



YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



Transforming a community

Minister welcomes North Edinburgh regeneration

by DAVID PICKERING

“a fantastic example of how housing can transform a community”

Housing Minister Margaret Burgess MSP

HOUSING MINISTER Margaret Burgess MSP joined Edinburgh’s Housing Convener Councillor Cammy Day for a tour of the 719 house Pennywell construction site last month and said the regeneration programme will give the area a new lease of life.

Pennywell is one of Scotland’s largest housing-led regeneration projects and is set to provide 356 social and mid-market rent homes, along with 363 new properties for private sale. The extensive development, which is being built by developers Urban Union, is a result of a major investment of £42 million by the City of Edinburgh Council and includes £7.9 million grant funding from the Scottish Government.

Housing Minister, Margaret Burgess, said: “Making sure everyone in Scotland has

access to good quality housing is a vital part of the Scottish Government’s drive to secure economic growth, strengthen communities and tackle inequalities.

“Of the 719 houses being built, I am delighted to see that 356 will be affordable homes and that the area will benefit from £7.9 million of Scottish Government funding on top of the significant investment from the City of Edinburgh Council.

“These new homes will replace poor quality housing and will give the area a new lease

of life. In addition to this the project is delivering community benefits by supporting apprenticeships.

“It is an honour to launch the Pennywell and Muirhouse Regeneration, which is one of the largest housing-led regeneration projects in Scotland, and is a fantastic example of how housing can transform a community.”

Housing Convener, Councillor Cammy Day, said: “Pennywell is a fantastic development and will greatly enhance the area. We are committed to investing in

high quality, energy efficient, affordable housing and this is the perfect example of how this can be achieved.

“The project has already created jobs for local people and I am confident that Pennywell will be an asset, not only to its residents, but as part of the overall regeneration of the north of Edinburgh.”

The construction of the new homes will bring 60 new jobs and apprenticeships to the area, along with 180 work experience placements. The Minister and Cllr Day met local resident Courtney Rankine during the visit, who gained employment as an administrator on the project.

Local people have also been heavily involved in shaping plans for the public spaces within the development and the overall master plan for the area.

After a tour of the construction site – and a flying visit to Muirhouse Community Shop - they then visited Lindsey Wilson, a tenant of a new Council property in nearby West Pilton Crescent. Like the homes under construction in Pennywell,

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

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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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Please have your copy to us by Friday 23 January for inclusion in the February edition

VIEW from the BOARD

Serious allegations of 'misappropriation' were recently made against the NEN. These allegations are completely without foundation and we are currently taking advice. In the meantime, we will continue to work on behalf of our community.

The NEN has been an important part of community life in North Edinburgh for over 30 years and is well supported by many community organisations across both Forth and Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnerships. It is a well-respected, long-established organisation, which looks to report on the positive things that are going on in our area and tries to counterbalance some of the negative reporting we often get. For many years we produced a monthly paper delivered free to 12,000 houses in the area and over recent years we have branched out into social media too.

The Council has always been our main funder but ended our funding in 2010. We managed to keep going until last year when the advertising income became insufficient to maintain the newspaper but we have kept the NEN alive through an online blog while we looked for other funding opportunities.

Last year, the Council decided to fund a number of pilot projects under the title of 'Contact in the Capital' to explore better ways of establishing communication links between the Council and communities. We were pleased to be asked to participate in the North Edinburgh pilot which is managed by the Neighbourhood Partnership Manager together with a Steering Group comprising representatives from the local Community Councils, Councillors, Council Officials and the NEN. The Convenor and Vice-convenor of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee provide oversight on behalf of the Coalition Council.

The NEN was asked to provide a project plan outlining what the £25,000 allocated funding was to be spent on. This funding is administered by the Council through the Neighbourhood Partnership and the Steering Group. The NEN's submitted plan included the production of three newspapers by our long-time editor Dave Pickering, together with the development of a new web-site and social media outlets and the training of community journalists, particularly young people. This plan was agreed by the Steering Group who set out the targets to be reached. Work is progressing well towards all these targets and the first paper was published in October with local young people being involved in its production. The new NEN website will go live this month.

Local people have always enjoyed the NEN and are happy to see it return. There are lots of things going on in the area that you might be interested in but how are you going to find out about them? That is what this project is about and we would like you to tell us if you find the NEN and the NEN Blog useful for finding out what is going on in our area – and please give us your ideas on how we can improve it for you.

The pilot project goes on until March and we are working hard to make it a success – keep an eye on our blog to see our exciting plans in the New Year – and if Contact in the Capital works well we hope that it will be continued beyond next March.

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year – and thank you for supporting your NEN.

The NEN Board

Can you help Karen find her relatives?

Dear Editor

My name is Karen Paterson and I am writing this letter in the hope of tracing my father and uncles who my sister Nicola and I have not seen for over thirty years.

We live in South Wales but my father was from Edinburgh, he was in the RAF when he met my mother.

Our fathers name is Douglas James Paterson, he has two brothers, the oldest being James Paterson who married a lady called Rose, and the youngest brother is Ross Paterson who married a lady called Sheila. My grandmother, I remember, was known as Ella Paterson and lived at Moredunvale Bank in Moredun.

It would be so nice to be able to get to know my family. I would be so grateful if anyone that reads this letter has any information that could help me with my search. If you do have any information you can email at karenpat75@gmail.com

Karen Paterson (by email)

Not BOLD, CUTS!

Dear Editor

We are thoroughly disgusted with Edinburgh councillors who were elected to represent the interests of their constituents. They have chosen to abdicate their responsibilities by quietly accepting from National and Scottish governments reductions to their forthcoming budget, instead of maintaining budgets to increase funds to sustain services within Edinburgh.

They are asking Edinburgh citizens to decide what cuts should be made to meet budget reductions. They have introduced doublespeak by talking about Better Outcomes Leaner Delivery (BOLD) which in effect means cuts.

They are aiming to cut £22 million from the 2014/15 budget. Local communities should not be asked to decide where cuts are implemented; this is the responsibility of councillors. How dare they put the onus on Edinburgh citizens when they are morally and financially responsible?

Employees from the City Council are demonstrating how to access this survey which is totally unacceptable. Councillors call them savings – they can only be described as cuts which we are sure the people of Edinburgh are opposed to.

Anna Hutchison (by email)

Working Together

Dear Editor

Members of the Muirhouse Salvesen Community Council wish to convey a vote of thanks on behalf of members of the community on the latest issue of the NEN.

The local people's newspaper has been much missed over the past few years in keeping people in touch with happening in their local community, especially for older people of the community and those who find it hard to get out. Great to see it coming through our letter boxes once again.

We look forward to your December issue which is sure to be filled with local happenings and interesting articles.

We wish the team all the best and are looking forward to more regular issues into the New Year.

Our Community Council support the NEN in its venture and would be happy to assist in any way it can.

R Douglas, Chairperson



Muirhouse comes to aid of Syrian refugees

MUIRHOUSE COMMUNITY SHOP is a collection point for the latest Edinburgh Direct Aid appeal. The shop on Pennywell Road recently supported EDA's Toys for Gaza appeal and will now assist a new initiative to aid Syrian refugees.

The latest appeal is for winter goods, such as coats, boots, jackets etc and anyone can drop of their donation to the shop five days a week.

Lisa Anderson, EDA Secretary said: "Edinburgh Direct Aid has launched a new appeal to send a further container of aid to Syrian refugees. We have previously sent a container of winter clothing and another with a 4x4 ambulance and food supplies.

"We have a small warehouse in Granton, but we are delighted that TRIM have offered use of the community shop to make it easier for people to drop off donations for this latest appeal.

"We are hoping to collect winter coats, boots, wellies and toiletries over the next few weeks with the help of the volunteer staff at TRIM. We hope this appeal will make a big difference to people who are living as refugees in tents in cold winter weather."

Community Shop manager Robert Pearson said: "We were delighted when Lisa contacted us asking for our help. I believe that residents will feel as though they are making a difference by giving something small. At this time of year many of us will buy a new coat, jumper, etc. and we are asking for you to drop your old ones off at the shop. Shop volunteers will be on hand to advise any resident who may have questions. Muirhouse Community Shop will NOT be accepting any cash donations for this appeal – we are purely accepting goods on this occasion."



'Writely' pleased with latest book!

LOCAL CHILDREN AND PARENTS celebrated the launch of their latest book 'The Sandpit Volcano' at North Edinburgh Arts Centre during Book Week Scotland last month.

The group from Circle's Haven project wrote the story during Haven's Storytelling Week project in August.

The Sandpit Volcano tells the tale of brave kangaroos, crabbit crustaceans and creepy castles with flags made from used underpants – delightful! Children who were involved in the creation of the story read and performed it at North Edinburgh Arts and it really is a fantastically fun tale!

The Haven Project was again supported by Edinburgh-based author Mike Nicholson, who worked with the group on a similar project last year – 'The Pirate Storm', a swashbuckling tale of buccaneers sailing the seven seas.

"The Sandpit Volcano" was created during an intensive week for all involved – from a day of ideas and discussions following a trip to Cramond, working with Mike to develop story ideas and then producing artwork and storyboards – but it was both interesting and fun for all involved and everyone is delighted with the finished product.

