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C&B News

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Issue!

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520◦OCTOBER 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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c/o 11, Turner Avenue, Balerno, EH14 7BS.



DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

ADVERTISING/LISTINGS: 13 OCTOBER

EDITORIAL: 18 OCTOBER

IN THE SHOPS: 30 OCTOBER

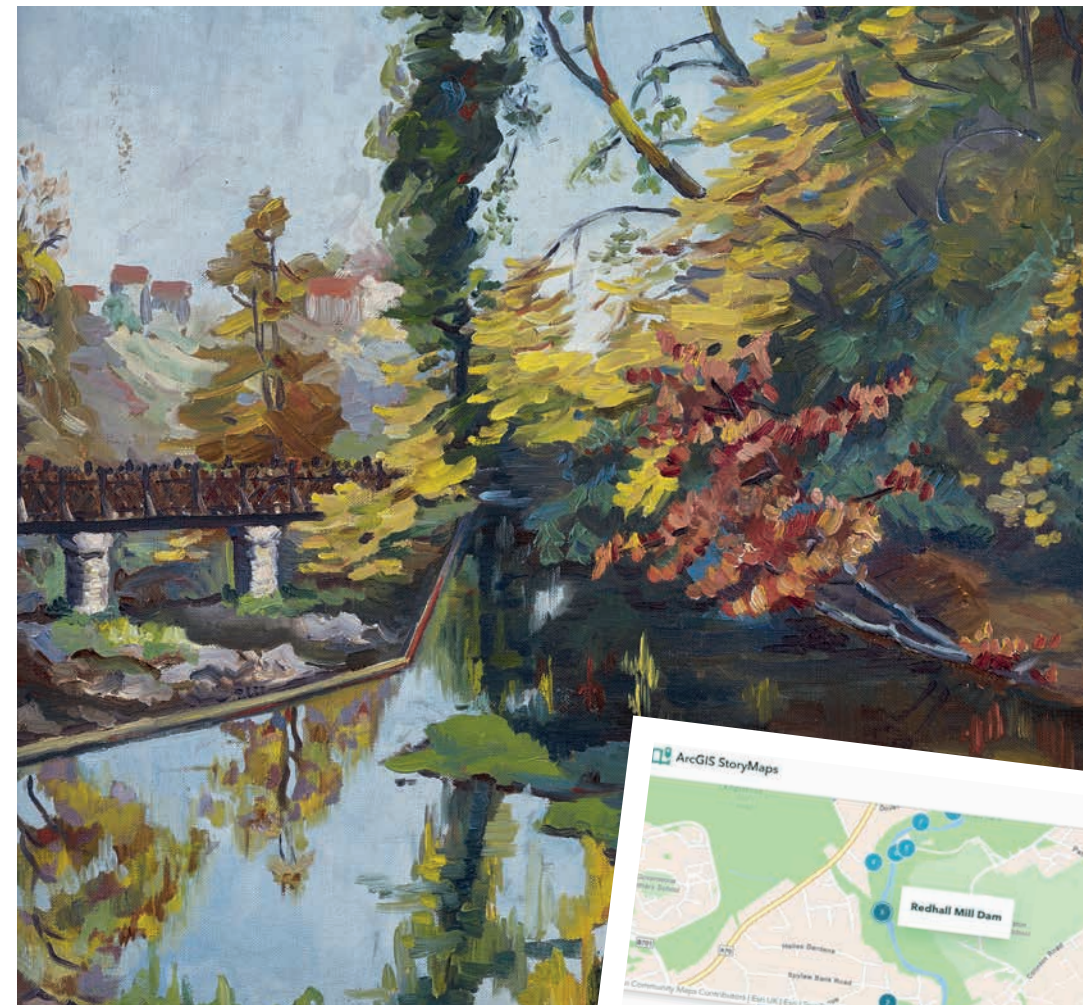
Cover photo: Ken Brown

Picture News



Above: Margaret and Maria, two members of over 65 club The Meeting Place (held every Monday from 10am to 4pm at the 42nd Pentland Scout Hall, Forthview Crescent, Currie) recently celebrated their birthdays—with strict orders NOT to mention any ages! Huge cake, lots of fizzy stuff and a bit of a sing-a-long ensued. Congratulations!

Below: National Trust for Scotland Great Pumpkin Weigh-off 2026 update. The team at Malleny Garden are taking part in a challenge across several NTS gardens to grow the heaviest pumpkin. Their champion is continuing to grow apace and is looking rather splendid. Only a month to go now before the big weigh-off!



Above and inset: An online Story Map has been published featuring local artist Edwin G Lucas's paintings of old mills and railway sites in Colinton Dell, similar to a previous Story Map in the Juniper Green area (check our March 2023 issue for details). Following a route along the Water of Leith Walkway, each marked point on the map links to a description and slide show of images, including 12 of Edwin's paintings from the 1930s and 1940s, historic photos of the railway and mills, and images of the sites as they are today. Check out: <https://edwinglucas.com/storymaps.html>



Left: Currie Chieftains launched their new season with a bright new kit. Above: Pesticide Free Balerno recently shared the alternative to using potentially dangerous chemicals to clear weeds from our streets—good old-fashioned “elbow grease”! Photo: PFB.

BRIEFLY

NEWS...

• **JEANS FOR GENES DAY:** Head pupils at Balerno High School organised the first charity event of the academic year, wearing Jeans for Genes Day, raising £782 for children affected by genetic conditions.

• **BALERNO LOCAL PLACE PLAN:** The City of Edinburgh Council has approved the Balerno Local Place Plan 2026, prepared by members of Balerno Community Council. The Balerno LPP will now be registered with CEC and feed into the forthcoming City Plan 2040.

• **CLUNK-NO-MORE?:** A “much loved” – NOT! – feature in Juniper Green has been lost: a manhole cover on Lanark Road, located near the Tanners bar and restaurant, has been reset, meaning it should hopefully no longer repeatedly “clunk” when driven over by traffic.

• **ASDA:** “Ongoing incidents of anti-social behaviour and an increase in shoplifting activity” have persuaded managers at the Chesser Asda to permanently close the eastern front doors facing New Market Road. All customer access will be from the west-facing entrance at the car park.

• **SWIMMINGLY:** Balerno High School's swimming pool reopened in mid-September, after planned refurbishment works overran slightly beyond the summer holidays.

• **JUST A MINUTE:** We again pass on our congratulations to The Edinburgh Minute – the independent newsletter which “aims to make it easier for you to find real local news written by real people” – which published its 1,000th weekday edition on Friday 18 September. Our thanks go to editor/publisher Michael Macleod for not only his hard work (we don't envy his regular 5am starts) but also the publicity and support he has given C&B News during the last three years. More details: <https://www.edinburghminute.com/>

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Advice Surgeries
I hold surgeries on the **first Saturday of the month**. Locations rotate each month, but include:
• Fountainbridge Library
• Wester Hailes Library
• Colinton Mains Tesco
• 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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Could You Be Our New Treasurer?

GAIL RANKIN
C&B NEWS CHAIR

For 50 years, *C&B News* has been championing our communities. As a volunteer-run independent publication, we are looking for a new Treasurer to join the team and help us continue that tradition.

As Treasurer, you will help oversee the financial side of the magazine, managing our accounts in our online accounting system,

processing a small number of regular payments and working with our Advertising Manager. Our finances are straightforward, with regular transactions each month, making the role easy to fit around other commitments. You will also be invited to attend our planning meetings for the next issue, which are held ten times a year on a Monday evening.

You do not need to be a qualified accountant. Some experience of bookkeeping,

finance or managing accounts would be helpful, but just as important is the confidence to learn our processes. Full support and guidance will be provided by the current team.

If you think this volunteer role sounds interesting and would like to find out more, I would be delighted to have an informal chat about the role. Please drop me an email: chairperson@candbnews.com



Colinton's Village Hub—Nearly There!

CVE TRUSTEES
COLINTON VILLAGE ENTERPRISE SCIO

The excitement is rising in Spylaw Park as construction of Colinton Village Hub nears completion.

During the past year, as the building work has progressed, Colinton Village Enterprise has been both surprised and delighted by the interest, participation and generosity shown by local residents and neighbouring communities towards the whole project.

In August, we teamed up with the Colinton Tunnel Group and muralist Chris Rutterford for our weekend summer fundraiser, Creating in the Park, bringing together painters, musicians and dancers in Spylaw Park.

On the Saturday our special guest Elaine C Smith launched the Colinton Challenge, encouraging local families, schools, businesses and community groups to come up with irresistible ideas for helping us raise the final funds needed to complete the Hub and work towards opening early next year.

Following the event, Chris Rutterford kindly installed a colourful unicorn mural scene on the hoarding around our building in Spylaw Park which he has kindly loaned to us. The hoarding was previously used around the North Bridge construction project which has now been completed.

Meantime the first Colinton Challenge is now underway—

Above: Chris Rutterford's unicorn mural.
Below: Elaine C Smith (centre) helps launch the Colinton Challenge. Photos: CVE SCIO.

the Colinton Lego Building Challenge!

Conceived by our Hub architect David Moore of MDA Studio, the challenge invites children in two age groups – P1 to P3 and P4 to P7 – to get creative and design a brilliant Lego building for their community.

Build your idea in Lego (or get creative with whatever materials you have available), then take two to-three photos of your finished model and tell us a little about your idea.

Entry is a £5 donation per model, with 100% going towards completing Colinton Village Hub in Spylaw Park.

There are fantastic Lego vouchers to be won in both age categories, including a £50 Friendly Planet Building Prize.

The closing date for entries is Sunday 18 October. Enter using the form here: <https://tinyurl.com/ya7d3vry>



BRIEFLY...

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• STATION PARKING: There are renewed calls for expanding the parking facilities at Curriehill Railway Station, if only to discourage existing commuters from parking in nearby streets (such as Curriehill Road and Forthview Crescent), causing congestion affecting other road users including Service 32 buses.

• FIREWORKS CAFE: The team behind the Saturday cafe at Currie Community Centre will be running a one-off event on Thursday 5 November, in support of the annual CBDRT-organised fireworks display. More details nearer the time.

• CBDRT: Talking of which, Currie, Balerno and District Round Table became registered charity CBDRT on Friday 29 May. Its objectives are: (a) to relieve those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantage in the Pentland Valley area of south west Edinburgh and elsewhere in Scotland; (b) to advance health in the Pentland Valley area and elsewhere in Scotland; (c) to advance public participation in sport in the Pentland Valley area; (d) to advance education in the Pentland Valley area; and (e) to advance citizenship and community development in the Pentland Valley area.

• BIG NOISE!: Charity Sistema Scotland, which improves lives and strengthens communities (including in Wester Hailes) through music, has rebranded itself as "Big Noise", the name originally applied to their children's orchestra.

• TUBS: Juniper Green & Baberton Mains Community Council has contributed £100 towards improvements to the tubs, as well as compost and plug plants for the village's flower displays.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

You can view plans, forms and other documents connected with individual planning applications on The City of Edinburgh Council's

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‘Strong and Sustained Early Takeup’ of Muir Wood Field Path

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Nearly 14,000 journeys were made during June along Muir Wood Field path between Currie and Juniper Green, according to national charity Walking Scotland.

The integrated footfall counters recorded 13,781 journeys in June 2026, the first full month of monitoring. This rose by approximately 6% to 14,637 in July, which Walking Scotland said demonstrated “strong and sustained early uptake” of the path between the two communities.

Although there was some disparity in the direction of travel (between 39% and 45% of journeys were made to Currie, compared with 55% to 61% made to Juniper Green), the charity considered that the “relatively balanced split indicates that the path is functioning as a genuine two-way connection between neighbourhoods and local destinations, supporting return journeys rather than predominantly one-way movements”.

Usage naturally varies across the day, with a clear morning peak between 8am and 9am, with the average hourly flow highest between 2pm and 5pm, “reflecting the route’s role as an important school connection while also supporting commuting, local trips and recreational walking and wheeling”. Usage dropped during the late evening and overnight, “as would be expected”.

Local concerns remain, however, regarding the impending installation of street lighting along the path, a condition imposed by The City of Edinburgh Council for their longterm adoption of the path which forced both Currie and Juniper Green & Baberton Mains community councils to step back from a project they initiated, consulted and for which they largely secured funding.

Some readers may have assumed that last issue’s front cover, featuring a sign renaming the Muir Wood Field Path “Greenbelt Way” was official. We have heard that both CEC and nearby landowner Taylor Wimpey have already asked (through the local community councils) for the sign to be taken down.



