YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER





EDUCATION SECRETARY Angela Constance called in at Craigroyston Community High School last month and welcomed news that a record number of students will be sitting Highers this year.

Ms Constance was welcomed to Craigroyston by senior students Donna Cheyne, Joe Dudgeon, John Gallacher and Rebecca Morton before meeting staff and pupils to hear about the progress being made in introducing new qualifications as part of Curriculum for Excellence.

The introduction of new qualifications is progressing well, with provisional entries

"This shows that ambition, more than ever, is alive and well in classrooms across Scotland" Education Secretary Angela Constance

for Highers indicating a record high number will be sat this year. The figure, which follows last year's record number of passes at Higher, was welcomed by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning during her Craigroyston visit.

Ms Constance said: "The ongoing reform of our

education system is preparing our young people for the world of work and further and higher education. Scottish education now offers more flexible learning opportunities for our young people and new National qualifications, which were introduced at the beginning of the 2013/14 school year, are now well established.

Ms. Constance comes to Craigie

"In August last year we saw a substantial increase in the number of both Higher entries and Higher passes. I am very pleased that we are again seeing a substantial interest in provisional entries for Higher. It is very positive to see greater numbers of young people aspiring to higher levels of qualifications in our schools.

"This shows that ambition, more than ever, is alive and well in classrooms across Scotland, in no small part thanks to the work of teachers who continue to do an excellent job. This bodes well for Scotland's economic future."



Celebrating Rabbie Burns





#StrongerNorth Campaign Update



Community Regeneration

10



Youth Engagement Programme



feedback...



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

The NEN Board:

Martin Hinds (Chair)
Pam Barnes
Willie Black
Alex Dale
Eddie Thorn

Editor: Dave Pickering

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Contributors:

Broughton High School students
CLD Broughton
CLD Royston Wardieburn
Forth Neighbourhood Partnership
Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden
Georgia Forsyth Sijpestijn
Granton Improvement Society
Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership
North Edinburgh Young People's Forum
#StrongerNorth
Tony Delahoy
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Have you got news for us

CALL: 0791 817 3836 or

EMAIL: northedinnews@gmail.com

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

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

How to contact us

Email: northedinnews@gmail.com
Tel: 0791 817 3836
Blog: nen.press

North Edinburgh News c/o Pilton Central Association 28 – 30 Ferry Road Drive

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

VIEW from the BOARD

This may well be the last print version of the NEN for some time. This is the third publication agreed by the Contact in the Capital project steering group, but future funding of the paper is uncertain to say the least.

As well as producing the paper we have made good progress on other fronts. We now have a new website - nen.press - and a revamped Facebook page. Dave, our Editor, has been busy working with local young people and there is a Youth NEN section in this month's edition. We hope you like it – thanks to everybody involved. We will also be holing Open Door events over the coming weeks to publicise the work of NEN, it's contribution to communities and to answer any questions people may have.

All in all, we will have met all the targets set for us in this project. A report will be written for submission to the Council, which we are confident will confirm that. What happens after that will be up to councillors.

Speaking of councillors, you may remember reading back in November a damaging article in the Evening News, which quoted a letter from two councillors alleging 'misappropriation' of project funds. It was unclear who they were referring to, but it was either local council officers or the NEN Board. A subsequent report totally exonerated both the Board and officers and we hope that will be the end of the matter. We wrote on several occasions to the two councillors involved, Lunn and Ross, but have never received even an acknowledgement. We wonder if this is how they treat their constituents.

Finally, the Board would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the Contact in the Capital project. We think it has been worthwhile and has demonstrated a demand from the local community for local news and information. It also demonstrates that partnership working between the Council and the community is the way to go. It might not be possible to continue with a print version of the NEN, at least in the immediate future, but a digital version is definitely feasible. This will, however, require active involvement from the local community – so if you are interested in writing, blogging, photography or becoming a Board member make your voice heard!

