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C&B News

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519 • SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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.

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DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

ADVERTISING/LISTINGS: 15 SEPTEMBER
EDITORIAL: 20 SEPTEMBER
IN THE SHOPS: 2 OCTOBER

Picture News



Above: *C&B News* “hired help” Paul Fisher Cockburn was honoured to officially open this year's Pentland Art Club Exhibition and Sale on Friday 7 August. Below: During the course of the evening, Paul briefly met PAC members Hilary Brown (left) and Ian Renwick (right)—respectively, the front and back cover artists for our July/August issue!



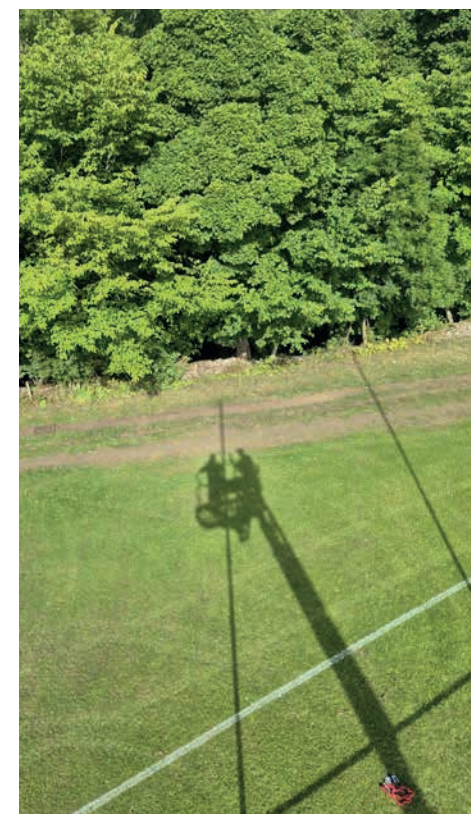
C&B NEWS • JULY/AUGUST 2026

C&B NEWS • SEPTEMBER 2026



A local fundraiser has enabled local resident Fern – a familiar face round Balerno, who does so much to keep the village's public greenspaces neat and tidy – to buy her some new tools. Within 48 hours of going live, the total raised was £1,580 – meaning organisers could pay for not only a new wheelbarrow but also a Stihl trimmer and leaf blower. (Typically, Fern still paid for the head [blades] of the strimmer with her own money!) Thanks to everyone who contributed – and thank you, Fern, for all your hard work!

Below: On Saturday 4 July, Oriam Walking Football held their annual “players day”, raising £330 for their chosen charity partners for 2026, Care & Repair, writes Paul Rendell. More than 60 players took part in a celebration of football at Oriam, which was won by the Reddy Or Not team led by Carol Gilbert. The event also concluded a week-long food drive in aid of local charity Community for food, who were presented with a cheque for £500 to help continue their support for local families in need.



Above: It's the kind of detail that shows they care: during the summer clean-up at Currie Chieftains, volunteers jetwashed, weeded, cleaned, strimmed and painted almost everything that didn't move—including those who went up on a cherry picker to paint the tops of the posts! Photo: Currie Chieftains.

News

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BRIEFLY

WHILE WE WERE AWAY...

• **CITY PLAN 2040:** At the end of June, The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) issued a “call for ideas” to help shape its planning principles and targets for 2030 - 2040. (Deadline for comments: Wednesday 30 September. Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/49hdmjec>) CEC has already submitted an Evidence Report (“the first stage of the City Plan 2040 process”) to the Scottish Government for initial approval to proceed to the next stage.

• **CHURCH MAGAZINE (1):** The Steering Group working out the finer details of the proposed union of Balerno Parish and Currie Kirk congregations, creating the new “Kirk of Currie and Balerno, Church of Scotland”, confirmed the continuation of both current church publications, *The Kirk News* and *Balerno Blether*. The former will focus on congregational news across the two “church campuses”; the latter (presumably renamed *The Blether*) on the wider parish covering both villages.

• **WEEDS:** Significant concerns were raised at the June meeting of Balerno Community Council about the deteriorating condition of local pavements and streets due to weed growth, as well as overgrown hedges and trees encroaching over pavements. The use of more sophisticated herbicides that do not affect human health was suggested by some community councillors.

• **FUNDING:** Juniper Green Note, the grassroots jazz club based at Baberton Golf Club, announced in June that it has received funding from The National Lottery through Creative Scotland. “It means we can keep bringing excellent musicians to Juniper Green and keep the club open to anyone who wants to hear live jazz close up,” said founder and house pianist John Elliott.

• **ROLEY'S WOOD:** Pentland Hills Ward Councillor Neil Gardiner has established that maintenance of Roley's Wood, next to Currie Community High School, >p5

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• Wester Hailes Library
• Colinton Mains Tesco
• Oxfangs 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**.

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Bus Services Change Again



PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Lothian Buses have announced service changes from Sunday 13 September “as part of a wider programme to improve connectivity and reliability” across their network, and the availability of “additional driver resources” from this month.

One of the key changes is the result of an increased subsidy from The City of Edinburgh Council for Service 32 (currently connecting Balerno, Currie, Heriot-Watt University, The Gyle, Cammo and Cramond), which will extend the route to West Granton, effectively connecting Edinburgh College's Sighthill and Granton campuses.

Details of possible interest to C&B News readers:

- **Service 10** (Bonaly to Ocean Terminal): No changes.
- **Service 16** (Torpin to Silverknowes): “Minor” timetable changes.

- **Night Bus Service N16** (Silverknowes to Torphin): No changes.
- **Service 18** (Airport to Fort Kinnaird via Colinton): Because of low passenger demand, buses to and from Edinburgh Airport will no longer serve Ingliston Park and Ride, instead using new bus stops on nearby Eastfield Road.
- **Service 32** (Balerno to West Granton) Route extended from Cramond via Cramond Road South, Davidson's Mains, Ferry Road and Pennywell Road. Additional timetable changes include an earlier first bus from Balerno (5.50am, rather than 6.30am), though the final weekday bus to Cockburn Crescent will arrive at 9.04pm rather than 9.33pm. In Cramond, buses will no longer use Gamekeeper's Road, instead serving Whitehouse Road and Cramond Road North in both directions.
- **Service 44** (Balerno to Wallyford): “Minor” timetable changes.

- **Night Bus Service N44** (City centre to Balerno): The current Balerno-bound N44 buses will continue to depart on weekdays from the Scott Monument at 0.30am and 1.35am, although the former will start from Leith Street, departing 0.22am. Weekend departures from the Scott Monument will remain at 0.30am, 1.35am and 3.15am (with departures from Leith Street at 0.22am and 3.07am. East-bound journeys that currently terminate at Longstone will be extended to the city centre.
- **Service 45** (Heriot-Watt University to King's Road via Currie, Juniper Green and Colinton): “Minor” timetable changes. The Sunday service will be extended from Elm Row to King's Road in Portobello, adding additional connections to Abbeyhill, Meadowbank and Piershill.

• *More information:* <https://www.lothianbuses.com>

Concerns Raised about Water of Leith Pollution

NIGEL DUNCAN
C&B NEWS

Local MP Dr Scott Arthur has reached out to Scottish Water requesting a meeting to address concerns about pollution entering the Water of Leith via the Murrayburn.

The representative for Edinburgh South West has also asked his office to monitor the situation regarding user conflict in coming months to see if improvements to existing shared-

space signage should be made.

Additionally, Dr Arthur has committed to circulating guidance produced by the British Horse Society for horse riders who use of the Water of Leith Walkway.

Following a recent survey and public meeting held in Balerno (see our July/August 2026 issue). Dr Arthur met the Water of Leith Conservation Trust and the Natural Heritage Team at the City of Edinburgh Council.

“It's clear from this survey that

the Water of Leith is one of our area's greatest assets,” Dr Arthur said. “People value it as a place to walk, cycle, and improve their well-being, but they've also raised important concerns about user safety, courtesy and water quality.”

“I'll be taking these issues up with both the Council and Scottish Water to ensure we see real improvements that make the Water of Leith safer, cleaner, and more enjoyable for everyone who uses it.”

BRIEFLY...

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is currently funded through the City of Edinburgh Council's Education budget. He has asked officials if this could be transferred to CEC's Parks team; if this is possible, he will consult with local residents about the change.

• **SCHOOL RUN:** Following a survey of more than 200 parents and carers, Dean Park Primary School Parent Council found that nearly two-thirds of parents don't allow their children to walk to school alone or independently because of safety concerns about road crossings. This issue has increased in recent years as an increasing proportion of children (currently 41%) live north of Lanark Road West, requiring them to cross LRW, Bavelaw Road and Bridge Road.

• **PROPERTY NEWS:** According to ESPC, their top ten most viewed properties during June included an “extended end-terrace cottage” with three bedrooms on Juniper Avenue, reflecting buyers' “increased focus on the city's suburbs” (and beyond). Meantime, Colinton ranked seventh in ESPC's top 10 “premium property hotspots” during July: above Edinburgh neighbourhoods Ravelston (at nine) and Blackhall (10) but below Trinity (six), Grange (four), Newington (two) and Morningside (top of the list, naturally).

AND NOW...

• **NEW ROTARY PRESIDENT:** In July, Newcastle-born Peter Kew took on the role of President of Currie Balerno Rotary. Peter originally joined in 1990 soon after starting work at Heriot-Watt University; he left in 2012, when he took up the post of Associate Head of Engineering and Physical Sciences at H-W's Dubai Campus, but rejoined in 2023 on his return to Edinburgh.

• **SUMMER BREAK: BUS LANE:** The City of Edinburgh Council has announced a trial of “7/7/7” bus lanes (which operate between 7am and 7pm, seven days a week) beginning in October, but NOT (as previously implied) along the entirety of the Lothian Buses service 44 route. The scheme will

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'The Meeting Place' Looking for New Volunteers

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

A local, not-for-profit charitable organisation based in Currie is looking for new volunteers to help foster inclusivity and alleviate social isolation and loneliness among local residents age 65 and above.

The Meeting Place operates a community cafe every Monday between 10am and 4pm at the 42nd Pentland Scout Hall, located at 99 Forthview Crescent, Currie. It typically hosts around 30 residents from Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green, offering a variety of engaging activities including dominoes, quizzes, and word games, as well as frequent guest choirs and singers.

"We cultivate an informal atmosphere, striving to create a welcoming and comfortable environment, and provide professional caregiver support and advice as needed," says organiser Allister McKillop.

"We are an inclusive organisation and warmly welcome families affected by dementia. However, it is important to note that we do not operate as a care facility, and all members are expected to maintain a degree of self-sufficiency."

The Meeting Place is currently looking to bolster its shrinking team of dedicated volunteers. Opportunities range from brief one-to-two-hour shifts to full morning or afternoon engagements. No prior experience is necessary.

Volunteer responsibilities are generally light, encompassing the serving of refreshments and engaging in meaningful conversations with our members. Becoming a volunteer presents a significant and rewarding opportunity to positively impact the lives of individuals within our communities.

Personal benefits include the development of new professional relationships, enhancement of personal well-being, acquisition of new practical skills, and strengthened connections within the local community.

For more details, email: allister-mckillop@hotmail.com



A Fresh Coat of Community Spirit at Millbank

PERCY FARREN
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Millbank, Balerno has always been one of those corners of our community where you can appreciate the Water of Leith as you walk along the path beside it.

Recently, the area received something even more uplifting as you enjoy your walk along the river—a burst of collective energy, elbow grease, and neighbourly goodwill.

Thanks to a collaboration led by local hero Fern, supported by several community groups and Millbank residents, the tired wooden posts lining the riverbank finally received the tender loving care they deserved. Weathered by years of Scottish wind and rain, the

posts were carefully restored and repainted—transforming a well-loved and well-trod walkway into a brighter, more welcoming space.

The effort drew support from near and far. David Lyons, assistant minister at St Mungo's Church, and his wife Sophia played a key role in bringing a group of visiting teenagers to Balerno. The young volunteers—led by Eric and Hayley from Casa de Incurajare, a Romanian church group based in Oradea—rolled up their sleeves and joined the project with enthusiasm.

Their visit wasn't just about paintbrushes and posts. It became a moment of cultural exchange, common purpose, and the kind of community connection that remains long after the work is done.



Tenants in City of Edinburgh Council-owned properties in Baberton Park, for those with support needs, met at the Hub@531 in Juniper Green to celebrate the setting up of the new Baberton Park Residents Association, writes Margaret Fillon. They were joined by local Ward 2 (Pentland Hills) Councillor Fiona Glasgow, who cut the celebration cake and then spent time listening to individual residents and offering some welcome advice. They were also joined by Loraine from Stuart Road, another CEC development in Currie, along with Vic from the Juniper Green & Baberton Mains Community Council and Jonny from The Edinburgh Tenants Federation.

BRIEFLY...

ps>>>

instead operate for six months on the east side of Edinburgh between the Leith Walk end of London Road and Milton Road East, Brunstane, partially affecting routes including services 44 and 45.

• **AI CENTRES:** A public meeting at the Gibson Craig Halls in August, called to share information on various proposals for AI data centres (including a site in Wester Hermiston) attracted 152 people—"standing room only". Clearly a topic of increasing interest to many people!

