



Physio support worker Christina Shaw and patient Mary Archibald chat to Alex Neil MSP

NEN NEWS DESK

We had thought that last month's edition might well have been the last – at least for a while – but thanks to some late advertising, we have just about got enough money to pay for one more issue.

Over the past few weeks we have been involved in discussions with staff from the local Neighbourhood Partnerships regarding a possible collaboration. We applied for, and got, a grant from Forth NP to pay for some work to identify additional sources of advertising from local businesses and we hope to be successful with a similar bid to the Inverleith NP. If we succeed in this, we should be able to increase our income and maybe stabilise the paper in the medium term. At the same time we are looking to extend deliveries into Trinity, Stockbridge and Blackhall. Fingers crossed! We have also been in discussion with the Council regarding partnership working for the future. This is at an early stage, but we hope that something like a 6-month pilot project could be worked out, which would underpin the cost of production and give us security for the future.

If the NEN is to have a future, we need everyone in the local communities to rally round, especially anyone willing to guarantee us advertising revenue over 3, 6 or preferably 12 months. We have a readership of around 30,000 people, so a modest investment could bring you handsome rewards, if you want to get your business known!

Lastly, we are looking for budding reporters to get involved to write stories for the paper. No experience is necessary as we will be running another course in the use of social media – blogging, Facebook, Twitter – as well as writing copy for print. If you are interested, get in touch – northedinnews@gmail.com or phone 07925 405 972.

Dedicated to improving care



Health Secretary, Alex Neil MSP, opens new purpose-built Royal Victoria Building

by DAVID PICKERING

ALEX NEIL MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing officially opened the new Royal Victoria Building at the Western General Hospital on 5 February.

The new £43.6-million facility, which replaces the Royal Victoria Hospital, provides services for patients over 65 years old in five dedicated wards, a rheumatology and dermatology ward as well as an assessment and rehabilitation centre for day patients and outpatients.

A landmark feature of the new state-of-the-art building is that each of the 147 beds throughout the six wards is allocated a single room, each with its own en-suite shower and toilet facilities.

Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet

“This new facility marks a key stage in our continual drive to improve the care we provide for older people”

Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, said: “Having the right facilities in the right place is important to people across Scotland and that is why we are determined to ensure both staff and patients the length and breadth of the country can work and be treated in the best possible surroundings.

“The new Royal Victoria Building is a fantastic example of how patients are benefitting from a modern purpose-built facility, with 100 per cent single

rooms which can help to reduce infection and promote dignity for all patients.

“Continued investment in health building projects clearly sets out the strength of our commitment to the NHS in Scotland, and will mean that we can provide more sustainable, high quality and continually improving health care services close to home.”

In addition to universal single rooms, the Royal Victoria Building features three modern

physiotherapy gyms, a specially designed courtyard garden and a direct corridor link to the neighbouring Anne Ferguson building.

NHS Lothian Chair Dr Charles Winstanley said: “This new facility marks a key stage in our continual drive to improve the care we provide for older people throughout the Lothians. The Royal Victoria Building is an important addition to the Western General Hospital site and has already had a positive impact on the services we provide for older people. The single occupancy layout gives a greater degree of privacy and helps patients feel more relaxed ideally promoting their recovery.”



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**

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Design: www.lennondesign.co.uk
Distribution: Premier Delivery Edinburgh
Printed by: Sharman's

Poverty and Protest

Dear Editor
Poverty and protest go hand and hand
Fighting for a better land
Working class people taking a stand
Against the injustices
Since time began
Porteous Riots at Edinburgh's gates
This unjust man knew his fate
When he shot these people down
The riots started throughout the town
Look through history you will find
Protests were on people's minds
The right to have their voices heard
Was what these people so deserved
Throughout the ages we can see
The right to speak was not to be
So the protest did begin to start
To demonstrate came from the heart
Of people who were tired and weary
Of poverty oppression and desperation
So they gathered to mount a demonstration
This was done in many ways through songs and plays
People gathered information through thinkers of their generations
Playwrights Poets Artists Trade Unionists Socialist all
Gathered together to hear the call
Of people who were so unhappy starving homeless
Made them fight which leaders called unrest
Politicians make promises for votes
Once elected they are all forgot
Activists present charters with good intentions
City fathers leading them on
Promises broken What has gone wrong ?
Trade Unions now have no say
Thatcher took all their rights away
She crushed communities even took our childrens milk
Riots on street this women caused
With her unjust brutal laws
Poll tax she tried to impose the Scottish nation angerley rose
To fight the cuts we brought her down
No longer for her to rule with an iron hand
She killed our nation throughout the land
Future governments once elected
Did not repeat the Acts she created
Broken promises once again
When will this torture end?
Now there will be a referendum for independence
Political parties running scared incase Scotland vote YES
They tell us we are "BETTER TOGETHER"
people know what is best
Scottish people will decide no more Broken promises
Unjust cuts
Welfare reforms Prices rising .
No jobs to see beyond the horizon
For our youths there is no future
People shivering in the winter
For many it is heat or eat
Poverty rising at an alarming rate
Homeless people have no hope
This present government is a joke
"BETTER TOGETHER" ? Better for who ?
Politicians not me or you
Now they are trying to gather the masses
For what ? I believe to save their own asses
Scotland should show the way
Vote differently have your say
Remember all the broken promises
Remember all this on referendum day.

Anna Hutchison
(by email)

Collective Voice

Dear Editor
According to the Tory/Lib government, because I am now old I am a drain on the economy – a burden on the nation.
Their solution to ease that burden is to restrict what I can buy, by allowing drastic price rises of most items needed, particularly gas and electricity. This continuous lowering of the quality of life will lead to an earlier death for many.
It would seem whatever hardship is imposed, little is being done or can be done; this is wrong thinking – by adding my voice to yours and yours and yours we can, together, change things. Of all people, the elderly know this is a basic truth – it is only through a collective voice that any progress will be made.
This collective voice can be expressed in many ways: through pensioners organisations, forums, trade unions to councillors, MPs and MSPs, demonstrating on issues of concern - even calling for a boycott of stores that are pushing up prices too steeply. There are so many ways of protesting.
As the numbers of elderly people are growing, so is the power of their vote – and it is essential we use it. All politicians, councillors and officials must be made aware they cannot ignore or sideline our serious concerns.

A. Delahoy
Silverknowes Gardens

Divide and Rule

Dear Editor
The Tory/Lib government is trying to make scapegoats of people on benefits. They are playing one section of people against others, for example:
• people on housing benefit getting large sums of money, but neglect to say it is the landlords who get the money via the tenants
• people on disability benefits being classed as layabouts, being forced to undergo a work capability assessment test by a private organisation
• people on Working Tax Credit, benefit being cut
• Job Seekers Allowance, benefit being cut.
People on these and other benefits have been slandered and labelled undeserving, and – if these benefits were cut – all would be well.
This divisive campaign by the Tory/Lib government did initially fool some people into supporting benefits cuts, but now the real target can be seen: it is everyone's income, wages as well as benefits.

The following quote may sound very familiar: a group of unemployed men wrote to the Poor Law Commission in January 1835, asking for help. The Commission responded as follows:
'the amount of relief, you must be aware, ought not to be as to render the situation of the pauper equal to that of a person living by independent industry: a practice of making allowance for idleness equal or nearly equal to the wages of industry must tend to make pauperism preferable to independence'.

A. Delahoy
Silverknowes Gardens

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

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

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

Please have your copy to us by Friday 29 March for inclusion in our next edition



New location for Edinburgh MoonWalk

GRANT-MAKING BREAST CANCER CHARITY Walk the Walk is delighted to announce two new Power Walking challenges for The MoonWalk Edinburgh Scotland on June 8. The event is also moving to a brand new venue – Leith Links.

Sign up for the New Moon and you can join a huge sleepover. Not so much sleep, but you will be able to walk 6.6 miles, or get a team of four together to complete a Marathon between you. Best of all, whilst you wait for your turn to walk, you can snuggle up, eat popcorn and watch films in our huge pink tent. If you've never taken part in a Marathon, this is a great place to start.

Or if you are looking for the next extreme challenge, then the "Over the Moon" is for you. Two MoonWalks back to back, covering a distance of 52.4 miles!

Walk the Walk is still offering its famous Half Moon (13.1 miles) and Full Moon (26.2 miles) challenges, with all walkers uniting together to raise money and awareness for breast cancer.

All walkers over the age of 13 wear Walk the Walk's trademark brightly decorated bras. This year's theme is "Psychedelic Extravaganza", where the swinging 60's meets 2013!

The MoonWalk Edinburgh Scotland has raised in excess of £15 million since it was launched eight years ago. Most of the money raised stays in Scotland, helping to improve the lives of people with cancer. More than £1.5 million was raised by the 2012 event alone.

» Entries for The MoonWalk Edinburgh Scotland are now open. To enter and for more information about Walk the Walk, go to www.walkthewalk.org



Happy birthday, Tony!

IT WAS standing room only at North Edinburgh Arts when local man – and regular NEN contributor – Tony Delahoy celebrated his ninetieth birthday on 13 January.

Tony, who is originally from London, was joined by friends, family and community colleagues for an afternoon of live music, food and conversation at the Arts Centre. The star of the show remains in good health and has promised to keep those letters coming in for years to come! Speaking of which see page two!

