

CURRIE ◦ BALERNO ◦ JUNIPER GREEN ◦ BABERTON MAINS ◦ COLINTON

C&B News

FREE!

Championing Our Communities

Est. 1976

**Bumper
Summer
Issue!**

Shared Stories, Local Lives

Fifty years of reporting local
community news along the
upper Water of Leith valley...



518 ◦ JULY/AUGUST 2026

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

Picture News



Above: A lovely community partnership has recently taken root in Dolphin Gardens West, writes Currie Community Councillor *Nikodem Goszczynski*. The park, cared for by a group of local residents, has teamed up with pupils from Woodland School after children showed a keen interest in the flower planters. Local resident Tom Ramsay suggested they adopt them—and the idea quickly grew. Since then, the children have been helping to weed, water, and look after the planters, bringing fresh energy to the space. This simple initiative highlights how small local actions can strengthen community spirit and create something positive for everyone.



Above: Currie Primary School P6 pupils recently enjoyed an epic "EPIC Day" at Bonaly Scout camp, writes Head Teacher *Sally Hourston*. The day involved a variety of activities including archery, orienteering, bushcraft, low ropes, crate stacking to name just a few. See page 31 for more pictures!

Launched in February 1976, *C&B News* is a volunteer-run, independent, non-party-political, 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 traditional 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

Treasurer: Michelle Donegan
treasurer@candbnews.com

Donations Manager: Ros Salton
donations@candbnews.com

Distribution Manager: Derek Douglas

COMMITTEE

Baberton Mains: Vacant.

Balerno: Gillian Davies, Michelle Donegan, Nigel Duncan, Catriona Matheson, Kirsten Pringle.

Colinton: Vacant.

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: 11 AUGUST
EDITORIAL: 16 AUGUST
IN THE SHOPS: 28 AUGUST



Middle: This year's annual Balerno Scarecrow competition was won by Wallace & Gromit-inspired Amy Chambers (individual prize) and (above left) Jigsaw Nursery (organisation prize). Based on a public vote, the runners up in the individual competition were Nicola Jamieson's Men's World Cup-themed entry and (above right) Amanda Noble's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*-themed display, which included a subtle in-joke about her winning entry last year. The hired help's personal favourites were Balerno Dance Academy's scarecrow ballerina outside the Community Centre and The Welcome Station's straw-filled thief outside the former Police Station on Bridge Road. Congratulations to everyone who took part!



Above: Last month Bonaly Primary School in Colinton marked its 50th birthday, celebrating the landmark anniversary with an open day on Friday 19 June that brought together former pupils and teachers along with current school families and local residents. See page 23 for more details.

BRIEFLY NEWS

• **SUMMER BREAK:** As regular readers will know, this "Bumper Summer Issue" of *C&B News* covers both July and August—enabling our invaluable team of noble volunteers to enjoy some well-deserved time off in July from all the admin, proofing and carrying around heavy boxes of magazines. (It's a tradition going back to 1977, folks!) Our brand new September issue should be in the shops from Friday 28 August. Here's hoping we can all enjoy some great summer weather in the meantime!

• **PENTLAND ART CLUB:** The *C&B News* management team would like to thank all the members of Pentland Art Club who submitted their work for possible use on our "Bumper Summer Issue" front and back covers. We truly appreciate their willingness to share their hard work and creativity, and recommend readers pay a visit to the Club's annual exhibition in August. Opening times are listed on page 54.

• **CARE HOME:** An application by TDI Care Operations Ltd (registered address, Charlotte Square in Edinburgh) to erect a new 50-bedroom facility on the site of the speedily-demolished Davidson House care home, at 266 Colinton Road, was refused on Tuesday 16 June. The decision letter stated: "Overall, the proposal does not comply with the Development Plan as it is contrary to City Plan 2030 (LDP) and National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). It would have an unacceptable impact on neighbours amenity and is therefore contrary to LDP policy Env 33 (Amenity)." The application (26/01127/FUL) attracted 17 objections and one letter of support—the latter perhaps from someone hoping to become a resident at some point in the future?

• **AI DATA CENTRE:** Local campaigners against a proposed Data Centre in Wester Hermiston are organising a public meeting at Currie Community Centre in July—final details not yet available as we go to press. Email: gfmountain@>ps



Readers who pick up their copy/copies of *C&B News* from the Scotmid Coop on Bavelaw Road, Balerno (AKA "the TopMid"), may have noticed our rather snazzy display unit in the shop. We're happy to say that if any of our retailers would like a similar unit to display *C&B News*, please let us know (by emailing chairperson@candbnews.com) and we'll happily organise and deliver one for you!



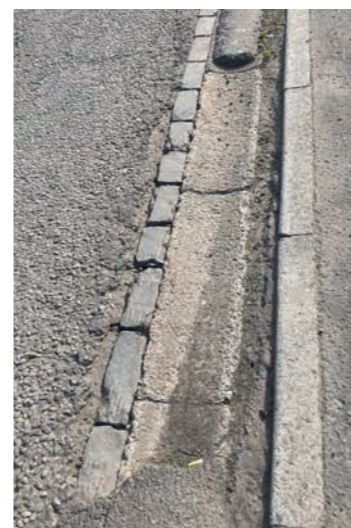
Above and right: We enjoyed a fun Sports Day at school last month with everyone taking part in a variety of potted sports and traditional races winning points for our different houses, writes Head Teacher Sally Hourston. See page 49 for more!



Maintaining and developing the world-acclaimed Colinton Tunnel Mural is an ongoing project: and you can see and take part in its continuing evolution during a two-day painting event in Spylaw Park near "the Shed" during the weekend of 15 - 16 August, 9am - 5pm. See page 13 for more details.



Above: Sorry the picture's so small! Currie FC 2017s have recently completed their first half-season playing 7-a-side games in the East of Scotland Soccer Development Association league. Around 30 players from Balerno, Currie and Ratho are taking part, with a 10-strong coaching team dedicated to training the players every Tuesday and Wednesday evening. See page 49!



Left: Currie residents were surprised to see an historic road surface appear from under decades of cheap, badly laid tarmac, writes local *Jim Fleming*. The hidden road has concrete gutters, granite sets and a pristine road surface. Perhaps The City of Edinburgh Council could be persuaded to cut away a half meter strip, along Lanark Road West, to reinstate this historic feature?



Above: Local author Rupa Mahadevan's has switched locations for her second novel, published on Thursday 11 June - *My Friend's Husband* is set in faraway Musselburgh, East Lothian! Soon after publication, the book was ranked at number two on Amazon's list of "psychological thrillers". Published by Joffe Books. ISBN: 978-1805735748

BRIEFLY...

p3>>>

gmail.com or visit their homepage for details: <https://tinyurl.com/y4ereayh>

• COUNCILLOR EXPENSES:

In mid-June, The City of Edinburgh Council published a list of expenses claimed by local ward councillors, including the representatives for Pentland Hills (ward 2) and Colinton/Fairmilehead (ward 8). During the year running 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, CEC directly paid for councillors official telephone/ICT expenses (on average around £90) and in some cases travel costs of £700, usually tied to official duties as committee convenors/vice-convenors.

• BANKING REVIEW:

As many of our readers are only too aware, nearly three in four of Scotland's bank branches have disappeared in the past 10 years, while one-in-four free-to-use ATMs have vanished from our streets since the pandemic—fuelling calls for the right to access and use cash to be protected in law. We draw your attention to an independent review (launched in May by His Majesty's Treasury and chaired by former Consumers' Association Executive Director Richard Lloyd OBE) into how changes to in-person banking services are affecting consumers. The deadline for evidence is Monday 20 July. The survey form can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/4euQIII>

• BY-ELECTION:

Following her appointment as the Scottish Government's Minister for Equalities and International Development, Simita Kumar (constituency MSP for *C&B*shire – sorry, Edinburgh South Western) resigned her position as a CEC ward councillor for Southside/Newington. A by-election will be held there on Thursday 3 September: expect middling public interest, given that the whole council will be up for election in May 2027.

• WATER UPDATE:

Last issue's reported drainage issues at the new Currie Community High School changing rooms have apparently been "sorted", according to local ward Councillor Neil Gardiner, reporting to Currie Community Council.

>p7

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**



Dr Scott Arthur MP
Serving the Communities of Edinburgh South West

Contact Scott:
0131 322 3225
scott.arthur.mp@parliament.uk
facebook.com/DrScottArthur
@drscottarthurmp.bsky.social
139 Dundee Street, EH11 1BP

Advice Surgeries
I hold surgeries on the first Saturday of the month. Locations rotate each month, but include:

- Fountainbridge Library
- Wester Hailes Library
- Colinton Mains Tesco
- Oxgangs Library
- Sighthill Library
- Colinton Library
- Currie Library
- Chesser ASDA

No issue is too big or too small, so if you think I can help, please get in touch to check this month's locations and arrange an appointment.
Please note there are no surgeries in January or August.

Electrolysis by Pamela

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

22 Laichpark Road
Edinburgh EH14 1XB
Pamela J Robertson
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



RICCARTON GARDEN CENTRE

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

GARDEN CENTRE

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

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



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

BETTER GARAGE DOORS GUARANTEED

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

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

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

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




'Key' Stage Reached for The Welcome Station

NIGEL DUNCAN
C&B NEWS

Livingston-based Maxi Construction symbolically returned the keys of new community resource the Welcome Station to owners Balerno Village Trust (BVT) on Friday 5 June, following the completion of three months' work giving the former Police Station on Bridge Road a complete overhaul.

The handover between project manager Jim Tonner and Emma Galloway, BVT chair, marked another significant step in the creation of this new community

hub for Balerno.

Architectural work was undertaken by EALA Impacts, a Leith-based not-for-profit environment consultant.

The work has created new office spaces and accessible toilet facilities, along with space for an after-school club which has access to the rear of the building. The after-school club should be in operation from August, with full public access to the Welcome Station from September.

The redevelopment of the station has been supported by grants from the Scottish Land Fund, the Development Trust Association Scotland, and Harlaw

Above: (left to right) Aychan Lewes and Joanne McClelland of Leith-based EALA Impacts; David Stacey, treasurer, Balerno Village Trust; Jim Tonner, on-site project manager; Emma Galloway, chair of Balerno Village Trust; Barry Simpson, construction director of Livingston-based, Maxi Construction. Photo: Nigel Duncan.

Hydro. Emma confirmed that both solar panels and a heat pump have been installed.

BVT are now keen to receive notifications of interest from local groups, organisations and businesses in using the Station's meeting rooms and facilities. Email: hello@balernovt.org.uk

Like other local community councils across Edinburgh, Juniper Green & Baberton Mains CC are conducting a Local Place Plan survey, writes community councillor Linda Johnston. The results of the survey will guide our LPP priorities. Local residents can complete the survey online by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/4rd3jh7d> or using the QR code below. Alternatively, you can visit the Hub@531 on Saturday 18 July, 11am - 1pm, to chat with us about living in the community and complete the survey in person. Refreshments will be available.



Pupil Celebrates Burns Success

DEAN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dean Park Primary School P7 pupil Ruby McLauchlan has enjoyed an outstanding year in the Robert Burns World Federation Primary Schools Competitions.

At the Edinburgh and District Robert Burns Competition on Saturday 7 March 2026, Ruby achieved first place in singing, chanter and poetry. She was also named overall winner in both singing and poetry across all age groups and was awarded the prestigious Burnsian of the Year title.

Ruby continued her success at the National Final in Gourrock on Friday 13 June. Competing in verse, singing and chanter, she became National Champion in

Verse, winning first place in her age group and being named Best Overall Verse Speaker. She also achieved the title of National Champion in Chanter.

Warmest congratulations, Ruby!



BRIEFLY...

p5>>>

• FIREWORKS: 10 additional Firework Control Zones across Edinburgh have been added to the previously established FCZs, including the somewhat randomly drawn zone imposed on the southern half of Balerno.

• CHURCH NAME: Following votes by both congregations, the proposed name for the union of Balerno Parish Church and Currie Kirk is "Kirk of Currie and Balerno, Church of Scotland"—which, according to the July/August edition of church magazine *Balerno Bletcher*, pipped runner-up "Currie and Balerno Parish Church" by just one vote! (That's democracy for you!) Our lawyers are keeping a watchful eye out for any sign that one of the new united parish's publications will be renamed *Kirk of Currie and Balerno News*.

• NO DEBATE: On Wednesday 17 June, Edinburgh and Lothians East Regional MSP Miles Briggs lodged a Standard Motion (S7M-00399) congratulating Currie Community High School Debate Team on "a remarkable year of success following on from its 2025 victory at the Schools' Mace Novice Final", and noted that four pupils had been selected for the junior national debate team. The team's coaching by school librarian James Cullimore and English teacher Miranda Whitmarsh was particularly highlighted.

• BIN: The litter bin at Dolphin Gardens West Park, in Currie, will be replaced with a larger unit, following a request from the local residents' group which helps maintain the park, according to Cllr Stephen Jenkinson.

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

>p9



Evergreen Balerno

Your Trusted Design & Build Experts

BEAUTIFUL SPACES,
BUILT TO LAST

Luxury landscaping, paving & garden offices
across Edinburgh & West Lothian.



Garden
Offices



Landscaping



Design &
Build



Garden
Makeovers



www.evergreenbalerno.co.uk



WhatsApp: 075960 68455

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

MAYNE'S

GAS & HEATING



0772 084 3785
enquiry@maynes.info

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

BRIEFLY...

p7>>>

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.

Note: C&B News now regularly publishes lists of new and current local planning applications and decisions on our Facebook page every Tuesday or Wednesday.

BABERTON MAINS

• New-build semi-detached dwelling to replace existing demolished house, due to explosion damage; 37 Baberton Mains. (26/02417/FUL) Comments by Wednesday 1 July.

BALERNO

• Undertake work recommended by tree safety survey (except three long-term, three-year recommendations); Harlaw Bank. (26/0471/TPO) Registered on Thursday 26 June.

• Remove dead branches from Beech tree; 3 Newmills Road. (26/0436/TPO) Registered on Monday 15 June.

COLINTON

• Minor window/door alterations, formation of rear deck with pergola structure and curved feature stone steps; 262 Colinton Road. (26/02474/FUL) Comments Tuesday 7 July.

• Single-storey extension to front and side of detached cottage, reposition plant room and ASHP, new roof window to rear; 156 Woodhall Road. (26/02511/FUL) Comments by Tuesday 7 July.

• Ash reduction (height and spread by 2 metres) as impacting garden and house due to size and proximity; 10 - 14 Spylaw Bank Road. (26/0457/TCO) Registered on Friday 19 June.

• Reduce height and spread (by 1.5 metres) of mature Sycamore; 94 Woodfield Avenue. (26/0458/TPO) Registered on Wednesday 17 June.

• New timber glazed windows and minor internal alterations; 23 Pentland Avenue. (26/02346/LBC) ALSO:

>p11

www.facebook.com/candbnews



Edinburgh Mum's 100,000-step Challenge Raises Thousands for Son's School

EMMA HOKAYEM
EH FITNESS

Emma Hokayem, founder of EH Fitness, has completed a gruelling 100,000-step walking challenge, raising thousands of pounds for the primary school she credits with transforming her and her son's life.

Emma, 39, (above, front row right) set off from Balerno at 5.45am on Saturday 20 June alongside a growing team of supporters, completing the challenge and arriving back at the Balerno Inn at 9.45pm that evening—a total walking time of 13 hours and 37 minutes.

The fundraiser, named 100,000 Steps for Redhall, was organised in support of Redhall Primary School in Edinburgh, an additional support needs school attended by Emma's seven-year-old son Daniel, who lives with autism and is non-verbal.

The route took walkers from Balerno to South Queensferry, across the Forth Road Bridge and back, through Leith, along the Water of Leith and on to Redhall

before the final stretch back to Balerno. More than 35 people from EH Fitness and the Redhall community joined Emma on the walk throughout the day.

The fundraiser has so far raised £9,000, with donations still coming in. Emma says that since Daniel joined Redhall, the change in him has been extraordinary. When he first started at the school he was unable to regulate his emotions or communicate his feelings but, thanks to the care and dedication of staff, he has made significant progress and now attends school in an environment where he feels safe and supported.

All funds raised will go directly to Redhall Primary School, supporting two specific projects that Emma believes will make a meaningful difference to the children and families who rely on the school every day. The money will be used to upgrade the school's sensory room and to create a new outdoor classroom for pupils.

Emma said: “Redhall is an incredibly special school and, as a parent, I see every day just how important the right environment

is for helping children feel safe, supported and able to thrive. Since Daniel started there, our lives have completely changed for the better. Not only with Daniel's development, but they have provided me with an incredible amount of support: it has allowed me some breathing space to enjoy being a mum, and I wanted to do something that could make a real and lasting difference for the school and the children who rely on these spaces every day.

“My goal is to raise £20,000. We are still collecting donations and every penny makes a difference.”

Like many schools supporting children with additional needs, Redhall relies heavily on grant funding, with its main annual fundraising event being a family BBQ at the end of the school year. Emma hopes this challenge will provide meaningful additional support and create a lasting impact for pupils and their families.

• Donations are still being accepted via the JustGiving page: <https://tinyurl.com/3zabvwce>

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



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

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



im

Ian Merriman



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

BRIEFLY...

p9>>>

Construct new garage and vehicle access, converting existing garage into bedroom with new window and door. (26/02347/FUL) Comments (on both applications) by Friday 10 July.

JUNIPER GREEN
• Rear single-storey extension to create snug with sliding doors to garden and new roof lights; 64 Belmont Road. (26/02373/FUL) Comments by Friday 3 July.

• Cut back birch tree by 1.5 metres and reduce crown of lime tree by 1.5 - 2 metres; 6 Juniper Park Road. (26/0440/TCO) Application validated, Thursday 11 June.

• Remove conifer in front garden; 519 Lanark Road. (26/0423/TCO) Application validated, Wednesday 10 June.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Information provided by The City of Edinburgh Council.

BALERNO
• Remove eucalyptus tree before it gets too big for location; 3 Ravelrig Wynd. (26/0320/TPO) Application withdrawn, Thursday 18 June.

COLINTON
• Removal of branches overhanging into applicant's garden; 56 Spylaw Bank Road. (26/0385/TCO) Tree preservation order not made, Thursday 18 June.

• Proposed house extension and alterations; 46 Woodhall Terrace. (26/01963/FUL) Granted, Wednesday 17 June.

SCHEDULED ROADWORKS & ROAD CLOSURES

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. Information provided by The City of Edinburgh Council.

Note: C&B News now >p13



Local Residents 'Really Cherish' Water of Leith

NIGEL DUNCAN
C&B NEWS

Edinburgh South West residents "really cherish" the Water of Leith that "sits at the heart of the constituency", and especially the 12.75 mile (20.5 km), traffic-free Water of Leith Walkway, according to a meeting held in Balerno.