Contact us at northedinnews@gmail.com

The NEN Board

Unity is strength

Dear Editor

The most important thing for the labour movement is to protect unity: without this, individuals and sections of the population become isolated and open to manipulation, followed by a lowering of their standard of living.

The powers that be continually use the press, radio and television to destroy that unity, attacking all sections of the labour movement whether individuals, the unions or the Labour Party, hoping to achieve and retain political control. In May we have a choice: do we vote Conservative, Lib Dem, Labour?

We know exactly what the Tories have done over the past five years, and what they intend to do. We know more or less exactly how the Lib Dems will perform. That leaves Labour as the only hope to do what we would like to be done. This is the reason for the powerful campaign against the Labour movement.

Of course at present in Scotland the SNP seems to have attracted many labour movement supporters on the assumption the SNP will better represent the working population, therefore remaining part of the labour movement working for change.

If that is so, then co-operation between the SNP and the Labour Party is essential to throw out the Tories and the Lib Dems everywhere. May 2015 is crunch time; we must not lose this opportunity of getting rid of them.

We need unity now more than ever to save our social and public services on which we all rely. Ukip does not and cannot speak for the working population; it's policies are conservative, divisive and backward-looking.

A. Delahoy, Silverknowes Gardens

Putting Children First

Dear Editor

Sadly this time of year sees a rise in the number of people seeking help from family solicitors to divorce or separate. We want as many parents as possible to know about the help available from the Family Decision Making Service.

We know that children cope better with separation when their parents work together to reduce conflict. We also know that's not easy and that's why we are here to help.

Three well-respected children's charities work together to deliver this one-stop-shop service covering legal advice, support to make parenting plans and emotional support. Our help is completely confidential and free of charge. More information and help is available at ww.familydecisionmaking.org.uk or by calling 08000 28 22 33 Alan Forgie, Family Decision Making

Different Class

Dear Editor

When the UK had massive industries like coal mining, ship building, steel works and many others the term 'working class' was generally used to describe manual workers, although that work often involved great skill and use of modern technology. It was, and still is, an honourable description of the majority of the people - although the type of work has changed, not being manual, it is still wage earning.

Opportunities for some, such as the chance to take further study or to train - sometimes with financial support - has given them a more comfortable life, but it doesn't take them into a different class: they remain wage earners. The interests of 90% of the population are similar, secure work giving them a stable and comfortable life with opportunities to develop interests and skills.

The capitalist system under which we all live is the cause of economic crisis: it is not possible for that system to give permanent security. It is an illusion, carefully nurtured, that an individual can be one of the 10% for whom everything is fine.

A. Delahoy, Silverknowes Gardens

Scottish Secretary visits Edinburgh College

The legislative power to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in future Scottish Parliament elections should be transferred from the UK Parliament to Holyrood in March, Scottish Secretary Alistair Carmichael announced last month. He said the case for votes at 16 'has become undeniable'.

Mr Carmichael made the announcement during a visit to Edinburgh College, where he met 16 and 17 year old students and discussed the importance of having the right to vote.

During his college visit Mr Carmichael met with a group of BTEC first-year Art & Design students, who have been discussing the issue as part of their communications class. He went on to meet more 16-17 year students to learn their views about lowering the voting age and also met with representatives from Edinburgh College Students' Association, College Board vice chair Ian Young and deputy principal Craig Wilson.

Mr Carmichael said: "I'm delighted to confirm a timetable has been agreed for 16 and 17 year olds to vote in future Scottish Parliament elections. I've always been a firm believer in votes at 16, with the sheer number of young people participating and voting in last year's referendum I believe the case has become undeniable."





Still caring after all those years

CARE AT LifeCare (Edinburgh) extends far beyond attending to health necessities. Be it music and singing in the St. Bernard's club, or a nutritious meal at the on-site community cafe, LifeCare Edinburgh has enriched the lives of older people for over 74 years.

Last month the Stockbridge-based charity was presented with an award certificate to recognise LifeCare's attainment of the recently-launched Scottish government 'Carer Positive' kitemark.

