



NEN NEWS DESK

The NEN's annual general meeting was held in Drylaw Church last month, and it was good to see members of the local community coming out to support their community newspaper.

As everyone knows, the NEN has been through tough times and the AGM was an opportunity to reflect on what we've achieved since the relaunch but also to look to the future. The printed NEN has been well received and our blog is very popular - we get an average of 350 visitors every day.

Funding remains very tight, but the NEN Board - all volunteers who live in the local community - continues to do all that it can to attract the funding needed to keep the NEN afloat.

To survive, the NEN needs your support more than ever - whether through sponsorship, advertising or charitable donation. Please get in touch if you can help.

The NEN's been at the heart of the local community for thirty years - with your support we'd like to think we'll be around for a good few more years yet!

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

Goodbye, Telford - hello, Edinburgh!



Three Edinburgh colleges merge to become Scotland's biggest college of further education

by DAVID PICKERING

THE VISION to create a bigger, better and stronger college to serve Edinburgh and the Lothians long into the future became a reality on 1 October with the launch of Edinburgh College. The new College is set on a clear path to provide improved opportunities and outcomes to everyone who walks through its door - and in turn help to kick-start the regional and national economy by delivering skilled people to those industry sectors where Scotland enjoys a competitive advantage.

New Principal Mandy Exley said the potential of Edinburgh College, both for students and for Edinburgh and Lothians, is limitless. She said: "This is a significant landmark in the history of education provision in Edinburgh and the Lothians. By being bigger and better, we can

"We want to be an economic powerhouse for the Edinburgh and Lothian region - helping to drive growth and prosperity"

combine strengths and resources to give our students high quality skills that will allow them to seize life-changing opportunities. Equally we will work hand in hand with businesses to ensure we are not just providing a curriculum of varied courses - but are actually focused on training future staff to work in those key industry sectors where there is high demand or in those sectors which have been identified as growth areas for Scotland. We want to be an economic powerhouse for the Edinburgh and Lothian

region - helping to drive growth and prosperity to benefit both the local and national economy."

The creation of Edinburgh College also marks the end of an era for three of Edinburgh's most recognisable educational institutions - the College being a product of the merger of Edinburgh's Telford College, Jewel & Esk College and Stevenson College.

Playing a key role

Edinburgh College, which as a £60m business makes it the

biggest FE college in Scotland, will accommodate more than 35,000 students - the biggest student body in Edinburgh. The College will employ around 1300 staff and operate from four main campuses; Granton, Sighthill, Milton Road and Midlothian.

Education Secretary Michael Russell said: "As one of Scotland's largest colleges, Edinburgh College will have a key role to play across the country and particularly in Edinburgh and the Lothians. I believe it will offer new and greater opportunities for students and help make sure they have the skills and knowledge they need for jobs in the area. I know a lot of work has been required to deliver the new college and I am confident the college, staff and students will reap the rewards of this."



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 College, 350 West Granton Road, Edinburgh EH5 1QE

The NEN Board:

Martin Hinds (Chair)
Cathy Ahmed
Pam Barnes
Willie Black
Ann Confrey
Alex Dale
James Thomson
Eddie Thorn

Contributors:

Keith Anderson
(Port of Leith Housing Association)
Thomas Brown
Eileen Carr
John Davidson
Tony Delahoy
Anna Hutchison
'Jenni', West Pilton
Michael Lindsay
Mrs McGhee
Robert Pearson
Barbara Robertson
P White
Alan Clark

And a special thanks to our advertisers:

BOMAR Carpets
E J Butler Dentist Davidsons Mains
Malcolm Chisholm MSP
Crawford Gowans Solicitors
Easter Drylaw Residents Association
Granton Information Centre
Granton United Church, Boswall Parkway
Fiona Higgins
Cllr Lesley Hinds
Javit's
Alison Johnstone MSP
Mark Lazarowicz MP
MHA Wesley Court
Muirhouse Salvesen Community Council
Muirhouse Slimmers Club
North Edinburgh Fights Back

Design: www.lennondesign.co.uk
Distribution: Premier Delivery Edinburgh
Printed by: quotemprint

Who Cares?

Dear Editor

So much has been spoken and written about Care; whether in hospital, at home or care home. In the light of investigations and inquiries and some awful revelations there seems to be an agreement that a huge problem exists, and with an ageing population it is a growing one which must be tackled now. Good caring, in all its forms, cannot be done on the cheap.

Inadequate funding and gross under-staffing for the work needed is the reality: the existing staff with best possible intentions cannot give the time and care, both physically and, in particular, the mental attention needed by an individual.

No-one knows the future health needs of ourselves or our families but we can make sure there is an excellent National Health Service: fully trained, fully staffed and fully funded, giving caring care and dignity to our loved ones in their time of need.

*A. Delahoy
Silverknowes Garden*

Barriers are not the answer

Dear Editor

I am writing express my anger regarding the proposal from residents of Silverknowes asking to brick up three access points leading to Muirhouse following incidents of antisocial behaviour being blamed on Muirhouse residents. While I disagree with vandalism and antisocial behaviour, blocking pathways will not be the solution to this problem. This could have the adverse effect on the problem. Unfortunately lots of this behaviour is happening all over the city.

I recall this same group opposing the building of the new Craigroyston High School close to their homes. What do these people want? A Berlin Wall within North Edinburgh? They are not an elitist group who can dictate what they want. The majority of people from Muirhouse are decent people who strive to improve their community and retain good links with surrounding neighbourhoods. Perhaps the answer is getting activists groups together within the neighbourhood to consult with each other. This could hopefully help to resolve the problem. Building barriers between communities is not the answer.

Anna Hutchison (by email)

This is a rubbish service!

Dear Editor

We residents in Granton Crescent sheltered housing are writing to complain about the communal paladin bins not being emptied regularly, and when we phone they say they will put it through as a special uplift – but nothing happens!

Sometimes they are not emptied for at least three weeks and the bin men complain about the rubbish lying around in the bin store which they are having to clean up! The driver said sometimes our pallet bins are not on his list – also we are told that our bins would be emptied by the morning squad and not the afternoon squad.

Furthermore, I have asked for fourteen years for the bin store cupboards to be cleaned, as the stench coming from it is unbearable and is travelling into our kitchens.

*M McGhee (and neighbours)
Granton Crescent*

Muirhouse must not be divided

Dear Editor

I am writing regarding the residents of Silverknowes Eastway who want the walkway shut off to stop access from Muirhouse Drive.

Silverknowes Eastway is part of the Muirhouse EH4 area and the housing was built on the land that was formally Silverknowes Primary School, which was in Muirhouse Gardens. When the area in Muirhouse Gardens was developed for housing it was part of the planning application that it would have pedestrian access to the Linear Park as part of Central Muirhouse regeneration, and that no part of Muirhouse would be divided or excluded.

I fail to see what Davidsons Mains and Silverknowes Association, or Almond Neighbourhood Partnership, have to do with issues in Muirhouse.

*John Davidson
Muirhouse Resident (by email)*

Calling North Edinburgh crafters!

Dear Editor

I'm a local resident and enjoy crafting. Crafting can be a really satisfying but lonely hobby at times – I run a small craft club as part of my volunteering at Muirhouse Millennium Community Centre on a Friday from 11am-3pm.

It's the type of club that you can bring your own crafting to do at your own pace over a cup of tea and chatting to others – it's friendly, welcoming, informal and fun. We do have a supply of crafting goodies if you want to just have a go at something and there is always our supply of craft magazines to thumb through to get inspiration and ideas from!

All it costs is £1 – only £1, and that includes the tea/coffee and biscuits! If you would like any more information why not drop into the Muirhouse Millennium Centre and speak to me, give me a call on 467 3578 or if you prefer email enquiremuirhouse@gmail.com is where I am!

Eileen Carr (by email)

Proud Parents

Dear Editor

I would be grateful if you can print a piece on my sixteen year old daughter Gillian, of whom we are very proud. She got an 'A' exam result for Art and Design and now has a full-time place at Telford College. I enclose a picture she took on her mobile while in South Queensferry then painted it onto canvas.

P White, Easter Drylaw Avenue



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

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

How to contact us:

By email: northedinnews@gmail.com
Telephone: 07925 405 972
Post: North Edinburgh News
c/o Edinburgh College
350 West Granton Road
Edinburgh EH5 1QE
Our blog: northedinburghnews.wordpress.com

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 Nov for inclusion in our next edition



North Edinburgh Time Bank launched

PARLIAMENTARIANS Malcolm Chisholm and Mark Lazarowicz and Councillor Vicki Redpath were among the guests at the launch of North Edinburgh Time Bank at North Edinburgh Arts Centre on 11 October.