Muirhouse Centipede Project

Linda Dunbar gives an update on the Centipede's progress:



PLANS ARE IN HAND for the 121212 photo competition entries to go on show in March - hopefully travelling around the area for a week on display in the North Edinburgh Arts, Millennium Centre, Muirhouse Library and finishing up at St Andrew's Church where they will remain on display.

This will provide a build up to our concluding event when – hopefully! - the Hollywood Style "Muirhouse" bulbs will be in full bloom. On Easter Sunday, 31 March, we are planning lots of activities around the bulb site - more work with the artist and the youngsters around a planting theme, Easter Egg rolling and painting, a free BBQ and hot drinks and stalls giving information on local groups and activities.

This bonanza will mark the formal end of the pilot project, but by no means the end of the Centipede Project. We are nearly ready to submit our application to the Church of Scotland's new Go For It fund which, if successful, would provide three years of funding for a full project where we hope to work towards establishing a Community Development Trust - a big idea, but one which we think is achievable together with all the fantastic folk and groups that are working in the area.

The application will be submitted on 1st March, and we would hope to have a decision by the end of May. Keep an eye on our website!



New Kitchin for San Marco's!

MICHELIN STAR CHEF Tom Kitchin and his Telford College-trained business partner Dominic Jack are to open a new gastro pub in Stockbridge. Kitchin and Jack worked together as young chefs at Gleneagles, and the team behind the Kitchin in Leith and Castle Terrace Restaurant will open their third site – the former San Marco Restaurant on Comely Bank Road – in the Spring.

The Stockbridge pub restaurant will open seven days a week and will follow the team's "From Nature to Plate" philosophy in a more informal setting.

Alan Goldie, director from The Restaurant Agency, said; "Stockbridge is an area that's thriving and though many local residents will miss San Marco, I know Nino and Franco are pleased to retire and spend more time with their families. The family were involved in the decision to find new tenants and we're all confident the planned offering will bring an exciting new flavour to the area. Run by an award winning, expert team, it will bring a range of outstanding menus, combined with the hospitality expected from a warm and welcoming family pub."

Brothers Franco and Nino Alonzi from San Marco Restaurant said; "While the decision to close the restaurant after 30 years was not an easy one, we're pleased to be handing over the property to another family-run business. With two successful restaurants in the city we're confident they can continue to provide locals and visitors with a new destination to relax with friends and family, and enjoy great fresh food and drink. We would like to thank all of our loyal customers for their continued support over the years - we take with us many fond memories."

The new venue – which is yet to be named - is currently under refurbishment and is expected to open in Spring.

news in brief

Make March the month for a new start

A free personal development programme in Muirhouse is looking for new participants to start on 1 March.

If you are aged 16 – 24, unemployed, not in education or training and keen to learn new skills, meet new people and gain new experiences then please get in touch.

The Working It Out programme runs for 16 weeks and offers a range of activities and challenges that allow you to develop personal skills, volunteer in your own community and improve your job prospects. Participants are supported throughout the programme and for up to 12 months after. You can earn up to £40 in expenses every week and receive a free Ridacard.

Working it Out is run by Tomorrow's People, based in North Edinburgh Arts.

If you're interested in making positive life changes, increasing your skills or getting a job, contact Heather on 0798 966 9019 or e-mail hlaw@tomorrows-people.co.uk

Sing, sing, sing!

The timebank choir, now called North Edinburgh Sings Together, is recruiting more members ...

We meet Thursday mornings, 10-12 at North Edinburgh Arts. It's an informal way to enjoy singing and we welcome new people dropping in. You don't have to make any commitment, come along any Thursday when you can – and you don't have to be a great singer!

We're also keen that speakers of other languages get involved as we'd like to learn songs from around the world.

We are also looking for a pianist to accompany the group. We can pay them for their time! So any local musician with time on a Thursday morning, let us know!

Julie Smith, North Edinburgh Time Bank Broker
c/o North Edinburgh Arts
15a Pennywell Court
Mob: 07807002591
Website: <http://www.edinburghtimebank.org.uk>

Table sale at Millennium Centre

Muirhouse Millennium Centre is holding a Table Sale on Saturday 23 March from 11am – 3pm. Tables cost £5 for Centre members, £7.50 for non-members. Free entry. For further information call Muirhouse Millennium Centre on 467 3578 or check out their Facebook page.

Have your say on city transport priorities

Want to have your say on city transport? A six-week public consultation was launched on 4 February as part of the development of a new transport strategy for Edinburgh

FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, the Council's transport projects, network maintenance and service provision have been guided by the Local Transport Strategy (LTS) 2007-2012, now extended to the end of 2013. Work has already begun to draw up a new five year policy document, an LTS for 2014 - 2019. This document will go through a number of stages before being finalised at the end of 2013.

The public consultation being launched today seeks residents' views on 10 key transport Issues for Review, including a proposal to introduce parking charges on Sunday and options to reduce speed limits in residential streets to 20mph.

The Issues for Review report is the first stage in the preparation of the LTS. Its purpose is to seek views on the issues where change is needed, or the Council faces a significant choice in future direction.

Many of the policies and objectives in the current LTS are still valid and these will simply be continued or updated for the next LTS. There will be a chance to give feedback on those in a further consultation process later in 2013.

Councillor Lesley Hinds, Transport Convener, urged as many people as possible to take part in the consultation. She said: "Whether you're a public transport user, a motorist, a cyclist or a

pedestrian - or perhaps you might even be all of these things, depending on the journey - we want to hear what residents and businesses in Edinburgh think about the transport issues in this consultation. It's vital for us to gather as many different points of view as we can so that we can be sure that the final Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019 document accurately reflects the City's priorities for the next five years."

People can respond to this consultation using the questionnaire available online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BPRZ5QK>

Printed questionnaires are also available from libraries, or on request from: localtransportstrategy@edinburgh.gov.uk

Completed printed questionnaires can be returned to the Freepost address:

» **FREEPOST - RTCH - JJEK - TCCZ
Local Transport Strategy
City of Edinburgh Council
Waverley Court (C.2)
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG**



POVERTY & INEQUALITY *the fight goes on*

Writer and commentator Owen Jones was the keynote speaker at the recent Anti-Poverty Conference held at Craigroyston Community High School

by DAVID PICKERING

INTRODUCED by MSP Kezia Dugdale as 'someone who tells it as it is', Owen Jones didn't disappoint. His hard-hitting speech covered the Thatcher years, the demonization of benefits claimants and some of the myths surrounding poverty. He also addressed the oft-repeated notion that 'we're all in this together':

"It's just nonsense - it's still boom time for the people at the top. Look at the Sunday Times Rich List - the

wealth of those at the top went up by nearly a fifth last year. There are tax cuts for the rich from this government of millionaires. But for the rest, living standards are declining at their fastest rate since my gran was born in the early 1920s. A Save the Children study has found that more and more parents are having to decide between heating their homes and eating, and many are skipping meals to allow their children to eat. School meals are being cut, breakfast clubs being closed. We're the seventh richest country on Earth but we can no longer afford to feed our poorest children? It's a disgraceful onslaught on people who are being made to pay for a crisis that was not of their making, that had nothing to do with them whatsoever. That's the reality of Cameron's Britain - a shame on this government and on this country".

He concluded: "We won't get change through the generosity and goodwill of the people at the top - the way we get change is by forcing our demands on those at the top, force them to listen. We must rally round a coherent alternative that gives people hope - we've got

to give a voice to those who will otherwise be airbrushed out of existence. If we can do that we can not only take on this government and austerity, we can

also lay the foundations of a new Britain, a new Scotland. We stand together, we fight together and we will win this together."

Around seventy people attended the conference, which was organised by North Edinburgh Fights Back, STUC and Edinburgh Trades Union Council. The event offered a good mixture of speakers, workshops and information stalls and while numbers were down on the first year - mainly due to a similar event being held in the city centre - organisers were satisfied with the day's programme.

North Edinburgh Fights Back's Barbara Robertson said: "Thanks to everyone for attending and helping to make the second Anti-Poverty conference so successful. It is so worthwhile to get together in this fight against poverty and inequality".





BEDROOM TAX

the 21st century Poll Tax?

It could become the most hated piece of legislation to be inflicted on British people since the infamous Poll Tax. And it's now only weeks away...

by DAVID PICKERING

IN APRIL, a new measure is to be introduced that will apply to all tenants of working age - welfare reforms will cut the amount of benefit that people can get if they are deemed to have a spare bedroom in their council or housing association home.

Under the legislation, size criteria will restrict housing benefit to allow for one bedroom for each person or couple living as part of the household. Children under sixteen years old will be expected to share with others of the same gender, while children under ten will be expected to share regardless of gender.

Under the 'bedroom tax' - all claimants who are then deemed to have at least one spare bedroom will be affected and face an 'under occupation' penalty: a cut to their housing benefit.

The cut will be a fixed percentage of the Housing Benefit eligible rent, which the Westminster government has stated will be set at 14% for one extra bedroom and 25% for two or more extra bedrooms.

Those affected - around 660,000 working-age social housing tenants (over 30% of existing Housing Benefit claimants in the social sector) in the UK - will lose an average of £14 per week, with Housing Association tenants expected to lose around £16 per week.