Local MP Dr Scott Arthur hosted the 90-minute session which highlighted issues between cyclists and walkers, water quality and issues with dog and horse poo. The meeting followed a recent survey sent out by the MP, which attracted more than 400 responses.

A total of 33% of survey responses valued nature, the proximity to wildlife, and the ease

of being able to escape the city to a natural environment. They also cherished peace and quiet.

"People really cherish it," the MP said. "They want to talk about the wildlife, but they also wanted to raise about concerns like litter and conflicts between different users, nothing that would really be a surprise to anyone. It is always good for people to come together and share their concerns."

"People are looking for a bit more guidance, particularly around cycling in the Water of Leith, what is good etiquette, just to make sure people feel safe and comfortable. That is the key thing."

Dr Arthur did not previously appreciate "the scale of the problem" around horse poo. "Nobody was really saying they

do not want horse riders on the Water of Leith path, it was just about managing that problem and possibly getting horse riders to think more about the issue."

Attendees also revealed that dog owners have been seen throwing bags of dog poo in the river. "All of us have seen dog poo bags hanging from trees, hanging from fences etc, and is completely unacceptable. Just like irresponsible cyclists give all cyclists a bad name, so do irresponsible dog walkers who give all dog walkers a bad name."

Overall, the MP said the Water of Leith is an easy topic to talk about, because people love it and they want it to stay good. He concluded: "That was what the meeting was about."

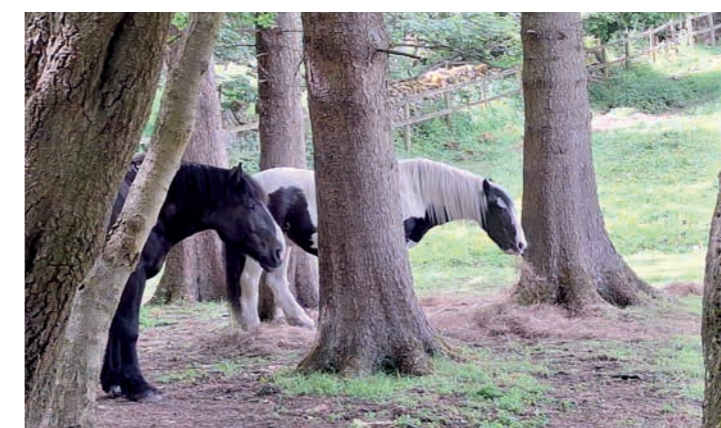
Volunteers Needed at Ravelrig RDA

FIONA GODLEY
RAVELRIG RDA

Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled, based in north Balerno, is a volunteer-led charity offering therapeutic horse riding sessions to children and adults with physical and learning disabilities.

We offer weekly riding sessions tailored to individual needs, led by qualified RDA instructors and supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. Participants benefit from improved balance, coordination, and wellbeing—all while forming meaningful connections with our specially trained team of seven horses. Our horses cost £7,500 each, per year to keep them happy and healthy.

We are currently looking for volunteers to join our Fundraising Team. Can you give up a few hours a week to help with fundraising activities? Do you enjoy organising events or



activities? Please get in touch: no prior experience required—just a willingness to help!

By volunteering – even for just a few hours a week – you can make a positive difference in the lives of our participants and horses, enjoy being part of a supportive and friendly team (coffee/tea and biscuits provided), with flexible hours to fit your requirements.

If you're interested in joining

our fundraising team or would like more information, please get in touch with us at fundraising@ravelrig-rda.org.uk or if you would like to pop in and see what we are about please get in touch to make appointment.

Come be part of something truly rewarding – make friends, learn new skills, and help change lives for our wonderful participants.



N WATTS
SCAFFOLDING
CONTRACTS

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**



S.C.C.D
SCAFFOLDING
CONTRACTS
07939571908

24

**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

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

Self employed?
Registered for
Making Tax Digital?
If not, contact Stuart
for advice and support

**Contact Stuart for a no obligation quote on
07717 193425**

Email: stuart@scotia-finance.co.uk
www.scotia-finance.co.uk

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



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
External work
0131 466 0304

Reliable
Estimates Free
30 Years Experience

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 07752877704

‘Creating in the Park’ This August!

MIKE SCOTT & LORRAINE O’SHEA
THE COLINTON TUNNEL & COLINTON
VILLAGE ENTERPRISE SCIO

The third weekend in August will see plenty of activity in Colinton’s Spylaw Park. There will be art and painting, both to witness and take part, plus performance, refreshments and a party atmosphere—welcome!

So, what’s happening? Let’s deal with painting first. The Colinton Tunnel mural is constantly being refreshed to keep it looking bright and vibrant. Our art team have also replaced complete elements of the mural, such as the blue train, and work tirelessly to keep on top of the damage caused by wind, weather and water penetration. That has been happening since the mural was “officially” completed, five years ago.

Not quite so obvious is that we leave some areas of the mural relatively empty of content, with a background such as hills and other large-scale scenery, so that we could put exciting new work in to catch visitors’ eyes and keep people talking about it.

This is where our community comes in. We will be having a two-day painting event in Spylaw Park, at the developing Colinton Village Hub that is being created by Colinton Village Enterprise (CVE).



Our art team will be working with six groups of young people and two mixed-age groups over the two days. We expect that they will create around 64 feet (almost 20 metres) of new artwork, which is a staggering amount of new art. Local schools, youth organisations, Pentlands Art Club and the Redeemer Church each have two-hour slots where they will work alongside muralist Chris Rutterford to create the new images.

The groups will work on 8 feet (2.44 metres) x 4 feet (1.22 metres) boards, which will be fixed to the hoarding around CVE’s site. Chris will prepare some rough outlines of what will be done but it definitely

will not be painting by numbers, because we want those involved to be able to use their imaginations in creating the new work.

Don’t feel left out if you are not part of a group but do want to use your artistic skills to make a contribution. If you would like to add to the body of new work there will be one area with minimal supervision so that you can come and create while the groups are working. Paints will be provided, but wear old clothes because acrylic paint doesn’t come out in the wash!

• *Creating in the Park: Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 August, 9am - 5pm.*

Balerno Local Place Plan Public Meeting

NIGEL DUNCAN
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Balerno Community Council (BCC) is hosting a key public meeting that will help shape the future of the village.

The meeting, a follow-up to a recent survey, will be held in the St Joseph Hall at Balerno Parish Church (not, as reported last issue, in the Community Centre) on Thursday 9 July from 7.30pm.

Mark Galloway, project lead for the Local Place Plan (LPP) being put together by a working party of BCC volunteers and interested parties, said the plan was in the final stages of preparation before being handed over to The City of Edinburgh Council.

He added: “That should be in early September, so time is short.”

BCC want views as they plan for 2040. That may seem a long way ahead, but they want local views now.

“We have heard the voice of



local people in the survey,” Mark said. “Now, as we reach the final stages, we need to hear from the public again.”

“That is why a good attendance at the public meeting is so vital. “People have commented that the Local Place Plan does not impact on them. It does, as what we tell the council now will have a big impact on what happens to our village going forward.”

“If we don’t make a submission then we cannot criticise the council going forward so please put the date in your diary. We need to hear from you.”

“Some may comment that the meeting is in the middle of the holiday season. A fair point, but we don’t set the deadline date for submission and we must make our plans to suit that.”

• *Creating in the Park: Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 August, 9am - 5pm.*

BRIEFLY...

p11>>>
regularly publishes lists of scheduled roadworks and road closure updates on our Facebook page, usually every Wednesday. Information provided by The City of Edinburgh Council.

COLINTON
• **BRIDGE ROAD at the Post Office:** two-way temporary traffic lights for ducting installation (BT); Monday 6 - Thursday 9 July.

CURRIE
• **RICCARTON MAINS ROAD** just south of Heriot-Watt University roundabout: temporary traffic lights for drainage works (Clancy Docwra for Scottish Water); until Wednesday 1 July.

JUNIPER GREEN:
• **GILLESPIE CROSSROADS:** Off-peak four-way temporary traffic lights for telecoms infrastructure; Tuesday 11 - Wednesday 12 August.

OTHER:
REDFORD ROAD at The Gallolee: two-way temporary traffic lights for installation of mast and cabinet (telecoms company); Wednesday 1 - Friday 3 July.

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES

The Wellness Centre

LYNN MILLAR BACP COSCA
DIRECTOR OF COUNSELLING

The pressures of modern life mean that more people than ever are reaching out for emotional support and for the past 16 years, the local community has been quietly supported by the dedicated work of The Wellness Centre, situated at 4 Bridge Road in Balerno.

The Centre provides a professional counselling service offering compassionate support to children, young people, adults, couples and families from all walks of life. The service is funded by St Mungo's Church and welcomes everyone, regardless of background or beliefs.

Over the years, the Centre has become a trusted source of support for many local people facing challenges such as anxiety, depression, bereavement, relationship difficulties and emotional overwhelm. As well as self-referrals, referrals regularly come from GP practices, schools, social services and CAMHS, reflecting the confidence that local professionals place in the service. Open Monday to Thursday, the Centre has, on average, 58 counselling appointments each week.

Professional standards and ethical care are central

to everything the service offers. The Wellness Centre is an organisational member of BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) and operates fully within BACP ethical guidelines.

We currently have a team of 40 counsellors working with us, all of whom are professionally qualified to at least Diploma level and are individual members of a recognised professional counselling body such as COSCA or BACP which gives additional reassurance that all our counsellors fully comply with the ethical guidelines of these organisations.

The team at The Wellness Centre believes deeply in creating a safe, welcoming and compassionate environment where people can talk openly and find support during difficult times. Whether someone is struggling with loss, anxiety, family pressures or simply feeling overwhelmed by life, the service exists to remind people that they do not have to face things alone.

At the heart of The Wellness Centre is a simple but powerful vision: to care for people well, support emotional healing, and help individuals and families across the community find hope and strength for the future.

• For more details, email: Lynn.millar@stmungos.org or lifeandsoul@stmungos.org



Great Big Green Week Success

ANNETTE WILSON
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, HUB@531

The Hub@531 in Juniper Green hosted a week of free climate-focused community events as part of this year's Great Big Green Week (Climate Coalition), with the biggest programme and turn out to date.

Thank you to all those who came along to attend an event, or who provided a stall or activity, led a walk or supported a film screening. Feedback has been really positive, and a few suggestions for improvements will be used to inform our planning next time round. In particular, we loved that local people got in touch with us with their own additions to our programme, embracing the core values at the Hub@531—community driven, inclusive, fostering a sense of belonging and connecting with others.

Taking action to improve our planet can sometimes feel like too big a challenge, but our Great Big Green week activities enabled people to come together to enjoy nature, learn skills, find out more about what's already happening

in our local communities, and engage in discussion about bigger issues.

An enormous shout out and thank you to those people and organisations who supported our programme: Gus Eagan (Earth Calling); Liz Beevers (walk leader); Peter Shaw (local beekeeper); Natasha Stewart and Joe Clancy (CEC); Alan Hepburn (Scotland Big Picture); Bob Douglas (Friends of the Pentlands); Michael Moorhead (Balerno Mains allotments); Anne Trew (Co-op); and Karen Downward (Balerno Fairtrade).

• If you would like to be involved with planning our 2027 events, please do get in touch with us: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

• We continue the climate action theme with a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing (featuring Chris Packham) on Saturday 4 July from 5pm - 7pm, preceded with another chance to find out more about "wilding" your garden (drop in from 4pm). Please book your space to attend the film screening (16+), and join Mike Harrower from Greenpeace who will introduce the film and lead a discussion afterwards: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/>



How quickly the year has whizzed by? Once again, it will soon be time for the Currie Horticultural Society Annual Show, highlighting the efforts of local gardeners, bakers and makers, writes Show Secretary Sheila Mason. On the day you can have a cuppa and chance your luck with our raffle. We look forward to seeing you.

- The Schedule, outlining what should be on show, is now available in various local shops, free of charge.
- You can also see the type of entries we hope to showcase on our website: www.currieshow.weebly.com
- The Show is on Saturday 29 August, 1pm - 4pm, at Balerno High School. Entry fee: £3—cash preferred!

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES



Photos: Tiphereth/Izzy Henry

Tiphereth Summer Fayre a Success

FRASER THOMPSON
FUNDRAISING MANAGER, TIPHEREETH

The Tiphereth Summer Fayre on Saturday 20 June was an outstanding success, filling our beautiful grounds at the foot of the Pentland Hills with vibrant community spirit, laughter, and creativity.

From early morning, the air was alive with excitement as visitors from near and far explored a wonderful array of plant sales from our Garden

Group, craft stalls, hot food and delicious home baking.

This year was a little different with hands-on craft workshops – including herbal tea making, woodwork, pottery, wet felting, screen printing, and embroidery – which were packed with eager participants crafting their own unique pieces of art. Tiphereth would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who joined us, volunteered their time, or purchased items. Your presence made it an unforgettable celebration of community, nature, and meaningful work for our members.

For our neighbours in Colinton and the wider Water of Leith Valley, supporting Tiphereth is incredibly meaningful. We are

proud to be one of the largest local charities, dedicated to supporting adults with learning disabilities and autism across Edinburgh and the Lothians. As a vocational community, Tiphereth is more than just a service: for our members, it is a home and a place of true belonging.

Through our residential care and vital day services, we provide a supportive environment where members engage in meaningful work and “lifelong learning”. The funds raised during this year's fayre directly impact these life-changing programmes, ensuring our members continue to thrive and find “direction and purpose” in their lives.

However, our work does not stop when the stalls are packed away.

To sustain our workshops and maintain the “unseen aspects” of our community that are essential to its continued operation, we rely on the ongoing generosity of our local supporters. If you enjoyed the festive atmosphere or believe in our mission to nurture individual potential, please consider making a contribution.

• Every gift helps us remain provide the best service to our members and ensures we can continue Living, Working & Growing Together.

• You can help secure the future of our vital services by visiting tiphereth.org.uk/donate

Maintaining the Currie Orchard...

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

It was in 2023 that Currie Balerno Rotary worked with Pentlands Eco Network (PEN) to plant 25 fruit trees in Currie's George V Park, and we followed this up with 12 cherry trees provided by the City of Edinburgh Council. We are committed to the maintenance of these trees and we spent time recently doing just that with local volunteers, including Dr

Scott Arthur MP.

Here's John getting down to it on his knees; and here are the volunteers. They were lucky with the weather.

... AND THE CURRIE FLOWERS

Currie Balerno Rotary first arranged a flower display on Lanark Road West in 2002, together with a commemorative bench (at the top of Curriehill Road) to mark the late Queen's Golden Jubilee. We have renewed and maintained the Currie flowers every year since then and here's a part of this year's display. Our thanks go to the Riccarton Garden Centre for providing the plants at a very favourable price.



*** I'm all about glowing skin and giving you a space to truly relax.

the INFINITE GLOW

I specialize in dermaplaning, microneedling, BioRePeel, chemical peels, custom facials, lash lifts & lash extension — blending real results with real self-care. ***

Book Now! 07375 848 363

Theinfiniteglow.facialservices@outlook.com
PLA, 169 Gorgie Road, EH11 1TJ, Edinburgh

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

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

I DO PRODUCTIONS

FILMING EDITING COPYING

www.idoproductions.co.uk
email: barrie@idoproductions.co.uk
Tel: 07787801360

worx24
IT Support & Software Development

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...

Selection of Refurbished PCs and Laptops for Sale - From £150

Small Business	Home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Office 365 ➤ Business Email ➤ Video Conferencing ➤ VOIP Phones ➤ Virus Protection ➤ Cloud Storage ➤ Backup of Data ➤ Flexible IT Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PC / Laptop Repair ➤ SSD Upgrade ➤ Virus Removal ➤ Data Backup ➤ Networking & Wi-Fi ➤ Adhoc Support

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

Microsoft Partner | solarwinds | AVAST! AUTHORIZED | Developer Network

30-32 Bridge Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0LQ

The Colinton Community Pharmacies

Colinton Village PHARMACY
Call 0131 441 2352

Colinton Mains PHARMACY
Call 0131 441 3388

*****New Weight Loss Service at Colinton Village Pharmacy*****

Private pharmacist-led support to help you take control of your weight and improve your health. Our weight loss service begins with a confidential consultation with one of our pharmacists, who will take time to understand your health, lifestyle and treatment goals.

Where appropriate, we can discuss the treatment options available and explain the likely costs depending on which treatment best meets your needs.

Initial consultation £30
Please speak to one of our friendly pharmacy team to find out more, on 0131 441 2352.

A similar service will be offered at Colinton Mains pharmacy when it is back into the refurbished premises

Experience the difference of a pharmacy that cares. Visit us today to learn more about our new services and how we can support your health and wellbeing. Your health is our priority, and we look forward to serving you. You can also opt to pick up your medicines from our **24 hour access collection point** and sign up for our prescribing services via the **Healthera** app.

www.colintonmainspharmacy.co.uk | www.colintonpharmacy.co.uk

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES



Christopher Cowe Memorial Fund - Summer 2026 Update

ROSS & SHIVA COWE
THE CHRISTOPHER COWE MEMORIAL FUND
(CARDIAC RISK IN THE YOUNG)

As we enter the summer holiday period we just wanted to share with you all an update on some of The Christopher Cowe Memorial Fund's activities during May and June.

Well done to Grace Laurieston (above left), Robert Barks (above middle) and Struan Cavers (above right) who, between them, raised nearly £2,000 for Christopher's memorial fund by running the Edinburgh half and full



marathons and undertaking the Aberdeen Kiltwalk Mighty Stride respectively. You did Christopher proud.

The World Cup Predictions Game run locally by Alex and Linda Christison has been a huge success with more than 230 entries; we were delighted to receive a donation of £525 into the memorial fund as the tournament kicked off on Thursday 11 June.

The Quiz Night at The Grey Horse on Friday 29 May raised £310 which, again, has gone straight into the memorial fund for future heart screenings. Thanks to The Grey Horse team for hosting.

This means funds are now in place from 2026 events to enable us to schedule our fifth annual heart screening, at some point in June 2028 at Currie Rugby Club.

By the time you read this, our final fundraiser before the summer holidays will have taken

place with Leigh and Henry from ESPC undertaking skydives at St Andrews Skydive centre on Saturday 27 June.

We will be having some downtime over the summer holidays but look out for updates coming about the Edinburgh Kiltwalk in September as we look to put together our biggest ever "Wee Wander" team. Plus there'll be the annual Christopher Cowe Community Shield football match, which we are aiming to hold at the Oriam in November.

There are also still events to come at The Grey Horse with an end of Summer BBQ, Race Night and Whisky Tasting events all in the offing.

Thanks to everyone for your ongoing support—have a great summer!

• For more information visit: <https://www.c-r-y.org.uk/christopher-cowe/>



Summer Update from Police Scotland

MARK COULL, PS 5040
SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM,
OXGANGS POLICE STATION, E DIVISION,
POLICE SCOTLAND

As we approach the summer holidays and (hopefully!) the better weather, the number of antisocial behaviour type calls increase for Police. While we hope everyone has a good time, please respect your neighbours and other users of recreational spaces.