• **UP FOR SALE:** The owner of the now-demolished former Bank of Scotland branch next to the Gibson Craig Halls in Currie has put the site up for sale, looking for offers over £500,000. The site, approximately 0.20 acres (0.08 hectares) in size, currently comes with planning permission for nine flats, though it's uncertain if another developer would develop this current planning consent (25/01216/FUL, valid until Thursday 7 August 2028) or apply for something new. Even assuming a quick sale, the site will likely remain empty for some time yet.

• **LANDSLIP CONCERNS:** Residents in the Kinleith Mill estate remain concerned about possible landslip issues on the slope between the Water of Leith and Lanark Road West. Matters are complicated by the land being privately owned by a party outwith Scotland.

• **CHURCH MAGAZINE (2):** The current August/September edition of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church of Scotland magazine *The Parish Periodical* is the final issue edited by Kath Hay, who has worked on the title (and one of its predecessors, Colinton News) for more than seven years. The C&B News "hired help" stated: "Kath brought an admirable professionalism and editorial clarity to both publications that will definitely be missed, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavours." Hopefully a new editor can be found to keep such an excellent community publication going.

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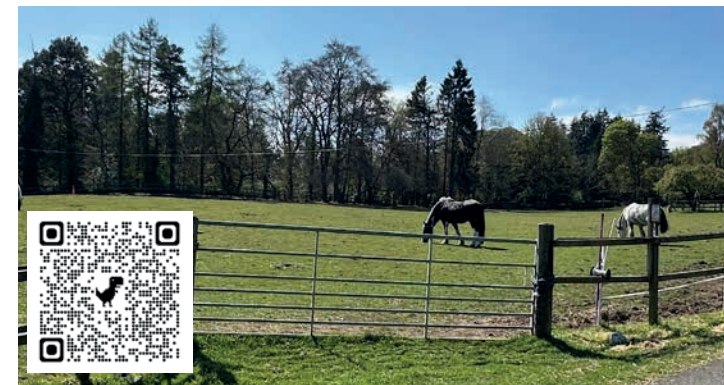
Green Gateway launches Community Survey

AMANDA PATERSON
BALERNO RESIDENT

Green Gateway Community Group has launched a community survey to gather the views of Balerno residents on the proposed Gateway Project across from Balerno High School.

The survey has been created to better understand how the local community feels before any planning application is submitted. Whether residents support the proposal, oppose it, or are undecided, the group is encouraging everyone with a connection to Balerno to take part.

The survey takes around two minutes to complete and asks questions about awareness of the proposal, views on the development, and any issues residents feel are important, including matters such as traffic and parking, green belt, landscape, drainage, wildlife and ecology.



Green Gateway Community Group said: "Our aim is to gather an accurate picture of community opinion before any planning application is submitted. We welcome responses from everyone, whatever their views may be. The more people who take part, the better understanding we'll have of how the community feels."

Green Gateway Community Group thanks everyone who has already taken part and

encourages anyone who has not yet completed the survey to do so before the closing date.

The survey will remain open until Wednesday 30 September 2026. Responses are anonymous unless participants choose to leave their contact details to receive updates if a planning application is submitted.

If you have a mobile phone, you can link to the survey by scanning the above QR code.

From Jellyfish Sting to 58km Sea Swim

NICKY MATHER
COLINTON RESIDENT

Ajellyfish sting in 2021 changed swimmer Nicky Mather's life—but not in the way anyone expected.

While checking the painful sting after a swim at Portobello Beach, Edinburgh, Nicky discovered a breast lump. Just weeks later she was diagnosed with breast cancer and began surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Four years after signing up for the challenge, and two years after

treatment, Nicky recently fulfilled her dream of swimming 58 km (36 miles) non-stop around Jersey without a wetsuit.

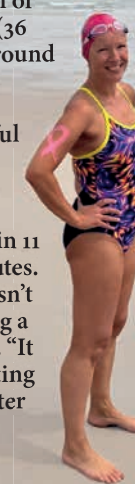
Battling powerful tides, choppy seas and fatigue, she completed the demanding swim in 11 hours and 41 minutes.

"For me, this wasn't just about finishing a swim," says Nicky. "It was about celebrating what is possible after

cancer and thanking the incredible NHS staff whose skill and care gave me that opportunity."

Nicky is now raising £4,000 for the Breast Cancer Institute of Edinburgh Fund, managed by NHS Lothian Charity. Every donation will help fund breast cancer research, specialist equipment, education and improvements to patient care.

To support Nicky's fundraising visit: justgiving.com/page/nicola-mather-4



Notable Rise in ASN Provision

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

The last two decades have seen significant increases in the proportion of school pupils across Scotland receiving some form of Additional Support Needs (ASN)

In early July *The Herald* reported that, in 2007, just 5% of school pupils were registered to receive ASN: the most recent data (from 2025) suggests this has grown to a national average of 43%, with notably higher rates in secondary

schools (48.8%) than primary schools (36.9%)

In Scotland, categories of ASN not only include the likes of dyslexia, visual and hearing impairments, autism, and learning disabilities, but also mental health issues, substance misuse and caring commitments. There are also recognised links between social deprivation and ASN.

The Herald reported that more than 600 state schools – around a quarter – recognised more than half of their students as having additional support needs. The

country's largest teaching union, the EIS, has called for a significant increase in resources from the Scottish Government to ensure the needs of all pupils are met.

Within mainstream schools in south west Edinburgh, the proportion of pupils with ASN varied: Currie Community High School (43%) and Balerno High School (49%) were both notably higher than the local primary schools: Nether Currie Primary (14%), Dean Park Primary School (15%); Bonaly Primary School (24%); Currie Primary School (31%).

BRIEFLY...

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• **A CURRIE... CURRY:** On Wednesday 29 July, all 32 members of the KF Malisheva football team from Kosovo (including players, coaching staff and directors) enjoyed an evening meal at the Corner Curry House, Currie before the following day's UEFA Conference League match against Hibernian at Easter Road. "We customised the menu to suit the team's preferences, and we're delighted they thoroughly enjoyed their meal," explained Corner Curry House manager Ron. "It was wonderful to see everyone relaxed and enjoying their evening before such an important match." Sadly for them, KF Malisheva subsequently lost 4 - 1, which somewhat outshone their previous 2 - 0 home victory over Hibernian the previous week.

• **WATERLOO PLACE:** West-bound lanes on Waterloo Place will be closed for up to three months from Monday 7 September while Mackenzie Construction (on behalf of Scottish Water) undertake £3 million worth of upgrades and repairs to the sewer and water network underneath the road. Balerno-bound Lothian Service 44 buses will be detoured for the duration, (presumably) along London Road and Leith Street between Abbeyhill and Princes Street.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

You can view plans, forms and other documents connected with individual planning applications on The City of Edinburgh Council's Planning and Building Standards Online Services website: <https://tinyurl.com/dz8atrcd>. Under statutory legislation, comments on recently registered planning applications should relate to "material considerations" connected with the use of land and buildings—such as adherence to City Plan 2030, appearance, residential amenity (eg, noise/overshadowing) or traffic/parking/access issues.

Note: C&B News now regularly publishes lists of new and current local planning



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Summer of Adventure at Harmeny

ELISENDA REINES
HARMENY'S COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

From building confidence and learning new skills with friends, this summer has been filled with opportunities for children and young people at Harmeny to learn, explore and grow. A varied programme of activities throughout the school break encouraged adventure, discovery and plenty of time spent in the outdoors.

Among the highlights were two overnight camps, each offering a different kind of adventure. A bike camp at Auchingarrich Wildlife Park combined volunteering within the park in exchange for free camping plus mountain biking at Comrie Croft. A paddle camp saw young people travel along the River Lochay into Loch Tay, camp overnight on an island and a search for signs of beavers before paddling back the following morning.

This summer also marked the first use of Harmeny's newly developed bushcraft area, which was funded through the efforts of our brave Harmeny Heroes who climbed the iconic Kelpies last year. The bushcraft area features an all-weather canopy and fire pit, providing a welcoming setting for outdoor learning throughout



Top: Harmeny's new bushcraft area. Below: Mock up of part of the new adventure play equipment being installed this autumn.

the year. Surrounded by gardens and woodland, children and young people pitched tents, learnt the art of building fires, preparing food outdoors and working together in the natural environment around them.

We continue to develop opportunities for young people to play, learn, relax and develop positive relationships with adults and peers through our latest fundraising appeal, The Play Appeal. Thanks to the generosity of funders and individuals we are now in the position to replace our much-loved adventure playground, The Venchie. At over 30 years old the adventure playground has reached the end of its functional life and will be revamped this autumn as part of a wider project to develop

spaces to play and socialise across our grounds.

• We're hugely grateful to all those who have supported our Play Appeal so far and look forward to sharing our progress with The Venchie soon. Find out more at: www.harmeny.org.uk/playappeal



In July, the Pentland Community Chest awarded a further seven grants to successful applicants from local community groups and organisations, writes *Andrea Brewster*. Grant recipients included Currie and Dean Park Primary Schools, BTC Productions (formerly Balerno Theatre Company), Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled, Juniper Green Tennis Club and the Wildfire (Scout) Explorer Unit. The grants will fund a wide range of items and projects including tents, school library resources, equine riding mirrors and outdoor equipment for a school quiet space.

Pentland Community Chest is a joint venture, funded and run by Balerno Village Trust and Currie Balerno Rotary. To date it has awarded more than £55,000 in grants in response to more than 200 grant applications.

To see further examples and pictures of how grants have made a difference in the local community, or if you know of a local organisation that may benefit from a grant (up to £600), visit pentlandcc.org.uk to check out the eligibility criteria and find an application form.

The closing date for the next round of applications is Sunday 30 November 2026.



Rotary: 'We Need Wood!'

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Every year Currie Balerno Rotary sells wooden snowmen and Christmas trees on our stall at the Balerno Farmers' Market and at our Christmas Gift Wrapping at the Gyle.

The snowmen and Christmas trees are made by Colin and Don, members of Currie Balerno Rotary. Last year they raised £1,200 for local charities and good causes.

However, this year there's a problem: a lack of wood!

We need hard wood, ideally yew, and branches between 2.8 inches (7 cm) and 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter.

• Can anyone help? If you can, please get in touch with Colin on 07732 685929 or Don on 07977 906847.

BRIEFLY...

p9>>>

applications and decisions on our Facebook page every Tuesday or Wednesday.

BALERNO

• Proposed outbuildings; Currie Rugby Football Club, 5 Malleny. (26/03258/FUL) Comments by Friday 11 September.

• To remove existing slates from all pitches and replace with Cupa H3 Heavy slates laid over waterproof air-permeable membrane; The Farmhouse, Buteland Road. (26/03250/LBC) Comments by Friday 11 September.

COLINTON

• Remove Cypress; 31 Woodhall Road. (26/0656/TCO) Registered, Thursday 13 August.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Information provided by The City of Edinburgh Council.

BALERNO

• Reduce crown of Copper Beech by 1.5 - 3 metres to remove spread over house by approximately 2 metres; 53 Johnsburn Road. (26/0559/TPO) Mixed decision issued, Friday 14 August.

• Installation of air source heat pump and enclosure, water tank and new opening to rear and associated landscaping works, chimney reinstatement and roof repairs; Malleny House, 4 Malleny. (26/01103/LBC) Granted, Thursday 13 August.

COLINTON

• Proposed single-storey rear extension with dormers and internal alterations; 28 Woodhall Bank. (26/02909/FUL) Granted, Wednesday 12 August.

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES



New Chapter for Youth Vision

FIONA MURDOCH
COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION,
YOUTH VISION

The co-founder of a charity supporting young people in the area has retired.

Sara Beauregard (above left) founded Youth Vision with Claudia Goncalves in 2005, working with young people from their base at the 18th century Threipmuir Farm Steading in the Pentland Regional Park. This venue provided an ideal focal point for experiential outdoor learning programmes, community gardening, workshops and an upcoming apiary.

Sara, who in 2017 was awarded an MBE for her work with young people, has now retired as Youth Vision's Field Manager, stating: "It has been such a privilege working, running and living around Youth Vision for the last 21 years. I am very grateful and lucky to have a great team in place who are trained and ready to take the reins."

Youth Vision has enthusiastically welcomed her successor, Linsey Neilson (right). "I am delighted to continue the Youth Vision legacy and thrilled about this exciting new chapter. Our move to The Welcome Station, situated in the heart of the community, brings with it many exciting opportunities for growth, partnership working, and greater engagement."

Sara will be greatly missed by the Youth Vision team, but she will continue to be involved as a volunteer, particularly with their Friday Community Gardening group.



Putting Food into the Art Trail

CAROLINE BROWN
COMMUNITY FOR FOOD

The Community for Food team were delighted to be asked by Ron Burnett of Pentlands Open Studios to host a community cafe at the Juniper Green Village Hall as part of the annual Art Trail held on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 August.

It was a beautiful location for a cafe, complete with stunning art on the walls and atmospheric live music from Italian composer Marco Sollazzo, plus an Art Trail information desk which meant that footfall to the venue was constant and the community spirit even more so.

We cannot thank the Village Hall, Pentlands Open Studios and our volunteers and bakers enough.

Finally to our customers with familiar or new faces, we were so happy to serve you our baked delights—suffice to say, we sold out!

Above: Community for Food volunteers Susie Bass, Lesley Cunningham, Marna Brown, and Erin Moorad. Photo: Caroline Brown.