Fireworks Display Returns

PAM MALONEY
CBDRT

CBDRT’s annual fireworks display will take place in King George V Park on Thursday 5 November. “Doors” open at 6pm for a 7.15pm display start.

Although there will be a limited number of tickets available on the gate, booking in advance is recommended. Please come early to get a good spot, enjoy hot food and drinks from the catering van, and browse the trinket stalls. The café and toilets at Currie Community Centre, across the road from the park, will also be open.

On-street parking in the surrounding area will be available but please be considerate of our neighbours: do not block driveways or roads and allow plenty of time to walk from

your car to the park. Please note that sparklers and pets are not allowed at the event. If there is any concern regarding noise or livestock, please see our “to whom it may concern,” and our approach to being good neighbours at: cbdrt.com/fireworks

• Tickets are now on sale at: cbdrt.com/fireworks.

• All proceeds from ticket sales contribute to local community causes and charities. If you or your organisation would like support, please see our donation guidelines and contact details at: cbdrt.com/request-funding.

• If you particularly enjoy the display or would just like to help us help the local community, our donation details can be found at: cbdrt.com/donate-to-us.



Last year Currie Balerno Rotary held a very successful “Casino Night”—and we’re doing it again this year, writes Mike Rowe, from 7pm to 10.30pm on Friday 9 October at Currie Rugby Club in Balerno. This year, proceeds will go to Dementia Friendly Pentlands, Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled and Rotary charities. As last year, tickets will cost £20 (to be bought by Thursday 1 October), of which £15 buys tokens or “chips” for the roulette and blackjack. (Tokens held at the end of the evening will be cashed in for raffle tickets.) There will also be a silent auction, and refreshments. For tickets please contact: curriebalernorotary@gmail.com If you would wish to donate a raffle prize or silent auction item, contact Colin on 07732 685929.

BRIEFLY...

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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 applications and decisions on our Facebook page every Tuesday or Wednesday at 7pm.

BALERNO

• Proposed single-storey extension and redesign of previously consented garage; 14 Ladycroft, Deanpark. (26/03772/LBC) Registered on Thursday 17 September.

• Reduce three sycamore, acer pseudoplatanus, by 20 metres, reduce 100 year old group of sycamores to monoliths of 5 - 8 metres to retain habitat potential; Malleny House, 4 Malleny. (26/0778/TCO) Registered on Tuesday 15 September.

• Remove dead wood from canopy of four lime trees, retaining trees but making safe; Malleny House, 4 Malleny. (26/0779/TCO) Registered on Wednesday 16 September.

COLINTON

• Erection of detached single-storey ancillary domestic outbuilding within rear garden; 68 Redford Avenue. (26/03705/FUL) Comments by Wednesday 7 October.

CURRIE

• Extension to existing dwelling and conversion of garage; 16 Lanark Road West. (26/03697/FUL) Comments by Tuesday 6 October.

JUNIPER GREEN

• Proposed garage conversion as additional living space for the dwelling; 500A Lanark Road. (26/03475/FUL) Comments by Friday 9 October.

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What Future for Volunteer-run Community Fairs and Galas?

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

The Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee has agreed to write to the Scottish Government seeking clarification on the work of its Task Force on Civic Licensing, following consideration of a petition warning that growing licensing costs, bureaucracy and regulatory uncertainty risk making Scotland's traditional volunteer-run fairs and gala days – such as Balerno Children's Gala – increasingly difficult to sustain.

The petition, considered by the Committee on Thursday 24 September, was launched by Ewan Irvine, based on his experiences organising Corstorphine Fair.

Concerns include Market Operator's Licences, Public Entertainment Licences, occupation charges, reinstatement bonds, compliance paperwork and differences in how requirements can be interpreted.

While not calling for public-safety requirements to be removed, the petition asks whether the current system is clear and proportionate for events organised by volunteers for community benefit.

"People see a great day out in the park," Irvine said. "What they don't see are the months of unpaid work behind it."

"Every new fee, form and licensing uncertainty adds to that workload. Eventually you reach a point where volunteers simply say: why are we doing this?"

"Gala days across Scotland depend on people being willing to give up their time. If we make them too difficult to organise, communities risk losing traditions that have existed for generations."

"We're not asking to remove sensible safety rules. We're asking for clarity, consistency and proportionality."

"Once a community fair disappears, because nobody is prepared to take on the responsibility, getting it back may be much harder than keeping it going in the first place."

PE2228 remains before the Scottish Parliament.



Diamond Day for Balerno Couple

NICK GELLATLY
SON

Sandra and George Gellatly of Marchbank Drive, Balerno marked their diamond wedding anniversary on Thursday 1 October, 60 years to the day after they married at Christ Church, Morningside.

George grew up in Sighthill and was educated at Murrumburn Primary (Carrickvale) and Boroughmuir High School. He left school for St Cuthbert's Co-operative Society, where he worked as a wages clerk, before joining the building contractor J Smart & Co. He stayed 40 years, leading the personnel team for much of that time.

Sandra took a longer road to

Balerno. Born in Manchester, she moved south as her parents' careers took the family about and was educated in Portsmouth. She worked in aviation and then for the entrepreneur Ken Wood (of Kenwood mixer fame). In the 1960s she came north to Edinburgh to help her brother and his wife, who had five children, expecting to stay only a short while.

She never left. The couple met at the Palais and married in 1966, setting up home in Polwarth before moving to Balerno in 1970. Sandra later worked at Balerno Post Office during Arthur Lucas's time as postmaster.

They have read C&B News since its first issue.



Revised proposals for a 50-bedroom care home on the site of the demolished Davidson House in Colinton are still awaiting a decision. Any changes to the plans appear to be modest: removing two of 10 parking places and shifting the whole building slightly nearer Colinton Road, enabling more garden to the north. (Application: 26/03396/FUL)

BRIEFLY...

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PLANNING DECISIONS

Information provided by The City of Edinburgh Council.

BALERNO

• Proposed outbuildings: Currie Rugby Football Club, 5 Malleny. (26/03258/FUL) Granted, Wednesday 16 September.

• Application under Section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to extend duration of planning permission for outdoor activity centre and associated facilities granted 17/03822/FUL for a further 10 year period; 381 metres northeast of Whiteness Farmhouse, B7031 from Junction with A70 to Greenhorn East Calder. (26/02893/FUL) Granted, Wednesday 16 September.

SCHEDULED ROADWORKS & ROAD CLOSURES UPDATE

Note: Start dates indicate earliest anticipated beginning of work; finish dates represent conclusion of formal notice periods—actual work may finish earlier or be extended due to circumstances. Information provided by The City of Edinburgh Council.

Note: C&B News now regularly publishes lists of scheduled roadworks and road closure updates on our Facebook page, usually every Wednesday.

BALERNO

• WATER OF LEITH PATH metal bridge at Kinault Flats: path closed for public safety measure (City of Edinburgh Council); ONGOING.

• LANARK ROAD WEST at Bridge Road: temporary traffic lights (7pm - 6am each night) for cabling (BT Morrison); Monday 5 - Saturday 10 October.

COLINTON

• UPDATE: BRIDGE ROAD at Woodhall Road/Colinton Road: three-way temporary traffic lights for leak repairs (Scottish water); To be

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Christmas Concert Announced

MARGARET KIERAN
COLINTON & MERCHISTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

Please save the date for this year's Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir Christmas Concert, to be held on Monday 7 December.

This year we have a delightful programme including Mendelssohn's cantata Vom Himmel Hoch, Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger's "The Shepherds" from The Star of Bethlehem, Gerald Finzi's "In terra pax" and a lovely selection of Christmas carols including some audience participation!

The concert will be held in the Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road.

• For more details about tickets, etc, please see future editions of C&B News or consult our website (www.colintonchoir.org) or Facebook page.

• As always, we thank Merchiston Castle School for the use of the Memorial Hall for our concerts and for most of our rehearsals.

Recognition for H-W Academics

CRAIG PHILIP
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER, HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

Two Heriot-Watt University academics have been elected Fellows of the Royal Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional honours in the profession.

The appointments of Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer OBE FRSE and Professor Peter Cummings (already a member of the US National Academy of Engineering) recognise their internationally respected contributions to sustainable energy, industrial decarbonisation, molecular simulation and computational science. Their election also highlights the strength of engineering research and innovation at Heriot-Watt University, during the Royal Academy of Engineering's 50th anniversary year.



Scottish Government Outlines Ideas for Local Government Reform

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
C&B NEWS

Above: The "last" Currie District Council, removed by local government reorganisation in May 1975.

The Scottish Government has published initial proposals designed to help shape a debate around a fundamental reform of local government as part of a wider review of the public sector.

The initial proposals, which have been shared with local council body COSLA and the relevant Holyrood committees, would replace Scotland's current 32 unitary authorities with a smaller number of regional bodies focusing on strategic decision-making, alongside a "substantial" number of community authorities with a focus on local decision-making.

Although echoing the two-tier regional and district authorities in Scotland between 1975 and 1996, the principle difference from them is that elected councillors would sit on both bodies, removing the need for a further layer of elections or additional tiers of bureaucracy.

"Some decision-making is best

delivered at national level and regional level while others better sit closer to communities, and we must get that balance right," explained Deputy First Minister Jenny Gilruth MSP. "Existing local government responsibilities could also be extended, including enhanced roles in economic development and business support so that individual areas can reflect local strengths and ambitions."

It is unclear, at this stage, how such proposals might affect any of the communities served by C&B News: not least Currie and Balerno which, as the above photo shows, had enjoyed a degree of local governance under Currie District Council and the historic County of Midlothian prior to the communities' incorporation within Edinburgh's boundaries in 1975.

• <https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-sector-reform-proposal/>



Edinburgh-born author Michael Judge, writing under the pen name Bill Rectangle, has published a memoir – Stenhouse: Growing Up in Edinburgh and Beyond – recording a childhood in west Edinburgh during the 1980s and early 1990s including memories of family life, school, football, skating, music, early technology, local characters and the parks and streets that shaped everyday life.

We know that Stenhouse sits well outside C&Bshire, but the wider west Edinburgh experience – and the contrast between an analogue childhood and today's world – may resonate with readers who grew up along the upper Water of Leith valley during the same period.

• More details: <https://www.whitehatmedia.org/>

BRIEFLY...

p9>>>

replanned for half term holiday in October.

• **GILLESPIE ROAD** between Colinton Village and Pentland Avenue: road closed for manhole repair (Scottish Water); Sunday 11 October to 7am Monday 12 October.

• **TORPHIN ROAD** between Torphin bus terminus and Torphin House: road closed 9.30am - 3.30pm for fibre installation (BT Morrison); Thursday 15 October for (estimated) five days.

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 1 OCTOBER

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

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER

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

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER

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

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER

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

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Currie Green Spaces

KEN BROWN
CURRIE RESIDENT

One of the sections of the recent survey for Currie's Local Place Plan was about green spaces: how 75% of residents have easy access to areas and how they see and perceive these areas and the benefits when out walking. The benefits listed include access to the areas for walking and exercise, areas being cut regularly, spaces for children to play and areas for people to exercise their dogs.

With regard to paths, fewer than three in 10 respondents believe paths were sufficiently wide and safe and therefore did not use the paths with a wheelchair, mobility aid or bicycle.

A group of local residents, who take an interest in their green and open spaces, came together earlier this year to restore the width of the path on the boundary between Currie and Balerno. The group have developed a positive relationship with the City of



Edinburgh's Parks Department with regard to the grass cutting, trees and areas of flower planting.

The discussions with the Parks Department about the path width, which has reduced over time, concluded that if the residents cut and lifted the turf, the Parks Department would supply the heavy-duty black bags and then uplift the full bags from locations adjacent to the road. During several weeks, we and various residents worked for just over an hour at a time, clearing

about 15 metres on each occasion, restoring the path width from 3 feet (just under 1 metre) to 7 feet (2.1 metres). The work was quite strenuous!

To date more than 437 yards (400 metres) of path edges have been restored. Some neighbours even brought us tea and biscuits and seeing the "fruits of our labours" has encouraged some to weed along the footpath edges. The visual difference is massive and now permits a safer space to pass for all who use the path, pedestrians and cyclists alike.

During the summer grass cutting has continued with the warm weather seeing exceptional growth. Occasionally an area was missed, and an email to the Parks Department highlighting this resulted in the area in question being cut. Some residents cut the grass adjacent to their properties, reinforcing the visual tidiness of the area and helping to promote health and well-being.