Highlight of the evening was North Edinburgh Time Bank's very own choir, the Timebank Temptations, who entertained visitors with a very impressive *a cappella* 'Lean on Me'!

The event was an opportunity to find out all about time banks - how they started, what they are and how they work - and North Edinburgh Time Broker Julie Smith put forward a strong argument for signing up.

Time banks make it easy to lend a hand to friends and neighbours. If you need help with a small job - or if you can offer help to someone else - join a Time Bank!

A time bank means you can earn time credits for the things you do to help others in your community. If you can help someone weed their garden, or do their shopping or if you need a hand with wee jobs around the house - then join the time bank!

The time bank will help you to arrange it all, it's free to use and there's no money involved - for every hour you spend helping someone you are given a one hour time credit, which you can then 'bank' for yourself or donate to someone else to use. It's simple, really!

For more information about North Edinburgh Time Bank contact time broker Julie Smith on 07807 002 591 or email north.timebank@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk

There are two more local Time Banks - Inverleith Time Bank broker is Anne Brown who can be contacted by email at anne.brown@ea.edin.sch.uk or telephone 332 6316, and your contact at sunny Leith Time Bank is Senga Armstrong. She can be found at sengatimebank@btconnect.com or telephone 553 2559.

» For more general information about Time Banks visit www.edinburghtimebank.org.uk



Crowds flock to Septemberfest

BROUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL'S Septemberfest proved to be a big hit, with almost three thousand people enjoying activities and attractions on 22 September. Organisers said: "Thanks to everyone who came along to Septemberfest on Saturday (all 2800 of you!). It was a fantastic day and the sun shone for us! Thanks to all the parent, pupil and staff volunteers who helped on the day."

Residents to be consulted over lighting changes

WESTER DRYLAW PLACE residents will be surveyed by council officials next month following changes to street lighting in September.

City council lighting manager John McFarlane responded to safety concerns expressed at a Drylaw community council meeting earlier this year by replacing existing lanterns with different types, strengths and tones of bulb to see what works best.

Mr McFarlane told Drylaw Telford Community Council: "These works were completed in September and it would then be my intention to carry out a customer satisfaction survey with adjoining residents to try and arrive at a consensus with regard to the preferred lantern of choice.

To allow residents to get used to living with the new lanterns and to coincide with the winter clock change I would expect to carry out the survey during November and, if there is a clear preferred lantern of choice, it would then be my intention to change all the lanterns in Wester Drylaw Place with this preferred lantern in late November/early December."



PYCP happy to receive wooden spoon!

SCOTS RUGBY LEGEND Chris Paterson was the special guest at Pilton Youth and Children's Project (PYCP) annual general meeting on 28 September. Chris was representing rugby's Wooden Spoon charity, whose donation of £10,000 helped PYCP turn a little-used storeroom into an all-singing, all-dancing dance studio!

Unveiling a plaque to open the new facility at PYCP's Greenhouse, the record 109-times capped star said: "I'm an awful dancer with two left feet, but if I'd had something like this ... well, I think I'd probably still be a pretty rubbish dancer!"

Thanking Chris and representatives of the Wooden Spoon charity, PYCP chairperson Clare Halliday said: "This really is a tremendous space for our young people to enjoy. The room has been transformed - it's incredible to think that this was just a storeroom, more or less a dumping ground for lots of equipment. Many thanks to Wooden Spoon for supporting PYCP - we really do appreciate it."

Young dancers from Edinburgh's Dance Base were first to put the new Wooden Spoon studio to the test, entertaining guests with an energetic routine - Chris Paterson was not tempted to join in!



news in brief

Spotlight on seniors at WPNC

West Pilton will be celebrating our older people with a series of events and activities at West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre from 6 - 9 November.

For further information tel: 551 3194.

Bruce Peebles as never seen before

Granton History Group is no more, but former members are to present an illustrated talk about Bruce Peebles in Wardie Parish Church next month. Organised and presented by local historians Ian Lutton and David King, the talk will be illustrated with photographs of electrical items produced by Bruce (and later Parsons) Peebles, for many years one of North Edinburgh's major employers. Many of these images will be on public view for the first time.

The talk takes place on Wednesday 7 November at 7.30pm at Wardie Parish Church, situated on Primrose Bank Road at the corner of Netherby Road.

For further information - and a look at Granton's fascinating history - visit www.grantonhistory.org

Dads Rock comes to Granton

Dads Rock, the free fun playgroup for dads and their kids, is coming to Granton. It's almost a year to the day since Thomas Lynch and David Marshall dreamed up the idea of starting a playgroup for dads and their kids, and Dads Rock has gone from strength to strength.

Dads Rock's weekly fun sessions for under-fives at Sighthill's Gate 55 have been very popular since they were launched last November, and the group has gone on to attract both local and national press coverage - last month the group was featured in a photo exhibition at the Scottish Parliament. Dads Rock is now very excited to be coming to The Prentice Centre on Saturday mornings - the big launch is Saturday 27 October from 10 - 11.30am.

Group founder Thomas Lynch said: "It's amazing the difference a year makes! We've had brilliant meetings at The Prentice Centre. We're really looking forward to starting there on Saturday 27th at 10am - we're hoping for a great turn out, so spread the news!"



by BARBARA ROBERTSON

70 YEARS MARRIED!

TONY AND HELEN DELAHOY retired to Edinburgh 25 years ago and they had a great day on 19 August when they celebrated their platinum wedding anniversary with their two children and some of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Tony, writer of many a letter to NEN over the years, met his wife Helen when they were both working for the Co-op in South East London. He was her milkman and she pulled a bread cart!

Young Tony was called up to fight in the Second World War on his 18th birthday and he married Helen a year later in 1942. By that time he had been 'volunteered' to be trained as a dispatch rider on a motorbike, a position that carried with it a life expectancy of 3 days!

Helen, because of rationing, had to choose between a wedding dress and a warm winter coat for their August wedding. With her usual flair for forward planning she chose the winter coat! Their house was bombed in the blitz which razed SE London to the ground and Helen was sent off to make munitions as her part in the war. Tony went to Normandy for D-Day in the Polar Bear division and survived longer than the expected 3 days as a dispatch rider through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, ending his war as a Gordon Highlander in India in 1946.

Tony had left school at 14 years old because his family could not afford to send him to secondary school but he always remembers the influence of his primary school teacher who must have been something of a socialist, introducing him to the local library and left wing books and articles.

Helen was born only a few years after the Russian Revolution of 1917 and both Helen and Tony were brought up at the time of the Wall St Crash and the General Strike of 1926.

Tony did some of his training in Ayrshire, travelling all over on his bike, meeting the people and loving the country. All these influences spurred Tony on to be an outspoken champion of working people and to see how history can repeat itself and what must be done collectively to stop the attacks on people's living standards today. He is active in the local community taking part in Pilton Equalities Project and North Edinburgh Fights Back and making sure he writes to the papers when hard won things like Education, the NHS and the Green Belt are threatened.

When Helen was asked what it was like being married to Tony for 70 years she replied: 'Wonderful!'

Now, that's an achievement!!



BACK DOOR PRIVATISATION

Local campaign groups denounce 'privatisation' in refuse collection service

by DAVID PICKERING

LOCAL ANTI-CUTS GROUPS have declared that Edinburgh Council are responsible for the deteriorating service in refuse collection, and say the blame should be put firmly on councillors and top management, not the binmen and other workers. The groups denounce the "back door privatisation" of Edinburgh Council services and have demanded a response from Council leader Andrew Burns.

North Edinburgh Fights Back and Greater Leith Against the Cuts have condemned the large-scale use of agency staff in Street Cleansing and Refuse Collection – and claim that the new switch to fortnightly collections appears to be motivated by cost-cutting not environmental concern.

"We are in favour of reducing waste and increasing recycling but we suspect the move to fortnightly collections is not motivated by ecology but is part of the cut-backs. We

are closely monitoring its impact and are consulting with local people if action needs to be taken to restore the weekly collections."

The groups also denounce the imposition of anti social shift patterns on the workforce, arguing that the continuation of work until 10.30pm will cause disruption and nuisance to residents, particularly children, the elderly and vulnerable. "Refuse collection workers have told management the new shift patterns would not work," say the community groups, "but as usual the CEC management aren't listening to the people who really know the job."

Declaration

In a statement, the groups declare: 'We are totally opposed to the privatisation of public services and the cuts in services and worsening working conditions this invariably entails. The full Council voted against privatising these services – why are they now doing the complete opposite, and bringing in large numbers of Blue Arrow contractors to both Street Cleansing and Refuse Collection? New workers – who are certainly needed – should be taken on as full Council employees, wherever possible with permanent contracts.'