Angela Austin worked on the artwork with the group. "This was a great group to work with – everyone was really enthusiastic and there was lots of energy and ideas", she said. "People can be creative and really good at art without realizing the talent they have, and I think this project has shown that".

One proud mum said: "The project was interesting and it was a good laugh too. We're all really pleased to see the way the book has turned out – my bairns will be reading it as a bedtime story tonight!"

Creative Labs are GO

EDINBURGH SCULPTURE WORKSHOP proudly unveiled the new Creative Laboratories building last month – an architecturally stunning facility specifically designed for sculptors.

Situated on old railway sidings in Newhaven, North Edinburgh Creative Laboratories will create a cultural hub, dedicated to the research and production of contemporary visual art.

Designed by Sutherland Hussey Architects as an inspiring environment where artists can make and present work, the new facility is equipped with viewing and meeting spaces designed to bring audiences closer to the art being made.

It features a 22.5m high triangular tower and the development of the site has resulted in a significant area of land being re-gifted to the public by ESW as an extension of the adjacent cycle pathway where wildflower meadows have been planted.

The building has been fully funded by the Arts Funding Prize for Edinburgh administered by Foundation Scotland by means of a £3 million anonymous donation.

Irene Kernan, director of Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop (ESW) said: "This is an amazing opportunity for Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop which will enable us to fulfil our ambitions to create a world class sculpture centre in the city.

"We are very fortunate to have an internationally renowned architectural practise on our doorstep in Sutherland Hussey Architects. The Arts Funding Prize represents a major investment in future generations of artists and will be a major resource for our local community in Newhaven as well as the city as a whole."



news in brief

Young people love PY!

There was a great turn out when Pilton Youth & Children's Project (PYCP) held their annual general meeting at The Greenhouse on Friday 24 October – it shows young folk just love PY!

PYCP's Debbie McMillan said: "We had over fifty visitors on the day and handed out award certificates to some well-deserving children, young people and volunteers. They all received an "I Love PY" teeshirt too which are being modelled in some of the photos.

"We also launched our new Annual Report which is available to anyone who would like a copy. A new member joined our board at the AGM but we could do with more board members – if you know anyone who might be interested please get in touch."

You can contact PYCP on 332 9815 or visit www.pycp.co.uk

Super Spartans are ecstatic

Local Lowland League club Spartans have reached the last sixteen of the Scottish Cup. Spartans came from behind to defeat Greenock Morton 2-1 at Ainslie Park and have been rewarded with a home tie against Berwick Rangers or Albion Rovers in the fifth round. The cup tie will take place on the weekend of 7/8 Feb.

Bbbrrrrrrr- beach party in December!

Zoo Arts Extra are holding a Beach Day on Sunday 14 December! Meet at North Edinburgh Arts at 12 noon for a pleasant walk down to the small beach on West Shore Road for an afternoon of sand, sea, sky, fire, food and art!

The event is free (a £1 deposit secures your place and your snacks & drinks, donations welcome) and ZAE will provide snacks & hot drinks, fire, extra waterproofs, plus creative materials & activities.

For more info go to Zoo Arts Extra's Facebook page.

Youth Worker Vacancies in West Pilton

West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre has vacancies for children's workers, starting in January. For further information and an application pack contact Linda Chandler, Clerical Assistant, West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre, 19 West Pilton Grove, Edinburgh EH4 4BY, telephone 0131 551 3194 or email Linda.Chandler@ea.edin.sch.uk.

Closing date for applications is Friday 19 December.

Festive safety campaign

by DAVID PICKERING

Police in Edinburgh have launched their annual campaign to keep people safe during the festive season



AS PART OF OPERATION GREENLAND, officers in the city centre will each day issue a special 'Countdown to Christmas' photo on social media. The image will relate to a specific theme of festive safety or update the public on policing activity being carried out over Christmas and New Year.

The public can receive these images and updates by liking the Edinburgh Division Facebook page and by following the @EdinCityPolice Twitter account.

Social media users can also join in the discussion about the campaign by using the hashtag #OpGreenland.

As always, officers within the Capital will provide a high-visibility presence across the city in the coming weeks to offer a range of crime prevention and personal safety advice. Police will also specifically target busy areas and destinations during the holiday season to distribute specially designed leaflets that inform the public on how to 'Shop Safe' and 'Party Safe'.

Chief Superintendent Mark Williams, Divisional Commander for the City of Edinburgh said: "Edinburgh is one of the most beautiful, vibrant and safe cities in the world, and the policing plans we're announcing today means this is set to continue into the festive season and beyond.

"The city is already getting busier, with locals and visitors taking full advantage of the shopping and attractions on offer, and many people will soon be out enjoying festive nights out in the restaurants, pubs and clubs. We are keen to ensure people can have a safe and enjoyable time whilst soaking up the fantastic atmosphere that the city has to offer."

Community Safety Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council, Councillor Cammy Day, said: "Edinburgh is a safe place to visit and to live in, and our winter festival attracts people from around the world each year.

"We want to make sure that everyone will enjoy themselves and stay safe. I urge revellers to keep an eye on their belongings during a night out and to act responsibly.

"Working closely with the police and other agencies, our community safety wardens will be conducting high visibility patrols. Extra patrols will be out on Friday and Saturday evenings, and there will be a daily focus on the winter festival area."

Ch Supt Williams said there are a number of simple steps you can take whilst enjoying the festive season. "Make sure you are always aware of your surroundings and keep your property safe when out and about. If you're enjoying a night out in town then please drink responsibly and don't let excessive alcohol consumption ruin your evening.

"This will also be our most interactive festive season yet and through social media we will issue a new 'Countdown to Christmas' photo each day with further information and advice"

Members of the public can view these images by liking the Edinburgh Division Facebook page and following our @EdinCityPolice Twitter account.

Updates on all Operation Greenland activity will also be available on these sites, as well as our @EdinburghPolice Twitter account, which covers the entire city.

NO BOUNDARIES for Royston Wardieburn Group

NO BOUNDARIES is a support group for people who have a disability or long-term condition and want to get out and about in their community to meet people, socialise and give & receive peer support.

The group members previously attended Craighall Day Centre but had to move on when criteria for places at day centres were changed – founder member and former Chairperson of the Craighall Day Centre's Welfare Committee Rudy Bleau received the letter informing him of the changes on Christmas Eve last year.

Fellow member Brian also recalls hearing the news: "It was a shock, really. It meant a big change for us and there was nothing else at the time. There was a real danger that some vulnerable people would become even more isolated".

Becoming 'formalised'

Undaunted, the group established a new base at Royston Wardieburn and over recent months they have been working to become a 'formal' organisation with a constitution, mission statement, office bearers and the like. While the group is becoming 'formalised', however, members are keen to assure potential new recruits that the group is anything but formal!

Chairman Rudy Bleau explained: "Becoming a properly-constituted group opens more doors for us so we decided to go down that route. The paperwork takes a lot of time though and we'd like to thank EVOC, Susan Dalglish from the City of Edinburgh Council's Local Area Co-ordination Team and Kirsty at Grapevine for supporting us through the process. We have charitable status now and that's thanks to their help."

He continued: "We've had to spend an awful lot of time over the last few months talking about our plans for the organisation but now we're in the exciting position of being able to actually DO more things. The prime purpose of the No Boundaries Group is to reduce the sense of isolation that people experience and improve their mental health & wellbeing. This essentially is about building a healthier community in North Edinburgh, a place where people feel actively part of society – and have a life."

"There was a real danger that some vulnerable people would become even more isolated"

He added: "We are an inclusive group, welcoming people aged 16 years and over – if people need any additional support they can bring a carer or personal assistant along to help them participate as fully as possible."

The group meets twice a week at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre – on Monday and Tuesday from 10am – 12noon. What happens at 'No Boundaries' sessions depends on what the members want.

"We meet up together to socialise and discuss topics of interest and take part in a range of activities. On Thursdays we go on outings", said Brian. Among the places visited by the No Boundaries group are Maxi's Stockbridge, the Botanic Gardens, North Edinburgh Arts Centre, Morrison's Ferry Road, Eric Liddell Centre, Craighall Centre, Out Of The Blue, Café Camino, Newkirkgate Community Centre, No.1 Nicholson Square, National Art Gallery, Costa St James Centre, Drumbrae Library, Punjabi Junction and Lauriston Farm – that's a lot of coffee!

"We hope to put reviews on Euan's guide to help others get out and about too to accessible places. We are planning to have speakers in from a range of projects like the Living It Up Project. The group is a place to get information and guidance too.

"There is a diverse programme and everything we do is agreed by the group collectively. We'd really welcome more members and it would be great to see more people getting involved in our activities", Brian went on. "We're open to new ideas and we can structure our programme to fit. We've got a lot to look forward to".

For more information about the No Boundaries group contact rudy.bleau@gmail.com





NEW ARTWORK UNVEILED

by DAVID PICKERING

Shy Moon artwork shines at Stockbridge Library

A STRIKING NEW Permanent artwork was unveiled at Stockbridge Library last month. 'Under the Shy Moon' was created by artist Rachel Barron and takes the form of a vinyl installation and geometric mobile suspended from the beams within the library. It's hoped that 'Under the Shy Moon' will encourage the local community to visit their library and begin or continue their reading journey.

The artwork was inspired by Dear Library, a poem written by best-selling Scottish author and playwright Jackie Kay as part of Book Week Scotland.