• Feel free to clear a section of a path near you, or if you would like to get involved with the group, email: curriegreenspaces@yahoo.com

Talk on the Street

PFB GROUP
PESTICIDE FREE BALERNO

Depending where you live, weeds may or may not be removed safely without the unnecessary use of chemicals known to be harmful to health and environment.

If you are lucky enough to live in Pesticide Free Balerno, or are on The City of Edinburgh Council's list of selected streets—phew! You're ok. If your postcode is not on the list, it's big weeds or toxic, harmful-to-health chemicals for you.

CEC continues to use Glyphosate, even though they like to appear to do otherwise, choosing to spend £84,840 for 20 strimmers, seemingly to address the city's weeds safely!

Refreshing though to overhear one enlightened conversation on the street.

One elderly lady said to another, waiting at a bus stop: "It's a disgrace nowadays, look at the weeds all over the city. Council workers have said it's because they can't use those cancer chemicals."

The response was refreshing and very aware: "That's just an excuse! Some areas get guys doing manual weeding and other places use hot water to remove weeds. Even Heriot-Watt is trying the hot water."

Residents everywhere are now becoming more and more aware. Balerno has been for years and is a role model for other communities.

Thankfully when residents know, no one with an ounce of common sense would want chemicals, which are linked to cancer and other illnesses, used outside their home and would prefer to simply remove a couple of weeds.

In our village every street has at least one healthy individual perfectly able to keep weeds away and those nasty chemicals away too.

If safe / 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 online form.

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

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'Heroines of the Radiation Age' at Balerno SWI

EDINGELL THOMSON
BALERNO SWI

At our first meeting after the summer break, we welcomed Ian Hamilton, who gave us a very interesting illustrated talk entitled "Heroines of the Radiation Age".

This focussed on four women scientists whose names and work are not so familiar to us as those of Marie Curie, but which were very important to society nonetheless. Lise Meitner was an Austrian physicist who worked with Otto Hahn, resulting in the discovery of nuclear fission: her role was largely unacknowledged at the time.

Testing of atomic bombs, such as at Bikini Atoll, was only stopped as a result of the research carried out in the USA by Dr Louise Reiss on thousands of baby teeth found to contain Strontium-90, after it was found that children born after 1963 had much higher instances of leukaemia than those born previously.

Similarly, Dr Alice Stewart in Oxford discovered that children born to mothers x-rayed during pregnancy had a higher likelihood of developing leukaemia, and had to battle to get this recognised. Meanwhile, Dr Elaine Ron discovered that radiation treatment for ringworm caused thyroid and other cancers in patients.

After thanking Ian for his well-researched talk, our President Rita Poulter took a moment to congratulate the many members who had successful entries in the recent Currie Show, with a particular mention for Diane Johnstone whose beautifully sewn patchwork cushion won a special prize.

• Our next meeting on 6 October will be our 91st birthday party, with cake and a quiz!



Currie Horticultural Society Show 2026

SHEILA MASON
SHOW SECRETARY

How quickly time has gone this year with the weather being so bright and dry. This year's Currie Horticultural Society Show was a very successful day with lots of very colourful exhibits on display from an increased number of

entrants.

The committee thanks everyone who made a very successful overall display and congratulates all the entrants who were rewarded with a place card.

The main prizewinners were: Geraldine Andrews (Pot plants); John Sawkins and Patricia Hampton (Flowers); George Harrison (Vegetables); Lynda Hood (Floral Art); Fiona Pigott (Baking); Diane Johnston (Preserves); Alison Hynd, Diane Johnston, Susan Stride and Keara Hampton (Handcrafts).

We also hope the entrants from both Kirknewton and Colinton,

entering for the first time since our boundary was extended, enjoyed the experience.

Here's to another successful Show on the final Saturday of August 2027.

• Prize monies are distributed at the close of the Society's AGM, to be held in Balerno High School on Tuesday 20 October from 7pm.

• There are some photos on our website (www.currieshow.weebly.com) showing the work of both adults and juniors who enjoyed exhibiting at the Show.

First Anniversary for Hailes Quarry Junior Parkrun

ALAN GORDON
EVENT ORGANISER

A year ago, we launched the Hailes Quarry Junior Parkrun, bringing a free, weekly family event to Edinburgh's southwest communities, at which everyone is made to feel welcome and part of a super positive, motivated community of people from across the country.

From the very young to the considerably more experienced members of our community, and even our local MP, it's a truly intergenerational event that celebrates everything good about our communities, bringing folks from all walks of life together, supporting each other,



and celebrating each other's achievements and milestones. We really can't thank everyone who has supported us in our first year enough.

Some amazing stats from our first year: 645 young folk registered with us as their home event; 3,681 individual runs completed by participants; 820 different runners have completed our event; 1,317 volunteer occasions completed;

225 individual volunteers have supported us; 14 local primaries partnered up as "Parkrun Primaries".

That all translates into many good health and wellbeing outcomes for everyone involved. Truly amazing. And, most importantly, it's always free and 100% FUN!

• Find out how to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/5a4ksymt>

LOCAL UPDATES • LOCAL UPDATES



A Keg-full of Thanks from CBDRT

PAM MALONEY
CBDRT

CBDRT would like to thank everyone who made this year's Currie Beer and Curry Festival another fantastic community event.

The success of the festival relies on a wide range of support from venue decoration and bar set-up to the final glass being cleared away. The time, energy and enthusiasm of our volunteers is invaluable, and special thanks go to The Currie Chieftains for staffing the bar and helping with the unenviable task of clearing up.

Huge thanks also go to local businesses and organisations whose sponsorship made the

festival possible. Particular thanks go to Porteous Family Funeral Directors, Sofia's Takeaway and Currie Food and Wines.

Last but not least, a massive thank you to all those who came, ate, drank, danced, and partied, making the event so much fun! We hope to see you all again next year!

• The next Currie Beer and Curry Festival is on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 June 2027.

• Profits from the festival contribute to the funds available for charitable contributions. If you or your organisation would like support, please see our donation guidelines and contact details at: cbdrt.com/request-funding.

• If you would like to find out about sponsorship for 2027, please contact CBDRT at: cbdrt.com/contact



Rotary and Doddie Weir

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

Currie Balerno Rotary's Tree of Life last year was dedicated to My Name's Doddie Foundation, founded by Scottish Rugby player Doddie Weir OBE to support research into Motor Neurone Disease.

The response from the public was amazing and we were recently able to present a cheque to the Foundation for £3,500.

The cheque – larger than life – was presented by Rotarian Don Macleod (centre) to Nicola Roseman, CEO of My Name's

Doddie Foundation and Finlay Ramsay, Senior Challenge and Volunteering Manager.

We and the Foundation are so grateful to the local people who donated so generously last year.

The Rotary Tree of Life provides the opportunity to local people to remember loved ones or mark special events at Christmas by sponsoring lights on the tree which stands in front of the Balerno Parish Church.

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

• To learn more, contact Mike Rowe: PR@cbrotary.org

Rotary, William Purves and the Royal Funeral

MIKE ROWE
CURRIE BALERNO ROTARY

In September Tim Purves, CEO of William Purves funeral directors, gave a presentation to the members of Currie Balerno Rotary describing his responsibility for the funeral arrangements for the late Queen Elizabeth.

Tim's presentation described his participation in the planning of the funeral and his responsibility for the delivery of the coffin from Balmoral to Edinburgh and ultimately to St Giles' Cathedral. Throughout, he worked closely with Palace officials and with the police, with cover for any problem that might be encountered en-route. Tim's talk was



supported by a comprehensive range of photographs. Fascinating.

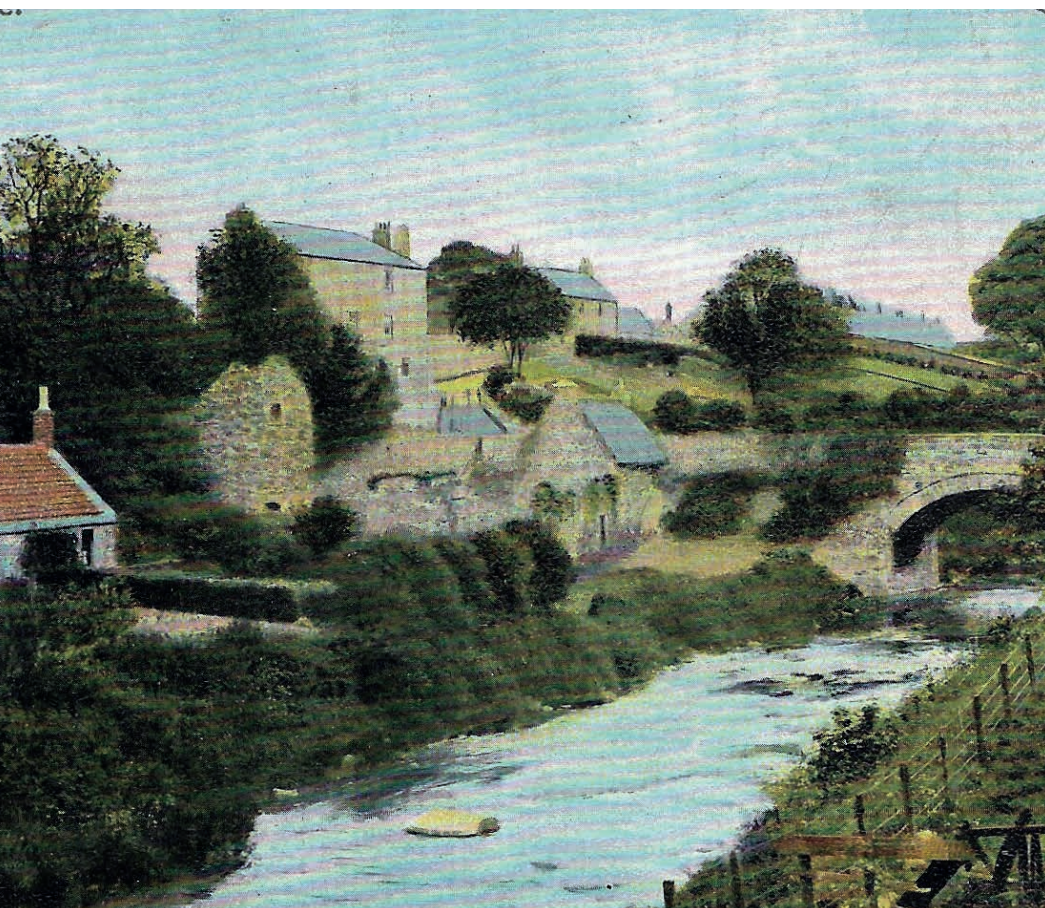
Tim was accompanied by Chris Harkess, who represents William Purves in Currie Balerno Rotary, and chairs the group of Community Members, businesses committed to working alongside us to support the local community.

• The six Rotary Community Members are: Circle Security, Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club, Jack Brown Eyecare, Lindsay & Gilmour, Oriam and William Purves.



Snapshots
of the Past

The Kiln Remains



DOUGLAS LOWE
CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A lady approached me recently asking me the name of the ruined “castle” which sits on the north side of Currie Brig at the corner of the Kirkgate. I had to disappoint her, explaining that this ruin wasn’t a castle and was indeed a kiln connected with Currie Grain Mill, which no longer existed.

The grain mill operated from 1506 and ceased around 1850. The kiln, however, was very old and presumably was from a similar date. I did explain this part of old Currie to the lady and showed her old photos from the CDLHS archive and old OS maps. I have included some photos here.

You will see from one of the photos the thatched house that was gabled on to the bridge. This was the miller’s house, the upper part of which was anciently an inn. It had a serving window which opened on to the bridge and served the passing public, either after going to the kirk or just passing trade. The Inn was a great favourite with fishing parties from Edinburgh.

The miller had an arrangement with both Riccarton Estate and Hermiston where he



would grind their corn and, in turn, receive ale brewed at Hermiston to sell—either at the Inn at Currie Brig end or at Wester Currie Farm (which later became The Riccarton Arms, and is now Riccarton Inn). Upon her death, the landlady at the inn at the end of the bridge, Marion Cunningham, was the subject of a poem by our local poet Jamie Thomson (1763-1832), published in the second edition of his works in 1819.

It starts as follows;

*At Currie Brig end Auld Marion was kend
For forty years at least, by the great and the sma’*

*The Ragget an’ braw, the dominie, elder
and priest.*

In seven verses Thomson bemoans the loss of Marion, or really the loss of their drink: “Whar will ye now get pint or gill, whan Marion’s dead”. However there is a happy

postscript at the end of the poem as another landlady, also called Marion, “now fills her place”. All is right with the world: the drink is flowing again!