The architect of the scheme is investment banker and Welfare Reform Minister Baron Freud - who incidentally lives in an eight-bedroom Kent mansion when he is not residing in his four-bedroom townhouse in London's Highgate. His Lordship believes that 'spare council house bedrooms are a luxury the country can no longer afford': 'It's not fair or affordable for people to continue to live in homes that are too large for their needs when, in England alone, there are around five million people on

the social housing waiting list and over a quarter of a million tenants are living in overcrowded conditions. It's only right that we bring fairness back to the system and make better use of the social housing stock.'

He went on: 'Nearly a third of working-age social housing tenants on housing benefit are living in accommodation which is too big for their needs, in spite of the fact of severe overcrowding. We are stopping the practice of the state paying for rooms beyond claimant needs, and that should go in some way to help tackle the social housing shortage that has been blighting too many lives.'

"The UK Government is simply failing to listen to the voice of reason"

The government hopes that more households will choose to 'downsize' to smaller, more affordable properties - and in the process slash £500 million from the Housing Benefit bill. So the government reduces the national debt and tenants get suitably-sized homes: a win, win situation, then - everybody's happy?

Sadly not. There's a desperate shortage of suitable, smaller accommodation, as Shelter Scotland Director Graeme Brown explained: 'The UK Government is simply failing to listen to the voice of reason being put forward by housing professionals, social landlords, MSPs and individuals. Penalizing low-income people for having an extra room assumes that there is a ready supply of smaller properties for them to move to. This is simply not the case. So the only consequence

will be people stuck in homes with mounting rent arrears and a further descent into debt.'

According to the latest Scottish government figures, there are 586,000 households in the social rented sector in Scotland, and 105,000 of these - roughly one in five - will be affected by the Bedroom Tax, each losing around £50 per month.

Advice organisations have already seen a significant increase in demand for their services, and the imminent welfare reforms will inevitably lead to more desperate cries for help.

Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) Chief Executive Margaret Lynch gave evidence about the impact of welfare changes on advice services at the Scottish Parliament earlier this month.

She said: 'We expect demand for benefit advice, to increase even further along with an increased need for other areas of advice such as debt, housing, and budgeting due to changes in benefits. This increase in casework, as well as the increasing complexity and time-consuming nature or many issues, is of course having a knock-on effect on the ability of our service to help our clients.'

'We are already at breaking point so desperately need to be adequately resourced to enable us to help those who need it most as we aim to mitigate the impact of welfare reform as much as possible. The recent benefits uprating bill debate highlighted the statistics showing how the poorest are paying the price for cuts. The evidence we are publishing today is not just statistics but is based on the real lives of real people. It is not just about the numbers of people affected, but the severity of the individual cases. We have seen a big rise in the number of people in crisis situations, either because of the direct impact of a benefit cut or because they have fallen

through the gaps in the safety net that is meant to protect them.

'The evidence we are publishing shows who is really being hit hardest by current policies and it includes thousands of people who are genuinely sick, disabled, and vulnerable and deserve support. The impact of current policies don't just hit the individual claimant but can also have a huge effect on children and others being cared for. Pushing people further into poverty and financial difficulties will lead to an increase in other problems such as homelessness, health inequalities, and family breakdown, as well as lead to rising debt and an increase for food hand-outs.'

Useful advice

Granton Information Centre has been providing advice and support to North Edinburgh residents for over 25 years - and the service has never been busier.

Granton Information Centre's manager Caroline Pickering said: 'GIC has dealt with 5935 benefit enquiries in the first nine months of this financial year, and the type of enquiries we are receiving is changing. Compared with the same period last year, we have seen a significant increase of over 34% in complex cases, but the biggest rise of all has been in the number of cases that require representation at tribunal. Last year we had undertaken 71 tribunals at the end of the first nine months - an increase on the previous year. However this year we have undertaken 140 tribunals in the same period - a 50% increase in tribunal representation in the last year. Tribunal work is time consuming, both in preparatory work and the representation itself. GIC are working at full capacity and anticipate that the demand on services will continue to increase in the coming months. The significance of these figures is that our statistics show that the increase is in areas of work where there has already been, or there is due to be, changes due to the Welfare Reform Act.'

Shelter Scotland has issued advice to tenants likely to be hit by the benefit cuts and urges them to ACT NOW:

If you're going to be affected by a deduction to your housing benefit then it's very important that you prepare for the change before April.

There are several things you can do:

- **take in a lodger** - renting out a spare room would bring in extra income, but make sure you get the agreement of your landlord first and check whether this will affect any other benefits that you're currently receiving
- **ask for a contribution to your rent** - your family members may be able to pay more towards your rent
- **move to a smaller property** - you may be able to transfer to a smaller property, speak to your council or the housing association you're renting from to see if you can apply to do this
- **apply for a discretionary housing payment** - your local council may be able to give you temporary support to help you stay in your home through a discretionary housing payment.

If you can't pay all your rent after the reduction you may have to think about finding somewhere else to live or you will risk falling behind with your rent and possibly being evicted. Speak to an adviser as soon as possible if you're worried.



LOCAL ADVICE:

Granton Information Centre
134-138 West Granton Road
Telephone 552 0458 Email info@gic.org.uk

Pilton CAB, Drylaw Shopping Centre
Telephone 202 1153 Email pilton@caed.org.uk



Happy harvest for Granton gardeners

Local gardening project receives a welcome funding boost

GRANTON COMMUNITY GARDENERS are among the grassroots environmental projects in Edinburgh to receive over £5,000 funding support from the Central Scotland Green Network's (CSGN) Community Projects Fund.

Supported by Forestry Commission Scotland, the CSGN Community Projects Fund is designed to help local communities get involved in delivering green network improvements on the ground to foster community pride in their local greenspaces.

In total, £5,826 was awarded to three projects in the Edinburgh area. The Granton Community Gardeners group has been awarded £2,000 to support North Edinburgh Harvest by purchasing a range of tools so that more people can work in the garden with the group. The funding will also be used to make access improvements to the garden for older or disabled people.

The Friends of Cammo group received £1,826 to carry out improvements to the Pinetum at the Cammo Estate and GreenFerry Trust was awarded £2,000 to improve the nature conservation value of Hopetoun

Road Community Woodland and to provide a high quality landscape for the local community.

Keith Geddes, Chair of the Central Scotland Green Network Partnership Board, said: "After the positive response our Community Projects Fund received in its inaugural year, it is great to see the programme continue to go from strength to strength and cement our commitment to providing support to grass-roots environmental projects."

"The CSGN Community Projects Fund aims to break down barriers and provide much needed support for projects that are delivering environmental improvements on the ground. It is these initiatives which are instrumental in achieving our goal of creating a high-quality green network across Central Scotland that will meet environmental, social and economic objectives and ultimately improve the quality of life for local communities."

» For further information about the CSGN Community Projects Fund, please visit: www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org



Celebrating healthy eating in North Edinburgh

BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS of last year, this year's yummy food festival will be bigger and better. Local people have risen to the challenge and will be showing off their skills with cooking demonstrations, foody stories, arts and songs and food growing demonstrations. Add local organisations, a politician, food groups from around Scotland and a top Scottish chef into the pot and you have a recipe for a great day.

Local people from around the world are giving the day an international feel. There will be Mexican chilli and Italian pasta, 'a taste of the East' and some good Scottish soup.

The Yummy Food festival organisers have been kneading it into shape at weekly bread making sessions and are now baking bread for local community cafes as a side line!

They said: 'We are delighted that so many local people and organisations are contributing to the day. It's a real celebration of what people in Muirhouse can do.'

Lisa Arnott, Pilton Community Health Project said: "The Health project would like to congratulate the women on bringing together such a brilliant event. There will be something for everyone – face painting, cake stalls, arts and crafts and lots and lots of food to share! We look forward to seeing you there'.



» The Yummy Food Festival will take place on Friday 15th March from 12 - 5 at North Edinburgh Arts Centre.



Five star Botanics

IT WAS A GREAT START to the New Year for the world-renowned Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), which was awarded five-star visitor attraction status by national tourism organisation VisitScotland last month. Established in 1670 and famed for its horticultural and scientific excellence, the Garden received VisitScotland's highest grading award under its Quality Assurance Scheme.

The award marks only the second garden in Scotland to achieve such status with RBGE-run Dawyck Botanic Garden in Peeblesshire in possession of the other.

Everything from visitor welcome, signage, decor, menu, merchandise and cleanliness are judged and graded to give the final scoring.

Presenting the award to the RBGE's Regius Keeper, Professor Stephen Blackmore, VisitScotland Chairman Mike Cantlay said: "The timing of this award could not be more fitting given the launch of the Year of Natural Scotland on January 1. The Year of Natural Scotland is a chance to showcase Scotland's unique natural environment and grow tourism spend in every corner of the country. The five star award denotes world-class status and is

testament to the hard work by all staff and the ongoing investment that has made the Royal Botanic Garden what it is today. I would like to congratulate the team on a wonderful achievement."

Professor Blackmore said: "On behalf of everyone at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh I am delighted to accept this award from VisitScotland. We know how important visitor attractions and tourism are to the economy of Scotland, we know that expectations are always rising and we are glad we can provide a warm welcome and high level of service to our visitors".