Dear Library highlights the important role that libraries can play at every stage of an individual's life, from childhood to old age. Rachel was given one verse of the poem to inspire her artwork, written from the perspective of an expectant mother.

Artist Rachel Barron commented: "Working directly with the architecture of the library, the installation has been made in response to Jackie Kay's poem, which expresses the excitement and aspirations of an expectant mum.

"A library card is a passport to a whole new world"

"Inspired by astronomy and lunar cycles, the artwork represents the phases of our journey through life, using a gradient of colours. I am delighted to be part of the 'Artworks for Libraries' project, as it has allowed me to develop my work within a new context, towards my first permanent public artwork. It has been a pleasure to meet and work with the library community during the creative engagement workshops, and I am excited to see the final artwork unveiled today."

Jackie Kay said: "It's absolutely vital that we tell libraries why we love them so that we can keep their doors open, and with those open doors, our minds and hearts. A library card in your hand is your democracy. Reading expands the boundaries of your own possibilities and opens doors to your future life.

"A closed library could only welcome a closed mind. A library card is a passport to a whole new world, a boundless world without restrictive borders. And you must tell your library why you love it because otherwise it won't know why you love it and its feelings might get hurt."

Dear library

See when ah wiz wee
ma faverit day wis
Wednesday, library day,
when Ma an me wid go tae ma library
an I wid get to pik ma book
an get it stampd oot
efer the ither yin had been stampd in
and I hid ma very ain card
which wiz a wee magic envlope
that took me tae anither world
awthegither fu o' characters an creatures, auntie lopes,
big broon bears, loins and tigrs, new wurd
an anythin an aw'thin I wants tae ken about
the moon, stars, sea, the hale galaxy, the wide wurd
wiz at the tip o my fingers in ma locall library.

Always a new book to wolf down in the dead of night,
a borrowed book to read by torchlight...
In the morning, last night's saved page turns
to who last had this book out
and the date returned, 9 June, this year.
This same book in a stranger's hands, half-known.
Those readers, kindred spirits, almost friends.
You are in transition; you are on the threshold.
The library is the place that gets you. Pure gold.
You are Holden, you're Lyra, you're White Fang,
you're Kidnapped, you're Skellig, you're Refugee Boy.
You're Callum, a nought, you're Catch 22.
You're Chris Guthrie. You're Hyde. You're Boo Radley.
It's not Accidental. You are those books. Those books are
You.
Inside your mind you're strong. Safe.
Toss a coin: heads, reader; tails, writer.
The library is the young writer's first home.
You read pertinent sayings, make your own.
The cool teenager is a member of the library.

I go to my library to find out about the baby
growing like a story inside me: 37 weeks!
My baby is likely to be sucking his thumb, her thumb.
My tight tummy is a drum, a drum.
The child who I will one day – hopefully –
bring back to this library, ah wee one, is turning.

I'll get her a first library card, bless,
and sit where I'm sat now, reading, to test
the books I'll soon read to him, fingers crossed.
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
The Runaway Bunny, Goodnight Moon
37 weeks: my tummy – boom, boom, beating time!
Come soon wee baby; wee baby come soon.
Come dream in your basket under the shy moon,
My hungry caterpillar, my goodnight gorilla.
My dear wee daughter, my good little fella.

A book borrowed, kindly given.
A book swapped, loved, exchanged.
A book you will always hand back.
A book is a coat for your mind.
You've reached the age, 50 something, when you look back
on borrowed books as if they were old friends –
with nostalgia, with affection, intimately known.
The time when you read The Raj Quartet, or Han Suyin
Toni Morrison or Memo for Spring,
Things Fall Apart or Fire on the Mountain.
Poor Madame Bovary. Poor Anna Karenina.
Your life: many characters, bleak houses, long day's journeys.
Your life of mixed fates, give and takes;
What you borrowed last month, you return today.

Dear Library, you want to say, Dear Library, you have served me
well all my life. You are magnificence, munificence.
You are a book festival every day. There is no way, me an OAP,
could ever value what you've given me by money.
There is no measure for the enriching of the mind, friend.
Faithful and trusty, Dear Library, you are a heart stopper, a kind giver.
I treasure your lively silence; your very pleasant librarians.
They represent what a public service is truly, libertarian.
Impossible, did I say that already, to put a price on that. Again,
stop me if I am repeating myself, your staff will tell
me of a Saramago Street in a nearby town.
Browse, borrow, request, renew – lovely words to me.
A library card in your hand is your democracy.
If you were to shut, Dear Library, it would break my heart.
A library user all my life, I'd be lost without my library.
A closed library could only welcome a closed mind.
Is there a kinder place that you can find than your local library?
I want to say, and I do. I pick up my pen and write to you.

THE **menyouth**



Inspired by design

There's more to fashion than meets the eye, says Broughton High School student **LAYAN DEGACHI**

“Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street; fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening.” – Coco Chanel

I CERTAINLY AGREE with this exceedingly influential artist's view on fashion and the way she interprets it as more than just as a trivial interest or a superficial obsession. There's so much more behind it.

People may have different views regarding fashion; they might say it's an unhealthy obsession or ridiculously shallow, but in reality it's the complete opposite of that. Why should people who enjoy fashion be automatically labelled as gullible or empty-headed?

In fact working in fashion is one of the most demanding fields there is. It requires cleverness, originality, insight and the ability to inspire. It comes with specific skills, a sense of creativeness and commands for long hours of hard work.

“Fashion is so close in revealing a person's inner feelings and everybody seems to hate to lay claim to vanity so people tend to push it away. It's really too close to the quick of the soul.” – Stella Blum

Fashion allows the freedom of self expression and so plays an increasingly important role in an individual's life. The garments and accessories that man or woman wear, help them to identify with a group of others whether it's a lifestyle, profession, a religion or an attitude.

“Fashion is the most powerful art there is. It's movement, design and architecture all in one. It shows the world who we are and who we'd like to be.” – Blair Waldorf

Fashion is something everyone can relate to and for me it is fascinating in this sense. For many years now I've found myself so easily and intensely drawn into it. I'm fascinated by the detail that goes into fashion items; I admire and find inspiration in everything around me so much that it has become a distinguished part of my identity and I just can't imagine how life would be without the enchanting effect that fashion spreads.

I find that what you're wearing can also reflect on how other people see you. For example a specific choice of colour can show

your personality or mood. Different styles of clothes are assigned meaning in the same way words are. For example a suit and tie are always associated with formality and a willingness to treat other people with some degree of respect as well as expecting to be treated the same way in return.

Fashion is culture and history. The evolution of fashion dates back to several hundred years and as our attitude and culture change, fashion comes along with it. From Victorian times when dresses were layered and made with heavy fabric to around the 1900s – changing to elegant and extremely long dresses, a time for men and woman wearing fancy hats, influenced by the cultural trends and events of the time.

Fashion continues to change during each new and unique era to match different seasons, keeping in mind people's demands and needs from all age groups. Therefore even though it may be stereotyped as otherwise; fashion is not only for young people, it's for everyone.

Fashion - the bigger picture

As an industry it has a huge impact on the economy. In 2010 the UK fashion industry was worth £ 21 billion – that went up to £ 26 billion in 2014. The 'value of the UK fashion industry' report commissioned by the British Fashion Council emphasizes the importance of the contribution of fashion towards the economy and events such as London fashion week attracting millions of visitors to the UK every year. It states that 816,000 people are employed in the UK fashion industry across a wide range of all the creative industries and it's the 15th largest industry (out of 81) in the UK.

There is so much more to fashion. If you may think you're not involved in it at all I ask; do you get dressed every morning? One breathes and lives fashion without awareness. You might consider that it doesn't relate to your job or the routine of your daily life but this is not the case: fashion is all around us.

Think from the work uniform you put on in the very morning to the buildings and different architecture you see on your way out to school or work, all the small details, the designs you come across every day in your wardrobe, house, office, culture and environment. Fashion is a captivating, mesmerizing and critical part of life.

When thinking of fashion, the astounding, countless thoughts that sparkle up in my mind are best described by my favourite quote from the extraordinary designer, Oleg Cassini: *“Fashion; a mirror of the time in which we live, a translation of the future and should never be static.”* This supports and adds to my argument that fashion can go much deeper and beyond mere aesthetics. There's more to it than meets the eye.

Get **LOUD** over homophobia!

Society has certainly progressed in the acceptance of people identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex or asexual, but how do we portray them in media?

MANY PEOPLE are still offended by people identifying as LGBTQIA, but with same-sex marriage being legalised in many countries and states, the media is starting to recognise and portray more LGBTQIA people in films and TV Shows.

However, if a character in a TV show is portrayed, for example, as being lesbian, their sexuality is almost always a huge part of the plot and they are commonly shown as having had many girlfriends just to prove that they are lesbian. The same goes for people being portrayed as gay.

But TV shows are reluctant to feature transgendered people, whether they are trans-male/trans-female or simply non-binary, and asexuals/aromantics are normally shown as people who haven't 'met the right person'.

However, while TV Shows and films are certainly improving the way they portray LGBTQIA people, some channels are still portraying them negatively.

