



## A living memorial for Mikaeel

MY Adventure reach Towford target!

by DAVID PICKERING



MONEY RAISED to pay for a memorial for little Mikaeel Kular has been donated to a local youth project in Muirhouse. The money has helped MY Adventure to upgrade an adventure centre for thousands of local children to enjoy for years to come.

MY Adventure used a crowdfunding site to try to raise £6000 for urgent repairs to Towford, a dilapidated outdoors centre near Jedburgh. The social enterprise was over halfway toward its target when trustees of the Mikaeel Kular Memorial Fund decided to contribute the donations they had received – over £3000 – to the Towford venture, making the MY dream become a reality.

It's great news for MY Adventure and proof that joy can spring from tragedy.

*“It's a testament to how his community showed strength, solidarity and compassion at a time of their greatest need”*

Jonny Kinross, Director of MY Adventure, said: “Towford Outdoor Centre will be an affordable outdoor resource for children, families, communities and businesses to stay or use for years to come. The centre, which was formerly a 19th century school, will be entrusted to the Muirhouse community and safeguarded by registered local charity Muirhouse Youth Development Group. Our centre will be accessible to thousands of local people, groups, businesses and school pupils all year, next year and for generations to come.

“Eighty official backers have surpassed our target of £6000, with £35000 raised from individual supporters and local organisations in just two weeks. These people felt either connected to Muirhouse or inspired by what the centre will come to be and mean to local people.

It was this that inspired the Mikaeel Kular Memorial Fund to pledge such a large amount to our campaign. That money will secure his legacy and will specifically help create a children's play area in the 17 acre grounds dedicated to him.

“It's a testament to how his community showed strength, solidarity and compassion at a time of their greatest need.”

### Galvanising the community

Three year old Mikaeel Kular died in his Muirhouse home in January after being subjected to three-day beating by his mother. Rosdeep Adekoya claimed her son had gone missing, sparking off an unprecedented local search, but Mikaeel's body was found two days later. She was subsequently jailed for eleven years.

Mikaeel's disappearance galvanised the local community and thousands took part in the search for the wee boy. When the tragic truth became known a fund was set up to create a memorial to remember...

Continued on Page 9

## VIEW from the BOARD

It's been a long time since our last publication, but we are delighted to be able to produce another edition of NEN this month. The Board are clear that there is a valuable role for community news agencies, to reflect the views of local communities, let people know what is going on in their area and to give groups and individuals a voice they might not otherwise have.

This issue has only been possible courtesy of the Council's 'Contact in the Capital' project – a pilot scheme to investigate ways to improve communication between the Council and local communities. The pilot is led by North local council officers working with a Project Board made up of reps from local community councils. This Board has agreed a strategy to evaluate various methods of communication, with NEN as the main partner.

We aim to produce at least two newspapers, to upgrade NEN's website and to develop our social media presence, as well as offering training opportunities to local people, particularly young people. We shall be working with local groups to develop these opportunities and hope to recruit local community journalists.

A report will be prepared for Council at the end of the project next March and it will then be up to councillors to decide whether or not to roll it out across the city. We hope they will agree that this partnership is an ideal way of communicating with citizens.

It's up to all of us to make this pilot successful and to demonstrate to councillors it has real value. Let's go for it!

The NEN Board

Keep up to date with all North Edinburgh's news on the NEN blog: <http://northedinburghnews.wordpress.com>



The NEN is your community newspaper so please put your pen to paper and tell us what you think, what you feel strongly about or what makes you angry. If you would like your letter to appear in the paper it must include your full name and address, although these may be withheld at your request. Send your letters to:- The Editor, northedinnews@gmail.com

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## Have you got news for us?

CALL: 07925 405 972 or

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**The NEN Board issues the following Editorial Policy in each edition and welcomes comments from NEN readers**

- To produce a fair, interesting, positive, informative and independent community newspaper
- To increase community awareness and understanding of regeneration activities
- To promote the North Edinburgh area in a positive way, both locally and nationally
- To cover local campaigns and initiatives in a positive way
- To cover any negative issues brought to our attention by local people/groups, but highlight any positive responses/campaigns being initiated to address any such problems
- To counteract negative publicity from other media sources, by providing a positive/local angle on the story
- To include articles from local contributors, either groups or individuals
- To use the letters page as a forum for topical debate, fair and free speech for local people/group
- To use the letters page as a forum for free speech, allowing criticism of issues, but ensuring individuals are protected from personal attack
- To ensure all articles are balanced and that any person or group in the article is given the opportunity to present their side of the story/argument
- To implement/resolve any suggestions, criticisms etc (where appropriate to local issues) made at editorial forums
- To promote local businesses and organisations
- To ensure NEN remains apolitical
- Any letter or article which the Board or Editor consider libellous will not be published
- The factual content of any letter will be checked and if the facts cannot be verified the letter will not be published

**How to contact us:**

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The views expressed in the North Edinburgh News are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Editor or Publishers. Any individual, group or organisation is welcome to contribute. Please note copy may be edited.

Please have your copy to us by Friday 21 Nov for inclusion in our Christmas special!

## Working Together

Dear Editor

After more than two years of campaigning, the people of Scotland finally had the opportunity to cast their ballots in the independence referendum.

When the final votes were tallied, the result was 55.3% No and 44.7% Yes. In Edinburgh, the two sides polled 61% to 39% respectively.

One of the most remarkable things about the vote was the turnout. Across the country, 84.6% of those eligible to vote took the opportunity to have their say – a record for any referendum held in the UK since the introduction of universal suffrage and far, far higher than the turnouts for elections.

In the 15 years since the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, the Parliament has brought power closer to communities on key areas like health and education and progress has been made. We continue to believe that devolution offers a positive way forward and, as a result of the vote, the continuing debate on Scotland's future will now turn to how we can strengthen devolution further.

The referendum has mobilised political participation in Scotland and re-engaged a huge number of people who had never before voted. We all have a responsibility to ensure that this momentum is not lost. Politicians need to reconnect with the public.

There is also now agreement across the parties in the Scottish Parliament that the extension of the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds was a success and should now become standard in future elections. Part of that success was the sustained programme of civic education and many, many hustings and debates that young people took part in and had access to. The challenge now is to ensure that there is sustained involvement in a whole raft of other political campaigns and for future elections.

With a Yes/No question it was inevitable that the outcome of the referendum would leave a lot of people disappointed. However, we sincerely hope that following the vote, people on both sides can come together to work towards addressing the issues and inequalities that were central to the debate. In discussions with some Yes voters at the weekend who commented that although he was disappointed he was not disheartened as he believed that in the end the result of the referendum would lead to faster change and more powers to the Scottish Parliament.

We hope that we can continue to work together and ensure more powers are devolved to Scotland, to Local Authorities and more importantly to communities.

*Sarah Boyack MSP, Cllr Cammy Day, Cllr Lesley Hinds, Cllr Vicki Redpath*

## Pilton Central Association welcomes NEN back!

Dear Editor

The PCA is delighted to hear about the return of the paper, delivered to people's doors and Community Centres in our area. The PCA is also pleased to hear about the way young people are to be encouraged to become reporters, use social media to supplement the paper and learn about on-line publishing.

The PCA will be encouraging their members and others in the community to send in articles of news and to think about advertising their meetings in the NEN.

The NEN has been sorely missed. Welcome back!

## Lessons of the past will safeguard the future

Dear Editor

This year, France, Belgium and Holland are celebrating the seventieth anniversary of their liberation. After all the time that has passed, their joy and gratitude is expressed not only by the elderly who suffered the oppression of occupation but also by each succeeding generation - they joy can be seen and felt in these countries.

I was part of the British forces advancing from France through Belgium into Holland. Near the town of Budel, there was torrential rain and I sought shelter in a farmer's barn - much to the interest of the farmer's children! I have kept in touch with the children since 1944 and have visited from time to time.

This September I was delighted to receive an invitation from the town of Budel to attend their Liberation Ceremonies as a guest of honour. These events were linked with the publication of a book entitled 'Memories from the Past', told by citizens of the area to the author Rene Vos, detailing the history of the occupation over the years 1940 - 44. I was asked to write the foreword for the book:

*Citizens of the Cranendonck Community  
To remember and to celebrate is not to glorify militarism but to show the united will of the people for a peaceful world.*

*It is important that events of the 1930s and 1940s are told to each generation so they can avoid the 'mistakes' made during that period: the 'mistake' of tolerating racism, the 'mistake' of ignoring the fascist states' determination to expand their control over others, all of which led to world war.*

*It was the ordinary people of all lands who finally defeated that evil; it is the ordinary people of all lands, armed with the knowledge of the past, that will safeguard the future.*

The kindness, friendliness and hospitality expressed to me as a World War II representative was overwhelming. This is the main reason for this letter; to tell you of the great feeling of gratitude to the people of the UK and of their joy of liberation and freedom from fear and suppression.

*A. Delahoy, Silverknowes Gardens*

## Welcome Back!

Dear Dave - and team

The Prentice Centre would like to welcome the return of the print edition of our local newspaper the North Edinburgh News. This locally based informative newspaper is one of the most well read papers in our area and has been missed by many in our community. It is very good news to hear that it will once again be available in its original printed format.

The Prentice Centre is your local community centre and is available at excellent rates for all local groups who need a meeting space.

If there is any way we can be of assistance please do not hesitate to let us know.

*Janet Campbell, The Prentice Centre*



## Subo pops in to support Poppy Appeal

SCOTTISH SINGING SENSATION Susan Boyle visited Lady Haig's Poppy Factory in Warriston recently to help with the dispatch of poppies ahead of the 2014 Scottish Poppy Appeal in November.