Your community officers will be carrying out additional patrols in the Pentlands. Remember alcohol and water do not mix. Do not go swimming in the reservoir under the influence of alcohol. There have been incidents of drowning in the reservoirs in the past few years so please know your limits. It may be the summer but cold-water shock is a common factor in drownings.

If camping please avoid lighting fires, especially during a dry period, take all your litter home with you and keep dogs under control. Having attended a Wildfire Debrief Meeting relating to the recent fire at Green Cleugh, it was harrowing to hear the impact tackling such a fire had on the Landowners, the heroic efforts of the Gamekeepers fighting the fire, as well as the wildlife killed and effected. Enquiries are ongoing too about a further wildfire at Torduff where a group of youths were seen lighting a fire.

Community Officers had a great time recently at the Balerno Gala, engaging with the locals and their dogs! Nearby stalls and Gala committee members were very grateful that the siren was not sounding this year!

Please ensure cars are locked and there is nothing of value on show, including coins and keys. Work by the local Community Team and Initiative Team has led to a number of arrests with reports to both the Procurator Fiscal and Children's Reporter and a number of vehicles returned to their owners.

Again, we continue to get complaints about vehicles parking in the pedestrian zone in Balerno Main Street: it is both lazy and dangerous, with ample parking elsewhere in Johnsburn Road, the Scotmid car park and the car park at the top of Main Street. The Council's Parking Attendants are aware and patrol regularly.

Success for Currie High Debating Team

JENNY HUTCHISON
HEAD TEACHER, CURRIE CHS

The Currie Community High School Debate Club have had a phenomenal year, really making the most of the new school's Debating Chamber! In the last three weeks alone, they have won three national debating competitions, and been congratulated in a motion lodged at the Scottish Parliament.

This is only the second year of competitive debating for the club, founded and coached by school librarian James Cullimore and

English teacher Miranda Whitmarsh. We are absolutely delighted with the success its members have found so far.

The year was off to a great start when Max Pica, Rory Picken (both S2), Juliet McDonald and Hoi Ching (Annabel) Lam (both S3) were accepted to the Scottish Debate Team's Junior Squad. They have benefitted from training throughout the year organised by Team Scotland, and we are grateful they have passed this learning on to the rest of the club.

In November, Currie's Annabel and Juliet defeated schools from across Scotland to win the Gold Final of the Edinburgh University Schools Juniors Debating Competition, while Freya Frette (S3) and Max were runners up! At the following national Edinburgh

University Schools competition in February, Beth Houston and Mason Tait (both S6) won the Silver Final, and Juliet and Annabel won the Bronze Final—particularly successful given this was a Senior competition.

On 29 May, the club took eight young people to the Craigmount Junior Debate Competition, where they debated leading school teams from across Scotland.

On 18 June, the club competed in the Ayrshire Cup, a national competition principally attended by senior secondary pupils and debaters who had recently completed S6. Currie's Juliet MacDonald and Annabel Lam won the Gold Final, while Max Pica and Rory Picken won the Silver Final. Rory and Max were also named the competition's first- and second-ranked speakers respectively.

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES

41 Club—Want to Know More?

JOHN DYMOND
BALERNO 41 CLUB

Currie & Balerno 41 Club was founded in 1980 by individuals who had been members of the local Round Table and, at that time were required to leave at the age of 40.

Back then, the natural follow-on organisation for individuals who enjoyed the ethos and camaraderie of the Round Table was to join their local "41 Club".

A number of those early members are still very active in our Club today; currently we have 22 ex-Table members—with room for more!

It is worth noting that, while Round Table focuses on community events with a charitable emphasis, our 41 Club is primarily a social grouping, with a degree of business formality in the mix. That said, we still help Currie, Balerno & District Round Table with some of their major fundraising events—such as the Fireworks Night, which is always great fun to participate.

Our annual Programme Year begins in September with a "Chairman's Welcome" afternoon buffet. So far this year we have enjoyed a number of social events, including very interesting and successful day-time visits to The Surgeons' Hall Museums and HMY Britannia—both of which included our partners, and featured light refreshments along the way. Our pre-Christmas evening get-together featured a visit to Dhaba36 in Balerno, for a most excellent curry!

Our most recent events included our annual golf competition, held this year at Baberton Golf Club and a visit to the 'Lost Shore Surf Resort' near Newbridge for a talk and guided tour by the Project Founder, followed by a pizza"

In short: a full and packed programme, with something for everyone!

We are currently looking to increase our member numbers. If you are a previous or current member of Round Table or a former or current member of a 41 Club, then you would be most welcome to join us!

• For more information, please call the Club's Secretary, Graham Low on 07801 554805 or our Chair, Malcolm Ogilvie on 07801 456245.

Raising Funds For Jasmine Foundation

NICO HAYES
OGILVIE HAYES TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD



At the end of June, Balerno-raised Ailidh Ogilvie-Hayes and her husband Nico undertook the national Three Peak Challenge – climbing the three highest mountains in Scotland (Ben Nevis), England (Scafell Pike) and Wales (Snowdon) – to raise funds for youth mental health charity the Jasmine Foundation.

Ailidh and Nico first learned of the charity while carrying out gardening work for Sarah and Charlie Macquaker, who live in Nine Mile Burn, Midlothian, on the southern slopes of the Pentland Hills. The couple had set up the charity in memory of their daughter Jasmine, who took her own life in 2016, one week before her 15th birthday.

"Jasmine had an independent playful spirit, she was caring and

thoughtful with a wicked sense of humour and quirky view of the world," her parents explained. "Outwardly, Jasmine was a family-loving, bright, quirky, sporty, artistic, caring, young girl lighting a room up with her beautiful smile and infectious laughter. Inwardly, she had been struggling to cope with the onset of a particularly serious form of depression which became terminal. At 14-years-old she had no reference point as to how tackle this, name her feelings or ask for help. Added to this, she wanted to keep the changes going on with her 'stupid' brain private and face her own struggle individually."

The charity believes that every child "should learn about their brain

and emotions and how important these are for personal wellbeing. Depression is the world's leading health problem. 50% of mental health issues start before the age of 14.

"In setting up the Jasmine Foundation we hope to help combat the taboo around mental ill health through education and early intervention."

Ogilvie Hayes Tree & Garden Services will continue to raise funds for the Jasmine Foundation during the rest of 2026.

• If you would like to donate, visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/threepkssailidhnic> or <https://www.jasminefoundation.org.uk>

Balerno SWI 'on' the Orient Express

EDINGELL THOMSON
BALERNO SWI

Our June meeting usually takes the form of an outing, and this year we decided to do it in style, travelling from Venice to Paris "on the Orient Express", at the Queen Charlotte Rooms in Leith.

Two dozen ladies boarded the

"train" with its luxurious, vintage-inspired and very comfortable furnishings and tables laid with white linen and gleaming glassware.

We were served a beautifully presented afternoon tea, with sandwiches, delicious savoury pastries, cakes and desserts, followed by warm scones with bowls of strawberry jam, clotted cream and homemade lemon curd. The very attentive staff ensured that teas and coffees were constantly kept topped up and, for those who preferred, there was a wine menu including cocktails, and a fully stocked bar.

The beautiful scenery of Italy,

Austria, Switzerland and France rolled past the "windows" until, all too soon it seemed, our arrival in Paris signalled that it was time to disembark and go home—back down to earth, and onto the tram (for most of us).

Everybody agreed that at least we wouldn't need much for the evening meal!

• We're now on our summer break. Our first meeting of the autumn is a talk by Ian Hamilton on "Women and Radiation", at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 September in Balerno Community Centre. All welcome.

MSP Watch

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Readers of C&B News are represented by eight MSPs in the current Scottish Parliament: one Constituency MSP (Edinburgh South Western) and seven Regional MSPs (Edinburgh and Lothians East). Just for the record, how busy have they been on your behalf so far—in terms of contributing to debates, voting, lodging motions, and formally asking questions?

From their election on 7 May to close of business on Sunday 28 June 2026, when this issue was "locked" for the printer:

- **Simita Kumar MSP:** 5 contributions, 5 votes, 1 motion, zero questions.
- **Irshad Ahmed MSP:** 4 contributions, 5 votes, zero motions, zero questions.
- **Kayleigh Kinross-O'Neill MSP:** 5 contributions, 5 votes, 3 motions, 5 questions.
- **Kate Nevens MSP:** 5 contributions, 5 votes, 5 motions, 7 questions.
- **Katherine Sangster MSP:** 5 contributions, 5 votes, 5 motions, 10 questions.
- **Miles Briggs MSP:** 5 contributions, 5 votes, 5 motions, 10 questions.
- **Q Manivannan MSP:** 5 contributions, 5 votes, 5 motions, 10 questions.
- **Angela Ross MSP:** 5 contributions, 5 votes, 1 motion, zero questions.

kpa
karen parry architects

0131 600 0668
www.karenparryarchitects.com

edinburgh
38 Bridge Road
Colinton
Edinburgh
EH13 0LQ

Scottish Home Improvement Award
Winners 2025
Best Architectural Practice
Highly Recommended 2025
Best Architect

ARB Architects Registration Board
M&G

Invest Retire Protect
a partner of M&G Advice



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 Ltd 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.

0131 259 2162

investretireprotect@mandg.com

www.investretireprotect.com

18 Bridge Road, Colinton,
Edinburgh EH13 0LQ



Invest Retire Protect Ltd is an appointed representative of M&G Advice Partners Limited. M&G Advice Partners Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. M&G Advice Partners Limited is registered in England and Wales. Registered office at: 10 Fenchurch Avenue, London EC3M 5AG. Registered number 5739054.

IPFB1011004_Invest Retire Protect 01/2026_WEB

DENHOLM'S DECORATORS LIMITED

FOR PROFESSIONAL RESULTS COVERING EDINBURGH & THE LOTHIANS

- Interior Decorating
- Ames Taping
- Exterior Decorating
- Wallpaper Installation
- Kitchen Cabinet Spraying
- Painting & Finishing Services

0131 443 9545 07944 031 841
denholmpennycuick@icloud.com
FOLLOW US ON @denholmsdecorators

Snapshots of the Past

Balerno Village, Children and Holidays in the 1950s and 1960s

DOUGLAS LOWE
CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Summer is here. Today various grandchildren are preparing to fly out to experience new areas far far away.

However I always felt that in Balerno, providing the weather was kind (or at least sunny), we were in Gods' Own Country. Up at the reservoirs, particularly Threipmuir, we had two stretches of sandy foreshore, as well as a dazzling view across the pond to the Black Hill. This was our Exotic Riviera.

We were all wearing our canvas "rubbers", obtained from St Cuthbert's Co-op in Bread Street or Woolworth's: they had seen us through the school sports day as well as

the Gala races and were still going strong. I remember the ripple rubber soles with "made in India" stamped in it. Unlike today, China didn't exist.

We spent a lot of time wandering round the village, visiting Johnny Wynne's sweet shop, which was at the bottom of the Main Street, or Mrs Noble's which was half way up where the Jigsaw nursery is now. We spent even more time in the "Old Park" at Malleny, which was fringed by the Water of Leith. The park had an open-fronted pavilion where we could sit and bletcher if the weather was "inclement". There was a wee stony beach opposite where the Bavelaw Burn discharged into the Water of Leith, an area from which we used to fish for "baggie minnows", sticklebacks or "beardies" (stone loach) which

looked like miniature sharks with their recessed lower jaw. There were large trees to climb and a big enough area for football games.

The Old Park was given to the villagers "in perpetuity" by landowner Lord Rosebery in 1896 for a nominal rent of one shilling (5p) per year. "In perpetuity" obviously has a different meaning these days: the area of the Old Park is where Balerno High School is now.

We had occasional family holidays, usually in a caravan. A real highlight for many of us was the two week scout camp—an adventure under canvas, which was great fun. Another adventure was wandering the woods that surrounded the village avoiding the gamie!

Then we left Balerno Primary and moved to Currie High School— in Currie!



When we had been there for a couple of years we sounded out the other lads and, in the summer, organised "international" matches playing Currie, Ratho, Juniper Green, and Ratho Station. These were played in the New Park at Malleny, on larger full sized pitches. Our New Park, I think, dated from the late 1940s or early 1950s. It was where the Gala was held from the year it restarted (1956) for many years thereafter.

Balerno was a favourite visitor attraction for many from Edinburgh. Folk, taking the air for their health, would appear with their picnic hampers and head for the reservoirs or just either of our parks. We also had a bowling green, a tennis court and an 18-hole putting green—the latter two formally opened at a ceremony in September 1935 with Lord and Lady Rosebery and the owner of Balerno Bank Paper Mill, John Galloway, who had provided these recreational facilities.

Main: The author's son fishing in the Water of Leith, "back in the day". Below left: Enid, the author's wife, with one of the grandchildren and the dogs in the Water of Leith just along from its junction with the Bavelaw Burn. Above: A resident of the Water of Leith. Photos: Douglas Lowe.

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



'To See Ourselves as Others See Us'

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

What is a Community Newspaper? That was the big question founding editor Graham Priestley asked on the front page of the debut issue of *Currie & Balerno News*, published in February 1976.

During the previous five years, he wrote, "some hundreds of community newspapers [had] appeared up and down Britain, with a wide variety of form, content and readership."

One particular example, looming large in the minds of the small team behind *C&B News*, was *Tollcross & District News*. Graham described it as a "forthright fortnightly championing the preservation of the Tollcross area, against attack by property development and hospital encroachment".

He would later praise it as "a necessary part of the Tollcross area's way of life", ably filling "the communication gap left by the big dailies and missed out by the *Evening News*".

His hope that *C&B News* could perform a similar function was obvious.

NEVER MEET YOUR HEROES

By autumn 1976, the *Currie & Balerno News* team had published eight issues, so were invited to send a representative to a gathering of the city's then-community newspapers. However, Moira Young – later the publication's second editor – was in for a shock.

A member of the *Tollcross & District News* team strongly criticised *Currie & Balerno News* for being "too much like a Parish magazine and not a live force, working to improve the conditions of the Community". The paper was accused of "being obsessed" with domestic rates and "not tackling the nation's problems at [a] local level".

Later, one *C&B News* reader suggested that the *Tollcross* criticisms were grounded in the publication's "very left-wing bias". They wrote: "Our *Tollcross* brothers perhaps want to convert us to their community action ideas for

long-term political ends. No thank you."

'FAME AT LAST!'

Coincidentally or not, *C&B News* kept itself pretty much to itself after that; it

wasn't until the paper's seventh birthday, in February 1983, that anyone beyond its distribution area (which now included Juniper Green and Baberton) even learned of the paper's existence.

A Balerno reader had nominated the paper for the BBC Radio Scotland *Ken Bruce Show's* weekly "Service With A Smile" award, in recognition of "providing [...] news of general and local interest to the community". The current editor, Joyce Ross, was interviewed live on air.

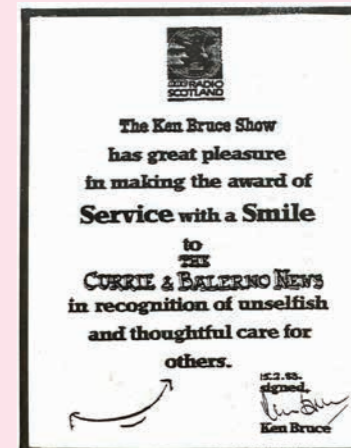
A morale-boosting certificate, signed by Ken Bruce (three years before he moved "down south" to great success at BBC Radio 2) was duly received some weeks later.

'OPTIONS'

However, suddenly being on BBC Radio Scotland's radar proved a mixed blessing: towards the end of September 1984, Graham Priestley was once again defending *Currie & Balerno News* against accusations of being "like a church magazine". This was on an edition of the station's current affairs programme *Options*, during which *C&B News* was held up against Gorbals and Govanhill-based *The View*—and, unsurprisingly, found wanting.

As Graham subsequently suggested, what the two presenters (journalists Joan Burnie and Lorraine Fanning) failed to acknowledge was how both publications worked within their respective communities. "*The View* has lasted over 10 years and 200 editions as a campaigning newspaper fighting for better living conditions," he wrote.

"By *C&B News* standards its articles are long, serious and political, while the overall tone is bleak and humourless. From the Gorbals' standpoint, *C&B*



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

BALERNO.NET
 TECHNICAL SERVICES

Local Tech Support You Can Trust

- Wi-Fi and device fixes
- Device setup & training
- Help for households and businesses
- Friendly local support delivered in your home or remotely

07584 671 912 help@balerno.net www.balerno.net



News seemed trivial, lacking in energy and expensive.” (That month the cover price had jumped by 25% from 12p to 15p!)

‘EVEN CLARK KENT HAD TO START SOMEWHERE...’
 So, again, the team making *Currie & Balerno News* put their heads down and got back to putting the paper together—which, at that point, still involved knives, waxy-glue and getting everything within between 16 and 24 pages.

Then, in January 1995, *Evening News* journalist Nick Thorpe joined one of the monthly layout sessions at Heriot-Watt University, as part of his research for an article on amateur journalism in the capital. Nick focused on three case studies: *Trophy Please*, a Heart of Midlothian Football Club fanzine, then on its ninth issue; Edinburgh University’s *The Student* newspaper; and *Currie & Balerno News*.

Overall, he appeared reasonably positive about all three, running with his theme that even Superman was a journalist in his Clark Kent persona. “Driven by a mixture of enthusiasm, community spirit and caffeine,” he wrote, “a small army of fanatical would-be journalists are using every spare minute to get the word out on the streets—with scarcely a penny in return.”

‘A TREASURE CHEST OF INFORMATION’
 Sure enough, a certain description of *C&B News* reared its head—albeit, not necessarily as a criticism.

“The news content is the stuff of parish magazines, well presented but not exactly earth-shattering,” Nick wrote. “The Pentland Flower Club monthly report jostles for attention alongside an angling column, health tips from a doctor, and a children’s page.”

“But to the local community it’s a treasure chest of information, and occasional threats to the area – like the closure of a riding school for disabled children, or housing proposals for greenbelt sites – are tackled with true campaigning spirit.”

Overall, Graham thought the experience on this occasion worthwhile: and, at long last *C&B News* had officially made “the” *News*. “From M&S-sweated fifty-something to Superheroes in a single bound,” he wrote. “Who would ask for more?”

Bonaly Primary School Marks 50 Years in Colinton

STACEY BRIDGES
 BONALY PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

For five decades, Bonaly Primary School has been at the heart of the Colinton community, guiding generations of local children through their early years of education. This summer, the school proudly celebrated its golden anniversary, marking the 50-year milestone with an open day on Friday 19 June that brought together former pupils and teachers along with current families and local residents.

