



The Green Flag Awards criteria:

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Clean and well maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management

Green Flag recognition

Ravelston is the latest local green space to join Edinburgh's proud list of Green Flag high-flyers! by DAVID PICKERING

RAVELSTON PARK and Woods is one of four new city parks to receive Green Flag recognition for the first time this year, and joins twenty who retained awards from last year.

Edinburgh's parks scooped a record number of Green Flag Awards for the best green spaces in Scotland. Of 44 flags awarded in Scotland this year, the capital scooped no less than 24 awards – more than half of all flags presented across the country! Parks are judged against eight criteria, including community involvement and sustainability. Welcoming the announcement, city environment leader Councillor Lesley Hinds said: "We're delighted that, once again, Edinburgh is leading the way in providing high quality parks and

gardens for our residents. The awards positively reflect on the hard work carried out by local communities and staff to ensure Edinburgh's renowned parks are preserved."

The Green Flag Awards were established by Keep Britain Tidy in 1996. Paul Todd, Green Flag Award scheme manager, said: "An award provides national recognition for the achievements of all those whose hard work and dedication has helped to create these fantastic places for all to enjoy."

Edinburgh's roll of honour

The city's parks and green spaces to receive a Green Flag Award this year are:

Prestonfield Park (New award)
Ravelston Woods Local Nature Reserve and Park (New award)
Ferry Glen & Back Braes (New award)
Lochend Park (New award)
Braidburn Valley Park
Pentland Hills Regional Park
Harrison Park
Easter Craiglockhart Hill LNR
Hopetoun Crescent Garden
Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park

Inverleith Park
Figgate Park
Station Road Park
London Road Gardens
Corstorphine Hill
Craigmillar Castle Park
Portobello Community Garden
Morningside Park
Muir Wood Park
Hailes Quarry Park
Victoria Park
Hermitage and Blackford Hill
Local Nature Reserve
St Margaret's Park
Princes Street Gardens.

"The awards positively reflect on the hard work carried out by local communities and staff"

NEN NEWS DESK

NEN would like to thank Pilton Central Association (PCA) for sponsoring this edition. PCA has a proud history of supporting community initiatives and we're delighted to receive their generous support.

We're also delighted to announce that NENgagE, our Social Media workshops, are proving really popular. There are a few places available – see <http://nengage1.eventbrite.co.uk/> for more information or to register. Thanks to Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership for supporting this exciting initiative.

NEN's Annual General Meeting takes place next month and you're invited! The AGM will be held in Drylaw Church on Thursday 27 September at 7pm. Come and find out what's happening at NEN, and how you can play a part in supporting your community newspaper.

And finally, we've decided to publish bi-monthly. That decision was made purely on financial grounds – it costs a lot of money to produce, print and distribute a newspaper and we are being prudent. We continue to do all we can to keep the NEN afloat and with your help – through vital advertising and sponsorship – we can do it!

Thanks for your support, and enjoy the paper!

Keep up to date with all North Edinburgh's news on the NEN blog, which is regularly updated. You'll find us at <http://northedinburghnews.wordpress.com>

The NEN Board



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, North Edinburgh News, c/o Edinburgh's Telford College, 350 West Granton Road, Edinburgh EH5 1QE**

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And a special thanks to Pilton Central Association, sponsors of this edition

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

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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 Wednesday 15 Sept for inclusion in our next edition

Stairwell Fire

Dear Editor

You might be aware of the fire that took place on Tuesday 14 August in the back stairwell of the middle block of houses in Royston; a stairwell I may add that is populated by families with small children - we can all just be grateful that it happened during the day and was spotted and contained.

Although I am not aware of how the fire started it would have required materials for it to get going.

Last year I complained to the Edinburgh North office of how a culture of tipping and the accumulation of materials was taking over the back gardens of Royston and it would not be a leap to surmise that the stairwells might be affected by this culture of people getting rid of an excess of materials from their houses into the bottom of stairwells.

Given the demographic of people in the Royston area there will be people who can not afford for items to be uplifted by the council or hire vans to take them away or have no cultural awareness of the etiquette of living in a communal stair in a city.

It would be interesting for someone in the council to do the arithmetic on how much it takes to do a free uplift compared to how much it is going to cost to fix a back stairwell that has been fire damaged? Or how much it takes to fix the problem of a culture of fly tipping taking over?

Maybe some sort of inspection of the state of the stairwells is required throughout that area to assess the potential to prevent any future incidents like this happening again.

I make this suggestion as it would appear by the nature of the questions asked by the police officer who knocked on my door and the neighbours' doors that the police are looking for someone who was seen running from the scene at the back of the gardens shortly after the fire was started.

Secondly there is now a culture of people smoking at their back stairwell doors in the last few years and if they are not extinguishing cigarettes properly there is the potential for more fires as well if people are storing or tipping materials.

*Padraig O'Neill
Pilton Drive North*

Caring for our NHS

Dear Editor

The NHS will care for everyone in the UK whoever and wherever they are; it is our most valuable public service and must remain so.

We are told people are living longer and therefore the workload of the NHS will grow; it follows there must be an increase in staff, fully trained in all aspects of care. It is obvious the existing staff - who are already under great pressure to maintain the service - would not be able to take on extra work and maintain the quality of both physical and mental care that is needed.

I hope those who view the NHS as a drain on the nation will come to realise that no-one is able to predict their needs as one gets older.

There are uncaring and reactionary people who say we cannot afford a comprehensive national service. If we are a caring society we can - and must - do just that.

*A. Delahoy
Silverknowes Gardens*

My Tears

Dear Editor

My tears are for all children, women and men who are suffering extreme poverty and starvation.

My tears are for all animals, birds and wildlife.

My tears are because of all the cruelty and the destruction of trees and natural habitat.

But my tears are not tears of despair, they are tears of knowing how different things could be.

We have allowed a relatively few powerful financial organisations to control and exploit - with unbelievable callousness - people, animals and the natural environment for their private profit.

These same people created the biggest financial mess ever seen worldwide and are now passing it on to everyone.

This "system" must be changed.

Wealth created by the work of people must be used for the benefit of all people; we would then be able to deal with all these terrible problems.

*A. Delahoy
Silverknowes Gardens*

Performing Shakespeare in Stratford!

LOCAL AMATEUR THEATRE company Edinburgh Theatre Arts performed a Scots version of MacBeth in the heart of William Shakespeare country last month. The group, which is based at St Ninian's Hall in Comely Bank, was invited by the world famous Royal Shakespeare Company to perform their version of 'the Scottish play' at Stratford's Courtyard Theatre.

Edinburgh Theatre Arts were one of only 10 from across the UK - and the only Scottish company - to be selected to take to the stage alongside the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) and they took to the stage with their Scots version of Macbeth on 14 July.

Edinburgh Theatre Art's director Mike Duffy said it was a great honour. "They don't normally have amateur companies using their theatres, so it's a unique opportunity for an amateur company to get onto one of their main stages", he said. "It's like Scotland are playing England at Wembley! For an amateur company to go to a main Shakespeare theatre, with all the kudos of the RSC, everybody has to raise their game."

The troupe came home to stage their MacBeth in Scots at St Ninian's Hall during the Edinburgh Festival.



Billy Anderson

The NEN is sad to report the death of Muirhouse activist Billy Anderson on 6 August. Billy, who was 60, suffered a heart attack.

Billy was a hugely popular figure in North Edinburgh community circles and in recent years was perhaps best known for his work in the café at Muirhouse Millenium Centre.

CORE to close

PILTON-BASED Community Organisation for Racial Equality (CORE) is to close. Formerly the BCDP (Black Community Development Project), the project which grew out of the Muirhouse Anti-Racism campaign of the early 1990s will be formally wound up at an extraordinary general meeting in Royston Wardieburn Community Centre on 29 August.

At its peak CORE was one of the most influential community-led equality organisations in the country - growing from humble beginnings in a room in Craigmoynton High School to staging prestigious conferences in Edinburgh's International Conference Centre - but funding issues and financial struggles over recent years has forced directors to seek closure of the organisation.

Chairperson Dr Fernando Almeida Diniz confirmed that CORE has been experiencing financial problems for some months, but said that the Board will not be making any statements at this stage. "I am sure that you will see that we cannot do anything which could be regarded as pre-empting what might happen at the EGM", he said.

For further information, please contact Adil Ibrahim at CORE, email adil@coregb.org.uk



North West Carers move south

NORTH WEST CARERS CENTRE has moved from its Muirhouse Crescent base to a new home in Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre. The Muirhouse offices were bigger than the project needed, so the project jumped at an opportunity to move to Drylaw when the opportunity arose. Manager Sarah Mavor and her team crossed the great Ferry Road divide (!) and moved into their new home on 9 July.

Sarah said: "We were happy in Muirhouse but the office was really too big for us, so the move to Drylaw was a sensible one. Many of the people we work with come from the Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership area too. It's been a good move and we're all enjoying the change of scene. Things are going well."

While North West Carers Centre address has changed - it's now Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre, 67b Groathill Road North, EH4 2SA - the telephone number and email addresses remain the same - that's 315 3130 and email resource@nwcarers.org.uk

Services provided are unaffected too - North West Carers provide information, advice and respite and run support groups for young and adult carers, and also runs a Dementia Support Group, a Carers Afternoon Together and a Young Carers Group.

The North West Carers team is pictured following the project's annual general meeting on 25 July.