Susan, a long-standing supporter of Poppyscotland, the charity that runs the annual Scottish Poppy Appeal, met the forty veterans with disabilities who work at the Logie Green Road factory, before helping to load some of the 5 million poppies on to vehicles for distribution to volunteers across Scotland.

Five million poppies and more than 10,000 wreaths are hand-assembled annually at the historic Factory. The poppies are then sent to Poppyscotland volunteers the length and breadth of Scotland who will ensure they are available to the public in November.

Susan said: "It was a pleasure to meet the veterans who make poppies all year round for the Scottish Poppy Appeal before sending them to the many volunteers across the country. It is a fascinating process and I hope that as the poppies start to appear in our shops, schools and businesses in the coming weeks, the Scottish public will once again show their support."

Lady Haig's Poppy Factory Manager Charlie Pelling added: "We are delighted that Susan joined us today. The dispatch of poppies for the Appeal is an important milestone in our calendar as it marks the culmination of a year of hard work. This year we have seen a high demand for wreaths and other Remembrance items because of First World War centenary events and we expect this to continue over the next four years. Susan's visit gave the guys a real boost."

### news in brief

#### Community Council meetings

The New Town and Broughton Community Council meets on the second Monday of the month from 7.30pm until 9.30pm. Local residents are very welcome to attend and raise issues with the Community Council. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2014 are:

Monday 10 November 2014

Monday 8 December 2014

All meetings are held at the Drummond Room, Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent (enter by ramp, suitable for wheelchairs, down at right hand side of church).

For further details and for a contact form see our new website [ntbcc.org.uk](http://ntbcc.org.uk)

#### Award for PEP

Pilton Equalities Project (PEP) was among the winners at last month's Get Up and Go awards. The Get Up and Go programme encourages older people in Edinburgh to take part in new activities.

PEP manager Helen Tait said: "We were delighted to be selected as this year's winner of the Get Up & Go Award for 'Product and/or Service That Makes a Difference'. Councillor Lewis, Convener of Sport and Leisure congratulated the project for its work and in reaching its 25 year milestone. Thank you to everyone who supported us for this award!"

#### College Principal to stand down

Mandy Exley, the woman who oversaw the amalgamation of three former colleges into Edinburgh College – Scotland's biggest – will stand down next June.

In a statement, Ms Exley said the time was right for her to take up a new venture. She told staff: "I am developing different business interests, including some non-executive director roles and plan to fulfil my long held desire to work in international development.

"These first two years of building Edinburgh College have been challenging yet extremely rewarding. I am particularly proud of the success of our students, the wide range of national awards they have won and the high level of student achievement."

#### Good news from Muirhouse Community Centre

Dear Editor

Once again it has been a busy time for this popular Centre and I have to congratulate the Board, staff and the many volunteers who make the Centre the popular and friendly place it is.

With record numbers using the facilities for meetings, clubs, keep fit and socialising in the café not to mention all the parties, organised events and being used as a polling station for the Independence Referendum it is thanks to the staff and volunteers that the Centre is able to offer the variety of events and programmes.

So far, from October last year to the end of August, the total number of people who have used the Centre is 17,235 and we are on course for another record breaking year!

This shows that this Centre is the busiest in North Edinburgh and the numbers will only increase with the additional new housing coming online (both now and in the future) from Muirhouse Housing Association and the Council.

With more and more people using the Centre on a daily basis the Board, staff and volunteers are committed to providing the best service possible for our community and beyond. To do this we have produced an Autumn Programme of activities, continuing to build on the Centre's many successful achievements and working to complete the aims of the Business Plan within the planned timescales.

We continue to work in close partnership with other groups and organisations (and entering into new partnerships) that will ensure the sustainability of the services and the maintenance of the building for future generations and they continue to look forward and strive to plan future activities, programming and events which take into account the needs and aspirations of the community they serve.

So I would like to thank publicly the staff and volunteers who put so much of their time, loyalty and commitment into making Muirhouse Community Centre a great place to be part of.

For more information check our website [muirhousecommunitycentre.co.uk](http://muirhousecommunitycentre.co.uk)

John Davidson (Chairperson)

## Happy birthday to Royston Wardieburn's Little Tigers!

LITTLE TIGERS started in October last year. The idea came about because I was wanting to do something with my daughter but there was nothing suitable in the area. I had a meeting with Lynn from Royston Wardieburn Community Centre and she agreed to help me set up a new playgroup. Susan, who runs Little Tigers with me, and I are childhood friends and I was really pleased when she said she would run the group with me.

We meet in the large sports hall in the community centre on Friday mornings from 10 - 11.30. The group is really relaxed and over the last year we have had loads of positive feedback from parents and carers. Each week we have different stations set up for the children such as the baby corner, the art corner, soft play, the bouncy castle and the ball pit. We also have lots of other toys placed around the hall for the children to play with. We also organise creative sessions like biscuit decoration and hand painting and organise parties for the children at certain times of the year.

We have recently changed the day we meet to a Friday and unfortunately a few people are no longer able to come along. Although the numbers are down slightly from when we first started, we are very proud that we have been able to offer this much needed provision in our area over the last year. We have a lot of ideas which we will be bringing to Little Tigers in the coming weeks. We look forward to welcoming new children and their parents and carers to the group.

Nicola Vanputten



# Road Safety a local Issue

by DAVID PICKERING

## Community Councils and Parent Council reps have joined forces to campaign for local road safety improvements

Community Councils and Parent Council reps have joined forces to campaign for local road safety improvements. Craigleith Blackhall and Drumbrae Community Councils, Blackhall Primary and Royal High School Parent Councils are calling for action to make routes to schools safer and improved crossings on Queensferry and Hillhouse Roads.

Residents have reported particular problems when trying to cross those two busy roads: from having to walk too far to find a crossing, to avoiding dangerous speeding traffic or finding somewhere suitable for a bike to cross.

These and other related traffic issues are frequently raised at both Community Council and Parent Council meetings, so the community representatives have united to address residents' concerns – they're currently working together to look at specific problem areas and identify what practical improvements can be made.

Mary Duff is one resident who has expressed concerns over traffic and would like to see improvements to road safety. "As a parent of a new S1 student who would like to cycle to the Royal High School, can I ask that a new, safe cycle crossing is created in Blackhall to link the residential area to the cycle paths?" she said.

"My son currently has to cross four lanes of traffic to get to the cycle path. Hence he doesn't take his bike as I feel it is unsafe. The only other option he has is to cycle down the pavement along Hillhouse Road, cross at a busy junction with lots of parked cars (at the Blackhall dip) and cross at the pedestrian crossing ... avoiding pedestrians some of the time!"

Craigleith and Blackhall community councillor Neil Watt has also had a nasty incident on busy local roads. He said: "I had a really scary experience crossing the road to Davidson's Mains Park with my son Owen on the back of the bike – we nearly got hit by a transit turning right jumping the lights.

"I just can't believe how dangerous and unpleasant it is to cross Hillhouse/Queensferry Road whether you're on a bike or on foot, and the traffic's only getting worse. I have a new job in the city centre and want to commute on the bike more, but it's really tricky hooking up with the cycle network when you live in Blackhall or Clermiston."

The campaigners aim to ensure their communities benefit from the safest routes to school, that it's easy and pleasant to walk and cycle to get around, public amenities and businesses are well connected and that residents are helped to do what we they can to reduce pollution.

A spokesperson for the group said: "At the moment, we're focussing on finding a suitable spot for a new cycle-friendly pedestrian crossing between the Blackhall dip and St Columba's Church, and seeing what improvements we can make to the existing crossings at Blackhall Library, Craigcrook Road/Quality Street and Clermiston Road North/Queensferry Road. Beyond that, who knows!"

"The next step is to ask the City of Edinburgh Council to look into the issues and work with us to improve these sub-standard cycling and walking links. If you want to help please come to one of our meetings or drop us an email via our websites to let us know what you think."

**You can let the group know your views by attending your local community council meeting (Craigleith Blackhall meets on Monday 10 November at 7.30 pm in Stewart's Melville College on Queensferry Road, while Drumbrae meets on the second Monday of the month in the Rannoch Centre.**

**You can also email your views to Craigleith Blackhall Community Councillor Neil Watt at [wattmail@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wattmail@hotmail.co.uk)**



## Edinburgh is UK's SAFEST CITY

### A new survey reveals that Edinburgh is seen as the safest city in Britain

THE YOUNGOV RESEARCH asked participants how safe they feel ten British cities are – and Edinburgh came out well on top.

When asked about the capital, 68% of participants – 1724 from across the UK took part in the survey – said it is 'totally safe' while only 14% believe Edinburgh is 'totally unsafe'.

The other cities surveyed were Glasgow, London, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, Liverpool, Manchester and Bristol. Glasgow came eighth in the poll, with 44% of people saying it is safe and 38% saying it is unsafe – although Scots who took part in the survey put both Scottish cities higher: 86% said Edinburgh is safe and Glasgow polled 68%.

Bradford was seen as the least safe city in the UK, perhaps because the city is still remembered for the race riots of 2001 which lasted three days and led to hundreds of arrests. It is the only city mentioned in the poll where more people (42%) say it is unsafe than safe (35%). Britain's second most dangerous city according to the public is Birmingham: people are divided 41-41% on its safety.

Edinburgh's senior police officer Chief Superintendent Mark Williams said he was 'delighted but not surprised' by the poll, and community safety leader Councillor Cammy Day also welcomed the announcement.

He said: "The fact that more than two thirds of people living in the Capital – 68% - told YouGov that it is a safe place to be re-assures me that we are achieving our goal of protecting residents.