Stonewall, a charity for LGBTQIA people, discovered that “Gay people and their lives are five times more likely to be portrayed in negative terms on the BBC” and that “BBC programmes frequently use gay sexuality for making jokes or as an insult, and rely heavily on clichéd stereotypes”.

In July 2010, Stonewall published research about representation in youth television: 49% of portrayal was stereotypical and 0.6 of the content they viewed portrayed LGBTQIA people 'positively and realistically'.

So what is there to do about negative portrayal of the LGBTQIA community in media?

Obviously, you can complain to the television companies, but not a lot can come from a single complaint letter or e-mail. The key to making a difference is to get **LOUD**.

You can get into contact with various different charities, Stonewall is an excellent example of one of them, and organise a protest or campaign. You can get your friends and families all to write letters of complaint – the more the merrier. You can put what you've seen on the internet for the world to see. There are countless other ways to stop discrimination against LGBTQIA people, and it's easy to get involved.

Whether you've read something homophobic in a newspaper or magazine, seen stereotypes of LGBTQIA people on TV, or heard something offensive on the radio, it's easy to get involved, and it's your responsibility. If everyone waits for somebody else to do it – nobody will.

▶ You can see Stonewall's page about the portrayal of LGBTQIA people in the media at: http://www.stonewall.org.uk/what_we_do/research_and_policy/2875.asp

Article: Laura, North Edinburgh Young People's Forum

Picture: Nicki and Josh (NEYPF)



Broughton's Good Samaritans

You never have to look too hard to find articles critical of young people, so it's always nice to be able to tell the other side of the story. Step forward Comely Bank woman Helen MacDonald

HELEN, who is 76, was clearing up following a family birthday party at LifeCare House. Whilst leaning over to dump bags of rubbish in a big bin in Comely Bank Street she took a dizzy turn and fell. Disorientated, Helen was confused and unable to get back to her feet.

"To be honest I wasn't sure what I was going to do", she said. "It all happened very quickly and it was a bit of a blur. One second I was putting bags of rubbish in a bin and the next I was on the ground. I felt a bit daft!"

Help was at hand, however. Three S2 Broughton High School pupils were on lunch break when they witnessed the accident, and in the finest tradition of the Three Musketeers Justin Youngs, Mason Harrison and Reece Head leapt to the aid of a damsel in distress.

The boys quickly got Helen back on her feet again, and, having been reassured that Helen was none the worse for her mishap, the students headed back to Broughton.

That may have been the end of the story, but for Helen's daughter – another Helen. When she heard her mum's story she felt that the schoolboys deserved some recognition for their prompt actions so she embarked on some detective work. Young Helen – it had been her birthday party, incidentally – contacted the Head Teacher at Broughton and the three students were soon traced.

Last week Helen – who has made a full recovery – was reunited with Justin, Mason and Reece at the Inverleith Community Conference at Broughton High School. The boys remained modest about their actions, but Helen gave the lads small gifts to show her appreciation and said: "I am really happy to have the chance to say a proper 'thank you' to the boys. I really don't know how long I would have been there if they hadn't come to help me. You do hear lots of awful things about young people but these boys are a real credit to their families and their school."



Honest TOiL proves worthwhile for young people

Thirty five young people from across Edinburgh have completed an 18 week training programme, with 23 going straight into employment following their training.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE join almost 500 who have graduated from Port of Leith Housing Association's (PoLHA) training programme Training Opportunities in Lothian (TOiL).

Among those to graduate at an event at the City Chambers last night (25 Nov) was Magdalena Susfal who said: "I gained a lot of admin skills and got a feel for how it is to work in an office environment. The training was very useful and I enjoyed it. The Excel training was very good and the interview preparation before my Modern Apprenticeship interview helped me get the job."

The young people were presented with their certificates by co-founder of Social Bite, Alice Thompson, at the ceremony attended by employers, stakeholders of the programme, young people and proud friends and family members.

Alice Thompson said: "The jobs market can be difficult for young people to get in to, but given they are the lifeblood of the economy it's imperative they are given opportunities. I want to congratulate them on their achievements as they are now on the path to bigger and better things."

"It was hands on work which is what I like"

Another trainee graduating was Reece Hunt, 17, who has gone on to work as an electrician with Bemco.

Reece said: "I most enjoyed getting to know new people. It was hands on work which is what I like. I found the training informative and it was very relevant to our age group. The delivery made it interesting."

Other trainees graduating on November 25 were Matthew Mackie, Chris Singh, Jake Summers, David Reilly, Alex Pennykid, Nathan Moyes, Alex Main, Garry Mitchell, Jordan Bald and Lewis Ewen.

PoLHA's TOiL programme has been running for eight years and 68 per cent of participants move into sustainable employment, apprenticeships or further education after the six-month placement.

PoLHA Chair Margaret O'Connor, who presided over the graduation's proceedings said: "TOiL provides valuable work opportunities to young people in Edinburgh with a variety of valued partner organisations. Our trainees have access to support and a holistic approach is used supporting those that need it most."



NEN's young roving reporters!

We held a training day with North Edinburgh Young People's Forum (NEYPF) members at PCA's Ferry Road Drive community shop in October.

Four local young people took part in a range of activities over the course of the day – analysing news, preparing for and conducting interviews, some photography and selecting images to accompany stories, research and then writing their own articles.

The first of these appears in this edition's Youth NEN section. Well done, Brandin, Josh, Laura and Nicky!

#StrongerNorth

BE PART OF IT



“There is a real sense of community amongst many of the people living in the north and we want to capture that feeling”

A targeted campaign to help make the north of Edinburgh a safer and more attractive place to live is gathering pace

#StrongerNorth aims to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, and involves the Council, Police Scotland, Total Craigroyston, third sector partners and the local community.

It was set up in response to a community meeting in October after the stabbing of Mr Jie Yu in Pilton, at which residents raised concerns about anti-social behaviour involving young people.

Council Chief Executive Sue Bruce pledged that special measures would be put in place to concentrate efforts.

Stronger North activity includes:

- Increased presence of community safety officers;
- Faster repair of door entry systems and street lighting;
- Community rep visit to Council’s CCTV room;
- Assessment of camera locations;
- Using bollards to block off motorbike routes;
- Removal of bushes and other blocks of sight lines;
- Community Clean Ups;
- Use of community payback people to tidy up Parks and Open spaces ;
- Community events like the Xmas Fair on 5 December

The aim is:

- To raise awareness the ongoing activities in the north, and to encourage community involvement ;
- Work with Total Craigroyston to support its youth crime reduction activity
- To support the community to be part of the solution to reduce crime and anti social behaviour;
- To increase community safety activity;
- To show commitment to local activity in communities.

In the Forth ward last month, action included five arrests for home break-ins, police and Council warnings were made regarding three Council tenancies, 129 arrest warrants were issued, and at least four positive stop searches for possession of controlled drugs and one for stolen property. Two vehicles were also seized for not being insured.

So far, two tenants have been issued with a Notice to Quit as a result of their behaviour, with another pending.

In October, eight stolen vehicles and two bicycles were returned to their owners, fireworks were seized from youths in West Pilton, one person was charged with house breaking after a stolen car was pursued, and 45 people were arrested or reported for offences including possession of drugs, anti social behaviour, hate crime and offensive weapons.

Community Safety teams have so far visited 349 properties to talk about #StrongerNorth, either talking directly to residents or posting cards through letterboxes.

A recent survey of street lighting found that all were working properly following repairs, while several front door entry systems were either replaced or fixed. All emergency works have also been carried out on blocks of flats.

Community Safety Leader Councillor Cammy Day said: “The attack on Mr Yu was horrific and people should never have to live in fear. Edinburgh is a safe place to live but

the criminal acts and unacceptable behaviour of a few are causing misery for too many residents and the goal of Stronger North is to come together and address these issues.

“There is a real sense of community amongst many of the people living in the north and we want to capture that feeling. Recent community clean-ups were really successful and led to nine tonnes of rubbish being cleared up, and we’re also expecting our Christmas event to be really popular.

“StrongerNorth complements ongoing activity but is a targeted effort to deal with crime and make our communities safer and more pleasant.”

Chief Inspector Sara Buchanan said: “Police in the North of Edinburgh are committed to working in conjunction with our partners at the City of Edinburgh Council to tackle any arising criminal activity in the area and preserving community wellbeing through a number of support measures.

“We have recently been involved, along with our partners, in establishing Stronger North, which looks to enhance joint working and improve communication between relevant agencies.

“This is yet another tool to help us target the main offenders of local crime and to address the root causes of youth offending through early effective intervention and diversionary opportunities.”

CONTACT: stronger.north@edinburgh.gov.uk
Telephone 0131 529 5023



Continued from Cover story...

...her flat is a modern, energy efficient home and gave the Minister an insight into how the completed properties on the development will look.

Both West Pilton Crescent and Pennywell are part of the Council's 21st Century Homes project, which aims to create high quality social housing by developing brownfield sites across the Capital.

Mum of three Lindsey (pictured with 17 month old son Dylan) said: "My new home is amazing! I was given notice to leave my private let and I was staying in temporary accommodation before I got this place. This is luxury compared to my private let – it is so much bigger, cleaner and warmer. I was spending £40 per week on my pre-payment meter in my last house but now I'm only spending £11, which is fantastic.

"My housing officer has been great and is always there if I have any issues. The kids love the playground and see the green space as their garden! I have just got a job down in Morrison's and things are really working out well for me."