Going LOCAL

EDINBURGH College collaborates with local social history group to create a fascinating exhibition

EDINBURGH COLLEGE STUDENTS have collaborated with members of the local social history group to create LOCAL, a fascinating mixed media contemporary arts exhibition that can be seen at North Edinburgh Arts this month. Contemporary Arts course lecturers Alan Holligan and Jennie Temple explain what it's all about:

The artworks are the culmination of a project which was instigated in September 2012 by ourselves with priceless support from Lynn McCabe and the North Edinburgh Social History Group.

The Contemporary Art Practice course has been running successfully since 2007, allowing opportunities for students to develop a broad understanding of artistic practice. Alan and I had been discussing how to develop a strong working connection between the CAP Course, the local community and surrounding areas of North Edinburgh. Beyond the college location, and the students who came to us who lived locally, we recognised that although we were part of a Community College - then Telford College, a stalwart of North Edinburgh for many years - we felt professional connection to our immediate surroundings could be stronger. We acknowledged that we bussed in and out of work every day, passing through the community in which our workplace was rooted, and also acknowledged that this was something we did not feel entirely comfortable about. As a result we started to discuss the possibility of a project for our HND 2nd year students that we hoped would, at the very least, begin a dialogue with some of our neighbours.

Establishing links

We initially approached a couple of local groups to see if they would be interested in meeting with us, and subsequently our students. We couldn't have anticipated the warmth with which we were greeted and quite quickly we were able to establish links and visits with (the amazing) North Edinburgh Social History Group and North Edinburgh Arts (with whom we already had some links). These visits were incredibly informative and

allowed us to immediately understand the local area more fully, and in a way that we had never before: An area steeped in history; an area that had once been rich farmland; an area that had been home to a post-war camp; an area that the Duke of Buccleuch had happily called home, and much, much more. The students were instantly engaged and brought a range of rich contributions to the discussions: amongst the group of 11 students the majority was similar to us; they did not know the area very well. However, there is one current student (and we have had several prior) who grew up in the area and who has been able to give a very subjective insight into his relationship with North Edinburgh, alongside a few other students with friends and relatives in the area.

After these initial meetings and an amazing guided mini-bus tour of the area, generously facilitated by members of the Social History Group, we set the students the project. They were to spend two weeks responding to the local area and draw on the information that they had received from the experts. We would then present the resulting artworks to the Social History Group at the College.

Work gets underway

At this point, we were all very excited, but could not have anticipated just how successful and stimulating the project would be. The students worked exceptionally hard from the moment the project started and responded in meaningful, thoughtful and sensitive ways. In retrospect, we realised that the students' sense of responsibility to the Social History Group and the residents of North Edinburgh meant that they approached the project with a strong sense of integrity and a determination to make artworks that did not patronise or misrepresent the (sometimes sensitive and personal) issues that had been discussed within the meetings. The provision of a very unambiguous context for the artwork allowed the students to work in a way that was fundamentally different to normal project work: they had an audience that they did not know very well, and they were making work which they would themselves present to their audience.

Showing the artwork

As the initial stage of the project drew to a conclusion, we arranged a date for some members of the Social History Group to come and lunch with us and to view the works. The students were understandably nervous and worried: What if they didn't like what we had done? Quickly it became clear that there was no need for nerves and all of the artworks were exceptionally well received and prompted lively, important and some emotional discussion amongst everyone present.

The success and positive reception of the artworks went far, far beyond our expectations and we all knew immediately that we had to take the project to its next logical step: to exhibit the works, beyond the walls of the college and within the local community. And that is where we are now. The exhibition is an exciting opportunity for the staff and students to continue to engage with our local area and we are privileged to be taking part in what we hope to be the first stage of a long and prosperous collaboration between the students and staff of the HND Contemporary Art Practice course and the local residents and communities of North Edinburgh.

The exhibition runs until 23 February at North Edinburgh Arts, Tuesday-Friday 10am-8pm Sat 10am - 1pm.

» A discussion day and art-workshops will take place on Wednesday 20 February from 10am until 3pm. Places are free but limited and booking is essential. Please book a place by emailing admin@northedinburgharts.co.uk or call 0131 315 2515.

Recruitment is currently taking place for HND Contemporary Art Practice Course at the Edinburgh College, Granton Campus. If you are interested please visit the College website for further information and online application, www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk

*Allan Holligan and Jennie Temple
Course Lecturers, Contemporary Arts Practice*



Search is on for a special Drylaw citizen

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE living in Drylaw or Telford who goes that extra mile to help their neighbours, or a local person who carries out outstanding voluntary or charity work? If so, Drylaw Telford Community Council would like to hear from you. The community council is seeking nominations for their annual Thomas Tierney Award for Good Citizenship.

The community council set up the award in 2000 to commemorate the work of local activist Tam Tierney who died in 1999. As well as being a founder of Pilton Sporting Club and an enthusiastic member of Craigryston Community Centre and Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre's management committees over many years, Tam was also a great supporter of the local community council.

Drylaw Telford decided that an annual award to encourage community activism and good citizenship would be a preferable legacy than a bench or commemorative plaque. The annual award has become the highlight of the community council's year - certainly the biggest social event - and the search is now on for a worthy recipient of the 2012 award.

"Ian Moore received the award last year and he was a very popular choice" said Alex Dale, chair of Drylaw Telford Community Council. "Ian is a well-known face in the area and, being a keen local historian, a great source of knowledge - he gave a really interesting talk at our annual general meeting last year. We're now looking for nominations for the 2012 award - nomination forms are going out now and we hope there will be a good response. The Award was set up not only to remember Tam but to encourage active citizenship - we know that local residents are doing good things in our community and we want to recognise their achievements".

» Nomination forms are now available at community venues including Drylaw Parish Church and Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre, and forms are also available by email at: drylawtelford@gmail.com
The closing date for nominations is Monday 25 February.

Help us create a better place to live

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership would like to hear your views on what you think could be done to improve your local area



Forth Neighbourhood Partnership is a new way for the City of Edinburgh Council and other organisations to work together with local people to improve public services and the quality of life for residents.

The four councillors for the Forth Ward are all members along with representatives from the 4 Forth Community Councils, City of Edinburgh Council, Lothian & Borders Police and Lothian NHS. The Convenor is Councillor Cammy Day.

The Forth Community Councils are Trinity Community Council, Granton & District Community Council, West Pilton/West Granton Community Council and Muirhouse Salvesen Community Council.

The Partnership has recently been reviewing its work and we hope you will come along to one of the planned meetings and tell us what issues you think we should be tackling.

What do you think would make your neighbourhood a better place to live in?

We are holding **3 local meetings** across Forth Ward during February and March 2013 and hope you can come along to the one in your area and tell us what you think. A similar event was recently held in the Trinity area.

The meetings will be very informal and you can drop in at any time (see below for details) have a cup of tea and a snack and chat to Local Councillors, Community Councillors, Council and NHS staff and officers from Lothian & Borders Police.

