Petty. With "Stirling Crisis" providing the jazz, an evening of live music and great company is guaranteed.

Whether you're a jazz aficionado or just looking for a fun night out, this event is perfect for music lovers of all kinds. A light buffet and the odd glass of wine are included. Don't miss out on this opportunity to enjoy some fantastic music in a cozy and welcoming atmosphere.

This year's Jazz Party takes place on Sunday 12 October in St Joseph's Hall, Balerno, from 7.30pm.

Tickets, priced £20, can be obtained through the Balerno Parish Church office or online: <https://www.balernochurch.org.uk/>

St Mungo's 'Gateway Project' Still at Early Stage

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

St Mungo's Episcopal Church in Balerno is currently "half-way through stage two" of their proposal to build a new church building on the field across from Balerno High School.

Addressing the August meeting of Balerno Community Council, St Mungo's rector Ollie Clegg confirmed that the church's "Gateway Project" was still very much at the concept stage—considering the potential size, form and precise location of the building. He insisted that earlier design proposals – not exactly secret, but not widely shared either – had significantly changed following a consultation within the St Mungo's Church community.

The current goal is for a building including a sanctuary capable of accommodating up to 400 people, as well as several supporting rooms and office space. It would be expected to cover at most one third of the field, with additional landscaping to create some additional parking and areas which could be used by the wider community in Balerno.

The Gateway Project also includes the refurbishment of the existing house on the site, which has been the home of St Mungo's Wellness Centre since 2004.

Representatives from St Mungo's Church are already undertaking pre-application meetings with City of Edinburgh Council officers, as they are aware that the site – the land was donated to the Church by a congregation member back in the 1940s – is within both Edinburgh's green belt and Balerno



The original St Mungo's Church, Balerno—long since considered too small for its local congregation. Photo: Paul Fisher Cockburn

Conservation Area.

As reported on our Facebook page on 7 July, the team at St Mungo's has sought confirmation from CEC that the lawful use of their premises – and, more significantly, the land it sits on – is legally registered as Class 10—"Non-residential Institution". If granted, this would likely make it easier to build a new church on the site.

While some work had been undertaken to test the condition of the land in various parts of the field, Ollie Clegg concluded his presentation by stating that a final decision on whether or not to go ahead with the Gateway Project would likely not be taken until spring next year.

<https://www.stmungos.org/>

BRIEFLY...

p7>>>

new fire-fighting water tank, new opening to garden at rear and landscaping works; Malley House, 4 Malley. (25/04016/FUL & 25/04013/LBC) Comments by Friday 5 September.

CURRIE

AI data centre campus with 200MW demand utility capacity with car parking, landscaping, roads, access and associated works; land 300 metres north, 50 Research Avenue North, Riccarton. (25/03978/PAN) Comments by Friday 24 October.

COLINTON

Remove deadwood from crown of Douglas fir; 24 Dreghorn Loan. (25/04193/TCO) Comments by Friday 5 September.

PLANNING DECISIONS

BALERNO

Proposed erection of single storey extension to side and rear of dwelling; 26 Marchbank Gardens. (25/02842/FUL) Granted, Tuesday 12 August.

CURRIE

Residential development comprising nine flats with car parking, landscaping and other associated works (as amended); 158A Lanark Road West. (25/01216/FUL) Granted, Thursday 7 August. ALSO: Complete demolition in a conservation area. (25/01257/CON) Granted, Thursday 7 August.

Prior notification for erection of buildings; Scottish Power, Riccarton Mains Road. (25/03709/PND) Permitted development, Friday 15 August.

COLINTON

Extension, alterations and conversion of garage; 14 Woodhall Road. (25/03078/FUL) Granted, Wednesday 6 August.

Convert existing garage to accommodation and new external decking; 1 Bonaly Drive. (25/03080/FUL) Granted, Wednesday 6 August.

Alter and convert existing conservatory to form dining room and utility room extension to existing house; 24 Bonaly Grove. (25/04025/CLP) Granted, Friday 8 August.

10 new buildings including medical centre, transport building, offices, storage, >p11

DF Roofing & Harling
ALL TRADES SERVICE

Flat Roofs
Slate Roofs
Tiled Roofs
Replacement of Gutters and Fascias
Harling
Tiling
Leadwork
Restoration work
Roofs Cleaned and Treated For Moss

24 Hour call-out
Insurance work undertaken

phone: 0780 699 0961
0131 551 3021
email: davidfergus119@gmail.com
www.DFroofingandharling.co.uk

S.C.C.D SCAFFOLDING CONTRACTS 07939571908

New Look for Spylaw Park ‘Shed’

LORRAINE O'SHEA
COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE SCIO

Colinton Village Enterprise's vision of transforming “The Shed” in Spylaw Park into an inclusive community space, for local residents and visitors alike, continues to take shape, with lots of activities happening in readiness for the build to start early Autumn.

David Moore, our architect from MDA Studios, is busy liaising with the City of Edinburgh Council on a few final queries - nothing concerning - so we're hopeful to have our building warrant imminently. David has also issued our project to four building contractors who will return their response to the tender by the end of August, along with estimated start dates.

This project is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, administered by the City of Edinburgh Council. We received this funding offer last month, which will go a long



way in supporting the Hub's construction. We are also in the fortunate position of having realised the sale of a residential property—kindly bequeathed to CVE by our first Charity Secretary, Angela Miller, a Colinton resident, who believed in this project and wished to do everything possible to enable The Hub to become a reality.

Nonetheless, despite our Charity's good fortune this far, we will need to launch a Crowdfunding page for further contributions from locals and those further afield. We wish to ensure this project's success in building a vibrant community hub in South West Edinburgh, a

go-to destination for locals and visitors alike.

We're delighted to share with readers the architectural renderings of the Hub, kindly commissioned by MDA Studio and produced by DNB ArchDesign Ltd. We think these drawings show a wonderful visualisation of this important project: the repurposing of the historic ex-coach house of Spylaw House into a vibrant community asset.

• If you'd like to volunteer with us at any of our future events - helping set up, clear up or serve up refreshments - please email colintonvillage@gmail.com

BRIEFLY...

p9>>>
garage/workshops and accommodation (single/two storey) with associated works including boundary treatment and footpath changes; Dreghorn Barracks, 82 Redford Road. (25.01681/PPP) Planning permission in principle granted, Wednesday 13 August.

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. Details correct at time of going to press.

BALERNO/CURRIE/JUNIPER GREEN

• Lanark Road West, rolling programme between Ravelrig and Gillespie Crossroads for fibre installation/clearing of blocked cable ducts (BT Morrison), requiring two-/three-/four-way temporary traffic lights as necessary and a combination of day and night working; for three weeks until Friday 5 September.

BALERNO

• Johnsburn Road between Main Street and Lovedale Road, temporary traffic lights for City of Edinburgh Council manhole repairs; from Monday 1 September for up to five days.

BONALY

• Bonaly Crescent closed between Laverockdale Loan and Bonaly Terrace, for ducting installation (Openreach); Thursday 14 - Friday 15 August (dates and details still TBC).

COLINTON

• Redford Road at Redford Drive, three-way temporary traffic lights for remedial work (Cityfibre); Tuesday 2 - Thursday 4 September.

CURRIE

• Curriehill Road between Pentland View and Forthview Crescent, road closed between 9.30am - 9pm for Scottish Water ironwork repair; Tuesday 14 October.

SCOTIA FINANCE LTD

Your local accountant covering Colinton to Balerno

Accounts, Taxation and Business Advice
Sole Trader, Partnership & Limited Company
BTL / CIS / Contractor
All trades and professions welcome

Contact Stuart for a no obligation quote on
07717 193425
Email: stuart@scotia-finance.co.uk
www.scotia-finance.co.uk

G Banks ACCOUNTANTS

TAX & BUSINESS ADVISERS

For a complete range of highly personalised and pro-active accounting and tax services

0772 460 9443
graeme@gbankstax.co.uk
www.gbankstax.co.uk
Edinburgh & Wester Ross

GORDON MANSON PEST CONTROL SERVICES

Domestic - Commercial - Industrial
Professional Service specialising in
Wasps - Bees - Rats
Mice - Moles - Rabbits
Squirrels - Foxes - Feral Pigeons - Insects
Tel 0131 449 6720
Mob 07801 286402
The Stables, Glenpark Estate, Balerno, EH14 7BG

GERRY AITKEN Painter and Decorator

27 years of experience
Private & commercial work
Prompt & professional
Free estimates & advice
All work guaranteed
No job is too big or small
Tel: 07798 565 321
e-mail: junigig@aol.com
2/7 Lorimer View, Juniper Green

'Valley Friends' Help Combat Loneliness

JANE OWENS
VALLEY FRIENDS PROJECT
ADMINISTRATOR, ST MUNGO'S CHURCH

There are many subjects in our culture and language that, in the past, would have been considered taboo. However, there is one word, very much in my mind because of the project that I work for, that is often not discussed and still seems to carry something of a stigma: “loneliness”.

I think it's fair to say that, while we know that loneliness can affect anyone regardless of age and circumstances of life, no one finds it easy to admit that the “someone” affected could actually be “me”. Perhaps we feel that it shows weakness or a failing on our part?

I work for the community befriending project “Valley Friends”. We seek to reach out to isolated older people living in the Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green areas—people who can find themselves with declining health, the loss of their spouse, family members or friends and a shrinking of their independence.

We aim to match them up with a “befriender”—someone to call round once a week or a fortnight,



who brings a smile and some different “chat”, and – perhaps most importantly – listens. Someone who listens in a way that values; in a way that affirms that they still have something to give and that their words are worth hearing.

Many of the people I meet through the project bravely tell me that they feel lonely. Whenever they do, I feel honoured that they would feel safe enough to share this with me. Loneliness brings an often silent suffering. If we can turn the volume up on this issue it will make this word a little bit easier to talk about.

• We are always looking for more befrienders to help our community to combat loneliness. If you are interested in finding out more about being a Valley Friends befriender then do please contact me, Jane Owens: jane.owens@stmungos.org



City of Edinburgh Council planning officers have approved a new planning application for the former Bank of Scotland branch in Currie. The building, located to the immediate west of the Gibson Craig Halls on Lanark Road West, has remained empty – though securely maintained – since the branch closed in 2016. The new amended application, approved on Thursday 7 August, is for nine (rather than 10) flats on the site.

Although the removal of the existing building has been approved in principle, actual demolition remains dependent on the implementation of a Council-approved “programme of archaeological work”, as – according to CEC's Archaeology Officer John A Lawson – the site is considered to be “within an area of potential archaeological significance relating to the development of the historic settlement of Currie”. Demolition will also only be allowed once CEC has received written confirmation of the intended start date for the new development.

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES



Currie Guild Returns

ISOBEL WEBBER
CURRIE GUILD

We look forward to welcoming new and returning members to enjoy the fellowship that is "The Guild". We meet twice a month, on the first Tuesday at 10am and the third Tuesday at 2pm. All our meetings are held in the Gibson Craig Halls, Lanark Road West and are open to all.

• We will celebrate our first meeting of the season with tea and scones at 10am on Tuesday 2 September, when we welcome the Rev Moira McDonald, who will speak on "Being a Chaplain to the King".

• Our second meeting at 2pm on 16 September will feature Miriam Rana from CrossReach—our project for this year.

• Check out the dates of future meetings in the C&B News What's On Section.

Currie Kirk Update

FIONA PIGOTT
CURRIE KIRK

Thanks to the generosity of our "Coffee Stop!" customers on Saturday afternoons, we have given £500 to Community for Food.

During the month of August all proceeds from the "Coffee Stop!", a retiring collection taken at a Joint Service with Balerno Parish Church on 17 August, and a Harvest Lunch on Sunday 5 October will be sent to the British Red Cross Gaza Crisis Appeal.

On behalf of the MOF team in Currie Kirk, I'd like to thank everyone for their continued support of "Coffee Stop!" at Currie Kirk on Saturday afternoons. Our last day will be Saturday 27 September, between 2pm and 4pm.

'Out with the Old, In with the New...'

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

We don't want to call Ian Campbell "old" or suggest he's past it, but he is now our Past President. He has had a very successful year, but now looks forward to seeing his successor take the strain—here he is pictured (on the left) with his successor Ken McCunn.

On handing over this considerable responsibility, Ian actually said he had enjoyed his year and, in doing so, paid tribute to his team and all the members of Currie Balerno Rotary, who had achieved so much. Looking back on a challenging but satisfying year, he offered Ken his full support for 2025-26.

Ken now looks into the unknown. It, too, will bring its challenges but Ken is confident that, with the support of Ian and all the members, he and Currie Balerno Rotary will enjoy another successful year.

What will that year bring? Well, our four working



groups are working on just that in collaboration with our Community Member representatives. One highlight is to be a Casino Night in October to raise funds for the Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital—and specifically to recognise the wonderful treatment and care given to the grandchild of Theresa, our Secretary. More of that next month.

One important step into 2025-26 is the establishment of our speaker programme, offering a wide range

of topics up to December: from The Beatles to Scottish Football, The Falklands to the Woodlands Trust, Douglas Haston and the 1975 ascent of Everest to The Scottish Gallery, and more.

• A full list of the forthcoming speaker programme is available in our August News, which is available at libraries, cafes etc across Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green—or you can get a copy by emailing: PR@cbr Rotary.org

What is Probus? Is it for You?

LESLIE HANNAFORD
SECRETARY, PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB

Are you a retired or semi-retired man? Do you have, or can you make, spare time on a Wednesday morning? If the answer to these questions is "Yes" then maybe the Pentland Probus Club meetings throughout the year could be for you.

From September to May there is a Speaker Programme on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, starting at 10am until noon in the hall at Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church in Juniper Green. On alternate Wednesdays members meet for tea or coffee at The Kinleith Mill, Juniper Green from 10am until 11.30am. The morning provides a relaxed opportunity to discuss the issues of the day, travel down Memory Lane, or anything else that comes to mind.

The Club year starts with our Speaker programme on Wednesday 3 September, when we will hear

how the "World's End Murders" were solved. A fortnight later follows the story of a group of local volunteers who constructed and fly their own First World War Sopwith aircraft from Kirknewton Air Field. More presentations and talks on a wide range of interesting subjects will follow.