The inn was also mentioned in *Harry Ogilvie, or the Black Dragoons*, an 1884 novel by James Grant (1822 - 1887) in which the hero – presumably on his way to Lennox Tower – stopped to ask directions. I must see if the librarian can dig out a copy of this for me to read. [Edinburgh Libraries don’t appear to have a copy in their catalogue, but the National Library of Scotland lists having three copies—one of which is a German translation—Editor/hired help.]

Old postcards of the area showed a number of cottages which looked like a hamlet beside the Water of Leith.

The thatch on the miller’s house/old inn was destroyed by fire in 1938 and the building demolished at some point after that. The area was developed with new housing, I think, in the late 1950s. You can view this from the Water of Leith Walkway when there are fewer leaves on the trees.

The kiln, thankfully, remains in place to preserve another part of old Currie.

• 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/>



Main: The Kiln as it is today. Left: Currie Brig, c1906. Next page: Top: the Miller’s House/Currie Alehouse. Left: Burnside Cottages Alehouse. Photos: Douglas Lowe/CDLHS

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Autumn coming



to Mallyen

Photos: Eoghan Campbell.

**EOGHANN CAMPBELL
GARDENER, MALLANY GARDEN**

September is a lovely time in the garden, and it might be one of my favourite months: there is a sense of calm as plants slow down and set seed or fruit. It has still been quite dry and sunny, although we have had some rainy days too.

Though the roses and summer herbaceous have now mostly finished, there is still plenty to enjoy in the garden this month. Apples and rowan berries are ripening while, in our glasshouse, we have grapes and some unusual heritage tomatoes and chillis on display.

Our potentilla shrubs are still flowering, which they've been doing since May, and late-summer flowers (such as autumn crocus, Japanese anemone, phlox, asters and Actaea simplex [baneberry]) are brightening up our

beds. The Actaea are looking particularly good now with the lower sun angle shining on their white flower spikes and purple leaves.

We also have more hidden gems to spot such as ivy-leaved cyclamens with their distinctive leaf patterns and bright pink or white flowers hiding beneath shrubs. Being autumn, there are a few interesting fungi in the garden too, including giant puffballs, various waxcaps and black bugar – a black jelly-like fungus that grows on recently felled oaks, hornbeams and ash. It looks a little sinister in my view but is harmless, though inedible. It goes to show how rewarding it can be to take time and look a little closer.

This month we have been carrying out typical late summer and autumn tasks, from planting out herbaceous plants we've grown from seed around the garden and estate, cutting back mushy herbaceous plants, and

trimming our lavender and yew hedges. We have also been scarifying and aerating the lawns. Both are important September tasks to keep our lawns healthy. Scarifying removes thatch and moss, which can create water-logging issues in winter, and enables space for the grass to grow back stronger. Aerating the lawn allows moisture and air to penetrate the grass roots - particularly important after having a dry summer like we had this year.

• *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 mallyengarden@nts.org.uk*

Three Nights Away for Balerno Ramblers

**GAIL COUSINS
BALERNO RAMBLERS**

Autumn is here, the nights are closing in and it is time for our annual "Three Nights Away": 27 ramblers will be heading south to The Royal Hotel, Whitby from Friday 9 to Monday 12 October.

This weekend away will give the ramblers a chance to explore Whitby, brave the seagulls, walk in the local area, socialise, and discover who are the quizzers in the group. All we need is a fine weekend to be by the seaside—but we are ramblers so will be prepared for all weathers!

Six are letting the train take the strain while those travelling by car will break the journey with lunch, then a short walk at Guisborough Forest and Walkway.

Three walks are on offer on the Saturday. Two groups will walk from the hotel to Robin Hood's Bay, one option being along the Cleveland Way coastal path. This 7 mile (11.3 km) route is considered "strenuous" due to the ascent and descents along the cliff path; the



alternative cinder track route (also 7 miles) follows an old railway line so is a flatter option.

Both groups will catch a bus back to Whitby, unless anyone is feeling energetic and decides to walk back!

The third walk on Saturday includes a car journey to Saltergate for a 5 mile (8 km) circular walk, including the Hole of Horcum then driving to Thornton-le-Dale for a short walk and refreshments.

The Sunday walk programme will offer three walks. The longer walk descends into

the vast natural bowl of the Hole of Holcum, then on to Levisham. Alternatively, there's a 5 mile (8km) anticlockwise circular walk from the hotel to Saltwick Bay, with spectacular coastal scenery and almost constant views of Whitby Abbey. (Another advantage is descending rather than ascending the 119 steps.) The third walk on offer is a 3 mile (4.8 km) leisurely stroll from Whitby along the beach to Sandsend, with bus return. Sandsend is a quaint village with beach cafés, cottages and babbling brooks.

As we drive home on Monday, we plan to stop at Newton under Roseberry to climb Roseberry Topping, near Great Ayton. This "Yorkshire Matterhorn" is a distinctive half-cone hill located on the edge of the North York Moors; it provides a short, moderate 3+ mile (5 km) circular walk ascending the pyramid peak (1,049 feet/320 metres) with steep steps with a small rocky scramble near the top.

• *Note: The Balerno Ramblers AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 27 October in Ogston Hall, Balerno. All members are invited to attend.*

• *Details of confirmed forthcoming walks can be found in our What's On listings on page 47.*

Above: On Turnhouse Hill. Photo: John Smith.

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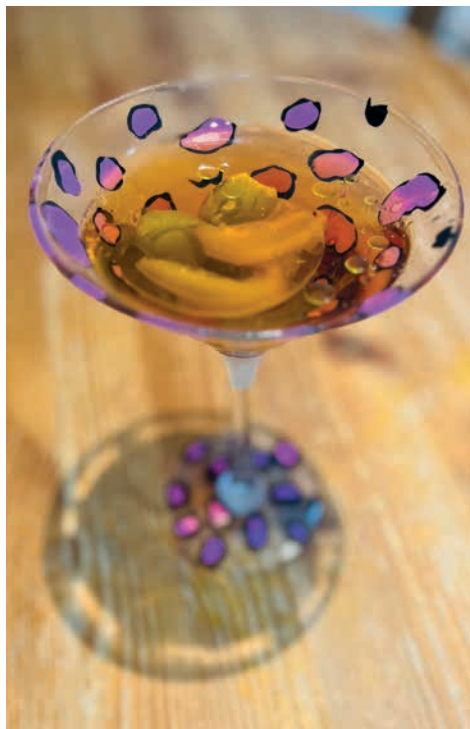
Cooking the Books

STEF LYONS

Sometimes it's appropriate to break the rules. Especially when you've made them up yourself. I'm about to do that right now. Hopefully after I have explained my reasoning, you will not only understand but feel happy with my decision. The concept of these articles was to make my way through my innumerable cookbooks, testing the recipes, and hopefully championing local food where I can. Each month was going to focus on a different book. Today that idea is going to be altered: I am going back to a book I have already reviewed.

I know, I know. I'm sorry for any disappointment or displeasure at such a choice. But I had to. On Tuesday 25 August 2026 I surprised myself by crying ugly tears at the death of Dolly Parton. I've never really mourned for a celebrity like that before. I've felt sad at their passing but when I read that Dear Dolly had left us, I was heartbroken. At one point I wondered if I had completely lost all my faculties and would never recover. Recover I did, however, and I needed to pay homage to my hero. So I decided to work my way through a bit more of her cookbook, *Good Lookin' Cookin'* despite having reviewed it in April of this year. Self-imposed rules be damned.

You may remember that her book has menus for each month of the year. And that it is super-American in style and measurements. Cups of things instead of grams, inexplicable sugar in unexpected



places, and ready-made short cuts galore. As it was September when I decided to delve back into Dolly's oeuvre I did some of the menu from that month. That meant something called a Dry Road Martini. I absolutely love a martini. But this... this was not at all a word I would use to describe what was essentially vodka in a glass with pickled vegetables. Oh, and unsweetened cold tea. A dry gin martini is a thing of beauty. I'm not that keen on vodka, but I gave it a go and, well, let's just say it was odd. Not undrinkable. Just odd.

I drank mine while making the Family Favourite Meatloaf. The loaf itself was really tasty, very easy to make and had a very nice texture with chopped up peppers and onions inside. Inexplicable Sugar™ made an appearance here though: a tin of evaporated milk was added to the meat. And there was a "sauce" made from 250 ml or a cup of ketchup, brown sugar and a tiny amount of mustard. Most of it goes on top of the beef while it cooks, with some left over for adding as you wish. It was very sweet. But I really couldn't hate it. I can see why it goes down well with the Parton family. This was served with her Whipped Potatoes (yes, whipped) and for dessert was Chocolate Cobbler. I normally think of cobbler as a pudding whereby fruit is cooked with a sort of scone topping. This was just gooey hot chocolate pudding. It was delicious. But nothing I would ever call a cobbler.

Do I care about these oddities? No. Dolly Parton was an incredible human being. She was an ally to many groups of people and her work in providing books to children and funding scientific research to save lives changed the world for the better. On top of being a wonderful, kind and funny person, she seemed never to let her huge level of fame go to her head. She will be missed. Even if her recipes are on the bonkers side. We love ya, Dolly. Rest In Peace.



Craft Corner

LUCIE NOVOVESKA

Playful Paintings

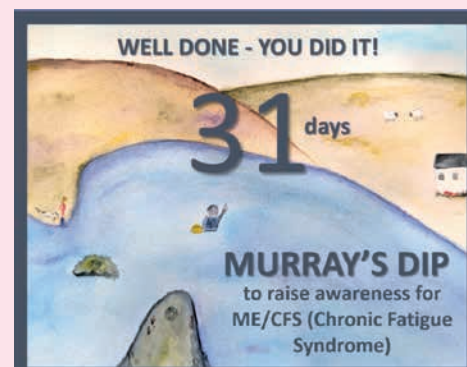
My husband recently completed 31 (consecutive) days of wild swimming to raise awareness for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS).

The word swimming makes it sound like he was swimming laps around the reservoir, but some days, especially during bad weather, it was just a very efficient dip. Raising awareness, nevertheless.

Naturally, I was very proud of him and wanted to create a card for him. I am not a natural painter but that did not stop me. In a world of perfect AI images in any style your heart desires, having an imperfect water colour picture makes it even more personal and relatable—well, that is what I tell myself. I encourage you to give watercolour painting a go. All you need is a set of paint colours, brushes and paper for watercolour painting. Just play at first and test different techniques and colour combinations. Or commit to take a course with an experienced teacher: I bet there are some painting courses advertised in this issue of C&B News.

I started by sketching the outline on the paper using a pencil, then I used a paint brush once I had more confidence. My main tip: less is more. It is very easy to overdo it and add too much paint and water to the point that it can damage the paper.

Recently, I had the opportunity to watch professional painters at the Botanic, who carefully layer the paint and the paper in between. I am not a professional as demonstrated by a "loaf of bread" next to Murray, which is meant to be his trusted safety float of course. In my case, I added some text to the picture of the final painting to highlight the accomplishment and fill the empty areas of the card. However you decide to do it, have a little fun and enjoy the process.



Nature's Medicine Box

URARA DONOHOE

Ginger

Foraging is mostly finished for this year, so until next spring, this blog will discuss herbs you have in your kitchen or easily buy to help treat common every-day ailments.

Cold and flu season is almost upon us, and what is more helpful than ginger (*Zingiber officinalis*). Almost everyone has ginger in their kitchen, yet not many know of the amazing healing powers of this common cooking ingredient.

Ginger is a diaphoretic. This means that, taken as a hot tea, the chemicals in ginger encourage blood-flow to your peripheries. So, when you are feverish, the hot heated blood is moved from the core of your body to the skin surfaces. It also encourages your body to sweat. Both of these actions cool the body and reduce the fever. The sweating provides additional benefit, taking out any toxins that cold and flu bugs are creating inside your body. In addition, if you are feeling nauseous either from the sickly mucous building up in your sinuses and chest or from a tummy bug, that spiciness in ginger is a brilliant anti-emetic, stopping that queasy sensation while the anti-inflammatories soothe your inner digestive linings from stomach down into your guts.

Tea is not the only way to get therapeutic benefits from ginger. For your sinus, chest or tummy, a warm towel infused with hot ginger tea is an excellent warming and soothing treatment. Ginger compress like this has been used throughout the ages and around the globe, allowing patients to breathe in the healing aroma of warm ginger while it seeps into the skin to provide that diaphoretic and anti-inflammatory effects discussed previously.