In response to the high demand for affordable homes in Edinburgh, 21st Century Homes will deliver 1,400 new properties for rent and sale throughout the city. The first to be built by the project were in the Gracemount area, where 87 homes were created, along with 12 shared equity properties.

Phase two of this development is now underway and coincides with the construction of 94 new Council homes in West Pilton Crescent and Greendykes. Plans to expand the project in other parts of the Capital by a further 400 houses are also currently being considered.

Janice Russell, Director of Urban Union, said: "Pennywell Living is one of the largest projects of its kind in Scotland, and we are pleased to share its progress with the Housing Minister today.

"The development is about much more than just bringing high quality new homes to the area. We are working in partnership with the Council to create a sustainable community that people want to live in. We are committed to delivering jobs and training opportunities, public open space and an art works strategy which will provide a range of activities and events for community involvement."



North West Edinburgh Partnership Centre moves forward

LOCAL RESIDENTS will be delighted to learn that NHS Lothian and the City of Edinburgh Council are moving forward with their plans to develop a new healthcare and family support centre in the heart of North West Edinburgh.

The building will be situated on the vacant land behind the Pennywell shops and will cost around £12 million.

Up until now the building has been called the North West Edinburgh Partnership Centre but members of the community will be invited to help choose a more suitable name for the building before it opens in 2016.

Work has already started to prepare the site prior to the construction of the new Centre which will begin in March next year.

As part of this work some buildings will be demolished and the Muirhouse Crescent road will be closed. The Dental Surgery will move to one of the retail units in the Pennywell shops early next year.

This building when open will have a strong focus on child health and family support services; when complete the Centre will accommodate the following services:-

- Children and Families – Neighbourhood Child Practice Team
- Community Paediatrics
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

- Family Nurse Partnership
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Health Visiting

The Centre will also deliver an extensive range of general practice and community health services to the wider population, consisting of:-

- A new General Practice that can serve 5,000 patients
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Dentistry
- Dietetics
- District Nursing
- Midwifery

There is also space within the Centre for voluntary sector partners such as the North West Edinburgh Carers Project, who wish to provide services to the local community.

The project forms part of the wider regeneration effort that is now underway in the central Muirhouse-Pennywell area which includes major new housing development undertaken by 21st Century Homes and plans to improve local amenities and public space.

The Centre is planned to open to the public in September 2016.

Necessary NEN is 'known and trusted'

DESPITE THE ALTERNATIVE ATTRACTION of a Scotland v England international football match live on TV fourteen people attended North Edinburgh News' annual general meeting at Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre last month.

Chairman Martin Hinds reported on what has been an 'interesting and challenging' year for the project and the meeting went on to discuss NEN's role in Contact in the Capital, the city council's community communication pilot project.

The pilot project ends next March, and there was further discussion on what happens to NEN at the end of Contact in the Capital. The NEN Board reaffirmed a reluctance to introduce a cover price for the community newspaper and treasurer Eddie Thorn said that plans to relaunch NEN as a social enterprise, first discussed last year, had been put on hold due to ongoing funding uncertainty and the volume of paperwork that a change to the company status would entail – the NEN's board of directors are all volunteers who live in the community.

NEN board member Willie Black said recent events in North Edinburgh had shown that the community newspaper remains as important as ever. "Our community has faced serious challenges over recent months and one thing that has been very clear is that there is a desperate need for communication. Local folk want to know what's happening and they know and trust the NEN".

Willie Black, who is also secretary of West Pilton West Granton Community Council, went on: "Our role is to support the community and serve it well – we must keep a free community newspaper as long as we have poverty in this area, and we've got to campaign to make sure that happens.

"As for funding, support from community projects is important but the big players in this area's regeneration should also be playing their part and supporting NEN. I know from many meetings I've attended that NEN is necessary, so I'm optimistic that we won't see the end of the NEN in three months time – but we must keep up the pressure, step up the campaign and argue NEN's case."

Looking for leaders!

We are looking for VOLUNTEERS WITH ATTITUDE... The Right attitude!

Are you the kind of person that sees a problem and wants to fix it?

Is your glass always half full? DO YOU HAVE a SKILL that you can share with others or would you LIKE TO DEVELOP new skills?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions then read on ...

PILTON COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT is currently looking for Physical Activity Leaders.

Would you like to lead a group of your own? Would you like to GET MORE INVOLVED in your community? Do you think you have what it takes to encourage others to get moving? If so, then we may have the perfect opportunity for you!

We have been encouraging and supporting local people to start up their own activities. So far we have a Bollywood dancing group and a weekly Walk/Jog Group. We would also welcome ideas and suggestions for brand new activities.

Our walk/jog group is expanding fast and there is room for people to get involved in this activity. Here's what some of our existing volunteers have to say about being an activity leader;

'Becoming a walk/jog leader has given me something to focus on when not working and chance to contribute to society. It has also given me structure to my day so I have something to do.'
Phil (walk/jog leader)

'I've been dancing Bollywood my whole life and I've always dreamt about teaching others to dance too. Volunteering as a dance leader with PCHP has given me the chance to share my love of Bollywood. Leading my own session each week has made me believe I have the skills to be a good teacher. I have met lots of new people from my community, people of all ages and backgrounds. I am proud to live in North Edinburgh.' Savita Purran (pictured above)

Volunteering can be a highly beneficial and rewarding experience. It can increase confidence and self-esteem. It can also open the door to training and employment and there are great social benefits too!

Over the last year, our fabulous team of physical activity volunteers has grown from strength to strength. In fact, some of them are even award winning!

Pilton Community Health Project's walking volunteers have just won the 'Paths for All'



volunteer group of the year award! The award recognised their dedication and team spirit that has been key to the success and expansion of the walking programme.

The 'walking with us' volunteers are passionate about walking and how being active can address health inequalities. Without volunteers, the project wouldn't be able to offer an increasingly wide range of opportunities for local people. Together they effectively manage the walking groups and help others 'take steps' toward improving their health and wellbeing.

Volunteer Liz said: "I don't volunteer to get awards, but I felt honoured that we were given our award in the Parliament; it felt that our work was really acknowledged even at the highest level".

» If you are interested in finding out more about physical activity volunteer opportunities: call us on 0131 551 1671 Email lianepipskyj@pchp.org or claresymonds@pchp.org.uk or visit www.pchp.org.uk

Drylaw welcomes new Minister

Drylaw Parish Church has been without their own for over a year so they were delighted to welcome new Minister Jayne Scott last month. Jayne brings considerable community experience to Drylaw and she's quickly settling in to her new surroundings.

Jayne, who was born in Stockport and brought up in Port Seton, has been an ordained Minister for 26 years but she has worked in a number of roles – she's been Principal of a theological college, chief executive of Safe Space, a Fife charity that supports victims of sexual abuse and the Director of Community Development Network. She was also parish minister at Culross and Torryburn in Fife. That wide experience will be valuable as Drylaw church faces an uncertain future.

"I have a great interest in community learning and exploring possibilities for communities to get better and stronger. The threshold between church and community should be an easy one to cross – church shouldn't feel like an alien environment", she said.

"I have been appointed as transitional Minister for five years. It's fair to say the future of this church is very uncertain – clearly, it's an open-ended future and my role is to uncover the potential we have here. Our church is right at the heart of the community and communities need facilities that can bring people together. Church, when it is done well, is where you have that intergenerational intersection".

"Drylaw only has three public buildings – the church, the school and the neighbourhood centre – and what happens in those three buildings is key to helping Drylaw thrive. I have already had very positive discussions at Ferryhill and look forward to meeting Roy Douglas, the manager at Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre. I hope the connections we can make will benefit the local population as a whole: initial conversations suggest there is a lot of scope to look at working in a collaborative way."

Jayne has made some changes already – the church sanctuary has been reorganised to become a more welcoming space - the regimented rows of pews have gone, replaced by a warmer, more informal circular seating arrangement, and a 'junk room' is being cleaned out, painted and converted into an office. You get the distinct impression that this won't be the last of the changes to life at Drylaw Parish Church.

"I've been here a month now and that's really been getting to know folk and settling in, but I have a lot of plans and ideas. I'm very much looking forward to my time here," Jayne continued. "We have a number of activities planned in the run up to Christmas (see below) and I've arrived at a very busy time, which is really good. I'm looking forward to meeting more people: offering support when life is difficult and welcoming people to Drylaw church – a safe and welcoming place".

Good luck, Jayne – and Pepper the dog!

Coming up at Drylaw Church:

Sunday 14 December

How would you like to sing in the church choir on 21 December? Now's your chance - practice and rehearse from 10 - 10.30am for the performance during 11am service on Sunday 21 December. Open to all!

Tuesday 23 December
Christingle from 11 - 11.30am

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24 December
Watch Night Service 11.30pm. All welcome.

Christmas Day - Thursday 25 December
Morning Service 10.30am. All welcome.



Community Health's in safe hands

Scotland's senior community health project forges ahead

THE OLDEST community health project in Scotland, Pilton Community Health Project has played a key role in promoting healthy lifestyles in North Edinburgh for thirty years. And if their recent annual general meeting is anything to go by, PCHP will be at the forefront of community health initiatives for a long time to come!