Our own research, through the Edinburgh Peoples Survey, has already revealed that 91% of people living here feel safe in Edinburgh after dark, a figure that actually increased from 75% five years ago.

The fact is that none of this is coincidental. A lot of effort has been going on and continues to take place to make sure that people living, working and visiting the city are protected and are free from harm.

Working closely with organisations such as Police Scotland and NHS Lothian has allowed us to tackle issues such as crime and anti social behaviour from several angles at the same time.

The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership has a list of priorities that are dealt with when it meets several times a year.

Examples of successful projects that have been made possible through this joint working are the Safezone bus, taxi marshals, and joint operations to increase safety over our many successful festivals.

Of course, listening to local communities and involving people in decisions has also

*"Listening to local communities and involving people in decisions has also made a significant difference"*

made a significant difference, and much of this work takes place through community improvement partnerships. The work of our local Neighbourhood Partnerships is another big part of our success.

Anti social behaviour can be a real worry for communities and there's been a focus on hitting this hard recently through the Anti Social Behaviour Review Group, which has led to a drop in the length of time it takes to resolve cases.

Our Anti Social Behaviour Strategy is sending the message to those involved that their behaviour will not be tolerated, and they will have to face consequences for their actions. As well as dealing with perpetrators, we support victims and also help families in a bid to prevent this type of behaviour from happening in the first place.

We'll keep listening to our communities and working together with our partners so that people can continue to live, work and visit here in Britain's Safest City."





## GIC can Improve your health & wealth!

A VISIT TO Granton Information Centre could improve your health – and may also improve your wealth! The local advice centre received top marks from clients in a satisfaction survey conducted this summer.

### Highlights of the survey include:

- Around 71% of GIC clients have a medical condition – but almost half of them feel GIC has helped to bring about an improvement in their health
- 48% of clients received additional income following GIC's intervention – and with another 22% awaiting decisions it's very likely that this figure will rise to over half. Additional income includes both one-off payments to ongoing benefits entitlements – ranging from a few pounds to five-figure sums.
- 97% of clients would recommend GIC's services to others
- 96% found GIC assistance 'very helpful', 98% found staff 'very approachable' and 74% found the help and support they had received 'more than expected'

Two hundred clients were chosen at random from GIC's live cases database and invited to participate in the Satisfaction Survey, which was carried out over the summer. The results are based on the final total of 108 respondees.

GIC manager Caroline Pickering said: "There has been an increased demand on GIC's service over the past few years and our management committee thought this would be an ideal time to review the services we provide – to look at what we are doing, what works well and what can be improved. The best people to guide us in this are the people who use those services, so we are very pleased with the positive results of the survey. It's great for staff to be recognised for the hard work they do. Some of the comments we received from grateful clients were really touching."

GIC chairperson John Mulvey said: "We know the staff are working exceptionally hard in difficult circumstances so we're delighted to see how much service users and the wider community appreciate their efforts. The organisation has been active for thirty years but it's clear that GIC's services are needed as much today as they ever were."

# COMMUNITY BATTLES TO SAVE ST PAUL'S

Time's running out for a campaign to save a local church.

by DAVID PICKERING

AS NEN WENT TO PRINT St Paul's RC Church in Muirhouse was due to close on 10 October – unless campaigners could bring about a last-minute change of heart from church authorities.

Hundreds of local residents joined the campaign to save the St Paul's, with over 700 people signing a petition to keep the church alive. However church leaders say the building is too costly to maintain and St Paul's was set to close with a 'thanksgiving Mass' on 10 October.

In a letter to parishioners back in June, The Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh, Leo Cushley, said the church had eaten up hundreds of thousands of pounds in wasted cash since it was built in 1971 and added that the building now urgently needs a new heating system. He said this cost, on top of parish debt of over £284,000, had led officials to consider the church's future.

The number of worshippers who regularly attend the church has fallen over the years but that's not unique to Muirhouse, and parishioners argue that the declining congregation has much more to do with the area's ongoing regeneration.

Local people believe St Paul's has a future in Muirhouse. They argue that merging with nearby St Margaret's is not a realistic solution, and are convinced that their church could blossom again as the heart of the community when new homes are built and families return to the area.

Last month, campaigners wrote a well-argued five page letter to the Archbishop, pointing out many reasons why church authorities should reconsider: financial, community outreach, the Polish community, the ongoing regeneration of Muirhouse and Pennywell, the expansion of St David's RC School ... all were cited as valid reasons for keeping St Paul's alive.

The letter concludes: 'We are not calling for the entire building of St Paul's to be retained, although many uses have been suggested for all areas of the building, but we fundamentally wish to maintain the wonderful community and spirit of St Paul's parish that has been fostered over decades.

'We want to remain as a strong Catholic

community in Muirhouse, to be a part of the rejuvenation and regeneration of the area, retaining our unique parish and continuing to do the work of the Lord in our local area.

You stated at the Question and Answer session at St Paul's on 13 July 2014 that you are in a position to write off the debt of the parish and we would urge you to consider this course of action while we all work together to create a new future for St Paul's.

*"We fundamentally wish to maintain the wonderful community and spirit of St Paul's parish"*

### Facing closure

The parishioners and wider community are eager and willing to take on more responsibilities and support St Paul's in every way possible, as has always been the case, taking on new challenges and supporting both the parish and the wider community.'

But now, after months of meetings, petitions, letters and appeals, the decision has been made and St Paul's will close on 10 October.

Campaigner Lorraine McTigue said: "The closure date is 10 October when a thanksgiving mass will be held, and previous priests, nuns and the Archbishop himself will attend - but the strong feeling in the church is that we do not want to attend, we do not want this church to close for valid reasons.

"I have just met an elderly parishioner outside who said - and I agree - that the parishioners are being emotionally blackmailed and 'duty-bound' to accept what is being said and attend this mass, while doing so would be the end of the line.

"There is so much that could be said about this situation. One example: after the mass at

10am on Sunday, there were literally hundreds of people flooding in for the Polish mass - busier than I personally have ever seen the church. We all want expansion and integration - but people have been separated and never encouraged to communicate or socialise. All the reasons for closing the church are contradictory and I am both angry and very sad that they haven't listened to our concerns."

West Pilton parishioner Pamela Hanlon, who has attended the church for twenty years, said: "I think closing St Paul's is big mistake. I don't think they realise the damage it does to our community. I understand the financial reasons for it, but what's happened over the years is that instead of fixing the problems, they have just patched them up. If we had known about it before we could have done some fundraising, but we've not been given the opportunity."

Theresa McGlynn was one of the original parishioners when the church was founded in 1971 and has faithfully attended ever since. "It will break my heart, but I think many of us knew it would come to this in the end. The church has been well used over the years but gradually, since they started knocking the houses down, we have lost a lot of parishioners with them moving away and, of course, many have also gone to their eternal reward now. This church was built when Muirhouse was just being built and we feel we are losing our community."

In their letter to the Archbishop, parishioners summed up their feelings about impending closure: 'A 'celebration' thanksgiving mass was mentioned for Friday 10 October but alas, as the disenfranchised, we find nothing to celebrate. Are we really expected to feel thankful for an impending closure of our beloved parish of St Paul's? Such is the feeling of frustration and discontent that we believe the mass will be attended by very few people.'



For an update on St Paul's and other stories visit the NEN blog



# Septemberfest something special

September is a special month in the Broughton High School calendar. Why? Who better to explain than the students themselves...

EVERY SEPTEMBER, Broughton High School hosts its annual 'Septemberfest'. A free and action packed community festival and craft fair, Septemberfest has an excellent reputation for both raising the profile of the school and bringing the community together. This year's event, which took place on Saturday 27 September, certainly lived up to expectations.

One of the first sights (and sounds) to greet Septemberfest goers was a large circle of bongo drums beneath the school's gazebo, played by young children and adults alike. With balloons attached to buggies and drum beats ringing out, the tone was set for a great day ahead.

Septemberfest is always a great opportunity to try out new sports, and this year was no exception. Alongside more traditional sports such as football and athletics, there were a variety of activities that could certainly be considered more unique. 'Bubble Football' - involving two teams of people rolling around in giant inflatable bubbles and simultaneously trying to score a goal - was a particular highlight. One teacher commented that a recreation of the 1934 London Empire Games, complete with long jump and high jump, was 'just as I remembered it!'

There were plenty of excitable children running around, and the Sumo suits section seemed to be the perfect activity to tire them out. The rules were the same as normal wrestling - each competitor had to try their hardest to force the other one out of a circular ring. But with giant inflatable costumes, it was both more difficult and a lot more fun for the participants and spectators. Quoting from Smash Mouth's hit song 'All Star', Liam Brown of S6 aptly observed that there was 'So much to do. So much to see!'

Away from the outdoor sports activities and into the school itself, people of all ages and from all walks of life enjoyed the multitude of stalls, bake sales and arts and craft

opportunities available. Jack Curran, Broughton High School's head boy, commented on how nice it was to see 'Over six weeks of work and organisation finally paying off'.

## Informative as well as fun

From a Greenpeace supporter dressed as a polar bear to Pac man on projector screens, Septemberfest was an excellent showcase of the school's creative and forward thinking approach. In just one room, people could learn about human rights abuses going on around the world at the 'Amnesty International' stall, and then buy an ice cream cupcake or some handmade soaps.

The effort to make Septemberfest informative as well as fun was particularly evident in the 'Silly Science' stall, with pH testing experiments that allowed children to learn more about chemistry while watching things 'magically' change to different colours.