When dealing with hot teas and compresses, you really need to be careful not to burn yourself or your patient!

• 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!

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

Food for Life

JO DOUGLAS

Pumpkin Benefits

Pumpkins aren't just for carving spooky Halloween faces. With so many delicious varieties appearing in supermarkets at this time of year, autumn is the perfect opportunity to experiment with pumpkin and enjoy this seasonal vegetable..

Pumpkin is incredibly versatile and packed with nutrients, including fibre, vitamins, minerals and antioxidant compounds.

Pumpkin is particularly rich in beta-carotene, an antioxidant that the body can convert into vitamin A. Vitamin A plays an important role in normal vision, immune function and reproductive health.

As vitamin A is a fat-soluble vitamin, enjoying pumpkin alongside a source of healthy fat can help with the absorption of carotenoids. Try roasting your pumpkin with a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil for a simple and delicious combination.

Pumpkin also contains fibre, including insoluble fibre, which can help support healthy digestion and regular bowel movements.

Pumpkin contains a range of antioxidant compounds, including carotenoids. Antioxidants help protect our cells from oxidative stress, making colourful vegetables like pumpkin a valuable addition to a balanced diet.

There are so many ways to enjoy pumpkin beyond the traditional Halloween carving. For eating, try choosing smaller culinary varieties rather than the large pumpkins bred primarily for carving, which tend to have a higher water content and less flavour.

Try roasting pumpkin with olive oil and herbs and adding it to a salad with feta and pomegranate seeds. Pumpkin is also delicious blended into soups, added to curries or used as a puree in baking.

And don't forget the seeds! Pumpkin seeds are a great source of magnesium, zinc, protein and healthy fats. They make a delicious crunchy topping for salads, soups, yoghurt or porridge.

So, this autumn, don't just carve your pumpkin—eat it too!

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

Wellbeing

ANNETTE WILSON

Time to 'Coorie Doon'

Coorie (verb): Scots: to snuggle, nestle, huddle close.

October ushers in an autumnal feel with cooler temperatures, shorter days and nature changing all around us. It's a time of year when perhaps we look to stay inside more, turn on the heating, shake out the cosy knitwear.

We often have little rituals that mark the transition to a new season—what are yours? Maybe it's worth taking a little time to honour the change of season and to embrace the small domestic shifts that help you feel healthy and happy in your home. Warmer bedding, extra blankets and winter coats may come out of storage to make you feel more cosy and comfortable. More time indoors perhaps means time to mend, sew or make, or maybe curl up and read a great book.

I always like to do a deeper clean, getting into nooks and crannies, chasing spiders, sorting out food cupboards and stores, stocking up on soup ingredients and tins as part of my preparation for colder, darker months.

We begin our once a week "soup and pudding" routine, picking old favourites like crumble & custard or bread and butter pudding! We get out the board games and cards, and try to enjoy time together indoors without resorting to TV all the time. And if you live alone, it's even more important that you set up ways to connect with other people through getting out regularly or keeping in touch by phone or letter. I wonder if there is someone you know who might appreciate a wee card?

Ultimately adapting to the new season doesn't need dramatic change, but the quiet addition of some thoughtful habits to prepare the home, protect your sleep and make space for rest and connection may support your comfort and wellbeing as autumn blows in.

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

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Beechgrove Garden Comes to Tiphereth



FRASER THOMPSON
TIPHERETH CAMPHILL COMMUNITY

Members of a local charity supporting adults with learning disabilities have been featured on BBC Scotland's *Beechgrove Garden* as part of the programme's popular Community Garden feature.

The Beechgrove team visited Tiphereth earlier this summer to film the charity's Garden Group, which enables adults with learning disabilities and autism to grow vegetables, care for the land and work together outdoors.

Based on Torphin Road in Colinton, Tiphereth supports adults with profound learning disabilities, autism and complex support needs through residential care, supported living and day opportunities. The Garden Group forms part of the charity's programme of vocational workshops, giving members the chance to develop practical skills while contributing to the wider community.

For many participants, the garden offers far more than a place to grow food. It provides opportunities to build confidence, develop friendships, learn new skills and experience the satisfaction of meaningful work in a

supportive environment.

Fundraising Manager Fraser Thompson said: "We were delighted to welcome the Beechgrove Garden team to Tiphereth and to have the opportunity to share a small part of what happens here every day."

"Our members put an enormous amount of effort, care and enthusiasm into the garden throughout the year. It was wonderful to see that recognised and to give viewers an insight into the positive impact that meaningful work and connection with nature can have."

The Community Garden feature celebrates projects across Scotland that use gardening to bring people together and strengthen their communities. Tiphereth's appearance offered viewers a glimpse into the achievements of the charity's members and the role that gardening plays in supporting wellbeing, learning and social connection.

• Episode 24 of the current *Beechgrove Garden* series, originally broadcast on Thursday 10 September, is available to watch on BBC iPlayer.

• To find out more about Tiphereth, visit www.tiphereth.org.uk or turn to page 40.



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PLANNING, ETC BY ARCHIE CLARK

Planning and Climate Change—15: Back to Basics

Instead of approaching climate change issues with new technologies that maintain our lifestyles, perhaps we might imagine what we would have to do as castaways on an uninhabited island.

Remember Robinson Crusoe (in real life, Alexander Selkirk)? Regarding essentials, newly shipwrecked and alone, the fictional Crusoe's priority was to find fresh water, then food, before building a permanent shelter and surrounding himself with a palisade against predators.

Selkirk was marooned on an island in the South Pacific in 1704. More than four years later he was rescued and provided inspiration for Daniel Defoe's novel, published in 1719. He relied on his wits; he couldn't phone a friend since mobile telephones would not be invented for 250 years. (Electricity only came into use in the 1880s.)

We need clean water to exist. According to ScienceInsights (2), newborns are 75% water, men about 60% and women around 50-55%, dependent on age and muscle/ fat. Scottish Water estimates that daily water consumption averages a staggering two baths full of water, per person (185 litres/ 40 gallons), for everything—cooking, bathing, using the toilet, watering the garden,

washing the car, etc.. How much is lost in transmission or used for food production is not immediately obvious. Elsewhere in the UK, personal consumption is estimated at 130 litres/ day. Small wonder Crusoe's first move was to locate drinkable water.

Having experienced hosepipe bans, if even some of the mooted hyperscale Data Centres get built, looking at a map of Scotland in a SEPA Water Scarcity Report, it seems that without new reservoirs, prioritising water provision for data centres over domestic users is going to lead to costly interventions when towns find themselves short of that essential life-supporting liquid. So to avoid contaminated water being discharged untreated back into the environment, perhaps each data centre needs to have its own dedicated on-site reservoir, isolated from the public supply, to store, treat and recycle its coolant.

At the same time, wild fluctuations in our climate suggest we should be creating new reservoirs: Torphin and other worked-out quarries might be converted into water tanks to ensure sufficient supplies for this and future generations. That should feature in Local Development Plans as one of our Climate Change priorities.

- <https://www.desertislandsurvival.com/famous-castaways/>
- <https://scienceinsights.org/what-percentage-of-water-is-in-the-human-body/>
- <https://www.yourwateryourlife.co.uk/tips-and-help/how-much-water-do-i-use-each-day/>
- <https://beta.sepa.scot/water-scarcity/previous-reports/03-september-2026/>
- <https://www.csemag.com/best-practices-for-water-treatment-in-data-center-cooling/>

Baberton Mains—Housing Replacement One Step Forward

CEC has now approved the application to replace 35 Baberton Mains Avenue, the last of the houses damaged in a gas explosion in December 2023. Both it and its neighbour (number 37) are approaching the stage when contractors can be appointed to rebuild them.

Three years after the event will

have seen a substantial increase in construction costs. Perhaps our elected parliamentary representatives could advise what emergency funding arrangements are available for those who find themselves rendered homeless through no fault of their own. This was not a unique event.

Local Development Plans: Are they 'Fit for Purpose'?

Our Local Development Plans have become bureaucratic, inflexible, and created as though one size will suit all wards. They will need revision from Day One.

Today's issues will be quite different to those in 2030-2040: remember the substantial changes made to the near-finalised 2030 LDP because of Covid-19, resulting in the hasty creation of "20-minute neighbourhoods"? That will become evident when climate change problems dictate how we live.

Trams have proven to be unduly rigid, costly and divert resources. In 1966, the Third Statistical Account for Scotland (for Edinburgh) said, "Since overhaul and modernisation of the tramway system would probably have cost £8 million, whereas a complete conversion to buses spread over five years was estimated to cost about £2 million [...] the Corporation resolved that the tramway system should be abandoned completely and replaced by motor buses." * Buses proved their flexibility when Princes Street was closed because of the Debenhams fire while the trams only ran half their route, from their sole garage at the Gyle.

Local, Ward or settlement-sized Plans (like the 1983 Currie-Balerno Local Plan) within simplified Structure Plans, closely integrating all our activities, (as then existed) would provide a better framework where truly local changes can be made quickly instead of waiting 10+ years for a legalistic, largely irrelevant LDP like City Plan 2030. I believe changes should be

driven by locally-elected, paid councils and not from remote centralised offices. These could be managed from five district offices – Edinburgh Central, Edinburgh NE, Edinburgh SE, Edinburgh SW and Edinburgh NW. To conserve farmland, the City's boundary must remain within the existing Outer City Bypass. If Orkney Islands Council can manage its affairs for a population of 22,000, why can't the Pentlands Ward with a population of over 30,000?

The new Plan(s) should be designed round the original definition of '20-minute neighbourhoods', with most facilities, including banks, accessible by 10-minute walks from home in each Ward. Currie's Muir Wood Field should be included in its entirety as playing fields/ amenity space as promised by EDC in 1978.

Regarding housing, in the July/August C&B News ("Why Do We Need More Houses?") I referred to an over-simplified diagram showing our housing need declining. In my view, we need to house more of our population in "Council" houses instead of expecting people to own (and maintain) their homes. In 2015, SESplan estimated affordable housing need at 64%. So current 35% requirements are clearly too low.

Edinburgh needs to curb its outward sprawl, replacing/ adding buildings within its existing footprint and improving food security by forbidding non-agricultural development on all farmland to reduce our dependency on imported foodstuffs.

Plan(s) need to be people friendly: much smaller, with readable drawings to encourage public participation.



Back in 2024, then-MSP Sue Webber showed First Minister John Swinney MSP the situation in Baberton Mains.

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DR SCOTT ARTHUR MP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WEST

E-BIKES

There are few issues guaranteed to spark conversation on the doorstep. Potholes and dog fouling have long topped the list but, increasingly, the misuse of illegal e-bikes is coming up.

These vehicles range from modified versions of legal e-bikes to machines that are effectively electric motorbikes. While the bikes themselves vary, the complaints are remarkably similar—from reckless behaviour on roads and pavements to concerns about links to organised criminal activity.

This is an issue I have raised repeatedly in Parliament. I have been pressing the UK Government to introduce stronger restrictions on the import and sale of illegal e-bikes and conversion kits. These measures are needed to prevent dangerous machines from reaching our streets and communities.

However, this is about more than road safety. There are also growing concerns about fire risks associated with unsafe batteries. Reports of e-bike battery fires highlight the need for stronger regulation and enforcement to protect the public.

I have also raised concerns with food delivery companies. Too often, their business models appear to be based on exploitation. A more responsible business model could help reduce some of the pressures that contribute some of the problem.

Local police officers recognise the scale of public concern but are often frustrated by the limited powers and resources available to tackle the problem effectively. In England, some forces are using tactics such as chase-drones and targeted operations against the worst offenders. Scotland should learn from that experience and ensure officers have the tools they need.

Addressing illegal e-bikes requires action from both the UK and Scottish Governments, alongside responsible behaviour from food delivery companies. By working together, we can improve safety, strengthen enforcement and better protect our communities.



SIMITA KUMAR MSP
EDINBURGH SOUTH WESTERN

YOUNG PEOPLE

Every young person in Edinburgh South Western deserves the support to reach their full potential. Last month, I had the privilege of visiting Big Noise Wester Hailes and watching talented local young people perform with their instruments. Among many other benefits, this exceptional extracurricular service offers opportunity and pathways to success for children living in socio-economically deprived areas. It was a powerful reminder of what our young people can achieve when given the right support.

August was a transformative month for young people across Scotland. Pass rates were up at every level from Nat 5 to Advanced Higher, the attainment gap narrowed, a record number of vocational and technical qualifications were awarded, and more 18-year-old Scots than ever secured a place at university. I was pleased to attend an award ceremony for students at Balerno High School to celebrate their attainments and recognise their hard work. Once again, I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to all students across our local area for their achievements.