Members come mostly from an area stretching from Balerno through Currie and Juniper Green to Baberton Mains, Colinton and Kingsknowe—so there is a good chance that new members will know at least one of the current membership. If not you soon will as we are a very friendly and sociable group.

There is a separate Ladies' Probus Club locally and other Probus clubs throughout Edinburgh.

• Full details of membership can be had by contacting the Secretary: Leslie Hannaford (0131 453 3012) or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

• Details of speaker meetings are included in the "What's On" pages of this magazine.

New IT Training for 50+ from Hub@531

ANNETTE WILSON
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, HUB@531

Hub@531 is delighted to offer Information Technology Security training designed for older adults (50+) in our community. We will be working in partnership with local charity, Tap into IT, to provide much-needed digital security skills and confidence-building for those who need it most.

The training is possible thanks to a grant awarded by The City of Edinburgh Council's Community Grants fund.

We will have two courses during the remainder of 2025, with one more next year. Each course will consist of three sessions, suitable for those who use a smartphone, tablet or laptop.

Week One will offer an overview of online security and

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES

Harlaw Hydro—10 Years of Achievement

RICHARD BLACKBURN
HARLAW HYDRO

On September 2015, Fergus Ewing MSP – the then-Scottish Government's Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism – officiated at the official opening ceremony for our community owned and operated hydroelectric generator at Harlaw Reservoir. (See right.)

In retrospect the project has been highly successful, generating over 2.8 million kWh of power and over £1.05 million in income. Of this sum, £611,000 has gone on operational expenses and to fund interest on members' loans; the surplus – £439,000 – has been used for community benefit via the Balerno Village Trust (BVT) and the Pentland Community Chest. These are figures which exceed even the most optimistic forecasts when the project was first conceived.

Whilst marking these successes, the Board of Harlaw Hydro Ltd (HH) are looking forward as well as back. The wholesale cost of electricity in the UK is changing. During a decade of electricity generation, HH has received income at varying rates.

Income comes primarily from two sources: the Feed-in-Tariff (FiT), and the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The latter fluctuates in line with the price



of energy and has been unusually high during the last three years. However, this "windfall" comes to an end this autumn, as the selling price for electricity returns to the levels that were the norm three years ago. FiT continues for another decade.

Consequently, HH will still generate a healthy annual surplus for community benefit, but not at the record levels of the past two years.

As well as keeping an eye on finance, the board also ensures that the hydro system is well maintained and, where necessary, upgraded—the aim being to ensure trouble free operation for decades to come.

On the human side of the endeavour, HH must also look to the future. Our last piece in C&B News yielded two offers of technical assistance – very welcome – and both are now active members of the

maintenance team. If you would like to consider helping HH in some capacity, please contact us at www.harlawhydro.org.uk

The tangible benefits that Harlaw Hydro has been able to bring to the community can be seen through the work that BVT does with the funding. Activities such as the monthly Farmers' Market, the leasing and refurbishment of Balerno Community Centre, the acquisition of the former Police Station and, of course, the Pentland Community Chest have all wholly or in part been made possible by Harlaw Hydro.

• Details of the work that BVT and PCC do can be found on their respective websites: <https://balernovt.org.uk/> and <https://www.pentlandcc.org.uk>

• If you would like to consider helping HH in some capacity, please contact us at www.harlawhydro.org.uk

The City of Edinburgh Council have recently bought 20 new electrical trimmers costing a whopping £84,848, writes Annie Macdonald of Pesticide Free Balerno. That's over £4,000 each! And the choice is questionable: they cannot reach all areas; are used only when the weed growth is substantial; and can spread seed spores, encour-

aging further weed regrowth. Electric trimmers were used by CEC in 2016, after the links of Glyphosate to cancer were revealed by WHO, and a replacement for Glyphosate was sought. CEC then assessed manual methods and deemed electrical trimmers weren't enough citywide. So it's strange to

revisit this in 2025—are they expecting different results?

However, these methods need to be part of the solution—they cannot be expected to be all of it. Meantime, if you spot one or all 20 of these "golden" trimmers that our money has been spent on, please let us know!

some of the most common IT threats. Week two will look into passwords and account/device security. Week three will focus on safe communication and staying informed.

Our first course will run on Fridays 12, 19 and 26 September, from 10am to noon, at Hub@531 Lanark Road. Please ensure you can make all three dates before registering for a place, as numbers will necessarily be limited due to the nature of the training and venue—as well as providing a small group

learning experience.

A deposit of £10 will be requested to secure your space and refunded when you have attended all three sessions.

• These September sessions are available now to book online: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or via email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com.

• If these dates don't suit, keep an eye out for next 2025 dates, to be published soon. You can email to join the Hub@531 mailing

list to be sent information on all upcoming activities and/or follow our Facebook page The Hub at 531.

• If you would prefer to book or enquire in person, Lynn will be available at the Hub@531 between noon and 12.15pm on Monday 1 September.

• We will also have posters in local shops and public places, as well as our regular listing in C&B News.

Christopher Cowe Memorial Fund Update

ROSS COWE
FUNDRAISER, CARDIAC RISK IN THE YOUNG

The second Christopher Cowe Memorial Fund Heart Screening weekend took place on 21 - 22 June 2025 at Balerno High School.

The event, which is run by Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), saw 196 young people aged between 14 and 35 screened, with 11 now referred for further support or action through their GPs.

Through the sale of "Heart Light Catchers" from Scott and Mandy Irvine at Harmonies in Wood, and further donations made by participants and their families during the weekend, we raised £1,500 which goes straight to the Memorial Fund to help fund further heart screenings.

We continue to actively fundraise for a screening in 2027 and have raised around 40% of the funds from past events towards this. Our target for 2025/2026 events is to raise a further £10,000 to fully fund a 2028 event. If we are successful in doing so this will mean that, by the summer of 2028, 1,000 local young people will have had the opportunity to be screened so any support is very much appreciated. It now costs £14,000 to fund a screening for 200 young people so it will have been no mean feat to fund our objective and continue to raise awareness.

• The fourth annual Christopher Cowe Community Shield football match between the Balerno and Currie classes of 2023 will take place on Sunday 7 September at the Balerno Astro Pitch, kickoff at 11am. Admission free, although donations can be made at the gate with all money going to Christopher's fund.

• The fourth annual "Wee Wander for Christopher" takes place at the Edinburgh Kiltwalk on Sunday 14 September. Please look out on various social channels for opportunities to sponsor our amazing team or visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rosscowe>

Snapshots of the Past

Loss of Well-Known Long-term Currie Resident



DOUGLAS LOWE
CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On 21 July the large tree in front of the shops on Corslet Place was trimmed and ultimately felled. On the day, I spoke with one of the City of Edinburgh Council contractors who confirmed that, owing to a large area of rot, they had to remove it. A large branch had fallen the previous day, thankfully not hitting anyone!

This tree had been standing for well over a century, possibly two, and had witnessed the coming and growth of the Wimpey estate houses. It featured in a photo in John Tweedie's book *Currie in Old Picture Postcards*. The photo, dating from the 1920s, was of Muirwood Road looking westward and there in the middle distance was our tree. Muirwood Road in the 1920s was a rough farm track and continued as such until the late 1950s when the Easter Currie Farm fields were given over to a new crop—houses!

Looking at the large scale OS map from 1854 the old rough track followed much the same line as the current Muirwood Road, going sharp left to the north of a much larger Muir Wood and continuing on to join Riccarton Mains Road. John Tweedie, in his 1976 book *Our District*, gives a good description of Muirwood Road as a narrow, rutted track very popular with shift-workers from Kinleith Mill for a "quiet daunder" and the Muir Wood as being popular with families with the children able to "run wild, hiding in the bushes, climbing trees or playing in the burn". My wife recalls doing similar in the early 1960s although, by then, the burn was dry. (Nevertheless, she remembers that in the spring of 1960 and 1961 many frogs appeared in Muirwood Road residents' gardens.)

A local resident contacted me advising that he recalled being told that the tree at Corslet Plzce, marked the western end of the (Currie) Muir Wood, the eastern end being near the Gillespie crossroads at Muir End Road. I



Main: The Felling. Photo: Douglas Lowe. Above: What we are left with—totem pole or cavern? Photo: Graham Dane. Right: Muirwood Road in the 1920s. Photo: CDLHS.

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

'Green' Bridge Open at Last!



couldn't find anything to confirm this to be the case. However, if anyone else has heard this or has information, please e-mail me with details.

Back in the present, we are now left with the lower trunk of the tree—with its distinctive cavern.

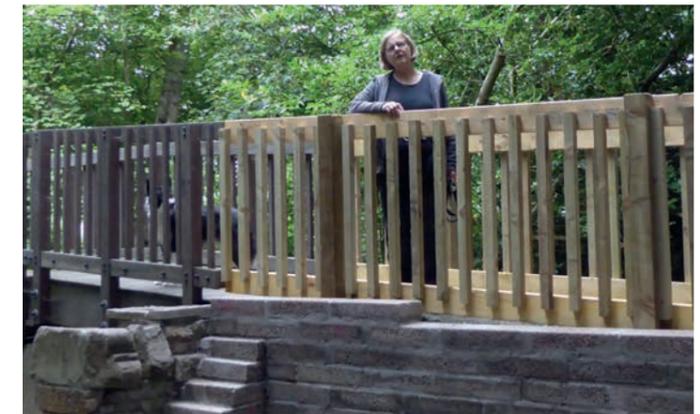
One thing I did find of interest was some writings by C R Bruce, one of CDLHS's founder members, on "Early Water Supplies": "The well that supplied Riccarton House was situated on the green in front of the Weaversknowe public house", where the tree was. It was presumably piped down to Riccarton House. The large scale OS maps do show the area where the tree was as being a "reservoir" or "Well", together with a few trees. My past colleague concludes this part as follows: "There was quite a strong natural emission of spring water here which disappeared into the drainage system of the Wimpey housing estate when started in the mid-fifties."

During the last week of July the firm of John Lessels, Landscapers, under the direction of local company Balerno Pathways Limited, completed sufficient work on the footbridge at Malleny for it to be opened to the public.

The central section of the new Bavelaw Green Footbridge had been delivered and heaved into place, using heavy machinery, on 15 February 2023. However, as you will appreciate, there had been a further delay, resolved only recently, and quickly followed by the above works to join the two sides.

Bavelaw Green Footbridge is the long awaited replacement for our much loved steel "Green Bridge" which had been constructed by army engineers in the early 1950s. This had replaced an earlier wooden bridge that had been on the site since 1912 and, after 40-odd years, had gained the local nickname of "the shoogly bridge" and so needed replaced.

The steel bridge was condemned by the City of Edinburgh Council in 2016 but there was a



Above left: Back in 2016, Skye was not impressed by the official closure. Top right: locals on the original Green Bridge, circa 1913. Today, Enid Lowe and Finn test out the new footbridge. Photos: Douglas Lowe.

certain reluctance on the part of some locals to accept this, and they continued to use it until stronger barriers were put in place and it was finally sealed up—and removed.

We now have a new bridge open for us all to use, giving easy access to Lymphy Road and to the many paths through the woods that surround Malleny. Balerno Community Council are currently preparing leaflets on both the bridge and their future plans for the surrounding paths—including warnings about exposed roots and other potential trip hazards. These paths will be addressed by BCC in due course, but those of you who have continued to use them in recent years will be aware of these minor expected "hazards".

Still, we now have our new bridge to enjoy!

Colinton has a very active local history society, writes Archivist Derek Douglas, which meets in Dreghorn Loan Hall on the first and third Mondays of each month between October and March, offering a programme of excellent speakers.

Several members of our Society also make use of our growing archive to research many aspects of the local area.

One of these is Bob Henderson, who has always had a keen interest in Bonaly. His work has resulted in Colinton Local History Society publishing a new book about the area, *Bonaly: Three Centuries of Rural Life in an Edinburgh Suburb*.

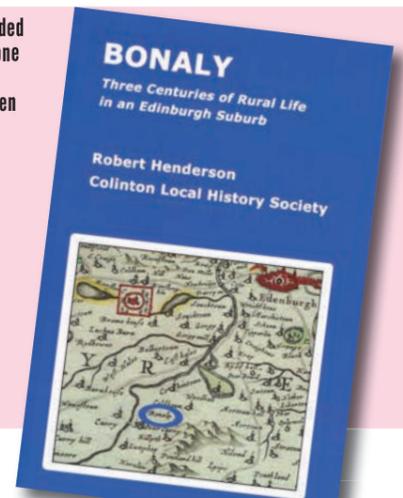
"Although I've been interested in the area for some time, I have found that very little has been written about Bonaly and some of what has is very debatable," Bob said. "I therefore started researching the history over the last three centuries myself, discovering that developments in agricultural methods had a profound effect on life for its residents."

"The questions I was interested in trying to answer included how many people were likely to have lived in Bonaly at any one time, what their cottages were like, what the residents ate and wore, what was their relationship with the Kirk, and when Bonaly ceased to be primarily an agricultural settlement."

• Should you wish to know more about our Society or are interested in purchasing the book, please contact us: enquiries@colintonhistory.org.uk

• Copies of Bob Henderson's book are also on sale at the Olive Deli and Post Office, Bridge Road, Colinton: price: £6.99.

• The next meeting of the Colinton Local History Society is at Dreghorn Loan Hall, from 8pm on Monday 6 October.



RICCARTON GARDEN CENTRE

Find us on Facebook
Delivery Service available all year round on our Garden Centre products.
Open 7 Days, Large Car Park

RICCARTON MAINS ROAD, CURRIE, EH14 5AA, EDINBURGH. NEAR HERIOT WATT
0131 449 4004

GARDEN CENTRE
Fabulous seasonal display of shrubs, trees, bulbs, heathers, bedding, Compost, Pots & a lot more!

COFFEE SHOP
Coffee shop open every day for Homemade soup, paninis, baked potatoes, scones, cakes, milkshakes & more!

COLLINS DECORATORS

- All aspects of painting and decorating work
- Interior and Exterior work undertaken
- All works fully insured and guaranteed
- Professional service that offers expert advice
- Prompt attention and competitive quotations

Contact John Collins
07788 963952 0131 539 5705
collins_decorators@outlook.com

Gloribunda
(Glory • Bun • Dah)

FREE Local Delivery
EH14 5
EH14 6
EH14 7
EH14 8

Gloribunda.co.uk

- Homewares - Gifts £10 & Under - Abigail Ahern - IVYLINE
PADDYWAX - Stationary & Artwork - Ceramics -

Cooking the Books

STEF LYONS



Above: Iced Spice Biscuits. Below: Kids' Cookery Books. Photos: Stef Lyons.