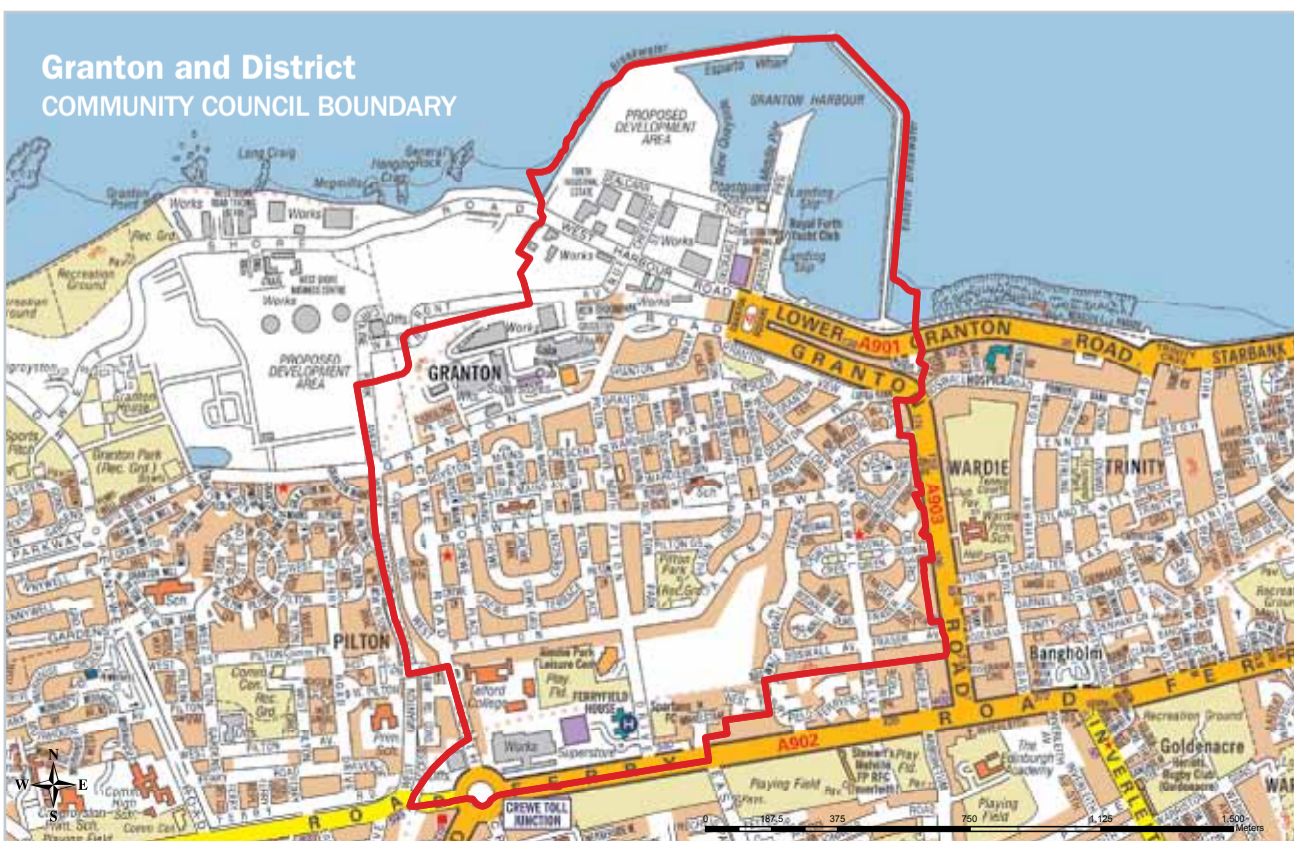
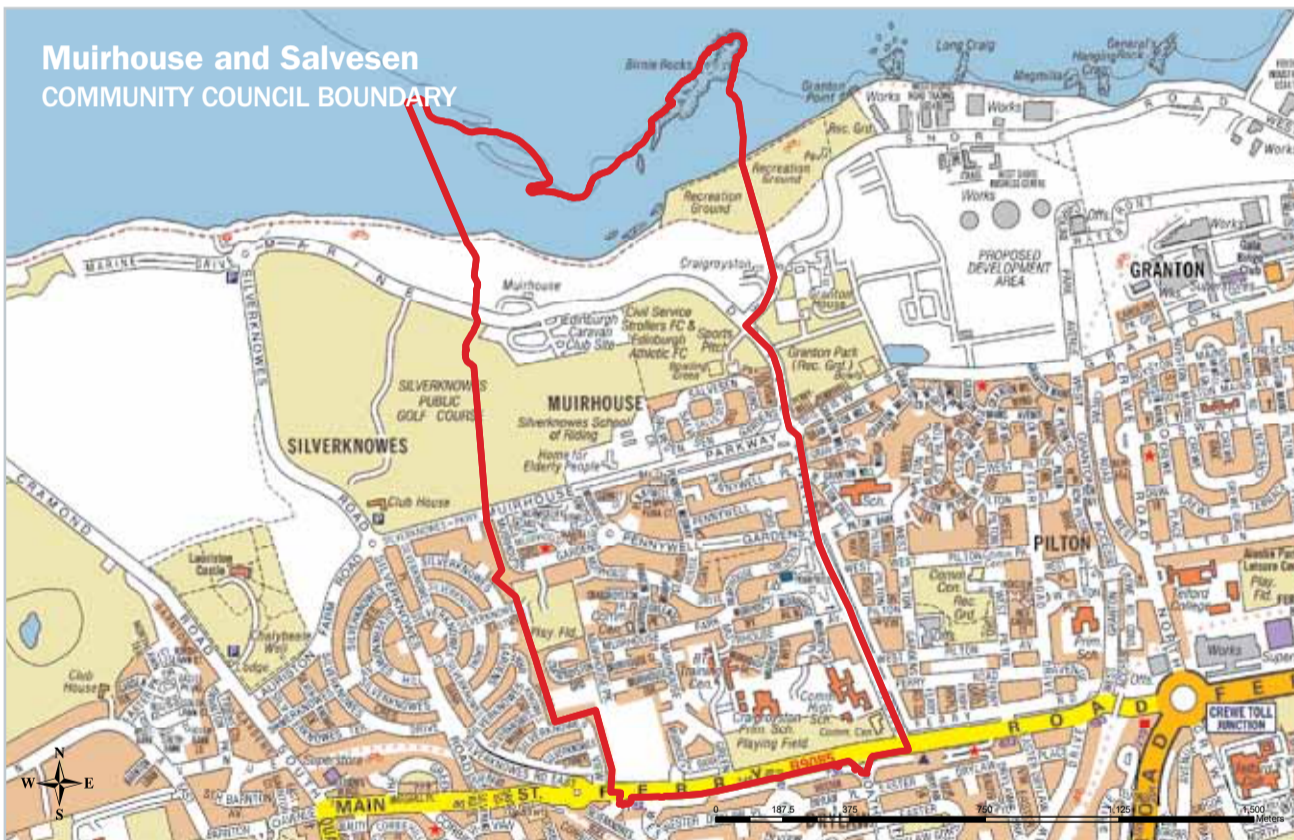
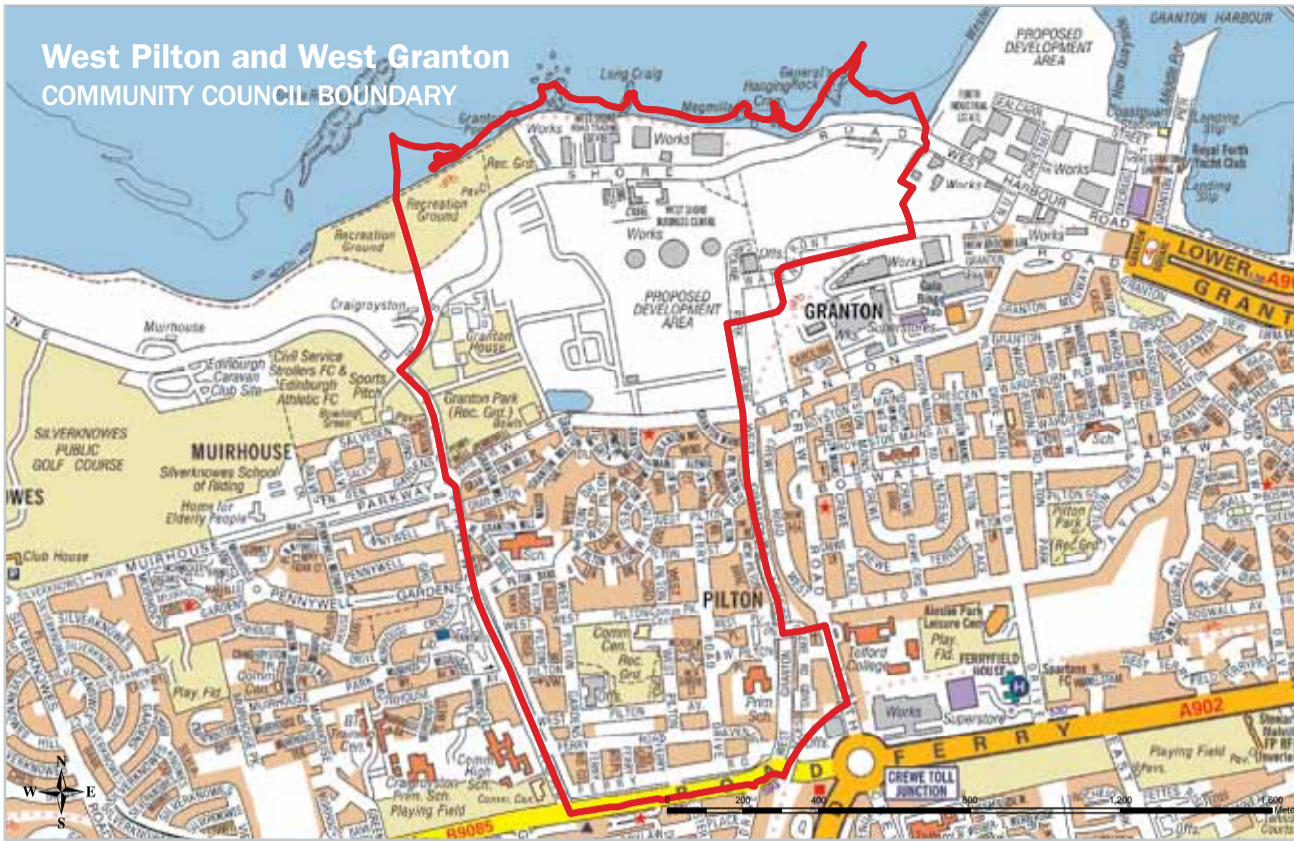
- 1** *Improving everyday life in West Pilton and West Granton*
West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre
(West Pilton Grove)
Tuesday 26 February 2013 6-8pm
- 2** *Improving everyday life in Muirhouse and Salvesen*
North Edinburgh Arts Centre
(Behind Muirhouse Shopping Centre)
Wednesday 13 March 2013 6-8pm
- 3** *Improving everyday life in Granton and District*
Royston Wardieburn Community Centre
(Pilton Drive North)
Saturday 16 March 2013 10-12 noon

Refreshments are provided.

Please check maps opposite to see which event is appropriate for you.



We look forward to seeing you and if you want further information please contact:
Martina McChrystal - Tel 529 5001 or email martina.mcchrystal@edinburgh.gov.uk
Jim Pattison - Tel: 529 5082 or email jim.pattison@edinburgh.gov.uk



How NPs Work

Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) are Edinburgh's approach to delivering local community planning.

There are 12 NPs in Edinburgh, and they work to improve the quality of life in the area.