The commemorative event offered a wonderful trip down memory lane for all who attended. Visitors were treated to a curated exhibition of photographs from the school’s archives, capturing the changing faces, fashions, and achievements of Bonaly pupils throughout the decades. For many, the highlight of the afternoon was the guided tours led by senior pupils. Serving as fantastic ambassadors for the school, the senior pupils shared their own daily experiences while proudly showcasing the school’s learning environment. Attendees also enjoyed refreshments from Asda, Morrisons and Tesco.



“Reaching our 50th anniversary is a truly special moment for everyone connected to Bonaly Primary,” said Headteacher Kirstie Miller. “It was a joy to open our doors on 19 June and welcome back so many familiar faces alongside our current families. Our Primary 7 pupils were exceptional tour guides. The wonderful stories and memories shared by our visitors are a testament to the special place Bonaly holds in Colinton.”



Saroj Lal Equality and Diversity Award

EMMA MCGLYNN AND FRANCES JACK
 CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the past three years, P7 at Currie Primary School have been involved in celebrating the pioneering teacher Saroj Lal, participating in embracing the Saroj Lal Equality and Diversity Award. This year was no different and children created artwork and wrote poems under the heading of “Proud To Be Me”, “Artivism” and “How Prejudice Makes Me Feel”.

This year, headteacher Sally Hourston nominated two P7 teachers, Emma Boag McGlynn and Frances Jack (above) for the staff award, hoping they would be recognised for their work in supporting Equality and

Diversity work in the school. Currie Primary has also been involved in developing a school policy this year and have been part of CEC Equalities Policy Cohort 1, and their new policy was introduced at a sharing seminar earlier this month.

Emma and Frances say: “We were thrilled to have been nominated for this award and completely delighted to have won. We have really loved being involved in the Saroj Lal Award again this year and it is an important part of our P7 curriculum. We are proud of the work that Currie Primary has done to support Equality and Diversity and delighted to have been part of such important work. Huge congratulations to all of the nominees and winners.”

Meet us, before you need us

Help your loved ones tomorrow by setting out your wishes today.
 Get ahead with our free funeral planning service.

POP IN
 348 Lanark Road West, Edinburgh EH14 5RR

CALL US
 0131 449 2340
 williampurves.co.uk/currie

WILLIAM PURVES EST. 1888
 FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

Malleny Garden: 'The Time to see the Roses is Now'



JAMES BELL
HEAD GARDENER, MALLENY GARDEN

Everything is growing so fast, it's difficult to keep up with a two-acre walled garden. We have many plates to spin. Maintaining the presentation of the garden and preparing our plant sale plants for the Plant Fayre is a significant undertaking. Thankfully our volunteers meet the challenge.

Saturday 20 June saw us host our Malleny Garden Plant Fayre in the garden. Over 450 people visited the garden and were met with an array of nurseries and local community groups. Thank you to (deep breath!): Currie Horticultural Society, Binny Nursery, Pips Cactus, Tay Heathers, Three Pools Nursery, National Little Bee, Pentlands Men's Shed, National Vegetable Society, Friends of the Pentlands and The Slice Girls—for all coming along on the day to share their wares with our visitors. Along with our own "From the Garden" plant sales, we displayed around 70 of our flowering roses; it was a very well received day. All set with a backdrop of a rose garden coming into full flower. Thank you to everyone who came along. Feedback is welcome, please get in touch.

Our National Collection of 19th century shrub roses at Malleny is in full flower from now until mid-July, with some of the rambler roses flowering until late July. Our old shrub roses have a relatively short flowering window starting from mid-June. However, what they lack in flowering time, they make up in fragrance. On a calm day, the walled garden is filled with scent. Over 180 different cultivars are grown in the garden and wider estate. A

Main image: Malleny Garden Plant Fayre. Roses bloom: Königin Von Danemark (above), "Charles de Mills" (middle) "Korwest" Westerland (left). Photos: James Bell.

gold star to anyone who can find them all! One of the last to flower is Rosa "Kiftgate". Growing some 20 meters up a tree at our entrance gate, when in flower it looks like a cascading waterfall and it literally buzzes with bees visiting the flowers. The time to see the roses is now.

Occasionally we welcome one off volunteer groups to the garden. In mid-June a group from Aegon gave their time to assist in the garden. They tackled a couple of jobs that by having many hands are made much easier. They are welcome to return.

Elsewhere, work is set to start on improving our compost facility. This involves the creation of additional covered bays, more than doubling our capacity to process green waste compost for the garden. This is vital for the work we do. Our own compost is the most useful ingredient for putting nutrients and organic material back into the garden and feeding the very hungry rose collection.

• NTS Great Pumpkin Weigh-off 2026 update; The pumpkins we planted in May, including our 'Champion', are picking up speed, growing more and bigger leaves. No flowers or pumpkins yet, but they will come. More updates to follow!

• 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.nts.org.uk/visit/places/malleny-garden>

If you though 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

Fully fitted
from only
£1450
inc VAT





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

2016 HOME IMPROVEMENT AWARDS FINALIST best window & door company

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

Richard McGregor
Painter & Decorator
Interior / Exterior
0131 449 7154
22 Currievale Park Grove, Currie EH14 5XA

GP LUMBING & HEATING Phone **0131 449 3389**
MCDONALD Fax **0131 622 5622**
(Corgi Registered) 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

 **HARRY C LAWRIE**
Pest Control

• Over 27 years' experience • Local, fully qualified
• Prompt, effective, reliable service • All types of vermin control
• Free quotes • Competitive rates • Health & Safety compliance

Tel: 07836 348085 or 0131 449 4246

Why not advertise with the C&B News?

Display ads still from only £22 per month

Larger ad sizes now available
advertising@candbnews.com


MASTERTON
Property Services

- TREE SURGERY
- STUMP GRINDING
- GARDEN CLEARANCE

- HEDGE CUTTING
- EXTERIOR CLEANING
- AND MUCH MORE!

CALL, TEXT, WHATSAPP OR EMAIL US AT ANY TIME TO ARRANGE FOR US TO POP BY AND DISCUSS.

 07985 747 912

 MASTERTONPROPSERV@OUTLOOK.COM



Cooking the Books



STEF LYONS

entitled "Honey and Gin". What isn't there to love about these offerings? I never knew I would want a whole chapter on rhubarb and berries, but there it was. And a chapter about gin? Yes please. If I ever wanted a book to embody the place I live, this one would definitely be in my top three.

Shetland Lamb is said to be incredible. The ones Lawrence writes about come from a particular farm where they are raised on heather pastures, and are said to have a healthier balance of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids than other breeds. They are really only sold from August to January, so there wasn't much chance of me getting my hands on that particular kind. I did, however, head to M McGills Butchers in Currie, and picked up a whole shoulder of Ayrshire lamb. This joint was to be cooked with the winning

Five years ago I moved north to this beautiful country. I left the smog and filthy water of London and swapped it for these rugged hills, cold, clear lochs, and beautiful cities. A short while ago, in the name of exploration, I took myself off for a few days in a tiny cabin in the Trossachs. I sampled whiskies, gins and wines. I ate locally reared beef and treated myself to many other delicacies of our fine country.

One of the days I walked a short section of the West Highland Way, making my way past the beaches of Loch Lomond, breathing in the fresh air and thinking to myself how grateful I am to have this as my chosen home. This is the land where people are welcomed with warmth, shortbread and whisky, our very own Water Of Life.

Upon my return to Edinburgh I knew I needed to explore more about what Scotland has to offer. This time I turned to a book I bought a couple of years ago on holiday in Oban. *A Taste of Scotland's Islands* by Sue Lawrence is a beautiful book of recipes and stories all about what has been eaten in the highlands and islands for hundreds of years.

It is a real food-lover's cookbook. Chapters on fish, meat, game, baking and even (I'm shaking with excitement) a whole section on cheese, one on berries and rhubarb, and another



Caledonia, let me tell you that I love you. And I think about the gifts you have to offer all the time. Thanks for a beautiful five years. And here's to the next five. *Slàinte mhath.*

combination of rosemary, garlic and then, in the last 30 minutes of roasting, anchovies in the sauce building up in the pan. I served it with roast potatoes and green veggies. Having always said they would never eat an anchovy, my children wolfed it down, the younger one dipping his potatoes in the "incredible" gravy. I did tell them, once they had declared it delicious, and they tried to act disgusted. But then greed prevailed and both my boys went back to slurping it up, practically licking their plates clean. Winner, winner, roast lamb dinner.

In this book there are recipes I cannot help but grimace at. The one for Guga (aka Puffin) and Tatties does give me a wee bit of boak, I won't lie. It's an extremely salty bird which needs to be soaked for days in water to reduce the sodium level. After that it is boiled for ages and served with boiled potatoes and cold milk, a tradition which is said to "help cut the greasy taste" of the bird. Yum?

Even so,

Craft Corner



LUCIE NOVOVESKA

'Give it a Go!'

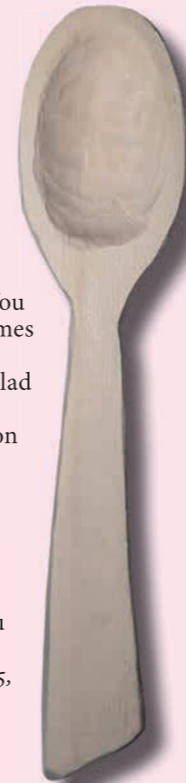
I enjoy attending craft courses. Yes, they can be a little expensive, but you get materials, tools and an instructor's invaluable expertise for a few hours. Not only do you leave the course with a product, you also acquire a new skill and, very often, a taste for a new activity.

In the last year, I was fortunate to take a painting course, a foraging course, a basket weaving course and a spoon carving course. I cannot imagine starting these activities on my own. Apart from anything else, you could buy all the equipment, only to find out too late that you had either bought incorrect or inadequate tools, were doing it all wrong or you didn't love it as much as you thought you would.

The most recent in-person course I took was spoon carving. What a joy ride. It may not be your cup of tea to sit in a circle with strangers (and very sharp tools) or spend six hours carving a somewhat-wonky spoon, but that is all part of the charm. When you finally come home and lift your new porridge spoon above your head like a cub in *The Lion King*, no-one will dare to bring you down! Words like "wonky" will quickly be replaced with "charismatic", "artisan" or "artsy".

In-person courses are not for everybody. Some people prefer to stay at home and watch internet "how to" videos and there is nothing wrong with that. The additional advantage is that you can rewind and watch everything multiple times. (You cannot imagine how many times I had to pause or rewind my origami fox video! I am just glad there were no witnesses.)

So whether it is an in-person course or an online activity, give it a go this summer and try something new. Don't know where to start? If only there was a list of upcoming activities in your local magazine that could steer you in the right direction! (Such as what appears on pages 53-55, perhaps?—Editor.)



Nature's Medicine Box



URARA DONOHOE

Meadowsweet

July is the month when meadowsweet comes into full bloom, its fragrance sweetening the air along woodland and lochside paths. Along with water mint and vervain, meadowsweet is part of the triad of core medicinal herbs used by the druids. It was also used to flavour mead, and mythical Celtic warrior Chu Chullain was cured of an attack of fever using a bath of meadowsweet.

Faithful to its Celtic mythos, it is a herb that calms inflammation, soothing upset stomach, arthritic joints and even crampy periods. Traditional remedy for hayfever, I don't think it's coincidental it comes into bloom about now when many start sneezing on sunny days. Part of the rose family of plants, one of the key constituents is the scent, the volatile oils. So if you decide to use it medicinally, you must use a closed lid container, to preserve the scent as much as possible. It also contains natural antimicrobials making it a wonderful ingredient for poultices and skin ointments, to help reduce eczema and other skin inflammations.

In the last 10 years or so, it has become an increasingly popular ingredient, sought after by posh chefs. I had one of the best sponge cakes in a highland restaurant few years back, drizzled with meadowsweet syrup. It is well worth foraging the distinctly scented flowers to add to your menu at this time of the year. You can make lovely syrups, but it is also wonderful raw, sprinkled on salads. Please look for recipes at my website.

• Please forage responsibly, taking no more than 10% of any patch of plants/flowers/leaves/berries.

• Forage from areas free from herb/pesticides, pollutants (e.g. heavy traffic), mindful of dog poos!

• There are poisonous and deadly plants including lookalikes, so never consume any plant unless 100% certain of what it is.

Urara Donohoe is a Medical Herbalist at the Rose and Yarrow Clinic and Dispensary in Balerno: <https://www.roseandarrow.com>

Wellbeing



ANNETTE WILSON

Slowing Down

It's the weekend. Imagine your favourite slow cooked dish... pulled roast meat, casserole, something marinated for hours before cooking... the care and attention that goes into planning and preparation, the smell as it cooks, your anticipation building for that tasty plateful. These are all the things that make it such a delight to, finally, eat. Food to share and to cherish. Notice how the slow pace only deepens the enjoyment of the experience!

Slowing down in a fast paced and busy world can be a challenge. But it doesn't need to be impossible. Being too busy all the time is actually a habit, not a necessity. Trust me, as a working parent of three children, there was a time when I wouldn't have believed I could just choose to slow down, so ingrained were the habits of trying to do too much in my day and my feelings of guilt or failure if I didn't achieve all the stuff! But the stuff never ends, right?

As a therapist, I work with people who only ever sit down and do nothing for an hour when I am giving them their reflexology treatment! So how can you break the cycle if this sounds too familiar?

You could begin by actively looking for the moments in your day when you experience space, and expand them. Use a visual trigger to remind you to slow down... every time you walk through a specific door, walk up the stairs, pass a picture on the wall. Pop a post-it note on the fridge door to remind yourself to draw a deep breath. My mum has a large book of poetry, and reads a poem out loud every day. Double or triple the duration of moments and gradually it might just become more habitual to slow down often enough to deepen your enjoyment throughout the day. Pick one regular task in your life, and slow it down... hanging washing outdoors, preparing breakfast or even just a cup of tea. You might just find that the stuff will still get done, but you feel just a little more spacious... slow cooked instead of stir fried!

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

Food for Life



JO DOUGLAS

Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis is a condition that causes bones to become weaker and more susceptible to fractures as we age, thought to affect around 3.5 million people in the UK. Scarily, it is often asymptomatic until a fracture occurs.

While ageing is unavoidable, there are simple strategies that can support bone health and reduce the risk of osteoporosis:

- Calcium is crucial for bone density, and can be found in dairy, fortified dairy alternatives, leafy green vegetables, sardines, almonds and sesame seeds. Caffeine and alcohol have been shown to decrease calcium absorption.

- Vitamin D helps the body absorb calcium effectively. Regular safe sun exposure is key. We can get small amounts through mushrooms, oily fish and eggs. Supplementation is often necessary, especially in winter months.

- Magnesium helps activate Vitamin D in the body. Good sources include leafy green vegetables, soy beans, pumpkin seeds and dark chocolate.

- Protein is needed to support the bone framework. Try aiming for +1g per kg of your body weight. Healthy sources include eggs, fish, unprocessed meats, greek yoghurt, cheese, tofu, tempeh, beans, lentils and chickpeas.

- Limiting excessive alcohol intake, avoiding smoking and maintaining a healthy body weight can also help reduce the risk of osteoporosis.

- Weight-bearing exercise provides additional support for bone remodelling. Aim for three sessions of 30 minutes each week. Good options include brisk walking, weight training, stair climbing, dancing, yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi and hiking.

Jo Douglas runs Live With Hope, a nutritional therapy and lifestyle business, based in Balerno: <https://www.livewithhope.co.uk/>

Remembering Gerry Butler

Gerald Paul Butler (known to everyone as “Gerry”) was born on Friday 20 December 1963 in Glasgow. The youngest of five children, he attended Corpus Christi Primary School, and then St Thomas Aquinas Secondary, where he excelled at both athletics and his first love—football. (To the surprise of many who knew him later in life, he set a school record for the 400 metres which was only broken in the last decade.) He played football for a variety of teams.

Gerry’s mother Isobel had been diagnosed with MS before Gerry was born and died when he was 10 years old. He remained very close to his father Tom until the latter’s death in 2014, at the age of 90.

Gerry studied Maths at Strathclyde University: after graduating in 1985, he began working as a trainee programmer/analyst in the IT Department at Standard Life. He subsequently moved into project management and production support; he had risen to the role of programme manager by the time he was made redundant in 2012. He subsequently joined Aegon, until both he and his wife Lorna retired in 2018.

The couple had first met while working at Standard Life, and started dating in 1986. They moved into what became their family home – on Corslet Crescent, Currie – in February 1989. Gerry and Lorna married that August, honeymooning in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Maldives—the first of several long-haul holidays they enjoyed down the years.

Eldest son Scott was born in March 1993; younger brother Fraser followed two-and-a-half years later. Both duly attended Nether Currie

Primary School. In 2002 Gerry was elected to what is now the parent council, and remained a co-opted community member until his death.

During the mid-2000s, Gerry was a member of the local Round Table, serving one year as chairperson and occasionally deputising for Santa (quite convincingly) on the annual fund-raising sleigh rides round the local area. He also supported the annual Fireworks Display and, later on, the annual Currie Beer and Curry Festival.

Gerry’s involvement with Currie Football Club began as a parent coach, after Scott (and later Fraser) started playing. He later shifted his focus to help at the Soccer School, introducing Primary 1 and 2 pupils to football coaching, and initiating parent coaches into the ethos of the club. Gerry took immense pleasure in coaching the youngsters, and was always chuffed when some of his players said hello to him while out and about, even if they had grown up and he couldn’t quite place them or remember their names! He later became chairperson of the Club, a position he held for over 20 years until his death.

In the last decade or so, Gerry helped ensure Currie Football Club became more inclusive, with the creation of a separate girls section. Currently CFC has over 250 registered players and more than 30 coaches involved over the various age-groups. The club encourages and enables children of all abilities to enjoy football and the benefits being involved in sports brings, something Gerry was passionate about.

Because CFC have always been based at the Currie Community Centre, Gerry also joined the committee there, to try to ensure the Centre was maintained for the good of the community.

Since 2018 Gerry also became involved with the Oriam Walking Football Club. He loved everything about it: the football, the camaraderie and also the supportive environment which – while a constant theme in the club – was very much in evidence during the pandemic.

While the focus at Oriam is very much on social interaction and fun, there are various competitive teams too at the different age groups, and Gerry was delighted to be selected for their over-60s team. And, of course, he helped out with the coaching at other age groups too; he eventually took on the coaching of the South-East Region over-65s team.

Thanks to his connections with local football at both ends of the age spectrum, Gerry had the idea of initiating a “Join the Generations” event, where members of the OWF team would play fun games against the youngest kids from CFC. The first event in 2023 was very successful, and covered by STV News, and each year since a new group of kids have taken part.

Gerry was a compassionate, caring and determined man—and always seemed to have a smile on his face. He was passionate about ensuring that football was open to all regardless of ability and could sometimes come across as stubborn and entrenched in his opinions as a result. He set high standards for himself, and could get impatient with people he felt were not doing the same.