We have made an amazing amount for our cause which is much needed, as we have been open all summer supporting families to ensure no local schoolchild goes hungry.

Watch this space for more fundraising and community gathering events from the Community for Food team. Thanks again to all our supporters.

Flying Start for Accessible Vehicle Appeal

FRASER THOMPSON
TIPHERETH CAMPHILL COMMUNITY

A fundraising appeal by Tiphereth, aiming to raise £49,000 for a wheelchair-accessible vehicle, got off to an excellent start this month after the recent Pentlands Open Studios weekend helped raise £1,800.

Tiphereth is one of the largest charities in the Water of Leith Valley. For many visitors, the event was an opportunity to discover Tiphereth for the first time, or to better understand the scale of its work across Edinburgh and the Lothians. Nestled at the foot of the Pentland Hills in Colinton, the charity supports adults with learning disabilities through both residential and day service opportunities. There are three residential care homes,



two supported living properties and seven vocational day service workshops where members engage in meaningful work, lifelong learning and creative activities.

The charity's new vehicle appeal aims to ensure that everyone can continue to participate fully in community life. The wheelchair accessible vehicle will enable members with mobility needs

to travel alongside their friends, opening up opportunities for day trips, cultural visits and shared adventures. Inclusive travel is central to Tiphereth's belief that everyone should be able to live, work and grow together as part of one community.

Fundraising Manager Fraser Thompson said the generosity shown during Pentlands Open Studios was "hugely encouraging and demonstrated the strong support that exists for Tiphereth within the local community. The money raised is an important first step towards the charity's £49,000 target."

Every donation will help ensure that Tiphereth's members can continue to enjoy the opportunities, friendships and experiences that make community life so meaningful.

• *Donate to the appeal by visiting <https://www.tiphereth.org.uk/> donate or by sending a cheque (payable to "Tiphereth") to: Tiphereth, 55 Torphin Road, Colinton, Edinburgh EH13 0PQ.*

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES



'A Wee Wander for Christopher'

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

The Christopher Cowe Memorial Fund continues to actively fundraise for further heart screenings for local young people aged 14 to 35, through Cardiac Risk in the Young and we have some great events coming up in Autumn 2026.

We have now booked the fourth annual heart screening for Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 May 2027 at The Oriam at Heriot-Watt University, while funding is in place for a 2028 screening which will be booked and confirmed before the end of this year.

We still maintain an ambition to go beyond these screenings in Christopher's name and any support for our annual events and ideas for new events is very much appreciated. It costs £14,400 to fund a screening for 200 young people, so it is no mean feat that we continue to deliver the events and raise awareness of heart conditions in young people and the importance of a national screening programme.

There are two events to look forward to in September. On Friday 4 September, at 7:30pm, The Grey Horse Pub in Balerno will host a race night: details for coming along and supporting will be published through their social platforms and teams are very welcome to join us for an evening of fun, laughter and fundraising. (Over 18s ONLY for this one!)

On Sunday 13 September we

will have our fifth annual "Wee Wander for Christopher" at the Edinburgh Kiltwalk. At time of writing we have 20 team members with 11 undertaking the "Wee Wander" and a team of nine lovely young ladies from the Balerno Class of 2023 undertaking the 21 mile "Mighty Stride" from Holyrood Park to Murrayfield Stadium. Please look out on various social channels for opportunities to sponsor this amazing team of Balerno young ladies or you can also access via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yu8742ez>

• *There is still time to come and join us and raise funds for CRY whilst having a fun day out with friends and family. Full details are on the Kiltwalk Scotland website or contact me for more details: rosscowe5@gmail.com*

Thank You from PFB

ANNIE MACDONALD
PESTICIDE FREE BALERNO

Thank you to The City of Edinburgh Council for manually attending to the weeds in shared areas in Balerno, such as Dean Park and Marchbank. (See photo.)

It is important to not only remember the importance of tidiness but to clear weeds safely using non-harmful-to-health, pesticide-free methods.

The Pesticide Free Balerno

Team have received a great response from our July Newsletter. If you didn't receive a copy and would like to read it, check the PFB website under "media".

Spot the spelling mistake to WIN an engraved garden sign!

Remember, if it's safe and you are able to do so, please: manually remove the weeds in front of your own property, help less able neighbours, and report "weedy areas" in Balerno to PFB by using our website form.

Email: pesticidefreebalerno@gmail.com, visit: www.pesticide-freebalerno.com or text/call 07979 717485



Volunteering Locally with Rotary

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Every community needs, indeed depends upon volunteers—every local charity, local schools, the local environment.

Some of those volunteers dedicate so much of their time, their commitment is impressive. But there are others who cannot afford a lot of time but whose contribution can really make a difference.

That contribution is a personal undertaking. It doesn't have to be a frequent commitment; it can be occasional. It doesn't have to be a physical commitment; it can be a contribution from home, such as PR. It doesn't have to be an offer to assist over a range of activities; it can be very specific—to help with the environment, with food banks, with schools or with specific charities.

We invite those of you who may have a little time to offer to talk with us with a view to making a contribution in any area you choose. Currie Balerno Rotary supports a range of local activities and would welcome additional help without commitment. Most people can find the time to help with causes they support and every contribution, however small, is valuable.

Chances are you'll find it interesting and rewarding; you'll meet new people and you might even enjoy it—we do!

• *Get in touch with Mike Rowe to discuss the possibilities: PR@cbrotary.org*

• *Catch us at Balerno Farmers' Market on Saturday 12 September.*

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LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES



Another Rotary Year

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

For Currie Balerno Rotary, under president Ken Mcunn, July 2025 to June 2026 was not without its problems, but was a year of achievement nonetheless.

Ken's success in guiding us through the initial difficulties, to mark up another successful year, was recognised by the awarding of the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship. Ken is seen here with the Paul Harris Fellowship certificate.

So what did we achieve during Ken's year?

Our very successful (and enjoyable) Casino Night raised £2,000 for Edinburgh's Royal Hospital for Children and Young People. We look to run another Casino Night on Saturday 9 October. Don't miss it—it's good fun.

Our annual Tree of Life raised £3,000 for the My Name's Daddie Foundation, tackling Motor Neurone Disease.

Our gift-wrapping service at The Gyle attracted donations totalling £3,000 while the sale of wooden snowmen and Christmas trees (made by two of our members, Colin and Don) raised £1,200.

We continued to work with Balerno Village Trust, providing support through Balerno Community Chest for 22 local charities and organisations.

We supported local food banks, local schools and local youth activities.

We ran a Young Musicians competition and a Primary Schools Quiz.

We established a partnership with Balerno High School, which



Photos: Tiphereth/Izzy Henry

led to our working with pupils to deliver food to the Community for Food food bank.

We worked with Dean Park and Ratho Primary Schools to involve pupils in arranging loans to small entrepreneurs in developing countries.

We welcomed our sixth Community Member, Oriam, who joined Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club, Circle Security, Jack Brown Eyecare, Lindsay & Gilmour and Willam Purves in supporting the local community.

We worked to maintain and enhance our local environment with the Currie flowers (every year since 2002) and the Currie orchard.

We continue our close relationship with the Pentlands Ukrainian Support Group. (We have worked with them from the start.)

And, of course, we contributed to international aid for disaster areas.

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

What is Probus... and is it for You?

DEREK DOUGLAS
PENTLANDS MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Are you a retired, or semi-retired man? Do you have – or can make – time on a Wednesday morning? If the answer to both these questions is “Yes” then Pentlands Men's Probus Club is for you.

Between September and May, on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, Pentlands Men's Probus Club (“Probus” being an amalgamation of “Professional” and “Business”, reflecting the early membership) organises a talk, between 10am and noon, held in the hall at Pentlands Parish Church in Juniper Green.

On the other Wednesdays, members meet for coffee/tea in the Kinleith Mill, Juniper Green from 10am to 11.30am. These mornings provide a relaxed opportunity to discuss the issues of the day, travel down Memory Lane or anything else that comes to mind. We also include two visits to local places of

interest plus two or three lunches.

Our first Speaker Meeting on Wednesday 2 September will tell us about “Life in Scotland In the Good Old Days”. A fortnight later follows the story by the Captain of an aircraft on which there was an attempted hijack. More presentations and talks on a wide range of interesting and varied topics follow.

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

Details of our speaker meetings are included in the “Whats On” pages of this magazine. There is a separate Probus Ladies Club locally, plus other Probus Clubs throughout Edinburgh and further afield.

• For more details of Pentlands Men's Probus, contact our Secretary, John Muir, on (0131) 259 0560, or email: jandjmuir@gmail.com

Fairtrade Fortnight Returns

KAREN DOWNARD
BALERNO FAIRTRADE VILLAGE GROUP

While Fairtrade products are sold and enjoyed all year round, there's a particular focus on them during Fairtrade Fortnight, which this year runs from Monday 21 September to Sunday 4 October.

This year's theme is “Do It Fair”. Fairtrade means paying people properly, respecting their rights at work and helping farmers care for our climate. When farmers and workers are paid fairly and treated

with dignity, they can build better futures for themselves and for their families and communities. Dora Atiiga, a cocoa farmer, mother and founder of a school in Ghana, says: “Supporting Fairtrade goes a long way to support women in Africa, help reduce child labour and help maintain the environment.”

Balerno Fairtrade Village Group will be promoting Fairtrade Fortnight with posters and some craft items around the village, as well as a stall at the Farmers' Market on Saturday 10 October.

• Everyone is welcome to attend Balerno Fairtrade Village Group's next meeting at the Ogston Hall, Balerno Parish Church, on Monday 14 September from 7.15pm to 8.45pm.

Changes at Balerno Fairtrade Village Group

Balerno Fairtrade Village Group has seen some changes recently. Lesley Henderson has stepped down after many years as Chair, and we thank her for all her hard work—she'll still be continuing as an active member though! Karen Downard will be taking over as Chair, passing her previous role as Treasurer to Morag Lyall.

During the summer we also celebrated the renewal of Balerno's status as a Fairtrade Community. This is awarded by the Fairtrade Foundation in recognition of Balerno's campaigning and support for justice and sustainability. Cafés, shops, churches and community groups who use and promote Fairtrade products have all contributed to this achievement. Thank you all for your support!

For more details about the group and its activities, visit: <https://www.fairtrade.net>



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Looking Back and Forward: Colinton Local History Society

DEREK DOUGLAS
ARCHIVIST CLHS

It looks very much like that our long, dry – and sometimes hot – summer is over! For some of our members, however, society activities have carried on despite the normal gap before our new series of talks starts in October.

Back in June, a large party of our members went on a private visit to Thirlestane Castle, near Lauder in the Scottish Borders, where we enjoyed a guided tour and learned about the connection of the Earl of Lauderdale with Colinton Kirk and also how Fort Lauderdale in Florida got its name.

Meantime, rather than wait around for our new season to start, several members decided to research further into Colinton's past, particularly its old stately homes, houses, monuments and various other aspects of our history—some of which has proved to be quite surprising.

For instance, did you know that in 1881 the Hawaiian monarch King Kalakaua, and his niece, stayed in Dreghorn Castle as guests of the owner R A Macfie? (Macfie owned a sugar plantation in Hawaii.) That, between the late 1800s and 1908 (and again between 1920 and 1936), part of Dreghorn Castle was a boarding school for boys—but only from the finest families! That both Colinton and Redhall Castles were destroyed by Cromwell's forces in 1650? That, in the grounds of Bonaly Tower, is the only statue of William Shakespeare found in Scotland?

So many interesting findings and stories have come out from this coordinated research that we have decided to publish our fifth book, covering various aspects of life in Colinton over the centuries. Look Around You—The Story of Colinton's Buildings will be available from late September in both the Colinton Post Office and on Amazon. And, of course, at our Society meetings in the Dreghorn Loan Hall!

Talking of which, our 2026/27 programme starts off on Monday 5 October with what I can promise will be an excellent talk on "The World's End Murders" by Tom Wood, who was heavily involved in the investigation.

Why not come along and join us?

www.facebook.com/candbnews



**Snapshots
of the Past**

Mucking About in the River?

DOUGLAS LOWE
CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Well, is that our summer over then? Are our days of relaxing and cavorting beside the Water of Leith ended? At my great age, I hasten to add, it's only with my wife or grandchildren! I have continued to make full use of the new replacement "green bridge" over the Bavelaw Burn, although it is wooden, not steel, and isn't green! But no matter: it gets us across "dry shod". It is very popular and busy.

As Secretary of the Currie & District Local History Society (CDLHS), I do get a number of odd enquiries; they go on all year. One very unusual one recently was from New Zealand. My correspondent gave details of early ancestors who farmed in the Currie area, and asked about how to go about joining CDLHS. I did point out that it would be a bit of a stretch to attend our meetings from New Zealand. Curious questions and enquiries continue throughout the year. It's all go and doesn't stop during the summer months.

As you may have worked out by now, this isn't my usual "Snapshots" article, where I try to give you an insight into the past doings in our villages, usually based upon a few photos tied in with my ramblings throughout the area. As we are nearing the start of our next session of CDLHS, of which I am Secretary, I

thought that I should try to encourage more of you to come along to our meetings!