Fun Day goes ahead despite vandalism

DRYLAW NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE'S annual Family Fun Day went ahead on Saturday 28 July just days after an attack by vandals. Hundreds of local people attended the event at the Centre off Groathill Road North.

Vandals caused damage estimated at £1500 at the Centre, slashing a polytunnel used by Drylaw's gardening groups then breaking tools and destroying young plants and that attack came just a week after a scarecrow had been torched at the Centre.

Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre's Elizabeth Graham, who supports the gardening groups, said: "I must admit I shed a tear when I saw the damage that had been done. Our gardeners had been growing on some young plants and these have been destroyed - it's too late in the season now to start this process again - it's so very sad. I hoped we could maybe repair the polytunnel using a strong tape but the damage is too severe. This is such a pointless act and I do worry that this may have been carried out by some young people who use the Centre - or who certainly know people who use the Centre. It's very upsetting and such a waste."

Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre is covered by CCTV cameras and police are now studying tapes - it's understood the culprits may have been captured on camera.

Despite the upsetting episode, Drylaw's Family Fun Day went ahead as usual and proved to be a great success. Neighbourhood Centre manager Roy Douglas said: "We were all disgusted when we saw the damage that had been done, but that made us even more determined to make sure the Fun Day was a success. It's great that so many local residents - young and old - have come along to support us and enjoy the fun day".

Among the activities on the day were sumo suits, pony rides, bouncy castles and face painting, while officers from Drylaw Police Station and Crewe Toll firefighters also joined in the fun!



Sun comes out for Granton gardeners' BBQ

What a difference some sunshine makes! A steady stream of local residents - and at least one wee visitor from Pilton! - popped into the Granton Community Garden to enjoy a barbecue on 4 August. Much of the food was grown in the community garden which is on the corner of Wardieburn Road and Boswall Parkway - and doesn't it always taste better when you've grown it yourself? New gardeners always welcome - see the Granton Community Gardens Facebook page for more info.

news in brief

SELEX celebrates sixty years of success

SELEX Galileo - originally Ferranti - marked sixty years of success with a celebration event and publication of a commemorative book at the recent Farnborough Airshow. Ferranti began initial engineering studies and technology development work at its Crewe Toll site in 1952.

Fabrizio Giulianini, CEO of SELEX Galileo said: "I am honoured to be here today representing years of outstanding individual, industrial and technological excellence. For many years armed forces around the world have relied on our radar to support airborne missions and come home safe."

Team GB wins Play2Learn Olympic football!

More than forty children took part in Play2Learn's Olympic football competition at the Royal High School on 3 August.

Ranging in age from four up to teenagers, it was a fun day for all of the youngsters who represented the footballing nations of the world at the event.

And the champions? In a hard-fought contest it was - you've guessed it - local heroes Team GB who came out on top to lift the trophy!

State Street is forty

State Street's 750 Crewe Toll staff celebrated the fortieth anniversary of their company's move to the UK with a giant barbecue on 20 August.

State Street moved into their Crewe Toll home in 2003, and since then the banking giant has played a significant role in supporting local community initiatives, both through volunteering and their Foundation Community Support programme.

Stepping Stones, North Edinburgh Childcare, Oaklands School, PROP Stress Centre, Drylaw Rainbow Club and Craigmoynton Community High School all have particular reason to wish State Street a happy anniversary!



Working together to tackle poverty

“Can we afford it? The real question is can we afford not to?”

The City of Edinburgh Council and campaigners meet to discuss Anti-Poverty Charter

by DAVID PICKERING

THE CITY COUNCIL has pledged to work with community groups to address poverty and inequalities. Councillors made their commitment after hearing a deputation of campaigners from North Edinburgh at June's full council meeting.

The North Edinburgh activists presented councillors with individual copies of the community's Anti-Poverty Charter at the 28 June meeting. The idea for a Charter was born at a community conference held in

Craigroyston High School late last year, and campaigners urged councillors to adopt the Charter's principles in a united fight against poverty and deprivation.

Addressing the issues

In a joint deputation members of North Edinburgh Fights Back and North Edinburgh Women's Group told councillors that more needs to be done at all levels of government to address social injustice

and tackle the scourge of poverty. John Mulvey told the meeting: “North Edinburgh Fights Back is definitely not ‘The Big Society’. It's not very often that I align myself with bishops, but I can only agree with the Bishop of Canterbury when he describes David Cameron's ‘Big Society’ as ‘aspirational waffle’.

He went on: “The demands are not unique to North Edinburgh and indeed apply to communities across Scotland. However the Charter calls upon you as the local authority to do specific things and to team up with groups like North Edinburgh Fights Back to engage with institutions like, for example, the energy companies to put pressure on them to respond positively to the aims of the Charter”

John Mulvey concluded: “Can we afford it? The real question is can we afford not to? If we can afford to spend billions and billions on a replacement for Trident, and more billions and billions on tax breaks for the rich, clearly for a decent society for all of our citizens the demands laid out in the Charter must be addressed.”

Danielle Ward of North Edinburgh Young People's Forum demanded an end to Workfare and called for more opportunities for young people in training, education and employment while veteran campaigner Tony Delahoy made ‘five moderate requests’ on behalf of older people.

Cathy Ahmed of Muirhouse Women's Group demanded an end to cuts that hit the poorest families hardest and there were further calls for action to tackle fuel poverty and social housing shortages.

The wide-ranging charter has sections on Young People, Senior Citizens, Women, Living Wage and Employment Rights, Privatisation and Education, Fuel Poverty, Housing and Racism.

That's quite a shopping list, but the council agreed a motion from Forth councillor Cammy Day to ‘commend the highly successful community conference organised by the groups, specifically in regards to highlighting poverty, inequality of fuel poverty. Council welcomes the Anti-Poverty Charter and agrees to work with these groups in addressing poverty and inequalities’.

Councillor Nick Gardner invited the deputation to come back in five years to see how the council has performed on it's pledges, but it's likely that the North Edinburgh Fights Back campaigners will be back long before then!

Cathy Ahmed said after the meeting: “Five years? We could a’ be deid by then! We hope that this council will take our community's demands seriously and act now – we're sick of politicians' broken promises and actions speak louder than words”.

NEFB has since written to the council over concerns about creeping privatisation – see page six.

North Edinburgh Fights Back has a Facebook page and a web-site and regular meetings/public meetings. These meetings will be advertised on the above sites and in the North Edinburgh News. All are welcome to be part of this fight back.





THE EDINBURGH GUARANTEE

A joint initiative to improve employment opportunities and break the cycle of youth unemployment

by ANN CONFREY

AT ALMOST DOUBLE the adult level, youth unemployment is a growing problem in Edinburgh. Addressing this problem is one of the highest priorities for Edinburgh and the city is meeting the challenge head on with a new political coalition that is working in partnership with business.

The challenge of finding employment is significant enough for those with degrees and good exam results but for anyone without those qualifications that challenge can appear insurmountable.

The numbers tell a bleak story:

In the year ending September 2011, 6,000 residents of Edinburgh aged 16 to 24 were unemployed - 36% of the total number of people unemployed in the city
In May 2012, there were 2,845 Jobseekers Allowance claimants aged under 24 in Edinburgh - 24% of all claimants
Of the 3,423 pupils, who left publicly-funded schools in 2011, 423 - almost 12% - were unemployed nine months later.

So what is the City of Edinburgh Council doing to address this problem and secure a future for our young people?

When Chief Executive Sue Bruce took over as Chief Executive in 2011, one statistic struck her more than any other. She said: "Of the thirty two local authorities in Scotland, Edinburgh was sitting at 32nd for providing positive destinations for its school leavers from publicly funded schools."

"Scotland's Capital city was at the bottom of the list when it came to getting its young people into a job, a training course or higher education. That trend had to be tackled, it had to be arrested and reversed.

"It was clear that the problem would not be solved either quickly or by the council working alone. To create an environment where school leavers would have opportunity to realise and fulfil their potential, every sector of the city would need to come together with one purpose, to galvanise business and change the landscape for the better forever."

The result was the Edinburgh Guarantee, created to drive a cultural change that recognizes the creativity and energy that young people can bring to business, dispel the negative perceptions and unite the public, private and third sectors to achieve a common goal - A positive destination for every school leaver.

On 8th December 2011 a call went out to city businesses and organisations across all sectors to provide jobs, paid work experience, training or continued education for every school leaver in Edinburgh.

The call was made at a breakfast debate, which brought together 120 individuals from Edinburgh businesses and organisations to discuss the ongoing issue of youth unemployment in Edinburgh and to encourage participation in the development and delivery of the Edinburgh Guarantee.

Under the Guarantee, Edinburgh City Council has committed to ensuring that "...all teenagers will have the chance to leave school with a job, work placement or apprenticeship secured in order to drive down youth unemployment to zero".

What is the Council doing?

As a lead partner in the Edinburgh Guarantee, and as the city's largest single employer, the Council has fully committed to taking positive action to increase the number of opportunities that it offers to young people and to provide additional targeted support to maximise their take up.

In 2011/12 it created:

50 new apprenticeships in the Council using existing Modern Apprentice Framework

80 new training places in the Council offering support and work experience for young people assessed as not job ready

50 opportunities with Council contractors through the use of community benefit clauses

Since it's inception in 2011:

more than 100 businesses and organisations have joined the Edinburgh Guarantee

over 400 additional opportunities have been generated

50 new apprentice posts have been created within City of Edinburgh Council

"...all teenagers will have the chance to leave school with a job, work placement or apprenticeship..."