People agree that their lasting memory of Gerry will be of a friendly, generous, dedicated and funny man, who loved to tell a good, meandering and frequently embroidered story, often at his own expense. He will be greatly missed.

Remembering ‘Mr Currie FC’

WILLIS SCOTT
CURRIE FC

Gerry Butler was “Mr Currie FC”. He worked tirelessly for other local organisations and institutions, but Currie FC was his passion, and he nurtured it over many years, making it the club it is today.

He coached hundreds of local kids over the years, primarily in his role as coach at the Currie FC Soccer School. Every year, a new cohort would start their football journey under Gerry’s stewardship. Indeed, a highlight of the first year is the Joining the Generations day, where Currie FC and Oriam Walking Football – another of Gerry’s passions – come together to enjoy a fun game or two.

Gerry was keen that football should be available to all, so he was also a key protagonist in the delivery of Helping Hands – an initiative that runs every year in Wester Hailes, to give less privileged kids the opportunity to experience the joys of football also.

He was also the driving force behind the Club achieving the Gold Quality Mark, a significant achievement for a Club the size of Currie FC, and one which endeared the Club to the governing bodies.

The thriving Girls section didn’t exist a few years ago, but Gerry saw the potential and was paramount in securing the necessary resources to get it off the ground, and then to become the thriving section that it is now.

Recently, Gerry engaged with the SFA to deliver Disney Playmakers to our four local primary schools, an initiative which continues to grow. This is a programme aimed at girls in Primaries 1 and 2, giving them an early taste of football based on Disney movie themes.

Perhaps Gerry’s greatest strength was his ability to encourage others to help him achieve his goals. Everyone at the Club has their own story to tell about how Gerry got them involved in Currie FC. His enthusiasm was infectious and coupled with his motivation to make the beautiful game available to as wide an audience as he could, it was impossible to say “no” when he asked you to get involved.

So while “Mr Currie FC” was the driving force behind getting the Club to the position of strength that it is in today, his ability to enlist the help of an army of volunteers to deliver on that vision has been absolutely key.

C&B News would like to thank Lorna, Scott and Fraser Butler for their invaluable assistance in preparing this article. Our thoughts are with them and all the wider Butler family at this challenging time.



Gerry and Lorna enjoyed many a long-haul holiday down the years.





Locals Celebrate Campbell Park 90th Birthday

SHONA HARROWER
FRIENDS OF CAMPBELL PARK

The Friends of Campbell Park (FCP) were blessed with extraordinarily good weather on Sunday 14 June for this year's main summer event.

An organic printing project that started life during the Big Lunch in 2025 culminated in a moving prayer flag ceremony some 12 months later, a very fitting highlight for Park's 90th birthday celebrations.

The prayer flag project was imagined by FCP Lead Orchard Carer, Ally Price, who was assisted by volunteers from the Garvald and Tiphereth printing groups, who helped create individual flag designs using 100% biodegradable and organic materials (right down to the inks).

Eileen Jubb, with the help of former colleagues at the Best Bib & Tucker social enterprise, stitched together all the individually printed designs into two lengths of "prayer flag bunting".

Local MP Scott Arthur supported the event by coming along to help us celebrate the arrival of four new attractive signage boards. These will be installed by The City of Edinburgh Council in July 2026 after a nine month project for their development.

A four-member "Campbell Park Signs" team worked with the then Park Manager Craig Dunlop to create suitable content for four new interpretive information boards. The "unveiling event" was planned for mid June, in the belief that the boards would be installed by the end of May 2026. However an unexpected delay at Scottish Border Signs threatened to leave some members of the FCP with red faces during the widely advertised "signage tour".

Luckily FCP Secretary, Pam Farquhar, was able to save the day. She was busy clearing the decks for a holiday weekend when, on Friday at 4pm, she got the text saying that the new sign boards wouldn't be ready in time. As a Director of a consulting engineering firm, Pam has access to A1 printing facilities, and rushed off a set of high resolution colour images. These were able to be transformed into "mock-up" boards for use on the day.

Pam's CAD (computer-aided design) skills are evident in all of the new signs, and especially so in the largest main entrance boards. They will be mounted into a double-sided metal "Y frame" similar to the one in Spylaw Park.

The other members of the CPK Signs team were Jonathan Davey and Rosemary Burke, and FCP Chairperson Shona Harrower.

Jonathan, a retired botanist, focused



on providing appropriate content for the "Native Woodland and Southern Hedgerow Trails". He also serves as the FCP Committee's Biodiversity Officer. Rosemary Burke initially joined the signs team in her role as the FCP's voluntary amateur wildlife photographer, but her main contribution turned out to be ensuring that the rest of the team learned how to create dyslexia-friendly content. Shona's first draft for the orchard sign board was initially presented in the style of an A2 poster with lots of centred bullet points in block capitals. Apparently that's not recommended for dyslexics. To be more easily understood, the team learned that it's better to use left-margined paragraphs or bullet points, in standard lower case sentences.

When it came to the big event, Rosemary was also very helpful in bringing together a small group of "Campbell Park Singers" to sing John Rutter's Celtic Blessing for the new prayer flags. Considering the singers had less than 30 minutes to meet and practice the piece, their open air performance in the heart of the orchard sounded beautiful. So beautiful in fact, that their voices raised Eileen Jubb from her sick bed. Eileen heard the singing through her bedroom window and couldn't stay away any longer. She appeared with her dogs Misty and Archie and helped choose a suitable location to hang two lengths of special Campbell tartan bunting that she made for the community orchard in 2024.

There were also some very moving readings to help round off the celebrations. Mike Harrower read "A Trillion Trees" by Michael Morgago during the prayer flag ceremony. Then last, but by no means least, Roma Söderberg – who had baked and donated 90 pieces of cake – returned to read a prayer to those gathered around the fire before they all left for the evening. The prayer dates back to 1887, from a translation by Lakota Sioux Chief Yellow Lark. The paper prayer sheet was wrapped around the trunk of Roma Söderberg's orchard tree with a green ribbon where it will remain until the rain mixes it with the earth.

During the event, Scott Arthur reflected on how much more "alive" Campbell Park feels since the orchard was first planted five years ago.

After the event, others have described feeling almost "paradise" while singing the Celtic Blessing. Next time you're passing Campbell Park, why not take a moment to enter the community orchard under the prayer flags and make your way to the turf circle seat to enjoy a quiet sit? Some feel an energy field when standing on the heart stone, others just feel happy.



Main: Shona Harrower, Dr Scott Arthur MP & Alexandra Price under the living willow arch at the side entrance of Campbell Park orchard, now adorned with one of two new prayer flags. Below left: Eileen Jubb with her dogs Misty and Archie, in between the Campbell Tartan bunting she made. This page. Top: Dr Scott Arthur MP is showered in biodegradable "shredded paper confetti" by Shona Harrower and junior members of Edinburgh United Football Club. Middle: The mock up posters were all true to size apart from the largest, main entrance boards which will be twice the size of an A1 sheet. Above: Pamela Farquhar, Director at Blythe & Blythe.



Currie Primary Schools's P6 pupils enjoyed an epic "EPIC Day" at Bonaly Scout camp recently as part of their outdoor learning programme, writes Head Teacher Sally Hourston. "The day involved a variety of activities including hill walking, problem solving, archery, orienteering, bushcraft, low ropes, crate stacking to name just a few. We finished off with smores round a campfire before our medal ceremony."

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 •
Landlord Gas Safety Checks • Boiler Breakdown Cover

WE CAN OFFER
0% FINANCE FOR
YOUR PROJECT*

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

ELISE REINES
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, HARMENY EDUCATION TRUST

More young riders than ever before took to the trails at Harmeny School in Balerno in June as the Edinburgh Schools Mountain Bike Championship returned for its second year.

The event, organised by the Edinburgh Road Club with support from the City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Cycling, brought together more than 160 pupils from across the capital for a day of racing, friendship and adventure on two wheels. This means the event has doubled in size from the previous year, reflecting the growing popularity of youth mountain biking across Edinburgh.

This included a large group from Portobello High School participating through a cycling initiative connected to next year's Tour de France departing from Edinburgh. Increased promotion through Active Schools and the success of last year's championship also contributed to the event's continued growth.

Set within Harmeny's 35-acre estate, competitors from Primary 7 through to S6 tackled a specially designed cross-country course that combined flowing trails, technical features and plenty of opportunities to test their skills.

This year, riders were introduced to a brand-new course designed by Harmeny's Outdoor Education Team with support from a former pupil who is now a competitive mountain biker, featuring different route options tailored to age groups and experience levels. This proved a hit with competitors, many of whom praised the variety of the course and the balance between challenge and fun.

Although races were held across multiple age categories and followed recognised competitive standards, participation, confidence-building and enjoyment remained at the heart of the event.

One volunteer marshal reflected on what stood out most: "The most rewarding part has been seeing the camaraderie between the young people, how they helped and looked after one another while competing."

Friends, families, teachers and supporters lined the course throughout the day, creating a lively atmosphere as riders tackled climbs, navigated technical sections and crossed the finish line to enthusiastic applause.

The success of the championship was also made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers and marshals who supported the event from start to finish.

The Edinburgh Schools Mountain Bike Championship has quickly established itself as an important fixture in the local sporting calendar, offering young people a grassroots event to develop their mountain bike skills and offering a gateway to the Scottish Championship at Comrie Croft in September.

For many riders, however, the lasting memory will not be their finishing position, but the friendships, encouragement and shared achievements that made the day so special.

Record Turnout for Mountain Bike Championship





For the ones who did things differently.

No two lives are the same, so no two funerals should be either. Whether it's a traditional service or something completely bespoke, we help you plan a tribute that truly remembers them.

0131 453 4535
 porteousfunerals.com



PLANNING, ETC BY ARCHIE CLARK

Planning and Climate Change—13: Live More Simply

Born during WWII, I grew up in a self-reliant culture where we didn't phone a friend for advice. Shared telephones were hard-wired, mobiles didn't exist, centrally-heated homes were unusual, the internet hadn't appeared and calculations were done with log tables before slide rules appeared.

For recreation my bicycle took me miles from home. With limited pocket money, if I wanted a picture of a boat or a lighthouse, I saved money on films by drawing them in my sketchbook or pasting an illustration of a favourite car or locomotive in my scrapbook.

Outside activities included the choir, Scottish Country Dancing (my mother's, not my choice), team sports and climbing trees at the bottom of the garden. Other people joined the local drama group or played football.

I read a friend's cast-off Meccano Magazines, creating a book with hand-drawn pictures and carefully hand-written text to resemble the typeface on my father's (inaccessible) Imperial typewriter, recording locomotive performance on the West Coast main line.

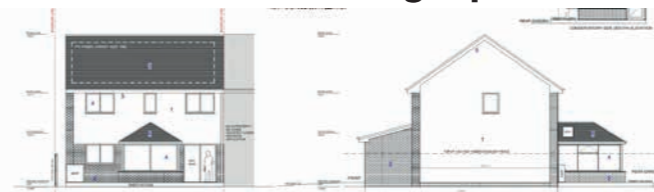
Moving up from Cubs to Scouts, I was introduced to the cast-off army bell tents (a sod to fold when wet) and the modern

ridge tent (where the leaders slept). Lashing poles together to make shelves or other structures showed what was possible using balls of twine. At night we might have had a flickering torch but with no electricity supply, we found other ways to enjoy ourselves.

A couple of generations later, advertising and peer pressures make people feel they must spend serious money on transient electronic gadgetry and leisure activities with equipment designed by others to plug into your dedicated computer. How long will your expensive computer/ phone/ electric model train last before it needs replacing? And handwriting is now becoming a lost art.

Those of us who like camping discover that we don't need to take the kitchen sink. We can exist quite contentedly without a TV, watching nature with our eyes instead of recording it on memory sticks we will never review. If our power supply failed, how would we keep warm, cook, move around and communicate? How would the taxman collect taxes from our electronic accounts? Maybe our old-fashioned pounds, shillings and pence will make a comeback. Perhaps simpler lifestyles would save power supplies.

Baberton Mains – Housing Replacements



In May 2025 (C&B News, 506) I reported that planning approval had been granted for six houses damaged in a fatal explosion in December 2023 to be replaced. I believe they should be complete this September.

I was surprised to read that planning application 26/02417/FUL had just been lodged for No. 37 Baberton Mains Avenue, another of the group. But there

is still one site awaiting an application.

As obtaining planning permission frequently takes an inordinate amount of time, can the Council expedite the process and does it/the Scottish Government have emergency funds to ensure people affected through no fault of their own, can have speedy redress? Perhaps this is something our new MSPs could investigate.

Why Do We Need More Houses?

A recent blog from Planning Democracy claimed that had the planning system been working effectively, the ancient Hollybush woodland at Dykebar Hospital in Paisley would not have been the subject of 'state endorsed' destruction. The blog said that "while planners are skilled in policy and procedure, there is often a gap when it comes to recognising and evaluating complex ecological features on the ground, such as long-established or ancient woodland systems." Planners, the blog said, needed to work alongside ecological professionals rather than relying primarily on potentially biased reports from developers. "The planning system relies heavily on tree surveys, but trees that are perfectly healthy and viable are often labelled as 'low quality', which is then used to justify removal during design and planning. They fundamentally misunderstand ecology and the importance of older and dying trees."

This situation arose following rejection by Renfrewshire Council in 2021 of a proposal by a consortium of developers to build 603 houses. Subsequently a Reporter in the Department for Planning and Environmental Appeals allowed an appeal, despite National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) stating under Policy 6(b) that "Development proposals will not be supported where they

will result in any loss of ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees, or adverse impact on their ecological condition". But leaving aside the tangled bureaucracy, I question whether the Scottish government's housing need and demand assessments are reliable, or credible and robust as they used to claim.

The National Registers of Scotland Population Estimation for 2024 shows that year-on-year, fewer children are being born in Scotland, an increasing percentage arriving through immigration. If births remain constant, without allowing for inevitable changes, my speculative diagram (right) suggests housing need must decline in line with reducing population.

In 2024, Scotland had 2.74 million dwellings, 3% being vacant and 1% second homes. Scotland had 2,552,400 households for a population of 5.55 million (estimated at 2.08 people/ household) with nearly 1 million living alone. 13% of households had one bedroom, 35% two, 35% three, 13% four and 4% had five or more.*

When this year's new arrivals reach 25 and want to set up their own home, it looks as though there will be plenty of larger houses to choose from without adding more. How can government justify another building spree? Are the days of the mass housebuilder numbered?

*<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/households-and-dwellings-in-scotland-2024/> (and other NRS sites)

Bringing Together Local Place Plans

As our Community Councils pull together the aspirations of their settlements in response to City of Edinburgh Council's invitation for Local Place Plans, shared elements not covered by individual Community Councils need to be incorporated as well. These may include Green Belt matters, education, roads, transport, health and recreation provision. It would seem worthwhile if our CCs looked at what their near neighbours had

gleaned before forwarding their own views. That way any gaps – like cemetery provision - can be identified. We probably have more mutual interests than we realise.

In the past, organisations like the South West Community Forum made representations on behalf of all the communities in their area, thereby providing a unified response on items that affected several parties. The more support an item gets from the community at large, >p37



Are you looking for a nurturing childcare setting in Balerno?

Compass Playgroup provides a fun, safe, and supportive environment where little ones learn through play and grow in confidence.

For Children Aged 2-5

Aligned to Edinburgh Council School Calendar

Caring, Experienced and Qualified Staff

Regulated by the Care Inspectorate

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT COMPASS PLAYGROUP AND REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Visit us @ <https://compassplaygroup.com>
Email @ membership.compass@gmail.com

JCJ THERAPY COUNSELLING THAT CARES

Are you feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or simply in need of someone to talk to? My counselling service offers a safe, confidential, and welcoming space for Women and Children seeking support through life's challenges. Whether you're dealing with stress, relationship difficulties, bereavement, or simply need a listening ear, I am here to help.

Located in Balerno Edinburgh, I offer flexible appointment times tailored to your needs. Counselling is 1:1 and can be online or in person. Take the first step towards a brighter tomorrow—contact me today to arrange your initial consultation.

Website and booking: jcjtherapy.com
Email: JCJConsultancy7@outlook.com



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 and professional
Free estimates and advice
All work guaranteed
No job too big or small

2/7 Lorimer View,
Juniper Green
t: 07798 565 321
e: junigig@aol.com

Bringing Together Local Place Plans (cont)

> p35 the more difficult it is for the Planning Authority to disregard.

Those whose lives have included going to school in another community, or sharing facilities like the Water of Leith Walkway, medical and health centres, swimming pools, libraries, shops, places to eat out – even churches – in another CC's patch will have an interest in what happens 'next door'. That could include finding a car parking place, public toilets that are open, or a bus to take them to a more distant location (like St. John's Hospital in Livingston or Wester Hailes Shopping Centre).

The ridge villages of Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno between them have a population equivalent to that of a moderately-sized town and share many features. But there are elements that such a town would have that our villages do not – like a museum, local authority offices, a police station, a bank and workplaces. The length of the traffic queues on Lanark Road could be much reduced if we recognized that local provisions, as encouraged through the Council's 20-minute neighbourhoods, could find physical locations in our Local Place Plans.



DR SCOTT ARTHUR MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

WATER OF LEITH

I'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to the almost 500 people who took part in my Water of Leith survey, and to everyone who came along to the recent community meeting to discuss the initial results.

What really stood out is just how much we all love the Water of Leith, it's such a valued and special part of our community. I'm looking forward to sharing the full results on my blog very soon.

One of the most inspiring points raised at the meeting was hearing about young people from Balerno High School getting involved in litter picking along the Water of Leith—and that leads nicely into the next part of my week.

I had a fantastic visit to Balerno High School, where I had the privilege of helping celebrate an incredible achievement: their second Gold-level accreditation as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School.

This is a truly outstanding accomplishment, building on the excellent work already happening across the local primary schools.

What really struck me during my visit was that this isn't about ticking boxes or filling in forms. It's about creating a culture where young people are actively involved in shaping their school. They are not just learning about their rights, they are living them, and standing up for others.

I was genuinely proud, and quite moved, seeing the work they've been doing. It's clear this journey is helping young people grow in confidence and develop the skills they need to reach their full potential.

And, of course, it was made even better by celebrating properly, with some fantastic home baking from the pupils!

I've already submitted an Early Day Motion to Parliament to recognise this amazing achievement, and I'm really looking forward to welcoming some of the young people there in November to mark it properly.



MILES BRIGGS MSP
EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN EAST

INTRODUCING MYSELF

Can I take this opportunity to introduce myself to C&B News readers as this is my first column for the magazine. I was honoured to be returned to serve as an MSP for the new Edinburgh and Lothians East Region. Serving my community as an MSP for the last decade has been the privilege of a lifetime and I am delighted to be back in Parliament working for you. There are many challenges to tackle in our region, but I am determined to get results for our community. I look forward to working with councillors and cross-party colleagues to put Currie, Balerno, and the entire region front and centre at Holyrood.