The Carer Positive kitemark is awarded to employers in Scotland who have a working environment where their staff, who are also carers for family members, are valued and supported. This might be through flexible working policies or with simple practical measures which can make a big difference to carers.

Welcoming the award, Care Services Manager Margaret Stewart said: "This award is proof that we do what we say we do. LifeCare is set apart from other organisations by how we look after our staff as employees and in their caring role. We are very proud to be one of sixteen organisations across Scotland to be recognised for this award."

LifeCare Edinburgh's Fundraising Manager Vicki Bradley added: "LifeCare Edinburgh is known for caring for others whether in their day centre or at home, so it seemed natural that it should support its staff who are carers personally."

Such is the commitment of LifeCare team that they're already working towards the next level of the Carer Positive kitemark!

Stepping Stones mums: made of the write stuff!

FOUR LOCAL MUMS have written and produced a delightful wee book of short stories to read with their children.

Chloe Wilson, Heather Thorburn, Michelle Lawler and Georgie Cassidy, members of Stepping Stones creative writing group, worked with tutor Lucy Ribchester over eight weekly sessions at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre to produce 'Toy Stories' – and they've produced a mini-masterpiece!

The book is beautifully illustrated by North Edinburgh Time Bank member Evren Dogan, who volunteered her talents for free to support the group project.

The Creative Writing group were presented with achievement certificates by Community Learning & Development worker Karen Riddell at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre.

Karen said: "This has been a really interesting collaborative project and we've all been looking forward to seeing the finished result. Toy Tales looks really good and the women should feel very proud of their achievement. I'm sure they will enjoy reading stories they have written themselves with their children. We'd like to thank Lucy and Evren for their efforts, too – the book looks so good!"

Lucy's own first book *'The Hourglass Factory'* was published in January – and a good read it is too!



newsinbrief

Meet the NEN: Open Days and community campaign

The NEN Board is planning a series of 'getting to know you' events next month. Members of the board will be holding informal information sessions at Pilton Central Association's community shop in Ferry Road Drive and at St Serf's Church at Goldenacre. These will be your opportunity to meet the NEN over a cup of coffee (and maybe even a biscuit if funds allow), find out what we're all about and our plans for the future!

Dates and times have still to be confirmed so keep an eye on the NEN blog for further details.

Plans to stage a 'Support the NEN' public campaigning event will also be discussed at the NEN Board meeting later this month. Again, check the NEN blog for updates.

Thinking caps on

North Edinburgh Arts is holding a quiz night on Friday 6 March from 7 – 10pm. All funds raised will support Create, the arts centre's messy play project for under-fives and their carers.

Tickets are priced £8 per person, which includes snacks buffet. Teams from 4 – 8 people and there will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Bar and raffle.

Tickets are available from North Edinburgh Arts box office. Telephone 0131 315 2151 or email marketing@ northedinburgharts.co.uk for more information.

Blooming goods news

Granton Library has been awarded funding from Awards For All to create a lovely story garden at the back of the library and to make the front garden more special with artwork, plants and flowers. We will be looking for ideas and suggestions for the garden from all in the community schools, library users, children and many others.

Various events will be organised in the library from March to September this year so watch out for these! We'll let you know what's on through posters in the library and posting on Granton Library facebook. We look forward to having some green-fingered fun with many of you this summer!

4 Www.nen.











Celebrating the spirit of Burns

Photos by **GEORGIA FORSYTH SIJPESTIJN**and **DAVE PICKERING**

That Man to Man, the world o'er, Shall brothers (and sisters!) be for a' that

A BURNS NIGHT is about many things. Good food, shared with friends, family or neighbours - and sometimes all three! Yes, Burns is about love, about comradeship and about community but if there's just one word that captures the spirit of Scotland's national Bard it's 'celebration' - and all those elements were there in abundance at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre on 24 January.

The Community Ceilidh celebrated the essence of Burns: a warm, friendly gathering of friends and neighbours of all ages, interests and ethnicities joining together to have fun in each others' company.