They add: 'Contrary to some claims, Blue Arrow were NOT introduced to deal with the current backlog, dozens of Blue Arrow staff have been operating from the Russell Road depot in refuse collection since March, and Blue Arrow have been deployed from Cowans Close depot in street cleansing since July. What's more, the private firm

"We suspect the move to fortnightly collections is not motivated by ecology but is part of the cut-backs"

Enterprise was used in street cleansing in the spring.'

A Shop Steward from within Environmental Services said: "I have repeatedly voiced my concerns at the use of agency staff to City of Edinburgh Council Senior Management at numerous meetings since the elected members rejected privatisation and also to various elected members all to no avail; unfortunately it appears that this new administration is also listening to the officials who are now intent on privatising our council/public services through the back door."

The community groups are still awaiting a response from the Council. "We have written to Councillor Burns demanding an end to this back door privatisation – he has yet to reply. However Councillor Hinds has written to say she has commissioned a report on the matter from Director of Services for Communities Mark Turley. We eagerly await this and urge its early delivery."





Photo: Thomas Brown

NO BARRIERS for MUIRHOUSE

A decision brings to a close a row that has simmered for almost a year

by DAVID PICKERING

MUIRHOUSE AND SILVERKNOWES will NOT be divided by barriers, the city council's Transport, Infrastructure and Environment (TIE) committee has decided. The committee agreed to officials' recommendations that 'notes and agrees that closure of the access routes should not be supported as this would impact on safe routes to schools.'

In a report into antisocial behaviour in the Silverknowes area prepared for the committee, Services for Communities director Mark Turley concluded: "There are widely divergent but strongly held views within the community, split by Council ward, on the best course of action to take. Officer recommendations based on existing policy is that the blocking of access would be unacceptable given the adverse effect on safe routes to school used by a number of children in the area, in addition to the other policy and social concerns. The root cause of this problem is the anti-social behaviour of the individual's concerned and it is this which requires to be addressed. Such behaviour is unacceptable, regardless of where it occurs."

The argument over the decision brings to a close a row that has simmered for almost a year. Following anti-social behaviour and disturbances in part of the Silverknowes area 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, with community groups and residents in Almond (i.e. Silverknowes) strongly in

favour of closing off the accesses, while Forth community groups and residents were equally vehement in their opposition to closure. Council officers also stated then that their policy recommendation must be to keep the accesses open.

Putting the arguments forward

Both sides of the argument were put to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on 11 October, where councillors heard deputations from Davidsons Mains and Silverknowes Association, Muirhouse Salvesen Community Council and North Edinburgh Young People's Forum through Muirhouse Youth Development Group's Dionne McFarlane.

Common sense has prevailed, I'm delighted that the councillors have shelved this idea"

Following discussion, however, councillors agreed with officer recommendations that access between Silverknowes and Muirhouse should not be closed off.

Speaking after the meeting, Muirhouse Salvesen Community Council chairman Roy Douglas said: "Common sense has prevailed, and I'm delighted that the councillors have shelved this idea. The antisocial behaviour incidents that sparked off the whole thing took place about a year ago and what was being proposed was ludicrous – way over the top. An increased police presence has made a



difference and we all hope that improvement will continue."

Davidsons Mains and Silverknowes Residents Association chairman Rod Alexander said: "We knew that the council would argue that the closure of the pathways is contrary to council Policy around maintaining open access and community links, and as such closure was unlikely to be supported by the committee. Clearly there are now big questions about what happens in the event of a future repeat of trouble, especially given the overwhelming message from our residents survey."

CORE no more

CORE (Community Organisation for Racial Equality) has closed but there's hope that something can be salvaged from the ashes...

ON a miserable North Edinburgh evening in August, around sixty CORE members and supporters trooped in to Royston Wardieburn to deliver the coup de grace to an organisation that has been an important feature of North Edinburgh community life for 17 years.

Facing funding shortfalls, shrinking reserves and a serious pension deficit, CORE's four remaining office bearers – all volunteers – battled to save the organisation but they were finally forced to admit defeat.

Chairman Fernando Almeida Diniz said: "It is not just one thing, but a combination of events, decisions and circumstances that have brought about this unhappy day. There is no one reason, and no individual, to blame, but there is one key message – the sole factor that triggered CORE's closure is financial. We have looked at all options, and sadly there is no alternative."

It was left to Honorary Chairman Daniel Onifade to conduct the formal vote to dissolve the organisation, and at 7.20pm CORE was no more. Mr Onifade said: "I have been involved with the organisation since before the Black Community Development Project was born, so this is an extremely sad day."

However there are hopes that CORE's key functions can be carried on, through existing organisations or perhaps through the formation of a new group.

During a discussion chaired by Forth councillor Vicki Redpath, city council equalities chief Nick Croft said: "We could spend time talking about what went wrong – quite bluntly, Edinburgh lost out to the West of Scotland when it came to employability funding, and CORE's application was not the best – but I think it's more important that we build on the positive energy that has been generated this evening to ensure that we build services to meet the local community's needs."

That 'positive energy' produced a transition group to work with council officers and other agencies to ensure gaps in provision for the BME community are addressed and that any new services are designed to meet both their needs and those of the wider community. Royston Wardieburn will initially become a 'hub' for these activities while evaluation work is ongoing, and voluntary organisations have also pledged their support.



Community Award for Malcolm Chisholm

EDINBURGH NORTH AND LEITH MSP Malcolm Chisholm was awarded Pilton Central Association's Rose Bowl at the community organisation's annual general meeting on 30 August. The Rose Bowl is awarded annually to people who have made a major contribution to community life in North Edinburgh, and Malcolm Chisholm is the first politician to receive the award since its introduction in 1990.

PCA chairperson Betty McVay said: "The Rose Bowl was donated to the PCA by one of my predecessors, Agnes Laidlaw, who was a tremendous example to community activists. The Rose Bowl is presented to individuals who we feel have made a contribution to making this community a better place to live. Malcolm certainly falls into that category, and has done for a number of years. I know Malcolm has to declare all gifts and presents, so I should point out that this rose bowl is only his to keep for a year – we'll be wanting it back!"

Malcolm, who has represented North and Leith at both Westminster and then Holyrood since 1992, was genuinely surprised to receive the award. "This is a huge shock, but I'm very honoured and feel very humble to have been considered for a community award like this, particularly here in North Edinburgh. Truly, I'm overwhelmed."

The Rose Bowl presentation was the highlight of a very successful night for the PCA in West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre. The meeting was very well attended and the PCA managed to attract a full complement of sixteen committee members, including a number of new faces ... and, would you believe it, a young person!

There were two guest speakers at the meeting. North Edinburgh Social History Group's Roberta Blaikie gave an entertaining history of the successful community project which has been running for almost four years – and shows no sign of stopping yet! PCA's financial support enabled the Social History Group to publish their acclaimed 'Never Give Up' book.

Jimmy Butler has been a friend of the PCA since 'being dragged into Ferry Road Drive in 1974 and painting the back shop!' Most recently Jimmy has been working on a business plan for the PCA and he gave a brief introduction to the draft Community Enterprise Operational Plan. The plan will be discussed in detail at forthcoming committee meetings, but Jimmy said the plan will help PCA to 'move forward and remain relevant'. He added: "The PCA has been here, well, forever and let's hope we can make sure it will be here forever!"

"I'm very honoured and feel very humble to have been considered for a community award like this... Truly, I'm overwhelmed."



WIG hail Health Day success

North Edinburgh's Womens International Group (WIG) is delighted with the success of their recent Health Day – the first organised by the group based at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre. Over forty women of all ages took part in a full day of events and activities – and while they may not all have gone home a lot healthier, they definitely went home happier!

From registration and refreshments at 10am it was a packed programme – Jane Jones gave a talk about 'What Affects Our Health?' there was Zumba and aerobics in the sports hall, pamper sessions and gentle exercise classes all before lunch time!

A short presentation by local women got the afternoon activities underway, and this was followed by talk on Breast Awareness by Lynda Luke of the Breast Screening Service. Julie Smith gave a presentation on North Edinburgh Time Bank and Roberta Blaikie gave a brief contribution about North Edinburgh Credit

Union. The final hour of the day was dedicated to social activities and fundraising for McMillan Cancer Trust, with a nearly new stall and raffle in the cafe and community room.

Women's International Group (WIG) said: 'We would like to thank the following organisations for their support : Community Learning and Development, Royston Wardieburn Centre Management Committee, Pilton Health Project, North Edinburgh Arts, Telford College students, the Breast Screening Service, McMillan Cancer Trust, North Edinburgh Time Bank, North Edinburgh Credit Union and Stepping Stones. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the individuals who have given up their time or who have contributed to the raffle or nearly new stall and the local businesses who have made donations.'

Thanks to Community Learning and Development worker Lynne McCabe for the pictures.