How are businesses encouraged to participate?

The Council will provide support to other employers who join the Edinburgh Guarantee through the services of a dedicated Economic Development Business Liaison Officer. (pam.peters@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Types of support available include:

- Marketing of opportunities
- Briefing of young people's support agencies
- Pre-screening of applicants
- Practical support for young person's transition into work eg bus passes, food vouchers etc
- In work support for vulnerable young people
- Training for staff to be coaches/mentors for young people
- Sign posting to potential funding sources
- Sharing success and best practice

What does that mean for young people in North Edinburgh? Will this initiative benefit them or pass them by?

From the progress being made it certainly looks like North Edinburgh is benefitting greatly from the initiative and employers are delighted at the choice of talent in the area.

The success of local initiatives has been noticed further afield - so much so that earlier this year **Craigroyston Community High School** had a very high profile visitor when HRH Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay joined a number of business leaders on a 'Seeing is believing' visit.

As part of the visit, two local business leaders talked about their experiences of taking part in a paired reading programme every Thursday to support the school's literacy programme.

The Duke heard all about the Employability Course - a course that offers pupils in S4 the chance to develop their skills, make the most of work experience opportunities and business mentoring.

Muirhouse Youth Development Group demonstrated how, having become a Social Enterprise, they ran a Bike Project in the school.

Scottish Champions of the 'Formula 1 in Schools' programme demonstrated their winning car and explained how business support had been crucial to their success.

Prince Charles visited each of these projects, and commended the links that the school and business leaders had established. He encouraged business leaders to increase their engagement with schools, and encouraged everyone to continue working towards positive destinations for all leavers.

Edinburgh's Telford College - Junior College

"There are a huge number of young people who could excel in certain areas of employment if they were made aware of them and given access and opportunity to pursue them." says Principle Miles Dibsdall (OBE). Here at our Junior College students are presented with a range of courses to help them chose a route to further education or employment. The College works together with Children and Families and Economic Development teams at the Council to ensure that course planning is linked to both senior phased in secondary school and employment opportunities being created in the city.

"By understanding the areas of work in need of employees and reflecting this need in the qualifications we provide we have a good chance of making this (the Guarantee) a reality." added Miles.

Other contributing local initiatives include **Barnardo's Works Edinburgh** based close to Granton Square. The established team is about to embark on a fourth successive year delivering employment programmes across the city.

Participants of the programme go through a tailored induction to develop their employability skills before moving on to a placement with an employer whilst still able to claim benefits. Placements give the young people opportunity to demonstrate what they can bring to a business while the employer benefits from dedicated support throughout the placement period.

» **Employers can be part of this success - contact helen.brown@barnardos.org.uk**

So far 40% of young people going through the Barnardo's programme are now in independent employment across a range of sectors.

Campaign group seeks answers on privatisation

LOCAL CAMPAIGN GROUP North Edinburgh Fights Back has written to city council leaders seeking assurances that council services will not be privatised.

The group wrote the letter following a meeting in Muirhouse, where concern was expressed over the introduction of increasing numbers of non-council staff into cleansing and refuse operations.

Writing to council leader Councillor Andrew Burns, Mike Vallance said:

I am writing on behalf of North Edinburgh Fights Back, a community group involved in opposing public service cuts and privatisation, and fighting against injustice and inequality. You will of course be familiar with our group, not least from our recent presentation of the Anti Poverty Charter to the full CEC meeting.

As is made clear in the Charter, our group is totally opposed to the privatisation of public services and the cuts in services and worsening in working conditions this invariably entails. As such we played a full part in the campaign to keep the Street Cleansing, Refuse Collection, Janitorial and related services in-house, and were very pleased when the CEC voted to reject the privatisation of these services.

Of course the Labour Group voted to keep these services in-house, and thus our members were shocked when they learnt at our meeting on 25 July in Muirhouse that your administration is presiding over the introduction of large numbers of workers from the private contractor Blue Arrow into the Street Cleansing and Refuse Collection services.

We understand that over the last fortnight around 60 Blue Arrow staff have started operating out of the Cowans Close depot, carrying out street cleansing in Edinburgh city centre. This follows the recent similar controversial use of employees from the private company Enterprise in street cleansing, an episode which was publicised in the local media.

And for several months, refuse collection workers have told us, at least 20 – 30 Blue Arrow employees have been working at the Russell Road refuse depot. In addition five lorries, each staffed by 3 Blue Arrow workers, have been operating out of Powderhall depot. What's more, Blue Arrow recently advertised for 3 refuse collection supervisors to work on a council contract.

Our members are shocked to hear the CEC are effectively disregarding the decision to keep these services in-house, a decision that so many Edinburgh citizens campaigned to achieve.

We understand from workers we have spoken to, that they believe that new workers are indeed needed and that they should be recruited as normal directly employed council workers, where possible with permanent contracts, and we totally support this.

We have also been informed that shop stewards have brought these matters up with both management and with councillors, and they report their views seem to be ignored.

We also have been informed that the CEC is trying to impose new shift patterns on workers in Refuse Collection, including a compulsory back shift, working up to 10.30pm at night. We are in complete support of the workforce's opposition to being forced to work such anti-social hours.

What's more, it is clear that these hours would mean bin lorries operating in residential areas late at night, causing disturbance to residents, including disturbing children trying to sleep before school the next day. Further we understand from workers that this would cause major problems at addresses where the workers, due to the resident's disability or frailty, need to come into gardens to take out and empty buckets: such residents are likely to be alarmed at workers doing this relatively late at night, at a time when in winter it will be long past nightfall.

In this respect, we can inform you that at our meeting several people reported bin lorries already operating very late at night, even in the early hours of the morning, in north Edinburgh/ Greater Pilton – we presume this is the private contractors which the CEC are using?

We demand that the CEC reverse the decision to use private contractors in Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing and instead take on the new workers needed as normal directly employed council employees, where-ever possible on permanent contracts. We ask for your immediate reply to explain what you are going to do about this matter.

We further ask that you send us full details of the Blue Arrow contracts in Street Cleansing and Refuse Collection, including length of time, number of workers involved, etc. In addition we ask you to inform us who authorised these contracts, for example were they decided upon at CEC committees and/ or the full Council?

The North Edinburgh Fights Back letter has been passed on to Councillor Lesley Hinds, who has responsibility for Transport, Infrastructure and Environment issues. Cllr Hinds has requested information from the Director of Services for Communities and plans to respond to the group when this information is available.

Councillors to decide on Silverknowes access

IT MAY NOT be up there with the Berlin Wall or Northern Ireland's 'peace barriers', but North Edinburgh's own long-running dispute over local access and antisocial behaviour could soon be over. Members of the city council's Transport, Infrastructure and Environment (TIE) Committee will decide whether Silverknowes and Muirhouse are to be separated by barriers at their 13 September meeting.

Following a number of incidents in part of Silverknowes last autumn, representatives from community organisations in Almond and Forth wards met with local politicians, council and police officials to discuss the possibility of closing off accesses at Silverknowes Eastway.

It proved impossible to reach agreement, however, with community groups and residents in Almond (i.e. Silverknowes) overwhelmingly in favour of closing off the accesses, while Forth community groups and residents were equally vehement in their opposition to closure. Council officials have also indicated that their policy recommendation must be to keep the accesses open.

Council officials are now compiling a report for the next meeting of the TIE committee, and local groups and individuals were invited to make submissions for inclusion in the report by 27 July.

Among the options councillors will consider will be the possibility of closing off the pedestrian and cycleway access between Silverknowes and Muirhouse at Silverknowes Eastway/Muirhouse Gardens and Silverknowes Eastway/Muirhouse Drive in the evenings.

Davidsons Mains and Silverknowes Association is one of the Almond groups pressing for closure of the access. The group points to a survey they conducted earlier this



year to gauge public opinion on the access issue. In a newsletter to residents DMSA point out: "The DMSA has previously advised residents on the outcomes from the residents opinion survey but it is worth repeating that there were 235 responses from Silverknowes and only 44 from Muirhouse. The Silverknowes return represented a remarkable 40% response and, of those who replied, 65% were in favour of complete closure and 15% wanted some form of restricted access, for example, by closure in the evening and overnight."

The group is expected to make both formal written submission and to send a deputation to the forthcoming transport committee meeting to argue the case for closure.

Opponents of the proposals, however, argue that closing off and separating communities is not the answer. Roy Douglas, chairman of Muirhouse Salvesen Community Council, confirmed: "We will be making a submission and plan to send a deputation to the TIE meeting. The access must remain open and we will be putting that case strongly to councillors".



LOCAL ROADS were temporarily closed to traffic during the school holidays to allow children to play in the streets. First Muirhouse Park, then Ferry Road Drive was closed off for four hours for Play Out events organised by the Total Craigroyston group.

Total Craigroyston's Sarah Low explained what it's all about: "Play Out involves closing a street for a few hours, meaning children and families can play safely in their community. Among the activities are lots of traditional games – skipping, football, rounders and even 'pop-up theatre'! Local parents identified the need for events like this during the recent Total Craigroyston consultations, and they've proved to be very popular – and great fun!"

Local man Robert Pearson joined in the fun in Muirhouse Park, and he takes up the story: "Road closed signs positioned at either end of Muirhouse Park, this was out of the norm. Was it another police incident or something else? It was certainly something else and something that Muirhouse had never had happen before. Local group Total Craigroyston had arranged a fun, safe environment for children and families to play.