Today (mid-August) feels like the beginning of a new phase in my life. For the first time in years I had the same pick-up time for both my children. Yep: no more early years versus school pick-up. It will last for one whole year until my eldest goes to High School and has an extra 15 minutes in the building until he is allowed to leave. By then he will want to walk home with his friends because it will absolutely not be cool to be met by either his mum or dad at the gate.

Sometimes I see parents with younger children and I watch them push buggies and hold tiny hands, and I remember those years of disturbed sleep, juggling kids (not literally) and wondering when I might not feel so tired or maybe even a little bit like I used to, "BC" (Before Children). The answer is probably never and I don't think I'd have it any other way.

Nowadays they want to play Minecraft more than with me. But there is something that bonds the three of us that I hope will continue even until the two of them are grown: we love to bake and cook together. For some, that might not come as a surprise considering a lot of my work is with food and a lot of that happens at home. Over the years I have encouraged them to sample what I enjoy about it: the creativity, the fun, and being able to taste and share your own creations. Even the disastrous ones.

When The Elder One was very little I bought him *The Usborne First Cookbook*

by Angela Wilkes and Stephen Cartwright. He was too young for it really, but it was there for him to pretend to read from time to time. Then we got *Gruffalo Crumble and Other Recipes*, based on the famous book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. We started there with Owl Ice Cream—a dish made of frozen mashed up bananas, spices and raisins. They were delicious. As he got older he delved into the aforementioned Usborne book. It has illustrations, and it breaks down each instruction brilliantly for young chefs. Together he and I have made omelettes (which he now makes for himself and his sibling), beef burgers, spaghetti bolognese, pizza, fruit salad, raisin flapjacks, chocolate brownies, marmalade gingerbread, pancakes, and his most favourite—Iced Spice Biscuits.

During lockdown I bought *The Younger One The Best Ever Baking Book* by Jane Bull. It was a godsend. It is colourful and fun and we have filled our tummies from this repeatedly. Over the years the kids' love of cooking has become known and they were bought *The Complete Cookbook For Young Chefs* by America's Test Kitchen Company. From that the Elder One has made some great cakes and one of the best chilli con carne I have ever eaten. I help only with boiling water or opening and closing the hot oven.

Though I love my extra time in the afternoon, and the fact I can sit down and write articles like this without anyone tugging on my arm quite as much, I love their burgeoning independence. I love that they relish cooking and eating. I feel many other confusing emotions about the fact they are growing up, but I really love that we have something for the three of us to continue to do way into the future. Here's to me getting an extra 30 minutes, four days a week. But more than that, here's to you boys and to our many home-made dinners together.



Craft Corner

LUCIE NOVOVESKA

Garden Gnome

The definition of upcycling is to reuse objects, bits and pieces of items, or material to create a new object which may have a higher value than the original. For me, it is a fun, cheap and very satisfying way to give something broken a new lease of life. It is a step up from repairing, which fixes and restores original objects.

I have been wanting to restore our garden gnome, Gordon, for quite some time. He has seen better days: colours had faded, he had lichen growing all over him and a stain on his face. I started by cleaning Gordon as much as I could, but the stain on his face was stubborn. The sand paper took off some of the original paint but overall it is still a useful tool if the material can take it.

I painted Gordon from head to toe, but changed the colours from the original to make him look less like Santa Clause. Instead of what I suspect was a watering can, I painted a flag and I even drew a tattoo of a rose on the back of his arm to give him a bad boy look. The biggest controversy was adding a moustache to his beard. I pondered for days. Would he look silly with a moustache? Could it be undone if it didn't suit him? Was there enough space below his nose? What is the etiquette in the gnome community? In the end, I committed, painted the moustache and I am prepared to live with the consequences.

With any painting of objects, especially items that are kept outside, it is important to use sealants. These seal the paint and protect it from the elements. You can select a matt or gloss finish. I gave Gordon a little bit of gloss that made the paint stand out. Gordon has duly resumed his duty and protects our balcony faithfully once more.



MAYNE'S
GAS & HEATING

0772 084 3785
enquiry@maynes.info

Installation | Service | Repairs | Upgrades | Radiators
Smart Controls | Instant Hot Water Taps | Gas Alternatives Available

R. McNeill
Joiner & Glazier

Kitchens supplied and fitted
Doors, Windows; Wood or UPVC

Misted double glazing units replaced

Bespoke Cedar, Hardwood & Softwood Gates supplied & fitted

All Joinery & Glazing
FREE ESTIMATES
Tel. 0131 449 3714

ESIC
Edinburgh Sports Injury Clinic

Range of treatments offered includes:

- Physiotherapy
- Sports Injuries
- Massage
- Core Rehabilitation
- Pelvic Floor Rehabilitation

Edinburgh Sports Injury Clinic
567 Lanark Road
Juniper Green
0131 629 0215

Gutters cleaned 20 Years Experience
External work Estimates Free

Mark Reece
Painter & Decorator

Reliable Tel 0131 466 0304 (Currie)

GLANPINE LTD
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

Planning and Building Warrant Applications
carried out for New build, Extensions and Loft conversions etc
A quality service from a local company that has been in business for 20 years
Free advice and estimates

Contact : Graham Hewat Email: gr-ti@blueyonder.co.uk
Tel 0131 538 9331 Mobile 0775287704

Refurbished PCs and Laptops for Sale!



Lenovo S500: Dell Inspiron 15 – 7800, 8GB RAM, 250GB SSD, 20 Inch Monitor
Price: £150



Lenovo All in one PC I3 – 6500, 8GB RAM, 128GB SSD, Touch screen
Price: £175

Support for PC's, Laptops, Wi-Fi, Printers & software.
We can visit your office / home or please drop into our office at Bridge Road to speak to us...

Call us on 0131 510 9300
or email: enquiries@worx24.co.uk



30-32 Bridge Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0LQ Company No: SC561596



SELECT A BLIND
(Est. 1982 family business)

Stylish Blinds that will elevate your rooms

Personal Service
Professional Fitting
Product Advice with free Estimate

0131 445 7726
07870 152077
info@selectablind.co.uk
www.selectablind.co.uk



Karma Tree Yoga
Be well, be strong and be in the moment

Feeling stressed or anxious? Aches and pains? Tight muscles? Trouble sleeping? Have you tried yoga?

YOGA CLASSES
in Juniper Green and Currie as well as online

- ❖ The perfect way to improve wellbeing, strengthen body and relax
- ❖ Suitable for everyone no matter what age, fitness or flexibility
- ❖ Different days, times, venues and styles to suit you
- ❖ Brought to you by your local fully qualified yoga teacher

Reserve a place by going to www.karmatreeyoga.co.uk or contact Monica on 07986600432 or email karmatreeyoga@gmail.com

Wellbeing



ANNETTE WILSON

Long summer evenings, holidays, festival nights and changes to our routine all impact our natural body clock or circadian rhythm. As we move into late summer, however, sunsets begin to surprise us and darkness appears more quickly. A good time then to consider our household sleep routines, particularly if you have children settling back into a new school year.

Adequate and regular sleep is essential for our physical and mental wellbeing. Sleep deprivation can impact cognitive function, memory and mood regulation, and chronic sleep problems can affect the immune system, hormone regulation and heart health.

How much sleep you need will vary from person to person but primary age children generally need nine to 11 hours, teenagers should aim for between eight and 10 hours, and most adults benefit from seven to nine hours per night.

Just as you might have done for a baby or toddler, having a regular time for bed and a regular time to get up in the morning can enable body and mind to more quickly settle into a rest-sleep-wake routine, even for adults.

You can signal to your body that you are preparing for sleep by thinking about the activities you do in the evening. I recently came across the 10-3-2-1-0 method to promote improved sleep health by American sports medicine expert Dr Jess Andrade: 10 hours before bed = no caffeine; three hours before bed = no food or alcohol; two hours before bed = no work or stressful activities; 1 hour before bed = no screens; and 0 = no snoozing the alarm in the morning!

I know I'm sometimes guilty of all the above! But, taking your cue from the way we treat young children, how about making some time before bed to relax? Get into some comfortable clothes, shut the curtains or dim the lights, avoiding the blue flicker of screens and listen to something or read instead? Then go to bed... not thinking about your "to do" list for tomorrow, but actively looking forward to a good rest.

And if poor sleep continues to be an issue that affects you (with no obvious reason), then don't suffer in silence. Consult your GP: there are reasons for chronic poor sleep they may be able to help with.

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

Eye on Health



JONATHAN JENNETT

Know your eyes, protect your sight: Retinoblastoma

What is Retinoblastoma?

This is a cancer of the eye but thankfully it is extremely rare. It presents normally in children under 3, commonly found after 6 months old. There are only around 40 to 50 cases of this in the UK every year.

How can you detect this?

There are two main ways a parent would be suspicious of retinoblastoma. First of all, a common finding is something called "leukocoria" and secondly, a squint. Leukocoria is seen as a white reflection of the pupil, normally in one eye though it can be present in both. With the increased use of smart phones nowadays, parents are taking photos of their young children all the time. Leukocoria can be seen sometimes in these pictures. This isn't diagnostic however, as you can also get normal reflections. A squint is when the eye deviates from being straight. Again, it is normally quite obvious that the eye is turning in or outwards (less commonly). However, this is very rarely due to retinoblastoma and more due to uncorrected prescription. Other signs can be a bulging eye, a red eye or a new drooping eyelid (ptosis).

Does it run in families?

Yes, this can run in families. It is a genetic condition caused by a mutation of a specific gene. But it can be independent of any family history.

Diagnosing retinoblastoma

Dilating the pupils and internal assessment of the eye will normally confirm diagnosis of retinoblastoma or indeed rule it out. It will present as a large white mass on the retina. Ultrasound in secondary care is also a very useful tool.

Treatment

Chemotherapy, chemoreduction and laser photocoagulation are commonly used. In cases of a very large tumour, unfortunately, sometimes the eye needs to be removed.

Jonathan has 24 years of experience as an Optometrist, owns Clearvue Opticians in Currie and is a Director of Optometry Scotland.

Senior Snippets



ANDREW SENEW

Remember Your School Days?

With the recent opening of the new Currie Community High School, this time we're reflecting on school life in Edinburgh during the 1950s and 1960s.

School days in Edinburgh during those years were marked by discipline, routine, and a strong sense of community. Most children walked to their local primary school, often in neat uniforms of blazers, grey shorts or skirts, and caps. Days began with assembly, where hymns were sung and announcements made, before pupils filed into classrooms lined with wooden desks and inkwells.

Lessons centred on the basics – reading, writing, arithmetic, history, and geography – with plenty of rote learning. Teachers expected quiet concentration, and the tawse – a leather strap – was available for punishment. Handwriting was drilled, mental arithmetic recited aloud, and respect for authority taken for granted. Boys and girls were often taught different practical skills: woodwork and technical drawing for boys, cookery and sewing for girls.

Despite the strictness, school life had lighter moments. Playgrounds rang with skipping ropes, marbles, and football games, often played on cobbled yards or grassy patches. Hot school dinners became more common, though many children still went home for a midday meal.

Beyond lessons, schools were closely tied to their communities. Sports days, concerts, and prize-givings were major occasions. For many, those years in Edinburgh classrooms meant not only hard work and discipline, but also friendships and shared experiences that shaped them for life.

School shaped us all. From first days back, to school bags and uniforms. Morning assemblies to friendships formed and lost. Memorable teachers, to playground and organised games. What from your school years has stayed with you?

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

EVERGREEN BALERNO

YOUR TRUSTED LANDSCAPE DESIGN & BUILD EXPERTS

Covering Edinburgh & The Lothians

Long list of references and portfolio of work at your request

Design & Build | Driveways | Garden Rooms | Paving
Hard & Soft Landscaping | Turfing | Astroturf
Fencing | Walling | Excavation | Decking

Email or Text us for a 24 Hour Response
Evergreen Balerno
Phone: 07596068455
Email: balernolandscaping@gmail.com
Website: www.evergreenbalerno.co.uk

www.evergreenbalerno.co.uk
Contact us today for a FREE consultation

Malleny Garden: It's Been Quite 'Warm'!



JAMES BELL
HEAD GARDENER, MALLENY GARDEN

Malleny has been feeling the heat over the last couple of months—our greenhouse has been up to 44° Celsius!

The heat hasn't stopped us gardeners and volunteers from working away in the garden, but has had an impact on many of our plants. Combined with this year's dry conditions, many of our plants have been wilting. The herbaceous perennials with their shallow roots, while looking a bit droopy, will bounce back with a bit of rain; a few wilting shrubs with their deeper roots are a more significant sign of the very dry conditions this year. We don't tend to water our permanent outdoor plantings; we are very conscious of the water we use and direct it where it is needed most—like our roses.

With our rose flowering season behind us, our attention turned to pruning our shrub and rambling roses to aid next year's flowers. With 180 to prune, it takes a while! Unlike bush roses (HTs and floribundas) which are pruned in early spring, shrub roses are mostly pruned shortly after flowering – for us, that's August. Broadly, for the shrub roses, this means removing dead stems and reducing most new growth by about one third. For the ramblers, we aim to remove one third of the oldest stems each year—a simple sentence to write, but more challenging

(and painful!) in practice. We tackle two or three big ramblers each year, with the rest left alone to "ramble". We water and feed the roses now to strengthen them for winter and next year's flowers.

If you visit our Malleny Garden Facebook page, you will find a short five-minute video highlighting some of the features of the garden. Featuring staff and volunteers, it shows off the charm of the garden, what it means to people and captures some lovely aerial shots of the garden. If you have a chance, please take a look.

Rounding off August, we were able to welcome Pentland Open Studios Art Trail to Malleny. Local artist and botanical illustrator Janet Dyer exhibited a range of her work in the greenhouse at Malleny, highlighting a range of non-native invasive plants which trouble the banks of Water of Leith. We hope everyone who visited enjoyed speaking with Janet about the work. Thank you to everyone who attended.