Muirhouse Housing Association celebrates milestone

Muirhouse Housing Association welcomed tenants old and new when they celebrated their 20th anniversary with a fun day at Muirhouse Millennium Centre on 1 September.

With acrobats and magicians, face painting and balloon modelling there was all the fun of the fair, and for the more energetic there was a bouncy castle, inflatable assault course, Zumba or an opportunity to take part in fun exercise classes using hula hoops! And for the less energetic – birthday cake!

Happy birthday, MHA!





Stars come out

Rugby stars come out to support the Accies redevelopment plans but local opinion is divided

by DAVID PICKERING

A SQUAD OF SCOTTISH RUGBY STARS has spoken out in favour of controversial plans to redevelop Edinburgh Accies ground at Raeburn Place. The players – including former Scotland captains Andy Irvine, David Sole, Jim Calder and Ross Ford – wrote to The Scotsman to pledge their support for the £8 million redevelopment in Stockbridge. The letter follows the submission of a full planning application by Edinburgh Accies on 9 October.

The letter says:

'We are writing specifically as supporters of Scottish rugby, but more generally as ordinary people who passionately support lifelong participation in sport.

We wish to place on record our belief in the –importance of preserving and improving the Edinburgh Academicals Football Club (Accies) home and facilities at Raeburn Place in Stockbridge in Edinburgh. Over the years Accies has contributed more than 10 per cent of all Scottish international caps since hosting the first international match between Scotland and England in 1871.

The club is the home of and operates the Edinburgh BATS rugby club, which delivers to and supports rugby at four high schools and 16 primary schools in north Edinburgh. Last year BATS delivered 750 hours of rugby to 1,560 young people. With recent research showing that inactivity causes as many premature deaths as smoking, surely this youth work is something we should cherish rather than discard.

Through little fault of the club itself, the facilities at Raeburn Place consist of temporary units, hired at an onerous cost now met by Accies. This is simply not sustainable. The plans drawn up bring in rent from a maximum of nine shops, and will give Accies the best facilities in Scotland, run on a sustainable basis, in addition to ensuring the preservation of a valuable greenfield space.

With the inclusion of a rugby museum it will make Raeburn Place an attractive destination for families and others to visit. The retail element will enhance and complement Stockbridge's existing offering. These are carefully drawn-up, high quality proposals. We hope that Edinburgh Accies will be encouraged to stay in their historic home, and that Scotland can begin to close the gap with England in terms of rugby facilities and funding.'

The letter is signed by: David Sole, Andy Irvine, Scott Hastings, Roger Baird, Rob Wainwright, David Callam, Cameron Glasgow, David Milne, Stuart Moffat, John Frame, Jim Calder, Marcus Di Rollo, John Allan, Greig Laidlaw, Allan Jacobsen, Nick Deluca, Geoff Cross, David Denton, Ross Ford, Tom Brown, Tim Visser, Ben Cairns, Ross Rennie

However local opinion is divided over the proposed redevelopment. Campaign group Save Stockbridge organised a packed public meeting last month and have now attracted over 2500 signatures on petitions opposing the plans. The group says that it is 'not anti-development, rather anti this development' which they feel is too large for the area. They say the plans are more about money than sport, with a disproportionately large retail element that will have a major impact on local traders.

In a statement on their website, Save Stockbridge said: "Our initial review of the submitted plans suggests that there is little, if any, substantial deviation from the proposal originally outlined during the pre-application consultation. We currently have a team urgently working through the fine details of the application so that we can provide a fuller analysis – as soon as this is completed, we will update our website with our findings and our recommendations of what to do next."

» **The planning application can be found online on the city council's planning portal – application reference number is 12/03567/FUL and the plans are also on display at Stockbridge Library. Comments on the proposals must be received by 9 November.**



Let's bfriends

How befriending can help children in North Edinburgh

ORGANISATIONS and individuals working with young people in North and West Edinburgh got the chance to find out more about befriending at CHILDREN 1st's Open Day at *bfriends* Prentice Centre base on 12 October.

bfriends volunteers provide friendship and support for children and young people who are experiencing difficulties at home, at school or in the community. The aim is to help build young people's self-confidence and self-esteem, and to open up opportunities for personal and social development.

Project development worker Paul Burke said: "CHILDREN 1st reopened its *bfriends* base in North Edinburgh recently and we are keen to raise our profile with local agencies and let people know more about the service, volunteers and the young people we work with. Young people need to have someone they can count on when they are having a hard time but sometimes there is no one for them to talk to - our volunteer befrienders are trained and supported to work with children and young people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives or whose support networks have been eroded because of changes in their family."

"Volunteers are matched on a one-to-one basis with children and young people. Together, they can try out new experiences designed to broaden the young person's horizons. As they get to know each other and develop a good relationship, the child or young person can have fun and have a break from their everyday lives."

Referrals are accepted from children and young people aged five to 14, who experience difficulties at home, at school, or in the community, including those living in designated areas of disadvantage, from black and ethnic minorities and children referred through pupil support groups.

» **For more information go to www.children1st.org.uk/services and www.bfriends.org.uk**





Mandy Exley: First Principal

A new Principal takes the helm of the newly forged Edinburgh College

MANDY EXLEY is the first Principal of Edinburgh College. Ms Exley, who was Principal and Chief Executive at Jewel & Esk College, took up the position when the new Edinburgh College – the combination of Edinburgh's Telford, Stevenson and Jewel and Esk Colleges – was created on 1 October.

Ian McKay, Chair (Elect) of Edinburgh College, said: "We are delighted to have someone of the calibre and pedigree of Mandy Exley lead Edinburgh College at the start of this exciting journey. We have given a commitment that Edinburgh College will change the face of further education in Edinburgh and Lothians and with Mandy's previous experience at the helm of Jewel & Esk College, and the vision she has for the new College, we are ideally placed to fulfil our ambition."

The rigorous selection process to find a Principal for what will be one of the biggest and most influential colleges in Scotland has been conducted over a number of months. In a new development, the process also included the involvement of the leadership of the student body in the college – the President and three vice Presidents of the Edinburgh College Students' Association. This was seen as an important part of working with and for students in the new College.

John Martin, President of Edinburgh College Students' Association, said: "The Students' Association was pleased to be invited to be a part of the interview process, and particularly the value that has been placed on our opinion. Students should be at the centre of every decision making process as colleges across Scotland go through unprecedented changes and tribulations in the coming years and I hope that this sets a precedent for all future appointments of major office holders within Colleges, including membership of Boards of Governors. I congratulate Mandy on her success and look forward to working positively with her over the coming year to make sure our students get the best possible experience out of their life-changing time at Edinburgh College."

Ian McKay added: "We believe it's the first time that the student body have played a part in a Principal's appointment. That illustrates the depth of the recognition of, and commitment to, the students, who we have always said are the most important people in the new College."

Mandy has a long history of leadership in education in Scotland having served for the last two years as Principal at Jewel & Esk College and previously as Principal at the University of the Highlands & Islands Perth College. She said that she is looking forward

to Edinburgh College playing its part in securing improved prosperity for everyone who lives and works in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

She said: "The creation of Edinburgh College is about a journey from good to great. The three existing colleges are really good in their own right but together, they can deliver great results. The College aims to deliver the very best education and training to students. By achieving that, we have an opportunity to build an economic powerhouse – to play a vital role in getting individuals back to work and to deliver skilled people needed in those economic sectors where Scotland can enjoy a genuine competitive advantage."

"The creation of Edinburgh College is about a journey from good to great"

"The College itself will become a 'centre of excellence', building on the existing strengths of the three colleges to foster growth, opportunity and economic development. We are confident Edinburgh College will compete with the best in Britain and that it will be a College we can all be proud of," she said.

Mandy has worked in education for more 20 years and her career has been both in England and Scotland, working in large inner city colleges in Birmingham, Manchester and Stoke and rural colleges in Gloucestershire, Perth and the Highlands and Islands. Her work has been recognised beyond the college and she has served on a number of Government and Scotland's Colleges' Task Groups including the current Government Change Team. She is a Board Director of the Scottish Institute for Enterprise and has a particular interest in Public Value and leads on promoting this work for Scotland's Colleges.



Wella, wella

Amy aims for the hairdressing heights!

AN EDINBURGH COLLEGE STUDENT demonstrated 'razor sharp' skills to make it through to the final of an industry-recognised award run by the Hairdressing Council. Amy Armstrong, 27, has been shortlisted for the Student of the Year 2012 competition after wowing the judges with her peacock-inspired hairstyle for the competition.

Jackie Steele, Hairdressing Lecturer at Edinburgh College, said: "Amy has done an amazing job in making it this far in a competition which sees hundreds of students competing. She's a fantastic student-completely dedicated to the course with a real talent and creative eye which she proved with her colourful and original styling for the competition."