From 11am until 3pm the street was a 'no-go' for any motor vehicles, which was enough to get the kids smiling – and when the fun started then the smiles got even bigger! Total Craigroyston staff and volunteers from the North Edinburgh Women's Group had many games and activities in mind, and officers from Lothian and Borders Police were also there to enjoy the fun and get to know the locals.

More information about Play Out days can be found on the Total Craigroyston blog at totalcraigroyston.wordpress.com or call Sarah Low on 552 5700, email sarah.low@ea.edin.sch.uk



Locals not converted by Accies development plans

Stockbridge traders and residents have vowed to fight Edinburgh Academicals' latest plans to upgrade their Raeburn Place home

by DAVID PICKERING

THE RUGBY CLUB wants to build a new 5000 spectator venue – but it's their plans to add up to nine retail units as part of the development that's causing consternation in Stockbridge.

The club has tried unsuccessfully to upgrade its situation for ten years now. Edinburgh Accies and Festival Inns finally got planning permission in 2005 following a three year planning impasse but that development fell through. Then in 2010 new plans were tabled for a clubhouse and 52 bed hotel but these also came to nothing.

The latest plans for a 'sensitive redevelopment' would see a modern sports centre with boutique-style outlets fronting on to Comely Bank Road, with a series of clubhouse suites and function rooms as well as tiers of seats constructed above the units to face on to the pitches. A new rugby museum would also be created in adjacent Portgower Place.

Divided opinions

At a packed public meeting organised by Stockbridge Inverleith Community Council to discuss the plans on 18 July, Edinburgh Accies insisted their latest proposals are necessary to secure the club's future, but assurances that the club will work with the local community were dismissed by some participants as 'pure spin'. The packed meeting in LifeCare House was clearly divided on the club's plans – many are in favour but just as many seem implacably opposed.

Frank Spratt, executive chairman of Accies, said the development should be seen as an opportunity for the local area and will bring benefits to both the club and the wider community. He said: "Edinburgh Accies is as proud of being part of Stockbridge as we are of our role in the history of Scottish rugby. Our proposals are one of the most ambitious made by any community enterprise in Edinburgh. They will secure the future for EAFC in Stockbridge; creating jobs as well as enhancing Stockbridge as a tourist destination with a new museum of rugby. We are delighted to work with the local community to deliver the highest quality proposals possible for enhancing the area."

However Ann McLeod, a founding member of Save our Stockbridge, a group created to fight the proposals, said: "Our group

is for everyone who is against a 5000 seater stadium being built in Stockbridge in the centre of Edinburgh. The stadium is to be built over the historic rugby grounds at Raeburn Place. These are the oldest rugby grounds in Scotland and the site of the first ever international rugby match. The area is surrounded by beautiful Victorian and Georgian buildings. It has a unique skyline across to Inverleith Park and beyond to Botanic gardens. I fear that a monstrosity of glass and steel would destroy this skyline and blight this historic area."

She continued: "The current pitches are well used and well-loved by the community. The proposed stadium will require thousands of parking spaces and room for the structure itself, so one of the two historic rugby pitches would almost certainly be lost. Retail outlets are planned as part of the stadium. The Stockbridge area already has empty shops. I believe this massive development would destroy the character of the area. I believe this would adversely affect local businesses and reduce property prices. The chaos generated on the main road by the thousands of cars coming out of the stadium does not appear to have been considered. The drunken hospitality nights would also be unpleasant; there is already a problem with this. There is also concern about the historic walls and protected trees around this ground. This development is madness and totally out of proportion – Edinburgh Accies need to think again."

Following public consultation, a planning application will be submitted. If this is approved by the city council's planning committee, Edinburgh Accies hopes to complete the project by summer 2014.

The controversial proposals were on the agenda at Stockbridge Inverleith Community Council meeting on 15 August, but no decision was reached. Community Council chairman Steven Brennan explained: "Frank (Spratt) stated that the Accies application will be another three weeks, so we need to see the final proposal before we take a view on it. We will let you know when the application is submitted so people can form their own opinions."

Edinburgh Accies is Scotland's oldest rugby club and their Raeburn Place home was the venue for the first ever Scotland v England rugby international in 1871. It seems that hard-fought battles will continue for some time to come – and perhaps in committee rooms as well as on the pitch.



Vicki says goodbye to Granton!

VICKI RIDLEY has left Granton Youth Centre. Vicki, who has managed the youth centre since 2003, has taken up a new post with Canongate Youth Project.

Granton Youth Centre opened on West Granton Road in 2003 in a building shared with the Pilton Partnership. The new Centre did not have the most successful of starts, however, and it was only with the arrival of Vicki as new manager that the Centre started to live up to its potential.

Ten years on, under Vicki's drive and leadership, Granton Youth Centre has gone from strength to strength: constantly building and developing to offer a comprehensive range of services in a programme that's always been planned with, and centred around, the needs and requirements of the young people themselves.

Vicki said: "Ten years is a long time to be involved in any organisation, and it's certainly the longest that I've been involved with an organisation. Granton Youth Centre has been an amazing place to work, often challenging, but never a dull moment and occasionally loads of fun! I have lots of fond memories to take away with me, and I have met some truly amazing people whose courage and resilience, kindness and positivity have blown me away, and kept me, the service and everyone else at GYC going when things got tough."

"Although the choppy waters of local community politics don't always help with plain sailing, some of the partnerships, networks and local organisations we have worked with have been really valuable. I hope young people throughout Forth continue to benefit from a range and diversity of provision which meets their needs and that all the organisations in the area have a sustainable and prosperous future."

"It's great to see how GYC has become a viable and valued resource for young people where once there was none. My favourite memories are largely concerning situations where young people do well – they receive certificates, awards, or make a small/medium/large breakthrough. My least favourite memories will be collated and written up in small novella format for publication at a later date!"

I look forward to working with friends and colleagues in my new role as Manager of Canongate Youth Project."

When advertising for a replacement, Granton Youth Centre's voluntary Board of Management said they were seeking 'an exceptional candidate to lead our organisation and take our plans forward'. Interviews take place this month, but Vicki will indeed be a hard act to follow.

PCA: working for West Pilton for over fifty years

Established in 1958, Pilton Central Association (PCA) is North Edinburgh's oldest community-managed organisation and the group is looking for community support at their forthcoming AGM. PCA was set up to maximise community influence, address poverty and bring real economic and community benefits to the area, and those aims remain the driving force behind the organisation today.

BASED AT WEST PILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (which it manages), PCA supports community involvement and participation within North Edinburgh and works closely with other agencies and stakeholders to help tackle poverty and to improve the appeal and wealth of the local area. Through innovative initiatives and creative approaches, PCA aims to work together with others to ensure that the community is at the heart of local decision-making.

West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre is North Edinburgh's longest established community centre and the building in West Pilton Grove remains the hub for community learning and activity in the area. The Centre's varied programme of activities is tailored to meet the needs of the whole local community - young and old, educational and recreational. Earlier this year the Neighbourhood Centre became the home of North Edinburgh's new food co-op, the Fabby Food Store.

Pilton Central Association also provides the building and supports the Thrift Shop on 26 Ferry Road Drive. The Thrift Shop sells second-hand clothes and household goods, providing an invaluable service for local families. Run by friendly volunteers, donations of clothes, household goods and children's toys are always welcome - and the Thrift Shop would also welcome new helpers to join their happy band, so get in touch if you would like to volunteer for this community resource!

PCA also supported the local Community Employability service by providing a home for the project at 28 Ferry Road Drive, just

next door to the Thrift Shop. Community Employability, (formerly Working Links), a local 'one stop shop' committed to helping North Edinburgh residents into education, training and employment, closed earlier this year after failing to secure a new contract. PCA is hoping that the building will now be used by other community organisations.

PCA's Betty McVay, who received an MBE for services to the Pilton community in 2000, said: "The PCA does have a remarkable history and we are very proud of what the organisation has achieved. What is more important, however, is the future and for communities to flourish we need active organisations and active, committed local people to make that happen. Many of the challenges facing our area today are just the same as those the community faced all those years ago - and when there are improvements, we've got to be vigilant to make sure things aren't allowed to slide back. The PCA, like all community organisations, needs committed activists to make sure that the community's voice is heard - that's one thing that's never changed over the years and it's as important now as it ever was. There's still work to be done, and the PCA will be part of that - listening to, and supporting, this community."

» **PCA's AGM will be held in West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre on Thursday 30 August at 6.30pm. All welcome - For further information telephone 551 3194**

"The PCA... needs committed activists to make sure that the community's voice is heard"



Work starts on West Pilton homes

Work has started at West Gait, a 93 home mixed-tenure site in West Pilton

DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION specialist Places for People has chosen affordable housing expert Lovell to deliver the new houses with a £7.7 million design and build contract.

The mixed-tenure scheme, situated off the waterfront access road at West Pilton Road, Terrace and Street, is being developed by Places for People. The new housing will complement a previous development by Castle Rock Edinvar that neighbours the new scheme.

Lovell was awarded the project after bidding competitively as one of Places for People's framework contractors. Construction work started last month and the development is expected to be completed in October next year.

The new housing - a mix of 93 houses and flats - will feature 48 homes for affordable ownership, 15 homes for social rent and 30 mid-market rent homes. The affordable ownership units are a mixture of both shared equity and shared ownership, to provide as many options as possible for people to move in. Mid market rent properties enable those in employment who could not otherwise afford main market rents to access good quality new affordable homes.