• *Volunteers make an enormous 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.facebook.com/MallenyNTS/>



Ramblers: Summer Days



GAIL COUSINS
BALERNO RAMBLERS

The schools are back and we are enjoying another mini heatwave. It's been a good few months for walking, shorts, factor 30, sun-hats, and carrying plenty of water. It is now late summer and the 1 September marks the start of meteorological Autumn. On our walks we have been foraging for wild raspberries and now blackberries.

On a walk in July, the Balerno Ramblers met SWCPT (Police Scotland South West Edinburgh) officers at Harlaw Reservoir at a Water Safety event, along with Pentland

Rangers and Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue team who were there to make the public aware of what they can do to help in an emergency.

We learnt very useful information on what to do in case of an emergency while hiking. Should we need to be rescued, first call 999 and ask for the Police Department who will then redirect us to the Mountain Rescue Team. They will ask us to tell them of our exact location by providing them with a 6-figure grid reference number or use \\what3words. The Police Team gave lessons on the use of rescue equipment at Harlaw. Some of us had a go, then had the challenge of feeding the rope back into the container—with much merriment.

BALGREEN EVENT

Balerno Ramblers are planning a late summer picnic, with lawn and indoor games, on Friday 5 September between noon and 4pm at Balgreen Croquet and Bowling Club.

Starting with our own picnic lunch at noon, there is a choice of activities: croquet, bowls, table tennis, table football, board games or a walk to Saughton or Roseburn Parks.

At around 3pm we will have a final event to determine the winners of croquet and bowls, followed by tea/coffee and cake.

UPCOMING WALKS

- **Saturday 6 September:** Dalmeny Estate Circular.
- **Sunday 14 September:** a walk up Tinto Hill, which was the first destination for the Midweek Ramblers group 30 years ago on 26 April 1995. Tinto Hill 711 metres (2,333 feet), with a Bronze Age burial cairn at the summit.
- **Saturday 20 September:** Walk TBC
- **Saturday 27 September:** Crook of Devon / Muckhart / Rumbling Bridge.

- *For more details of our upcoming walks please click the link to access the Balerno Ramblers page on Ramblers Scotland website.*
- *New members are always most welcome. We offer three "trial" walks as a non-member, hoping that your experience with us would then encourage you to become a member.*
- *If you are interested in joining us, we have a mailing list to receive the information on forthcoming walks: balerno-ramblers+subscribe@googlegroups.com*

Balerno Ramblers



This page: Main: A collection of sun hats. Photo: Liz Robertson. Above: Looking towards Black Hill from Bell's Hill. Photo: MC. Far left: Having a go with rope rescues. Photo: Liz Robertson. Left: Eskbank duck or grouse. Photo: Roger Jonathan.



Currievale Plumbing & Drainage Services

Family business with over 20 years experience
No job too small and all work is guaranteed
24 hour Emergency Service

- ✓ All blockages cleared: Toilets, sinks, baths, showers, outside drains and manholes
- ✓ Outside tap fitted
- ✓ Blocked manholes
- ✓ Burst Pipes
- ✓ Showers fitted
- ✓ Storage tanks
- ✓ New taps fitted & repaired
- ✓ Toilets repaired and replaced
- ✓ Gutter cleaning
- ✓ New installations
- ✓ All plumbing work carried out

www.currievaleplumbing.co.uk
Currievale Drive, Edinburgh EH14 5BN

Call Alexander on 0131 449 3071 or 07849 393364

Do you have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Asthma, Brochiectasis or any other lung condition that makes you out of breath?



THE CHEYNE GANG
'Sing to Breathe'

Come along and learn how singing can help you to control your breathlessness. If you can talk you can sing!

We meet at 11.00-1.00pm on alternate Mondays at Colinton Bowling Club, 49 Redford Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0AB

For more information please contact Jaci Cunningham on 07763 126789



Back in April, when the new Juniper Green and Baberton Mains Community Council (JGBMCC) was officially launched, two long-standing members finally stepped down, writes Linda Johnston. Cliff Beevers (left, with guide dog Ozzie) became Chair of JGBMCC in 2009, a position he held until 2017—after which he remained an active community councillor. Ian Gilmour (right) joined in 2010 as the official representative of Juniper Green Parish Church, a position he also held until March 2025 when he too finally retired.

With more than 30 years service to the communities of Juniper Green and Baberton Mains, we wanted to gather some of their memories.

The initial focus of JGBMCC was to tidy up areas such as Curriemuir Park, the Muddies and Dr Mackay's Wood. Next came celebrations marking 300 years of Juniper Green, with a monument beside the tennis courts as a permanent reminder. Between 2010 and 2019 many initiatives were

undertaken, including a Gala Week, a campaign to “Save Curriemuir Park” and a regular Farmers’ Market.

Successfully campaigning for the Royal Bank of Scotland to have a mobile bank visit Currie and Balerno weekly remains a great service to many people, but working with other community councils proved pivotal when campaigning to stop development in the Muir Wood field, launching the Pentland Book Festival or tackling planning issues as part of the South West community forum. Creating the Hub@531 required the raising of significant funds, setting up a charity and letting the Pandemic to pass to allow the Hub’s completion.

The Hub remains Cliff’s highlight while the Farmers’ Market is Ian’s. Cliff hopes the community council continues and flourishes.

Cliff and Ian have contributed significantly to the local communities and we thank them for their hard work and endeavours.

Financial advice to suit you

We provide expert financial advice that delivers personalised financial solutions to meet our clients’ individual needs.

We can help in the following areas:

- Retirement planning
- Income in retirement
- Investments and savings
- Protection for your family
- Estate planning

We tailor our advice to each client by taking the time to really understand what’s important to them.

We are financial advisers from Invest Retire Protect and we offer a restricted advice service. If you don’t already have an adviser and would like some help with your financial planning needs, please get in touch.

Phone: 0131 259 2162
Visit: www.investretireprotect.com
Write to: 18 Bridge Road, Colinton, Edinburgh EH13 0LQ




Invest Retire Protect is an appointed representative of M&G Wealth Advice Limited. M&G Wealth Advice Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. M&G Wealth Advice Limited is registered in England and Wales. Registered office at 10 Fenchurch Avenue, London EC3M 5AG. Registered number 5739054. PFPB1041904_Invest Retire Protect 93x135 02/2024



karen parry architects

0131 600 0668
www.karenparryarchitects.com

edinburgh
38 Bridge Road
Colinton
Edinburgh
EH13 0LQ

Scottish Home Improvement Award
Winners 2024
Best Architectural Practice
Best Architect






Birthday Celebration for an ‘Iconic Lady’

ELAINE PORTEOUS
FORMER PUPIL, JUNIPER GREEN SCHOOL OF DANCE

September 2025 sees a milestone birthday for a very iconic lady who has been part of the Currie and Balerno communities for decades. Anne Bangham, formerly of Juniper Green school of Dancing, will be celebrating her 80th birthday.

Miss Bangham, as she is known by all of her formal pupils, retired less than a decade ago, and still keeps in touch with as many of her “girls” as she can.

Just before Christmas last year, she met with Elaine Porteous, one of her former pupils. Enjoying reminiscing about old times, Miss Bangham said how much she missed the dance school, the girls, and how lovely it would be to have a birthday party where she would see some of her girls again.

Not one to dodge a challenge, or opportunity to party, Elaine decided that she would try to organise a surprise reunion using the power of social media. Approximately 300 emails were written to all of the girls on Miss Bangham’s Facebook page, asking if they were former pupils and whether they could attend a surprise party in June 2025. The response was fantastic.

More than 80 “girls” – some now in their 60s – attended on the day. A dozen more, unable to attend in person, made video clips – from as far as New Zealand, Australia and Kuala Lumpur – which were compiled into a beautiful film show by Tracy McAdam.

A fabulous cake – in the shape of a ballet tutu, with three tiers of wonderful flavours – was made by Debbie McConnell, who is the daughter of one of the ballet teachers who first taught Miss Bangham.

Bunting made with photos, from over the 50 plus years of Miss Bangham’s stage shows, was used to decorate the hall—which also gave the younger generations of girls (some trying to spot their mums!) an appreciation of how wonderful the dance school had always been—thanks to Miss Bangham’s tireless dedication. (A big thank you to Fiona Morton and Susan Innes – pupils from more than 40 years ago – who decorated the hall the evening before, making it extra special for everyone.)



kicked her legs to the beat of the tune. What an entrance!

Needless to say, tissues were soon needed for the happy tears shed. Family members and friends, and former pupils of multiple generations, thoroughly enjoyed the get together. A few times there was a wee break out of dancing, as memories of routines from shows were sparked by the background music that played throughout the afternoon. Old copies of C&B News were on one table too, highlighting articles about different shows and local events dancers had taken part in over the decades.

As everyone left there were echoes of “When do we do we do this again?” So much so, many who couldn’t make it are keen to have a similar get together in the future, while many who did make it would love another gathering to see old classmates again!

The work done by Elaine Porteous and Tracy McAdam in organising invitations, food, and venue was enormously appreciated by Miss Bangham and all who attended. Well done to all who contributed, making the event truly “One Singular Sensation”!

Top: A group picture featuring Miss Bangham and her “Girls”. Above: Miss Bangham (right) with Elaine Porteous. Above right: How the July/August 2014 issue of C&B News reported Miss Bangham entering her 50th year of dance teaching.

The surprise party was a great success with Miss Bangham being ushered into the hall by her eldest son Michael and his wife Nou, whilst her youngest son Craig set up one of the Dance Schools favourite show tunes: “One” from A Chorus Line.

Miss Bangham was overwhelmed with the surprise, but quickly found her rhythm and soon

Please remember to mention the C&B News when replying to advertisers

JOBGING ROOFING

NO JOB TOO SMALL

- Rhones cleaning, repair & replacement
- Moss Removal
- Slates and tiles replaced & renewed

Kerr Middleton
07768 632 867

On Friday 27 July, Dr Scott Arthur MP and Sue Webber MSP officially unveiled the latest mural in Colinton village, on the wall down Cuddies Lane. C&B News was there...



Currie Community High School

Brand New Currie High School Opens its Doors

ALEX MESSIS
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL MEDIA OFFICE

Construction of the brand-new Currie Community High School in Edinburgh is now complete, and the school building has been handed over to the City of Edinburgh Council. In mid-August, staff and pupils started the new school year in the state-of-the-art learning and community campus.

Construction company Kier were appointed by the City of Edinburgh Council to deliver the new Currie High School building. The new learning campus has been built to Passivhaus standard, minimising energy consumption and reducing the reliance on active heating or cooling systems, ensuring sustainable and eco-friendly construction.

In addition to the Passivhaus design, the new school includes other sustainable features supporting the Council to meet its sustainability commitments. These include measures to improve the air quality and thermal performance of the building which are vital to achieving Passivhaus certification.

The new school and community campus has been designed with the needs of learners, as well as the local community, in mind. The school includes a four-court sports hall, a gym hall, fitness suite, dance studio, a Passivhaus four lane swimming pool and a 3G pitch. The



main entrance foyer includes the school library, alongside informal social and meeting spaces for the community to use. These facilities include a wellness centre, meeting room and café area which has been included with the aim of providing refreshments for community users in the near future.

Aiming to encourage cross-curricular and collaborative learning, the school has two large open plan learning plazas that are easily accessed by classrooms on all three floors. Designed with inclusion of all learners in mind, along with classrooms in an Integrated Support Zone, there is a sensory room and nurture room. Breakout and retreat spaces throughout the school offer pupils choice on where they want to work, socialise or take time out.

The new school building has been designed in line with the guiding principles of the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Strategy and is one of the projects in the first phase of the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme.

"The handover of Currie High School marks a new era for staff and pupils alike, as well as the local community, and it's fantastic to see that the new school building is officially open," said CEC's Children, Education and Families Convener, Councillor James Dalgleish.

"The new school has been designed with future proofing and sustainability front and centre. The design and landscape was informed

and influenced by the school's senior leadership team to ensure that the needs of pupils were prioritised throughout. Alongside this, it was crucial that the building met our sustainability commitments, and it is fantastic that the school is one of the very first Passivhaus secondary schools in Scotland. I am thrilled that the school and wider community will benefit from this fantastic new building both now and well into the future."

Sean Fenner, managing director for Kier Construction North and Scotland, added: "Currie Community High School is a special project that showcases our deep sector expertise in delivering complex, high-performance education facilities. It reflects our passion for creating spaces that not only support learning but also lead the way in sustainability and decarbonisation.

"As the first Passivhaus school in Scotland with a swimming pool, it sets a new standard for low-energy design and long-term value. We're proud to have worked in close partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council to deliver a future-proofed school that will benefit generations to come—both as a place of learning and as a sustainable community asset."

• For further information about the design of the new Currie Community High School, visit: <https://futureschoolsedinburgh.com/currie-community-high-school/>

HELLO, YOUR LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS

PENTLAND CARPETS & INTERIORS

ARE MOVING!!