Live music performances from the highly renowned City of Edinburgh Music School also attracted large audiences, with Jenny Rutherford's piano solo of 'Bach Prelude in A Flat Minor' a particular highlight. An Ihayami Indian Dance family workshop in the Theatre gave both children and adults the opportunity to learn a completely new style of dance, with the instructors dressed in traditional costume, jewellery and makeup.

Part of what makes Broughton so special is its diverse range of pupils, and Septemberfest is perhaps one of the best examples of this. Alison, a helper who handed out programmes to people coming through the gates commented "There's loads and loads of different people coming through the gates. Lots of different languages." Indeed, this year's Septemberfest had a 'Commonwealth' theme, and the indoor hub area was adorned with painted flags from all different commonwealth countries. In addition to other arts and crafts

opportunities, children could paint a flag of their choice and then pin it to one of four tents around the school, each tent representing a continent. The selection of food available also linked to the Commonwealth theme, with Casa Roble paella, Blue Banana Caribbean food and La Favorita pizzas some of the many options available. As well as the more substantial meals, there was also a delicious selection of home-baking, with the lemon and poppy seed muffins a particular favourite.

Throughout the day, many parents and children commented on how well organised Septemberfest was. Indeed, this would not have been possible without the time and effort spent by parents, students and some school staff to ensure the day ran as smoothly as it could have. Theo Chornogubsky, an S6 pupil who spent his Saturday volunteering at the small games stall, said "It's really nice to see the community come together".

Marc Lazarowicz, MP for Edinburgh North and Leith, also commented on the excellent organisation and added: 'I always try and come every year. It's a great opportunity to meet people in the school community and beyond. It really shows off the school as part of the community, and that's what makes it so special.'

As the clock hands approached four o'clock and the crowds became smaller, many people took time to rate their Septemberfest experience on a sticker board survey. The results speak for themselves. Out of the one hundred and twenty six people who answered the question 'Would you come back to next year's Septemberfest?', only three people said they would not. They probably hadn't tried one of the lemon and poppy seed muffins!

Words by Katherine Wright

Pictures by Broughton's own Septemberfest snappers Hayley-Anne Amm, Hannah Cazaly, Natalie Drywa, Ailidh Gladstone-Wallace and Eric Vaskala



## Never mind The Doo'cot – now it's the Naebody's Inn!

THE ONCE-POPULAR Doo'cot Roadhouse in Drylaw closed last month following a dispute between the licensee and the pub's owners, Yorkshire-based Samuel Smith's.

Ian Byars handed in his licence just a week after his sister Lesley Gilmore resigned as manager at the Cramond Inn – Samuel Smith's only other Edinburgh pub.

Samuel Smith's is a real old-fashioned traditional brewery, established in 1758. The company still don't have email, but they have moved with the times a bit and have a website with some nice pictures of their shire horses on it. It's quite hard to contact them, though, but it's expected that their pubs will reopen when new licensees have been found.

Inverleith councillor Iain Whyte said: "The Doo'cot is a popular pub and it's got a large family area. Although there are some other pubs, most of them are quite a walk away so hopefully it will be back in use soon. It is not that long since it was heavily refurbished and I imagine it will be attractive for some one to run."

The Doo'cot is indeed an attractive pub, with very competitive drinks prices, but it's struggled to attract customers almost since it reopened after refurbishment. Social habits have changed, of course, but there's always been the feeling too that it's a good pub but in the wrong location, or it's an ideal place for a pub but not that kind of pub. The no TVs, no jukebox policy was always questionable, too – good old fashioned conversation isn't enough for some folk now. Punters want to be entertained and if one pub won't do it, another one will. Money is tight and customers vote with their feet- and their wallets.

By uncanny coincidence, the day the Doo'cot closed was almost thirteen years to the day since the Tadcaster brewery took over the Doo'cot – once Scottish & Newcastle's busiest pub in the east of Scotland.

Samuel Smith's always stock their bars exclusively with their own products, and despite a petition from Doo'cot regulars they refused to stock the popular McEwan's 'heavy' as a guest beer. The result? A boycott and scenes reminiscent of Braveheart as battling Saltire-clad pensioner Alex Kane chained himself to the front door in protest. He may even have said: "They can take our pub, but they'll never take oor heavy!" but I may be mistaken

The protest ended peacefully and the pub opened, but despite major investment and complete refurbishment the customers never returned in great numbers. Many Doo'cot regulars moved on to other pubs, others stayed at home where they can smoke as much as they like and yet more are now drinking their heavy in that great saloon bar in the sky.

I hope the Doo'cot reopens soon. But the days of jam-packed community pubs are well and truly over. Same again?

# 'life-changing' film making

## Muirhouse men team up to offer inspirational film course

A BAFTA-winning director has launched his second film course at Edinburgh College for young and unemployed people, with the help of the iconic Scottish writer Irvine Welsh.

Muirhouse man Garry Fraser, who won the Scottish Newcomer BAFTA in filmmaking in 2013 and has had his film Everybody's Child broadcast on the BBC, set up the Inner City Arts course for young people from poverty-stricken areas in Edinburgh. The filmmaking course aims to prevent young people from becoming involved in self-destructive lifestyles of gangs and drug abuse.

This year, Inner City Arts students will not only work alongside an internationally respected film director but will also get the chance to bring to life the work of one of Scotland's best writers, by adapting Irvine Welsh's short story The State of the Party. As part of the course, the students will devise a screenplay and learn how to use filming and editing equipment to bring the story to the big screen. Students will receive expert guidance from Garry – the college's filmmaker in residence – and they will also get the chance to consult with and speak to Irvine Welsh using video link-up in the classroom.

Using social media, Garry sparked up a conversation with Welsh about his latest course at Edinburgh College over Twitter. Garry – who is from the same area as Welsh in Muirhouse and similarly uses his background and upbringing as a source of inspiration in his work – asked if his students could use The State of the Party as the script for his latest film. The writer not only gave his permission for the students to recreate the story in film but also offered to speak to the students to offer his expertise and advice!

Irvine Welsh said: "I'm delighted to be involved in this project and honoured to have the Edinburgh College Inner City Arts students work with Garry Fraser on The State of the Party. Garry is an astonishingly talented and driven filmmaker, and intimately understands the darkness and humour of the piece. He'll be both inspirational to, and inspired by, the young people he'll be working with on the project.

"The State of the Party is a drug-fuelled parable about two young men's descent into a hyper-real urban hell, and based on the dark premise that 'no good deed goes unpunished' and things are never so bad that we can't make them worse, through our own muddled decision making. I'm very excited to see their interpretation of this story."

Garry Fraser said: "I'm very excited to launch the next Inner City Arts course and give the group of young people the chance to work on one of Irvine Welsh's short stories. The students can relate to Irvine's work because he uses Scots language, showing that screenwriting is within reach to these young people who speak with the same voice – and that art isn't just open to an elite few. I believe that art can break down barriers and free a troubled and creative mind, which is why these courses can really be life changing for young people who are from a similar background to my own – to give them hope and the option of a better future."

"For me, getting into filmmaking was either life or death. If I hadn't discovered it, I wouldn't be where I am today. It was brilliant to see the students develop skills and confidence in their abilities during last year's course. This year, the course will focus more on developing practical skills in filmmaking and the skills to empower the students."

Conner Dickson, who is 15 years old and took part in last year's Inner City Arts course, said: "I was always interested in acting before the course but I wasn't sure how to get into it. I gained a lot of confidence on the course and came out of my shell as it went on. I felt I could say anything in front of Garry as he's in the same boat as all of us and has similar life experiences. I wasn't afraid to act in front of the camera and take part in the improvisation sessions, and actually discovered I was pretty good at it. I'm now looking at getting into acting and have applied for courses at college too."

Ray McCowan, vice principal education leadership at Edinburgh College, said: "We need committed individuals like Garry to provide support to young and unemployed people. The young people he works with see him as a role model and a sign of what can be achieved through getting a solid education.

"This is just one of the brilliant examples of the work the college is doing to engage with young and unemployed people on its doorstep. Colleges play a crucial role in enabling people from all backgrounds to improve their lives, and we are confident that the course will again be a big success."



*"For me, getting into filmmaking was either life or death. If I hadn't discovered it, I wouldn't be where I am today"*

*"I felt I could say anything in front of Garry as he's in the same boat as all of us and has similar life experiences"*

*"The young people he works with see him as a role model and a sign of what can be achieved"*



# Stolen Lives

Forthview pupils produce WW1 poetry anthology

A SERIES OF EMOTIONAL First World War poems written by Forthview primary school children have been transformed into a new book.

Forthview Primary School P6 and P7 pupils saw the National Theatre's superb production of War Horse at the Festival Theatre earlier this year, and they were so inspired by the show they decided to write a series of poems based on the experiences of Scottish people during the war.

These have now been turned into an anthology, Stolen Lives, which was recited for the first time at a special launch event at the Festival Theatre on 30 September. The poems were performed by actors from the critically-acclaimed First World War play Regeneration, then on a week long run at the King's Theatre.

The pupils watched War Horse as part of the START project, run in conjunction with the Festival Theatre, which aims to make cultural venues more accessible to young people. They were then helped to turn their poems into a book by author Mary Turner Thomson – and it was during one of her workshops that P7 pupil Demmi-Leigh Brammer came up with the title Stolen Lives.

Demmi said: "We wrote our poems after seeing War Horse and hearing some World War 1 poems. I thought of the title, 'Stolen Lives' because the soldiers were killed by complete strangers as if their lives were being stolen from them. I am really excited about the launch. I think it's going to be really fun but, at the same time, I am quite nervous about singing in front of lots of people!"