The energy-efficient new homes will incorporate high levels of insulation to the external wall fabric and will also include a heat recovery ventilation system. This ventilation system exchanges air extracted from the kitchen and bathrooms for fresh air - achieving good air quality - with heat being recovered in the process.

Councillor Cammy Day, the city council's housing leader said: "North Edinburgh's undergoing

a transformation thanks to the effective partnerships that exist between the local community, the council and housing associations such as Castle Rock Edinvar. We are committed to the development of good quality affordable housing, making sure that the city's people are well housed. The development of this site will deliver 93 homes for rent and ownership which completes an important part of the regeneration of this part of the city."

Alister Steele, managing director of Castle Rock Edinvar, the Scottish Registered Social Landlord within the Places for People Group, said: "This development is bringing much-needed new affordable homes for Edinburgh, and we are providing a range of tenures which increases the number of options available for people. We will also maintain a long-term interest managing the development once complete. The properties will be sustainable to keep fuel costs down and high standards will ensure residents have new homes to be proud of."

The scheme will also create new local jobs - Lovell will take on six school or college leavers to work on the project and two apprentices. Lovell regional director Alan Taylor said: "We're delighted to have been chosen by Places for People to deliver this much-needed new affordable housing development for West Gait. We are committed to delivering a wide-ranging legacy of benefits in the communities where we work and the scheme, as well as delivering high-quality, energy-efficient new homes, will also create important job and training places for local young people."



WEST PILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>Family Group Activities 10.30am-12.00 £1 per family Interactive play for parents/carers with pre-school children.</p> <p>Buggy Brigade 12.00-2.30pm 50p per adult Learning opportunities for parents/carers of young children in a social setting.</p> <p>16+ Activity Hub 12.30pm-3.00pm Information and advice about training, volunteering and job opportunities. One to one support available. Drop in and appointments available through the day by calling Mary or Nicola on 551 3194.</p> <p>Step & Sculpt 7.15pm-8.15pm £1 per person Get fit, tone up, have fun. In conjunction with MOVE IT Project.</p>	<p>ESOL 10.00am-12.00pm English classes for speakers of other languages. Assessments can be arranged.</p> <p>JASS and P7+ Sports 6.00pm-7.30pm 50p per child Working towards the JASS Award.</p> <p>Zumba 6.20pm-7.10pm £4 per person Energetic dance exercise.</p> <p>Total Toning 7.30pm-8.30pm £1 per person Combination of Aerobics/Toning & stretches to target the whole body. In conjunction with MOVE IT Project</p>	<p>Content Group 9.30am-2.00pm For frail, elderly adults (referral only).</p> <p>16+ Activity Hub 4.00pm-6.00pm Information and advice about training, volunteering and job opportunities. One to one support available. Drop in and appointments available through the day by calling Mary or Nicola on 551 3194</p> <p>Kids Dance P1-P7 5.30pm-7.00pm 50p per child Come along and learn some steps and routines.</p> <p>Baton Twirling 5.30pm-9.00pm A fun activity of dancing and performing. If you are interested in Baton Twirling, come along and speak to Claire to put your child's name on the list.</p>
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Soft Play 9.30am-11.30am 50p per adult A chance for parents/ carers with under 5's to socialise.</p> <p>Sports Mix (P4-P7) 5.30pm-7.30pm 50p per child Try different sports activities.</p> <p>Box Fit 7.00pm-8.00pm £1.50 per person Get Moving, Get Fit, Get Boxing.</p>	<p>After School Club (P1- P3) 2.30pm-4.00pm 50p per child Lots of fun and activities.</p> <p>Tea Dance 1.00pm-3.30pm £2 per person LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH If transport is required contact Lianne on 551 1671. In conjunction with the MOVE IT Project.</p>	<p>Baton Twirling 10.00am-1.00pm A fun activity of dancing and performing. If you are interested in Baton Twirling, come along and speak to Claire to put your child's name on the list.</p> <p>ESOL for families 12.00pm-2.00pm English classes for speakers or other languages. Activities for children under 12 years.</p>

CENTRE INFORMATION

Memberships

All Adult users of the Centre are required to pay a yearly Membership of £1. A form can be completed and payment can be made at Reception. Under 16's Membership is free.

Internet

Check out our website detailing all our courses/activities. Type in the following web address exactly as shown. www.joininedinburgh.org/westpiltonneighbourhoodcentre

Email

If you would like programmes and information on new courses/activities at the Centre emailed to you, either come into Reception and leave your details or email CLD-WestPilton@ea.edin.sch.uk

Lost Property

If you think you may have left something at the Centre, ask at Reception. We hold any lost property for 1 month after which it will be disposed of.

Childrens Parties

We can offer room hire for Children's Parties at a reasonable rate. Call the Centre for costs and available dates and times.

SPORTS HALL BOOKINGS

We have free space in our Sports Hall for Badminton, Table Tennis or Basketball at various times and days throughout the week. Call the Centre to book an hour at £1 per adult, 50p per child.

FABBY FOOD STORE (Food Co-op)

We can offer milk, bread, fresh fruit and veg, and various other items. Call in to collect an order form and then place your order by Friday lunchtime for collection on Tuesday. Various fruit and veg items will be available throughout the week.

West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre

19 West Pilton Grove, Edinburgh, EH4 4BY

Tel: 0131 551 3194

Centre opening times

Monday – Thursday	9.00am to 9.00pm
Friday	9.00am to 6.00pm
Saturday	10.00am to 2.00pm

More community groups in Pilton:

Tenants and Residents in Pilton (TRIP)

Tenants and Residents in Pilton (TRIP) is a group of local people with a common interest in making the neighbourhood a better place to live.

The group aims to bring people in this area together to solve problems and foster community spirit, believing that by working together tenants and residents can have more influence than by working alone

If you have a problem you would like help with, or you want to make Pilton a better place to live, contact TRIP or come along to one of their regular meetings. Details of meetings and activities can be found on TRIP's blog at <http://piltonresidents.org.uk/>

West Pilton West Granton Community Council

Community councils are groups of people who care about their community and want to make their area a better place to live. They have an important role in local democracy, representing the views of local people on Neighbourhood Partnerships and conveying these views to the Council and other organisations.

West Pilton West Granton Community Council meets on the first Monday of the month in West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre. All welcome – for further information about the community council your contact is Gwen Campbell, email gwen.campbell@ea.edin.sch.uk

West Pilton Community Gardeners

West Pilton's Community Garden is on West Pilton Brae and a dedicated team of local residents will always welcome new helpers.

Find out about West Pilton Community Garden on their Facebook page or telephone 07778 732171.

West Pilton and Muirhouse Community Gala

The big event takes place at West Pilton Park on Sunday 26 August when celebrity guest Grant Stott gets the show on the road at 12 noon. There will be loads of things to do and see for all the family and it promises to be a memorable day.

For all the latest information please check out the website at www.westpiltonandmuirhousegala.co.uk – and the group's on Facebook and Twitter too!

PCHP: ready for the challenge ahead

PILTON COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT (PCHP) has come through a tough year, and it would have been no surprise to have found staff and board feeling a bit down at their recent annual general meeting. That wasn't the case, however, and a steady succession of staff and volunteers took turns to highlight some of the exciting initiatives they have planned for the year ahead.

PCHP is one of North Edinburgh's oldest community organisations. Set up originally as The Health Hut, the project celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2010. Like all community projects PCHP has had its share of ups and downs over the years but there's no doubt that last year was one of the toughest of them all.

Chairperson Irene Garden told the annual general meeting on 26 June: "As in previous years we were faced with severe cuts, so we have had to say goodbye to the Barri Grubb shop, with four redundancies. That was a very sad time for us all, and other, much-valued staff have also had to leave because their funding was not renewed. Our former manager Dave Hewitt left at Christmas, so we have lost a lot of good colleagues; well-known, familiar faces that were well known in the community."

However Irene went on to highlight some of the project's successes. "There is still a lot to be positive about – among other things we have recruited a new worker to do some research for Barri Grubb, the Muirhouse Million Steps project was both original and very successful and our school counselling sessions have been very well received. Women Supporting Women continues to offer excellent one to one support and we are delighted that waiting lists are now coming down and that people in our community are getting counselling when they need it. Thanks to our brilliant volunteers our Befriending Service is also going from strength to strength – and volunteers are the backbone of the very successful Walking Project too".

Manager Jen Richards told the meeting: "I have already spent two and a half years here in different roles and I am very passionate about keeping our services going – Pilton Community Health Project has been part of this community for 27 years and I'd love to think we can be here for another twenty-seven".

Jen said her priorities over the coming months will be to raise the project's profile, maximising funding



by looking at new income generation streams and developing and building new and existing partnerships.

"There have been a lot of changes and I'm very grateful to very talented and totally dedicated we have here – I really value their support in a very challenging environment. Yes, it is challenging but I'm sure we'll come out smiling at the other end!"

Local councillor Cammy Day then conducted election business before the staff team gave updates on both what's been happening and what's going to be happening this year. And there's an awful lot to look forward to at PCHP ...