Annual general meetings can often be fairly dull affairs, but Pilton Community Health Project used their AGM to showcase the many elements that go into making a very successful community project.

Yes, there was the tedious but necessary business, but then the packed

meeting was treated to the highlights of the past twelve months, courtesy of PCHP staff who gave presentations on the wide range of activities that are taking place at the Health Project's Boswall Parkway base and, increasingly, out in the wider community.

Food development workers Memes Molina and Joe Jones kicked off the presentations with the launch of a new educational toolkit, then Women Supporting Women development worker Alison Hughes gave an overview of the PEEP programme.

Lianne Pipskyj and Clare Symonds shared the news of the Physical Activity

Project's ongoing success and Carol Targett, who leads PCHP's counselling team, focused her contribution on the team's work with young people in North Edinburgh.

As you can imagine there was a lot of information to take in – but fortunately you don't have to! The morning's other presentation saw PCHP manager Jen Richards launch PCHP's bright new website, which contains all the information you need on everything that's happening at PCHP!

Read all about it at www.pchp.org.uk





Sun sets on St Paul's

by DAVID PICKERING

Campaigners have lost the battle to save their beloved St Paul's church in Muirhouse

Parishioners from St Paul's have now moved on to other churches as their spiritual home of over 45 years has closed and is now up for sale.

A small band gathered to stage a candlelit vigil before the final Friday evening Mass at the Muirhouse Avenue church, one final protest. They were quiet, they were dignified, they were peaceful and they made their point - but ultimately, their efforts were in vain.

Church authorities had already made the decision to close the church and the Decree passed to that effect was pinned to a noticeboard - which ironically heralds 'Welcome' - inside the church doors.

The Decree, which is signed by Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh Leo Cushley and Chancellor Rev Scott Deeley, states:

1. That on 12 October 2014 the Parish of St Paul's, Muirhouse will be completely SUPPRESSED;
2. That on 12 October 2014 the territory of the former Parish of St Paul's Muirhouse will become part of the parish of St Margaret's, Davidsons Mains;
3. The faithful domiciled in the former territory of the parish of St Paul's Muirhouse will become parishioners of St Margaret's, Davidsons Mains;
4. That on Sunday 12 October 2014 the church of St Paul's Muirhouse will no longer be used for the Liturgy pending relegation to profane but not sordid use;

The Decree goes on to say that all assets and the parish registers will be transferred from St Paul's to St Margaret's.

So the battle's over and the campaigners many questions - among them, just how did the church's debt mushroom to £284,000 and why was it allowed to spiral out of control? - will go unanswered.

Children from St David's RC Primary School in West Pilton will now have to find their way to St Margaret's in Davidson's Mains for their church services - a considerable distance on busy roads. And the stalwarts of St Paul's men's club - who have met socially at the church for over forty years, but were not even informed of the intention to close the church - what future for them? Where do they go?

Churches are not just about buildings, of course. Churches are the people, the people are the church. The church authorities have cited falling congregations as one of the reasons for closure, but Muirhouse and Pennywell is an area undergoing a major regeneration. Thousands have left the area as their homes were knocked down, but thousands more will return as new homes are built. Many of the families making their homes in Muirhouse will be Eastern European, many of whom are Catholic.

As worshippers filed into church for that final Friday service, I did wonder: where will these people go? Yes, they'll have nice new homes - but no spiritual home at the heart of their new community?

A 'For Sale' sign now stands in the grounds of St Paul's - no longer a church, it's now a 're-development opportunity'.

UPDATE: Tragically the church was set on fire on 30 November.



Back on track

After turbulent times things are looking up for North West Carers

NORTH WEST CARERS CENTRE has had its share of difficulties over the last year: without a manager and facing a funding crisis, there were times when the voluntary board and staff must have thought about throwing in the towel. Thankfully they remained loyal to the project, however, and their recent annual general meeting heard that the Carers Centre is still very much alive and kicking!

Chairperson Ian Huggan told the meeting: "It has been a particularly difficult year for the Board and staff of North West Carers. We spent most of the year without a Manager while coping with a difficult financial position. We are especially grateful to our main funder, the City of Edinburgh Council, for their support not only financially but also from the commissioners during this time."

During the course of the year the project has been strengthened by the addition of committed new directors, who have worked with the existing Board and staff team to keep the project afloat. The project also received a much-needed boost with the arrival of experienced manager Angela Dias (pictured with Ian) in July.

The North West Carers Centre is now moving forward again at last, but challenges

remain: as always in the voluntary sector, funding is one concern and adapting to changing demands on your service - often with reduced budgets - is another.

"When the Scottish Government seeks cuts in expenditure from local authorities voluntary organisations feel the result of any cuts in the funding of our services," Ian Huggan said. "I remember the chairperson of a voluntary organisation asking me ten years ago: 'when will all this change stop?' My answer then is the same as now: change is part of the provision of social care. Don't expect things to be the same year in, year out."

He went on: "North West Carers is acutely aware of some changes that will come from outside but we must also look at the way we work and deliver services. Looking for threats and opportunities is the name of the game".

Mr Huggan, who stepped down as chairman at the meeting, concluded: "Carers are at the heart of our service and the Board and staff will be working hard in the coming year to improve communication with, and participation of, Carers in all that we do. We need to ask you what you want from us and endeavour to meet your needs."

Do they know they're Carers?

Manager Angela Dias talks about how the project supports local carers - and how NWCC could help YOU:

NORTH WEST CARERS CENTRE (NWCC) has been part of the furniture in the local area for nearly 20 years, and you might know us. You might be a Carer who has used our services, or you might be one of the many people who don't know that they are Carers!

So what is a Carer?

A Carer is anyone who cares, without pay, for a family member, neighbour or friend who cannot cope without this support. The person you support may have a disability or be ill, have age related conditions such as dementia, or mental health needs, or be addicted to alcohol or drugs.

There are many reasons people need this support, and Caring is not restricted to helping someone with tasks like bathing and going to the toilet - Carers could be giving emotional support, supporting someone to deal with letters and bills, helping with medication, shopping - the list is extensive.

Carers come from all walks of life, backgrounds and can be any age. NWCC supports Carers from the age of 5, and our oldest Carers are in their 90s!

We offer different kinds of support, from support groups for different ages (including Children who care for others), respite care, and can help you find services you need - if you need help in your caring role which we can't provide, we usually know someone who can!

Carers also want to have fun, so we organise outings and activities, which some people like to come to with the person they support, others alone.

If you're a Carer who would like to know more, or have some support, or maybe you'd be interested in volunteering for us, get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!



Angela Dias, Manager, North West Carers Centre

For further information visit: www.northwestcarers.org.uk or telephone 315 3150

Edinburgh's BUDGET CRISIS

Balancing Edinburgh's budget isn't a game, writes Granton and District Community Council secretary DAVE MACNAB:

THE COUNCIL is on record that it needs to save £67 million from the budget, over the next three years. Whilst they have been encouraging citizens to complete the 'budget challenge' - the real information is not in the 'playing' of the budget game (this just shows that difficult decisions are sometimes needed) but within the proposals that are on the 'table'. This is where the reality sits. This is what could be in store for the citizens of Edinburgh if we sit back and wait for it to happen. The cuts are real. There will be reductions in the service. Things will stop being done.



A brief glimpse at what could happen

(based on information taken from the Council budget web site and meetings)

- **Education Welfare Officers** cut from 18 to 16 (jobs lost)
- **Community Centres** – the budget proposals states: *“redesign the service to meet local needs using co-production models”.*

Now you may be wondering just what that means.

At a meeting for Community Centre management boards on 20 November we were told that this could mean – setting up social enterprise models that need to make a profit, owned and managed by the community or other self-financing models.

Do the current management boards have the capacity and capability to undertake these roles? The audience at the meeting was not convinced.

There is no point talking about empowerment if there is no investment in the people within the communities who will be asked to undertake this type of 'work'. And it is work – it is no longer volunteering – it becomes a business model that needs accountancy skills so that the books are balanced, people who know employment law if they are to employ staff directly, business managers to project plan the activities.

What would be the role of the current staff in the centres if it was decided to go down a particular business model route? I don't know – so many unanswered questions.

- **Leisure Centres** (e.g. Ainslie Park) the report highlights “It is likely that the scale of the reductions identified may lead to facility closure”.
- **Staff** – there is a hope to reduce sickness absence across the council workforce. There is an irony here. As posts are not filled and a recruitment freeze – this of course puts pressure on those in jobs, thus increasing their levels of stress and of course increasing levels of sickness absence.
- **Parking charges** – increase in permit and on street charges
- Increase in charges for **allotments**
- **Close public toilets** – Granton Square to close?
- “Proposed to accelerate and extend the development of the ‘**Living Landscapes**’ approach” – or put another way – let grass areas grow wild.
- “**Five libraries recategorised** leading to a reduction in opening hours in Piershill, Corstorphine (from 51 to 42 hours) and Sighthill, Granton and Kirkliston (from 42 hours to 32 hours).” Cut in library hours.

The reality of the situation

Spending on public services in Britain is set to fall to the lowest share of national income since 1938 which is a sign of how dramatically the UK government's austerity programme is reshaping the state. The Child Poverty Action Group stated in August of this year that “more people are income deprived in Edinburgh than in any other local authority area except Glasgow and North Lanarkshire”.