Forthview Primary School Head Teacher Eileen Littlewood said: "The pupils were inspired to write these wonderful poems after seeing War Horse as they were captivated by the story of Joey and the historical events of the First World War. The pupils really are very talented writers and thanks to their excellent teachers they've succeeded in writing very beautiful, atmospheric poems."

Mary Turner Thomson said: "I was very impressed with the pupils' poetic endeavours and felt they had put a lot of effort and emotion into their contributions. This whole project has been an amazing experience and a reminder of the horrors the people who fought in the war went through.

"It's good that a whole new generation of our children are inspired to think about their sacrifice 100 years since it began. These young poets, seeing their work in print within their very own book of poetry, will now remember and pass this on to the next generation as well."

Cerin Richardson, Learning & Participation Manager at the Festival and King's Theatres, said: "Watching the inspirational War Horse led the pupils to taking part in some artist-led music, dance, puppetry and poetry workshops in school as part of the START project funded by the Princes Foundation for Children and the Arts.

"The children produced some extraordinary work and this encouraged them to write the poems included here in their book, Stolen Lives. The Festival Theatre is delighted to have been part of the process which has led to this wonderfully imaginative and beautifully written book of poems."

## Historic links

Forthview's Stolen Lives launch coincided with another - by Historic Scotland, who run Edinburgh Castle, who were launching their new school project 'Learning about Scotland's First World War'.

Craig Fletcher, Senior Learning Manager at Historic Scotland, said: "We are delighted to be working with Forthview Primary School and other partners on this new project which allows young people to explore their local heritage, whilst learning more about the war and its impact on Scottish people.

"Historic Scotland will work in partnership with local schools during the commemorative period for the First World War. Pupils will visit historic properties to explore buildings, museums and objects as they investigate and discover the impact of the War in Scotland and discover real people's stories. They will also have the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops enabling them to reflect on their learning experiences."

Special thanks also go to officers from the City of Edinburgh Council's Integrated Literacy Strategy team and students/tutor from the Illustration Department of Edinburgh College of Art who worked with the pupils to illustrate their poems.

# A fitting tribute

## Donor memorial unveiled at Botanic Gardens

A NEW NATIONAL MEMORIAL dedicated to Scotland's organ and tissue donors was officially opened by Public Health Minister Michael Matheson last month.

Situated in Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden, the public memorial will provide a lasting tribute to those Scots who saved or improved the lives of others by making the decision to donate their organs or tissue after death.

Scottish artist Alec Finlay created the memorial, working with donor families, transplant recipients and health professionals. It features a dry-stane 'taigh' (Gaelic for 'house') with a turf-roof, which seals in a set of river stones. Buried under the foundations is a memorial book containing the first names of every organ and tissue donor between 2006 and late 2013. This 'wilding garden' is also home to two circle poems and a 'font' containing pebbles collected from beaches around Scotland.

Public Health Minister Michael Matheson visited the Scottish Government-funded memorial yesterday and met with donor families and transplant recipients involved in its development.

He said: "This memorial is a fitting tribute to the selfless generosity of organ and tissue donors and their families who, at a time of great tragedy, honour the wishes of their loved-ones. Through this act of kindness many lives are saved and it is right that this is marked through a public memorial.

"A very peaceful space has been created in this quiet corner of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, which offers people the opportunity to reflect on the remarkable gift of organ and

*"A very peaceful space has been created in this quiet corner"*

tissue donation. I hope that everyone whose lives have been touched in some way by donation can find peace and solace by visiting this memorial."

Alec Finlay said: "Organ and tissue donation touches many people: as an act of giving that passes between the dead and the living, it speaks to our values as a culture. I've been touched and honoured to share the task with so many people, from surgeons, to families, to the artist collaborators and gardeners who helped make the final artwork."

Simon Milne MBE, Regius Keeper, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, said: "This is a very inspiring and thought provoking project. Alec Finlay's remarkable memorial sits beautifully in a tranquil and contemplative part of the Garden in keeping with its purpose and symbolism. It is our hope that our visitors will be moved to reflect on what organ transplantation and donation means to the lives of so many people."

At the memorial the Minister met with husband-and-wife, Sandra and Craig Warden, who donated their 11-year-old daughter Rachel's organs and in doing so, saved three lives.

Sandra said: "Giving someone the gift of life is so very important. Having this national memorial, set within these beautiful gardens, recognises and remembers all those who provided that gift of life to others.

"This memorial is for the families of donors, for transplant recipients and anyone whose lives have been touched by donation and transplantation. From when she was very young, Rachel understood organ donation and made me promise we would donate her organs if anything ever happened to her and we fulfilled her wishes."







## MORE Power to the People!

POWER TO THE PEOPLE is a group for adults who are interested in Scottish history, politics, arts and current affairs. Over the last two years we have been learning about Scotland's history and the struggles of ordinary people through studying Scottish poetry, music, paintings, literature and films. We have also been trying to get to grips with many of the important issues concerning the Scottish Referendum.

This term we will be exploring North Edinburgh's early history and how this is linked to important social, economic and political events in Scotland through the centuries. The programme for this term will include:

- Speakers on specific topics relating to the early history of North Edinburgh and Edinburgh generally
- Visits to the National Museum of Scotland, the National Library of Scotland, RCAHMS)
- Workshops (using IT to access digital archive material)
- Films on Edinburgh's early history

Material and resources uncovered during this term will contribute to the development of The Great North Edinburgh Tapestry, an exciting new project which will document the history of this area and the story of all the people who have settled here.

The Power to the People group is friendly, informal, fun and free. No qualifications or knowledge of history are required and new members are always welcome.

If you require more information about the course or require a crèche contact Lynn McCabe, Community Learning and Development worker on 552 5700 (Tuesday - Thursday) or email on [lynn.mccabe@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:mccabe@ea.edin.sch.uk)

*Continued from Cover story...*

Mikael – and MY Adventure's Towford Centre will now ensure that Mikael's memory will live on.

Robert Pearson, chairman of Tenants & Residents in Muirhouse (TRIM), who initiated the collection for the memorial, said: "Our thanks to everyone who donated, I know Mikael's family are touched by the response of our community. It was always going to be difficult to decide just what to use the money on.

"Reading all the suggestions and talking to residents who visited the community shop, I got a sense of outdoor, play area and family activities are what people are looking for. When a resident mentioned the Towford Centre, I immediately thought it ticked all boxes. Mikael wasn't allowed to grow up and enjoy his childhood – his legacy will ensure other children can."

# TOWFORD

## MY Adventure's home from home

MY Adventure's Jonny Kinross explains why Towford will change lives ...

FOR MANY YEARS now Muirhouse Youth Development Group (MYDG) and its social enterprise MY Adventure have been looking to secure a building, a bothy, a place that people can get away to and relax in.

A place that is basic, comfortable and affordable. A place where young children can play safely but adventurously in the outdoors, exploring Scotland's natural heritage with their families and friends. A place where teenagers can get away from pressures and learn new skills. A place where groups of adults can build friendships but enjoy space to themselves.

Towford Outdoor Centre, near Jedburgh, set in the beautiful, remote yet accessible Scottish Borders, is the place we have been seeking.

It lies in the upper Kale Valley, on the northern slopes of the Cheviot Hills and has been lent to MYDG absolutely free, initially for ten years but for the longer term if we can sustain it and assure our landlord that people are using it.

Towford was formerly an Outdoor Education centre until it closed in 1996. Before that, it was a school from 1876 to 1964. The school log reads on June 30th 1964: "Today is the last day of Towford School. We have closed today and will not be returning". Now we have the opportunity to return to this building a playful spirit and keenness to learn about the natural world, each other and ourselves!

You couldn't find a better location for a Centre. Feeling remote but just fifteen minutes from Jedburgh, the area contains an abundance of features of educational interest, quite apart from its outstanding potential for hill-walking and the beautiful grounds. The area is typical of the Scottish Cheviot country,

with its rolling hills and wide valleys, clear streams, shelterbelts and rich grazings.

The scattered hamlets and hill-farms are linked by narrow, winding roads, little-used but essential to settlement in the area. Roman remains, along with standing stones, hill forts, cultivation terraces and the like all add to the educational potential of the area. This area and this building will now make an outstanding contribution to the lives of many children, groups, adults and communities.

### Why we had to raise funds

The building has been empty and unused for 17 years. It urgently needs some heating and a rewire if it is to survive its first winter in our care. We also seek to make it more sustainable and more accessible to people with disabilities. The roof needs patching and the grounds have become hugely overgrown and inaccessible. Fortunately we have a fantastic community of volunteers who can provide the labour (although we are always looking for more, especially people with trades experience). We are a 'hands-on', 'can-do' social enterprise that look for creative and sustainable ways of changing young people's lives – we do this on a daily basis. We can organise huge teams of volunteers – and have successfully done so on many projects – and this keeps costs down to a minimum.

However, funds will be used to:

- Put in a wood burning stove
- Re-wire the building
- Replace two windows
- Upgrade the shower/toilet block – making it accessible to people with disabilities

*"This wonderful building can now become the source of so many positive memories"*

Thanks to your generosity, Towford will benefit many people from all different walks of life. Many organisations have already said they will use this fantastic facility, including:

- Family Respite breaks
- Parenting – family strengthening groups
- Alternatives to Crime Projects
- Self-Directed Support – personal breaks or activities
- Affordable Family Holidays
- Youth work residentials
- Schools and college field trips
- Duke of Edinburgh groups
- Employability groups and ready-for-work programmes
- Conservation Charities
- Courses, Therapies and retreats

Thanks to the generosity of local people, the Towford dream has become a reality. This wonderful building can now become the source of so many positive memories and life-changing experiences. You have helped create something that will benefit thousands of people every year – year on year.