The talent and ambition of young people across Edinburgh South Western is clear to see. For some young people, however, the road to success is not straightforward. While it is encouraging that a record number of young people from deprived backgrounds have been accepted into university this year, we must close the attainment gap entirely.

To ensure every young person meets their potential means giving them the best start to education. I welcome recent announcements from the Scottish Government to expand free breakfast clubs across primary schools and introduce free school bags for children starting Primary One. Across the constituency, this will make a real difference in tackling child poverty and giving every young person the best start to education and future success.



MILES BRIGGS MSP
EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN EAST

GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

Trying to enjoy the last of the summer sun I recently took a walk along the Water of Leith.

This is one of my favourite walks in Edinburgh, albeit one that I don't get to go on nearly often enough. The sound of running water and chirping birds took my mind off the everyday hustle and bustle of parliament.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful space, from its source in the Pentlands to the Forth.

For innumerable people in Edinburgh and the surrounding area the Water of Leith is a cherished sliver of nature in a busy and growing city. Dog walkers, horse riders, conservationists, and many others cherish the opportunity to escape the pressures of day-to-day life and recharge.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everybody from the Water of Leith Conservation Trust, the various community groups, and The City of Edinburgh Council who dedicate so much time and effort maintaining the river and its infrastructure.

I recently attended the launch of the Movember report on men's health in Scotland at Tynecastle Stadium.

The report specifically calls for a national men's health action plan. At the launch we heard about the growing problems surrounding access to mental health services in our region and beyond.

Many of the conversations I had highlighted the need to spend more time in nature to help improve both our mental and physical wellbeing.

So, with this in mind, and such a wonderful asset on our doorsteps, I have decided I must make the trip more often, and I urge readers to do the same.



CLLR GRAEME BRUCE
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

ROADWORKS AHEAD

This month I will start with the roadworks planned from the roundabout at the junction of Riccarton Mains Road and Bryce Road.

This looks like it will start in November but the dates are still to be finalised. It will include drainage remedial works followed by resurfacing. I've asked council officers to liaise with Lothian Buses as to how they deal with Service 45 buses, along with making sure the temporary lights at the junction of Curriehill Road and A71 are put back in place, as this was a great success the last time we had an issue like this. I am aware that BT have scheduled a road closure on Ravelrig Road at the same time as these works and I have asked the council to consider not to allow the BT works until the roundabout is complete.

Yet again, graffiti has appeared on Woodhall Millbrae in Juniper Green. I asked Bear Scotland to get rid of the graffiti which they duly obliged.

A problem was reported to me a few months ago regarding water egress on the Water of Leith Walkway at Juniper Green. I got in touch with council officers who then reported this to Scottish Water. They have identified the issue as a defective sewer and hopefully this will be fixed by the time you read this article.

I have had many questions about whether it is legal or not legal to park on the other side of the Yellow Lines on approach to Harlaw Car Park. I can confirm that it is NOT legal to park on the other side of the Yellow Lines. The verge is enforceable and appropriate action will be taken. I hope this clarifies the situation to everyone.

Lastly, it's good to hear that Balerno High School swimming pool is now back operational. I did have a number of complaints and concerns whether it would reopen at all but the remedial works took longer than planned and hence the delay.



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Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

2026 AGM will take place at
7.30 pm on Monday 02 November 2026.
Meeting to be held in the Back Hall,
Gibson Craig Halls, to which all members are invited.

RSVP currieeastneighbourhoodwatch@gmail.com



CLLR FIONA GLASGOW
PENTLAND HILLS WARD

HEADING INTO AUTUMN

Now that summer is well and truly over, I would like to acknowledge the amazing work done by our local neighbourhood hero Fern McGregor who has tirelessly worked to ensure that the streets and pavements of Balerno have been kept clear of overhanging branches and cleared of the weeds outside homes of her neighbours. I had the opportunity to go on a walkabout with Fern to see her achievements and I was amazed. Now on to keeping the area clear of soggy leaves which can be dangerously slippery! Fern works hard for the community and she was rewarded through donations towards new equipment for her voluntary work. She is much appreciated by the Council's team too who she works closely with.

The September Balerno Farmers' Market was well attended despite the forecast; it was lovely to visit the Village Preserves stall as they were celebrating their anniversary—a great local business. I also got to catch up on the latest community asset the Welcome Station. It offers hireable community rooms, youth activities, public access and after-school care. There are still spaces available for after school care so anyone still needing a space can contact them at the Welcome Station.

The work on the path to Pentlands Medical Centre has been given the go ahead; this will make a substantial difference to those with mobility issues. Parking issues at Curriehill station have been reported and investigated; the station is certainly being well used.

The Community Grants Fund will be holding a second round of funding, the application window will run from Friday 18 September – Saturday 31 October and we expect funding panels to take place in late November/early December. This is an opportunity for locally constituted groups to get some money towards new and innovative activities for the benefit of the community.



CLLR JASON RUST
COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD WARD

RECURRING ISSUES

Further to my column from last month, I have received feedback on continuing anti-social and criminal behaviour in Colinton, including by those on e-bikes and scooters. Hailes Gardens and Spylaw Bank Road are among the streets impacted. I have again been in touch with our Community Policing Team with a view to getting this addressed.

A previous request for CCTV cameras at the top of Clovenstone and Lanark Road was taken to the South West Community Improvement Partnership meeting but was rejected on the basis that there are only six re-deployable cameras in the south west area and they were already positioned where there were voluminous active issues. I trust that this will be reconsidered and, when cameras are in a position to be moved, Lanark Road and the Hailes and Spylaw areas will be on the list of new locations.

On other issues, the topic of potholes and road resurfacing continues to be to the fore. We have had moderate success in getting attention to Colinton Road but the stretch between Thorburn Road and Woodhall Road remains in poor condition. I am also concerned about the lack of maintenance of the road safety measures in Bonaly and have been following up on this at Council.

Finally, on a more positive note, I was pleased to attend the Edinburgh Riding of the Marches and to see many local residents in attendance at what is an amazing spectacle. It was also great to see local groups such as Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre represented at the Edinburgh People's Procession.

As ever, I encourage local residents of Ward 8 to get in touch on any local issues by email at jason.rust@edinburgh.gov.uk or by telephone on (0131) 529 4953.



RICHARD M HENDERSON
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC PLAN

Balerno Community Council (BCC) has now lodged the Balerno Local Place Plan with The City of Edinburgh Council. Once registered, CEC will be bound to have regard to it in making its decisions. The Plan covers a variety of areas of activity including safety and, particularly, road safety.

Traffic is an increasing problem in Balerno in terms of volume and speed. There are now real problems of parking and general congestion. Our current bus service leaves large areas within the built up village without easy access; and, of course, outlying areas like Glenbrook and the popular visitor areas of Harlaw and Threpmuir reservoirs are completely devoid of bus services—exacerbating parking and safety issues. It increases hazards for school pupils on journeys to and from school. Recent incidents in Main Street highlight risks in areas of shared pedestrian and vehicle access, and it is only through the mercy of providence that we have not seen injuries in that area. Crossing Bridge Road is also a real hazard as was shown by a recent pedestrian injury in that area.

Crafting a solution is not going to be easy, but it has to be addressed and BCC expects CEC to look at potential answers, especially in relation to safe access to school. Two incidents of damage in Main Street suggest possibly a level of inattention or even recklessness. An incident in which a child was injured crossing Bridge Road points up the danger of mixing pedestrians and vehicles in limited space.

Balerno urgently needs a proper traffic and transport plan. Traffic lights at the Lanark Road West and Ravelrig Road junction, and the formalising of the path around the Ravelrig Walled Garden, as suggested in the Local Place Plan, would be a start.



COLIN MACLEOD
CURRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CRIME & PROTECTION

Our September meeting covered many issues, the most pressing of which were recent criminal activity and the continued threat to the green belt.

Reports of theft and attempted theft from cars and properties have risen noticeably during the past month. Most describe masked individuals on e-bikes, late at night, trying car doors and front doors.

Please report all crimes to the police and take practical steps to protect your property, such as keeping keys away from the front door and keyless fobs in a signal-blocking pouch. Lock up at night, use outside lighting, and keep bikes and tools secured.

I posted a question on the CCC Facebook page: "What should Currie turn the old public toilet into?" The overwhelming response was... a toilet! Sadly, Currie Community Council has no means to purchase the building, but it was a fun experiment; thank you to everyone who commented.

The proposed hyperscale AI data centre at Wester Hermiston still looms large. The good news is that Scottish Ministers have since ruled that a full Environmental Impact Assessment is required, overturning the council's earlier view that one wasn't needed.

It is also encouraging to have our elected members engaged, with Dr Scott Arthur MP saying at a recent meeting that he opposed it and "didn't think it was on the right site". More than 5,000 people have signed a petition against the plans. If you would also like to add your name, you can do so by visiting www.c.org/DJPF5mcbp8.

Lastly, feedback from Walking Scotland is that the "Greenbelt Way" path is being well used and is well loved by residents, with the recent publicity in C&B News having a very positive impact.

Personally, I was surprised to learn that Taylor Wimpey had complained about the name. On reflection, perhaps it should have been expected, given they have potential plans to put up to 390 houses on Muir Wood Field. It's a timely reminder that we should continue to fight to protect our green belt land, and that Currie truly is a "Community that Cares".

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About the Wellness Centre

LOCAL RESIDENT BALERNO

I'm writing in response to an article published on page 14 of the July/August issue of *C&B News*, concerning the work of St Mungo's Wellness Centre, 4 Bridge Road, Balerno.

I was a member of St Mungo's Church, Balerno, for 40 years, during which time I trained as a counsellor for the Wellness Centre. I left 10 years ago after a Wellness Centre Continual Professional Development training session which promoted Homosexual Conversion Therapy. The session was led by the person who set up the Wellness Centre.

St Mungo's is choosing to be quiet about the fact that they do not support same sex relationships and that they are an Evangelical Church because they think it will put people off using their counselling services. I think they are correct in this assumption but they need to take ownership and be responsible and honest about what they believe. The Wellness Centre is staffed almost entirely by committed St Mungo's members.

In consequence of this lack of transparency LGBT+ people are using St. Mungo's counselling services without knowing what the church believes. St Mungo's believes that same sex relationships are sinful/fornication and against God's plan for people. LGBT+ people have, at a later time, discovered what the backing church believes and have greatly regretted choosing the Wellness Centre.

Clients have a right to know the foundational values and theological frameworks of a counselling provider before sharing deeply personal struggles. Transparency enables clients to choose a

counsellor whose worldview aligns with their own. When a provider markets itself as a general community mental health resource without disclosing its religious beliefs or specific doctrinal stances it can inadvertently mislead the public and for LGBT+ individuals this can lead to unexpected distress, shame, or trauma. Traditional mental health professions emphasise the principle of "do no harm".

Professional counselling bodies typically require practitioners to be honest about their qualifications, techniques, and underlying beliefs. Many centres receive public funds, corporate donations, or referrals from secular institutions (like schools or courts). Transparency ensures these stakeholders know exactly what they are supporting. Openness prevents the backlash and loss of trust that often occurs when a centre's theological stances are exposed via hidden investigations or negative client experiences.

I have tried many times to get St Mungo's to address this issue. I have been in correspondence with the Wellness Centre and the Leader of St Mungo's for some weeks trying to persuade them to flag up that they do not support same sex relationships in order to avoid this problem, but all to no avail.

In my research I have also discovered that the Wellness Centre's article is less than honest. It claims to have regular referrals from schools. I have been informed by the City of Edinburgh Council Education Department that no local authority schools refer children to the Wellness Centre.

The sole reason for writing this is that local people know what the church believes, in order to make informed choices with regard to counselling.

Data Centres

ARCHIE CLARK JUNIPER GREEN RESIDENT

Back in the September 2025 issue of *C&B News*, former MSP Gordon Macdonald mentioned Data Centres, encouraging residents to respond to an Apatura proposal in the green belt at Wester Hermiston.

In October 2025, I suggested that scheme was related to a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) beside Riccarton Mains Road houses ("Is AI Turning the Countryside Brown?"). [Note, "green belt" is not necessarily farmland. But prime quality farmland as at Hermiston is in short supply.]