Each Neighbourhood Partnership is made up of a core membership including local Councillors and representatives from the Police, Health the voluntary sector and the local community. Some Neighbourhood Partnerships have additional members from local organisations, such as universities or colleges which can play a key role in the area.

The activities, membership and structures of Neighbourhood Partnerships are guided by the issues that are important in the area.

How do they work?

- They bring decision making closer to the community
- They provide opportunities for communities to express their views
- They set out the priorities to improve quality of life in the communities
- They gather local evidence and information to help them develop a local community plan
- They make sure the local community plan is delivered
- Neighbourhood Partnerships each meet in public up to five times a year, and anyone can attend these meetings.

As well as meeting in public, each Neighbourhood Partnership develops sub groups to address local priority themes, such as housing and the built environment or health and well being. Subgroups vary between Neighbourhood Partnerships.

What kinds of decisions can Neighbourhood Partnerships make?

As the local community planning mechanisms in Edinburgh, NPs can do the following:

- They can make recommendations to the Council and other partner organisations about the way services may be delivered in the local area
- They can comment on strategic decisions that affect the local area
- They can award small grants to community groups for local projects that can make a difference in the local area.

Find out more about Forth Neighbourhood Partnership on www.edinburghnp.org.uk/forth and follow the North team on twitter @north_team

FORTH

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP





Pilton gardens blossom at Holyrood

Community Gardeners take part in Scottish Parliament photography exhibition

WEST PILTON COMMUNITY GARDENERS took part in an exhibition of photographs at the Scottish Parliament recently, and the group hopes the display will raise government awareness of the work done by local people to create something beautiful and useful.

Community gardener Kirsty Sutherland said "Many photographs have been taken as the garden developed last year and it was a hard job to select just three for the parliament, to give a 'flavour' of our garden and the people who have been working in it."

The garden has been welcomed by local people and proved popular with local children who have enjoyed the 'fruits of their labour' over the summer.

Local MSP Mark Lazarowicz kindly signed the garden petition started by local people, to prove to Forth councillors that this garden deserves funding for simple needs like a secure shed, water tap, seating area and a wheelchair accessible path.

School groups and other local organisations working with disadvantaged adults and children wish to visit and work in the garden. We can't provide this until we have the garden properly built and appropriate support workers on site.

Naomi from the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens said: "It

was a great opportunity to showcase the excellent work of community gardening and farming projects and bring up some of the issues that affect community gardening and farming projects. A lot of interest was shown by MSPs and many of them have signed up to visit a community farming/gardening project in their constituency. Through a visit the benefits of community gardening will be able to be experienced first hand."

The benefits from community farming and gardening include; physical and mental wellbeing, socialising and meeting new people, creating areas which are beneficial for wildlife and the environment, encouraging people take a pride in their area, providing opportunities for learning new skills, volunteering and bringing people together to see what other opportunities there are for sustainable living on their doorstep.

We hope that our elected councillors will recognise that this garden is a sustainable community-led idea, and support the funding requests lodged with Forth Neighbourhood Partnership since 2011.

» kirsty@piltonresidents.org.uk
<http://northedinburghcommunityorganics.wordpress.com/>

LEAP celebrates 300th graduation

LEAP (Lothians & Edinburgh Abstinence Programme) has celebrated its 300th patient graduation since launching in September 2007. Gail Richardson, the 300th patient to complete the three-month, community-based rehabilitation programme, was congratulated and presented with a certificate by Lothians MSP Sarah Boyack at a ceremony last month.

Stockbridge-based LEAP is the first abstinence programme of its type in Scotland, which operates seven days a week and provides structured support for those who want to conquer addictions to substances like alcohol and drugs.

Gail has tried to beat her alcoholism for much of her adult life, having lived through two violent marriages, a failed business, an eviction, homelessness, depression and drug use.

She said: "I wasn't happy so I thought rehab might be the answer. It was like a sudden realisation that I had to do it for myself, no-one else would - I had to take responsibility." Since being admitted to LEAP last October, Gail said that her life has been transformed thanks to the project. "It has changed my life. It has given me a real focus. From here I will go into supported accommodation and then I hope I can find a permanent housing solution."

While on the intensive programme, LEAP participants receive clinical medical and therapeutic help as well as support with accommodation, education, training and employment opportunities.

LEAP is funded by NHS Lothian and three local Alcohol Drug Partnerships and is operated in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council and Access to Industry (Transition).

Sarah Boyack MSP said: "Gail's graduation marks the fantastic collaborative work achieved by herself and all of those at LEAP. Well done to everyone involved and I wish Gail well for the future."

Clinical Lead of LEAP, NHS Lothian, Dr David McCartney, said: "I'm really proud to be celebrating our 300th graduate in our first six years. Although LEAP is a challenging and demanding programme, it really does have long term, positive impact on not just our graduates, but their friends and families too. We recognise that multiple strands of support are required to conquer the often complex and deep-rooted causes of addictions, and we do this by offering services such as one-to-one counselling and self-help groups.

"We know that evidence points towards recovery being more likely where support is ongoing which is why we facilitate help with aspects like jobs and training. Recovery is a long term process and we also provide aftercare for up to two years further consolidating the hard work our patients have put in."

LEAP moved from their Malta House home in Stockbridge to a new base at the Astley Ainslie Hospital earlier this month.

Benefits advice groups share Holyrood cash

THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT is directing new money to agencies helping people facing the brunt of UK benefit cuts.

Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced last month that in response to a substantial increase in requests for help as a result of Westminster welfare reforms, a new package of funding will support those providing front-line advice and support to people across Scotland.

This will include an immediate cash injection of £300,000 for services such as those provided by Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS), the setting up of a new £1.7 million fund providing direct support to advice services and a further £3.4 million to be spent over the next two years on helping organisations mitigate the impacts of welfare reforms. Changes in Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit will reduce the budgets of more than 100,000 households in Scotland – 88 per cent of them couples with children. On average these families will be £700 a year worse off.

Over 100,000 households across Scotland will also lose on average of around £600 a year as a result of the bedroom tax. And it is estimated that around 1 million working age households in Scotland will be affected by the uprating of benefits by 1 per cent, announced in the Autumn Statement, reducing the total income of Scottish households by around £210 million by 2014-15.

Announcing the funding boost Ms Sturgeon said: "Many people across Scotland are suffering as a direct result of UK Government benefit cuts, and many more are concerned about how they may be affected by changes yet to come into force. Citizen's Advice Bureaux across the country are currently dealing with nearly 800 new issues for every working day. And the latest extremely worrying analysis about the families affected by benefits illustrates exactly that point.

"This reflects our serious concerns about the pace, scale and impact of Westminster's benefits changes. It is clear that the impact of the cuts will extend across Scottish society, with vulnerable groups, women and working families all likely to suffer. This is putting more and more pressure on the organisations that provide crucial front line advice to those affected. These are the people, who, on a daily basis see how lives are being damaged by the fall out from the UK government's welfare reform changes. That is why we have listened and are providing £5.4 million to help meet the demand for advice and support as it dramatically increases.

"This is just further evidence of the need for independence. We want a welfare system in Scotland that provides fair and decent support for all and protects the vulnerable in our society. The only way to guarantee that is to have possession of the powers to deliver it."

Lifeline for Waterworld

by DAVID PICKERING

Councillors grant eleven month lifeline to Leith Waterworld



COUNCILLORS rejected officer recommendations and voted to further explore the feasibility of reopening Leith Waterworld at a meeting on 31 January.

Campaign group Splashback will now receive council support to develop a detailed business plan over the next eleven months, but continuation of the bid beyond this phase will depend on Splashback securing capital funding to invest in the Leith facility and also on the approval of their business plan by an independent third party.

The council will release up to £100,000 to help fund the feasibility study and a dedicated working group will be set up to support Splashback in developing their bid. A report on the results of the study will be considered by councillors once the development phase ends, following which a decision on the facility's future will be taken.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture and Leisure Convener, said: "I want to acknowledge the considerable time and effort that Splashback have committed to their bid thus far. While there remains a tremendous amount of work to be done in the months ahead, we want to give the community the best possible chance of success by providing the necessary funding and support toward taking their proposals to the next phase. We owe it to the people of Edinburgh to do everything we can to preserve this valuable community asset."

Additional time granted

Last September, councillors granted Splashback additional time and council officer support to present a more robust business case, and the 31 January decision has given the campaign group renewed hope that the facility can now be saved.

In a statement on the Splashback website, the group said: 'We were delighted to hear that the pressing social case for reopening the pool is now recognised and that the 'value' of the amenity is understood as not just being the cost of keeping the facility open, but also all the benefits that reopening brings to the community - i.e. it's true 'value'.

'We knew that it was going to be a difficult decision for councillors to reject the officials report (which recommended rejecting our bid), but we believe it is the right decision. Now that the Councillors have endorsed our business plan, we can sit down with them and the officials, all with the same shared goal - how to reopen Leith Waterworld. It has been a lot of hard work to get this far, and we know that there is a lot more hard work before we can

reopen the facility - we need additional skills in governance, fundraising, pool operation and maintenance, engineering, heating, green energy, catering, etc.. - but now that we have this endorsement we can know gather the skills we need and work co-operatively to bring this fantastic facility back to life.