Every fortnight throughout the session we have a local history talk, usually in the form of an illustrated lecture. Our first talk, on Monday 12 October, is by Kath Hay from the neighbouring Colinton Local History Society, who will be giving us a talk entitled "Royal Secrets". The remainder of our talks for the coming session are the usual eclectic mix which the members and guests should find interesting and entertaining; details will be reported in the "What's On" section in C&B News.

Our Society meets in the smaller rear hall at the Gibson Craig Halls. The doors open at 7pm, and we endeavour to start our talks promptly at 7.30pm. If you are local you will realise that there is a limited amount of parking in the front and rear of the building, but we are on the 44 (and 45!) bus route, with stops nearby.

Full membership for the 2026-27 session is £35, with guests admitted at £5 per meeting, payable at the door. (Please bring cash as we are not set up to deal with payments electronically!)

Hope to see you at some of our future CDLHS meetings.

• 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/>

Above: Mucking about in the Water of Leith, c1920s/early 1930s. Below: Finn and Jake in the Water of Leith with the author's wife, Enid. Photos: Douglas Lowe/CDLHS



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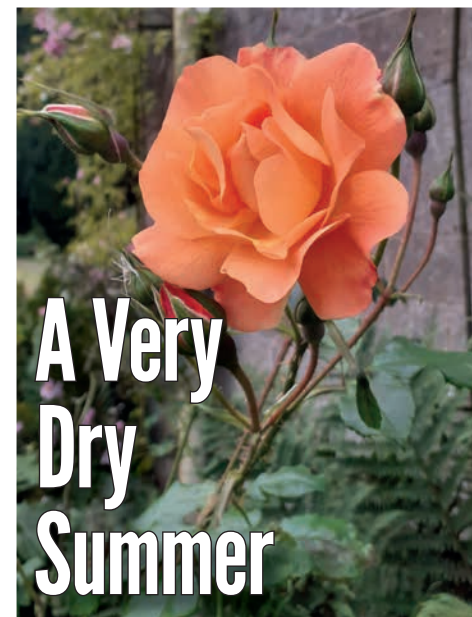
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A Very Dry Summer

JAMES BELL
HEAD GARDENER, MALLENY GARDEN

It's been a very dry summer for us at Malleny Garden. While there have been a few showers of rain, it has only really been enough to turn the grass green and perk up the herbaceous borders. It hasn't been enough to penetrate deeper into the ground. We've had to target some irrigation to key plants, notably our rose collection. More on our rose work in a moment.

In mid-August we welcomed Pentland Open Studios Art Trail 2026 to the garden. Botanical artist and illustrator Marianne Hazlewood once again exhibited her work in our display greenhouse. The botanical paintings and illustrations, set among our own living plant collection in the Victorian Greenhouse, work in harmony. Around 400 people visited the garden during the weekend. Thank you to everyone who made it to the top of the Art Trail

Our work during August was dominated by rose pruning. Shrub and rambler roses, which is most of our collection, are generally

best pruned after they finish flowering. We only have around 200 to do! Removing dead wood, old stems and trimming back new growth by up to one third and leaving a tall slender plant is a general rule of thumb for the shrub roses. For the ramblers, we aim to remove one third of the stems right down to the ground, starting with the oldest stem. Given some of the ramblers are very large, it takes a long time to prune the tangled stems, which are covered in thorns and often painful to prune—they are quite jaggy!. So we only do three or four ramblers each year. This all contrasts with the traditional pruning of roses which would be cut to around 18 inches in winter/early March. This is reserved for the traditional bush roses, like Hybrid Teas (HT) and Floribunda roses. We only have one HT rose, Rosa 'Blue Moon', which (for ease) we treat it as if it were a shrub rose. We have one or two roses still flowering, but most are done until next year.

We also welcomed a couple of one-day volunteer groups, from the University of Edinburgh and Aegon. Their time allowed us to tackle a few tasks which we usually

Left: Rosa "Westerland". Photo: James Bell. Above: Artwork and plants. Photo: Marianne Hazlewood.

struggle to fit in: clearing unwanted brambles from an area of our wider designed landscape and weeding our gravel path edges, both tasks which benefited from the additional help the teams provided. If you're reading this, thank you for your time and effort.

• **NTS Great Pumpkin Weigh-off 2026 update; Growth of our champion pumpkins is now quite rapid: doubling in size in the space of a week to bigger than a football, soon to become beachball sized! We have now selected one or two fruits per plant to maximise growth. Two months of growing to go – how big will they get? Updates to follow next month.**

• **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.**

Balerno Ramblers: Not Just About Walking

GAIL COUSINS
BALERNO RAMBLERS

Balerno Ramblers' annual fun – but highly competitive – croquet afternoon once again took place at Balgreen Croquet Club.

Phil paired up 20 ramblers to compete on four lawns. After a practice session with ball and mallet, the games commenced.

It was all very friendly though some were upset when their ball was removed from a potential scoring position by a well aimed strike. That's the game, though: score or stop your opponents from scoring.

Each couple played two extended games. Then it was time for tea, coffee and delicious



home baking.

We were all winners as we played but the overall champions were Iain and Allanna with two wins and 14 points scored, while Jeanette and George were runners-up with two wins and 13 points—so it was close!

Thanks to Pat and Phil for organising the afternoon.

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

• **Details of forthcoming walks can be found on the What's On pages.**

www.facebook.com/candbnews



Cooking the Books

I didn't go abroad this summer. Did you? Hopefully you went to Scandinavia or the Arctic so you could escape the heat? The furthest I went away was to London where I could easily have mistaken it for Italy or the Sahara. It was so hot. Too hot. I had to drink many cooling wine-based beverages just to survive. They were medicinal. Honest.

In all seriousness, Europe has been on fire and it's no laughing matter. As a way to remember and celebrate that beautiful part of the world I've spent the last few months getting on with cooking food from the region, mostly from a book named *MEDesque* by Georgina Hayden. I've reviewed one of her books here before - another of my favourites - and this one doesn't disappoint either. You can probably guess that this book celebrates all things Mediterranean with flavours from Spain, southern France, Greece, Italy, North Africa and The Middle East. Long time readers will know that is my preferred type of cuisine. I could live quite happily on olives, tomatoes and bread washed down with delicious red wine for the rest of my life.

MEDesque is divided into useful chapters of breakfasts, salads and sides, weeknight dinners, weekend cooking and desserts. I bought it recently and rifled through, my mouth watering, deciding which recipes to make. The one that caught my eye and filled my happy belly called for a brisket to be slow-cooked in an entire bottle of Rioja. With a base of tomatoes, leeks, celery and carrots, this has a distinctly Spanish flavour. Brisket is a cut of meat I've loved for years, but I hadn't had a recipe so choked full of flavour and so good for a very long time.



10/10. Would definitely recommend.

I'm also a huge fan of Turkish cuisine and have also made the Lachmacun with quick pickles many times. If you don't know this dish, you should. It's a flatbread topped with lamb mince mixed with onions, garlic, spices, parsley and red pepper paste. You spread it thinly on the bread and then bake, serving it with more parsley, pickles, lemon juice and pickled chillis for the daring. Utter heaven.

Another meal I made was for a Libyan-style slow cooked beef with pasta, called Mbakbaka. (Above.) Toasted caraway seeds, chilli and cumin carry this dish. Beef shin cooks in the spiced tomato sauce for at least two hours, and pasta is added for the last little bit. Weirdly, there was a slight lack in depth of flavour, but that was remedied by the late addition of a stock cube. No big problem. I served it with a green salad from the book which was made with lettuce, many green herbs, avocado and a wonderful shallot and vinegar dressing.

So no, I didn't make it to the boiling hot centre of the earth this summer. But I ate its bounty heartily and with great joy. Summer is coming to a close now (we think, I mean, who knows these days?) and I will soon crave the delights of Autumn spices and fruit. In the meantime, all I can hope is that my cookbooks don't become a work of historic fantasy for my children and their own children. The planet is special, it's our home, and it can grow the most delicious tomatoes, olives and grapes (for medicinal purposes only of course) and *MEDesque* really celebrates all it has to give. After all, we want to cook the books, not the planet. And this book is hot enough for us all.



Craft Corner

Cosy Cat Beds

I recently purchased four new cushions and decided to upcycle the old ones. Upcycling is a great way to breathe new life into old things and, in this case, it also helped me justify the new purchase. There is not much to a cushion: it consists of fabric, filling and a zip or other fastener. The fabric on the old cushions was beyond rescue, thanks to a charismatic dog who used the cushions as both a personal towel and a toothbrush. I decided to re-use only the filling from the old cushions.

There are so many items that contain filling, from toys to upholstery, but I decided to upcycle the filling into cat beds. I selected a doughnut cat bed. Why a doughnut cat bed? Because I would happily curl up in it myself if I could!

I purchased 2 metres of new fabric (with a cat print of course) and I already had about 1.2 metres of fabric with a fish print. (I thought the cats would approve of this print as well.) For each bed, I cut two 40 cm diameter circles and a 20 x 125 cm sleeve of fabric. I stuffed these with the filling and sewed it together. With some of the left over fabric which just wasn't big enough for the doughnut bed, I created a simple rectangular mat and added tufting.

Why do I need four new cat beds, you ask? I don't. I don't even have a cat! But the Scottish SPCA Rescue and Rehoming Centre always appreciates donations for animals in their care, so we donated the cat beds there.

Did you know that the Scottish SPCA in Balerno is the oldest Scottish SPCA Centre? They operate a cattery for up to 42 cats alongside kennels, stables and even a vivarium for reptiles and snakes. Please consider visiting the centre if you are looking for your future pet.



Nature's Medicine Box

Elderberry

Around September, the berries on Elder trees start to ripen into its characteristic beautiful purple-black. As discussed in the previous issue on Elderflowers, Elders have long historical roots in Celtic mythology and folklore, and its dark berries, unlike the white airy flowers, are thought to connect the users to the shadow faerie realm. In Ogham tree alphabet, Elder is the thirteenth tree symbolising the death of the year. Due to all the ritualistic significance, disrespectful treatment of Elder trees were thought to bring bad fortune all over Europe, and strict rituals were observed when cutting down an Elder tree.

Faithful to its Celtic mythos, it is a herb thMedicinally, Elderberries are quite different from Elderflowers, and its possible antiviral properties have been touted by various health gurus in the last few years. Berries do have long traditional use as early treatment for seasonal respiratory infections as gentle expectorants, helping you clear any excess phlegm, as well as soothing irritated mucous membranes.

Elderberry syrup, often called rob, can be beneficial to make in preparation for the winter cold/flu season: it makes a wonderful cough remedy especially combined with elecampane roots and/or ginger. Be careful when preparing and eating elderberries – while both flowers and berries are edible when cooked (eaten raw in large quantities can cause nausea), berry and flower stems, as well as leaves, bark and branches of Elder are mildly toxic. Please visit my website for foraging recipes relating to Elderberries, as well as herbs covered in past issues.

- 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.roseandyarrow.com>



Wellbeing

Mindfulness

As a teacher of mindfulness courses, I'm always interested to hear the varied ideas and expectations people have when finding out about mindfulness. One common idea is that we can somehow learn to control our thoughts or empty our minds, to achieve some sort of blissful mental peace and quiet. There are certainly relaxation or meditation techniques that can help achieve a sense of calm and ease anxiety, but that's not my experience of the power of learning mindfulness! It's what we can "see" once we learn to be present and accepting of all our thoughts, no matter what they are and how they make us feel. For me, it's been a 10 year, ongoing, life changing, life affirming, at times difficult, but so worthwhile journey!

A definition of mindfulness from teacher, Rob Nairn, is "knowing what is happening while it's happening, without preference". In essence, this means cultivating our ability to pay detailed attention to our mental, emotional and physical experiences in any moment, but trying at the same time to hold an attitude of gentle curiosity and non-judgement. With time and practise, we can learn more about ourselves and the habits we repeat that lead to challenge and difficulty in our lives and those around us. We can begin to feel more kind and forgiving to ourselves and towards others, and gradually – with a little more mental space and clarity – we may be able to choose different ways to respond to the world that cause us less anguish.

Mindfulness is one path that can support us to feel more happy in life, and there is no right time to begin. NHS Scotland website suggests mindfulness to support improved mental wellbeing. If you feel drawn to find out more about mindfulness, please get in touch: annette@pondwellness.co.uk

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



Food for Life

Fibremaxxing

Fibremaxxing is the latest nutrition trend taking social media by storm. The aim is to maximise the fibre you consume throughout the day, aiming from anywhere between 30g (current health guidelines) up to 50g.

Fibre is incredibly important for maintaining health, particularly supporting the digestive system and feeding the beneficial bacteria in the gut. It can also help support blood glucose control, cholesterol levels and heart health.

However, if you suddenly start eating significantly more fibre than your body is used to, you may experience bloating, wind, abdominal discomfort or changes in your bowel habits. This is because your digestive system and gut bacteria need time to adapt. The key is to slowly increase, so if you are currently under-consuming, aim to add an extra 5g each week.

Foods high in fibre include wholegrains, beans, lentils, nuts, seeds, raspberries, blackberries, apples, pears, kiwis, avocados, broccoli, carrots, leafy greens, peas, artichokes, sweet potatoes, dried fruits and dark chocolate (+70% cocoa content).