*Thank you.*

# BUILDING NEW FUTURES

## Regeneration's back on the agenda

IT WAS ONE OF EUROPE'S most ambitious regeneration programmes – an opportunity to clean up a massive brownfield site, create new communities and link Edinburgh's city centre with the sea. Hotels, new homes, schools and small businesses were to be built on the old industrial waterfront, all served by a modern, efficient tram network – there was even talk of a floating island – but then came the recession...

That was six years ago, but the economy is recovering at last and there's growing optimism that Edinburgh's waterfront can now fulfil its undoubted potential.

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership and local community councils organised a community conference at Edinburgh College on Granton's waterfront last weekend to inform local residents about what's happening now and what plans are in place to regenerate the waterfront area. Around sixty delegates attended the 'Building New Futures' event and heard speakers outline plans that could see North Edinburgh transformed over the coming years.

It's well known that Edinburgh has a severe housing shortage, and with growing pressure on Edinburgh's cherished green belt the opportunity to build new homes on brownfield sites must be seized. Speakers from National Grid, EDI Group and the city council outlined plans to build thousands of new homes along the waterfront, and highlighted prospects of local employment opportunities as the regeneration gathers momentum.

A major house building initiative is already well underway in the area: as part of the 21st Century Homes programme, the Council is about to let their first new homes

in a generation. Work is also underway on the former Craigmyle High School site which will form the first phase of plans to build over 700 new homes for sale and rent over the next eight to ten years in Pennywell and Muirhouse.

People living in these new homes will need services, of course, and health provision in the area is already under strain. NHS Lothian Partnership Development Manager Steven Whitton outlined the latest plans for a major new health facility, the North West Edinburgh Partnership Centre – that's only a working title, mind, there's got to be a catchier name than that!

The £12m Centre in Pennywell will focus on child health and family support services and will house a new GP surgery, community nursing and midwifery services, dentistry, podiatry, physiotherapy and child health services. The centre will also provide facilities for social work and some voluntary sector organisations and is expected to open in September 2016.

### Informing the community

Given the sheer scale of the regeneration project – the many different elements of the area's development and the number of partner organisations involved – it was impossible to cover all aspects in minute detail, but the conference provided a timely update. Forth Neighbourhood Partnership plans to work with the local community councils to ensure that neighbourhoods are kept informed as work progresses.

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership's chairperson Councillor Cammy Day said: "I was pleased to see a great turnout at the event, and the diverse groups of people who are keen

to take part in shaping their new and existing neighbourhoods.

"The conference provided a fantastic opportunity for the community to get to know more about regeneration taking place and to meet with key landowners and developers. This is not just about much needed affordable homes, but the creation of jobs and training opportunities, leisure facilities and attracting investment into this area.

"This event isn't a one off either, I will be establishing a local development group where the community, council, developers and landowners in Granton Waterfront can get around the table, discuss plans at an early stage to shape and influence proposals, where possible, to meet our needs. It was a great start to what I hope will be a long-term partnership between the community and all those involved in regenerating this part of North Edinburgh."

West Pilton & West Granton community councillor Willie Black, who was involved in organising the event, said: "The conference gave the community the opportunity to hear all the major players outline their plans for the regeneration of the waterfront and beyond – and to have their say. Everyone who was there though it was useful, but where now? A new regeneration forum group is to be set up and over the next few weeks community organisations will be invited to join and help build on the conference."

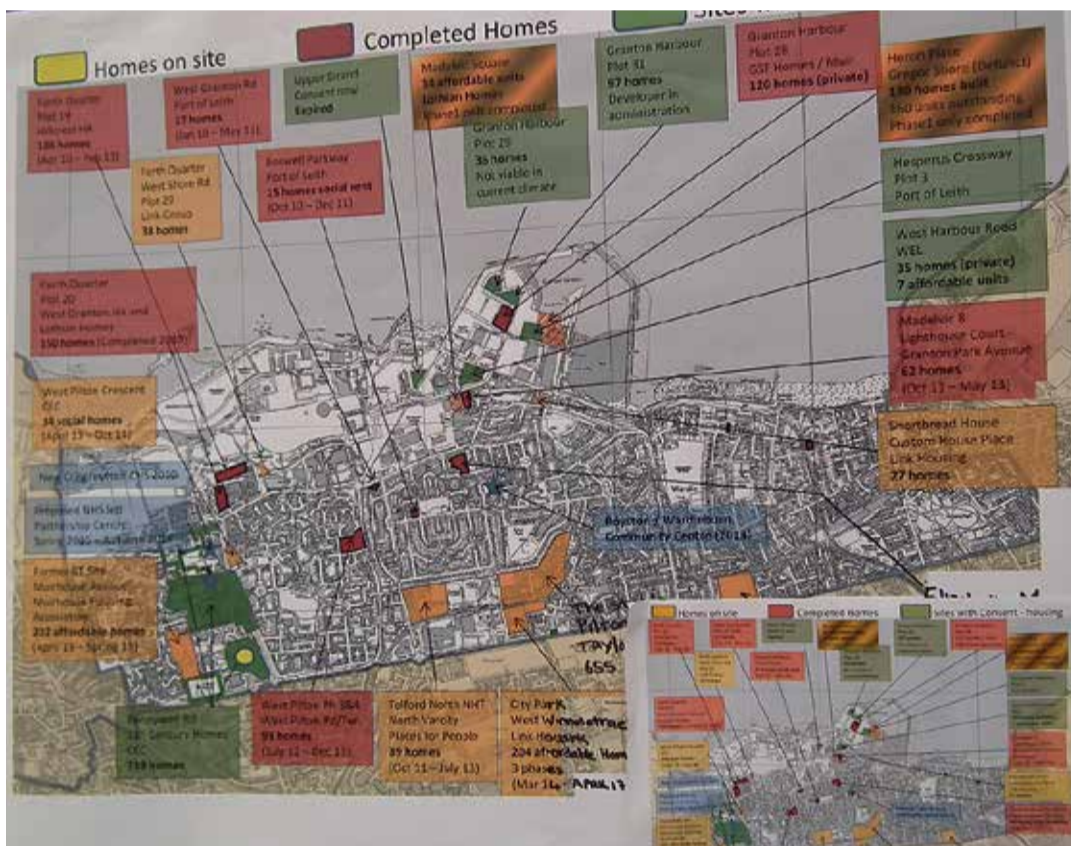
Granton Improvement Society's Barbara Robertson said: "Our stall attracted a lot of interest, particularly in the proposed Garden Festival and artisans' village, and we're pleased Cammy supports our project and wants to see it included in the area's regeneration. The success of the conference showed the



*"The conference gave the community the opportunity to hear all the major players outline their plans for the regeneration of the waterfront and beyond – and to have their say"*

enthusiasm of the community to be involved in planning the regeneration of their area and paved the way for a new forum for the community to have their say."

Some cynics will say 'we've heard it all before', but what about the next generation? Members of North Edinburgh's Young People's Forum attended the event and their feedback was very positive. Among their comments: 'Feels like most of us if not all of us now know more about what is happening in the area', 'it'd be great to have more events like this to feed back on plans and what has been done' and 'feel more involved in what is happening and with what is going on in the area'. One suggested: 'it would be good to say what has been done in relation to what the community has asked for – like a 'you said – we did' kind of thing'. Oh, and not so many big words next time please!





# NEWS from TRINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



## Proposed Sainsbury's Local in Craighall Road

TCC submitted its response to Sainsbury's planning application following the presentation and discussion at our June meeting. No date has been fixed for CEC Planning Committee to hear the application. Full details at CEC Planning (ref 14/02023/FUL).

## Recycling

Inevitably teething problems, but the new arrangements do seem to be bedding in. We will continue to monitor so do let us know if you have any thoughts on this matter.

## The jam in Edinburgh's planning sandwich?

City of Edinburgh's latest Local Development Plan shows more than 17,000 new houses to be built on either side of the Trinity area. Trinity comprises about 4,000 houses currently so that is a very significant increase in nearby housing stock. There will also be two new Primary Schools, additional shopping at Granton and Leith and major industrial development at Leith docks.

Despite this, the plan contains no corresponding transport proposals. Will Trinity be the jam in the sandwich between developments at Leith and Granton? The previous plan depended on the tram to Newhaven taking the strain but the scrapping of that extension has not been replaced by any alternative. Unless the plan recognises the need, transport will only be reviewed piecemeal as developments are built - with all that implies for impatient motorists taking shortcuts through residential areas.

There is also concern about possible impact on parking - already causing a number of problems and made worse by apparent lack of enforcement. One suggestion is to introduce Priority Parking but this would cost residents for their permit. More info at [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20083/parking\\_permits/451/priority\\_parking](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20083/parking_permits/451/priority_parking)

We will push for a review of roads, transport (including bus services) and parking in north Edinburgh as part of the Plan rather than as an afterthought.

## Joined Up Planning?

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership are currently updating the North Edinburgh Local Community Plan. The proposed priorities are:

- . Healthier community
- . Opportunities for children and young people
- . Cleaner, greener and more attractive environment
- . Community safety
- . Employment and training opportunities, esp. for young people

We haven't seen any draft fleshing these out and offering specific aims and are also concerned at the lack of concern to maintain the physical environment. We will invite an official to attend one or more TCC meetings to discuss this and to report on progress.

## Neighbourhood Environment Programme

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership allocated its 2015 NEP budget of £440k across its 4 CC's. Trinity won £39k (with matching funding from the Sports Council) to restore the tennis and basketball court in Victoria Park and £87k for road improvements including the East/South Trinity Road junction and in the Denham Greens following April's Walkabout.