'We're truly appreciative of all the support the campaign has had over the past 14 months - from people willing to get involved, to emails and messages of support from the community, from various agencies and local businesses to councillors advocating on our behalf... In fact, these are not just supporters OF the campaign - they ARE the campaign... In the Chamber last week, Leith councillor, Gordon Munro, said: "We can do something special here..." We truly believe that.'



Tracey Berry MBE

Forthview Primary School update

Our thanks to P5 teacher Ian Holden for keeping us up to date with everything that's going on at Forthview:

WE PUT OUT AN APPEAL for used stamps last year and the response was really good - they were able to support a local charity called Pass It On, who help disabled children with access to computers, with a big donation. We'll continue collecting until June, when we hope to sell the stamps to collectors and give the raised funds to The Sick Kids Hospital and Pass It On. I've tried to up the pace of our appeal now, contacting lots of local businesses to see if they can help - United Wire have already been helpful, as have City of Edinburgh Council and I am sure others will be too in due course. If you can help please get in touch!

Forthview's P5a appeared at the childrens' exhibition in the Mews at The Queen's Gallery at Holyrood last month, one of four local schools involved

I'm also pleased to say that 16 pupils from my class won the best film category in the Children and Families department's Safer Internet Day competition, designed to increase awareness of how to work safely online.

And last but definitely not least, Forthview's Family Support teacher Tracey Berry received an MBE in the New Years Honours List for services to education.

Head Teacher Moira Heatly said: "Tracey Berry has been working with families at Forthview Primary and previously at Craigmuir for 18 years. As a teacher she took on the role initially as home link teacher but over the years that followed, the value of the role was recognised and it has since evolved to being a crucial part of Forthview's school community. Tracey sees her role being about making the sure that the children are ready to learn and to do this she reaches out to all the parents, carers and families, many of whom did not have positive experiences at school, to help them to engage in learning with their child. Tracey is highly valued by the families at Forthview, who know that she always goes above and beyond to support them. They are happy to acknowledge the impact she has had on their lives. This award of an MBE is well deserved.'

The award is well-deserved and everyone at Forthview is very proud of Tracey - congratulations!

Care Home Residents memories transformed into art

RESIDENTS of a Stockbridge care home recently got the chance to see their memories brought to life in a book created by an exhibited artist. Astrid Jaekel, originally from Ireland, compiled the book called 'We Used to Jive a Bit ... I Couldn't Do That Now' after her quest to find out more about the capital from peoples experiences.

Four residents from Bield's Haugh Street care home in Stockbridge were given the chance to tell their stories for the book after providing Astrid with anecdotes of their time in Edinburgh.

The book, which was originally an art installation for Astrid's degree show, looked at the lives of the Bield residents aged between 70 and 80 and also included portraits of them and different memories of life growing up in Edinburgh, from summers on Portobello beach to the hardships of being homeless.

Astrid said: "I had a great time speaking to the residents at Haugh Street and thoroughly enjoyed putting this book together of what was a real life account of life in Edinburgh. This project was born out of a genuine sense of curiosity I felt when moving to Britain and

to Edinburgh. My aim was to delve beyond the obvious and to find out people's attachments to a city as opposed to the more official accounts of history. Through this project I have discovered a side of Edinburgh that otherwise may have not opened up to me".

Astrid first broke the ice with the four residents by having tea and biscuits with them which then turned into a series of recordings taken over three months.

Isabella Crawford who has been a resident at Bield's Stockbridge care home for over 13 years, said: "This experience has let me remember the good old days and how pretty Edinburgh used to be. I had not thought about my days spent on Portobello beach and the games we played for a long time so it was good fun going through my memories and having them illustrated. It was also great to see how my portrait turned out."

Astrid said: 'It was lovely to see how excited and proud the residents were of the book. We all became good friends and I still visit them now for cups of tea'.

Brian Logan, Chief Executive of Bield said: "As Scotland's leading provider of housing, care



and community services for older people we are dedicated to providing quality care which enhances and enriches lives. Our 'Free to Be' philosophy which is at the heart of what Bield is all about, allows older people who still have ambition and drive the freedom to do the things they love but which might otherwise be taken away without the right help and support."



No beef

THE POPULAR Pork Butcher's shop on Pennywell Road reopened for just a week recently - not to sell meat, but as a community drop-in resource. Muirhouse Link Up project worker Julie Crawford explains all:

"The purpose of the week was to do a few things – Promote Link up project which started in May last year. I work with local people in Muirhouse and West Pilton to identify activities that bring different groups of people together to take part and contribute on an equal footing. The activities could be anything, from people having a cup of tea together to taking part in an activity. We've been working with local people to develop a monthly bingo evening, which has seen over 60 people attend the last few months, supporting the Tenants and Residents In Muirhouse Group (TRIM), an Arts and Baking group at North Edinburgh Arts, establishing community cinema and much more.

During the week we had a huge map on the shop wall and local people were invited to write on it and give us views about places that are important to them, what people do in the community and things that they would like to see. Over the course of the week 250 people came through the door, which was fantastic. The highlight was seeing local artists using the space to work with young people doing light photography and some film-making. The shop window will be used by City of Edinburgh Council to advertise 21st Century homes and community activity - I believe there is massive potential to use the space by community organisations.

Link up will continue to work with local people to set up activities which they have skills or interests in, just get in touch! Local people are already running new activities this year, including chess and archery!"

▶ To get in touch with Julie, call 315 6405 or email Julie@mydg.org.uk
You can also check out [MuirhouseLinkup](#) on Facebook or 'tweet' @linkup11

Youth panto highlights conservation concerns

A GROUP of young people from North Edinburgh became exponents for nature conservation when they performed a panto to highlight conservation issues at North Edinburgh Arts last month. The performance was the culmination of an innovative project involving The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh-based Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, the Lyceum Youth Theatre Discover Programme, North Edinburgh Arts and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust.

The group – all aged between 9 and 12 and living in Muirhouse, Pilton and Granton - worked with conservation experts to learn about the importance of saving endangered species and habitats. They also visited Edinburgh Zoo for a 'behind the scenes' session as part of the project, learning about endangered animals first hand.

The unique project culminated with the young people informing their local communities about conservation issues through the performance of a pantomime they developed with the support of North Edinburgh Arts.

Project coordinator Naomi Webster is a visiting research fellow at Edinburgh University's ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum, and she is also Education Officer for the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. She said: "Young people have a natural interest in animals and wildlife, but often don't realise just how endangered many creatures are, or how organisations like Durrell and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland are



working to save them from extinction. This project has enabled us to work with children in an innovative way to help them appreciate the importance of nature conservation, and to allow them to show their families and communities what they have learnt by producing and performing their own conservation-themed pantomime."

Kate Wimpers, Director of North Edinburgh Arts, said: "North Edinburgh Arts works with young people throughout North Edinburgh, through creative initiatives such as drama workshops, to encourage them to explore issues and develop understanding. Collaborating with the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Zoo and the Lyceum Youth Theatre on this initiative has enabled us to help young people to gain a greater understanding of conservation in an engaging, yet fun way. Our young performers were really excited about both their trip to the zoo, and producing and performing their own conservation-themed pantomime."

Are you interested in Shared Ownership?

Port of Leith Housing Association are currently marketing several fantastic SHARED OWNERSHIP opportunities at SALAMANDER PLACE, in Leith.

The initial purchase can be 25%, 50% or 75% of the value of the dwelling, enabling you to own a share of your home whilst paying an affordable rent for the remainder. Whenever your financial circumstances permit then you can choose to increase your share or purchase your home outright (only one such transaction in any 12 month period).

Priority will be given to: first time buyers; housing association/council tenants; those on housing association/council waiting lists and those who can no longer afford to buy a suitable property to meet their health or mobility needs. The City of Edinburgh Council's guideline maximum income levels apply (these are currently £36,000 per household per annum).

For more information:

Telephone: 0131 554 0403 E-mail: info@polha.co.uk

Web: www.link6.co.uk/SO.html



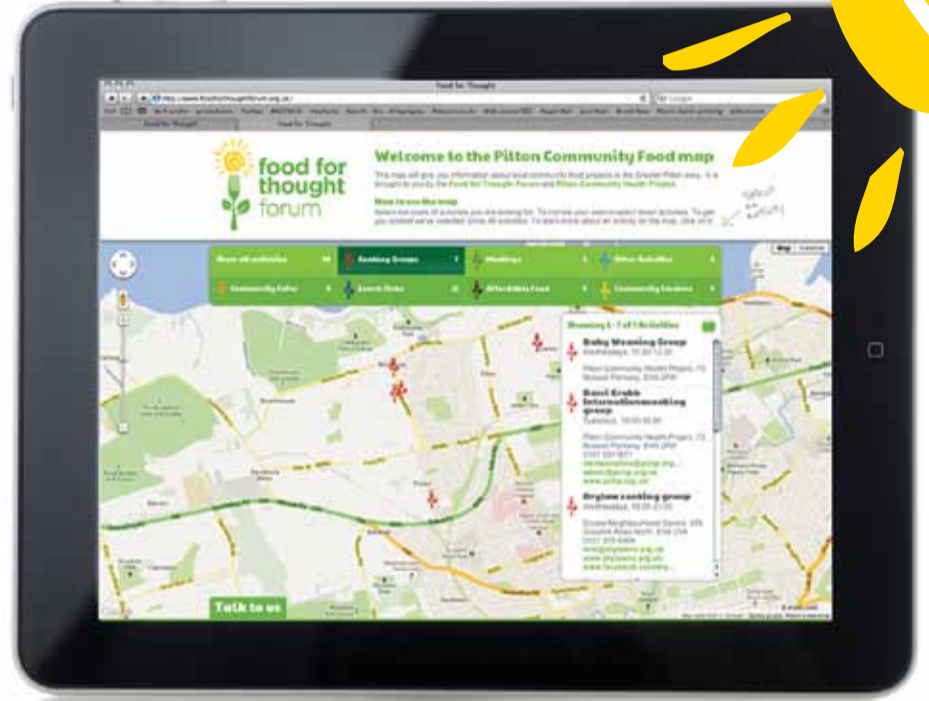
PORT OF LEITH
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Pilton Community Health Project is proud to present:

The Food for Thought Forum's Community Food Map

Go to www.foodforthoughtforum.org.uk to find out more about all the community food projects in the area.