Organised by Royston Wardieburn Community Centre, Granton Community Gardeners and Pilton Community Health Project's Living in Harmony group the evening built on last year's event and proved to be a huge success.

Over 180 people - aged from three months upwards - enjoyed a traditional Burns Supper and were entertained by the excellent Homecoming String Band and a succession of local performers. The event was made possible and supported by a team of enthusiastic volunteers who were always on hand to make sure the evening went smoothly.

Living in Harmony coordinator Rachel Farrer was one of the event organisers. She said: "The Ceilidh was a sell out and we'd like to thank all the amazing, hardworking volunteers and staff who helped to make the event a success. It was great to see the community coming together and having such a good time, celebrating Burns and Scottish culture, as well as getting to know folk from the neighbourhood that they might not have chatted to before. There was lots of positive feedback and 17 people signed up as interested in getting involved with future events, which must be a good sign! We will be putting on other events like this through the year so watch this space!"

Congratulations to the organisers, the band, the excellent team of volunteers and the local performers who entertained us so regally on the night: the poets, the musicians, the singers and the wee dancer - you were all brilliant! And thanks, too, to the local community who came along in such great numbers to support the event and whose enthusiasm made the evening such a success.

Rabbie would be proud of you all - here's to next year!





Craigroyston Primary bookworms pick up their prizes by DAVID PICKERING

CRAIGROYSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL really entered into the spirit of Scottish Book Week recently. One of the activities was a quiz for parents, and there was a great response – over forty entries were received.

Six winners were selected, and Head Teacher Lorna Stewart invited the bookworms along before the Chrsitmsa break to present them with their prizes.

Take a bow, Mrs Kirk, Ms Malcolm, Ms Thomson, Mr Fitzharris, Ms Mackay and Ms Robertson!

Craigroyston's Helen Cameron said: "The whole school took part in activities during Scottish Book Week and that included the parents. The week is all about encouraging both adults and children to read and it was a great success. It really was good to see so many parents and carers taking an interest and we know that quite a number of them worked with their children on the quiz answers. Congratulations to all the winners."

Among other Scottish Book Week activities Craigroyston staff started to write a story. Each participant was only supposed to write a sentence or two – but as far as we know the story's still doing the rounds and it's growing and growing!

We'll let you know when Craigroyston's very own 'War and Peace' is complete!

LOCAL HERO DV DAVID PICKER

It's Thomas Tierney Award time again. Drylaw Telford Community Council seeking nominations for Good Citizenship

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE who gave up their time to help the Drylaw Telford community last year? A local volunteer who went that extra mile to support a neighbour, or a person who's worked to improve the local environment or enhance the quality of life in the neighbourhood? If so, Drylaw Telford Community Council wants to hear from you!

Tam Tierney was a committed community activist from Wester Drylaw who was involved in many of the positive things that happening in the Greater Pilton area during the Eighties and Nineties. He was a stalwart of Pilton Sporting Club, chaired Craigroyston Community Centre for many years and was also an active and enthusiastic member of Drylaw Telford Community Council. Tam was also part of the steering group – and subsequently a member of the first management committee – of Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre which opened twenty years ago in 1995.

When Tam passed away in 1999, Drylaw Telford Community Council decided to mark his contribution to community life – not only to celebrate his achievements but also to try to encourage others to become more active within their community.

Every year since 2000, the community council has chosen a new recipient of the Award.

They are all very different, and every one has been nominated for a different reason, but they share one thing in common: they freely contribute their time to do something that makes the Drylaw Telford neighbourhood a better place to live.

Former recipients have done that in many ways – helping out as a volunteer with local projects, doing their neighbours' shopping, supporting local groups by serving on management committees ... and some have done all of these things and more!

Drylaw Telford Community Council chairman Alex Dale – who was recipient of the 2012 award – said: "The Thomas Tierney Award is an important date on our community council calendar and is usually the best attended meeting of the year. We are looking forward to receiving nominations and the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our local unsung heroes."