I'd like to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague Sue Webber. My five years in parliament with Sue were a pleasure and I know from talking to local people on the campaign trail how popular she is among readers of this magazine. Sue fought tooth and nail for the interests of south west Edinburgh as an MSP and I am sure she will be sorely missed. However, Sue remains a champion for Currie, Balerno, and the surrounding area and I look forward to seeing her out and about in the community.

Next, I'd like to congratulate Currie Community High School's debate team on winning the Scottish Junior Cup, University of Edinburgh Juniors, the Craigmount Cup, and the Silver Final at University of Edinburgh Schools. As if that weren't enough, four of Currie's pupils have been selected for the junior national debate team, making Currie Community High the most represented school on the roster! Credit is due to James Cullimore, the team coach and school librarian, and the English faculty. As James told me this week, the success shows what our schools and libraries can achieve together when they share skills, resources, and opportunities.

When are Footpaths 'Urban' and 'Not Urban'?

The City of Edinburgh Council officials' opinion that the Muir Wood Field Path should be treated as though it were in a busy "urban" area is not shared by those who fought for years to retain our "country" setting.

This green belt path enjoys a wooded border along Baberton Golf Course on the north side and the Pentland Hills beyond the cultivated field to the south.

Notwithstanding the moving of the City boundary from the east side of the Muir Wood field to well beyond Ratho in 1975, local people still see this landscape as substantially unchanged when Currie, Balerno, Blinkbonny and Hermiston were transferred for administrative convenience from Midlothian County to The City of Edinburgh District Council. It looks the same now as it did then, even though today's Local Development Plans cover the entire capital and not a collection of unique settlements.

Changing from being "country" to "city" dwellers at the stroke of a pen means that local policies relevant to small communities have been replaced by a multitude of policies that are of limited applicability to edge-of-town areas where town meets country and paved paths become tracks. One might think that a slavish application of policies designed for the town centre indicates that "artificial intelligence" is already at work!

For decades, city authorities ignored the fact that, by defining Educational catchment areas without considering how people get to Currie Community High School, people distant from a convenient route ended up creating their own path across the end of the Muir Wood field. CEC made no effort to use money gathered to provide "Safer Routes to School" to create a proper path. The need was entirely predictable.

A path has now been created after a huge effort by the local community councils.

But regarding lighting, CEC would do well to look at the similar path recently created connecting Lauder to Oxton in the Scottish Borders. It, like our Water of Leith Walkway, has been given a firm surface, is in open country and there is not a street light in sight. When other authorities build unlit paths, having assessed that the need for street lighting is minimal, perhaps City of Edinburgh Council should revisit its Risk Assessment respecting lighting this edge-of-town location, bearing in mind the installation costs (£45,000?), the number of dark hours per annum it would be needed for pupils going to/from school, and why it is only now that CEC has found it necessary to light a path when the High School opened in February 1966. In straitened times, such expenditure needs a convincing justification.

Colinton Cattery

YOUR CAT'S SECOND HOME



Nestled between the Pentland Hills and the Water of Leith, our cattery offers a peaceful retreat surrounded by nature.

Every chalet is individually heated and ventilated, with indoor-only or secure outdoor access options to suit your cat's needs. Our experienced team is here to help you choose the right fit - and to ensure your cat feels safe, comfortable, and loved throughout their stay.

BOOKINGS@COLINTONCATTERY.CO.UK



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.



CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

WEEDING OUT PROBLEMS

This month I will start with the wall that collapsed on the path to the railway station: just a short update, a contractor has now been appointed and the council are liaising with them on a start date and arranging for materials to be provided. Hopefully work will start sometime over the summer to make this wall good again.

It has been brought to my attention that graffiti has made its ugly reappearance on the bypass bridge at Woodhall Millbrae in Juniper Green. I've alerted our graffiti team to try and deal with this again. If anyone else in the ward is concerned about unsightly graffiti then please get in touch with me and I will do my best to get it removed.

Back to Currie, and the railing on Lanark Road West at the junction of Riccarton Mains Road. I was told by the council some time ago that they were going to replace the railing but, on further inspection, they noticed a number of utilities on the pavement next to it. The upshot is, that the structures team have decided there needs to be a review of the existing risk assessment. This will help to determine the most appropriate course of action and establish whether the existing railings can be retained with localised repairs and a protective coating system or whether it requires upgraded to a fully compliant Vehicle Restraint System. There is a lot of work to analyse here and once I have a further update I will let everyone know.

I have been chasing for weeds to be removed up in Balerno recently, especially in the Dean Park/Marchbank areas along with Bridge Road. I can now see that the West Cleansing staff and Street Care team have been working extremely hard to get rid of the weeds which is great news. I also asked if they could do Lanark Road West at the railings just beyond the traffic lights. Hopefully this will have been done as well. Have a great summer!



CLLR NEIL GARDINER
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

LOCAL UPDATES

I have raised the issue of the Currie Community High School changing room showers floor (as reported in last issue's C&B News) with council officers who are looking into it.

Ken sent a location photo of the broken step at Currie Kirk which was very helpful, and a repair has now been carried out by the council.

I spoke to Sgt Kelly McGarvey about community concerns about a particular dog. Moira from Currie Community Council subsequently provided contact details for the family who were involved in the earlier dog incident and I passed this on to the police.

I have made enquiries about the ownership of Roley's Wood with City of Edinburgh Council officers who have confirmed that its care is held on the education account. I have made further enquiries about this maintenance budget and whether this could be transferred to the parks team. I am awaiting a response. The parks department would need to accept the transfer.

I will bring back any information to the community council to hear views before any actions should take place.



CLLR FIONA GLASGOW
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

HEADING INTO SUMMER

And so we approach the summer holidays with the predictably unpredictable weather that we enjoy here! Over the past month I have yet again had the privilege to attend Balerno High School and hear about the amazing pupils' achievements and awards, well done to all those involved.

I attended the Farmers market where I was tempted by the many lovely food and gift items on sale. It is always great to see the vibrant atmosphere and have an opportunity to talk to residents and community activists. I had a tour around the new community hub; what an amazing resource this is going to be for the village. Many thanks to Mark for showing me around. The Place Plan is coming together and there is still time for local people to contribute. Community Councils lead on Place Plans and are actively seeking ideas and suggestions.

Pentland Eco Network arranged a litter pick in Currie, and I must say a big thanks to all that took part especially those who keep our streets clean on an ongoing basis, this is true community! There has been some activity throughout the month, and this was clear as we noticed a substantial difference in Roley's Woods. The last time I visited it was awash with litter, and I was pleased to see a massive difference. Again, I heard about the wonderful, wildflower path at Nether Currie Road, great community spirit!

There have been reports of Giant Hogweed in the area and when reported they were at once removed. If you find it growing anywhere, please contact the authorities as it can spread quickly. Due to its invasive nature, managing Giant Hogweed is crucial to protect native ecosystems. It can have incredibly significant health risks.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer break!



CLLR STEPHEN JENKINSON
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

GETTING INVOLVED

As our communities continue to grow and evolve, it is vital that local residents have a strong voice in shaping their future. I would encourage everyone in Currie, Balerno and the surrounding villages to engage with the Local Place Plans currently being developed by our community councils. These plans provide an opportunity for residents to influence decisions on housing, transport, green spaces, community facilities and local priorities. The more people who take part, the stronger these plans will be. Your local knowledge and ideas matter, and I hope as many residents as possible will contribute to this important process.

The recent Currie Beer and Curry Festival was another tremendous success, bringing together residents, local businesses and visitors for a fantastic community event. The festival has become a highlight of the local calendar, showcasing a wide range of beers, excellent food and great entertainment, while raising valuable funds for local causes. Events like this demonstrate the strength of community spirit in Currie and the dedication of the volunteers who work so hard behind the scenes. My thanks go to everyone involved in organising, supporting and attending the festival and helping make it another memorable occasion.

With summer now underway, many local groups and organisations are preparing a busy programme of events and activities. From sports clubs and youth organisations to community gardens and voluntary groups, there are countless opportunities to get involved, meet neighbours and support local initiatives. Whether you can volunteer your time, attend an event or simply spread the word, every contribution helps. I encourage residents to support the many local groups that make Currie, Balerno and the Pentland Hills ward such great places to live.



CLLR JASON RUST
COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD WARD

TRAMS!

Previously through these columns, I have mentioned the thorny issue of trams. Well, the consultation has now reported and more than half of respondents were opposed to the building of a second tram line. There is also the knotty issue that the business case will cost up to £50 million, with a further £3 billion to build. The City of Edinburgh Council administration has confirmed it cannot and will not fund the build costs. Meantime the Scottish Government has said it will not be funding any of this, even the aforementioned business case.

In light of all of this my colleagues sought to table a motion at the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) which, among other things, pointed out that CEC is the fourth most-indebted in the UK, owing £2 billion; that it is expected to increase debt levels by a further £1.6 billion in the coming years in order to fund house building, meaning that borrowing with no suitable revenue stream to support the loan is not a feasible source of tram funding either.

The motion therefore agreed to halt work on the strategic business case, as there is no prospect of raising the £50 million required. We proposed any remaining funds and officer time from strategic business case work ought to be redirected to maintaining and improving existing infrastructure in the city.

Unbelievably the motion was ruled out of order on the basis that only the consultation was to be noted for now and a decision would be taken on the tram in September. So rather than cancel the spending and ensure council officer time was diverted now, more funds will be wasted over the coming weeks. This, at time of immense pressures elsewhere from social care to education and roads and footway maintenance. Not to mention the consultation outcome!



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

REALISTIC CHANGE

Development of Balerno Community Council's Local Place Plan (LPP) continues. The aim is to set out a vision for Balerno, reflecting the community's stated preferences.

Thinking about what one wants to happen can be difficult; it's often easier to say what we don't want.

Thinking 15 to 20 years ahead about what we do want pushes towards the limits of imagination so the temptation may be to focus on what is pressing, or needs to be done right now.

That is relevant to an LPP but, more so, is identifying realistic, tangible, and deliverable changes to local environments towards (say) a 15-year horizon.

There has to be some fairly broad crystal ball gazing involved and it can't only be about the green belt.

Take tech for example. Over the next ten years, the share of e-business and digital payments could well rise to 96% of all UK transactions, while use of cash will drop to just 4%.

Add to that, by 2040 the shape of work may well have changed with less commuting, more localism and more remote and hybrid working.

Not all of Balerno has access to hi-speed broadband. Such access will be a basic element for all communities in the future. It is no longer a luxury, rather a core public utility like water or electricity, critical to preventing rural deprivation, bridging the digital divide, and ensuring economic survival.

Balerno may, in 15 years time, look much as it does today, provided we continue to protect our green spaces, but for the village to thrive we will have to ensure that its infrastructure is modernised.

Hence the LPP: and the community council's public meeting on the LPP on Thursday 9 July from 7.30pm in St Joseph Hall, Main Street.



COLIN MACLEOD
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HOGWEED ALERT!

June was a busy meeting, with the AGM held just before the ordinary meeting. We're pleased to say that Keith Symington will be staying on as Chair, and it was good to welcome him back.

A large spread of Giant Hogweed has been reported near the underpass to Edinburgh Park. It's not a plant to take lightly, so the matter is being passed to The City of Edinburgh Council to manage. Please do report Giant Hogweed wherever it's found.

At the new-build Cala Kinleith Mill development, requests for a CEC survey of the sloped land above the estate are still awaiting a reply. We'd encourage residents of Provost Haugh and Kinleith Mill to speak to their insurers if concerned of any issues with their properties.

The proposed Battery Energy Storage System near Riccarton Garden Centre remains on our radar, and residents were encouraged to make their views known to their elected representatives. Location matters, and we'll keep watching closely.

The Local Place Plan questionnaire drew an excellent 359 responses, which will help shape how Currie develops. Councillor Jenkinson is also chasing the earmarked £40,000 for the unfinished path to Currie Nursery along Riccarton Mains Road, and we've every faith he'll get it moving.

A few quick wins: the steps to Currie Kirk are repaired, Dolphin Gardens West Park has a larger litter bin, and our thanks to CBDRT for funding a new projector. On the resurfacing along Curriehill Castle Drive and Cherry Tree Estate, residents have flagged uneven surfaces and a blocked drain. We're told the job isn't finished, so best to hold judgement.

• No meeting in July. Our next is on Wednesday 12 August at 7.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall (rear). Come along and find out more.

Data Centres—An Erupting Story

ARCHIE CLARK
CURRIE RESIDENT

The City of Edinburgh Council has said it intends to ask the Scottish Government to place a moratorium on new data centres following disquiet about their environmental impact. Some are being promoted as "Green", without explaining what that means. Government is expected to define the term "by 2027".

At this time, two Data Centre proposals have been identified for Edinburgh, one being at Hermiston. A spokesperson for a group campaigning against the proposed Wester Hermiston Hyperscale Data Centre said: "When the ordinary person thinks of green they think of recycling, buying locally, cycling to work - they do not think of huge, black, noisy, meaningless boxes the size of 40 football pitches that distribute fine pollution particulates into the atmosphere."

Action to Protect Rural Scotland (APRS) has produced a map that locates where it reckons about 25 Data Centres are proposed in Scotland, the bulk across the Central Belt.

Because governments consider that Data Centres are in the national interest, normal planning rules are set aside. Environmental Impact Assessments are not called for, although similar large buildings would require them. The amounts of power they are said to need are on the scale required for a large town; there is some discussion about whether they will require their own nuclear power stations, and if the costs are going to be hidden away in our energy bills. As global temperatures are already rising, will these Data Centres increase or decrease Global Warming? Community Councils may need professional expertise to investigate the wide range of issues such proposals will raise.

With very large American companies seemingly behind promoting Data Centers, and "National Interests" suppressing the legitimate concerns of local people, it is to be hoped that the elected governments at Westminster or Holyrood will consult widely and thoroughly before allowing these developments to sprawl over our limited land.



Protecting Balerno's Green Belt

AMANDA PATERSON
GREEN GATEWAY COMMUNITY GROUP

Green Gateway Community Group was created by local residents who care deeply about Balerno, its future and the protection of the village's green belt land and open spaces.

Over the past few months, we have focused on helping residents better understand the Balerno Community Council Local Place Plan (LPP) process and what it could potentially mean for the future of our village.

We know that council planning processes and Local Place Plans can often feel confusing, difficult to follow or full of technical language. One of our main aims has simply been to make information easier for local people to access and understand, while encouraging respectful community discussion and participation.

Since forming, we have distributed flyers across the village, spoken with residents, attended

community events, created information graphics, encouraged questions to be asked and helped raise awareness of key stages within the Local Place Plan process. We have also encouraged residents to read documents for themselves, engage with consultations and make their own informed decisions about Balerno's future.

Our focus going forward remains the same, ensuring that local residents feel informed, included and able to have their say on matters that could shape the future of Balerno for generations to come.

The next important stage is the Balerno Community Council public meeting taking place at 7.30pm, Thursday 9 July at St Joseph's Centre, Balerno Parish Church.

We believe this meeting is one of the community's last major opportunities to publicly raise questions, comments or concerns regarding all aspects of the Local Place Plan before the process moves further forward.

We are encouraging as many residents as possible to attend the meeting. However, we also understand that this meeting falls during the Trades Fortnight period and many people may already be away, working or unable to attend in person.

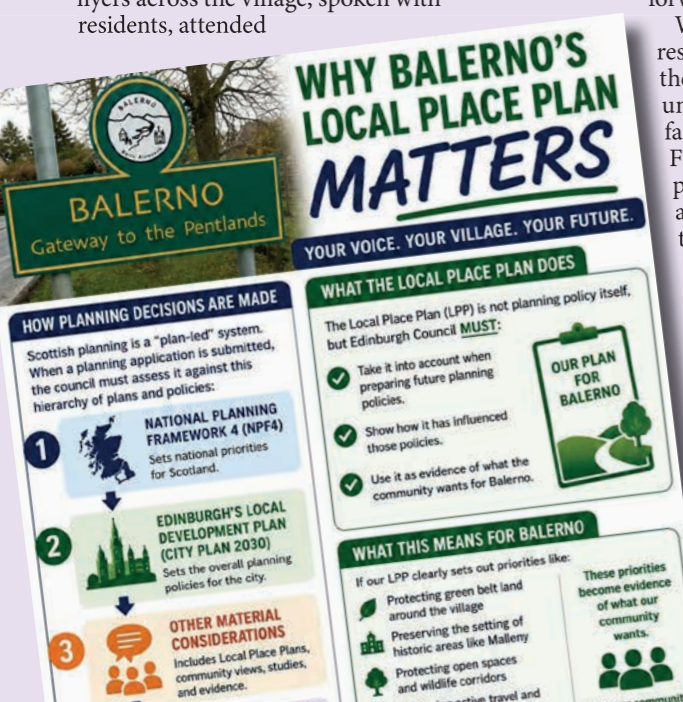
That is why we are also strongly encouraging residents to email Balerno Community Council directly at balernocc@gmail.com ahead of the meeting. Every email is still a voice in the process.

Even if someone cannot attend in person, their concerns, questions and opinions still deserve to be heard and considered as part of the wider community discussion.

As a group, we intend to continue monitoring developments connected to the Local Place Plan process and any future planning applications affecting Balerno's green belt land. We also plan to continue sharing information, encouraging respectful discussion and helping residents stay updated as matters progress.

Finally, we want to make clear that our group is focused on protecting Balerno's green belt land and supporting informed community discussion around future development proposals. We respect the church community and are not opposed to faith, worship or local religious organisations.

Residents can follow updates through the Green Gateway Community Group Facebook page or sign up for community updates and planning alerts at balernogreenbelt.org



Sharing Our Plans

DAVE LYONS
ASSISTANT MINISTER, ST MUNGO'S CHURCH

St Mungo's has been part of the Balerno community since 1863. The Gateway Project is our commitment to the next 160 years: creating spaces where people can encounter God, find community, and discover hope both now and for generations to come.

We recently hosted two community drop-in sessions to share the concept designs and to listen to your thoughts and feedback. Thank you to everyone who came along and contributed to the conversation.

This project has emerged from a growing recognition that our existing facilities restrict both our capacity to meet as a congregation and to develop the wider range of activities,

services, and community programmes that run throughout the week. In response to these needs, the project brings forward three key developments:

- A new church building on the church field.
- The refurbishment of our historic Ladycroft building as a dedicated Youth Hub.
- An enhanced professional counselling service.

The proposed new church building is being designed to sit naturally within its surroundings. Set back from the road and below both the treeline and the roofline of the existing Wellness Centre, it seeks to preserve important views into and out of the village while fitting sensitively within the landscape. As the site lies within the green belt and a Conservation Area, respect for Balerno's distinctive village character is central to the design process. The building's scale, form, and materials are being carefully considered to ensure it complements its setting and makes a positive contribution to the local environment.