Mark it as a favourite!



Take lots of local talent, add one top Scottish chef, a pinch of local politicians, some songs and art, mix it up, work hard and you get...

THE 2013 YUMMY FOOD FESTIVAL

Friday 15th March from 12 – 5pm at North Edinburgh Arts Centre

Singing, cooking demonstrations, story telling, growing demonstrations, soup, face-painting and lots, lots more.

FREE

Brought to you by Pilton Community Health Project



Celebrating Healthy Eating in North Edinburgh



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 – 2013

every 3rd Tuesday of each month

19th March

21st May

16th April

18th June



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!



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

Constituency Office:

5 Croall Place, Edinburgh EH7 4LT

Tel: 0131 558 8358 Fax: 0131 557 6781.

Email: Malcolm.Chisholm.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Website: www.Malcolm.Chisholm.org.uk



Mark Lazarowicz, MP

Member of Parliament for Edinburgh North & Leith

Weekly Surgeries:

(No Appointment Required)

4.00pm Stockbridge Library, Hamilton Place

5.00pm Constituency Office, 5 Croall Place

Constituency Office:

Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30 - 1.30-4.30

5 Croall Place, Edinburgh EH7 4LT

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

Email: mark.lazarowicz.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.marklazarowicz.org.uk

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- 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**

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



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

Bellevue Baptist Church, c/o Salvation Army, Wardieburn Drive	551 5191
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 Crazy Kids Club	538 6262
The Yard, Eyre Place Lane	475 4506
Women Supporting Women	551 1671

HOUSING

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

HEALTH/WELFARE

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

RECREATION/ARTS

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

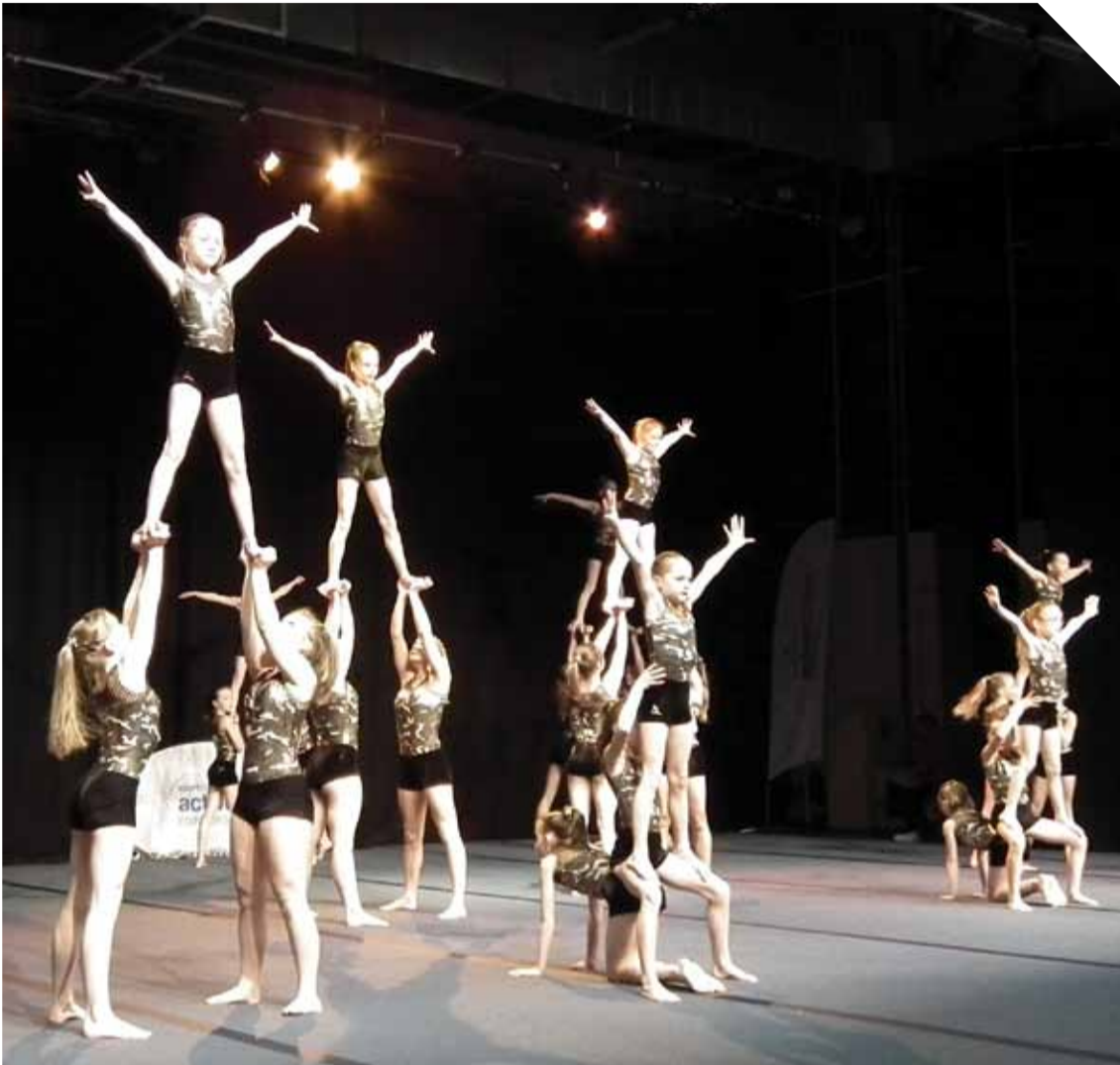
SCHOOLS/EDUCATION

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

YOUTH & CHILDREN

CHILDREN 1st friends 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



Gymfest hits new heights!

Broughton High School was the venue for a reception to mark the formation of a new local football club last month

EDINBURGH LEISURE AND ACTIVE SCHOOLS teamed up again to stage Gymfest, a celebration of the city's young gymnasts, at Broughton High School to round off a successful 2012. And with financial support from Active City the annual display reached new heights - literally!

A wide range of gymnasts from across the city took part in the Broughton spectacular – from enthusiastic new dancers and fun gymnasts (some performing in public for the first time) to top athletes who already participate in competitions – and the packed audience was entertained from start to finish by some spectacular performances.

Given the high standards throughout the afternoon it was fitting that all the participants received medals, so take a bow:

City of Edinburgh Gymnastics Club (Senior Team)
 City of Edinburgh Broughton Recreation Team
 Blackhall Primary School Gymnastics Club
 Castlebrae Community High School Gymnastics Club
 Broughton High School Gymnastics Club
 City of Edinburgh Firrhill Recreation team
 Tynecastle High School Gymnastics Club
 Gylemuir Primary School Gymnastics Club
 Granton Primary School Dance Group
 Corstorphine Primary School Gymnastics Club
 Ferryhill Primary School Gymnastics Group
 Pentland Primary School Gymnastics Club
 Stockbridge Primary Dance Group
 City of Edinburgh Gymnastics Club Display Team



Olympic hockey star returns to Trinity

TRINITY ACADEMY'S HOCKEY TEAMS were treated to a master class of hockey skills just before Christmas by former pupil, Netherlands and Scotland international hockey star Laurence Docherty.

Laurence, who now lives and plays hockey in Holland, came back to his roots to share his experience and knowledge with Trinity's young hockey players. All five teams from S1 to Seniors enjoyed a day of good weather for the time of year and were given a skills session and the chance to ask Laurence questions about his hockey career.

Laurence started playing hockey as a youngster with MIM hockey club in Edinburgh and quickly progressed to play for Scotland at schoolboy and Senior level. He then made the decision to move to Holland where he could play at a higher standard and get paid for it! In 2000 he applied for Dutch citizenship and three years later he got a Dutch passport. He was then selected to play for the Dutch National team and has 83 caps for Holland to add to his 50 + caps for Scotland. The pinnacle of his career, so far, has been playing at the 2008 Beijing Olympics where Holland came fourth.

His visit was a fantastic experience for the girls who play hockey at Trinity and has inspired them to train harder and hopefully they will continue to play hockey for many years to come at a level they enjoy. Laurence also presented a signed Dutch strip to the school - the very first strip he wore when playing for Holland – which will be framed and displayed in the entrance hall.

Many thanks to Laurence for taking time out to come back and visit us!

Nicky Wheatley
 Active Schools Coordinator