INTO UNIT 2 350 LANARK ROAD WEST
EH14 5RR TEL 0131 449 6961

A TWO MINUTE DRIVE (DEPENDING ON ROAD WORKS
TOWARDS BALERNO ON YOUR RIGHT HAND SIDE
WITH PARKING THROUGH THE TUNNEL



LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING THE SPACE WITH

Pam Millan

The Crows Nest
Collective

The Beauty
Wellbeing Snug

CARPETS VINYL LVT
AND OTHER FLOORINGS
BLINDS, CURTAINS AND SOFT FURNISHINGS

OUR CURRENT SHOP WILL CLOSE ON MONDAY 1ST SEPT
AND WE WILL BE IN OUR NEW SHOWROOM ON MONDAY 8TH SEP



If you thought all front doors were the same. **Think again!**

Four Seasons Classic Composite Doors

High performance with a huge choice of styles and options
Secured by Design | Triple glazed | Superb energy efficiency



four
seasons
Design & Build

Call **0131 449 7000** or visit our
brand new door showroom
Riccarton Garden Centre
Riccarton Mains Road, Currie
Open 7 Days. Mon-Fri 10-4, Sat-Sun 11-4
fourseasonsscotland.com



Your local door company - windows - doors - conservatories - conservatory upgrades - sunrooms - orangeries - extensions

Charles A. Strachan

Electrical Contractor
Domestic, Commercial & Industrial Installations



Tel/Fax 0131 449 2721
Mobile. 07710547107

e-mail: charles.strachan@blueyonder.co.uk
Registered Member of



M.R.I.C.S **Plan-It** F.C.I.O.B

Chartered Building Surveyors
Full architectural design & full project management
services for all house extensions and alterations
1 The Birches, Broombank, Mid Calder, EH53 0EA
01506 884216 www.plan-it-design.co.uk

*Why not advertise with
the C&B News?*

*Display ads still from only
£22 per month*

*Larger ad sizes now available
advertising@candbnews.com*

Angela Watson
SCHOOL OF DANCE

DISCOVER THE JOY OF DANCE

Angela Watson School of Dance has been inspiring
young dancers for over 23 years



New classes in Dregghorn Loan, Colinton
Friday afternoon P3 Ballet, P1-P3 Tap and Jazz.
Saturday morning, Nursery ballet and P1 Ballet and Jazz
Book your trial class online today!
www.angelawatsonschoolofdance.co.uk



Nursey & RAD Ballet | Commercial | Jazz | Acro | Modern

SAFEWAY ROOFING

**NO PAYMENT UNTIL 100% SATISFIED
NO DEPOSIT NECESSARY**

Flat Roof Specialists

Slating • Tiling • Leadwork

Gutters Cleaned Repaired and Renewed

All Cement, Lead & Roughcasting Work Undertaken

FREE QUOTE & SURVEY

0131 516 7954

www.safewayroofing.com

Covid-19 safe procedures in place. Discounts available for NHS staff.



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.



Balerno Roundabout—Going in Circles?

For years, I have been driving, walking and cycling by the roundabout in front of Balerno Church with a nagging feeling that the roundabout could look better. Some roundabouts proudly display decorative flowers, village signs or even artwork, but not this one. Balerno church roundabout has a few small trees with entangled vegetation in the middle and a concrete top. In my eyes, it is ripe for a makeover and could be an opportunity to showcase Balerno as the “Gateway to the Pentlands” with a little more colour, flair or – at least – a little less concrete.

Armed with home-made pictures of possible scenarios (see above right) and fuelled with enthusiasm, I approached Balerno Village Trust and Balerno Community Council (BCC). The BCC heard and discussed my proposal positively, but there are challenges. Having raised the matter, it seems the next step would be to specify the design, find partners and volunteers and consider

the health and safety of the project, as well as considering the following issues:

- 1) Removal of the concrete is not easy. It requires machinery (sledgehammers and excavators), the means to remove the concrete debris and would most likely involve the closure of the roundabout during such tasks.
- 2) Low or no maintenance of the roundabout is preferred. The roundabout is by definition in the middle of the road and vehicles may be approaching quickly. In addition, the step/climb onto the elevated roundabout could be another challenge for older volunteers. For this reason, ideally any changes to the roundabout should be self-sustaining without the need for regular maintenance.
- 3) Agreeing on the design of the new roundabout is not easy. Everyone has different ideas ranging from a wild meadow to a well-structured flower display. One of the BCC members proposed a

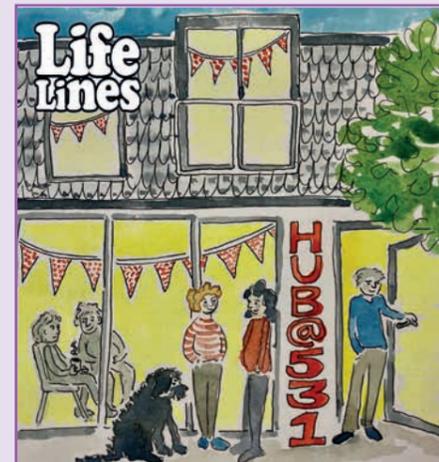
heather base with a millstone centre with “Balerno” inscribed. I like that idea, as it would provide a splash of colour for the pollinators, a little bit of local history and the drivers could see oncoming traffic over the roundabout. What would you prefer?

Situated at the heart of the village – near the church, nursery, main street, high school and start of the Water of Leith Walkway – the roundabout is one of the first things that visitors to Balerno see. To get to Balerno, visitors will have passed a sign which announces proudly that Balerno, a historic village whose origins date back to the late 13th century, is the “Gateway to the Pentlands”. Whatever the logistical challenges, surely an opportunity exists to do something more with this roundabout, something that shows we take pride in where we live and value the rich history and unique location of our wonderful community?

Lucie Novoveska
Balerno

What the...?

It may not surprise long-term readers of *C&B News* that this is not the first time we've published comments suggesting there's room for improvement regarding the Johnsburn Road roundabout. Our June 1993 issue (187) included a poem titled “Not So Magic Roundabout,” which suggests it was around this time that the roundabout gained its current brick and concrete stylings. Nearly 20 years later, in the February 2013 edition (383), Balerno Community Council asked readers how they would like the roundabout to look – the proviso being that the winning design had to be “both eye-catching and low maintenance”. Meantime, in the December 2013/January 2014 issue (392), Dean Park Primary School mentioned that it and Balerno High School were keen to help purchase and install a millstone on the roundabout as a fitting tribute to the village's industrial past. Some ideas, it seems, just keep circling back!



‘Welcoming Community Space’

There's something really special about community spaces like Hub@531 in Juniper Green, which have a way of making you feel so at home. Their events calendar is a wonderful mix of offerings with, it seems, something for everyone. I don't get out much due to poor health, but couldn't resist signing up for one of their creative sessions last month. Early to arrive, I was met with a warm welcome by both the person running the event and the others there. Not only was their welcome warm, but the building itself is deliciously cosy, so on that summer day the door was open, which made masked Covid-cautious me feel more at ease. We were soon seated round one large table with cups of tea, chatting and laughing as we got creative together. It was great fun

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY Katie

and the time flew by until we were excitedly sharing our finished projects and waving goodbyes.

The space has a wheelchair access ramp, as well as an accessible toilet which includes baby changing facilities, all of which adds to its openhearted welcome.

As someone with an invisible disability it can be difficult for people to understand how a seemingly small outing like this could floor me for days after, but it did. I'm still glad I went and look forward to going along to more of their events on occasion. How can I resist!?

I'm very grateful for community spaces like these where I can explore dipping into society and carry home with me the warm glow of having been together in such friendly company. I'm sure many others feel the same.



PORTEOUS
FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Likewise, funerals needn't be last minute.

Letting loved ones know your final wishes will help when the time comes.

There are lots of ways to create a bespoke send-off for a close family member.

Talk to us about your options today.

0131 453 4535
porteousfunerals.com



Juniper Green
(Head Office)
589 Lanark Road,
EH14 5DA
0131 453 4535

Colinton
(Appointment only)
7 Bridge Road,
EH13 0LH
0131 441 6500

Blackhall
14 Telford Road,
EH4 2BA
0131 332 3609

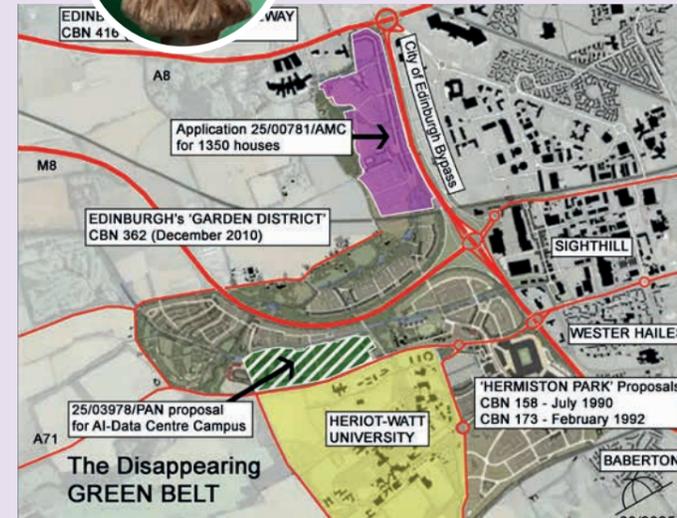
Corstorphine
135-137 St John's Road,
EH12 7SB
0131 554 1113

Liberton
43A Lasswade Road,
EH16 6TD
0131 664 6745

Bonnyrigg
60 High Street,
EH19 2AB
0131 654 1988



PLANNING, ETC BY ARCHIE CLARK



AI Green Belt Development Proposal

In recent years, politicians have promoted a "Brownfield First" policy. Edinburgh's 2030 City Plan (approved last November) showed no Green Field encroachments in Edinburgh South West beyond the 1,350 houses proposed at Redheughs, beside the Gogar roundabout.

Proposal 25/03978/PAN has been submitted for an "AI data centre campus with a 200MW demand utility capacity with car parking, landscaping, roads, etc.." alongside the A71, in the Hermiton Conservation Area. (See map showing sprawl proposals since 1990). The development, submitted by AAH Consultants for Cheshire-based Apatura DC, is one of five sites (including Ravenscraig) they are progressing across the Central Belt. "The project would deliver a major investment in a hyperscale green AI data centre, helping to power Scotland's digital economy while supporting local ambitions for a fairer, greener, and more prosperous future," explained Apatura.

There will be a public event at the National Robotarium (Heriot-Watt University, Boundary Road North, Third Gate) on Thursday 2 October from 3pm to 8pm. More details can be found at: <https://consult.apatura.energy/westerhermiston>.

It will be observed that this

campus would occupy part of the "Edinburgh Garden District" site proposed by Murray Estates, who are currently identifying sites at Redheughs for housing. Notwithstanding that the Heriot-Watt Research Park opposite is some way from being fully utilised, given that electronic communication is commonplace across the globe, it would be instructive to learn what specific benefits would derive from having a green field research site opposite, but not within the University Campus, and how that would support "a fairer, greener" future. Building on farmland means more food imports. Land is a diminishing resource: the worth of land lies in what it can grow, not how much it will sell for, and should be incentivised for food propagation. The huge power demand will have visible consequences.

The A71 between the two sites is heavily congested with several speed restrictions. It would be no surprise to find that the additional traffic generated by this site would accelerate the need to dual the A71 as proposed in September 1992, with more farmland lost. (See Currie & Balerno News, September 1992, number 179: "A71 Coxydene to City Bypass Planning Permission Granted".)

Currie CC is the relevant community council.



Planning and Climate Change-6: Reservoirs and Water Towers

Met Office data indicates that, since about 1980, annual rainfall in the UK has been increasing. We are experiencing cloudbursts that suddenly discharge large quantities of water on to land that cannot absorb this heavenly gift, thus creating disposal problems.

We have become more aware of heavy downpours and flash flooding overtopping our drainage systems and, naturally, our response is to get rid of the excess as fast as possible by channelling it away to the sea, though some landowners do try to retain the water for cultivation and to reduce erosion.

But, contrarily, our old reservoirs continue to dry up as water evaporates or is channelled away. In hot weather, we need more water to prevent our parched forests and bushes exploding into flame. So perhaps we need to adopt a different approach?

Instead of draining surface water to streams and rivers, why not collect as much as we can in local water towers, discharging the excess to existing water courses. The stored water could then be treated at the towers to serve our villages with pipes, incorporating water turbines, to generate electricity. Towers

(in addition to steeples) would become landmarks helping to give identity to our increasingly bland housing estates and no doubt could be used sensitively for other uses like local transmitters. It's not a unique idea, even in Britain.

I also wonder whether the clouds that collected and spread pollutants from tall chimneys during the industrial era helped prevent the world from heating up. When Covid 19 struck, in just three months, NO2 emissions from Delhi to New York dropped dramatically as coal-fired factories shut down, with satellite pictures revealing more land exposed to the sun. I understand that, depending on their density and height above Earth, clouds can have either a cooling or warming affect. Maybe the unpleasant smogs that predated the Clean Air Acts protected the World from overheating.

With plenty of water round our islands, the other obvious resource is the sea itself. If sea water was pumped into designated lagoons, with suitable treatment, that water could be used for many purposes. But as all these things take years to design and construct (rather like HS2), we need to get on with it.



FAILED TO GET HUNG IN THE PENTLAND ART CLUB EXHIBITION! Some graffiti is so well done that it deserves to be treated as art worth having. Here is an example, expertly created, that appeared on one of Brooklea's burnt gables. If not quite to the same standard as a Banksy, it is surely worth preserving as a cartoon that could have featured in *The Beano*. I wonder who the artist is, and whether they intend to exhibit on more derelict buildings.

OWEN GIBB & SONS LTD



PLUMBING, HEATING, GAS & JOINERY

Family Owned & Operated Since 2006

BOILER COVER PLANS
FROM AS LITTLE AS
£13.99 A MONTH

Plumbing • Heating • Joinery • Gas Fitting •
Maintenance • Servicing & Repairs •
Bathroom Design & Installation Specialists •

WE CAN OFFER
0% FINANCE FOR
YOUR PROJECT*

Landlord Gas Safety Checks • Boiler Breakdown Cover

Tel: 0131 441 7999

Mob: 07738 006 781

E-mail: admin@owengibbandsons.co.uk

34 Bridge Road
Colinton, EH13 0LQ

*We are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FRN 947495. We are a credit broker and not a lender.

www.owengibbandsons.co.uk



SUTTON Care Solutions

Taking the Stress out of Living at home

Would you or someone you know benefit from additional care and support at home? At Sutton Care Solutions we recognise that home is truly where the heart is and with our assistance our clients enjoy living in their own homes for as long as they want to.

At Sutton Care Solutions we understand that life is for living. We can make it easier to live in your own home for longer so why not pick up the phone and have a chat with us?

What We Offer

- ☎ Personal Care Services including Medication
- ☎ Short-term assistance for recovery from illness or hospitalisation
- ☎ Home Help, Domestic Support and Shopping
- ☎ Preparation of Meals
- ☎ Escort Service
- ☎ Companionship and Befriending Services (Transport Available)
- ☎ Services of a Fully Qualified Counsellor
- ☎ Respite Care
- ☎ Emergency On-Call Services
- ☎ Gardening
- ☎ Dog Walking



170 Lanark Road West, Edinburgh EH14 5NY ☎ 0131 449 9422 ✉ care@suttoncaresolutions.co.uk

suttoncaresolutions.co.uk



DR SCOTT ARTHUR MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

TROUBLED WATERS?