"This is the second year running that one of our students has been in the finals which is a real merit to the college and shows the level of talent we have here. It's so rewarding seeing our students standing out, impressing the judges and being recognised at such a high level. We're really proud of Amy and wish her the best of luck in the finals."

Amy will now go head-to-head against seven other students across the UK on October 14 at the Goldwell studios in London, where she will be judged by industry icons Lisa Shepherd, Patrick Cameron and Andrew Barton. The two overall winners will have the opportunity to work with 'stylist to the stars' Andrew Barton for a day, and will receive vouchers for a course with L'Oréal and Wella. They will also get an iPad2, as well as be invited for tea at the House of Commons!

Amy said: "When I first found out my lecturers had nominated me for the award I was delighted but when I found out I'd actually been shortlisted, I was completely shocked but over the moon. It's such a massive opportunity to have my work judged by top industry professionals and I'm really excited about the finals next month. To be in with a chance of winning a day with Andrew Barton, who is a hugely respected name in the industry, is something I didn't think I'd be saying this year but aside from winning, the whole experience has reinforced why I love the industry so much. I can't thank my lecturers and the college enough for the support they've given me and the opportunity to be part of such a highly respected competition."

Highly regarded throughout the industry, the Hairdressing Council Student of the Year Award 2012 is supported by colleges and training centres nationwide and sees hundreds of students competing for the title of Student of the Year.

Edinburgh College was formed as a result of merger between Edinburgh's Telford College, Jewel & Esk College and Stevenson College Edinburgh. It's the biggest FE college in Scotland and accommodates more than 35,000 students – the biggest student body in Edinburgh.





LEAP in the dark

Church of Scotland to sell Malta House – LEAP must find new home by January 2013

LOTHIAN AND EDINBURGH Abstinence Programme (LEAP) is to lose its Malta House home. Campaigners had hoped that a last-ditch rescue package could be agreed to keep LEAP in Stockbridge, but blame Church of Scotland 'greed' for the failure to secure LEAP's base.

NHS Lothian has leased the Stockbridge building from the Church of Scotland to house LEAP for over five years, but Crossreach – the Church's social care arm – is selling the property to support its own social service provision - and LEAP must now move out of its Malta House home by next January.

"Peter Bailey, Chief Executive Officer of CrossReach, said: "The Church of Scotland first indicated to NHS Lothian in 2010 our intention to sell Malta House when conditions were right. Two weeks ago, NHS Lothian completed a valuation of the property. They then informed the Church that, even if they could put together the funding to make an offer for Malta House in six months' time, public sector financial regulations would restrict the value of that offer to a sum less than 50% of the valuation to which we are working.

Given this disparity, and our need to protect our own vital CrossReach services which support many vulnerable people throughout Scotland, we are currently in final negotiations with another potential buyer.

We understand from this potential buyer that the current building will be incorporated into any new development on the site. However any proposals to that effect will have to go through the normal planning process

where members of the local community will have the opportunity to raise concerns.

NHS Lothian has also indicated to us that they plan to continue with their Lothians and Edinburgh Abstinence Programme (LEAP). They are confident that they can find suitable accommodation from within their existing buildings that will allow this excellent service to continue."

However local campaigners believe that the Church of Scotland could have done much more to support LEAP, and say that greed is driving force behind the sale.

Campaigner Tim Birley, who is also LEAP's Malta Row neighbour, said: "LEAP recently celebrated five years and more than 250 patient graduations in Malta House. People who have been treated there feel their lives have been saved. LEAP wanted to stay at Malta House and had been planning to expand. Malta House provides a secluded environment, yet very accessible: within walking distance of where patients stay, with a local pharmacy and health centre close by. Unusually for drug rehab, they found a safe, secure and welcoming community, and feel at home. For more than 100 years Malta House, under the ownership of the Church, has provided a social facility in the heart of Stockbridge.

"As for the Church, it is a very sad day. When offered a deal by a developer, they could not resist the money, indeed it was clearly the sole focus. All their claims of principles, their value statements, their advice to others that the purposes of economic activity should be about the disadvantaged, have been shown as

"People who have been treated there feel their lives have been saved"

hypocrisy to be set aside for immediate financial gain. So the outcome is the classic lose-lose: LEAP is forced to relocate (and there is no other Malta House!); Stockbridge loses a social care facility that has existed from more than 100 years; and the Church shows its lack of compassion and any vestige of Christian ethic.

"How different it could have been. If the Church did have a long-term plan, and been open about it (as their value statement says they will be), they could have discussed this with LEAP, the City of Edinburgh Council and the local community. They could have said "We are looking to sell, do you want to put together a bid to buy?" Then all options could have been explored including purchase by public bodies, charitable foundations or a community buy-out. The cause is so outstanding that there would have been every chance of the Church getting its money, and of LEAP being able to remain at Malta House. How sad this was given no chance. We will miss our neighbours. We wish them well in their new home, wherever that may be."

For NHS Lothian, the search is now on for that new home for LEAP.



An incredible response

Sainsbury's Blackhall customers serve up 6000 meals to tackle food poverty

SAINSBURY'S Million Meal Appeal has broken records thanks to generous donations from North West Edinburgh residents – and Granton Youth Centre is one of the beneficiaries!

On Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 October, customers at Sainsbury's Blackhall donated enough food to provide 3000 meals to help feed vulnerable people affected by food poverty in the UK. Sainsbury's also matched every meal donated by customers, so in total 6000 meals were donated at the Blackhall store.

The Million Meal Appeal is run with Sainsbury's charity partner FareShare, a national charity dedicated to tackling hunger and food waste.

Last year, 1.2 million meals were donated to FareShare in the first Million Meal Appeal, and due to that success, this year's appeal was run in over 900 stores. Blackhall store was involved in both appeals and a massive two million meals have been donated in total this year, which includes matching from Sainsbury's – that's double the original target of 1 million meals!

Local volunteers, recruited by FareShare – and including North and Leith MP Mark Lazarowicz - lent a helping hand at the retailer's Blackhall store over the weekend. The items collected, including tins, dried pasta, pasta sauce, rice, tea and instant coffee, are destined for local charities and projects in the surrounding community including Granton Youth Centre and Edinburgh City Mission.

Sainsbury's Head of Community Affairs, Andy White said: "Our customers have been telling us that they like giving in this way and it's really apparent by their generosity despite difficult times. We're delighted to match all the meals donated by our customers and it means that together we're helping to provide two million meals to vulnerable members of our communities that need it the most."

FareShare CEO Lindsay Boswell added: "The response to the Million Meal Appeal has been incredible. We'll be able to combine the donated pasta, rice and tinned food with the short life surplus meat, fruit and vegetables that we receive daily from the food industry. It will make these surpluses go even further in a time of real need."



IN DAD'S SHOES

Two local men featured in a photographic exhibition at the Scottish Parliament last month

DADS Alex Newport and Malcolm Borthwick and their families are part of the 'In Dad's Shoes' exhibition being staged by the father's group Dad's Rock, telling in words and pictures what it means to be a dad.

Wester Drylaw's Alex and Malcolm, who lives in Granton, are members of a North Edinburgh group set up specifically for dads. Based at the Haven Project in Craigmoynton Primary School, the father's group is run by Circle Scotland's Nick Smithers.

Nick explained: "The exhibition comprises of photos of all kinds of dads and their children, telling their own stories through photos and with words. The images show a variety of differing stages of being a father, ultimately the aim is to highlight positive, caring images of dads and their children."

Previously on display south of the border following an official launch at the House of Lords in June, Dads Rock and Fathers Network Scotland worked in conjunction with Dads House to

bring this unique photo exhibition to Scotland. It's hoped that the display will continue to tour Scotland after the Holyrood exhibition.

NEN interviewed and photographed Alex and Malcolm for the exhibition back in August, but the Holyrood unveiling was the first time they had seen the finished product – fortunately both men were happy with the display!

Alex Newport lives with his sons Cameron (12), Declan (9) and daughter Tiffany (7) in Wester Drylaw. His words for the exhibition were: 'Life doesn't always go to plan. My partner developed Huntington's disease and is now in care – that had a devastating effect on our family, and it's been really tough. There have been lots of ups and downs, but things have been more settled

as the kids have grown up. They understand more now. The biggest challenge has been the change in lifestyle – from having enough money to having to be very careful, but have a social life as a family and we've done lots of fun things together over the summer.

"My big hope for my kids is that they enjoy school – I didn't have a good educational experience and really I hope my own children will continue to enjoy school – the opportunities available to them are much greater. There will be more challenges – Cameron is nearly a teenager, and daughters can bring other challenges – but we'll get through them together."