## Community Grant Funding - "Funding for Forth"

The £16,000 for local voluntary groups ring-fenced by FNP for a Participatory Budgeting exercise on the Leith model unfortunately received no applications by the due date so the exercise has been abandoned this year and a review of what went wrong initiated.

## Lower Granton Road realignment

Realignment of Lower Granton Road is now complete and seems to have improved traffic flow. There are some reservations about the impact on houses near the junction and also problems nearer Granton Square where there have been a number of accidents. We continue to believe that further alterations to Trinity roads must take the whole Trinity road system into account because of the knock-on impacts and how near to capacity we currently are.

## 20 MPH Speed Limit

City of Edinburgh Council are currently consulting on extending a 20mph speed limit to most of Edinburgh. We are sceptical about effectiveness unless it is properly enforced. At present that doesn't seem to happen and we will be contacting CEC to make our concerns clear.

## Dear Green Space

After discussion, a large majority agreed that Victoria Park's third (surplus) bowling green should be turned into mini allotments, some of which could be used by local school children. Starbank Park continues from strength to strength. Ambitions now include facilities for children and restoring the toilet facilities.

## Thank you and our best wishes, Liz Grant!

TCC is sorry to lose the services of Liz Grant, who has been a long-serving member of the Community Council and its Chair for a good number of years. Her contribution to the community and to our meetings has always been thoughtful and constructive. Liz will be sorely missed.

Next meeting is on Monday 13 October at 7pm in St Serfs and featuring a presentation on Total Craigroyston. Open to all residents.

## Questions?

Email us or contact your Community Councillor. See <http://www.trinitycommunitycouncil.btck.co.uk/CommunityCouncillors>

## WOMEN: Breaking the Mould

BREAKING THE MOULD is a new project which aims to record and celebrate inspirational women from North Edinburgh who have made a difference to the lives of others locally, nationally, internationally. The project is particularly interested in identifying and publicising those women from our community who have 'broken the mould'.

The achievements of many Edinburgh women are well known to us. Names such as Elsie Inglis and Helen Crummy have been celebrated with honours and memorials. There are many other women out there, however, who may have been forgotten about who really deserve to be remembered.

The group who are undertaking this research live locally and will be supported by a local Community Learning and Development worker and a tutor from the Workers Education Association. The group will meet every Wednesday from 10 - 12 in Royston Wardieburn Community Centre. A free crèche is provided for participants' children.

Our short list of women who 'Broke the Mould' will be included in a new Edinburgh-wide booklet which will be launched at a special event at the Scottish Parliament next year. We also hope to create an exhibition displaying the images of all our inspirational local women. The exhibition will be launched at a community event in North Edinburgh Arts Centre next summer.



If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information about how you can get involved call Lynn McCabe at Royston/Wardieburn Community Centre on 552 5700 or Isobel Hart, from the Workers Education Association on 225 2580.

Alternatively, check out the North Edinburgh Breaking the Mould Facebook page, or for more information about the project in other areas of the country go to: <https://www.facebook.comWEABreakingthemould>

## INVERLEITH COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

The theme for this year is 'increasing walking and cycling in Inverleith' and we'd like to invite everyone living, working or travelling in Inverleith to have a say on how we can make walking and cycling easier, safer and more welcoming for all.

Please come along and share your thoughts on how we can get people in Inverleith walking and cycling more, to pick up tips, advice and support and also to help us identify what the Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership can do to make it happen.

**Come join us Thursday 30th October from 6-9pm at Broughton High School**

We'd also welcome local organisations to come along and display information on how you can help us achieve this!

**CONTACT: [elaine.lennon@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.lennon@edinburgh.gov.uk) for more information or to book your place, email [anne.brown@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:anne.brown@ea.edin.sch.uk)**



INVERLEITH COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

# walking & cycling in Inverleith

Book your place at our community conference to share issues, discuss solutions with transport officials and help increase participation

Are you already a walker or cyclist?  
Would you like to take it up?  
What are the challenges?  
What could be done?

**Thurs 30th Oct, 6-9pm**  
**Broughton High School**  
29 East Fettes Avenue, EH4 1EG

CONTACT: [anne.brown@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:anne.brown@ea.edin.sch.uk) or 332 6316 for info or to book a place

ORGANISED BY INVERLEITH NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

## Grow Your Own Garden Workshops

**Wednesdays, 6-8pm:**  
22<sup>nd</sup> October  
12<sup>th</sup> November  
3<sup>rd</sup> December

**Saturdays, 10am-12pm:**  
25<sup>th</sup> October  
15<sup>th</sup> November  
6<sup>th</sup> December

**Workshop 1 (22<sup>nd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October):**  
Introduction to 'growing your own': Where can you grow? What grows in Scotland? How to get growing?

**Workshop 2 (12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> November):**  
Getting growing: Sowing seeds and creating new plants from cuttings, bulbs and other plant parts.

**Workshop 3 (3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> December):**  
Plant care: getting the best conditions for your plants and dealing with plant problems.

*Crèche available for the Wednesday evening sessions but should be booked in advance.*

A course of six structured 'grow your own' workshops for beginners.

Wednesday and Saturday sessions will be the same, so we recommend that you attend one or the other.

Although you don't have to book for these workshops, we ask that you attend for the full 2 hours as they are structured. For ages 16+.

north edinburgh **arts**  
15a Pennywell Court Edinburgh EH4 4TZ  
[www.northedinburgharts.co.uk](http://www.northedinburgharts.co.uk)

telephone **0131 315 2151**  
for more information



## Neighbourhood Partnerships Making it happen

Following extensive consultation, the Forth and Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership's new local community plans for 2014-17 will be launched on 27th October! These will be available online at [www.edinburghnp.org.uk/forth](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/forth) or [www.edinburghnp.org.uk/inverleith](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/inverleith), from your local library or from your North Neighbourhood Office at 8 West Pilton Gardens.

Working with communities and partners, Neighbourhood Partnerships aim to tackle priority issues and make neighbourhoods a better place to live. They bring together the community, Police, Health, Fire, voluntary sector and elected members, and are supported by officers from the Council.

**To find out how to get involved in your local Neighbourhood Partnership, visit one of our events, attend a Neighbourhood Partnership meeting or talk to us face to face. Please call 529 5050 or email [jim.pattison@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:jim.pattison@edinburgh.gov.uk) (Forth NP) or [elaine.lennon@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.lennon@edinburgh.gov.uk) (Inverleith NP) for more information.**

You can also contact us online - tweet us your thoughts @north\_team or @Edin\_NPs



## Pilton Community Health Project Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 12th November  
10:30 am – 12:30 pm  
at PCHP, 73 Boswall Parkway  
Edinburgh EH5 2PW

*'the best AGM I've  
ever been to'*

(quote from last year's AGM)

WE WILL BE  
LAUNCHING OUR NEW  
WEBSITE - LOTS OF  
USEFUL RESOURCES  
FOR YOU TO USE

Come along and find out what  
we've done this year and hear  
more about what we have planned!

Light refreshments will be provided

*Everyone Welcome*



### Pilton Community Health Project

73 Boswall Parkway Edinburgh EH5 2PW | Tel 0131 551 1671 | Fax 0131 551 1677  
Email [admin@pchp.org.uk](mailto:admin@pchp.org.uk) | Web [www.pchp.org.uk](http://www.pchp.org.uk)

Pilton Community Health Project is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Registered in Edinburgh under number 339435. Charity number SC018460.

## FREE TEA OR AMERICANO WITH ANY DAILY SPECIAL\* WITH THIS VOUCHER

\*Excludes soup. One voucher per person. Voucher must be presented. Valid until 17/12/14.



Daily Specials  
Monday - Friday  
12noon - 2.00pm

north  
edinburgh  
**arts**

15a Pennywell Court, Edinburgh, EH4 4TZ 0131 315 2151

## Christmas Menu 2014

Book early,  
places are  
limited!

£13.95 - BYOB  
3 courses + tea/coffee

Lunch served on Thursday 18th December.

Full menu available on our website at [northedinburgharts.co.uk](http://northedinburgharts.co.uk)  
For more info, call 0131 315 2151 or email [admin@northedinburgharts.co.uk](mailto:admin@northedinburgharts.co.uk)  
15a Pennywell Court, Edinburgh, EH4 4TZ.

north  
edinburgh  
**arts**

### LABOUR COUNCILLORS TEAM



**Forth Ward Councillors Cammy Day and Vicki Redpath**

[cammy.day@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:cammy.day@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
Telephone 529 3262



[vicki.redpath@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:vicki.redpath@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
Telephone 529 3281

#### Surgeries:

Muirhouse Library: Every Mon (except July), 6pm  
The Prentice Centre: Every Wed (except July), 6pm  
Royston/Wardieburn Community Centre:  
Every Wed (except July) 7pm



**Inverleith Ward Councillor Lesley Hinds**

[lesley.hinds@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.hinds@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
Telephone 529 3235

Ferryhill Primary School:  
Every Wed (during school term) 6pm  
Stockbridge Library: Every Wed 7 - 7:30pm

## DRYLAW TELFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 29 October at 7pm

In Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre  
Groathill Road North

*All welcome*

## CRAIGLEITH/BLACKHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Date of next meeting:  
**Monday 10 November at 7.30pm**

Venue: **Stewart's Melville College dining hall  
(access via Ravelston Terrace)**

*Meetings are open to all  
Craigleith/Blackhall residents*

[www.craigleithblackhall.info](http://www.craigleithblackhall.info)