I hope everyone across *C&B News* country has enjoyed a wonderful summer. While keen gardeners might have preferred a bit more rain, I think we've been lucky to have some truly fantastic weather. I may be biased, but I always feel that my Edinburgh South West constituency looks its best under a bright blue sky!

The sunshine has made it easier for my family and me to enjoy the incredible green spaces that help define Edinburgh South West. These spaces are more than just scenic, they play a vital role in supporting our physical and mental health.

Young people in the area will have a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors at the weekly Hailes Quarry Park Junior Parkrun, starting at 9.30am on Saturday 7 September 2025. You can find more details at: tinyurl.com/HQJuniorPR.

One of our most cherished green spaces is the Water of Leith and its beautiful walkway. Its popularity soared during the pandemic and has remained high, thanks in part to the stunning Colinton Tunnel Mural, now linked to the village via the Cuddies Lane Mural.

However, recent concerns have emerged about the volume of discharge from Scottish Water's combined sewers into the river, particularly from an outlet in Spylaw Park. This issue came to a head with the appearance of a "globular", "sludgy" and "fatty, caramel-coloured substance" along the riverbank, which sadly led to at least two dogs falling ill. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) had to request that Scottish Water clean the affected area.

I've met with Scottish Water to discuss the matter. Disappointingly, they were unable to confirm the volume of material being discharged. That said, I'm pleased to report that they are committed to improving the situation. I'll continue to engage with them and will keep *C&B News* readers updated as discussions progress.



GORDON MACDONALD MSP
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS

NEW TERM

With the new academic year well underway pupils and staff at Currie Community High School will be settling into their new building. The school is one of the projects in the first phase of the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme. It is the first Passivhaus designed school with a pool in Scotland which not only offers a first-class learning environment but will also provide much needed community space.

With the new school term comes expense many parents and carers can ill afford. There is, however, help with the Scottish School Age Payment which is worth up to £319.80 per child and can be used for things like books, bags, clothes and equipment. You can access more information on this by calling Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

There was good news for Balerno with the success of Balerno Village Trust's (BVT) application to the Scottish Government funded Scottish Land Fund to buy the old police station. I have supported BVT throughout the application process as I believe their vision for the building will be a major asset for the area. The plans for the building include much needed childcare facilities as well as making the building a hub for the village with space for community events. It is thanks to BVT and their efforts that the building has been secured for the local community.

I understand a proposal has been put forward by Apatura to build an AI Data Centre on land opposite Heriot Watt University. Whilst I welcome the opportunities the building of AI Data Centres in Scotland could bring, I do not consider Wester Hermiston an appropriate site given its green belt status and I would encourage residents to engage in the consultation process at www.consult.apatura.energy/westerhermiston



SUE WEBBER MSP
LOTHIAN REGION

SUMMER RECESS

For MSPs, the summer recess is a chance to get out and about across the area and things got off to a fun start at the CBDRT Beer and Curry Festival where I danced and chatted all night long!

We have been fortunate with the weather, although the Currie Chieftains' 7s tournament didn't quite get the sunshine it did last year! Still, it was a fun tournament well attended by visiting clubs and the quality of the matches was super in both the ladies' and men's tournaments.

Those who know me know that I like to get stuck in! I had a great afternoon in the sunshine in Campbell Park orchard, clearing away and replanting around the trees. I took time out to thank Emily from Edinburgh & Lothians Green Space Trust who has guided the newly-formed Friends of Dr MacKays Wood team in transforming the area. Following the success of the project in Currie, I was delighted to facilitate discussions with the residents' group from Baberton Mains and the council's Thriving Green Spaces Team. We agreed that an improved maintenance plan would be drafted for the green spaces across the estate.

I have been along to the Balerno Farmers Market for supplies of rhubarb and dog treats and on sunny Saturdays, between 2 - 4pm, I head for coffee and cake at the Currie Kirk Café. With seats outside it is an ideal space to sit with my mum and have a chat with all those stopped for refreshments.

It was a huge honour to be asked to open the latest in a series of murals by Chris Rutterford in Colinton's Cuddies Lane. Well done to all involved as this was a huge undertaking: the Colinton Amenity Association, the many local businesses and the Colinton Tunnel Team.

It's been a busy summer but one I thoroughly enjoyed!



CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

LISTENING

Along with my colleague, Sue Webber MSP, I recently conducted a survey of local residents regarding the proposed active travel measures around the Curriehill Road area. A vast majority, over 90%, did not agree with making Forthview Crescent (between Curriehill Road and Palmer Road) one way, with contraflow cycling. However, residents were very much in favour of the access ramp from Pentland Place up to the Medical Centre and shops, along with extra car parking spaces at Curriehill railway station. Regarding the Zebra crossings, they were slightly in favour, but there was real concern around extending the pavements out, potentially making it more difficult for double decker buses to make turns in and out of Curriehill Road. I have fed these findings back to the City of Edinburgh Council and await their response.

People will have started to see "Ringo" parking meters installed in car parks at Threipmuir—and soon to be at Harlaw, Bonaly and Flotterstone. At present only donations are requested, with charges likely to be introduced in 2026. CEC are trying to recoup some of the cost of the car park extensions at all the sites, along with making sure there is enough funding for a ranger service, improving paths and maintaining the car parks and toilet facilities. Please get in touch with me regarding any thoughts and concerns.

I was alerted that a bench had been broken in Juniper Green. I informed CEC officials who took it away; because of present backlogs, I've been told it should be replaced within three months.

I was also informed about graffiti on the path to Curriehill railway station. This has now been removed but I have also alerted CEC to the rubble of the wall that fell down, and other steps that look unsafe.

Lastly, it's great to see the ramps in Balerno completed on either side of the new Bavelaw Green Footbridge—we have a working bridge at last!



CLLR STEPHEN JENKINSON
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

NEW CURRIE CHS

The opening of the new High School in Currie marks an important milestone for the community and a significant investment by the City of Edinburgh Council in the future of local education. The modern design offers bright, well-planned spaces that create a welcoming and practical environment for learning.

The building incorporates the Passivhaus standard, ensuring it is highly energy-efficient and comfortable throughout the year. While this sustainable approach is an achievement in itself, the real success lies in the way the school supports its students and staff. Classrooms are designed to be calm and quiet, allowing young people to focus, collaborate, and thrive.

This project represents much more than new walls and windows—it's about creating a space that fosters ambition and pride. The school's layout encourages both formal learning and informal interaction, with open areas, specialist facilities, and outdoor spaces that make the most of the site. These features will support a wide range of subjects, from sciences and the arts to sports and technology.

CEC's commitment to this development reflects a long-term vision for education in Currie. It acknowledges that schools are central to community life, and that providing modern, adaptable facilities benefits everyone. For families, it's a place where their children can learn in a safe, well-equipped setting. For teachers, it's a workplace designed to help them deliver the best possible education.

The opening of the new high school is a moment of celebration, but also one of anticipation. It's the start of a new chapter for Currie, offering young people the space and resources they need to succeed—today, and for many years to come.



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY EFFORT

Closed in March 2016 by The City of Edinburgh Council, the "Green Bridge", over the Bavelaw Burn, reopened this August, as a result of community effort with funding mostly (but not exclusively) from local government. At about £80,000, the overall cost will be significantly less than original estimates.

Balerno's former Police Station is also in the course of being acquired by, and for the benefit of, the community, while the Community Centre on Main Street is being modernised again through community effort involving funding from various sources—including Harlaw Hydro, itself another community effort.

The model of community ownership coupled with community endeavour, even if exemplified only by these cases, clearly works. It ought to be central to thinking about community development by CEC, including through its Community Wealth Building plan.

Generally, communities want to help to make things work. Look at the numbers of people involved in volunteering, whether with youth groups, sports clubs, churches and so much more—often providing the infrastructure on which we all rely (like halls, clubs, and cafes) and without which we would all be poorer. There has to be a better way of organising things so that communities can feel they are, if not sitting in the driving seat, at least closer to the on switch.

Balerno Community Council is starting the task of drawing up a Local Place Plan, designed to ensure that government knows just how our community views its future, and what it wants to do to help to achieve that. Over the next few months it is likely that you'll have an opportunity to contribute your views—at, for example, the Farmers' Market, itself an example of a highly-successful local initiative initially funded 20 years ago by public funds.

Investing in community initiatives makes sense, so let's see more of it.



DR KEITH JAMES SYMINGTON
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This month's CCC meeting featured Stephen Lovejoy from the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), who gave a presentation on Local Place Plans (LPPs). These are a new type of mini-development plan, introduced by the Scottish Government, which are produced by communities for their local areas and are an opportunity to collaborate with planning authorities to influence how the area develops.

The plans are an opportunity to tell CEC about Currie, what works and what doesn't, as well as sharing community needs and aspirations. The point is to enable the community to shape future housing, business, or community spaces and bring forward proposals to improve quality of life, health and well-being.

Currie CC intends to help gather

this information so we can protect what is valued in the community and highlight problems or opportunities which CEC Planning could address. Please do let us know via our Facebook page if you have something to add!

The proposed changes around Curriehill Road were also discussed. Although there was little opposition to the crossing at Riccarton Avenue, the one-way entrance at Forthview Crescent and narrowing of the road at junctions have both generated opposition. The latter was concerning the bus routes using these junctions, so these points will be taken back to CEC for comment.

The Lanark Road West barrier close to Nether Currie bus stop is due for replacement due to its poor condition. CEC officials have met with the contractor and agreed the work, although a start date has still to be confirmed.

Currie Green Spaces reported that the grass maintenance schedule is working well with community feedback acted on by CEC, creating a genuinely successful initiative. However, it was drawn to their attention that Blinkbonny Park seems to have been "abandoned". This is now being followed up.

Simply Wellness
Massage Therapy tailored to Your needs

My vision is to help people feel better through personalised and intuitive massage treatments. Massage is an ancient healing method that brings more balance and improves quality of life.

- Back Neck and shoulders - to reduce headaches and improve concentration
- Full body massages - muscle recovery and relaxation
- Reflexology - activates body's natural abilities to heal
- Indian Head Massage - strain reduction and energy renewal
- Lymphatic drainage - detox and immune strength
- Sports - recovery, injury prevention and preparation for activities
- Pregnancy - comfort and relief
- Hot Stone - inflammation reduction, balance, comfort and tissue recovery





A New Sound in Juniper Green

JOHN ELLIOTT
THE JUNIPER GREEN NOTE

Live jazz is coming to Juniper Green—and it's here to stay. Launching this autumn, the Juniper Green Note Jazz Club will bring top-class performances to Baberton Golf Clubhouse with a series of monthly concerts. Each evening will feature the resident Green Note Trio alongside a rotating headline guest artist from Scotland's vibrant jazz scene—ensuring every concert is fresh, unique and unmissable.

"Our vision is simple," says pianist, John Elliott. "We want to create a friendly, welcoming space where the local community can enjoy affordable top-class live jazz close to home, and where musicians can connect with an appreciative grassroots audience." Baberton Golf Club has generously agreed to host the events. The venue offers step-free access, a lift, plenty of parking, and a welcoming environment where audiences can also enjoy the well-stocked clubhouse bar.

The first concert, on Thursday 2 October, welcomes Dick Lee—renowned Portobello reedsman, composer, and winner of the BBC Radio 2 Big Band Competition. Together with the Green Note Trio – piano, double bass, and drums – audiences can expect sparkling interplay, fresh interpretations and music that truly swings.

Run entirely by local volunteers, the Juniper Green Note Jazz Club is powered by a passion for live music. Whether you're a lifelong jazz aficionado or curious to try something new, the doors are open. Bring a friend, discover the music, and be part of the beginning.

• To be added to the Juniper Green Note email list, subscribe at: www.Linktr.ee/JuniperGreenNote

• junipergreennote@gmail.com.



Eagle-eyed C&B News readers may have recently noticed some "guerrilla advertising" on local bus shelters for a new album by local musician Jacob Creighton—we decided to get in touch!

Have you always been interested in making music?

Well I always had a love for music but I never acted on it until I was around 15 years old, when I started making rap music. This went on for roughly three years, in which I established myself as a pretty decent rapper, with one of my songs getting over 20,000 streams on Spotify! However, as I got older, I began to stray away from rap as I had lost the love I once had for it, and decided to learn the guitar. It didn't take long for me to fall back in love, though this time it was with more wholesome music. Shortly after learning the guitar I experimented with a little bit of singing and the rest is history.

How would you describe your music?

I would describe my music as unique and easy to listen to. I

think my style is quite refreshing and my songs are suitable for anybody to listen to.

Who are your big influences?
I take inspiration from artists like Zach Bryan; he is a prime example of just how far a man and his guitar can really go. I also admire and have been compared to Scottish artists like The Proclaimers, Paulo Nutini, Gerry Cinnamon and Nathan Evans—as, just like them, I keep the Scottish accent when I sing.

Does Edinburgh have a sufficiently strong live music scene?

As I'm just starting out I don't know as much about the live music scene in Edinburgh as I would like to. Though, from what I do know, I think it's fair to say that Edinburgh does have a strong live music scene. However, once I get some more music out I intend to get involved and hopefully reinforce the strength of the scene.

Do you prefer working in a studio, or playing live in front of an audience?

For me, the pinnacle of being a musician is having a live crowd sing the

words you wrote. Although the studio is where the magic happens, it is truly put to in action in a live scenario. Unfortunately, I am yet to experience such a moment but I am certain it will come eventually.

How would you describe your new album?

My new album is truly special. There is a song in there for everybody, no matter who you are or what you're going through. With countless months spent on its creation and the help of my good friend and incredible musician Joel Gutierrez, I believe *The Golden Ticket* to be a classic. The world just doesn't know it yet!

When does your album release and how can our readers buy a copy?

Good news... It's already out! You can find my new album *The Golden Ticket* on all digital platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon music, YouTube music, iTunes and more. Unfortunately I don't have any physical copies but if you simply type "Jacob Creighton - The Golden Ticket" into any internet browser you will find it. Every single stream helps me grow my reputation and gets me one step closer to achieving my dreams so any and all support is greatly appreciated.



PAC Exhibition 'Packs' Them In!

ROS SALTON
PENTLAND ART CLUB

Pentland Art Club's annual exhibition this year opened on Friday 8 August.

Fran Bailey kicked off proceedings with some "housekeeping" before announcing the winners of this year's "2B Pencil Drawing Competition". As mentioned last issue, the theme was "footwear".