Malcolm Borthwick, who lives in Granton with his two-year old son James, said:

"It was an almighty struggle to get custody of James – my ex-partner's family made things difficult and I think at first the authorities thought that, because I was brought up in care myself, I wouldn't be a fit person to bring up my own son. I think the opposite is true – I'm going to do everything I can to make sure James gets the opportunities that I never had.

"I have a boy and girl from a previous relationship. They're both really brilliant, and I think I've learned enough from bringing them up to make sure James is well looked after and cared for. We do everything together – fishing, reading books, going for walks – and I try to make sure James eats all the right things and has a healthy diet. He'll get the best start in life I can give him."

Alex, Malcolm and Nick were joined at Holyrood by Circle Scotland Director Liz Dahl, and parliamentarians of all political persuasions were among the first-day visitors - Children and Families minister Aileen Campbell, Sarah Boyack, Lewis MacDonald, Margaret McCulloch, Ann McTaggart and exhibition sponsor Kezia Dugdale were among those MSPs to look in on the exhibition.

Good news for North Edinburgh dads – dad's group Dad's Rock will be launching new weekly sessions at The Prentice Centre on Saturday mornings from 27 October.



Young filmmakers SEE for themselves

SHORT FILMS produced by local schoolchildren through the Cashback for Creativity initiative were premiered at North Edinburgh Arts Centre last month, and both 'Danny' and 'The Clock Strikes Fate' were real quality productions.

Participants from Broughton High School, CORE, Pilton Youth and Children's Project and Muirhouse Youth Development Group worked with professionals from Pilton-based Screen Education Edinburgh to produce the two short films, with the young people were involved at every stage of the process – from script writing and finding locations to acting, selecting soundtracks and editing. The young filmmakers discovered that a lot of preparation and hard work goes into creating even a short film, but their efforts were richly rewarded with two fine short films.

Introducing the films, SEE project manager James McKenzie said: "I think you will agree that these films are remarkable, given that most of the young people involved had no experience of filmmaking. I am sure they will be very proud when they see what they have produced – these are excellent films".

Danny dealt with the issue of schizophrenia in an unusually entertaining way, while 'The Clock Strikes Fate' was a silent movie, simple yet touching.

In a question and answer session with SEE engagement officer Neil Rolland after the screenings, the filmmakers were unanimous in saying that they had learned a lot from the process and all expressed a wish to go on to make more movies.

Kyle Fitzpatrick said: "I thought to begin with I would only be acting but we all got involved in lots of different aspects, things we hadn't thought we would be doing – for me it was using film cameras, for example. It was a great experience and we learned a lot over the course of producing the films. This was the first time we'd seen the finished films and I think they look pretty good!"

The films will now be entered into film festivals and will appear on SEE's website – www.screen-ed.org - sometime soon. The young filmmakers will also get their wish for more opportunities to make movies – Screen Education Edinburgh plan to set up a North Edinburgh Young People's Film Group in the not too distant future.

SEE is also working on an exciting new film project with groups of young people based at Tynecastle and Easter Road stadia



Muirhouse Million Steps

Almost four hundred local people took part in the Muirhouse Million Steps event on 28 September. Local schools were well represented on the walk, which was also supported by Edinburgh Western MSP Colin Keir.



A story worth telling:

Library Link celebrates twenty years

A LOCAL LIBRARY success story was shared yesterday as the Library Link service celebrated its twentieth birthday on 4 October. This popular service helps people who have difficulty getting out to access books and other library services, and it's fitting that the celebrations centred on Muirhouse Library - for it's there that the Link service was first established all those years ago.

Culture and Sport convener Councillor Richard Lewis and Head of Library and Information Service Liz McGettigan were among the guests who joined the anniversary celebrations.

Library Link is a bus service for anyone who has difficulty getting to the library because of their age, disability or ill-health. The

free minibus picks you up from home and takes you to your local library. The bus has wheelchair access and trained staff and WRVS volunteers are on hand to give assistance on and off the bus. Readers can choose their books, and then sit down to enjoy a coffee and a chat before being taken home again.

Launched in Muirhouse Library in 1992, Library Link has proven so successful that it has been adopted by nearly every library in the Capital and is now regarded as a core part of the Libraries and Information Service. Some libraries have more than one link service, catering to those who prefer to visit on a different day of the week or time of day.

The service forms a unique partnership between City of Edinburgh Council Library and Information Services and the voluntary sector. The WRVS recruit and support volunteer escorts to accompany the link members and transport is provided by organisations like PEP (Pilton Equalities Project).

For crime novel enthusiast Mary Anderson the club has become one of the few occasions she gets out and about. "I enjoy meeting everyone and it also keeps the brain active, which is very important when you get to my age," she said.

Accessing the Services

The 4 October celebration also saw the introduction of a new Edinburgh City Libraries brochure. 'My library keeps me out and about' - Library services for older people, is a new booklet from Edinburgh City Libraries providing information about the various activities and services that are available to older people in Edinburgh, or anyone who finds it difficult to use their library through disability or illness.

There are lots of ways to access the library services available, and the booklet provides information on the Library2go service, Get Up and Go, and Your Edinburgh - all services designed to keep

people up to date with what is happening in their community. The booklet also outlines how library users

can get involved in events and activities in their community, including the popular book groups, IT courses and activities for children and grandchildren.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture and Sport Convener, said: "Today marks a very special milestone for a very special service. Library Link has helped many, many residents over the past two decades, ensuring they can access the wide range of services on offer at their library while interacting socially with fellow service users and volunteers. I would like to pay tribute to all the volunteers, past and present, whose hard work and enthusiasm mean Library Link continues to go from strength to strength."

Library Link's 148 volunteers provide an incredible 10,280 hours annually to support the service, and Councillor Lewis presented awards to David Colvin and Patrick Watson, two long-standing Link volunteers. Guests were also entertained by a short film on the local Link service produced by Muirhouse Library's Rehan Yousuf, and there were also special thanks to local Library Link member Mr Wong - the Chinese Moon Festival fell during the same week as the Library Link event, so Mr Wong shared Moon Cake with Library Link guests to make it a double celebration!

Doesn't everyone love a story with a happy ending?

"A special milestone for a very special service"



TOiL worth it for young graduates

Celebrating a programme helping young people get started in their careers

SCOTLAND'S MINISTER for Youth Employment has congratulated nine young people who have completed a six-month work placement programme. Angela Constance MSP handed out completion certificates to the Training Opportunities in Lothian (TOiL) graduates at a ceremony held at Edinburgh City Council Chambers earlier this month.

Ms Constance said: "Congratulations to the young people graduating today, the latest in a line of young people in the Lothians who have benefitted from the support of the TOiL project in getting started in their careers. I believe that our young people are the best and seeing success like this today is why we are providing funding for projects like TOiL through our Get Ready for Work programme, right across Scotland."

Introduced and operated by Port of Leith Housing Association (PoLHA), TOiL offers paid six-month work training and placements. Established in 2004, the programme has now helped over 400 young people aged 16 to 24 into work and training. Keith Anderson, Chief Executive at PoLHA, said: "We are very grateful to the Minister for attending our ceremony. Youth unemployment is a major issue and it is imperative that projects such as this continue to deliver real results in helping young people develop their skills to get on that first step of the career ladder."

One of those graduating was 21-year-old Charlotte Cameron, who has secured permanent employment as a direct result of the programme with the City of Edinburgh Council in its Criminal Justice Department. Charlotte said: "The TOiL programme was really good and the courses were great. I now have a job I love."

Also graduating on the day were Sean Fernie, 16, who was a heating engineer with TB McKay; Patrick McDermott, 17, who was a painter and joiner with Seddon's; Lauren Campbell, 18, who was a Finance Assistant with PoLHA; Darren Holland, 18, who was

"The courses were great. I now have a job I love"

a cleaning assistant with ISS; Ryan Walker, 17, who was an electrician and joiner with Castlerock; Jamie Tubby, 16, was a painter and decorator with Mitie; Aaron Blues, 18, was a lift engineer with Clyde Valley Lifts; and Ryan Sutherland, 16, was a painter with Seddon's.

John Murray, who manages the TOiL programme, said: "Congratulations to all the young people who have graduated and we look forward to continuing to support them as they progress in their early careers."

As well as the young people graduating, the 10 October ceremony also honoured those involved in TOiL - there were awards for Partner Organisation of the Year, Employer of the Year and Best New Employer of the Year.

Lorraine Borwick, of Community Learning and Development - named Partner Organisation of the Year -, said: "TOiL ensures that young people's employability goals are central to the planning process and that sessions are engaging and relevant. The partnership works really well as we work closely to plan and develop literacy and numeracy sessions for young people."