Two articles from *The Daily Telegraph* elaborate on concerns over Data Centres. "Slough Revolts as Town Taken over by Data Centres" (Thursday 23 July) claimed that: relaxed planning rules permit data centres to be imposed on communities; data centres produce endless noise from cooling units (24 hours every day); noise is worse for people leaving their windows open on warm nights; in hot weather, warm air is released into the atmosphere, creating "heat islands"; the site is lit up all night; more than 30 Data Centres have been built in one square mile in Slough over 20 years; and evidence is lacking that AI and Data Centres have produced financial or other benefits for Slough.

Other concerns were that: with Slough's electrical supply at its limit, data centres will be built elsewhere; current electrical consumption will rise five-fold; electricity bills will increase to provide the missing infrastructure; data centres employ few people; data centres are potential polluters from backup diesel generators; and the buildings contribute nothing to local amenity.

Earlier, on Friday 10 July, a *Daily Telegraph* article ("Why water shortages are coming to Britain") painted a picture of a Britain where technology is promoted over crop growing, and quoted former environment secretary Steve Reed saying that the UK faced water rationing within 10 years. Professor Muhammad Wakil Shahzad, of Northumbria University, reckons we have five years to address the problem, adding that 30% of our water is consumed by 550 data centres in England. In summer those areas are "water-stressed". He expected data centre demand to increase four-fold by 2030. On 15 August 2026, the website <https://hosepipeban.co.uk/map> showed over 50% of England was under some form of restriction regarding water use.

It is an outrage that irreplaceable countryside is being sacrificed while the views of local residents are ignored. As data centres are often American-owned, something will have to change if Britain is to control her landscape—and allow our human species to survive.

• <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/99676/html/>

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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ALISON MARR
 PENTLAND SINGERS

Pentland Junior Singers are sad to say goodbye to musical director Isabella Gonzalez Diaz (above left) who worked with us for the past two years—bringing lots of colour and fun to rehearsals and her own Latin influence.

Luckily for us, Isabella introduced us to our new musical director: Laura Mackie, a fellow graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, specialising in piano and music education. She is a fully qualified secondary teacher with experience in both classroom teaching and wider creative learning.

Laura (above right) has also studied at the University of Melbourne, is a Lead Ambassador for the Benedetti Foundation and is an Assistant Course Manager with Edinburgh Youth Orchestra, where she supports the delivery of large-scale music programmes.

You studied in Australia: what were your favourite things about living there?

I loved living in Australia—the culture, the people, the incredible outdoors and, of course, the sunshine! I loved travelling around Australia, from Sydney and the Gold Coast to Perth and Uluru. The wildlife was a particular highlight: getting to hold a koala was definitely a bucket-list moment!

What is your favourite musical?

I am a huge musical theatre fan, so choosing one is definitely tricky! *Tina – The Tina Turner Musical*, *Billy Elliot* and *Legally Blonde* are all favourites of mine, but my ultimate favourite has to be *Wicked*. I could watch it over and over again. The songs are incredible, and I don't think I'll ever get tired of listening to them.

Who are your favourite singers/performers?
 My music taste is quite varied, but Jessie J,

Coldplay and Adele are definitely up there! I love Jessie J for her incredible voice and the sheer power she brings to every performance, while Coldplay are one of those bands I could listen to anytime. Adele is another favourite: her voice is just unreal, and I love how much emotion she puts into her music.

What do you love most about this time of year?

As much as I love summer and being outdoors, I equally love the cosy side of autumn! There's nothing better than coming home on a chilly evening, getting into comfy clothes and settling on the sofa with a hot chocolate and marshmallows. Autumn just has such a cosy feeling about it—especially when it's dark outside and you're warm and cosy indoors.

What songs would you like the juniors to perform at their upcoming Christmas concert?

I don't want to give too much away just yet... you'll have to come along and find out! There will be a variety of Scottish classics, musical theatre favourites and, of course, some Christmas songs.

Outside of music and theatre – what is your favourite activity?

I'm happiest when I'm outdoors and surrounded by nature. I love camping, hiking and exploring new places, and I've recently become a big fan of cold-water swimming—although I'm not sure there's anything “warm” about it!

• Pentland Junior Singers are always looking for new members! Join us any Tuesday during term time for a free taster session. We meet from 6pm - 7pm at Balerno Parish Church.

Look out for details of our upcoming Christmas Concert with Pentland Singers!

For more information see our website: www.pentlandjuniors.org or find us on Facebook.

Pentlands Book Festival Returns

RUSSELL SALTON
 PENTLANDS BOOK FESTIVAL

Pentlands Book Festival returns for another exciting run this month, delivering a range of free – but ticketed – events from Colinton to Balerno.

Three-time Whitbread/Costa winner Kate Atkinson, creator of *Life After Life* and the Jackson Brodie novels, makes a rare appearance. The novelist, poet, screenwriter and artist Jenni Fagan, meantime, brings her distinctive voice to discuss *The Delusions*, which imagines an afterlife run by cosmic and comic bureaucracy.

For readers drawn to history and social memory, PBF offers: Alistair Moffat (founder of the Borders Book Festival), who has decades of expertise in Scottish history and journalism; Brian McGeachan, discussing trade unionist Jimmy Reid; Kate Stephenson exploring clothing and social history; and Helen Graham, who brings historical fiction set in the world of theatrical artists.

Meanwhile, crime and mystery take centre stage with Elaine Thomson, whose historical crime fiction includes her recent ghost story *Saltwater*, and James Oswald, known for his Inspector McLean and Constance Fairchild series.

As in previous years, the Festival also spotlights debut and local talent: Mark Baillie's novel *Salvage* explores Scotland's Gypsy Traveller history through a missing person mystery, while Kate Mayor and Jonathan Findlay share a session showcasing local authorship.

The festival also welcomes writers working in poetry, memoir, and adventure: Esa Aldegheri, author of *Free to Go*, and Anne Pia, with poetic responses to two icons of French culture—Charles Baudelaire and Georges Brassens.

Adding a curious note, Pete Lamont explores magic, psychic phenomena, and critical thinking.

Beyond author talks, Pentlands Open Studios presents an artists' talks event, giving local visual artists a platform. The festival closes in contemplative mood at the Library of Mistakes, reflecting on lessons from history.

• Tickets for all events are essential, available on Eventbrite from 1 October. The full programme can be found here: <https://pentlandsbookfestival.org>

• Why not join our committee of volunteers for PBF2027? Your skills, especially in sound and audio-visual, are needed!

• Pentlands Book Festival 2026 runs from 26 October to 25 November. All events are free but please donate what you can.





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TABATHA MCCREE-COX
OPERATIONS MANAGER, CURRIE
CHIEFTAINS

The Chieftains have had a great start to the 2026/27 season with three wins from four in the Arnold Clark Men's Premiership.

On Saturday 29 August, Currie Chieftains 1st XV headed down the A9 to Glasgow Hawks rugby club on a sunny crisp day to start their league campaign.

With a strong pre-season build up, with new recruits brought in to replace squad members who have moved on, the boys did not disappoint, winning the match 45-5.

It was great to see new players – Jack Fisher, Michael Scarth and Mason Cullen – make their competitive debuts for the club. The challenge was to back this up in our first home game against local rivals Heriot's.

Round 2 of the Arnold Clark Men's Premiership was a special day for the Currie family, with

Ryan Stewart reaching 100 caps for the club, a special achievement! The Chieftains were able to start their unbeaten home run for the 2026/27 season with a 26-19 win in a fierce and competitive match. On the day we also released our new strips, developed in partnership with BE Uniforms and Canterbury. Our bright and bold colours lit up the playing fields as our 1st XV entered the pitch. We would like to thank all our generous sponsors who have joined the collaboration and are showcased on our new jerseys.

Saturday 5 September was a special day off the pitch for the club with the opening of our new "Chieftinns" pitch side bar. President Dai Davies and the hard-working volunteers who helped create Chieftinns officially cut the ribbon pre-match. To complement Chieftinns, the youth teams were selling pizzas, hot drinks, soft drinks and cake. Please do come and experience our match day hospitality.

Round 3 saw the Chieftains take on Melrose. The day started with another special achievement with Scott Robeson reaching 50 caps for the club, which was celebrated loudly by the Currie community. The contest was fast, fierce and expansive, with both sides playing very similar styles. Currie were victorious with a late surge and final try by Alex Harley, through a fantastic full pitch long busting play. The final score 32-27. Round 4 saw us lose out to Watsonians, 19-12 at Myreside.

MEANWHILE...

The 2nd XV had a tough start to their league campaign after an impressive pre-season, losing out to Heriot's 2nd XV, 61-31. They managed to bounce back with an impressive win against Stirling County 2nd XV, 38-19 and then a further win against Watsonians, 26-22.

Our 3rd XV started their league campaign against Kelso Sharks, with a loss 48-19, but came back the following week to win away to

West of Scotland, 73-20—a great marker to see that both 2nd XV and 3rd XV are in a great position to kick on with the season.

HERE'S TO THE GIRLS!

Currie Chieftains are ever-evolving and we have a strong and growing youth girls setup in place with lots of young women coming and playing competitive rugby week in, week out.

The girls' youth section train on a Tuesday and Thursday between 5.30pm and 7pm (U14s right up to U18s) with competitive matches on either Saturday or Sundays. Want to come and try? All are welcome.

• To learn more, reach out to hello@curriechiefains.org.uk or follow our girls' youth page on Instagram @curriegirls

• To hear more on our community: (Instagram) [curriechiefains](https://www.instagram.com/curriechiefains) and [curriegirls](https://www.instagram.com/curriegirls); (Facebook) Currie Chieftains; (website) <https://www.curriechiefains.org>

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Currie Chieftains' U15s Selected for SPOA Programme

TABATHA MCCREE-COX
OPERATIONS MANAGER, CURRIE
CHIEFTAINS

Currie Chieftains RFC U15s are one of six teams to receive funding from the Scottish Plant Owners Association (SPOA) Youth Sports Sponsorship programme for 2026.

The programme aims to support under-16s clubs, with up to £1,000 awarded to each club which can be used towards new strips, training tops or equipment.

The 2026 selection covers not just "staple" sports as rugby and football, but also "more niche

sports for young people" such as curling and bowling.

"Following the success of the first year of the Youth Sports Sponsorship programme in 2025, we were keen to build on this foundation," explained David Jarvie, President of the SPOA.

"Launching ahead of the 'summer of sport' this year, it was clear that grassroots sports for young people in Scotland is more popular than ever and that the need for financial support has never been higher.

"We are looking forward to getting to know these clubs throughout the year and sharing their successes."



Last issue we previewed the launch of the new "Chieftinns" pitch-side bar at Maleny; here is club President Dan Davies officially opening the cutting the ribbon on Saturday 5 September.

Oriam Ladies Crowned WFS O40s Women's Champions

PAUL RENDALL
TEAM MANAGER

Oriam Ladies have been crowned the 2026 WFS SWF Over 40s Women's Championship Champions.

Competing in their first competitive walking football season, the Oriam team took the Championship by storm, recording a remarkable 10 wins

from 10 matches. By mid-September, the team were an incredible 16 points clear at the top of the table, officially securing the title with a full league round to spare.

A huge congratulations to Oriam Ladies on becoming Championship winners, and a big thank you to all our players, clubs, referees and regional representatives.



Essential Repairs for Historic Clubhouse

PAUL MURPHY
JGTC COMMITTEE CHAIR

This summer Juniper Green Tennis Courts started a programme of essential external repairs to the vintage wooden clubhouse at Juniper Green Tennis Courts.

The century-old building was badly in need of some investment to help prevent further deterioration and safeguard the fabric of this local landmark.

Thanks to generous support from Currie & Balerno District Round Table, Pentland Community Chest and C&B News, the Club has been able to replace sections of damaged wooden cladding and partially rotten canopy posts, as well as give the exterior a much needed coat of paint for the first time in many years.

Feedback from members and passers-by has been very positive as we work to preserve this important feature of the venue. The clubhouse provides valuable

shelter when heavy rain interrupts play and offers toilet and kitchen facilities—amenities that many larger tennis clubs would love to have alongside their courts.

However, further external repairs are still required, including repointing the brickwork. We will then need to consider essential repairs to the interior, helping us preserve the clubhouse as an indoor recreational space, complete with a table tennis table that provides an additional activity for children when poor weather interrupts coaching sessions.

We would love to hear from local businesses, organisations and residents interested in supporting the ongoing redevelopment of this facility and becoming associated with the venue's plans for the future.