The project will also open up the church field with new pathways, creating a natural

link to the Water of Leith walkway and improving access and connectivity across the site.

Caring for the local environment is also a key priority. An initial ecological survey was completed before any design work began, and further surveys are planned over the summer. These will help us understand how best to protect and enhance existing habitats on the site, including opportunities for additional tree planting and strengthening wildlife corridors as the designs develop.

We are committed to continuing this conversation with the community, with further opportunities to get involved later this year, including a community landscaping workshop and open design presentations in the autumn. These will take place well in advance of any potential planning application.

In the meantime, you can follow the project's progress, read the FAQs, and view the display boards from our drop-in sessions on our website: www.stmungos.org/the-gateway-project





If you have a sight-threatening emergency, **phone** us as soon as you can, for triage.

Sudden eye pain
Sudden reduction of vision
Flashing lights
New floaters
Foreign body in eye

Light sensitivity
Sudden distortion of vision
Chemical splash
Injury to eye or surrounding area

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

MURRAY'S CLEARANCES

499 CALDER ROAD, EDINBURGH, EH11 4AW

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

07958 395260



Ogilvie Hayes Tree & Garden Services Ltd

Tree felling & removing
pruning, hedge cutting & shaping
crown reduction | thinning
veteran tree management
deadwood removal

fully qualified & insured
friendly, local & professional



For more information and a free quotation
ogilviehayes@outlook.com
07521 514 370 | 0800 316 8271
ogilviehayes.com

JMF PLUMBING

All Aspects Of Plumbing Undertaken
BATHROOMS SHOWERS TOILETS
SINKS RADIATORS DRAINAGE

24HR EMERGENCY CALL OUT

CONTACT US ON
07902 399 651
jmfplumbing24@gmail.com

Summer Holiday Club

Who is Jesus?

Join us for activities, snacks, games and stories about who Jesus is

Friday 2pm - 4pm at Gibson Craig Hall
Sunday 2pm-4pm at Ogston hall, Balerno Parish Church

Join us every Friday and Sunday afternoon!
Beginning Friday 24th July for 8 weeks finishing on Sunday 13th September

free for the whole family, all ages welcome

Balerno Parish Church Address: 2 Main St, Balerno EH14 7EH
Gibson Craig Hall Address: 158 Lanark Road West EH14 5NV

admin@balernochurch.org.uk
admin@curriekirk.co.uk

For more information, contact us via email at

JOHN ELLIOTT
POST

More than two dozen professional artists and makers will throw open their studios and exhibition venues across Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and Colinton during the weekend of Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 August for the second annual Pentlands Open Studios Art Trail.

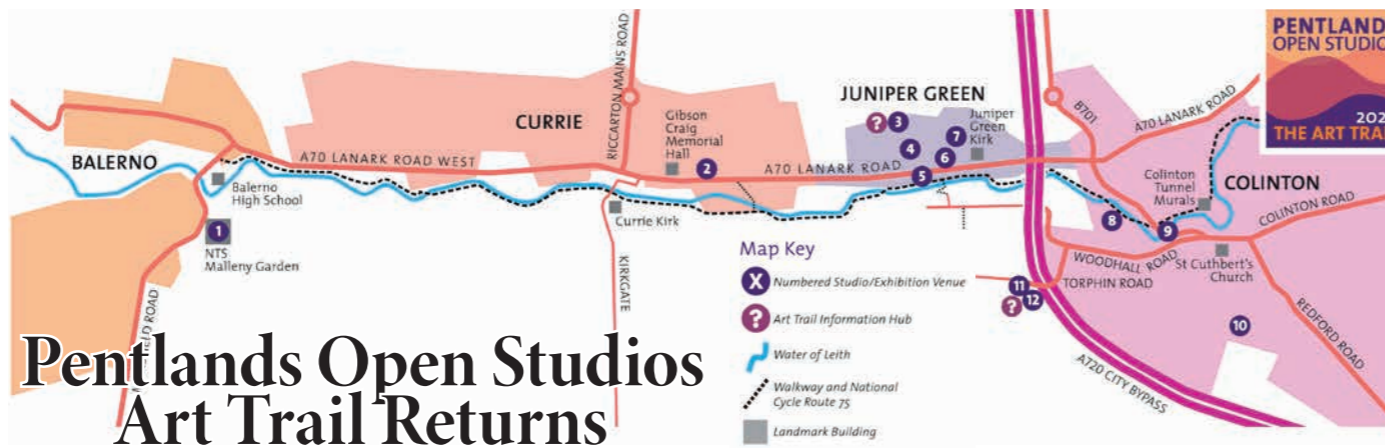
Visitors are invited to meet the artists, watch work in progress and buy directly from the makers. The trail spans painting, ceramics, jewellery, printmaking, textiles and sculpture, with new pieces on show throughout the weekend.

Entry is free and studios will be open from 10am to 4pm on both days.

The Pentlands Open Studios website carries artist profiles, venue details and an interactive map, with suggested routes by foot, bike, car or free e-bike rickshaw. A full-colour trail booklet will be available online from July, with printed copies also on offer. Those who sign up to the mailing list can receive occasional updates on artist stories and trail news.

• Organisers are appealing for volunteers to help direct visitors along the route over the weekend. Anyone able to spare a couple of hours on either day should email volunteers@postudios.org.

• Find out more at <https://postudios.org> or follow @pentlandsopenstudios on Facebook and Instagram.



Pentlands Open Studios Art Trail Returns



Scottish Opera Success!

LEO SPARK
P6, CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

At 2.15pm on Wednesday 20 May, Currie Primary School's P6 pupils performed *The Dragon Of The Western Sea* with Scottish Opera, in the main hall at Currie Primary School.

The stage was filled with magic and glory as the children sang their hearts out using their powerful voices. The audience was crammed with eager and excited parents ready to see the performance. The young actors demonstrated their amazing singing skills throughout the entire show.

"I was astounded," said Headteacher Ms Hourston. "Our amazing pupils' singing and

acting skills made me freeze in my seat from astonishment. Furthermore, I noticed that their energy never shrank or dwindled. Even near the end! I am truly surprised from the whole performance. They were just so resilient."

As the lights went dark and the show began, the crowd fell silent. The students had the audience on the edge of their seats right from the very first note. "When I first heard the voice of the pupils, I knew I was in for a treat," said Mr Jones.

The Dragon Of The Western Sea portrays the story of Admiral Zheng He, a Chinese sailor told by Emperor Zhu Di to sail to the Western Seas, across India, Persia, and Africa. Along the journey, he and his

crew encounter some major problems like pirates and storms. When he does get home, he is greeted by the Emperor, and Zheng He decides to give him gifts that they found on the way.

Many of the teachers in the school, including the P6 teachers and more, helped prepare the children for the show. This took about a month but, after a lot of practicing, they were ready. Before the main show at 2.15pm, there was a dress rehearsal, which the P5s came to see. It was very tiring, as the main show was straight after, but the children shone as bright as diamonds over both performances.

Overall, the show was a huge success. The children's singing was amazing, and the hype never died. From start to finish, the show was perfect.



Singing in the Summer—and the Autumn!

MARGARET KIERAN
COLINTON & MERCHISTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

Our eight Singing in the Summer evenings at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Colinton went very well and were most enjoyable. The participants, who were not all regular members of the choir, sang a wide variety of pieces just for pleasure and without having a concert.

OPEN REHEARSALS

Please consider joining us for either or both of our Open Rehearsals at 7pm on Mondays 7 & 14 September in the Memorial Hall at Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road. Our Open Rehearsals provide an opportunity to find out more about our choir and see what it would be like to sing with us but with no commitment to join.

AUTUMN REHEARSALS

We are a very welcoming, non-auditioning choir with a mixed range of ages and singing and sight-reading abilities.

We will be learning *The First Nowell* by Vaughan Williams, *In Terra Pax* by Gerald Finzi, plus "Gaudete" and a selection of Christmas carols for our festive concert on Monday 7 December.

We rehearse on Monday evenings in the Memorial Hall from 7 September onwards, starting at 7.15pm and ending at 9pm. It's not a problem if you can't be there for the whole time.

To access the Memorial Hall, head for the main school building and turn right to come into the East Quad. There will be someone at the entry door in the left hand corner to let you in.

We have great fun but also learn a lot with our enthusiastic and dynamic Director of Music, Tim Coleman, and our accompanist, the excellent and well known Morley Whitehead.

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



Local Jazz Club Attracts International Talent

JOHN ELLIOTT
GREEN NOTE JAZZ CLUB

Green Note Jazz Club in Juniper Green continues to bring high-quality live jazz to the local community, attracting enthusiastic audiences and outstanding musicians from Scotland, across the UK and beyond.

On Thursday 28 May there was an acclaimed performance from London-based vocalist Emily Masser (above), one of the UK's most exciting emerging jazz artists. The momentum continued with an exciting programme over the summer. On Thursday 25 June, Juniper Green Note welcomed two of Scotland's most respected jazz musicians, Mike Daly and Martin Foster, for an evening rooted in the swing tradition.

Looking ahead, on 16 July Green Note presents renowned New York saxophonist Frank Perowsky alongside celebrated Scottish trumpeter Colin Steele, bringing

together international and local talent for what promises to be a memorable evening.

The international theme continues on Thursday 6 August, when Brazilian bassist Mario Caribe leads a quintet celebrating the music of bossa nova legend Antônio Carlos Jobim. Looking further ahead, the club has also announced a special appearance by New York saxophone star Greg Abate in October.

"We're delighted that musicians of this calibre are willing to travel to Juniper Green," said Club founder John Elliott. "Our aim is to combine internationally recognised artists with the warmth and accessibility of a local community venue."

The club welcomes both dedicated jazz listeners and newcomers. Discount promotional codes are regularly offered to subscribers on the club's email list.

• Further information, tickets and email-list sign-up details are available at greennote.club and @junipergreennote on social media.



the
colinton &
merchiston
community choir

moteh · parrott

artist - songwriter - producer - tutor

Would you like to...

work with a professional singer-songwriter

to write and record original songs

and create your own EP or album?

CONTACT

www.motehparrott.com
moteh.parrott@outlook.com
07979398517

Colinton-based studio



BBC
AWARD SHORTLISTED
SINGER-SONGWRITER



RAZZAMATAZ
THEATRE SCHOOLS

Creating Confident Futures!



Enrol in
September &
GET A FREE
T-SHIRT!

Join us for Relaunch Day 05.09.26!

Dance, Singing & Drama lessons for ages 4-18

As seen on BBC's Dragons' Den

50% sibling discount available

Limited spaces available - BOOK NOW!

Scan to book your FREE taster session!

Join us on Saturdays: Currie Community Centre,
280 Lanark Road West, EDINBURGH EH14 5RU

Email: edinburgh@razzamataz.co.uk



Call Murron: 07534 609892

Sweat and Smiles on a Sunday

EMILIA BICKNELL
LOCAL RESIDENT, AGE 10



The Hailes Quarry Junior Parkrun is a brilliant way to start your day on a Sunday morning. Junior Parkrun is a free fun run for 4-14-year-olds that takes place in a park or woodland every Sunday morning.

Before the run begins, the atmosphere near the start line is amazing. People are saying hello and chatting, and the kids are all enjoying themselves on the play equipment and the climbing rock.

On the start line the runners are buzzing with excitement and nerves. We do the famous Parkrun warm up where one of the volunteers leads us with jumping up and down, doing high knees, sprinting on the spot and lots of funny dance moves! We try not to tire ourselves out too much before we start running!

After the warmup we listen for the countdown. The adults are giving the kids "Good Luck" and "You got this". Finally, the whistle blows and we are off.

Once I start running, the nerves disappear and all the excitement helps me run as fast as I can. Although it is a fun run, each week I try to run faster to get a personal best. And you even get Parkrun wrist bands when you reach 11, 21 or 50 runs.

The course is a big loop and smaller loop of the park. There are volunteer marshals around the course who cheer you on, and some of them have a big foam finger for you to "high five" when you run or walk past them, and they always have a big smile on their faces.



There are so many things I love about Parkrun

getting outside in nature, seeing my friends, running as fast as I can, trying to get a PB, "high fiving" the foam hands around the course, and everyone shouting and cheering on all the runners. You should come along! It doesn't matter if you're fast or slow, run or walk, it's just about having fun.

We enjoyed a fun Sports Day at school last month with everyone taking part in a variety of potted sports and traditional races winning points for our different houses, writes Head Teacher Sally Hourston. Everyone gave 100% in all events from beat the goalie, space hopper races, throwing the bean bag, shuttle runs, long jump etc and of course everyone's favourite the egg and spoon race. We had a family picnic on the field between events too. This year it was our Pine Martins' House who won!

Community Spirit Shines at Currie Rugby Club

TABATHA MCCREE-COX
OPERATIONS MANAGER, CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

Currie Rugby Club was a hive of activity recently, as volunteers turned out in force for a community clean-up and maintenance day.

From early morning, sleeves were rolled up and work got underway to give the club a well-earned refresh. Inside and out, teams tackled the jobs often left during the busy rugby season.

Outside, pathways were swept, debris cleared and landscaped areas tidied—instantly lifting the look and feel of the grounds. Inside, cupboards were emptied, sorted and reorganised, creating valuable storage space and making equipment far easier to access.



A highlight of the day was the addition of some outdoor garden furniture. Sanded down and prepped for repainting, it will soon provide a welcoming space for members, visitors and families to enjoy throughout the summer.

The day captured everything that makes Currie Rugby Club special. Members, supporters and local residents came together, giving their time and energy to improve facilities enjoyed by so many.

A huge thank you to everyone involved your efforts have made a real difference.

Looking ahead, volunteers will return in August to help get the

itches "match fit" for the new season. New faces are always welcome every bit of help makes a difference.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN

If you would like to join the Chieftain Clan - become a member or just join as a supporter - membership is now open for the coming year - all details can be found on our website <https://www.curriechieftains.org/membership>.

SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to support the Chieftain Clan - become a sponsor and get exposure on Alba

Successful Introduction to Seven-a-Sides

STEPHEN PRATT
CURRIE FC

Currie FC 2017s have recently completed their first half-season playing 7-a-side games in the East of Scotland Soccer Development Association league. Lots of success has been experienced on the pitch, with around 30 players regularly taking part across three different teams each Sunday.

The players largely come from the Balerno, Currie and Ratho communities (with some further afield) and there is a 10-strong coaching team who are dedicated to training the players every Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Friendships and bonds that will last the test of time have already been made and the spirit is really high across all players. Improvements are being made on the pitch every week.

The season started off really well for all, with new strips and training kit being supplied. The club would like to thank David Taylor of BRD Surfacing for his sponsorship, as well as the other local businesses who took part in our sponsorship competition.

The season returns mid-August and the players are looking forward to continuing where they left off.

TV, across western Edinburgh and direct to our membership - please get in touch to find out what opportunities we have available. Email: president@curriechieftains.org

Activities during this summer holidays:

- If you are footie mad or just fancy watching the World Cup 2026 with friends, come on down to the clubhouse where all matches are available to watch.
- Tartan Touch is still ongoing throughout the holidays every Friday at 6pm.
- Colts are back: pre-season training kicked off for U18s on Tuesday 23 June and continues every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm. New players welcome.
- Minis re starts on Sunday 17th August
- Come join the fun at the clubhouse for Bubbles, Bingo & Boogie (3xB) Saturday 25 July, from 7pm until 11pm.

• Checkout our Facebook and website for the latest updates.

Digital skills at Currie library

Are you aged 50 or over?
Interested in getting online?
Come along for **FREE** support
with ACE IT at Currie Library
on Tuesday mornings



BOOK YOUR FREE SESSION TODAY **0131 667 2053**
info@aceit.org.uk



OPEN DAY
Sat 31 October

MERCHISTON EDINBURGH

Day | Day Plus | Flexi-boarding | Boarding

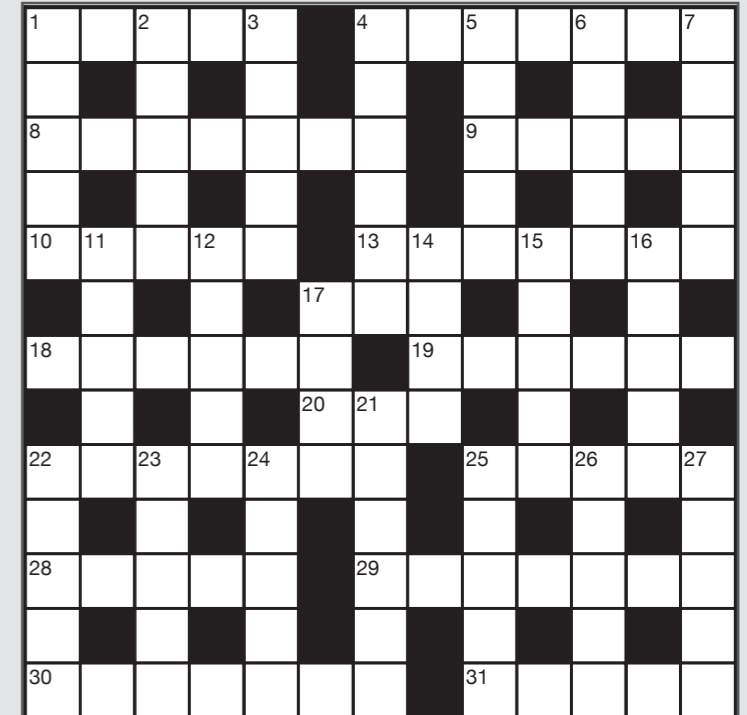
£25 PRIZE CROSSWORD

BY PUZZLESALES.COM

To enter, please scan or photograph the completed puzzle and email it to: editor@candbnews.com before noon, Friday 14 August 2026. The winner is picked at random from all correct entries received.

Good luck everyone!