Nomination forms are now available at Drylaw Parish Church and Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre and forms can also be downloaded at Drylaw Telford Community Council's website. All completed forms must be returned by 25 February.

> If you think you know someone who may fit the bill, visit the community council's website at www.drylawtelfordcc.co.uk or email Secretary@drylawtelfordcc.co.uk for

further information.

STV Appeal supports Fresh Start

FRESH START has received £2,000 from the STV Appeal 2014. Based on Ferry Road Drive, Fresh Start helps people who have been homeless by providing starter packs of essential household items. For many people who have been homeless and have lost everything, the packs provide a real lifeline in the early days of a new tenancy. Last year the charity created 10,973 packs to help over 2000 new households, helping to make a huge difference to the quality of people's lives in their new home. The grant from the STV Appeal will be used to help Fresh Start increase the number of packs it produces and delivers in 2015.

Keith Robertson, managing director at Fresh Start, said: "These packs help to relieve the financial burden and initial stress that many new tenants face, especially when providing for households with children."



Congratulations, Craigie – at the double!

ALL AT Craigroyston Community High School were delighted to read their recently published Inspection report. The school was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools in November 2014.

The Inspection found the following key strengths:

- A shared vision which focusses on securing positive destinations for all young people
- Strong engagement of partners in the development and delivery of the curriculum
- Coordinated and high quality support for young people and their families
- Staff and partners leading developments to improve the quality of young people's learning
- Young people who are increasingly ambitious for the future.

The Inspectors also noted that they found innovative practice at the school in partnership working and the school's approach to developing a curriculum that focusses on employment. This innovation will be shared across Scotland as highly effective practice.

The full report can be read on the school's website www.craigroyston.edin.sch.uk and at www.educationscotland.gov.uk

The 'Learning Community' surrounding Craigroyston High School was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education at the same time as the High School and also received a very positive report.

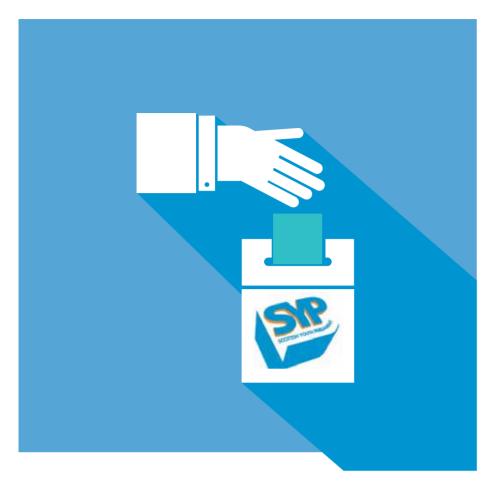
This inspection looked at services provided by Community Learning and Development and partners in the voluntary and public sector. Areas highlighted were:

- Strong focus on prevention and support for families and children.
- · Breadth and range of voluntary sector contribution to the learning community.
- Total Craigroyston having a positive impact on partnership working across the area and improving outcomes for learners.
- Improvement in key indicators such as attainment, children's and young people's literacy and numeracy, positive destinations and reducing school exclusions.
- Increasing number of opportunities delivered by local people that are creating positive role models.

Inspectors particularly noted the range and strength of partnership work. The full report can be found at: http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/

Isn't it always the way? You wait ages and ages for a positive report to come along and then two come along at once! Congratulations, again!

nen jouth



Local Candidates: Edinburgh Central

Eilidh Dewar

Hello! My name is Eilidh Dewar and I am a 6th year student at Broughton High School. I have always had a keen interest in politics and what young people want which is exactly why I got involved with the SYP. I feel like I would be an excellent member of the SYP because I am headstrong and I like standing up for what the young people in Edinburgh want. You should vote for me if you're looking for someone who will stand up for young people and work extremely hard to get the voices of young people heard.