My top tips for increasing your fibre intake:

- Sprinkle some nuts and seeds over your porridge and a big handful of berries.
- Keep a homemade trail mix on your countertop for snacking – nuts, seeds, dried fruits and dark chocolate chips.
- Add a handful of spinach to omelettes, smoothies, pasta dishes and curries.
- Swap white bread, rice and pasta for wholegrain versions.
- Swap white potatoes for sweet potatoes.
- Add beans to stews, soups and salads.

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

ARIANA CARPICO THE PENTLAND FRY

After more than four decades at the heart of Juniper Green, we are saying a very fond farewell as Elio retires from the Pentland Fry.

The Pentland Fry first opened its doors on Friday 6 June 1980, following a petition by the local community in support of its opening. The following year, Elio and Silvia married and took over the traditional Fish and Chip business, originally opened by Silvia's father. Little did they know that they were beginning a family journey that would become such a much-loved part of village life.

In 1987, the family opened "Dolce" next door. With its traditional sweets and home-made ice cream, made on the premises using an old family recipe, Dolce quickly became a favourite with local families and remains a treasured memory for many.

The wonderful support of the community encouraged the family to keep growing their business. In 1996, pizzas and kebabs were added to the Pentland Fry menu, following the enlargement of the premises.

Then, in 2003, "Ristorante al Borgo" opened, bringing a little corner of Italy to the village. Serving Italian food and wine and awarded for using quality Italian ingredients, al Borgo also became a special place for generations of families to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and many other memorable occasions.

Throughout it all, Elio has been at the heart of the businesses. From working behind the fryer at the Pentland Fry, care-

fully selecting fresh fish and quality ingredients, to becoming head chef at al Borgo, his dedication has been unwavering. He often worked seven days a week, with holidays back home in Italy providing a welcome chance to rest and recharge—although he has been known to cook up fish and chips for the residents of Fontechiari, the village he emigrated from in 1973 as a teenager.

Elio and Silvia have been supported by their children (Ariana, Fabio and Claudia), their extended family and a team of loyal staff. Perhaps most importantly, they have been supported by generations of customers. Many have become friends, and it is those relationships and memories that have made the businesses about so much more than food.

Now, after an incredible 52 years in the fish and chip trade – 45 of them in Juniper Green – Elio is hanging up his white jacket and retiring. He is looking forward to spending some well-earned time with his family and his seven wonderful grandchildren.

The family, who are currently looking for someone to take over the business, would like to say "Ciao" and a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone in Juniper Green and the wider community for your custom, friendship, kindness and loyalty over the years. You have been a huge part of their story.

The family will miss seeing their customers, so if you spot them around the village, please stop and say hello! They would also love to hear your favourite memories or see any photographs you may have.

• Please email: accounts@pentlandfry.co.uk or pop a note through the door of the premises.

End of an Era for Juniper Green



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Remembering Morag Dunbar

C&B News is pleased to publish extracts from a tribute by Morag's good friend (and Balerno Folk Club member) Carole Prior, and also the citation published by the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame in 2020.

Many friends will already know that sadly we lost Morag Dunbar on Tuesday 12 May 2026. She had been suffering serious ill health for some time. Her funeral took place on Tuesday 9 June 2026 at Mortonhall Crematorium, and a reception was held afterwards at Currie Rugby Club where the celebration of her life continued with music, songs and stories amongst friends and family.

Morag Dunbar's love of folk music started in Kirkcaldy in the 1960s. At the time, the legendary Elbow Room Lounge Bar was a firm fixture on the Scottish folk circuit. She'd be there, every Thursday after school, in the audience for the likes of Archie Fisher, Hamish Imlach, The Corries and Matt McGinn.

Leaving school, she moved to Edinburgh for university and soon found plenty things to get involved in. She joined the Edinburgh University folk club, in her words: "Not as good as The Elbow Room but still good!" Much to her flatmates' horror, she took up guitar lessons on offer there, and started playing and singing, contributing to the music at club nights, sessions and parties. She recounts that there were so many opportunities in Edinburgh for folk music: The Crown Bar, Sandy Bell's, Ian Green's legendary Police Social Club, and the University Scottish Nationalist Club, a movement which has always had a strong folk music tradition that continues to this day. As she put it: "My friends all tended to be in the folk scene, so socialising and parties always ended up in music and singing sessions."

In the early 1970s, she moved to Balerno, where she stayed for the rest of her life.

Having been surrounded by such a vibrant musical community in central Edinburgh, the move was no doubt an adjustment—only one weekly Saturday session in the lounge bar of a local pub. Seeing the need for more, she and some friends began arranging music nights in The Grey Horse. The nights started as fundraisers for the Scottish National Party but, as the events' popularity grew, the audiences became steadily larger and more apolitical. Soon there was talk of a folk club, leading to the institution that is the Balerno Folk Club, which Morag had been involved in running for more than four decades—alongside a dedicated committee of volunteers, which in the early days also included Alex Hood, then organiser of the Edinburgh Police Folk Club.

Over the years, the club has given a stage to acts now household names, including Dougie MacLean, John Martyn, Dick Gaughan, and The McCalmans, who recorded their 1988 album "Listen to the Heat" live in concert at the club. Her strong commitment to convening this club has been unwavering. In 2020, Morag's huge contribution to Scottish music was recognised when she was inducted into the Traditional Scottish Music Hall of Fame for a "Services to Community" Award. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were not able to celebrate this achievement with her as we would have wished—nor the 40th anniversary of the club, also around that time.

Morag's love of Scotland was central to the person she was and this was reflected in all aspects of her life. She had graduated from the University of Edinburgh with an honours degree in Scottish history and

went on to have a career with the Scottish Examination Board, where she was a key person involved in getting traditional music included in the Scottish school curriculum.

A staunch supporter of Independence, Morag had joined the SNP in her university days, and actively gave support through fundraising by organising legendary Burns Suppers for the Balerno Branch for many years, as well as working as a parliamentary assistant to Linda Fabiani MSP.

Taking early retirement, Morag then undertook training to become a Blue Badge tour guide. Putting her Scottish history knowledge to work, she driver-guided many people who had diverse interests around Scotland: including "The Gerard Butler Fan Club", genealogy enthusiasts, and a multitude of Outlander fans wishing to follow in the footsteps of Jamie and Claire Fraser! She also was involved in tour guide training.

There is no doubt that Morag was a "wumman o' many pairts", yet modest about her own talents and achievements. She was a loyal and true friend to many of us: kind, reliable and not afraid to speak her mind. She was much loved and will be much missed.

So what now? We all feel that "Balerno Folk Club must go on", and there's no doubt that that is what Morag would have wished too. So we start a new season of gigs on the last Tuesday of each month (except for December, July and August) at Balerno Bowling Club. Tuesday 29 September will bring The Eilidh Grant Trio, with more musicians and singers already booked for the rest of the year. New and former members welcome.



From the C&B News archive. Left: following a successful charity concert in late 2014, Morag Dunbar and John Stirling, representing Balerno Folk Club, presented a cheque to Woodlands School head teacher Angelina Lombardo, who was accompanied by head boy Ryan Brown, head girl Laura Dymond and deputy head girl Chloe Murphy. Above: Morag, with Ann O'Toole, later presented a further cheque to Neil Squires, then-head teacher at Harmony Education Trust.

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40 Years Transforming Lives Through Horses

FIONA GODLEY
RAVELRIG RDA

The Riding for the Disabled Association is a UK based charity that focuses on providing therapeutic horse-riding to people with developmental and physical disabilities. 40 years ago this year the inspirational Barbara Johnstone MBE established Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled (RDA) in Balerno, with one Shetland pony called Treacle and five hats donated by the local Rotary Club.

From this humble beginning, Ravelrig RDA was born and became fully committed to providing life-changing experiences for disabled children and adults. Through the years, additional ponies and horses were added to the team as participants and volunteers increased. Ravelrig RDA is now firmly established as a fundamental part of the Balerno community.

The group was initially set up to support Barbara's daughter Donna, who was born with cerebral palsy. Donna's initial introduction to riding was at Gogarburn Hospital, which revealed the extraordinary impact horses could have on balance, coordination, confidence, and emotional wellbeing of participants.

The Riding for the Disabled Association's President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, officially opened Ravelrig RDA on Tuesday 3 October 2000—as reported by C&B News! Soon after this, the group was able to acquire and own the idyllic and beautiful ten acre site overlooking the Water of Leith and Pentland Hills.

HRH The Princess Royal returned to Ravelrig in December 2025 to officially open our shiny new indoor arena and new facilities. None of this would have happened had it not been for Barbara's vision and determination.

The new arena is dedicated to Donna with the epitaph: "She learnt so little but taught us all so much."

Above: The Ravelrig RDA team today, outside the charity's indoor arena. Below: In 1986 a Ravelrig RDA group operate in the fields that are now Ravelrig Gait.

Ravelrig RDA currently has 68 participants, more than 100 volunteers, 12 coaches and an eight-horse team ranging in age from 7 to 25 years—all various heights to accommodate rider needs. All the horses are geldings and live together as one herd.

You can often see "the boys" enjoying life and free grass in the fields opposite Balerno High School in the village. Without doubt, the horses are the backbone of Ravelrig RDA providing equine therapy to both riding and non-riding participants.

With the riding sessions now being less liable to be cancelled due to the sometimes quite unpredictable Balerno weather, Ravelrig RDA intends to extend both the ridden and non-ridden services by increasing the number of sessions held each week. To be able to do this though, additional coaches and upskilling of the current team will be necessary.

Ravelrig RDA also have eight Activity Leaders currently in training who will provide non-ridden activities in the form of individual sensory and emotional support and "Tea with a Pony".

Fast-forward 40 years and Ravelrig RDA now has 68 participants, more than 100 volunteers, 12 coaches and a brand new indoor and outdoor arena dedicated to Donna with the epitaph: "She learnt so little but taught us all so much."

• The continued success of Ravelrig RDA today would not be possible without the dedication of the wonderful participants, volunteers (aged 12-76), supporters and sponsors. For more details, visit: <https://ravelrig-rda.org.uk/>, email: manager@ravelrig-rda.org.uk or call: (0131) 449 7994



Hardware Bill's a One-Off!

NIGEL DUNCAN
C&B NEWS

Bill Laird, who celebrates his 86th birthday in October, has been a retail fixture on Balerno's Main Street for 44 years.

The octogenarian has seen many changes. Indeed, he started as the owner of the popular video shop, then changed to a hardware store.

Why? Because his shop roof leaked and he could not buy a bucket in the village!

Bill recalled that in his early years of trading the alternatives included a newsagent, butcher, baker, general store, dentist, bookmaker, chemist, estate agent, electrical shop, a bookshop and, of course, Arthur Lucas in the Post Office.

Things have undoubtedly changed, but Bill remains. Not in the same premises he started in, but still trading in his hardware store.

His opening hours have changed, due to a recent illness and hospitalisation, but he is now back, and really appreciative of all the goodwill messages he has received.

There have been cards, posts on social media site Balerno Cares, and many people have popped into the shop to ask how he is.

Bill continues to offer not just a selection of hardware goods but also a photocopying facility and key-cutting. Plus, he still takes in dry cleaning.

And, if he does not have an item required, he can generally source it for you.

Many happy returns when they come, Bill, and we all appreciate you being there.

• Balerno Hardware, 26 Main Street, is currently open between 9am and 1pm, Monday to Saturday—hospital appointments allowing!

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PLANNING, ETC BY ARCHIE CLARK

Planning and Climate Change—14: Building for Hot and Cold Conditions

Human beings have short memories—we mostly look forward while forgetting past years.

70 years ago, the seasons were more clearly defined but Spring now arrives earlier and snow in “Winter” is almost non-existent. The Institute for Environmental Research and Education (IERE) (Ref.1) claims that the Earth is “approximately” 1.1°C hotter than 100 years ago.

Not much? According to IERE, this “represents the average global temperature increase. Regional temperature changes can be much larger” and “it signifies a substantial change in the Earth’s energy balance, causing significant environmental disruption and triggering feedback loops that can accelerate warming further. Small changes in average temperature can have dramatic effects on ecosystems and weather patterns.”

My 1979 “Metric Handbook”

suggests we are most comfortable in the narrow range of 18°C - 21°C, dependent on humidity and activity. With temperatures soaring above 40°C, apart from looking to reduce the number of heat generating devices (including Data Centers), creating better working conditions with noise control and reflecting blinds, and allowing air to flow freely through spaces, we might alter our work pattern, starting earlier and finishing later with a longer mid-day rest period.

On the built environment, demolition and construction use huge amounts of energy. According to the CIOB and CIBSE (Ref.2), it is thought that UK buildings account for around 50% of the total energy consumed (Ref.3). To save energy, we might question whether it is really necessary to replace Victorian buildings “because they are no longer fit for purpose”, while

exploring how they can be reinvented. As Yvonne Rydin wrote in Planning without Growth, the unique identity of an area is often something worth retaining. Replacing an “old friend” with a soul-less glass box may not represent “economic” sense but that old stone building, whose interior temperature fluctuated slowly, contributed much to the streetscape, relying on you opening windows while the newcomer demands processed air, remotely controlled to specification.

Building Regulations increasingly require better insulation to reduce heat loss. Now they need revision to ensure buildings can be cooled naturally—perhaps using features that work in hot climates. Building location and landscaping can help, with sprinklers (against fire) in large buildings, and trees and fountains in parks. Our planners could be busy.