• If you would like to find out more about how you can help, please contact Juniper Green Tennis Club: junipergreentennis@gmail.com



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at ian.herok@tiphereth.org.uk www.tiphereth.org.uk



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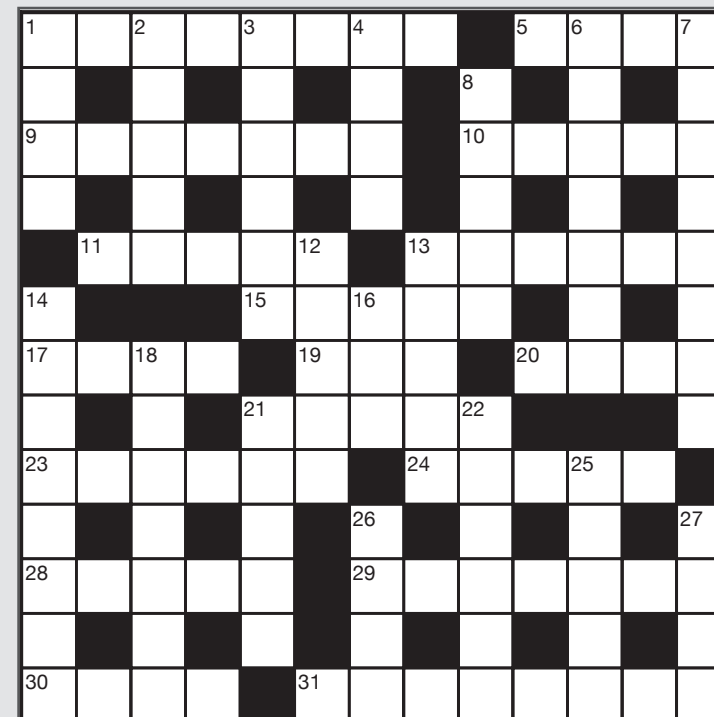
Good luck everyone!

ACROSS

- 1 Huge (8)
- 5 Freshwater fish (4)
- 9 Implemented (7)
- 10 Weary (5)
- 11 Pivoting bar (5)
- 13 Ocean trip (6)
- 15 Cotton textile (5)
- 17 Dutch cheese (4)
- 19 By way of (3)
- 20 Levee (4)
- 21 Severe (5)
- 23 Glossy coating (6)
- 24 Drench (5)
- 28 Bring upon oneself (5)
- 29 Sustained applause (7)
- 30 Stringed toy (2-2)
- 31 Having no idea (8)

DOWN

- 1 Wheedle (4)
- 2 Fall away (5)
- 3 Whine (6)
- 4 Assistant (4)
- 6 Appal (7)
- 7 Saved (8)
- 8 Put away (5)
- 12 Challenger (5)
- 13 Category (5)
- 14 Audacity (8)
- 16 Knight's title (3)
- 18 Lawlessness (7)
- 21 Core (5)
- 22 Reverence (6)
- 25 Pigs (5)
- 26 Thwart (4)
- 27 Burden (4)



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EASY

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LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

Last issue's prize crossword was won by Keith Storrier from Juniper Green. Congratulations!

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B	I	S	T	R	O		S	P	A	R	S
U	T		T	H	E	E		K			
F	I	A	N	C	E	E		R	E	L	I
F	T		H		A	G		O	A		
A	C	U	T	E		R	E	O	C	C	U
L	E		S	O	T		L	U			
O	A	S	I	S		H	E	A	R	S	A

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

A new hit musical by Danny McCahon featuring
all the fab hits of the Bay City Rollers

Rollers Forever

☆☆☆☆ "Where do I sign up
to be a Roller?" *Glasgow Times*

☆☆☆☆ "This show will have you
smiling from ear to ear, laughing
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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/ccf/
- **LUNCHTIME RELAXATION**: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 12.15pm - 1pm. Guided relaxation to calm the mind and ease stress. No booking required, please drop in.
- **BOOKBUG AND BABY GROUP**: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 1.30pm - 2.45pm. Stories and songs for babies and toddlers. Drop in to meet other parents/carers for friendship, peer support and share a cuppa. Lovely warm and

welcoming space.

- **COMMUNITY CRAFT CLUB**: Currie Community Centre, 280 Lanark Road West; 7pm - 9pm. A free community Craft Club. For more details email: louise.scrivens@curriecommunitycentre.org
- **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
- **PENTLAND BRIDGE CLUB**: St Margaret's Court, Juniper Green; 6.45pm. We play competitive bridge in a friendly atmosphere. Less experienced players welcome. For further information visit: www.bridgewebs.com/pentland/ or email: mthkjb@gmail.com

Small Ads

**October
2026**

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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

FORTNIGHTLY

MONDAYS 5 & 19 OCTOBER

• **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 2, 16 & 30 OCTOBER

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

DAY BY DAY

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

• **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

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

• **DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING: OCEAN: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 5pm - 7.30pm.** Join us for our monthly documentary film screening. Another chance to see the award-winning film Ocean (PG), narrated by Sir David Attenborough. It shows the wonder and vitality of the ocean, its fragility, and how we can protect it. Professor Andrew Sweetman (Scottish Association for Marine

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

Everyone welcome, adults, children and their families. For more information contact Eric Ducreux Juniper Green Board-Gamers @boardjg – www.boardjg.co.uk

FRIDAYS 9 & 23 OCTOBER

• **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

Science) will be joining us for a post-film discussion, and we'll have drinks and snacks to make this an engaging and sociable event. Free but please book: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Dreghorn Loan Hall; 8pm. “The World’s End Murders” by Tom Wood. Annual membership £20 (£30 per household); individual meeting £5. More details: www.colintonhistory.org.uk

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER AUTUMN WALK: from the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 9.15 am. Join our volunteer walk leaders Liz and Jeanette as they venture from the Hub for two-to-three hours, exploring local paths in different

directions. They will be heading towards Heriot-Watt University. Booking essential: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

• **CURRIE GUILD: Gibson Craig Halls, 156 Lanark Road West; 10am.** Gerard McEwan will be giving a talk on “The Memorial Roll”. All Welcome.

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER

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

• **BALERNO PARISH CHURCH GUILD: Ogston Hall; 7.30pm.** Opening meeting: Sharing Communion with the Rev Roy Henderson. October meeting of the Lothians Guilds Together Group (TBC). For further information contact Kay Coull on 07415506947 or coullkay@hotmail.com

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER

• **ART-REACH: St Cuthbert’s Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton; 10am - noon.** Seasonal inspired

crafting. All materials and refreshments provided. Email: artgroupstcuthberts@gmail.com to reserve your place

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

• **CHARITY CASINO NIGHT: Currie Rugby Club, Malleny; 7pm - 10.30pm.** Organised by Currie Balerno Rotary. £20 ticket includes refreshment and £15 of tokens exchangeable for raffle tickets. A silent auction is included. For tickets: curriebalernorotary@gmail.com

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

• **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>

• **COLINTON GARDEN CLUB: St Cuthbert’s Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue; 10 am - noon.** Autumn plant and bulb sale.

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER

• **CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Gibson Craig Halls, 156 Lanark Road West; 7.30pm prompt.** “Royal Secrets” by speaker Kath Hay. For further details see <https://www.curriehistory.org/>.

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER

• **“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

LOCAL COMMUNITY CAFES

SATURDAYS (NOT 17 OCTOBER)

• **COMMUNITY CAFE: Currie Community Centre, 28o Lanark Road West; 9am - noon.** Barista coffee and delicious home baking by Blackwood Bakes.

TUESDAYS - FRIDAYS (& SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER)

• **THE MILL CAFE: 2 Main Street, Balerno; 9am - 2pm.** Balerno Parish Church Community Cafe provides a sociable warm space with home-made baking. Fairtrade barista-style coffee and a light breakfast and lunch menu. 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.



Page @The Hub at 531 or email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

• **‘THE LIT’ (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall, EH13 oDE; 7.30pm.** ‘Is there a pigeon in the room - my life in schools.’ Cameron Wylie was principal at George Heriot’s school. His first book is described as a tapestry of anecdotes about his work in schools For more information visit www.colintonhistory.org.uk

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

• **COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Dreghorn Loan Hall; 8pm.** “Building Stones of Edinburgh” by Luis Albornoza-Para. Annual membership £20 (£30 per household); individual meeting £5. For more information, visit: www.colintonhistory.org.uk

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER

• **AUTUMN WALK: from the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; 9.15 am.** Join our volunteer walk leaders Liz and Jeanette as they venture from the Hub for two-to-three hours, exploring local paths in different directions. They will be heading towards the Water of Leith Visitor Centre. Booking essential please. Online booking is available: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

• **CURRIE GUILD: Gibson Craig Halls, 156 Lanark Road West; 2pm.** Mairihread Ellis and Godfrey Fitton will be giving a talk on “The Elizabeth Sword”. All welcome.

• **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 21 OCTOBER

• **PENTLAND MEN’S PROBUS CLUB: Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Hall, Juniper Green; 10am.** “A Day in the Life of a Paramedic,” an illustrated talk by Neil Malcolm. New members welcome. Further enquiries from Club Secretary John Muir on (0131) 259 0560 or email: jandjmuir17@gmail.com

• **‘THE LIT’ (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall, Dreghorn Loan; 7.30pm.** “Stiff upper lip,” Alex Renton is a journalist, broadcaster and author. His book on British boarding schools draws from his BBC Radio 4 series. For more information visit www.colintonhistory.org.uk

• **BALERNO PARISH CHURCH GUILD: Ogston Hall; 7.30pm.** Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage with Neil and Anne Johnstone. For further information contact Kay Coull on 07415506947 or coullkay@hotmail.com

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

• **CURRIE GUILD: Gibson Craig Halls, 156 Lanark Road West; 10am - noon.** Coffee morning.

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER

• **CURRIE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY:**

EAST LINTON MEANDER: 7 miles (11.3 km)

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER
• FORTH ROAD BRIDGE:

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER
• PENCAITLAND & FIVE BRIDGES: 9.9 miles (16 km)

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER
• PENTLANDS: 7 miles (11.3 km)

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER
• ABERLADY BAY & GOSFORD ESTATE: 7 miles (11.3 km)

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER
• ROSLIN GLEN CIRCULAR

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER
• LIN’S MILL LOOP: 6 miles (9.7 km)

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER
• FISHERROW/MUSSELBURGH

Gibson Craig Halls, 156 Lanark Road West, (back hall); 7.30pm prompt. “The Royal Soldiers Home and the Building of the Cavalry Barracks,” by speaker Derek Douglas. For further details see <https://www.curriehistory.org/>.

• **COLINTON GARDEN CLUB: Dreghorn Loan Hall; 8pm.** Our speaker Keith Brand will speak about “Rise of the Phoenix,” the restoration of a disused allotment. More information on the website: colintongardens.org.uk

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER

• **BALERNO FOLK CLUB: Balerno Bowling Club, 5 Ladycroft, Balerno; 7.30pm for 8.15pm start.** This month we welcome The Sally Ironmonger Duo, firmly rooted in folk but with some jazz, blues and other genres. Expect anything from amusing songs to protest anthems. Members and guests welcome.

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER

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

• **‘THE LIT’ (COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY): Dreghorn Loan Hall; 7.30pm.** “Falkland’s Lady of Ostrabrama”: Kath Hay tells the story of

the connections between the icon above the city gates of Lithuania's capital, Vilnius, and Falkland Palace in Fife. For more information visit www.colintonhistory.org.uk

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER

• **COSY CRAFTING: the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green, 7.30pm - 9.30pm.** Join Kirsty at the Hub for a cosy and social craft evening. All materials will be provided as well as some guidance. Tea, coffee and nibbles will be provided, and as we like to provide a chance to enjoy a child free evening, please feel free to bring your own tipples to enjoy! Online booking is available: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER

• **CHILDREN’S BOOK EVENT the hub@531 Lanark Road, Juniper Green; all day.** Join us for some wonderful events! We're excited to have two fabulous authors of children's books, Vivian French and Emily Mackenzie, coming to the Hub to offer sessions for younger children. We will also have our own Book Bug session and a book swap cafe. Check out all the information online on Facebook or our booking site, and please book to avoid disappointment. Online booking is available: <https://hub531.appointedd.com/> or by email: hub531lanarkroad@gmail.com



SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER
• **ALMONDELL & CALERWOOD:** 11.5 miles (18.5 km)

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

• *We regret no dogs are allowed on our walks.*

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

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

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

• *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*

FREE!

C&BNews



ARTIST CHRIS RUTTERFORD (LEFT) AND LOCALS WORKED ON UPDATES TO THE COLINTON TUNNEL MURAL DURING THIS SUMMER'S FUNRAISER, *CREATING IN THE PARK*.