Community Healthy Lifestyles Project's Motivate to Move and Muirhouse Million Steps 2012, Use Your Loaf – a bread baking class that will be taking place at North Edinburgh Arts Centre, a major consultation into men's health to find the gaps in current service provision. Then there are plans to develop the popular walking programme, the possible development of a Zumba class in Stockbridge as a social enterprise, continuing to meet the needs for counselling services. The recently launched SOURCE information room will be developed and good news about Barri Grubb, too – Barri's no' deid at a'! While the shop is no more, the service has been restructured and Barri Grubb will be relaunched – maybe with a name change – in the near future. In the meantime summer events are planned; a community food map, more partnership working and the Food for Thought forum will be expanded.

» That's quite a catalogue – check out Pilton Community Health Project's website at www.pchp.org.uk for an update.

Get set for Broughton's



FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS of last year's event, Broughton High School's brilliant community festival takes place on Saturday 22 September from 11am – 4pm with fun for all ages.

Among the attractions are music and dance with pipers, samba band, rock choir, capoeira, drumming and dance workshops and displays. There will be lots of sports tasters and competitions including football, rugby, tennis, fencing, basketball, table tennis and more:

- There are bouncy castles and inflatables for all ages, plus the star attraction climbing tower!
- There will also be a huge craft fair with loads of fantastic handcrafted goods, plus come and have a go at wet felting, leather working, jewellery making or decopatch.
- Get your bike fixed for free and have a go at the bike obstacle course!
- Sit in a fire engine and ring the siren!
- Or how about face painting, nail bar, coconut shy, chemistry capers, fantastic balloons, henna tattoos – the list goes on and on!

The village café will be selling tea and cakes and there will be a barbecue, pizza and ice cream. Entry and many activities are free.

» For further information see www.broughton.edin.sch.uk or check out Septemberfest 2012 on Facebook

Stepping Out in September

Pilton Community Health Project's Healthy Lifestyles coordinator Lisa Arnott has news of two opportunities to step out next month:

WALKING at WORK WEEK

Monday 17 September to Friday 21 September

On 17 September Pilton Community Health Project will be launching its new physical activity event 'Walking at Work Week'. Walking is free and is the simplest way to becoming fit. "Walking at Work Week" is a great way to encouraging us to think about the way we get to work, school or shops. Can I walk there and leave the car or bus?

Do we take a car to a meeting or shops when I can walk? This week we are hoping as many local business, schools and local organisations will join us in 'Walking at Work Week' wear a pedometer for that week and show just how far we all walk.

All the steps made during 'Walking at Work Week' will contribute to the Muirhouse Million Steps which takes place on Friday 28 September from 10am.



MUIRHOUSE MILLION STEPS 2012

Friday 28 September 2012

10am - 12.30 from North Edinburgh Arts, Pennywell Court Muirhouse

After the success of previous years the Muirhouse Million Steps 2012 is currently being planned. This year's event will take place on Friday 28 September, 10am to 12.30am. The fun family walking event has proven to be popular in previous years and a way of encouraging local people to take those steps towards a healthier lifestyle.

This year Muirhouse Million Steps will have three walks, a long, short and toddlers walk. For every registered walker they will receive an amazing goody bag and vouchers for swimming at Craigroyston Community High School and a free Zumba class at PCHP.



» To register for the walk, or for more information about Walking at Work Week, contact Lisa Arnott at Pilton Community Health Project, telephone 551 1671.

Social History Group's site on show at local libraries

NORTH EDINBURGH SOCIAL HISTORY Group will be giving demonstrations of their 'Never Give Up' on-line archive at Granton and Muirhouse libraries next month.

The social history group spent three years researching North Edinburgh's proud history of community activism, amassing a huge volume of material in the process. The group's 'Never Give Up' book received great reviews when it launched last year, and all the background information - and a lot of great material that didn't make the book due to size constraints - was digitised and launched on-line by charity SCRAN in April for all to share and enjoy.

Members of North Edinburgh Social History Group will be visiting the local libraries to publicise and demonstrate this amazing resource at two local libraries next month - at Muirhouse on Thursday 6 September from 10am and then at Granton on Wednesday 12 September from 1pm.

It's well worth a visit - a treasure trove of community memories which can be accessed for free by using your library card!



» For further information on Scran visit www.scran.ac.uk

Welcome to Muirhouse

A young Spanish Telford College student spent eight months taking photographs in Muirhouse while working on a documentary portfolio for his HND in photography. The result was some superb images, excellent exam results – and friendships that could last a lifetime

BORJA PRADA GARCIA first became interested in Muirhouse when he passed through on the bus on the way to college. “It was an interesting place, photogenic”, he said. “At first sight it seemed like it had been painted on a grey canvas, but later as I visited day after day I found a broader palette of colours behind it’s doors. Muirhouse is actually a colourful place, because of it’s people”.

Borja may have seemed like an unusual figure, always armed with his camera but as the days and weeks passed he got to know local residents. “Some people were wary and suspicious when I approached them, one or two were threatening, but most people were friendly and helpful. They were inquisitive and interested when I explained what I was trying to do”, he said. “I found that there are lots of misconceptions about Muirhouse; it may seem like a cold place but the people were warm – their smiles can light misty days.”

One family in particular welcomed Borja into their home. “The Sargents were so good to me”, he said. “They were like a family for me here in Muirhouse – they let me share their lives and I visited them every week.”

Over days, weeks and months Borja built up his portfolio, photographing buildings, people and situations on film and then developing prints. It was a long and laborious process – Borja reckons he shot between forty and fifty rolls of film – but the effort and the expense was worth it: Borja gained 98% for his Graded Unit 2!

Borja self-published ‘Welcome to Muirhouse’, a 60-page book of Muirhouse prints, and now hopes to exhibit his work both at local venues and at galleries further afield.

North Edinburgh Arts Centre will perhaps be the first of many when it stages an exhibition of Borja’s work in October.

Borja’s tutor Susan Richards said: “Each year we have three or four projects worth taking further, but every so often a student submits work that is extra special and Borja’s portfolio falls into that category. It is a really impressive body of work and I know how long and how hard Borja worked to achieve it. That dedication and the images he’s produced certainly deserve a wider audience and I’m delighted that more people will be now be able to appreciate it”.

Borja makes a living by working in a restaurant, but the young man from Madrid won’t be leaving Muirhouse any time soon. “The project is ongoing and I intend to shoot in Muirhouse for several years. I thank all the people of Muirhouse who helped me during the project, especially Jim, Jennifer and the Sargents. It is still a very close relationship – they are my friends and we will stay in touch with each other.”

If a picture paints a thousand words: some images of Muirhouse ...



“their smiles can light misty days”



Colleges Showcase Best of the Fest

Over 4000 people attended a series of events designed to showcase student talent and success as part of Edinburgh's biggest student led festival last month. The Edinburgh Colleges Festival brought together the collective student talent present at Edinburgh's Telford College, Jewel & Esk College and Stevenson College Edinburgh ahead of the proposed merger set to take place later this year.

Proving they can work together to offer the very best in student-focused further education across a variety of sectors, the event featured the work and performances of over 1,000 students from all three colleges.

Showcasing sporting, arts and design, music, performing arts and hospitality achievements and many others, the festival programme featured no less than 43 events over six weeks.

Brian Lister, Interim Principal for Edinburgh College, said: "This year's festival has been a huge success, not only in terms of its size and scale, but the fact that it demonstrates the potential of the Edinburgh College, for offering one of the biggest and best further education facilities. The merger of the three colleges has the interest of the students at its heart and so it made sense that we brought together the collective talent of the combined student body for the Festival."

He continued: "I attended several of the events and it was a great pleasure to see the hard work and talent of all the students involved. There are definitely a few future stars out there and we wish every single student the very best of luck in their future careers. We look forward to building upon the success of this year's event in years to come"

Feedback about the festival from an online survey was extremely positive and revealed that 100% of people would like to see an Edinburgh Colleges Festival next year.

The new Edinburgh College will be formed later this year when Telford, Jewel & Esk and Stevenson Colleges merge to bring together around 35,000 students across four main campuses.



Postcode Challenge was 'wheely' great!

HUNDREDS OF KEEN CYCLISTS and enthusiastic walkers kick-started summer by tackling the Postcode Challenge on 1 July. Although billed as a 'challenge', the Postcode Challenge is really a fun event and an opportunity to discover – or rediscover – your local natural habitat.

Participants of all ages and abilities set their own pace, checking in at ten pit-stops along the cycle path routes and collecting stamps to be in with a chance of winning prizes, with loads of free goodies to collect along the way too.

Zero Waste Aware Scotland, State Street, Drylaw Community Centre, Drylaw Community Garden, Spokes and Muirhouse Youth Development Group) also had stands along the Postcode Challenge route, helping participants on their way!

Liz Stewart, of organisers Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust said: "The Postcode Challenge was a great event and we were so lucky as it must have been about the only sunny day in the last month! We believe that there were at least 300 participants – walkers and cyclists. The day went really well and it was such a happy, good-natured event and loads of great feedback – helped of course by some good weather for a change!"

It took a mighty team effort to make the Challenge such a success, Liz said.

"There's a huge list of people to thank! The Postcode Lottery and their players for funding the event in the first place, for manning a postcode stop on the day and for providing prizes. Other stall holders were our co-organisers, The Bike Station, who also provided bike repairs on the day and kept all the wheels turning; Spokes, State Street, MYDG Muirhouse Youth Development Group, Drylaw Community Centre and Drylaw Community Garden. We also had great prizes to give away and were very grateful to all donors: The Bike Station, The



Filmhouse, Greenyonder Tours, Hula Juice Bar, ELGT, Spokes, the Postcode Lottery, Alpine Bikes gift voucher donated by State Street, Royal Yacht Britannia - I think that's everyone, but it's quite a list so apologies if we've missed anyone out!"