In first place was Julie Hind's outstanding drawing of ballet shoes; second was Denise Kopf's sparkling ice skates and third was Ros Salton's rugged cowboy boots, while Dina Ward won a commendation for her authentic Dutch clogs. Yet again we have Islay Graham to thank for judging and selecting the winner—an even more difficult job this year.

Fortunately for us, she takes great pleasure in performing this task and providing feedback. "Overall, this year's entries have been incredible," she said, "and (the competition) highlights an impressive array of talent."

Next up, Phyllis Laybourn introduced our guest speaker, Jenny Matthews (above right). An elected member of the Royal

Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour, Jenny is a professional artist who exhibits regularly. The Pentland Art Club has also enjoyed the benefit of her teaching.

Speeches over, the buying could begin. Guests who arrived early had had time to peruse and choose and were head of the queue at the sales desk. An initial hiccup with the card machine resulted in a sudden bottleneck but patience prevailed and everyone's needs were satisfied. Meanwhile, others enjoyed a drink as they strolled round the exhibits at leisure.

Before exiting, visitors cast their vote in the Chalmers Brown Award, indicating their favourite exhibit. The winner will feature on posters for next year's exhibition. They enthused about the works in our visitors' book, writing lovely comments about the display and quality of work, with several indicating interest in joining the club.

It requires a lot of effort, over several months, to stage such an event so we are grateful to club members who gave their time: from initial planning to final execution – hanging, flower arranging and tea-making – and



to all the artists submitting entries and making cards.

More than 40% of displayed paintings and crafts were sold in addition to a variety of prints and unframed originals, and the vast majority of greeting cards were scooped up. So we would like to thank all visitors who made a purchase and very generously donated towards the catalogue. These funds help us finance artist-led sessions during the year.

Finally, a big thank you to Islay and Jenny for their tuition—plus all the other guest artists who guided us this year, and to the Scout Club for the use of their premises. It was a perfect place for friends and past members of the Pentland Art Club to meet up again.

• Look out for the announcement of the Chalmers Brown award in the next C&B News

arrive a bit late or have to leave a bit early. We really enjoy our rehearsals with our dynamic Director of Music, Tim Coleman, and our Accompanist, the excellent Morley Whitehead.

• The open rehearsals start at 7pm on Mondays 8 and 15 September in the Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School.

• For more information about the choir, please visit www.colintonchoir.org or our Facebook page.

the *colinton & merchiston* community choir

Afar, Telemann's "Der Jungste Tag wird bald sein Ziel" and a lovely selection of carols.

We meet on Monday evenings in the Memorial Hall from 8 September onwards. After the Open Rehearsals, we will start at 7.15pm and end at 9pm—but it's not a problem if you

Looking Back on Summer and Ahead to a New Season

KIRSTY HEADDEN
PENTLAND SINGERS

The Pentland Singers enjoyed a memorable summer with two concerts in June. The programme was both varied and ambitious, celebrating the work of Black composers and featuring Coleridge-Taylor's *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*. A particular highlight was welcoming a tenor soloist, whose performance brought an extra sparkle to the occasion. Both choir and audience came away with a real sense of enjoyment and achievement.

Our new term begins on Tuesday 2 September, with rehearsals at Balerno Parish Church. We are looking forward to preparing for an exciting season, starting with a "Come and Sing in Balerno" event on Saturday 4 October, exploring the music of John Rutter and Bob Chilcott. These informal events are a wonderful way for singers of all backgrounds to come together and share in the pleasure of choral music.

The Pentland Junior Singers will return on Tuesday 9 September. Following a successful "Come and Sing" in May, the juniors are eager to begin a fresh programme of music. They bring huge enthusiasm to their rehearsals and performances, and offer a unique opportunity to learn to enjoy music in a supportive and fun environment.

"I hadn't sung in a choir since school, but when I moved to Currie and saw there was a local community choir, I thought I'd give it a go," explains choir member Kirsty Headden. "It's been one of the best decisions I've made — I've met lots of new people locally, and every Tuesday evening I come away feeling uplifted. It's reminded me just how much fun singing with others can be."

Both choirs welcome new members, and the start of term is an ideal time to come along, meet the group, and discover the joy of singing together.

• For details email: pentland_singers@yahoo.co.uk or pentlandjuniors@gmail.com

MURRAY'S CLEARANCES

499 CALDER ROAD, EDINBURGH, EH11 4AW

Email: info@houseclearancescotland.com

0131 358 4640 / 07958 395260

All Rubbish Removed
Single Items to Full Loads

ATTICS • SHOPS • GARAGES • CELLARS • OFFICES

GARDEN RUBBISH

FENCES & HUTS DEMOLISHED

HOUSE CLEARANCES

Fully Trained, Friendly Staff • Free Estimates and Free Advice
SEPA Registered • BICS Registered • Fully Insured
OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE

www.houseclearancescotland.com



Not Just A Groomer, It's a Luxury Wellness Experience

Showing your pooch how much you love them is priceless,
choose from our luxurious spa packages:

- * Love You Lots
- * Love You to the Moon and Back
- * Love You More
- * Puppy Graduation

Packages Include

Bubble Bath | Hair and Skin Conditioned | Blow Dry
Brush & Comb | Coat Styling | Nail Clip | Coat Deoderant
Ear Clean | Teeth Clean | Eye Clean | Fresh Breath Spray
Cologne | & More!



scan to book!

0131 563 8105

info@groomingdales.co

groomingdales.co

10A Bankhead Avenue,
Edinburgh, EH11 4HD



It's your funeral, or is it?

Let's make it about you and take out the guesswork for them.
Share your wishes with us and we'll give you
them back in a free Plan of Wishes.

POP IN

348 Lanark Road West, Edinburgh EH14 5RR

CALL US

0131 449 2340

williampurves.co.uk/currie

WILLIAM
PURVES EST. 1888
FUNERAL DIRECTORS



FOR LOCAL LEGENDS

As if having an EH postcode isn't enough of a reward, yours entitles you to money
off food and drink around the city, cheaper days out and exclusive events.

All to say thanks for being a local legend.



GET YOUR RESIDENT REWARDS AT
EDINBURGH.ORG/EHREWARDS

ForeverEdinburgh

CURRIE PHARMACY

UNDER NEW INDEPENDENT OWNERSHIP

WE ARE AN INDEPENDENT PHARMACY DEDICATED TO PROVIDING YOU PERSONALISED CARE, EXPERT ADVICE, AND A RANGE OF HEALTH SERVICES TO SUPPORT YOU AND OUR COMMUNITY EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

YOUR HEALTH & WELL-BEING IS ALWAYS OUR TOP PRIORITY.

NHS SERVICES: DOSETTE BOX SERVICE, GLUTEN FREE SERVICE, SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL, PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY & COLLECTION, MEDICAL ADVICE AND TREATMENTS, SHINGLES TREATMENT, HAY FEVER, SMOKING CESSATION STRATEGIES, URINARY TRACT INFECTION, STI TESTING, IMPETIGO TREATMENT.

PRIVATE SERVICES: WEIGHT LOSS, TRAVEL VACCINES, ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION, HAIR LOSS, BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS, DIABETES TESTING, VITAMIN B12 INJECTIONS, HPV VACCINATIONS AND MORE!

+ CURRIE PHARMACY

FREE PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION & DELIVERY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

**CURRIE
BALERNO
JUNIPER
GREEN**

OPENING HOURS
MON-FRI 08.45-17.45
SAT 09.00-12.30

ADDRESS
162 LANARK RD WEST
CURRIE
EH14 5NY

TEL 0131 449 3417

A Busy Summer for Currie Chieftains

SUSAN H LEE
CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

While league and cup rugby entered the summer break, there has still been plenty going on at Malleny and further afield.

At the start of the summer break, we hosted the annual Currie Chieftains 7s tournament. Despite the weather, it was another huge success and plans are already underway for next year's tournament.

We also welcomed around 60 P1-P7 players to summer camp, which was a resounding success, while our Colts also enjoyed a pre-season training with players from Edinburgh Rugby!

Pathway Success

We were proud to see five of our players – Iona Hunter, Olivia Edmiston-Philip, Maisie Beaton, Ben Daniel and Mark Hammond – take part in the SRU Regional Pathway Festivals. A brilliant day for all, and we can't wait to see what's next for them.

Scotland U18 Representation

A huge well done to Archie Proctor and Jack McClay who travelled to Italy to play for Scotland U18s—an



incredible achievement and unforgettable experience.

International Touch Rugby

In Limerick, Malaki Svenson and Aaron Lee represented the Scotland U20s at the Federation of International Touch's Atlantic Youth Cup, taking on South Africa, England and Wales during three action-packed days. No silverware this time, but plenty of memories and new friends made.

Also pulling on the Scotland jersey was one of our Colts coaches, Philippe Hourcagne, who was a pivotal part of the senior's team at the European Seniors Touch Cup in Stirling and now boasts more than 75 caps for Scotland Touch Rugby. Well done to all involved over the summer and we look forward to the new season of Touch Rugby at Malleny. Please get in touch if you'd like to give it a go.

Volunteers in Action

More than 40 volunteers gave up their time in August to get Malleny "match-day



ready"—tidying grounds, tackling maintenance jobs, and giving the place a summer refresh. A big thank you to all involved.

Also a big shout-out to some of our younger members who carried out a community leaflet drop to promote the new season—great work from Amy and Cameron.

Proud from Grassroots to International

As we look forward to a new season, the club couldn't be prouder of our players, coaches, volunteers, and supporters.

We look forward to the 25/26 season and warmly welcome you all to our club at Malleny.

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



Local Author Shares Story of 'World's Best Goalkeeper'

HUGH ROSS
CURRIE RESIDENT

A new biography of John "Johnny" Thomson, the legendary Celtic and Scotland goalkeeper during the inter-war years, is published this month.

Written by Currie resident Hugh Ross, *Death and Glory—The Life and Times of John Thomson, The World's Best Goalkeeper* will be of interest not only to Celtic and Scotland supporters but anyone with an interest in the game – and life more generally – from before the First World War up to the early 1930s.

Thomson was goalkeeper at a time when Scotland was one of the best footballing teams on the planet, and his agreed move from Celtic to Arsenal would have set a world record transfer fee for a goalkeeper if he had not died from injuries sustained in an Old Firm game at Ibrox Park on 5 September 1931.

The book is full of stories about the great players of the time and the teams that John played against—not just most of the clubs still playing in the top two tiers today, but also the likes of Leith Athletic, Bathgate and Bo'ness which no longer operate at the same level as they once did.

• *Death and Glory – The Life and Times of John Thomson, The World's Best Goalkeeper* is published by Kindle and Amazon Books on 5 September. Amazon Standard Identification Number: B0FHYPVMD.

• *Royalties from sales of the book will go to the My Name's Doddie Foundation, the charity committed to funding research to find effective treatments for motor neurone disease.*

Above: Photo by Andrew Johnstone, with permission of Scott Johnstone.

Dalmahoy Farm Villas

Long Dalmahoy Road



Sustainable Luxury: 8 Contemporary Villas Blending Style with Eco-Conscious Living

FOR SALE 8 premium, energy-efficient 4 and 5 bedroom villas combining striking design, contemporary elegance and sustainable living at its finest.

Call 0131 258 2708 to arrange a viewing



Home
SALES & LETTINGS

www.homesalesandlettings.co.uk

Back in June Oriam Walking Football Club held an Invitational Tournament as part of their 10th anniversary celebrations, raising £1,200 for their chosen charity Alzheimer Scotland, writes Paul Rendall, Chairman, Oriam Walking Football Club. The event, sponsored by Scott Coppola Electrical Distributors, brought together walking football teams representing Hearts, Hibernian, Pollok, Dundee East, Stenhousemuir, Gala Fairydean, Dunbar WFC 2017 and Oriam in over-50 and over-65 competitions. The Pollok team were crowned champions in both age categories. Following the competition, teams gathered in the Oriam Lounge for refreshments and a social get together.



Serving Success—Local Tennis on the Rise

PAUL MURPHY
J&TC

This summer has been a fantastic one for Juniper Green Tennis Club, with our newly refurbished courts buzzing with activity from morning to evening.

It's been wonderful to see so many players enjoying the game—thanks in no small part to our brand new facilities, the sunshine, a little bit of Wimbledon inspiration, and an exciting programme of new initiatives. Among these are an expanded range of coaching classes and the hugely popular Free Park Tennis sessions every Sunday morning, which have quickly become a firm favourite.

A recent addition to the venue – the smart gate system – has also played a big part in opening up tennis to more people. Not only does it make booking courts easier for members, but it also enables non-members to enjoy tennis on a simple pay-and-play basis. This, combined with a healthy rise in memberships compared to previous years, has led to a substantial increase in the number of players making the most of our local courts.

For everyone involved, this is exactly what the redevelopment was all about: creating an inviting space that encourages more people to pick up a racket and play more often.

And we're not stopping there! We're always delighted to welcome new members and players of all ages and abilities.

• Whether you're looking to join the club, book a court or sign up for a coaching session, all the details are on our website: <https://tinyurl.com/4dspazs9>

Latest Winners at Balerno Bowling Club



Above: Hugh Gibson secured a 21-14 win of the Seniors title. Right: Anne Blake (right) won the Ladies Championship for the third year in a row, 21-18, against five-times champion Helen Girdler (left).

NIGEL DUNCAN
C&B NEWS

Anne Blake has played in a Balerno Bowling Club rink skipped by Helen Girdler for several years.

The duo have also played together in major triples matches in the capital, winning back-to-back in 2016 and 2017, once with the late Ruth Vasey and then with Margaret Turner.

On this occasion, Helen – 11 times champion of Balerno Bowling Club – played Anne, a winner on five occasions, in the 2025 ladies championship final, in overcast conditions at Balerno's Ladycroft green.

Anne edged Helen 21-18 to take the title for the third year running, having emerged victorious in 2023 and 2024, to add to wins in 2010, 2018 and 2019.

Hugh Gibson successfully defended his Seniors title at



Balerno Bowling Club after coming from nine shots down to secure a 21-14 result over George McLaughlin.

Interestingly, the 71-year-old was also nine shots down at 14-5 to Tom Murray in last year's final, but ultimately won 21-20.