Angela Constance MSP added: "We are committed to improving the employability of all Scotland's young people and have guaranteed every 16-19-year-old a place in education or training through Opportunities for All. I will continue to work with employers, local authorities and third sector partners to secure the best opportunities for all our young people."

▶▶ If you are a young jobseeker or employer interested in learning more about the TOiL programme, contact 0131 554 0403.



Healthy advice from GIC

Granton Information Centre (GIC) has extended their service at Muirhouse Medical Group

GIC's Michelle Lee can now be found at the Muirhouse Avenue centre on Mondays & Tuesdays from 2 – 4pm.

GIC have provided an advice service in local GP surgeries for many years, and have had a presence in the Muirhouse surgery for almost two years. The extra hours at Muirhouse became possible when the Muirhouse practice was extended, and it's a service that patients registered at Muirhouse are using in increasing numbers.

"There's as much of a demand for the service as there has ever been – perhaps even more so", said Michelle, who has been with GIC for eight years. "The advice service has been getting particularly busy on Tuesdays, and having the additional day here makes a great difference."

Muirhouse Medical Centre's Gillian Anderson said: "Michelle is very much a part of our team – she's been added to our appointment systems and participates in our six-weekly staff team meetings. It's great to have Michelle here in the practice to give advice – updating staff on changes to legislation and other issues that may affect GPs – to the comprehensive service she provides to the local people who are registered at this practice. There are a lot of questions on benefits and entitlements that we couldn't give the answers to, so it's very useful having Michelle here to explain complicated things in a way we can all understand."

A patient's story

One patient who particularly appreciates GIC's GP surgery service is Alan, who lives in Muirhouse. Alan, who suffers from depression, turned to Michelle for help when his mother – who was also his carer – suddenly died last Christmas.

"I didn't have a clue what to do – my mum had always done everything and I really didn't know where to turn or where to start. It took me a long time to get over the shock of losing my mum and things sort of drifted – I got into a mess and I didn't have a clue how to sort things out. It affected my health, which was not that great anyway, and I was so lucky that my GP was able to offer GIC's advice service, saying we'd be able to get things sorted." At this point I had been refused Employment & Support Allowance due to failing a Work Capability

assessment; I had a funeral to organise and to pay for and had accruing council tax arrears and I had no money coming in."

He went on: "When I spoke to Michelle it was a weight off my mind – it was amazing just how much better I felt just being able to share things with somebody, because I really didn't have anyone else to help me, no-one else to turn to. I'm not exaggerating when I say that Michelle was my lifeline – she has supported me all the way through. Things were a mess – far too complicated for me – but with Michelle's help things are looking up now – it's a whole lot brighter, when just a wee while ago everything seemed hopeless."

Michelle said: "Alan suffers from severe depression, and when he found himself alone he found it impossible to cope with forms, bills and paperwork. He found himself with an outstanding funeral bill, no money coming in because his benefits had been stopped and there were various other complications. It was a set of circumstances that anyone would have found daunting – never mind someone who had recently lost their mother. Fortunately, we have been able to systematically deal with all of the issues Alan faced, and things that once seemed insurmountable have been resolved. It is not an easy process, but we've got there. Alan has started to get his life in order, and he's feeling better and more positive as a result."

Michelle explained to Alan that she would assist with appealing the Employment & Support Allowance decision and would also assist with making an application to British Gas Energy Trust for help with the outstanding balance for the funeral. Michelle also identified a possible entitlement to Disability Living Allowance.

The Employment & Support Allowance decision was overturned at the appeal stage and Alan was placed in the support group. His weekly income increased from absolutely nothing to £105.05 a week, and he also received an additional backdated payment of £681.00.

The British Gas Energy Trust application was also successful and Alan was awarded £1960.80 to clear the outstanding balance of his mother's funeral costs.



"Things are looking up now – it's a whole lot brighter, when just a wee while ago everything seemed hopeless"

The initial application for Disability Living Allowance was unsuccessful, but GIC successfully appealed the decision and this increased Alan's weekly income by another £41.10.

In total Alan's annual household income has increased by £7,599.80.

Alan's life has been turned around. "I'm starting to get out and about a bit more, which is hard to believe," he said. "I can honestly say that, without this service, I really don't think

I would have been here to tell you this story. Seriously, it was that bad but things are getting better. I can never thank Michelle enough for everything she's done for me and I count myself so lucky that my GP told me about the advice service."

Granton Information Centre's GP Surgery service is also available at: Crewe Medical Centre on Tuesday mornings between 10.00am and 1pm.

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



Living Well welcome for new manager Sandra

LIVING WELL NORTH EDINBURGH (formerly PROP Stress Centre) has warmly welcomed new manager Sandra Walkingshaw.

Sandra said: "I am delighted to have joined the Living Well team as the new manager. I am really looking forward to working with all our members, staff and volunteers on continuing the excellent work that is currently going on and also planning for the future aims and goals of Living Well North Edinburgh."

Living Well North Edinburgh is currently presenting 'The Journey Within', an exhibition of members' arts and crafts as part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival 2012. The exhibition runs at North Edinburgh Arts Centre until 2 November.



EASTER DRYLAW RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2012
6.30pm – 9pm

At DRYLAW PARISH CHURCH
GROATHILL ROAD NORTH
EDINBURGH

*Chairperson
for the evening:*
Mr Cammy Day

Guests:
North Edinburgh
Environmental Team

ALL WELCOME

Granton United Church

is holding a pre-Christmas Table Top Sale

On Saturday 2 November
from 2 – 4pm
Entrance 50p

Granton United Church, 125 Boswall Parkway



Housing at Wesley Court

Are you 60 or over?

Wesley Court sheltered housing offers peace of mind - with security, the support of a scheme manager, 24 hours access to help in emergency and communal areas for social functions and activities. Wesley Court has flats for couples and single occupancy.

For more information please phone the housing manager on 0131 552 4568

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



CRAWFORD GOWANS DEFENCE LAWYERS

**IN TROUBLE? NEED A LAWYER?
CRAWFORD GOWANS DEFENCE
LAWYERS CAN HELP YOU.**

- Do the Police want to interview you?
- Have you been charged by the Police?
- Do you just need some advice?

Our Lawyers have years of experience in defending people. We will give you advice, attend at the police station with you if you are to be interviewed and represent you at Court.

Appointments not always necessary and the first meeting is always FREE.

Registered to provide Legal Aid
36 MUIRHOUSE CRESCENT,
EDINBURGH, EH4 4QL

24 HOUR CRIMINAL
LEGAL ADVICE: 0131 343 1987

TACKLING POVERTY CONFERENCE: EDINBURGH

Saturday 1st December 2012
10:00 am 'til 4.00 pm

Craigroyston Community School
Pennywell Road, Edinburgh EH4 4QP

This year, building on the work from the 2012 Conference, we aim to create a new, Scotland-wide Charter which forms the basis of an action plan to fight the blight of Poverty in Scotland.

SPEAKERS: Government Minister, Trade Unionists, Activists, Journalists and Community Activists.

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE: COMMUNITY FOOD, LOW PAY, POVERTY & YOUNG PEOPLE, STUC THERE IS A BETTER WAY, HOUSING

'QUESTION TIME' chaired by Keith Aitken, Broadcaster & Journalist, with panellists including local politicians, activists and trade unionists.

Edinburgh organisations
can register by contacting Susan Rae at
sjrae.etuc@btconnect.com (0131 474 8016)

Scotland/UK wide organisations
contact Pauline Walker @ pwalker@stuc.org.uk
(0141 337 8105)



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

20th November
18th December

Looking for a dentist?

PRIVATE AND NHS PATIENTS WELCOME

Our practice has been established for over 50 years.

Following our recent expansion we are pleased that Dr Emma Laing BDS has joined us and we are welcoming new patients to register.



For details please call in at
65 Main Street, Davidson's Mains
or telephone **336 3903**

MUIRHOUSE SLIMMING CLUB

Muirhouse Slimming Club meets in the ground floor flat, Birnie's Court, Muirhouse View on Thursdays from 6- 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 552 6447 and join a Fun Slimming Club!

Bomar Carpets, Flooring and Blinds



Bomar carpets are an independently run family business with 23 years floor covering experience. Our aim is to provide total customer satisfaction with our efficient, fast and friendly service. Bomar use only experienced highly qualified and fully insured fitters.

**GREAT CARPET
OFFERS NOW ON!!**

**Plus Three Vertical Blinds or
Three Roller Blinds for £110**

KEY WEST

Heavy Domestic

Was £13.99 sq m
NOW £11.99 sq m

LINEA

Heavy Domestic

Was £10.99 sq m
NOW £8.99 sq m

ANACONDA

Heavy Domestic

Was £9.50 sq m
NOW £7.50 sq m

CABARET

Plains & Stripes

Was £13.99 sq m
NOW £11.99 sq m

ATLANTIC CITY

Heavy Domestic

NOW ONLY £6.99 sq m

Expert Fitting | Free Estimate and Planning | Open 6 Days | All Enquiries Welcome
We guarantee **LOW PRICES, QUALITY PRODUCTS** and **SUPERB FITTING SERVICES!**

13-15 Ferry Road (opposite Leith Library)

Tel **0131 554 4050**

sales@bomarcarpets.co.uk www.bomarcarpets.co.