"We were delighted to support the Postcode Challenge Treasure Hunt again this year," said Clara Govier, Head of Charities, People's Postcode Trust. "It's a great event and it gets everyone outside and learning a little more about the beautiful environment right here in the city."

Triumphant Technophonia!

Local schoolchildren make Olympic music

DISABLED MUSICIANS using new technology took centre stage with City of Edinburgh Music School (CESM) students when they performed Technophonia, an orchestral arrangement to celebrate the Olympics, to great acclaim recently.

The disabled musicians played specially designed instruments with brilliant names like skoog, soundbeam and brainfingers! - which detect tiny movements, making it easier for people with disabilities to perform. The children rehearsed weekly at Broughton High School, home of the renowned CEMS, before going on to perform in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London's Southbank.

The children worked with Drake Music Scotland, a charity established in 1997 with the ethos that 'disability is no barrier to making music'. DMS's Thursa Sanderson said: "Our artistic director knew Tudor (Morris, head of CEMS) and when we were applying for the New Music 20x12 funding for the commission, we thought it would be great to approach Tudor and ask if his pupils would like to be involved as they are recognised as the best young players from Edinburgh and the surrounding area."

She went on: "It makes a huge difference for our young musicians with disabilities to play in an ensemble with them, because they rarely, if ever, get the chance to play or perform along with their peers, so it is a great experience. I think it works both ways, as it opens the eyes of the CEMS students to the technology and what you can do creatively with it, allowing them to see how young people with disabilities are able to play music - they just need the right resources and support."

Scots composer Oliver Searle was one of twenty composers commissioned to write a twelve minute piece to celebrate the Cultural Olympiad, and his 'Technophonia' provided a platform for the disabled musicians to showcase their talents - the soloists were Anthony Swift and Chris Jacquin, who both have cerebral palsy and Stephanie Forrest on soundbeam, brainfingers and skoog respectively.

Andrew (15) said: "When I was wee all I wanted to do was play an instrument. It's just so amazing to get the opportunity to show people what I can actually be capable of."

The performances received great acclaim. "Triumphant Technophonia!", "momentous achievement", "brilliantly conceived" and "astonishing demonstration" are just a few of the many glowing comments on the three performances.



Scottish Gas staff support local charity

SCOTTISH GAS STAFF came to the aid of a local food bank recently when they collected tins and packets of food for the Basics Bank based at The Christian Centre in West Pilton. In these tough economic times more and more people need a helping hand and the Scottish Gas team's efforts have ensured that the local food bank - which relies on charitable donations - remains well stocked.

Angie Lumsden of Scottish Gas explained: "Over recent years we have had a big campaign to support Edinburgh Womens Aid with our Easter Egg appeal - this year we collected over 300 eggs, many of which were distributed through local projects here in North Edinburgh. We decided we would build on that and, after speaking to Forth councillor Cammy Day, we decided to collect foodstuffs for the local food bank run by Edinburgh City Mission in West Pilton."

The response from Waterfront Avenue staff was overwhelming, donations rolled in and when Tom and Mark from the Basics Bank called in to uplift the collection they were overwhelmed!

"A donation like this will feed 25 families for a month. It's incredible and very much appreciated", said Tom. Mark added: "Scottish Gas staff have been so generous and this will make a big difference to people's lives. It's a great help."

Angie added: "We couldn't have done this without the help and support of our Wellbeing Team, who have been great. I'd like to think we could do something like this maybe twice a year".

Tom and Mark are flanked in the photograph by Scottish Gas staff Steve and Ross.

Let's hear it for the girls!

MUIRHOUSE WOMEN'S GROUP first came to the NEN's attention when they wrote a letter about poverty to the Prime Minister last year, and they're never stopped campaigning since! The group's determination was recently rewarded when they received The Edinburgh Adult Education Award for Outstanding Achievement during Adult Learners Week.

Group members picked up their trophy at a celebration event at the City Chambers - and the icing on the cake followed when new Lord Provost Donald Wilson invited our local ladies to lunch!

Muirhouse Women's Group - now North Edinburgh Women's Group - has been involved in a number of activities, including:

- Writing to the Prime Minister to highlight the plight of poorer people being exacerbated by welfare reforms
- Researching, compiling and presenting a report on Poverty for last autumn's Craigroyston Conference
- Actively supporting the North Edinburgh Fights Back campaign, including addressing councillors as part of a delegation
- Working with Muirhouse Library to help resolve local antisocial behaviour issues, then choosing new children's books and helping to organise a successful Open Day.

The women are keen to continue what they've started. Cathy Ahmed said: "This is a brilliant group and it's changed things for all of us - we've got more confidence and we've done things we would never have attempted before. We support each other and have a great laugh when we're together - we're different characters and ages but have a lot in common too - we've got lots of ideas and we've got plenty more to do."

Community Learning Development workers Sarah Low and Lynn McCabe support the group. Sarah said: "They have come so far, attracting new members, experiencing drama, gaining confidence and learning new skills - and during all this they've also



managed to have fun: decorating banners, going on family trips and volunteering at the Muirhouse Play Out Event! This is an amazing - and well deserved - achievement."

North Edinburgh Fights Back's Willie Black said: "Our community has a history of strong women who fight for what they believe in. These women are made in that mould - they won't be brushed aside and smell bullshit at a hundred yards! They're a credit to North Edinburgh and we need more like them".

Presenting the Awards at the City Chambers, Marco Biagi MSP said: "This is a great example of non-formal learning in the community and shows the benefits that come from life long learning".

The women received further recognition when a motion by Forth councillor Cammy Day congratulating the group was supported by the full council meeting on 28 June.

For further information about North Edinburgh Womens Group activities call Sarah Low on 552 5700, or email her at sarah.low@edinburgh.gov.uk



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Wesley Court, 13 Royston Mains Place,
Granton, Edinburgh, EH5 1LG
Phone & Fax: 0131 552 4568
Email: scheme.granton@mha.org.uk
Website: www.mha.org.uk



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Summer is Coming! Here's a Date for your Diary

Come rain or shine there is
Free Fun for all the Family at:

North Edinburgh Community Festival Saturday 29 September 2012

Join us at The Forthquarter Park (behind Telford College and Morrison's) for this your 4th annual community event and enjoy an afternoon of Free Fun and Discovery.

A wide range of free attractions and activities for everyone - come and discover what this area of North Edinburgh has to offer!

**Community Information Stands
and Car Boot Spaces available**

To book your place email Jim Pattison
Jim.Pattison@edinburgh.gov.uk



Muirhouse & Salvesen Community Council

c/o Muirhouse Millennium Centre
7 Muirhouse Medway EH4 4RW

t: 0131 467 3578

e: Muirhouse&salvesencommunitycouncil@live.com
w-www.muirhouse.wordpress.com

MEETING DATES - 2012

every 3rd Tuesday of each month

18th September
16th October
20th November
18th December

Granton Information Centre (GIC) provides free, impartial and confidential advice and assistance on a range of issues including welfare benefits, housing advice, tax credits and debt.

Drop in sessions (Granton Information Centre):

Monday & Wednesday: All HOUSING issues: 9.30 – 12.30

Tuesday & Thursday: BENEFITS & MONEY ADVICE issues: 9.30 – 12.30

Outreach:

Tuesday: 10.00 – 1.00 CREWE MEDICAL CENTRE
(Only for patients of Crewe Medical Centre)

Tuesday: 2.00 – 4.00 MUIRHOUSE MEDICAL GROUP
(Only for patients of Muirhouse Medical Group)

Home visits and appointments may be available on request.

Telephone/Fax: 0131 552 0458

134 – 138 West Granton Road, Edinburgh, EH5 1PE



MUIRHOUSE SLIMMING CLUB

Muirhouse Slimming Club meets in the ground floor flat, Birnie's Court, Muirhouse View on Thursdays from 5 – 7.30pm.

£5 joining fee, then only £2 per week

The Club Leader and existing members offer ideas, encouragement and recipes to help each other reach their goals and there are also day and evening outings throughout the year.

Come along, you have nothing to lose but weight!!!

Call Irene on 554 6447 and join a Fun Slimming Club!

Councillor Lesley Hinds

Labour Councillor for Inverleith

Surgery Times:

Wednesday (during term time)

6pm Ferryhill Primary School, Groathill Road North
7pm Stockbridge Library, Hamilton Place

Contact phone: 0313 529 3235



Alison Johnstone

MSP for Lothian Region

On the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month during term time I hold a surgery for Lothian residents at the Scottish Parliament between 11am and 1pm.

Please call to book a surgery appointment or to arrange another time and venue that is convenient for you.

Contact me on 0131 348 6421

Alison.Johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk



Malcolm Chisholm MSP

Surgeries every Saturday 10a.m. at Leith Library and 12 noon Royston Wardieburn Community Centre



Mark Lazarowicz, MP

Member of Parliament for Edinburgh North & Leith

Weekly Surgeries:

(No Appointment Required)

4.00pm Stockbridge Library, Hamilton Place
5.00pm Constituency Office, 5 Croall Place

Constituency Office:

Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30 - 1.30-4.30

5 Croall Place, Edinburgh EH7 4LT

Tel: 0131-557-0577 - Fax: 0131-557-5759

Email: mark.lazarowicz.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.marklazarowicz.org.uk



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Zumba Toning - Sundays 12pm - 1.00pm

Boxercise - Sundays 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Classes are suitable for all fitness levels. No need to book in advance.