Lucy Duffy

My name is Lucie Duffy and I want to represent you at the SYP. I'm a member of my school's Amnesty International Youth Group, so I want to help campaign for young people's basic human rights, as well as other issues such as better Sex Education in schools and votes for 16 and 17 year olds. I think I could make a difference as an MSYP because I would listen to the views of other young people in my area and I believe that every single young person deserves the right to have a voice in Scotland.

Wing-Yan Ng

I hope you will consider me as a candidate for Edinburgh Central, last year I successfully fulfilled one of my promises with promoting the living wage up to £7.85, please allow me again to work towards my manifesto and fulfil my promises to you. Giving young people fair representation is crucial to me and I want to protect your interests and I believe I can make a difference by representing your interests in the Scottish Youth Parliament. Voicing your opinion is important and I hope that you can lay your trust in me and support me. I would like to serve you in Edinburgh Central

Edinburgh Northern and Leith

Callum Corea

I want to make young people feel they're being represented and have a strong voice which is heard. I also want to make MSYP's more accessible to young people and therefore easier to contact. I'm planning to have consultations with young people on issues affecting them such as youth involvement! I'll also be campaigning on young carer and other similar issues which affect young adults. I'm aiming to campaign on equal pay for 16 - 20 year olds but also want to raise people's awareness of young people's contribution to society. I'm planning to campaign for more funding for youth groups but will be campaigning to set up more youth forums and other ways where young people can get more involved in politics and society. To help make all of this happen I'll be working away to bridge the gap between decision makers and young people!

Nicolette Ester

Ever thought about being a little more responsibly disruptive?

As the next generation of Scottish leaders, I believe we need to take responsibility and raise our voices to protect the provisions in place to support our personal development. It's no secret that times are getting harder, so, whether it's cheaper public transport, a higher minimum-wage or better sports facilities vote for me as your SYP representative and I'll help you speak out and get a little more responsibly disruptive about the issues that matter to you

Let's work together to empower the young people of Scotland and fight for a brighter future! If anything else is needed please let me know!

Eilidh Mackay

Hi I'm Eilidh and I want to be your representative for North and Leith in the Scottish Youth Parliament. I am very passionate about making a positive difference to the

Scottish Youth Parliament Elections

The Scottish Youth Parliament holds elections every two years, the next elections will take place in March 2015

"The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) represents Scotland's young people. Our democratically elected members, aged 14-25, listen to and recognise the issues that are most important to young people, ensuring that their voices are heard by decision makers. We encourage all of Scotland's young people to play their part in achieving our vision and provide a national platform for their participation in democracy."

The stated aim of the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) is to represent and promote the views of Scotland's young people. In seeking to achieve this, the organisation has adopted a quasi-parliamentary structure, with a standing body of members elected on a regular basis. The organisation seeks to promote the values of democracy, inclusion, political independence and passion.

The work of the SYP is designed to deliver five key objectives:

- Affecting Change: A nation that listens to the voices of its young people.
- Diverse Representation: All of Scotland's young people are able to participate.
- Positive about Young People: Young people are recognised as key contributors to Scottish society.
- Developing Leaders: Through access to opportunities and training, our young people lead
 the way.
- Celebrating Democracy: A strengthened relationship between young citizens and their
 political structures.

lives of young people both nationwide and in this community. Being involved in change is something I have already been trying to get involved in, being a part of the Edinburgh Youth Issues forum for over four years, this is another way to continue that. If elected, I plan to find other ways to become involved in my close community, to stay in touch issues that young people have there.

Kieran Reape

I believe it to be crucial for young people from the age 16 and over, to be allowed to vote in the UK general election and European election. We have seen progress with this by allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote in the Referendum and the upcoming 2016 Scottish general election. This was the outcome of successful lobbying from the Scottish Youth Parliament. I intend to further the recent success by getting the UK government and European Parliament to abide by the same rules. By voting for me in Edinburgh North and Leith you will be adding support to this cause.