1: <https://iere.org/how-many-degrees-has-the-earth-warmed-in-the-past-100-years/>
2: CIOB (Chartered Institute of Building) and CIBSE (Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers)
3: https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/Embodied_energy_in_constructions

Baberton Mains – Housing Replacements



The City of Edinburgh Council should be praised for the admirable speed with which it processed application 26/02417/FUL, for the replacement house at 37 Baberton Mains Avenue.

The last of the houses damaged in the explosion in December 2023, number 35 (the other half of the site it shares with No. 37), is now the subject of planning application 26/02828/FUL. The proposal is not noticeably different to the original house. The last date for comments was Tuesday 4 August 2026. It would be good if it could be processed with similar alacrity.

Edinburgh City Council’s 2040 Local Development Plan

Immediately after City Plan 2030 was adopted in November 2024, the City of Edinburgh Council started working on City Plan 2040.

City Plan 2030’s introduction says it “sets out how we develop our city sustainably over the next ten years,” thereby suggesting it would be replaced about 2035. However its successor is scheduled to commence in 2029. 2040 seems to be the intended expiry date for the Plan, not its beginning.

The proposed timescale for the preparation and delivery of the 2040 City Plan can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/4xd3epwr>

Local Place Plans were to be forwarded to CEC by “community bodies” by July 2026 for them to be taken into account in the Proposed Plan.

Between July and September,

CEC has been asking people to contribute to their “Call for Ideas” stage—a non-statutory consultation period that enables everyone to submit ideas for the new Plan. No doubt our community councils can tell us how they have been coping with our cross-boundary issues.

Between October 2026 and July 2027, CEC will produce a “new style place-based Local Development Plan informed by the Evidence Report, Call for Ideas and Local Place Plans.” Simultaneously, CEC will carry out studies to support the Plan including site, transport and education appraisals, strategic environmental assessments, integrated impact assessments and biodiversity impacts. It is intended that the Proposed City Plan will be finalised, checked and published for public engagement in July 2027.

Various stages follow, including a minimum 12-week (three month) consultation period between November 2027 and January 2028, analysis of the results and examination by reporters between September 2028 and February 2029.

After further procedures, City Plan 2030 should be replaced by City Plan 2040 in October 2029. Given the number of hurdles preparation of this Plan will face over the next three years, it is highly likely that slippage will occur, as happened with the 2030 Plan when Covid-19 intervened and the time allowed for the reporters proved inadequate.

I wonder how many people working on the Plan or making contributions today will have moved on before it eventually appears-and work begins on the 2050 Plan!

Election Promises

The lack of a hustings event in the run-up to the Scottish Parliament election this year meant that we were not able to ask what improvements the candidates would propose to address our over-stressed Planning “System”.

So far as I can recall, one candidate promised to build lots more houses (location undefined) but anyone attempting to do that within the life of a single parliament will quickly discover that the planning arrangements need a radical top-to-bottom overhaul.

The new government might start by introducing the often-promised but always relegated “Equal Right of Appeal” concept so that the people who have to live with buildings erected by others to satisfy their investors are able to intervene effectively when they feel their viewpoints have not been properly considered.



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DR SCOTT ARTHUR MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

BACK TO PARLIAMENT

I hope *C&B News* readers had a great summer and made the most of the sunshine.

Over the summer, I have spent much of my time meeting businesses, charities, community groups and residents across Edinburgh South West, listening to their concerns and ideas, and offering support wherever I can. Those conversations have given me plenty to take back to Parliament.

While it is important that we continue to challenge the City Council and the Scottish / UK Governments to do more, I am also proud of the many organisations and individuals across our area who are already showing leadership and making a real difference.

I am writing this after a weekend visiting venues on the Pentland Open Studios Art Trail and taking part in activities in Spylaw Park organised by the Colinton Village Hub team. Both were powerful reminders of what communities can achieve when people come together with a shared purpose.

The preparation of Local Place Plans has provided another excellent example of community action. Community councils representing Baberton, Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno have worked hard to engage residents and shape a vision for the future of their areas. With significant housing proposals likely to emerge over the coming decade, the Local Place Plans will help inform planning decisions.

The warm summer we have enjoyed has also highlighted the growing impact of climate change across Europe and the importance of acting. Governments must take action, but we all have a part to play.

That's why it's important to remember that Local Place Plans are not just about future development. They are also about improving parks and green spaces, making it easier and safer to walk, cycle and use public transport, and creating healthier, more sustainable communities for future generations. Well done to the people behind them!



SIMITA KUMAR MSP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WESTERN

A BUSY SUMMER

Since being elected as the MSP for Edinburgh South Western in May, life has certainly been busy.

Alongside the privilege of representing our communities at Holyrood, I have also had the honour of being appointed Minister for Equalities and International Development. It has been an exciting and demanding start, with much of my time focused on building my team, recruiting staff, establishing my parliamentary office, and getting settled into my new ministerial responsibilities.

While the role at Holyrood is important, I have always been clear that being a local MSP means being visible, accessible, and rooted in the community I represent.

Over the past few months, I have already undertaken dozens of constituency visits, meeting residents, community organisations, businesses, schools, public services, and many others who help make Edinburgh South Western the fantastic place it is.

My office has also received more than 2,000 emails and pieces of constituency casework. Behind every email is a person, a family or a community seeking help, advice or simply someone to listen.

A particularly important moment of the summer has been seeing young people across Edinburgh South Western receive their exam results.

I want to offer my warmest congratulations to every pupil who received their results, with a record number of young people progressing to university, which is a fantastic achievement and something they, their families, and teachers should be incredibly proud of.

But university is only one destination. There is no "wrong" path after school. College, apprenticeships, training, employment, further education or taking some time to decide what comes next can all lead to fulfilling and successful lives. What matters is that every young person has the opportunity, support, and confidence to follow the path that is right for them.



MILES BRIGGS MSP
EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN EAST

LOOKING AHEAD

As the summer draws to an end I thought I ought to lay out my priorities for the coming months at Holyrood.

Perhaps most urgent are the soaring levels of antisocial behaviour. I recently discovered that Lothian Buses has experienced more than 1,000 incidents, 400 repairs, and six staff absences in only the first six months of this year. Meanwhile, e-bike gangs continue to make our streets more dangerous. Whether pulling high-speed wheelies on Lanark Road or frightening walkers in the Pentlands, these groups are becoming a menace to the community. I will continue to take every opportunity to hold ministers to account and engage with Police Scotland.

A closely-related problem is that of shoplifting. I recently learned that 99% of Scottish convenience retailers believe shoplifting is a daily occurrence. I welcome the establishment of a Retail Crime Taskforce, and I am grateful to our police officers for doing this challenging work, but the Taskforce has been given only £3 million funding per year until 2029 and is composed of only 14 uniformed officers. In the last parliament I felt like a broken record demanding more police officers. Talking to local people I know that the community feels less safe, and this must change.

Following the passage of the Assisted Dying Bill through the last parliament, all parties pledged to take action to improve the delivery of palliative care. I will be taking the opportunity of renewed focus on end-of-life care to continue work on my Right to Palliative Care Bill. So many people have loved ones who have not accessed the care they deserve, so I hope that last session's debates have created the political will from all parties for urgent reform and a legal right to palliative care.

There has been much debate on the Yellow Lines on Harlaw Road of late and especially around the wavy pattern of these lines. I have been told that the machine broke down when they were being put down which caused the problem. They have now been burnt off and replaced with straighter lines. However, please be aware these are temporary and, once the Traffic Regulation Order's come into place, they will be removed and this will become a rural clearways area.



CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

OVERGROWN

Our summer holidays are mostly over and while other parts of the UK haven't had much rain, and it's been slightly drier than usual here we have still had intermittent periods of challenging weather which make all the weeds come back in force within 2/3 weeks of being ripped out by mechanical means. On top of that, is overgrown vegetation on Curriehill Road which, I have been told has been dealt with to make it safer for pedestrians to use. Another area of concern is the bottom of Ravelrig Hill at the junction of Long Dalmahoy Road. I've alerted the council to this issue and hopefully something will be done about that as well.

On a positive note, having chased up the council for some time, local residents now have a new seat/bench which has been reinstalled opposite the Hub in Juniper Green. Hopefully this one will last longer than the previous version.

Several months ago a car unexpectedly hit a wall in the pedestrian precinct on Main Street in Balerno. I have again chased this up for a resolution as quickly as possible. The latest information I have been told is that the Council are updating their Term Maintenance Contract and will involve a procurement process which requires a full tendering period to select the preferred masonry contractor. This will take time so no actual timescales can be given at the moment but I will keep Balerno CC aware of any developments.

There has been much debate on the Yellow Lines on Harlaw Road of late and especially around the wavy pattern of these lines. I have been told that the machine broke down when they were being put down which caused the problem. They have now been burnt off and replaced with straighter lines. However, please be aware these are temporary and, once the Traffic Regulation Order's come into place, they will be removed and this will become a rural clearways area.

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CLLR NEIL GARDINER
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

SUMMER UPDATES

Many readers will be aware that, earlier in the summer, there was a significant fire in the Pentlands. Working together, land managers, farm workers, Fire and Rescue Scotland, Park Rangers, Friends of the Pentlands and others ensured that it was brought under control, with Police Scotland carrying out investigations into the cause. Following this, meetings have been held to consider future actions and responses.

In October a trial begins for 7am to 7pm bus lanes between London Road and Milton Road. Although on the opposite side of the city, delays (particularly at bottle necks such as Willowbrae) impact on reliability across the 44 service, with bunching messing with bus frequencies. Hopefully implementation leads to improvement to this vital service.

I recently attended a packed Gibson Craig Hall where concerns were raised about potential impact of Data Centres, with the massive scale proposal at Hermiston. The Scottish Government announced that large scale data centres will now require Environmental Impact Assessments as part of the planning process. The local campaign led by Sarah Finlay and Gordon Fraser continues, seeking a moratorium on proposals as the credentials of “green” data centres require consideration.

The interesting debate stretched beyond the potential impact of the proposal on the Currie area, wider electricity and water supply, to the impact of Artificial Intelligence itself. While the immediate matter concerns planning, we are potentially on the cusp of significant societal changes, some positive, some negative.

Constituents have raised concerns about vehicle speeds on Bavelaw Road, and vehicles on Balerno Main Street. It will be interesting to see if a consensus position can be reached at Balerno Community Council, where this has been the subject of debate. Place Plans developed by each of the Water of Leith villages communities are in the process of being submitted to the council for consideration.



CLLR JASON RUST
COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD WARD

FEELING SAFE

The citywide scourge of illegal bicycles and scooters has sadly reached Colinton and Bonaly and is being encountered by local residents. I have received reports of confrontational and aggressive behaviour by groups of people, with some residents left feeling scared and concerned about going to local shops or walking along pavements or crossing roads. This issue has moved from beside the Water of Leith into Colinton Village and Bonaly too.

I have been in touch with the Community Policing Team who are actively patrolling the areas, along with plain clothes teams. Residents are encouraged to report any issues to Police Scotland and also to review the crime prevention links on the Police Scotland website.

I also raised the issue with Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent David Robertson at a recent Council Committee considering police scrutiny. It was acknowledged that the illegal use of bicycles and scooters was a real policing and community concern and not one the Police regularly had challenges on until a couple of years ago.

The Police are looking to learn from other approaches elsewhere in the UK and working with retailers regarding the sale of these bicycles and scooters. The focus is on education, engagement and seizure. I was assured that tackling this menace is a clear divisional priority for the Police and a Chief Inspector has been put in charge of dealing with this priority.

Any Colinton / Bonaly residents with concerns or any information should please feel free to contact me as ever. Antisocial behaviour is completely unacceptable and together we will defeat it and preserve our amenity, ensuring that our area feels safe for all.



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LOCAL PLACE PLAN

At its August meeting Balerno Community Council unanimously agreed to adopt the draft Balerno Local Place Plan, which was prepared by a Working Group of the Council.

The Plan was developed through extensive community engagement, involving an online questionnaire completed by over 250 people, interviews at several Farmers' Markets, engagement at local events such as Balerno Gala, and a public meeting held in July attended by more than 150 residents.

Following this engagement, the Plan was finalised and made available online, with hard copies available for inspection at Balerno Library. It was then issued as part of the required Information Document to neighbouring Community Councils and local City Councillors on 14 August. It is now undergoing the statutory 28-day consultation period, after which it will be submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council for consideration for registration, along with any further comments received from statutory consultees and the public.

If registered, the Plan will gain statutory recognition, which will require CEC to have regard to it in planning decisions, including in the preparation of City Plan 2040, which will replace City Plan 2030 and set future city planning policy. Local Place Plans are important tools for ensuring that development reflects community priorities.

BCC is now better placed to represent Balerno following this process. Whether or not the Plan is registered, it will direct BCC's focus on securing key community priorities, including safe routes to school, improved crossing points at key junctions, safe access routes into the Pentland Hills, and the protection of Balerno's green belt and conservation area. This Plan enables BCC to demonstrate clear community backing for these priorities, and BCC thanks all who have contributed to the development of the Plan whether through questionnaires, meetings, or other forms of engagement.



NIKODEM GOSZCZYNSKI
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BACK TO WORK

The first Currie Community Council meeting after the summer break was a busy one, with discussion focusing on two important issues that could help shape the future of our area.