- | ACROSS | | DOWN | |
|--------|-------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Hosiery items (5) | 1 | Booth (5) |
| 4 | Strut (7) | 2 | Cautious (5) |
| 8 | Non-professional (7) | 3 | Smudge (5) |
| 9 | Track (5) | 4 | Astute (6) |
| 10 | Single thickness (5) | 5 | Later on (5) |
| 13 | Materialistic (7) | 6 | Impressive (5) |
| 17 | Append (3) | 7 | Pass along (5) |
| 18 | Havoc (6) | 11 | Degrade (5) |
| 19 | Inborn (6) | 12 | Distinctive spirit (5) |
| 20 | Longing (3) | 14 | Norse deity (4) |
| 22 | Atlases (anag.) (3, 4) | 15 | Sri ----- (5) |
| 25 | Vocal confusion (5) | 16 | Machine tool (5) |
| 28 | Proprietor (5) | 17 | Alcohol radical (4) |
| 29 | Hand over (7) | 21 | Musical compositions (6) |
| 30 | Malady (7) | 22 | Japanese screen (5) |
| 31 | Cold vegetable dish (5) | 23 | Declare invalid (5) |
| | | 24 | Concur (5) |
| | | 25 | Large pill (5) |
| | | 26 | Chamfer (5) |
| | | 27 | Glaringly bright (5) |



NAME

ADDRESS

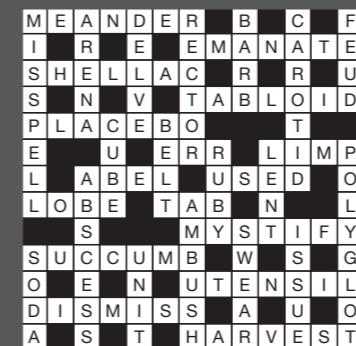
POST CODE PHONE

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

EASY					MEDIUM					HARD						
1		4		6		7	2		1			6	8	1		
5			2		1	8	6		2	3		7		8		
			7					8	3	4	9			5		
	6			9				8	7	6	4	6				
		5			5	4						1				2
		6		8	3		2				5	3			5	8
	2			3				5	4	3		7			6	1
	4	8	9	7	9	3	1							2		
3	9	5		1							9		4			

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

Last issue's prize crossword was won by Alison Payne from Balerno. Congratulations!



EASY	MEDIUM	HARD
7 9 4 3 1 5 8 2 6	8 3 5 2 6 7 9 1 4	4 5 8 7 9 2 1 6 3
1 2 3 6 4 8 5 7 9	4 9 7 8 5 1 2 3 6	6 9 1 8 3 5 7 4 2
8 5 6 9 7 2 1 4 3	1 6 2 9 3 4 5 7 8	7 3 2 1 4 6 9 5 8
2 8 7 1 5 6 9 3 4	5 4 1 6 9 3 8 2 7	2 4 6 3 1 8 5 7 9
4 1 9 8 2 3 6 5 7	9 8 6 7 2 5 1 4 3	1 8 9 2 5 7 6 3 4
3 6 5 4 9 7 2 8 1	2 7 3 1 4 8 6 5 9	3 7 5 4 6 9 8 2 1
9 7 2 5 6 4 3 1 8	3 1 8 5 7 6 4 9 2	5 1 3 6 8 4 2 9 7
6 4 8 2 3 1 7 9 5	6 2 4 3 1 9 7 8 5	8 6 7 9 2 3 4 1 5
5 3 1 7 8 9 4 6 2	7 5 9 4 8 2 3 6 1	9 2 4 5 7 1 3 8 6

PLUMBSERVE
PLUMBING | BATHROOMS | DRAINAGE | HEATING | ALL-TRADES

IS YOUR HOME IN NEED OF A CHANGE?

We offer a design, supply and installation service to suit all budgets supporting your home or business covering Edinburgh, West Lothian and surrounding areas.

COVERING EDINBURGH & WEST LOTHIAN

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION

Affordable luxury

Mobility & elderly access bathroom specialist
NHS & OAP discount

EMERGENCY CALL OUT SERVICE
24 HOUR RAPID RESPONSE
CALL TODAY 07873 731899

0131 388 8222

info@plumbserve247.co.uk www.plumbserve247.co.uk

PLUMBING & DRAINAGE

- BURST & LEAKING PIPES
- BLOCKED TOILETS & SINKS
- ELECTRIC & POWER SHOWERS
- HOT AND COLD WATER TANK REPLACEMENT
- WASHING MACHINE & DISHWASHER INSTALLATION
- GARDEN TAPS, BALLCOCKS & OVERFLOWS
- GUTTERING AND DOWN PIPES
- LEAD REPLACEMENT SPECIALIST
- ALL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

BATHROOM UPGRADE

- DESIGN - SUPPLY - INSTALL
- MOBILITY & ELDERLY ACCESS
- SHOWER ROOMS & WETROOMS
- WALK-IN BATHS & SHOWERS
- TILES & WET WALLBOARDS
- MODULAR & FITTED FURNITURE
- ALL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS
- CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE QUOTE

BOILERS & HEATING

- COMBI BOILER REPLACEMENT
- FULL HEATING SYSTEM UPGRADES
- BOILER BREAKDOWN REPAIR
- BURST & LEAKING PIPES
- RADIATOR & TOWEL WARMER REPLACEMENT
- PUMPS, CLOCKS & VALVES REPLACED
- ALL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

CCES CAPITAL CITY ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Trusted and Reliable Electricians
Edinburgh & the Lothians

- Rewiring
- electrical testing and inspections for landlords (PAT & EICR)
- electrical installation & repairs
- fuse board replacement
- earthing & equipotential bonding
- smoke alarms
- electrical appliance installation (showers, cookers etc.)
- data cabling/data wiring
- EV Charger installations

18 Young Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4JB
mail@capitalcityelectrical.co.uk
www.capitalcityelectrical.co.uk
0131 235 2608

Accredited Contractor (HAS), Approved Contractor (NICEIC), Registered Competent Person Electrical, Office for Low Emission Vehicles, energy saving trust



What's on...

Community and not-for-profit listings are free of charge. Email: whatson@candbnews.com, including: Day/Date, Event Title, Venue, Time, brief details, and contact phone/email details as appropriate. Details correct at time of going to press, but may vary especially during the summer; please check to be sure. Inclusion should not be assumed to be a recommendation by C&B News.

WEEKLY

MONDAYS

- 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>
- ACE IT DIGITAL SKILLS:** Currie Library; 10am to noon. Digital Skills Coaching for Over-50s. Free, friendly one-to-one sessions help people over 50 gain confidence online.
- COMMUNITY YOGA CLASS:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 1pm - 2pm. Spaces may be available for this popular lunchtime class with Monica from Karma Tree yoga. Cost £6. Please enquire by email: karmatreeyoga@gmail.com
- MONDAY MAHJONG:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10am - noon. The group is almost full, please get in touch if you'd like to join or pop along to our relaxed monthly sessions on Wednesday afternoon instead. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com
- MONDAY MORNING POP IN CAFÉ:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. Community Café. 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, a cake and a chat every Monday morning. All welcome. For further information see: www.redeemeredinburgh.org/ccf/
- LUNCHTIME RELAXATION:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 12.15pm - 1pm. 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. Drop in to meet other parents/carers for friendship, peer support and share a cuppa. Lovely warm and welcoming space.
- MONTHLY BOOK GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7pm - 9pm. Please email to enquire: 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

WEDNESDAYS

- BALERNO RAMBLERS MIDWEEK GROUP:** Meet for walks in the Lothians, Fife, the Borders and further afield. For walk details contact P. Harper 07738486416. 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. The group is popular. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Donna Mackey on 07340 560306 before coming along.

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. Class now full but

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>
- SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB:** Gibson Craig Halls, 156 - 158 Lanark Road West; 2pm - 4pm. Join us for activities, snacks, games and stories about who Jesus is. Every Friday from Friday 24 July for eight weeks (until Friday 11 September). Free for the whole family, all ages welcome. For more information, email: bcp-admin@balernochurch.org.uk or admin@curriekirk.co.uk

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
- SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB:** Ogston Hall, Balerno Parish Church, 2 Main Street; 2pm - 4pm. Join us for activities, snacks, games and stories about who Jesus is. Every Sunday from 26 July for eight weeks until Sunday 13 September. Free for the whole family, all ages welcome. For more information, email: bcp-admin@balernochurch.org.uk or admin@curriekirk.co.uk

FORTNIGHTLY

MONDAYS 6 & 20 JULY, MONDAYS 3 & 17 AUGUST

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

FRIDAYS 10 & 24 JULY, FRIDAYS 7 & 21 AUGUST

- FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, noon -

www.facebook.com/candbnews

Small Ads

July/ August 2026

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.

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

CLASSES: PILATES, PHYSIO-LED PILATES, BARRE, YOGA, GYM-BASED STRENGTH CLASSES - at Prime Sports Physiotherapy & Wellness. 7 days a week. www.primesportsphysio.co.uk

www.facebook.com/candbnews



PENTLAND ART CLUB: 2026 EXHIBITION & SALE

Scout Hall, 45 Lanark Road West. Contactless, cash and cheques accepted.

Opening times:
Saturday 8 August: 10am - 6pm
Sunday 9 August: 2pm - 6pm

Monday 10 - Wednesday 12 August:
2pm - 8pm
Thursday 13 August: 2pm - 4pm

1pm. Meeting fortnightly at the Hub for people who would like to practise and improve their French. Newcomers are welcome. For more information see our Facebook Page @The Hub at 531 or email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

• **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

DAY BY DAY

FRIDAY 3 JULY

• **GARDENING GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 11.30am - 1pm. Gardening Group (first Friday of each month) All Welcome: experienced or novice, pot planters or allotments. A friendly group that welcomes enthusiasts to share common love of gardens and gardening. Please email for details and to join us: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 4 JULY

• **WILDING!:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 4pm - 5pm. Natasha and Peter Stewart will be offering lots of creative ideas, for all ages, to improve habitats for wildlife in your own garden or community area. Drop in to find out more about simple things

you can do to help your own environment be more welcoming for nature such as making your garden hedgehog friendly and putting up bird boxes. There will be some of Peter's handmade bird boxes for sale. Email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com for more information.

• **PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 5pm - 7pm. Join us for a free community screening of the National Emergency Briefing, a 50 minute climate emergency documentary film. Our screening will be supported by Mike Harrower from Greenpeace who will lead a post film discussion about the issues raised. Online booking is available: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

THURSDAY 9 JULY

• **LOCAL PLACE PLAN PUBLIC MEETING:** St Joseph's Hall, Main Street; 7.30pm. Public meeting hosted by the local Community Council to discuss the proposed Local Place Plan (LPP) for Balerno.

SATURDAY 11 JULY

• **BALERNO FARMERS' MARKET:** Main Street; 9am - 1pm. Selection of local and independent producers, groups and street food. More information: <https://balernovt.org.uk/farmers-market>

WEDNESDAY 15 JULY

• **"ALL EARS" BOOK CLUB:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 7pm - 9pm. The book club for audiobook and podcast lovers. See our Facebook Page @The Hub at 531 or email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 18 JULY

• **MONTHLY FLOWER WALK:** The Pavilion, Campbell Park, Colinton; 10.30am - noon. Learn to recognise edible plants, grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees with the help of biodiversity officer Jonathan Davey of the Friends of Campbell Park.

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY

• **MONTHLY MAHJONG:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 4.30pm - 6.30pm. An open mahjong session that welcomes newcomers as well as regulars. Please email for details and to join us: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAY 27 JULY

• **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

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST

• **GARDENING GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 11.30am - 1pm. Gardening

Group (1st Friday of each month) All Welcome: experienced or novice, pot planters or allotments. A friendly group that welcomes enthusiasts to share common love of gardens and gardening. Please email for details and to join us: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

• **BALERNO FARMERS' MARKET:** Main Street; 9am - 1pm. Selection of local and independent producers, groups and street food. More information: <https://balernovt.org.uk/farmers-market>

• SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB:

Ogston Hall, Balerno Parish Church, 2 Main Street; 10am - noon. Join us for activities, snacks, games and stories about who Jesus is. Free for the whole family, all ages welcome. For more information, email: bcp-admin@balernochurch.org.uk or admin@curriekirk.co.uk

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST

• **"ALL EARS" BOOK CLUB:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 7pm - 9pm. The book club for audiobook and podcast lovers. See our Facebook Page @The Hub at 531 or email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

• **MONTHLY FLOWER WALK:** The Pavilion, Campbell Park, Colinton; 10.30am - noon. Learn to recognise edible plants, grasses,

LOCAL COMMUNITY CAFES

SATURDAYS

• **COFFEE STOP!:** Currie Kirk, 7 Kirkgate; 2pm - 4pm. Coffee/tea (£1, including refill), home-baking (£2 an item) and a warm welcome. **CASH ONLY PLEASE!**

SATURDAYS (RE-OPENS 15 AUGUST)

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

TUESDAYS - FRIDAYS (RE-OPENS TUESDAY 21 JULY)

• **THE MILL CAFE:** 2 Main Street, Balerno; 9am - 2pm. **CLOSED FROM MONDAY 6 JULY.** 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. Last orders: 1.30pm. **OPEN ON FARMERS' MARKET SATURDAY IN AUGUST.**

TUESDAYS - SATURDAYS (RE-OPENS TUESDAY 21 JULY)

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



wildflowers, shrubs and trees with the help of biodiversity officer Jonathan Davey of the Friends of Campbell Park.

SATURDAY 15 & SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

• **PENTLANDS OPEN STUDIOS ART TRAIL:** Various venues; 10am - 4pm. More than two dozen professional artists and makers will throw open their studios and exhibition venues across Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and Colinton. Meet the artists, watch work in progress and buy directly from the makers. The trail spans painting, ceramics, jewellery, printmaking, textiles and sculpture, with new pieces on show throughout the



WEDNESDAY 1 JULY

• **LIMEKILNS & CHARLESTOWN CIRCULAR:** 5 mile (8 km) walk from Limekilns Promenade car park, taking in Old Limekilns, Broomhill Woods estate, and ancient ruins of Rosyth Church.

SATURDAY 4 JULY

• Check website for walk details.

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY

• **BO'NESS AND KINNEIL CIRCULAR:** 6 mile (9.7 km) walk; see the steam train depart at 10.30am, walk along foreshore to nature reserve, Kinneil Estate, Antonine Wall, fortlet, and the best ice cream shop and café in the area.

SATURDAY 11 JULY

• Check website for walk details.

WEDNESDAY 15 JULY

• **REGENT ROAD TO PORTOBELLO:** 6.5 mile (10.5 km), 300 feet (91.4 metre) elevation. Walk starts at 10am in front of the former Royal High School, then a steady linear walk to Holyrood Park, Duddingston, Figgate Park and Portobello Prom.

SUNDAY 19 JULY

• **GALASHIELS CIRCULAR:** 10

weekend. Entry free. More details: <https://postudios.org> or follow @pentlandsopenstudios on Facebook and Instagram.

• CREATING IN THE PARK:

Near "the Shed", Spylaw Park, Colinton; Times TBC. The team behind the Colinton Tunnel mural are linking up with Colinton Village Enterprise for a weekend of creativity. Come along to the developing Hub (aka The Shed) to see up to 64 feet (almost 20 metres) of new artwork being created for the mural—and perhaps add your own artistic contribution too!

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST

• **RAVELRIG RDA DOG SHOW:**

miles (16 km) walk: Ladhope Moor, Ladhope Forest, Darling's Hill, and Blaikie's Hill. Returning to Galashiels via Gala Hill.

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY

• **HERIOT-WATT & JUNIPER GREEN CIRCULAR:** Check website for more details.

FRIDAY 24 JULY

• **SUMMER CROQUET AFTERNOON:** A fun social afternoon at Balgreen Croquet and Bowling Club, including coaching, games and post competition refreshments. 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Cost £10 per person. Offers of home baking most welcome.

SATURDAY 25 JULY

• **ABERDOUR TO DALGETY BAY CIRCULAR:** leisurely 6.8 miles (10.9 km) walk with coastal views and a chance of a paddle! Check website for further details

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

• **PENTLANDS THREE RESERVOIRS:** From Currie Library via Kirkgate to Poet's Glen, Whiteside Plantation, Maiden Cleugh, Harbour Hill, and Bonaly, Torduff and Clubbiudean reservoirs.

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

• **PORT SETON TO ABERLADY:** Lovely coastal scenery along the John Muir Way from Port Seton to Aberlady, 7.5 miles (12.1 km); a mixture of pavement, beach and sandy dune paths and along Longniddry Bents, passing the gates of Gosford House and continuing through woods to reach Aberlady, We may visit the Scottish Birdwatcher's Centre. We return to Port Seton by bus and then a lovely walk past the 15th century Seton Collegiate Church, and down the locally known sandy walk back to the car park.

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST

• **21 Ravelrig Gait; 11am - 3pm.** Fun for all the family with lots of fun dog classes, refreshments and a special demonstration of dog behaviour techniques by Pack leader canine rehabilitation. Please come along!

WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST

• **MONTHLY MAHJONG:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 4.30pm - 6.30pm. An open mahjong session that welcomes newcomers as well as regulars. Come along to find out more about this ancient Chinese tile game. Please email for details and to join us: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

• SEATON SANDS TO MUSSELBURGH:

More details to follow once recce completed.

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

• **PENTLANDS FOUR RESERVOIRS:** Very scenic 13 mile (20.1 km) walk from Pentland View Car Park, up the Kirkgate to the top of Whiteside Plantation, then turning left to Maiden Cleugh towards Glencorse Reservoir. Continuing to Loganlea Reservoir and turning right along Green Cleugh to walk to Threipmuir and Harlaw Reservoirs and returning via Duncan's Belt and Lymphoy.

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST

• **"STRENUOUS" PENTLANDS WALK:** Possibly three tops. Check Ramblers website for details once recce is completed.

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

• Check website for walk details.

WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST

• Check website for walk details.

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST

• Check website for walk details.

WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST

• **PEEBLES MEDIEVAL CASTLE:** Leisurely 5.6 miles (9 km) walk with riverside, fields and woodlands before a coffee stop at viewpoint looking down to the Old Manor Bridge. River paths and woodlands passing Neidpath Castle, then Hay Lodge Park. Riverside path back to Peebles.

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

• Check website for walk details.

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

If you are interested in joining us, we have a mailing list which

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

• **CURRIE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW:** Balerno High School, 5 Bridge Road, Balerno; 1pm - 4pm. Annual event showcasing the efforts of local gardeners, bakers and makers. Entry fee: £3—cash preferred. More information: www.currieshow.weebly.com

MONDAY 31 AUGUST

• **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

you are more than welcome to join to receive the information on forthcoming walks. Email: balerno-ramblers+subscribe@googlegroups.com

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Community councils are statutory bodies, run by local residents, which aim to represent local residents' views to The City of Edinburgh Council, the Scottish Government or any other relevant bodies. They regularly hold meetings in public – either face-to-face or online – but it should be noted that these are NOT public meetings: contributions are invited "from the floor" at the discretion of the chairperson.

Note: most community councils across Edinburgh do not meet during July. Colinton CC (colintoncc.org.uk) does not normally meet during July and August.

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST

• **BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL:** Community Centre, Main Street; 7pm - 9pm. www.balerno-communitycouncil.org.uk; balernocc@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST

• **CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL:** Gibson Craig Halls (rear), 156 - 158 Lanark Road West; 7.30pm - 9pm. <https://curriecommunitycouncil.wordpress.com>

WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST

• **JUNIPER GREEN & BABERTON MAINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL:** the hub@531 Lanark Road; 7.30pm - 9pm. <https://jgbc.org>

FREE!

C&BNews



SUMMER SUNSET AT BAVELAW, BY IAN RENWICK

IAN RENWICK