On this occasion, George dominated the early ends with a short mat, but Hugh turned the game on its head when he gained control of the jack and went long.

Small Ads

SEPTEMBER 2025

ALL RUBBISH CLEARANCES & SMALL REMOVALS Houses, lofts, garages, gardens. OAP discount. FREE UPLIFT for all scrap metal. Call Nicholas 449 4597

CDS CROZIER DECORATING SERVICES for all your painting & decorating needs. Free estimates. Tel: 07754 978453 email: stewartcrozier1990@gmail.com

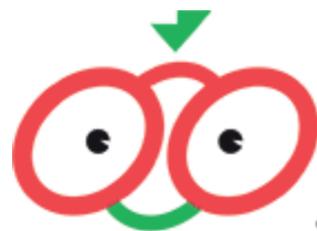
LOUISE BUCKNER MOBILE HAIRDRESSER Over 30 years' experience. Call 0131 451 5499 or Text 07759619438 to book an appointment.

DJL DECORATIVE All aspects of decorating / painting works 07787597382

C ROBERTSON JOINERY All small joinery works undertaken. Also handyman service. Call 07597554686 or email crobertsonjoinery@gmail.com

I DO PRODUCTIONS Wedding videographer, Cinereel/Video/Kodak slide/Tape/CD audio conversions. Video upgrade restoration, www.idoproductions.co.uk, call 07787801360

Small Ads



TOMATO GLASSES



Expertly designed to fit your child's face perfectly,
— from baby to teen.

Choose from a wide range of colours, shapes, and sizes.

Trusted by parents.

Recommended by many NHS paediatric eye departments.

You can trust us to look after your child.

Book online at www.clearvueopticians.co.uk
or call us now on **0131 449 6889**.

Jonathan Jennett . Optometrist
BSc (Hons) MCOptom MOptScot MBCLA Prof Cert Glauc
Prof Cert Paed Eye Care Prof Cert Med Ret

60 Bryce Road . Currie . EH14 5LD

£25 PRIZE CROSSWORD
BY PUZZLESALES.COM

To enter, please scan or photograph the completed puzzle and email it to: editor@candbnews.com before noon, Friday 19 September 2025. The winner is picked at random from all correct entries received.

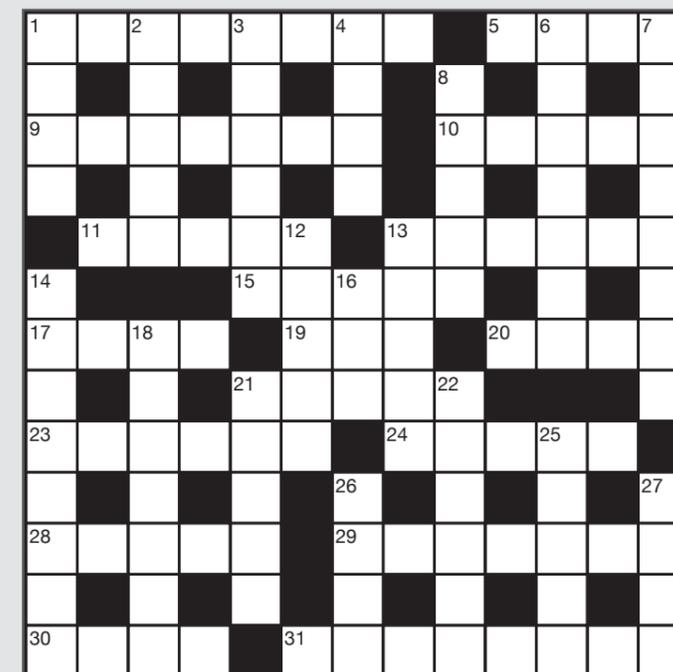
Good luck everyone!

ACROSS

1. Calming drug. (8)
5. Musical composition. (4)
9. Suffer anguish. (7)
10. Play guitar. (5)
11. Accepted practice. (5)
13. Mild. (6)
15. Scornful expression. (5)
17. Jot. (4)
19. Container. (3)
20. Ill-bred person. (4)
21. Social customs. (5)
23. Domestic fowl. (6)
24. Strained. (5)
28. Apart. (5)
29. Insulting. (7)
30. Look for. (4)
31. Eternal. (8)

DOWN

1. Bridge. (4)
2. Worthless material. (5)
3. Articles. (6)
4. Opinion. (4)
6. Colonnade. (7)
7. Theological college. (8)
8. Escort. (5)
12. Get pleasure from. (5)
13. Soft, flat hat. (5)
14. Food. (8)
16. Listening organ. (3)
18. White ant. (7)
21. Scrimmage. (5)
22. Deuces (anag.). (6)
25. Portion. (5)
26. Dry river bed. (4)
27. Muddle. (4)



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

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

Last issue's prize crossword was won by Sheila Whyte from Currie. Congratulations!

E	M	P	R	E	S	S	O	M	E	N	S
L	A	S	T	I	P	D	S	U			
B	R	I	O	C	H	E	E	Q	U	I	P
O	N	O	P	R	C	A	T	E			
W	A	T	E	R	P	L	A	C	A	T	E
P	T	R	E	E	T	R	E	E			
B	E	M	U	S	E	S	P	H	E	R	E
E	A	A	A	L	S	O					
W	A	R	F	A	R	E	P	O	S	E	R
I	T	L	N	U	H	A					
T	R	I	T	E	G	A	L	L	A	N	T
C	N	R	U	T	A	F	I				
H	O	I	S	T	H	O	R	A	T	I	O

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

Community and not-for-profit listings are free of charge. Email whatson@candbnews.com, including: Day/Date, Event Title, Venue, Time, brief details, and contact phone/email 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:** thehub@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!
- **MONDAY MORNING POP IN CAFÉ:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. Community Cafe—come for a cuppa every Monday morning, our volunteers will welcome you for a cuppa, a chat and an optional game of scrabble.
- **COFFEE, CAKE & COMPANY:** Redeemer Church Edinburgh, 64 Bridge Road, Colinton; 10.30am - noon. Drop in for free coffee, tea, cake and chat every Monday morning. All welcome. For further information see: www.redeemeredinburgh.org/cc/
- **THE MEETING PLACE:**

- **Currie Scout Hall, Forthview Crescent; 10am - 4pm.** A community cafe for those 65 and over, all carers and anyone looking for good company. Free exercise class, refreshments and games. For further information email: themeetingplacejcb@outlook.com
- **LUNCHTIME RELAXATION:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 12.15pm - 1pm. Guided relaxation to calm the mind and ease stress. No booking required—please drop in.
- **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. Please email to join the waitlist in place for this popular group. hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

- **KNITTING GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper

- **Green; 10.30am - noon.** Our knitting group is so popular, we've opened a waiting list for newcomers! Please email Anne at colinanne7@aol.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
- **PENTLAND JUNIOR SINGERS:** Balerno Parish Church; 6pm - 7pm. Starts 9 September. Fun, friendship and singing for ages 8-14. New members welcome! For more information, visit: pentlandjuniors.org
- **PENTLAND SINGERS COMMUNITY CHOIR:** Balerno Parish Church; 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Starts 2 September. Come and share the joy of singing! New members welcome. For further information, visit: pentlandsingers.org.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 Halls, Lanark Road West; 7pm - 9pm. RETURNS 10 SEPTEMBER. Contact Claire Maloney: 07999 410721

THURSDAYS

- **ACCESSIBLE YOGA COMMUNITY CLASS:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 2.45pm - 3.45pm. Accessible Yoga community class (free, donation welcome) Join experienced yoga teacher Bijam who offers a fully accessible class, suitable to anyone including wheelchair users or those with chronic health conditions who may find benefit from gentle exercise, breathwork and meditation. Please email to enquire about spaces: [- gmail.com
 - **65th EDINBURGH COMPANY, BOYS' BRIGADE Anchor Boys \(P2 & P3\) and Junior Section \(P4-P6\):** Gibson Craig Halls, 158 Lanark Road West, Currie; 6pm - 7.30pm. For more details, contact Bill Brown: \[bill.brown53@yahoo.com\]\(mailto:bill.brown53@yahoo.com\)
 - **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: \[www.bridgewebs.com/pentland/\]\(http://www.bridgewebs.com/pentland/\) or email: \[mthkjb@gmail.com\]\(mailto:mthkjb@gmail.com\)](mailto:hub531lanarkroad@

</div>
<div data-bbox=)

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>
- **PENTLAND CALEDONIA PIPE BAND: Balerno Community Centre, Main Street; 7pm.** Regular weekly band practice open to new members and visitors. Tuition and a friendly atmosphere offered for all players and learners. Contact via Facebook, Tiktok or Instagram.
- **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 Rd West; 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 some new ones. Followed by refreshments. Contact: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com for more information.

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 Note: No meeting on 5 September, as members will be attending the Tabletop Scotland event at the Royal Highland Centre.

DAY BY DAY

MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

- **COLLY BOOK CLUB: The Colinton Inn, 12-14 Bridge Road; 7.30pm.** Friendly and welcoming book club. For more details, including future choices of books, email: louisejeffrey14@gmail.com

TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

- **MONTHLY MENOPAUSE GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 8pm - 9.30pm. A chance to get together for friendly chat and support with others who understand! You don't need to do this alone!
- **CURRIE GUILD: Gibson Craig Halls; 10am.** The Rev Moira McDonald will be our first speaker of this Session when she will be talking on the subject "Being a Chaplain to the King". Meetings commence with refreshments. ALL WELCOME.

WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

- **PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB: Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am.** "The World's End Murders", an illustrated talk by Tom Wood. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk
- **CRAFTING, LINO PRINTING:** the hub@531

Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7.30pm - 9.30pm. We welcome back to the Hub, Carla Smith, who will lead a workshop suitable for beginners to create your own design by cutting a lino tile, then print your design! Booking essential. Online booking is available at <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com The Hub@531 is charity run and we want our events and activities to be accessible to all. We do not charge for tickets, but we always welcome any donation you feel able to make when you attend.

FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

- **GARDENING GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon.** All Welcome - experienced or novice, pot planters or allotments—friendly group that welcomes enthusiasts to share common love of gardens and gardening. We welcome new members as we plan our topics and activities for the coming Autumn/Winter season. Please email for details and to join us: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com
- **GAMES AFTERNOON: Gibson Craig Hall, Lanark Road; 2 - 4pm.** Ages P2 - S1 all welcome. It's free, refreshments available.

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

- **ANXIETY SUPPORT GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2pm - 3.30pm.** New fortnightly Group with Lloyd Robinson. A free, welcoming and supportive session to explore ways to understand and manage anxiety and stress. Drop in, no need to book. Please email for details hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

- **OPEN REHEARSALS, THE COLINTON & MERCHISTON COMMUNITY CHOIR: Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School; 7pm.** Come experience a very welcoming, non-auditioning community choir with a mixed range of ages and singing and sight-reading abilities. No commitment or pressure to join. More details: www.colintonchoir.org and on Facebook.

WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

- **THE OCTAGON CLUB for Adults with learning disabilities: Gibson Craig Halls, 158 Lanark Road West; 7pm - 9pm.** WEEKLY FROM 10

SEPTEMBER. Contact Claire Maloney: 07999 410721

FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

- **TAP INTO IT: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 9.30am - 11.30am.** Digital skills for older adults; enrol for three weekly sessions (on Fridays 12, 19 and 26 September) and access expert guidance and support to improve your confidence and learn new skills. £10 booking fee will be returned on completion of third session. Booking essential: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

- **BALERNO FARMERS' MARKET: Main Street, Balerno; 9am - 1pm.** Monthly event attracting local crafts, produce and groups. More information: <https://balernovt.org.uk/farmers-market>
- **WRITING FOR WELLBEING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2pm - 4pm.** Join author and poet Helen Boden to learn about ways in which creative writing can support wellbeing, with opportunity to give it a try yourself. Booking essential Online booking is available at <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

- **OPEN REHEARSALS, THE COLINTON & MERCHISTON COMMUNITY CHOIR: Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School; 7pm.** See Monday 8 September.

TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

- **CURRIE GUILD: Gibson Craig Halls; 2pm.** Miriam Rana will be speaking on the Guild's Project "CrossReach". Meetings commence with refreshments. ALL WELCOME.

WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

- **PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB: Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am.** "Building & Flying our own Aircraft," an illustrated talk by Gerard Lohan. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

- **TAP INTO IT: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 9.30am - 11.30am.** See Friday 12

September.

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

- **ANXIETY SUPPORT GROUP: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 2pm - 3.30pm.** New fortnightly Group with Lloyd Robinson. A free, welcoming and supportive session to explore ways to understand and manage anxiety and stress. Drop in, no need to book. Please email for details: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

- **COLINTON GARDEN CLUB: Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton; 8.00pm.** Dr Alley Jordan will be talking about "Early Modern/ Baroque Gardens." Club membership is £10.00 a year per household. Everyone is very welcome to the meetings; there is a small fee for non members. More information: <https://colintongardens.org.uk/>

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

- **TAP INTO IT: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 9.30am - 11.30am.** See Friday 12 September.

MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

- **COLLY BOOK CLUB: The Colinton Inn, 12-14 Bridge Road; 7.30pm.** Friendly and welcoming book club. For more details, including future choices of books, email: louisejeffrey14@gmail.com

TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

- **BALERNO FOLK CLUB: Balerno Bowling Club, 5 Ladycroft, Balerno. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.15pm start.** Welcome back to the very popular John Graham and Jim Jack. A great start to our new season. Members and Guests welcome.

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER

- **PENTLAND PROBUS CLUB: Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am.** "My trip to The North Pole," an illustrated talk by Michael Gregson. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary Leslie Hannaford on (0131) 453 3012 or email: lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

LOCAL COMMUNITY CAFES

SATURDAYS (DURING TERM TIME)

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

SATURDAYS (UNTIL 27 SEPTEMBER)

- **THE COFFEE STOP: Currie Kirk, Kirkgate; 2pm - 4pm.** Tea, coffee, home baking and a warm welcome.

TUESDAYS - FRIDAYS (& DURING FARMERS' MARKET 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.



FREE!



C&B NEWS

EDDIE BANKS, CHRIS RUTTERFORD AND MIKE SCOTT AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CUDDIES LANE MURAL. PHOTO: PAUL FISHER COCKBURN.