During the public forum, a resident from Hermiston Village spoke about the proposed hyperscale data centre development at Hermiston and outlined concerns regarding its potential impact on the local area. While there was recognition that investment in digital infrastructure is important, concerns were raised about the location of the project on prime agricultural land within the Green Belt and close to existing communities.

Another key item on the agenda was the Currie Local Place Plan. Councillors thanked the many residents, community groups and visitors who took part in surveys, workshops and consultations. Their feedback has played a vital role in developing the plan and identifying local priorities.

The engagement process highlighted several areas where residents would like to see improvements. For example, Lanark Road West and the Riccarton Road roundabout were identified as locations where walking, wheeling and crossing can feel unsafe. Concerns were also raised about active travel connections, traffic speeds and accessibility.

Once finalised, the Local Place Plan will be publicly available and will provide important guidance to the City of Edinburgh Council on the priorities, needs and aspirations of the local community, helping to ensure local voices are heard in future planning decisions.

There have been a number of recent reports of thefts from unlocked vehicles during the night. Residents are encouraged to ensure their vehicles are locked and that no valuables are left on display. Any suspicious activity should be reported to Police Scotland, as every report helps build a clearer picture of offending patterns and assist in identifying those responsible.



Data Centres Coming to Scotland

GORDON FRASER
LOCAL RESIDENT

Summer 2026 has been intense. Most of us have been worried by headlines of extreme heat, drought, and potential food shortages. Meanwhile, whispers of planned hyperscale data centres are popping up all over Scotland—24 in total.

One planned data centre is a massive 200MW facility at Wester Hermiston. 200MW continuous is an insane amount of electricity, enough to power 450,000 homes and – crucially – far more than the local grid can supply—around 50 - 60MW.

How can the centre even run if it requires nearly four times more electricity than the grid can provide? Either by building massive pylons throughout Edinburgh's green belt or through reliance on "back-up" diesel generators.

The plans include up to 60 huge generators that, if left to run 24 hours a day, would dump around 2,540 tonnes of raw carbon dioxide and other pollutants

into the local atmosphere, raising concerns about air quality, health effects and climate impacts. This is before you consider the harmful vapours emitted by Diesel storage tanks.

Furthermore, the site is planned on 77 acre of prime agricultural land, to which techniques such as concrete capping would cause irreversible damage. Land of this quality makes up less than 2% of Scotland's land mass; now really doesn't seem like the time to be destroying it!

Use of farmland, pollution and an over-capacity grid are just some of the concerns surrounding this proposed data centre. Other issues include noise pollution, health and safety risks, use of drinking water and effects on local wildlife. This all feels not particularly worth it for a development that will provide no benefit to the local community (and negligible jobs) and a technology that seems increasingly unstable and unprofitable the more we learn about it.

Let's keep our green belt and clean air—and reject Hermiston data centre.



The New Path: 'Whatever it's called'

LIZ BEEVERS
JUNIPER GREEN RESIDENT

It's got it all: the new path between Juniper Green and Currie has a good surface, benches and bins, links to other paths and a satisfying destination in Bloomiehall Park—the best in the valley of Water of Leith.

Already in June more than seven thousand trips along it have been made by dog walkers, elderly people on mobility scooters, little ones wobbling on their first bikes, schoolchildren walking back from their exams, and many, many families with buggies on their way to the park. It's a place you can stand and chat to people or sit and admire the wonderful view of the hills. And not have to tramp a kilo of mud back home to your carpets!

The wildflowers have returned: oxeye daisies, poppies, pineapple weed, fumitory and the brambles are sprouting back ready to flavour a hundred apple crumbles. The

70 or so new native trees planted by local schoolchildren and watered by community volunteers have clung on through the drought and the wheat is ready for harvest.

There have been some teething problems with our local hoodie-neds doing wheelies down it, and Just Eat delivery bikes speeding dangerously. But local security cameras and some police attention seem to have sorted that for the time being. And not everybody welcomes the large streetlights which are planned for the autumn.

No longer "that muddy path" with wide, crop-destroying diversions round the puddles, it is still the desired quiet, safe, short-cut used by generations between the two villages. It has not yet settled into its name. Greenbelt Way? The field path? Muirwood Path? The Pylon Path?

Whatever! Currie and Juniper Green & Baberton Mains community councils are to be congratulated, first on accepting Taylor Wimpey's gift of a strip of land and then their patient planning and negotiations which have finally prodded the City of Edinburgh Council into adopting this real asset for our communities.



Greenbelt Way Connection

ELSIE & ANNIKA MACLEOD
CURRIE RESIDENTS (AGES 10 & 8)

Greenbelt Way is an upgraded path that connects Currie and Juniper Green. Before it was muddy and full of deep grooves worn into the ground by lots of feet. The new path, completed in May 2026, is now a smooth path perfect for cycling, walking and roller skating, which we love to do and the hills make it especially fun!

We also like it because we can go to the park without getting muddy feet and we love the book box, as we often stop by to borrow books and then go to the park.

We like to see so many people and dogs out and about enjoying the peace and quiet, and enjoying the birds and other animals that live

there.

We read that someone wants to build lots of houses on the green belt field. That makes us angry and sad. We shouldn't build any houses on the field because it's a nice view and it won't be nice and quiet if there are houses.

Once you cover the field in concrete you can't unbuild it and it will be like that forever. Its unfair children in the future will not enjoy the greenness like we do. Also if they were to build houses lots of animals will lose their homes, like birds, insects and mice and lots more.

Instead of houses they could plant more flowers and we also need to support the farmer who makes food for us.

We love the Greenbelt Way and we hope you love it as much as we do!



Eternal Youth?

MURDO MCEWAN
COLINTON RESIDENT

In the "mug shots" heading the columns by our elected representatives, a number of them appear to have aged not one day over many years in their service to us.

As well as their commitment to our interests, do they know the secrets of eternal youth?

Could they share those secrets with the rest of us?

Our "Views" pages are not just for politicians and community councillors—if you have an opinion you'd like to share on any subject with C&B News readers, why not do so? We're looking for around 300-words to run during 2026. Email: editor@candbnews.com



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A Second Art Trail Success

RUTH FORBES
PENTLAND OPEN STUDIOS

The second annual Pentlands Open Studios Art Trail took place over the weekend of 15 - 16 August, spanning the villages of Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and Colinton. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved from the bottom of our hearts for making it such a successful, enjoyable and rewarding event.

The hard work and enthusiasm of our 24 wonderful artists and makers, our 12 venue organisers and Tiphereth Print Studio, alongside our fantastic volunteers, together created a very special experience for our visitors.

Indeed, our visitor numbers have increased by around 40% since our first Art Trail last year—

despite running in parallel with the world's largest arts festival in Edinburgh! Our artists are still "buzzing" with enthusiasm, having met and talked with so many people who showed a genuine interest in their work and creative process.

The Art Trail is all about forging "inspiring connections" locally and beyond between artists and makers and the public, and our swelling visitor numbers and levels of engagement are a testament to the successful delivery of our vision.

We were delighted to welcome some new venues this year to the Art Trail, including the Juniper Green Village Hall, which has immediately become one of our busiest venues. Here visitors could meet and talk with five artists and then relax and enjoy the delicious home baked

delicacies at the new pop-up café, where every penny raised went to supporting the wonderful charity Community for Food.

We look forward to seeing you all next year!

• *If you supported us this year with a donation through our Crowdfunder, thank you. If you'd like to support us so that we can keep going, please visit: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/postudios2026>*

• *Every year we like to run a visitor survey to understand better how to improve our event experience going forward so please take part if you can by going to <https://tinyurl.com/postvfb26>*

• *For more details visit: [POSTudios.org](https://postudios.org), or @pentlandsopenstudios on Instagram.*



Exciting Second Year for Juniper Green Note

JOHN ELLIOTT
JUNIPER GREEN NOTE JAZZ CLUB

A grassroots jazz club at Baberton Golf Club is celebrating a remarkable first year, with National Lottery funding from Creative Scotland secured and major headline acts now booked through to May 2027.

Founded in October 2025, Juniper Green Note has quickly established a regular audience for live jazz in south-west Edinburgh. The Creative Scotland funding will help develop the programme, support musicians and make high-quality live jazz accessible to an even wider local audience.

The club's first birthday celebration on Thursday 29 October will feature internationally acclaimed New York saxophonist Greg Abate, a fitting headline act for a remarkable first year.

Founder John Elliott has also been appointed to the Board of Directors of Jazz Scotland, the national organisation representing and promoting jazz in Scotland. He hopes to use the role to help touring musicians discover and connect with the network of jazz venues across the UK, creating more opportunities for artists and audiences alike.

The club has already welcomed an impressive range of Scottish and international musicians during its first year. With its combination of major artists, emerging talent and a welcoming local setting, Juniper Green Note is establishing itself as an important new part of Edinburgh's jazz scene.

• *Tickets for upcoming concerts are available through Eventbrite and at greennote.club*



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Storytelling at The Meeting Place

LORNA SHIELDS
STORYTELLER

There's been a wonderful project on the go in Currie this year with local schools, families and those attending the Meeting Place each Monday in Currie.

This weekly gathering of "over 65s" understands that bringing young and old people together can be a beneficial experience for both groups. They also recognise the power of storytelling for all age groups and how this art form can help this coming together of ages.

It's in the bag! are an award-winning professional storytelling company who, for almost 15 years, have been taking children's imaginations on a magical journey. When The Meeting Place first approached It's in the bag!

to facilitate these storytelling sessions, neither group could have predicted just quite how powerful they would be.

There is a really strong case for inter-generational storytelling, particularly when you bring older people (65+) together with babies, toddlers and young children. A review of inter-generational programmes involving preschool and primary-age children found generally positive effects for older participants across areas including well-being, depression, self-reported health and self-esteem.

"We had an amazing intergenerational show with Primary 1s from Juniper Green joining our wee group of 'big people'," explained Allister McKillop of The Meeting Place. "The amount of laughter and giggles was infectious, and everyone had a great time."

Thinking About Joining a Choir?

MARGARET KIERAN
COLINTON & MERCHISTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir is holding two open rehearsals in September, offering you an ideal opportunity to find out more about the choir and to see what it would be like to sing with us, with no commitment to join.

We are a very welcoming, non-auditioning choir with a mixed range of ages and singing and sight-reading abilities. This season we will be learning Mendelssohn's Christmas cantata *Vom Himmel Hoch*, "The Shepherds" by Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, *In Terra Pax* by Gerald Raphael Finzi, as well as a selection of Christmas Carols (some with audience participation) for our Christmas Concert on Monday 7 December (time to be confirmed).

• We rehearse on Monday evenings in the Memorial Hall at Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road, between 7.15pm and 9pm.

• Our two open rehearsals are at the same venue on Mondays 7 and 14 September, between 7pm and 7.15pm.

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



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Currie Chieftains: Diving into a New Season

TABATHA MCCREE-COX
OPERATIONS MANAGER, CURRIE CHIEFTAINS

After a cracking 2025/26 season, which saw stunning performances but sadly not the silverware we were aiming for, Currie Chieftains are embarking on the 2026/27 season. We're refreshed, we're determined but, best of all, we're a happy community club with something to prove and we're united in that goal.

But what does that mean to you dear reader? If you aren't a member of the Club, is this relevant? If you don't watch rugby but like sport, could this be relevant? If your kids aren't playing at Chieftains, could they try it out and see if it might be for them?

The answer to all these questions is yes. We're a community club, with families and friends being our most important assets. Come along and watch our seniors play: I promise a great watch with none of the hassle of getting into town to Murrayfield and a significantly lower price tag to get in—a mere £15 for a premiership match. First match of the season for our 1st team is on Saturday 5 September at Malleny against city rivals, Heriots. Whether you're a die hard Chieftains fan or a Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green or Baberton resident or someone else from across west Edinburgh... please do come and join us.

So, a new season, what happens to get "match fit"? Our focus this month was a Volunteering Day on Sunday 9 August which saw 40+ volunteers come and get the Malleny pitches, grounds and

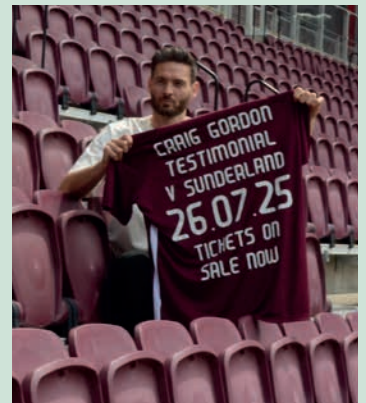
facilities cleaned and cleared for the new season. We jetwashed, we weeded, we cleaned, we strimmed and we painted. Wow did those volunteers do a lot! Much of it will never be noticed – will anyone see that people went up on a cherry picker and painted the top of the posts? – but it is all key to being ready for the season ahead. A huge thank you to all who helped and I hope you enjoyed your reward of a drink and cake or hot roll from our Break Out Cafe. Can't let the team go hungry after all!

We had one big project to complete "ChieftINNs—our new pitch side bar. A generous donor gave us this solid hut, a fabulous farmer with a tractor and trailer picked it up and transported it to Malleny and then a wonderful team made their vision for a pitch side bar come true. To Mac, Sarah, Niall, Neal, Alan and Sara—you are the best. (As are all the others I have failed to mention—sorry!). Huge thanks to everyone who has helped.