Two-fifths of adults aged 45 to 64 with below-average incomes have a limiting long-term illness, more than twice the rate for adults of the same age with above-average incomes in areas of economic deprivation – of which north Edinburgh has its share.

To mitigate some of the worst excesses of the impact of poverty and exclusion the council advocates that Community Learning and Development (CLD) will play a “pivotal role” (a direct quote from a council paper). Yet at the same time this part of the organisation is hit with a budget cut of over £2million. So how do you square this with the intention towards getting rid of poverty?

It is all very well suggesting that there can be an increase in volunteering opportunities – but do the volunteers have the necessary skills to deal with and help break down social isolation amongst adults and young people – it's not just a case of turning up.

We need to be clear on what we want to save. What is worth preserving. We can sit back, have fun playing the 'budget' game and hope for the best. Or decide that these services are our services. That the libraries are our libraries. The Community Centres and Leisure Centres are ours. That we will do something about it.

We will be campaigning to raise awareness on what is at stake and giving you an opportunity of having your say. Tell your councillor. Go to your respective Community Council meetings, go to public meetings and get your voice heard.

» Dave Macnab, Community Councillor – Granton and District Community Council
www.grantonanddistrictcommunitycouncil.com, Contact nabs89@blueyonder.co.uk



NEWS from TRINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Crime

We are aware of a number of house break-ins. Unfortunately the police were unable to attend to tell us more. Meantime we urge all residents to be extra vigilant and ensure that their house security is fully deployed.

compost facility, reinstalling the old sundial and a panorama plaque. Less happily, because of budget cuts, grasscutting may be reduced next year.

Local development plan

While recognising the need for and benefits from development and regeneration to both the east and west of Trinity we have serious concerns about the potential impact of additional traffic from new housebuilding and industrial development. Additionally, North Edinburgh was specifically excluded from the transport appraisal which forms a major input to the Local Development Plan.

We have submitted a formal representation requesting that this deficiency is recognised and asking for the North Edinburgh Transport Strategy and Waterfront Area Development Framework to be revisited. City of Edinburgh's Planning Committee will not consider representations until February at the earliest.

Proposed Sainsbury's local in Craighall Road

The city council has asked for additional information from the developer so no decision has yet been taken. Full details at cec planning (ref 14/02023/ful).

New recycling arrangements

While these seem to be settling in, there is some confusion. We will be asking for clearer guidance for residents. Grey food bins also seem to be prone to breaking, potentially encouraging vermin.

Local community plan

This aims to engage community and voluntary groups, service providers, budget holders and citizens in determining priorities. Four high level priorities have been identified for Forth and we will be working with these other bodies to flesh out the details. Parallel work is proceeding at city level and we will be engaging with that also.

Lower Granton and East Trinity roads

There are some concerns but generally the new Lower Granton Road junction appears to be working well. We have asked for a redundant fence impeding the cycle path at the new junction to be investigated. We understand that a further traffic survey of East Trinity Road is likely in the new year and we will be keeping an eye on developments.

Regeneration

Trinity Community Council participated in a conference at which developers and businesses exposed their development plans for Forth.

While the main focus was on the Granton area, there will inevitably be impacts on Trinity – both beneficial (improved amenity) and less so (increased traffic). Trinity Community Council therefore has an interest in the quality of regeneration approved. The conference was well attended and worthwhile and is the start of an on-going process of community involvement.

Thanks Liz : welcome Marcus

Long serving Trinity Community Council member, Liz Grant, has intimated her resignation. We are very grateful for the many years of service she has offered the community and wish her well. Local resident Marcus Stout has been co-opted to replace Liz on Trinity Community Council.

Coming soon - new TRINITY CC website!

We have been working to simplify and modernise our website and hope to launch this soon.

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

Starbank Park

September was busy with over 400 plants planted. Future plans include additional boat planters, facilities for children, a community



INVERLEITH
NEIGHBOURHOOD
PARTNERSHIP

Talking transport in Inverleith

WALKING, CYCLING and sustainable transport were the themes of Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership's annual community conference held at Broughton High School last month

Active travel, in particular encouraging walking and cycling to school, features high on the list of community priorities in Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership's local community plan for 2014 – 2107, so the conference theme was well chosen.

Around fifty delegates attended the event which was hosted by Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership convener Councillor Nigel Bagshaw, who spoke enthusiastically of the considerable health and environmental benefits of choosing to walk or cycle rather than take the car.

Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Convener Cllr Lesley Hinds outlined the city council's current transport systems, ongoing initiatives and future plans before delegates broke into workshop groups to discuss: 'What are the challenges to making walking and cycling better in Inverleith?' and 'What are potential solutions to improve and increase walking and cycling, including how can we make best use of local greenspace?'

A full conference report will be available soon.

Making it Happen

Neighbourhood Partnerships launch new Local Community Plans

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS bring together the community, City of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland, NHS Lothian, Scottish Fire & Rescue and other voluntary sectors organisations to coordinate local services and help make the community a positive place to live and work in. This is managed through a Local Community Plan.

Communities are at the heart of the process and to better understand issues and concerns local people of all ages were asked: 'What is important to you and what would help make a positive difference?'

The process identified four areas to work on between now and 2017:

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership

- Positively engage and support young people
- Increased opportunities for all to live healthy lifestyles
- Improve the way we engage with and support our communities
- Improve employment opportunities – especially for younger people.

Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership

- Positively Engage Young People
- Increased opportunities for all to participate in physical activity
- Encourage better use of local green spaces
- Encourage walking and cycling to school

Both Forth and Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership conveners have welcomed the new plans.

Inverleith convener Cllr Nigel Bagshaw said: "I was very impressed by the contribution young people made to the referendum debate and I think young folk of all ages have a right to have a say, in particular, in the services targeted at them locally. And I'm also convinced of the health and welfare benefits of increased walking/cycling and greater use of leisure facilities and green spaces within Inverleith, so I'm very supportive of the four priorities of the new local community plan."

Forth convener Cllr Cammy Day said: "We aim to make sure that our communities are at the heart of the Local Community Plan and we will continue to find ways to encourage more residents to get actively involved in what happens in their community."

» Partnership action plans will be developed to deliver these priorities and updates on progress can be found by visiting www.edinburghnp.org.uk/forth or www.edinburghnp.org.uk/inverleith
For further information contact: Jim Pattison (Forth) 529 5082 and Elaine Lennon (Inverleith) 529 5270.



Western's Minor Injuries Clinic is twenty years old!

THE MINOR INJURIES CLINIC marked a major milestone when it celebrates its 20th anniversary last month. The unit, the first of its kind in Scotland, opened at the Western General Hospital in November 1994.

It broke new ground when it was launched by becoming the first nurse-led unit of its kind. Now 20 years on, the unit continues to be one of NHS Lothian's flagship services and treats around 25,000 people every year for a variety of aches, pains, cuts and sprains.

Fiona Churchill, lead nurse practitioner, NHS Lothian, said the unit was a one-stop shop for patients and provided a crucial alternative to busy Emergency departments which were dealing with life-threatening injuries. She said the unit has ensured that patients are treated at the right time, by the right people in the right place.

She added: "We are delighted to be celebrating our 20th anniversary. The minor injuries clinic was pioneering when it was created and over the years it has continued to be at the forefront of quality care."

The service has grown and evolved over the last two

decades and paramedic practitioners and a physiotherapy practitioner are now attached to the unit. One of the other major changes has been that all staff are, or are working towards becoming independent prescribers, which has helped enhance the patients' journey and help the unit become the one-stop shop it was designed to be.

The number of patients attending the clinic has more than doubled since it was launched in 1994 because of its prompt and expert care. It's estimated that on average 60 adults and children now attend the clinic every day – around 25,000 every year – for a range of injuries, especially to their ankle or wrist and for burns, cuts and sprains.

The clinic will continue to evolve and will soon move into a specially-designed unit on the same site as part of the work to re-design the Western General Hospital site to make it more effective and improve patient flow.

It will continue to be a walk-in service, so no appointment is required for treatment from a range of staff, including nurse, physiotherapy and paramedic practitioners.



Over the years, opening hours have been extended to make the clinic more accessible and in line with patients' needs, meaning that it is now open every day of the year from 8am to 9pm, with last book in at 8.30 pm.



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
Twitter: @MalcolmChishol1



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



FREE Computer Classes (Beginner Level)

Learn a new skill in the New Year

Tuesdays 10 – 12 (from 13 January)
Thursdays 12.30 – 2.30 (from 15 January)

Our classes are friendly and relaxed.

You can work at your own pace.

We also offer SQA qualifications.

FREE TEA/COFFEE



Royston Wardieburn Community Centre
11 Pilton Drive North
Telephone 0131 552 5700
Ask for Karen or Donna

councillors contact details

FORTH WARD

STEVE CARDOWNIE – SNP Group

The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers, High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Telephone: 0131 529 3266
Email: steve.cardownie@edinburgh.gov.uk

Surgery Times

There is no need to wait if you have a problem, telephone me on 0131 529 3266 (leave a message if I'm not in and I'll get back to you). Alternatively email me at steve.cardownie@edinburgh.gov.uk. If a meeting is required we can arrange a mutually suitable time and place.