Terri Smith

My name is Terri Smith and I am your current MSYP but also hoping to work for you for another 2 years. Over the years I have successfully campaigned on equal marriage, votes at 16, a living wage, supporting young carers whilst currently working on a campaign called POVERTY: see it change it. If re-elected I aim to focus on more support for LGBT young people, equal access to local and national opportunities, better engagement with local youth forums/groups and clubs, campaign for better work experience as well as tackling bullying in schools and also continue to work with NUS Scotland to support college and university students. Being an MSYP is about representing what you want and if you want someone with a proven track record on delivering whilst always ensuring a bit of banter is thrown in then vote for #TeamTerri - follow on twitter @3terrismith

Edinburgh Western

Owen Cruikshank

There are so many issues effecting Scotland's young people today but one issue that must be addressed is Inequality. More than 1in5 of Scotland's young people are classed as being in poverty. This is a shocking statistic but who better to tackle it than us – the young people. I am committed to helping create genuine change in our community and our country.

Although I have achieved a lot in my term, I know that there's more I can achieve for our community. I can and will represent Edinburgh Western in the best possible way should I be re-elected.

Laura Holloway

No statement available from candidate at time of going to press

Sarah Outterson

I would like to be part of the Scottish Youth Parliament because I believe it's really important that young people have a voice and a say in the decisions which affect their lives. I would campaign for disability awareness and hope to get more respect with those with disabilities. I would hope to raise the political awareness of young people as I think it's increasingly important as we raise voting age that we know as young people the differences between each party.

I also hope to get Feminism in PSE lessons in schools. I think this is a great idea because they would then know what Feminism really is and not what they hear from their friends.

If you want to know more about me and my campaign you can follow me on Twitter at @ S_Outterson or on my blog on someonelikesarah.wordpress.com



For further information visit www.syp.org.uk/elections-2015



Power to the Pupils!

Pupils at Broughton High School look at local issues

AS S2 PUPILS at Broughton High School we have undertaken an inter-disciplinary learning (IDL) course as part of our S2 elective subject choice called 'Power to the Pupils' which was run by Callum and Stephan from Community Learning & Development (CLD). The course – called Power to the Pupils - has been great as it has had a local focus which has allowed us to gather and identify issues that directly affect us as young people growing up in the north Edinburgh area. We had great debates and positive discussion and of course great fun as well deciding which were the most important topics that we could address!

Our top issues were:

- Negative stereotypes given for young people need to be challenged
- 2 Cyber Bullying
- 3 Free bus passes for all young people
- 4 Reduce the amount of bullying/name calling in Edinburgh
- 5 Reduce the cost of bus travel of young people
- Young People should have more of a choice in the curriculum
- 7 Young People are unable to use some words (e.g. due to PC issues/double standards/they're inflammatory etc.)
- 8 Dog fouling in the streets/parks which young people use
- 9 Young people not having a vote
- 10 Edinburgh should have a theme park like M&Ds
- 11 Cinema prices are too expensive.

Since coming to 'power to the pupils' we have been involved in some trips out to places like the city chambers and the 'main cooncil headquarters' where we learned about democracy, how decisions are made and who makes them on our behalf. We even got to meet a real councillor Nigel Bagshaw who represents the Green Party in this area (Inverleith ward) in Edinburgh. He was really great! He listened to our concerns and he also gave us some fantastic advice on how we could take our issues forward. We also saw lots of famous people in some of the paintings that are hanging on the walls in the council building.

After visiting the city chambers we realised we should lobby on a more local level so we had a visit to the Neighbourhood Partnership based in North Edinburgh. We raised several concerns that we had identified as being important to us. Negative stereotypes of young people, dog fouling in public spaces were just a couple of subjects we raised. The staff were great they listened to all our questions and gave us some really positive feedback. They agreed that they were very important issues that needed tackling and gave us brilliant advice on methods to take our campaigns forward which was good.

We have learned some great new techniques and various methods to make our voices heard. Having the opportunity to access politicians with our issues by lobbying council officials as well as on a more local level with the North Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership has been fantastic and we all hope we have influenced them in a positive way. The course has allowed us to learn new skills which will help us in the future there has also been lots of great discussion, debates which was interesting and above all it was great fun.