Malleny Park is a hidden treasure which many locals don't know about. We have our Break Out Cafe, open every day and perfect for social catch ups or as a work space. We have three function spaces, perfect for birthday gatherings, weddings, christenings or just a party! The facilities are open and available to all. Come along and see what we have to offer.

• *Currie Chieftains offer junior rugby from P1 onwards for girls and boys. If your child is interested, we would love to have them join us. Please contact us: clubhousemanager@chieftains.co.uk*

Former Balerno High School pupil Craig Gordon has retired from football, bringing an end to a 25-year playing career, writes Nigel Duncan. The 43-year-old goalkeeper announced the move in an emotional video after being part of Scotland's World Cup squad this summer. Gordon played for his boyhood club, Hearts, before leaving Tynecastle for Sunderland in 2007; he later joined Celtic and won five league titles and other silverware during a spell with the Glasgow club before returning to Hearts. Gordon played over 760 first-team games including 13 on loan to Cowdenbeath.



Balerno Teenager Riding High

DOUGLAS COOK
EDINBURGH RC YOUTH RACE TEAM

A young mountain biker from Balerno is making a name for herself on the national stage, with a run of results this season that puts her among the top young riders in the country.

Eilidh Coutts, who rides for Edinburgh RC Youth Race Team, has enjoyed a standout first half of the 2026 season on the cross country mountain bike circuit, collecting podium finishes at almost every round she has entered.

Eilidh has also represented her country this season, selected for Team Scotland at the Inter-Regional Championships in Wales in July, where she won the short track event.

"Eilidh's consistency this season has been exceptional,"

said Alastair Webb, President of Edinburgh Road Club. "To be sitting second overall in the National XC Series, as well as representing Scotland, at her age is a brilliant achievement, and one the whole club is proud of."

She competes for Edinburgh RC Youth Race Team, a 14-rider squad aged 12 to 16 that is part of one of Scotland's oldest and most successful cycling clubs.

Eilidh continues her National XC Series campaign through the rest of the summer, with several rounds still to come.

• *Applications for the Edinburgh RC Youth Race Team 2027 squad will open soon, welcoming boys and girls from age 12 upwards who are looking to further their racing experience in the sport. Email Douglas Cook: ercyouthrt@gmail.com, call: 07725 610015*



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VACANCY



Café Supervisor Required

Balerno Parish church's initiative -The Mill Café is a thriving community café for all in the centre of Balerno which is open 4 days-a-week and on the monthly Farmers' Market Saturdays. We are run mainly by volunteers working with a small staff team. The Mill Café is 14 years old.

Positions rarely come up making this a wonderful opportunity for someone to work locally. If you would like more details please email Lynsey.

Café Supervisor - Tuesday 8am-3.30pm (7.5 hours) and a share of Farmers market Saturdays (2nd Saturday of the month)

Send CV with appropriate qualifications and relevant experience to:-
The Mill Café manager:- Lynsey Inglis
themillatstjosephs@gmail.com.
Closing date for applications: - 30/09/26

We reserve the right to offer the position to the right person should they come along earlier.

- Balerno Parish Church has been accredited as a real Living Wage Employer

C&B NEWS • SEPTEMBER 2026

Puzzles 43



PRIZE CROSSWORD

BY PUZZLESALES.COM

To enter, please scan or photograph the completed puzzle and email it to: editor@candbnews.com before noon, Friday 18 September 2026. The winner is picked at random from all correct entries received.

Good luck everyone!

ACROSS

- American aboriginals (7)
- Marten fur (5)
- Employ (3)
- Great pleasure (7)
- Grilled bread (5)
- Calm (5)
- Cold-blooded vertebrate (7)
- Region (4)
- Small restaurant (6)
- Thin (6)
- You (archaic) (4)
- Bride-to-be (7)
- Souvenir (5)
- Mentally perceptive (5)
- Happen again (7)
- Drunkard (3)
- Desert haven (5)
- Rumour (7)

DOWN

- Asian river (5)
- Indian city (5)
- Having corners (7)
- Surgical stitch (6)
- Establish (3, 2)
- Worker in brass (7)
- Utmost (7)
- chi, oriental exercise (3)
- Relieve (4)
- Memorisation by repetition (4)
- American bison (7)
- Sculptures (7)
- Garden frame (7)
- Glide on snow (3)
- Fireplace (6)
- Board game (5)
- Place (5)
- Convey (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

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

Last issue's prize crossword was won by Dot Brown from Kingsknowe. Congratulations!

S	O	C	K	S	S	W	A	G	G	E	R
T	H	M	H	F	R	E					
A	M	A	T	E	U	R	T	R	A	I	L
L	R	A	E	E	N	A					
L	A	Y	E	R	W	O	R	L	D	L	Y
B	T	A	D	D	A	A					
M	A	Y	H	E	M	I	N	N	A	T	E
S	E	A	S	A	L	T	B	A	B	E	L
H	N	G	U	O	E	U					
O	W	N	E	R	D	E	L	I	V	E	R
J	U	E	E	U	E	I					
I	L	L	N	E	S	S	S	A	L	A	D

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

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FCBI DipPFS BA (hons)
Financial Adviser

Balerno based
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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>

• **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: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

• **THE MEETING PLACE:** 42nd Pentlands Scout Hall, 99 Forthview Crescent, Currie; 10am - 4pm. A dementia-friendly community cafe with free refreshments, games and fun events, for 65+. Two-course lunch, £5.

• **MONDAY MORNING POP IN CAFÉ:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. Community Cafe. Come for a cuppa every Monday morning, our volunteers will welcome you for a cuppa, a chat and an optional game of scrabble.

• **COFFEE, CAKE & COMPANY:** Redeemer Church Edinburgh, 64 Bridge Road, Colinton; 10.30am - noon. Drop in for free coffee, tea, a cake and a chat every Monday morning. All welcome. For further information see: [www.redeemeredinburgh.org/cfc/](http://redeemeredinburgh.org/cfc/)

• **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, as we may have an opening for this group. hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

• **KNITTING GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 10.30am - noon. Our knitting group is so popular, we've opened a waiting list for newcomers! Please email Anne: colinanne7@aol.com

• **ACE IT DIGITAL SKILLS:** Currie Library; 10am - 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

• **PENTLAND JUNIOR SINGERS:** Balerno Parish Church; 6pm - 7pm. Children's Choir, singing together, for 8 - 14 year olds. For more information, visit: <https://pentlandjuniors.org/>

• **PENTLAND SINGERS COMMUNITY CHOIR:** Balerno Parish Church; 7.30pm - 9.30pm. September-June. A no audition choir performing at least two concerts a year. For further information visit: <https://www.pentlandsingers.org>

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.

• **UKULELE GET-TOGETHER:** St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton; 1.15pm - 2.15pm. Players, both experienced and beginners are welcome to this weekly get-together. For more details of this fun strum, please contact Brian Milhouse: 07775 564441.

• **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.

• **BOOKBUG:** Balerno Library, 1 Main Street; 3.30pm - 4pm. Free event for 0 - 4-year olds and their parents/carers. Join for songs, stories and rhymes. Call (0131) 529 5500 to book a place.

• **THE OCTAGON CLUB** for Adults with learning disabilities: Gibson Craig Hall, Lanark Rd West; 7pm - 9pm. Resumes after summer holiday on 9 September. Contact Claire Maloney: 07999 410721

THURSDAYS

• **BOOKBUG:** Currie Library, 210 Lanark Road West; 10.30am - 11am. Free event for 0 - 4-year olds and their parents/carers. Join for songs, stories and rhymes. Call (0131) 529 5609 for information.

• **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 please contact us to join the waitlist: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

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FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

• **BOOKBUG: Colinton Library, 14 Thorburn Road; 11am - 11.30am.** Free event for 0 - 4-year olds and their parents/carers. Join for songs, stories and rhymes. Call (0131) 529 5603 to book a place.

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

FORTNIGHTLY MONDAYS 7 & 21 SEPTEMBER

• **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 11 & 25 SEPTEMBER

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

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

• **TABLETOP GAMING IN JUNIPER GREEN / BABERTON / CURRIE: Juniper Green Parish Church; 6pm- 9pm.** Play board-games,

card games and war games. 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 TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

• **CURRIE GUILD: Gibson Craig Hall; 10am.** The speaker is Rev Roy Henderson. All Welcome.

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

• **PENTLAND MEN’S PROBUS CLUB: Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am.** “Life in Scotland in The Good Old Days,” a talk by Roy Johnstone. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary John Muir on (0131) 259 0560 or jandjmuir@gmail.com

• **THE SECRET BOOK SWAP: WellNest Creative Spaces, 350B Lanark Road West, Currie; 7pm - 9pm.** Book swap, bookish games, banned book reading and guest author. Regularly sold out – book via Eventbrite: thesecretbookswap.com/

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

• **GARDENING GROUP:** the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 11.30am - 1pm. 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 5 SEPTEMBER

• **EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN MODEL RAILWAY CLUB: George Watson’s College Senior School, Colinton Road; 10am - 5pm.** Edinburgh Model Railway Exhibition. One of the layouts on display will be that of the former Colinton station on the Balerno branch line.

• **RAVELRIG RDA CHEESE & WINE TASTING: Indoor Arena, 21 Ravelrig Gait; 6pm - 10pm.** Celebrating 40 years of Ravelrig RDA; cost £20 Adult includes four wines and four Scottish cheeses. Children

welcome: soft drinks available. Licensed bar. You can purchase any of the wines tasted. To secure tickets, please email: fundraising@ravelrig-rda.org.uk

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

• **EDINBURGH EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN MODEL RAILWAY CLUB: George Watson’s College Senior School, Colinton Road; 10am - 4pm.** See Saturday 5 September.

• **PEOPLE’S EMERGENCY BRIEFING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 5pm.** Join us for a free community screening of this 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 at <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

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

• **FRIENDS OF YOUTH VISION: BENEFIT CONCERT:**

The Grey Horse, Main Street, Balerno; 7pm. An intimate evening of original music featuring award-winning singer/songwriters Mike McKenzie, Kirsteen Harvey and Liv Dawn. Tickets: £15 available at <https://wegottickets.com/>

WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

• **PENTLAND MEN’S PROBUS CLUB: Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am.** “The Cockpit Intrusion on Flight 2069—Part One,” an illustrated talk by Bill Hagan. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary John Muir on (0131) 259 0560 or jandjmuir@gmail.com

• **“ALL EARS” BOOK CLUB: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7pm - 9pm.** Calling all audiobook and podcast lovers, we have a group who meet monthly to discuss latest favourites. For more information see our Facebook Page @The Hub at 531 or email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

• **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.

LOCAL COMMUNITY CAFES

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER ONLY

• **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 (SCHOOL TERM TIME ONLY)

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

TUESDAYS - FRIDAYS (& SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER)

• **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.

TUESDAYS - SATURDAYS

• **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.



TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

• **OPEN MIC NIGHT: The Grey Horse, Main Street, Balerno; 7pm - 10pm.** A monthly open mic night dedicated to giving local songwriters and musicians a space to share their music with a supportive and welcoming audience. Sign-up from 7pm.

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

• **MONTHLY MAHJONG: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 4.30pm - 6.30pm.** A new open mahjong session that welcomes newcomers as



Here is our programme so far. Holidays and family time seem to be the priority but, once recesses are completed, further walk details will be posted on the Balerno Ramblers website for both weekend and midweek groups.

SUNDAY 30 AUGUST

• **HILLS OF EDINBURGH:** A scenic 9 mile (14.5 km) woodland and canal walk with urban sections,

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

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

• **MONTHLY CRAFTING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 7.30pm - 9.30 pm.** Monthly crafting returns for the Autumn. Join us for a cosy and friendly evening of crafting, free (donations welcome), fun and sociable. Online booking is available at <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

and some steep steps to climb.

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

• Check website for walk details.

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

• **PEBBLES, SPOON WOOD & CADEMUIR HILL CIRCULAR: 7 miles (11.3 km)**

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

• **FISHERROW/MUSSELBURGH/ THE LAGOONS: 7 miles (11.3 km).**

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

• **LONGNIDDRY CIRCULAR: 12 miles (19.3 km).**

WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

• **PENTLANDS WALK: 7 miles (11.3 km).**

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

• **HERMITAGE OF BRAID: 6 miles (9.7 km)**

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

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

• **COLINTON GARDEN CLUB: Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton; 8pm.** Sandra Goodswen: “Weeds? Garden plants that spread too well.” Club membership is £10 per annum. Everyone is very welcome to the meetings. More information,

visit: <https://colintongardens.org.uk/>

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

• **BALERNO FOLK CLUB: Balerno Bowling Club, 5 Ladycroft, Balerno, EH14 7AG; 7.30pm for an 8.15pm start.** This month we welcome The Eilidh Grant Trio. Eilidh along with Fiona Curhill (fiddle) and Stevie Lawrence (guitar, bouzouki) deliver a fantastic mix of traditional and contemporary Scottish music. Members and Guests welcome.

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.

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

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

TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

• **COLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL: Details Unconfirmed at Time of Going to Press.** <https://www.colintoncc.org.uk>

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

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

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

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

FREE!

C&B News



BALERNO RAMBLERS' TEDDY BEARS PICNIC AT HARLAW. PHOTO: GAIL COUSINS.