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➤ Visit the website for more details of all classes - or email funfitnessforall@yahoo.co.uk to pre-register your interest in the Powerhoop classes.

Discounts are available for all classes if you pre-pay for a block of classes.

community directory

ADVICE

CORE (formerly Black Community Development Project)	467 7990
Community Renewal	332 8773
Drylaw Police Station	343 3171
Granton Information Centre	551 2459
Lothian & Borders Police HQ, Fettes	311 3131
North Edinburgh Credit Union	466 5006
North West Carers Centre	315 3130
North Edinburgh Volunteer Centre	629 4202
Mark Lazarowicz MP Constituency Office	557 0577
Pilton Citizens Advice Bureau	332 9434

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 (Methodist/URC)	332 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

OLDER PEOPLE

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
Pilton Retreat, Ratho	333 1659
Stepping Stones North Edinburgh	551 1632
St David's Crazy 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

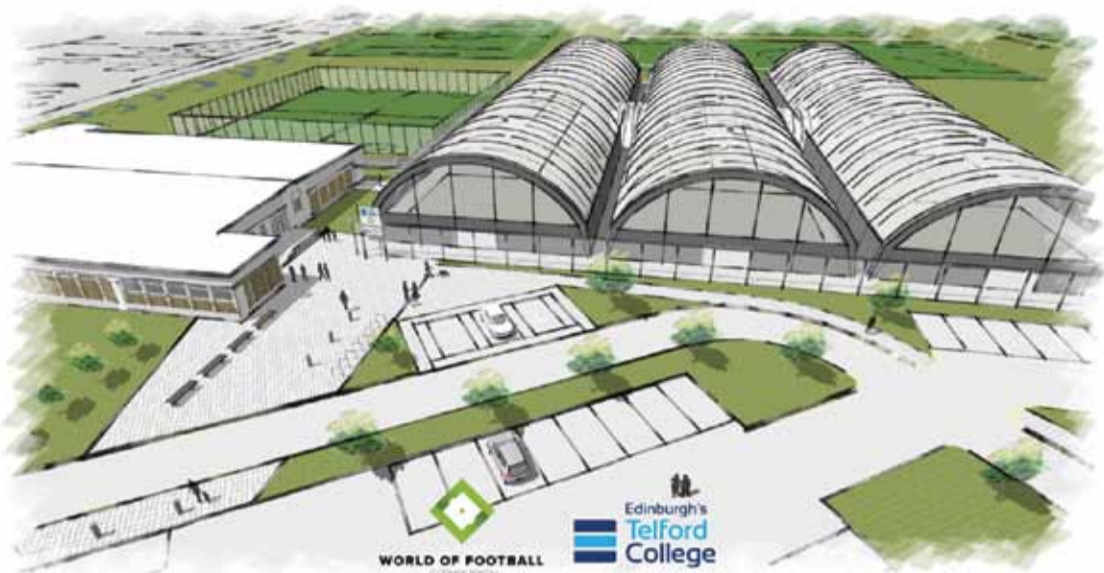
SCHOOLS/EDUCATION

Blackhall Primary School	336 1023
Broughton High School	332 7805
Community Learning & Development Forth	552 5700
Community Learning & Development Inverleith	332 6316
Craigroyston 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
Wardie Primary School	552 3896

YOUTH & CHILDREN

Bfriends, 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 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



Telford to transform playing fields

Sports enthusiasts in Edinburgh are set to score with the launch of the city's newest sports facility at Marine Drive

by DAVID PICKERING

THE FORMER Civil Service Playing Fields will be transformed thanks to a unique partnership between Edinburgh's Telford College and World of Football. The deal will see the college's Marine Drive pitches transformed into a superb indoor sporting facility for use by both students and the local community.

The project will see the outdoor pitches at Marine Drive incorporated into a new development of ten football pitches, six of which are indoor which are designed for five-a-side football – with one existing full size pitch set aside for other sports such as hockey, cricket and rugby.

Telford Principal Miles Dibsall OBE said: "We are delighted to announce that planning has been submitted for this fabulous new facility at our Marine Drive campus. It has been a very smart piece of business to strike a deal to work with World of Football to revitalise our pitches, which were becoming both sub-standard and under used. This is a great example of the college playing a key role in the local

community. This facility will benefit not only Telford College and the students from the new Edinburgh College when the merger happens in October, but also sports enthusiasts across the city that will be able to hire out the pitches."

Telford's Head of Sport Tom MacGregor said: "These plans for a fresh new sports facility in north Edinburgh are great news. It will create endless opportunities for our students – they will now have a state of the art facility to improve their learning that won't be affected by bad weather. It's the perfect site for a facility like this and I'm sure our students will be itching to make use of it when it opens."

Paul De Marco, Managing Director of World of Football said: "This is a great opportunity for us to expand on our brand in Edinburgh but also a great chance to get involved with the local community. Our family business originated from Granton in the 1930's and we are delighted to be investing back into the community."

"It's the perfect site for a facility like this"

He continued: "It made sense for us to target Marine Drive; it is a great space with amazing potential. It will serve as a great facility for the students to use but will also be a great addition to the North Edinburgh community. We don't just build five a side football pitches – we've developed a style of football which is totally unique, and in building at Marine Drive from the ground up this will be our most advanced and in-demand centre yet."

The plans have also been welcomed by Civil Service Strollers, who have used the Marine Drive playing fields since 1957. Vice-president Tom Brown said: "We have a great relationship with Telford, who have been very good to us, while Paul De Marco knows our club's history and has given assurances that we'll be staying here. The development looks like good news for everyone".



Olympic Fever Grips Craigroyston!

IF TICKETS were hard to come by in London, Craigroyston Community High School's Early Years Olympics were even more exclusive – by invitation only!

NEN was delighted to attend the Early Years Sports Day on 8 August - thanks to Lorraine Grant for the invitation, the young Early Years volunteers for the organisation and attention to detail, the spectators (mums, dads and carers) for creating that unique Olympic atmosphere and most of all to the brilliant wee participants – and maybe there's a wee Hoy or Ennis of the future among them!

East of Scotland PREVIEW

Alan Clark checks out local clubs' prospects as the new season kicks off...

FOR THE LOCAL TEAMS of North Edinburgh, the new season is well under way. The area has two clubs in the top division of the East of Scotland set-up – The Spartans FC and Civil Service Strollers FC. Leith Athletic FC dropped down to the First Division for the new campaign, and join Craigroyston FC there.

Having taken over from long-serving co-managers Sam Lynch and Mike Lawson, Spartans boss Douglas Samuel is keen to re-claim the league title but is wary of holders Stirling University, who have recruited ex-Falkirk manager Eddie May as boss. He said: "The short term goal is to win the title back. I believe we are capable of doing so. However, two or three other club managers will be thinking and feeling exactly the same way."

The Ainslie Park side are going through a transition and have started bleeding more youngsters in the first-team. Samuel explained: "I believe our new squad has a good combination of established players with a great pedigree and proven track record mixed with younger players with great potential; however, it's also fair to say that it's a work in progress."

After a trophy-less season just past, Samuel is desperate to win silverware in his debut in the Spartans' dugout, and sees a huge benefit from a Scottish Cup run. Spartans host Highland League outfit Wick Academy in the Cup on Saturday 25 August. He added: "Clearly after a season when the team didn't win a single trophy we are desperate to win something this coming season. A Scottish Cup run would give everyone a huge lift at the start of our journey."

Civil Service Strollers will be looking to raise their game as they strive to better last season's disappointing 7th place finish in the Premier Division. Manager Chic McAleavey - appointed near the start of the year - will be hoping to put his stamp on the team. Newton Stewart, from the South of Scotland League, will travel to Silverknowes this Saturday in the Scottish Cup, the draw giving the Strollers a great opportunity of making the next round of the prestigious old tournament.

With an opening-day league fixture at home to local rivals Spartans on the first day of September, it gives the Strollers something to look forward to and a good result there would give them a confidence boost heading into their league campaign.

Relegated last season, Derek Riddel's Leith Athletic are looking for a swift return to the top-tier, with a title success on their minds. He said: "Two teams are promoted from the First Division to the Premier so whilst we'd be happy just getting there, I'd have to say that going up as champions would be sweeter. We finished a very close second to Gretna 2008 two years ago so it would be nice to win the league and give the players a medal to cherish."

However, Riddel is well aware of the forward planning that the club officials have who see Leith as a long-term project. He added: "We've only been in the East of Scotland league for four seasons, with this being our fifth. In that time we've won a cup, been promoted and been relegated. A lot of clubs haven't achieved that in a longer period of time and whilst promotion is our aim for the season, the club's committee are looking at the long-term future of the club and they see great potential over the longer term."

Craigroyston, who finished a respectable fifth in the First Division, are looking forward to meeting Leith in the league and expect their players who have Premier League experience will aid their promotion hopes. Head coach Ross McNeil said: "I have played the Leith team over the years as a youth manager and I always enjoyed playing them – I am looking forward to playing them even more in the East of Scotland league. We have the right balance of experienced players who have got out of this league before and this was one of the reasons in signing these players as they have played well in the Premier League."