CAMMY DAY – LABOUR Group

The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers, High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Telephone: 0131 529 3281
Email: cammy.day@edinburgh.gov.uk
Twitter account @cillrcammyday

Surgery Times

Muirhouse Library, every Monday (except July) at 6pm
The Prentice Centre, every Wednesday (except July) at 6pm
Royston/Wardieburn Community Centre, every Wednesday (except July) at 7pm
These are joint surgeries with Councillor Vicki Redpath. You can also telephone 0131 529 3281 for appointment.

ALLAN JACKSON – CONSERVATIVE Group

The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers, High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Telephone: 0131 529 4086
Email: allan.jackson@edinburgh.gov.uk

Surgery Times

Telephone 0131 529 4086 for appointment or email:
allan.jackson@edinburgh.gov.uk

VICKI REDPATH – LABOUR Group

The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers, High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Telephone: 0131 529 3262
Email: vicki.redpath@edinburgh.gov.uk
Twitter account @VickiRedpath

Surgery Times

Muirhouse Library, every Monday (except July) at 6pm.
The Prentice Centre, every Wednesday (except July) at 6pm.
Royston/Wardieburn Community Centre, every Wednesday (except July) at 7pm.
These are joint surgeries with Councillor Cammy Day.

INVERLEITH WARD

NIGEL BAGSHAW – SCOTTISH GREEN Group

The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers, High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Telephone: 0131 529 3291
Email: nigel.bagshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk
Twitter account @nigelbagshaw

Surgeries

Mobile Surgery - please contact me to arrange a time and place to meet that suits you.

GAVIN BARRIE – SNP Group

The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers, High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Telephone: 0131 529 4978
Email: gavin.barrie@edinburgh.gov.uk
Twitter account @GavinKBarrie

Surgery Times

There is no need to wait - if you have a problem, telephone me on 0131 529 4978. Leave a message if I'm not in and I'll get back to you - or email me at gavin.barrie@edinburgh.gov.uk. If you need to meet with me in person, we can arrange a time and place that suits.

LESLEY HINDS – LABOUR Group

The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers, High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Telephone: 0131 529 3235
Email: lesley.hinds@edinburgh.gov.uk
Twitter account @LAHinds

Surgery Times

Stockbridge Library, every Wednesday between 7pm and 7.30pm
Ferryhill Primary School, every Wednesday (during school term) at 6pm

IAIN WHYTE – CONSERVATIVE Group

The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers, High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Telephone: 0131 529 4090
Email: iain.whyte@edinburgh.gov.uk
Twitter account @CllrWhyte

Surgery Times

Telephone 0131 529 4090 for appointment.

community directory

ADVICE

Community Renewal	332 8773
Granton Information Centre	551 2459
Lothian & Borders Police HQ, Fettes	311 3131
Lothian Buses	554 4494
NHS 24	111
North Edinburgh Credit Union	466 5006
North West Carers Centre	315 3130
North Neighbourhood Services (City council local office)	529 5050
North Edinburgh Volunteer Centre	629 4202
Pilton Citizens Advice Bureau	332 9434
Police Scotland (non-emergency)	101

CHURCHES/PLACES OF WORSHIP

Blackhall Mosque, Queensferry Road	343 3802
Blackhall St. Columba's, Queensferry Road	332 4431
Bristo Baptist Church, Queensferry Road	332 9488
Church of the First Born, West Granton Green	551 5361
Drylaw Parish Church, Groathill Road North	343 1441
Granton Baptist Church, Crewe Road North	552 0915
Granton Parish Church, Boswall Parkway	551 2159
Granton United, 125 Boswall Parkway	552 3316
Muirhouse St. Andrew's, Pennywell Medway	476 9525
Old Kirk & Muirhouse, 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 Community Centre	467 3578
Royston Wardieburn Community Centre	552 5700
The Prentice Centre	552 0485
West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre	551 3194

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

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

ELDERLY

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

FAMILIES

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

HOUSING

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

Muirhouse Housing Association	336 5282
Pennywell Tenants and Residents Association	476 2359
Port of Leith Housing Association	554 0403
Tenants & Residents in Muirhouse TRIM	0798 034 0086
Tenants & Residents in Pilton TRIP	07504 849 855
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 Community Shop, Pennywell Road	07460 044 426
Muirhouse Surgery	537 4343
NHS 24	111
North Edinburgh Drug Advice Centre (NEDAC)	332 2314
North West Carers Centre	315 3130
Pilton Community Health Project	551 1671
Stockbridge Health Centre	225 9191
Western General Hospital	537 1000

RECREATION/ARTS

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

SCHOOLS/EDUCATION

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

YOUTH & CHILDREN

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



ARRG News

The Auld Reekie Roller Girls let us know what's happening in their fast moving world

WE ARE EXCITED to announce that the Auld Reekie Roller Girls Intraleague Home Season for 2015 is being held at a new time!

As our loyal fans will know, for the past three years we have run our Home Season from January – April. However, 2014 has seen our league take on a lot of new directions as we continue to grow, not only in number but in standing in the roller derby world. In the past year, we have gone from being ranked #103 with WFTDA to being #60 in the world. That's right, our wee Scottish team are the 60th best in the WORLD!

We are super proud of what we have achieved. We plan to continue this until we are #1, so we've made some changes and moved some things around – and that includes our Home Season!

So, exciting ... we will now have our Home Season from September – November 2015! Keep a look out for dates which will be announced later next year.

The Auld Reekie Roller Girls are sending some of their finest skaters to compete for Team Scotland in the sport's World Cup in Texas this month. The Scotland squad will be captained by local lass Lianne 'Crazylegs' Parry.

Skaters from leagues all over Scotland tried out earlier in the year to compete on 'Team Scotland', but only the best 20 skaters have been chosen to travel to Dallas, Texas. Team Scotland's final line-up includes players from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen, but Auld Reekie has contributed the lions' share – an impressive seven capital players have made the squad.

Jamming...

Roller derby is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world, and has seen an explosion in popularity over recent years. It involves teams competing on an oval track in a series of "jams" – two-minute periods that see teams of five players racing to score points. During each jam, one player on each team is designated as the "jammer" who scores a point for every member of the opposing team she passes.

The tournament takes place in Dallas, where teams from 29 countries will battle it out for the trophy. Scotland was one of only 13 teams to compete in the first ever roller derby World Cup held in 2011, so this year's tournament shows just how much the sport's popularity has increased.

Team Scotland is captained by the Auld Reekie Roller Girls' own Lianne Parry. Lianne, who's from Cramond, said: "I think we're all just really proud to be representing Scotland. I really believe in this team, a lot of the skaters inspire me with their attitude; there is a lot of talent and oodles of passion – Scottish roller derby looks seriously good for the future."

Go, Team Scotland!

North Edinburgh Autumn Games

Continuing the legacy of the Commonwealth Games at Broughton High school

ON MONDAY 27th October, the first ever Active Schools 'North Edinburgh Autumn Games' was held at Broughton High school. The event, organised by SportsScotland, aimed to continue the legacy of the Commonwealth Games and inspire children to become more motivated about sport. Over five hundred primary seven pupils from thirteen primary schools based in the North of Edinburgh attended, assisted by thirty three Edinburgh college students and the four young sports ambassadors from Broughton High School. Upon arrival, the schools were handed wristbands to distribute to their teams, with each colour corresponding to a different sport. Pupils had the opportunity to participate in one of six sports – football, fencing, rugby, ultimate Frisbee and basketball. The clubs linked with the Community Sports Hub that ran sports on the day included: BATs rugby club (rugby), Sneekys (Ultimate Frisbee), Elite Soccer (football), Fencing Fun (fencing) and Edinburgh Lion's (basketball).

The event was designed to ensure that each sport adopted an element of both participation and competition. After lunch, each sport ran a competition in which participants had the opportunity to win a coveted shield engraved with their school name. Trinity did particularly well; winning first place in basketball, boy's rugby and fencing. Wardie took home the trophies for football and ultimate Frisbee, and the girls' rugby was won by Flora Stevenson. Overall the event was a great success, with one pupil describing it as "tiring, but lots of fun!" Although only one team could win each event, it was clear from the enthusiasm of both the helpers and pupils that the inaugural 'North Edinburgh Autumn Games' has inspired hundreds of young people to keep fit and continue to play sports.

Katherine Wright, Broughton High School student



Strollers strive to stamp out sectarianism

CIVIL SERVICE STROLLERS has received funding from the Scottish Government's Voluntary Action Fund to undertake workshops on understanding sectarianism and how it affects the community.

We recognise the problem sectarianism plays in dividing communities, particularly in relation to football allegiance, and have set out to work with players and the local community to participate in informal education workshops that help increase their understanding of the issue and the negative impact on everyday interactions.

The workshops will culminate into a public event, when a range of community stakeholders will be invited to witness the showcasing of Civil Service Strollers workshop participants journey on achieving its aim of non- tolerance to sectarian behaviours in their football community.

A club spokesman said: "It's about football clubs taking a stance to address sectarian issues that exist by bringing everyone together to understand the impact of sectarian behaviours on day to day relationships."

Anyone interested in taking part in weekly community workshops should contact Club Secretary Keith Stewart on 07402521912.

Merry Christmas from the NEN team

Follow the NEN blog for all your community news! nen.press

THE **nen** NORTH EDINBURGH NEWS