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

Looking to get fit in a friendly environment while still having fun?

Why not join in the fitness classes available at the Scout Hut, Boswall Parkway.

- Zumba Fitness** - Tuesdays 7.30pm to 8.30pm
- 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.

New class coming soon - **Powerhoop**

Learn how to Powerhoop using a weighted hoop and lose inches from your body.

➤ 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, 125 Boswall Parkway	552 3316
Muirhouse St. Andrew's, Pennywell Medway	476 9525
Old Kirk, Pennywell Road	332 4354
St David's Episcopal, Royston Mains Place	01890 819063
St Margaret Mary's, Boswall Parkway	552 3957
St Paul's, Muirhouse Avenue	539 0085
St Serf's, Ferry Road	249 4899
Seventh Day Adventist, Boswall Parkway	0777 239 1405
West Pilton Christian Centre, West Pilton Park	343 6391

COMMUNITY CENTRES

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

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 Krazy Kids Club	538 6262
The Yard, Eyre Place Lane	475 4506
Women Supporting Women	551 1671

HOUSING

Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association	657 0600
Central Muirhouse Low-Rise Tenants Association	467 3570
City of Edinburgh Council North Local Office	529 5050
Edinburgh Tenants Federation	475 2509
Fresh Start	476 7741
Housing Support Inclusion Service	529 5093
Manor Estates Housing Association	337 3222
Muirhouse Housing Association	336 5282
Pennywell Tenants and Residents Association	476 2359
Port of Leith Housing Association	554 0403
West Granton Housing Co-operative	551 5035

HEALTH/WELFARE

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

RECREATION/ARTS

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

SCHOOLS/EDUCATION

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

CHILDREN 1 st bfriends Service, The Prentice Centre	552 8265
Fet-Lor Youth Centre	332 4506
Granton Youth Centre	467 5854
Muirhouse Youth Development Group	332 3356
Pilton Youth and Children's Project	332 9815
The 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



Braveheart Spartans

Spartans were left heartbroken as they lost 8-7 on penalties to Hearts in the Ronnie Swan Cup at Ainslie Park last month

by ALAN CLARK

THE EAST OF SCOTLAND League side had led throughout the game and were 4-2 to the good with just a couple of minutes remaining, but Hearts scored a quick-fire double to take the friendly to a penalty shoot-out.

Due to the international break, Hearts boss John McGlynn agreed to take part in the memorial match for Ronnie Swan and the Scottish Cup holders brought a strong squad along to Ainslie Park, including first-team regulars Andrew Driver, Jamie MacDonald and Ryan Stevenson.

The game started evenly with both sides attempting to find their feet but the hosts made the breakthrough after ten minutes. Jordan Finnie spotted Jack Beesley's run and fed him the ball, and the Spartans midfielder used his first touch to chip Jambos keeper Jamie MacDonald beautifully – much to the delight of the home crowd.

The Tynecastle outfit looked for a quick reply as they won a free-kick on the edge of the area but Ukrainian defender Denis Prychynko's effort went well wide of the post.

Spartans extended their lead ten minutes after the opener, Neil McCuish's scissor-kick every bit as impressive as Beesley's chip. The ball bounced on the left side of 'the D' and McCuish took a gamble by launching his whole body at the ball, which looped over MacDonald and into the inside of the side-netting. Spartans were in dreamland!

Dale Carrick attempted a copy-cat of McCuish's wonder strike but the Hearts forward watched as his effort went narrowly wide of the post. McGlynn's side were looking more interested in the game after 35 minutes and almost got a goal back, Ryan Stevenson's cross almost being turned in by Spartans Danny O'Donnell.

Jason Holt was next to go close for Hearts as he made some space for himself in the box before sending his low drive at Ross Gilpin, who did well to use his legs save to his right. Just as Dougie Samuel thought Spartans would have a 2-0 half-time lead, striker Gordon Smith pulled a goal back for Hearts, poking the ball home from six yards.

Samuel didn't have long to wait to see his side's two-goal league restored however, as Spartans made it 3-1 in the 54th minute. Chris Anderson weighed his through ball perfectly for Andy Martin, who hit his shot across MacDonald's goal and into the far corner.

After 70 minutes, Spartans felt it really could be their night after all as they almost extended their lead, smacking the woodwork with a ferocious drive from the edge of the area. MacDonald did well to palm it onto the bar.

With less than ten minutes to go, ex-Ipswich Town forward Stevenson got his name on the score sheet for Hearts with a powerful shot from inside the area, but Spartans delighted their supporters by making it 4-2 just seconds later. Anderson was the supplier again with the midfielder going past MacDonald, leaving him helpless and Sean Wringe beat a defender to squeeze home the fourth into an empty net.

You could be forgiven for thinking that was that, but Hearts had other things in mind. Substitute and former Kilmarnock winger Mehdi Taouil took matters into his own feet as it were, as he picked the ball up 30 yards from goal and thumped home high into the keeper's left-hand corner. With less than two minutes to play, this goal made Spartans sweat but rejuvenated Hearts and resulted in Sam Nicolson bundling home with

the last kick of the game to make it an astonishing 4-4.

The game was to be decided by penalties and after both sides scored their five apiece, the shoot-out entered sudden-death where Nicholson scored the cup-winning penalty. Hearts were presented with the Ronnie Swan trophy in front of the main stand at the end of an enthralling friendly in front of 1,200 fans.

SPARTANS: Ross Gilpin, Danny O'Donnell, Gary Cenerazzo, Kevin Sivewright, Neil McCuish, Robbie Manson (C), Jack Beesley, Mark Whatley, Jordan Finnie, Chris Anderson, Donal Henretty.
Subs: Sean Wringe, Keith McLeod, Chris Flockhart, John Grant, Andy Martin, Willie Bremner, Peter Mair.

HEARTS: Jamie MacDonald, Dylan McGowan (C), Kevin McHattie, Denis Prychynko, Brad McKay, Ryan Stevenson, Jamie Walker, Jason Holt, Gordon Smith, Dale Carrick, Andrew Driver.
Subs: Mehdi Taouil, Callum Paterson, Jack Hamilton, Callum Tappin, Scott Robinson, Billy King, Adam King, Sam Nicolson.



MYDG create a Cyclone on Gypsy Brae!

MUIRHOUSE Youth Development Group set themselves a daunting challenge – to create from scratch Edinburgh's biggest cycling track. But with the help of a team of volunteers, including squads from Scottish Gas and State Street, 'Cyclone' is well on ... well, track!

MYDG was given the lease for the Gypsy Brae land from the city council back in June, and the group conducted walking tours of the area off West Shore Road in September, to let members of the public see what is being proposed and also to get new ideas and suggestions.

The group then set to the hard manual labour of clearing the ground and creating the track and phase one of the 360m track is now complete.

The project came about after MYDG's Peter Airlie pitched his idea to a high-powered funding panel – and was rewarded with a £2000 grant and the green light to start the project!

Peter explained: "A lot of local young people want to try mountain biking but there are no local facilities. We do the cycling proficiency but one of the things we always get asked is: 'where can we go mountain biking?' Glentress near Peebles is ideal for mountain biking but it's an hour-and-a-half away so the idea was to bring a mini-Glentress here to North Edinburgh. The new track is off-road so it will keep them healthy and out of trouble because the track is in the middle of nowhere where there's nothing to do. It will give them a chance to go somewhere without being in danger."

MY's social enterprise manager Jonny Kinross said: "Peter's Cyclone Bike Track project is radical and creative and probably the envy of many a politician and strategist, having successfully got together council, community projects and big business at a national and local level to make a lasting contribution to mountain biking and cycling in North Edinburgh. This will raise the profile of the community across Edinburgh and create something the whole city will benefit from."



Premiership trophy comes to Craigroyston!

IT'S BEEN RAISED ALOFT by the greatest names in world football, and it's never crossed the border before – but the Barclays Premiership Trophy arrived in North Edinburgh for a flying visit last month!

The Spartans Community Football Academy held their inaugural fund raising dinner at the Prestonfield House Hotel on 6 September, and as part of the celebrations SCFA obtained the Barclays Premiership Trophy for the day. In the afternoon S1 and S2 Craigroyston High School pupils and School of Football participants - and a few adults too! – got the once in a lifetime chance to get their picture taken with the famous trophy.