## NORTH EDINBURGH NEWS Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 18 November at 7pm  
Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre  
Groathill Road North

*All welcome*

**THE nen** NORTH  
EDINBURGH  
NEWS

# community directory

## ADVICE

Community Renewal	332 8773
Drylaw Police Station	343 3171
Granton Information Centre	551 2459
Lothian & Borders Police HQ, Fettes	311 3131
Lothian Buses	554 4494
North Edinburgh Credit Union	466 5006
North West Carers Centre	315 3130
North Neighbourhood Services (City council local office)	529 5050
North Edinburgh Volunteer Centre	629 4202
Pilton Citizens Advice Bureau	332 9434
Police Scotland	101

## CHURCHES/PLACES OF WORSHIP

Blackhall Mosque, Queensferry Road	343 3802
Blackhall St. Columba's, Queensferry Road	332 4431
Bristo Baptist Church, Queensferry Road	332 9488
Church of the First Born, West Granton Green	551 5361
Drylaw Parish Church, Groathill Road North	343 1441
Granton Baptist Church, Crewe Road North	552 0915
Granton Parish Church, Boswall Parkway	551 2159
Granton United, 125 Boswall Parkway	552 3316
Muirhouse St. Andrew's, Pennywell Medway	476 9525
Old Kirk, Pennywell Road	332 4354
St David's Episcopal, Royston Mains Place	01890 819063
St Margaret Mary's, Boswall Parkway	552 3957
St Paul's, Muirhouse Avenue	539 0085
St Serf's, Ferry Road	249 4899
Seventh Day Adventist, Boswall Parkway	0777 239 1405
West Pilton Christian Centre, West Pilton Park	343 6391

## COMMUNITY CENTRES

Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre	315 4989
Muirhouse Millennium Centre	467 3578
Royston Wardieburn Community Centre	552 5700
The Prentice Centre	552 0485
West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre	551 3194

## COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Craighleith Blackhall	secretary@craighleithblackhall.info
Drylaw Telford	secretary@drylawtelfordcc.co.uk
Granton & District	grantonanddistrictcc@aol.com
Muirhouse Salvesen	muirhouseandsalvesencommunitycouncil@live.com
New Town & Broughton	www.ntbcc.org.uk
Stockbridge & Inverleith	stockbridgeandinverleithcc.moonfruit.com
Trinity	trinitycommunitycouncil.btck.co.uk
West Pilton West Granton	w.black@blueyonder.co.uk

## ELDERLY

Drylaw Rainbow Daycare Centre	343 6643
LifeCare, Stockbridge House	343 0940
Pilton Equalities Project (PEP)	315 4466
St David's Wednesday Wanderers & Smarties Club	538 6262

## FAMILIES

Circle Scotland (formerly Family Service Unit)	552 0305
Granton Child and Family Centre	552 4808
Haven Project, Craigroyston Primary School	332 9269
North Edinburgh Childcare	332 8001
North Edinburgh Childcare Crèche Services	311 6933
Pilton Retreat, Ratho	333 1659
Stepping Stones North Edinburgh	551 1632
St David's Krazy Kids Club	538 6262
The Yard, Eyre Place Lane	475 4506
Women Supporting Women	551 1671

## HOUSING

Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association	657 0600
Central Muirhouse Low-Rise Tenants Association	467 3570
City of Edinburgh Council North Local Office	529 5050
Edinburgh Tenants Federation	475 2509
Fresh Start	476 7741
Housing Support Inclusion Service	529 5093
Manor Estates Housing Association	337 3222

Muirhouse Housing Association	336 5282
Pennywell Tenants and Residents Association	476 2359
Port of Leith Housing Association	554 0403
West Granton Housing Co-operative	551 5035

## HEALTH/WELFARE

Bangholm Medical Centre	552 6363
Barri Grubb	551 1671
Craigroyston Clinic	315 2121
Craigroyston Dental Clinic	332 7930
Crewe Medical Centre	552 5544
Davidsons Mains Medical Centre	336 2291
Inverleith Medical Practice	552 3369
Living Well North Edinburgh (formerly Stress Centre)	343 6375
Minor Injuries Unit, Western General Hospital	537 1330
Muirhouse Community Slimmers Club, Birnies Court	552 6477
Muirhouse Surgery	537 4343
NHS 24	08454 24 24 24
North Edinburgh Drug Advice Centre (NEDAC)	332 2314
North West Carers Centre	315 3130
Pilton Community Health Project	551 1671
Stockbridge Health Centre	225 9191
Western General Hospital	537 1000

## RECREATION/ARTS

Ainslie Park Leisure Centre	551 2400
Blackhall Library	529 5595
Granton Library	529 5630
Leith Library	529 5517
Muirhouse Library	529 5528
North Edinburgh Arts Centre	315 2151
Screen Education Edinburgh (formerly Pilton Video)	343 1151
Stockbridge Library	529 5665
The Spartans Community Football Academy	552 7854

## SCHOOLS/EDUCATION

Blackhall Primary School	336 1023
Broughton High School	332 7805
Community Learning & Development Forth	552 5700
Community Learning & Development Inverleith	332 6316
Craigroyston Community High School	477 7801
Craigroyston Primary School	343 6465
Edinburgh's Telford College	559 4000
Davidsons Mains Primary School	336 1184
Ferryhill Primary School	538 7382
Flora Stevenson's Primary School	332 1604
Forthview Primary School	332 2468
Granton Primary School	552 3987
Pirniehall Primary School	332 5256
St David's Primary School	332 3500
Stockbridge Primary School	332 6109
The Royal High School	336 2261
Trinity Academy	478 5050
Trinity Primary School	554 2062
Wardie Primary School	552 3896

## YOUTH & CHILDREN

CHILDREN 1st bfriends Service, The Prentice Centre	552 8265
Fet-Lor Youth Centre	332 4506
Granton Youth Centre	467 5854
Muirhouse Youth Development Group	332 3356
Pilton Youth and Children's Project	332 9815
The Klub	315 2100
The Yard, Eyre Place Lane	476 4506

If your group or organisation would like to be included in the Community Directory please email us at [northedinnews@gmail.com](mailto:northedinnews@gmail.com)



## Local club nets Neighbourhood support

**Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership recently awarded a community grant to local sports club Blackhall Athletic.**

THE CLUB used the funding to equip some of their teams with new tops, and INP Convener Councillor Nigel Bagshaw called in to a training session at Broughton High School to meet players and coaches.

Nigel said: "It's great to support local initiatives like this. Community grants can make a real difference to small organisations and we're delighted to be able to help Blackhall Athletic, who are doing a great job with our young people".

Blackhall Athletic's John Adams said: "We spend an awful lot of time trying to raise funds to support club activities but everyone knows how difficult that has been in recent times. We are constantly

working at it and we hope to be self-sustaining in the future, but in the meantime this grant is really welcome. Quite simply, without this support we would not be able to continue to do what we do – so we are all really grateful to Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership".

Blackhall Athletic is run by twenty-five adult volunteers who carry out a variety of tasks including coaching, first aid, administration and committee duties. The club currently has five teams, four boys and one girls, and they plan to start two more over the coming months – giving well over one hundred local boys and girls the opportunity to regularly take part in active sport.

John added: "As well as the sporting element, there are other benefits too. All of our boys and girls will, through training and playing, undertake over 180 hours of physical activity which is a health benefit.

"And then there's teamwork. Our players come from all over the area; they go to different schools and come from different backgrounds but they are all the same when they put on the club strip. This teaches them that they must all work together to achieve success and the young people learn the life skills they will need as they grow into adulthood."

That sounds like a home 'win, win' for both Blackhall Athletic and the wider Inverleith community.



## Anything you can do

**Spartans hold their own Commonwealth Games!**

by JAMIE TOMKINSON

2014 HAS BEEN A FANTASTIC YEAR for sport in Scotland. From hosting the Ryder Cup to fantastic performances from the national football team against the World Cup champions – what better time to capture the attention of the younger generation and engage them in sport?

Undoubtedly the most popular talking point in Scottish sport has been Glasgow having the privilege of hosting the Commonwealth Games this summer, and following this tremendous event, The Spartans Community Football Academy was keen to offer the young people of North Edinburgh the opportunity to try their hands at some Commonwealth sports.

With the support of Big Lottery Funding, we hosted our very own North Edinburgh Commonwealth Games Day on 23 September. Our aim was simple – let young people experience Commonwealth sports they may never have had the opportunity to try before. We invited P7 pupils from five local primary schools to join us at The Spartans Community Football Academy – that's over 200 young people! Thank you Pirniehall PS, Blackhall PS, Forthview PS, Granton PS and St Davids PS for making the day such a special occasion!

Local clubs and organizations were quick to offer help with our event allowing us to offer a great variety of sports. On the day, pupils got to try their hand at Hurdles, Long Jump, Javelin, Triathlon, Boxing, Judo, 100m and 400m relay.

There was great energy around the event and this stemmed from the coaches and volunteers we had on board for the day. We would like to thank coaches and volunteers from Kabo Boxing, Edinburgh Leisure and Jidel Judo for coming along and making the event such a success.

We were extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to offer a Triathlon station to the young people – this wouldn't have been possible without the help and resources from Ainslie Park Leisure Centre and MyAdventure who offered us use of their swimming pool and bicycles.

We would also like to extend thanks to staff from the Nike store in Craighleith for all their help and support with this project and we would like to extend a final thank you to Big Lottery Funding for believing in our project – without their support this fantastic event would not have been possible.

**Keep up-to-date!**

Follow the NEN blog for all your community news!

<http://northedinburghnews.wordpress.com>

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NORTH  
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