Some quotes from members of our group:

"The stuff we have learned will be useful in the future" Harry Hunter S2

"Visiting the city chambers was really interesting it is a very old building with lots of traditions and history" Simran Singh (S2)

"We hope we can make a difference and change people's opinions of young people" Chloe Carr (S2)

"It has been an amazing course and interesting" Gabriella Borges (S2)

"I have made new friends as well as learnt some new Skills" Kyle Crooks (S2)



What is North Edinburgh Young People's Forum?

WE ARE the North Edinburgh Young Peoples Forum. We try our best to tackle issues in North Edinburgh. We consist of around 10 - 12 members between the ages of 12 and 25.We meet at West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre every Wednesday to discuss upcoming projects. We have written three newspapers about bullying, crime and neighbourhood partnership, and we've also had media training, first aid training and recently entered the WE-CTV competition.

During the summer we helped at an event called Summer Blast, where many of us volunteered in different activities such as face painting, sports, games rooms, the bouncy castle and other outdoor activities.

We always try to achieve to the best of our abilities to involve young people in most of the projects we do in the community.



Cup Final prospects for Lauriston Thistle F.C

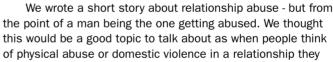
Local football club Lauriston Thistle F.C are on the brink of reaching yet another cup final with a semi-final scheduled to take place on 1 February. Last season the team was triumphant in one cup final and were narrowly defeated in another. They are looking forward to the match and we at the NEYPF and NEN wish them the best of luck. We will let you know how they got on on the NEN blog.

Passing The Duke of Edinburgh (Award)!

Two NEYPF members took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award course in the West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre to achieve a bronze certificate. It was held on a Tuesday and the two people took part who then met with a larger group of young people to do the Expedition part of the course. The D of E course was split up into four main sections and it took around one year to complete all four sections. The girls received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award early this year. Well done!

We-CTV

A few weeks ago some group members decided to take part in the We-CTV competition. We-CTV is a national competition with young people from all parts of Scotland encouraged to submit a storyboard with their ideas.



always assume it will be the woman being on the receiving end of it, never a man. Because of this, men being abused are often scared to come forward about being in this situation in case they are seen as being weak by their peers. We will let you know how we get on.



Last October, some members of the youth forum attended a one-day media training course run by the NEN (North Edinburgh News) and learned some valuable skills.

We started off the day with mock interviews, taking turns interviewing, being interviewed and recording each other. We learned how to operate the camera and voice recorder, and how to ask questions that couldn't be answered with a simple ves or no.

We then looked at different newspapers and had a discussion about what kinds of articles were featured in them. After this, we proceeded to either take photographs or writing articles. We then had Domino's Pizza for our lunch and discussed writing for the NEN in future!

We're now looking forward to our next training session later this month.





#StrongerNorth











Young people and the community

A round up of initiatives with the young people of north Edinburgh

Work with primary aged children

As part of a new role created by Total Craigroyston Team, it was agreed that a youth worker would work in four of the local primary schools to deliver a programme called 'Respect in the Community.' The aim was to help primary aged children understand the importance of safety in the community, publicise all the activities that are available after school and help them make good choices about what they do with their time after school.

The youngsters make a map of their community in the first session, showing where many of the positive activities take place. They look at what makes a safe community for everyone and think about they can keep themselves safe as well as looking out for others. At a later stage they have the opportunity to identify where they feel safe themselves or not. We've found that many of our primary children are very well aware of and have experienced some of the issues that make them feel unsafe.

A big part of the programme is helping children develop the skills to make good decisions especially where they might feel tempted by friends to take part in behaviour that causes distress to others. In small groups they think about developing a community campaign about combating anti-social behaviour and then present their ideas to their classmates.

The programme has gone down very well with P5, P6 and P7's in Pirniehall

and St David's, has just started in Craigroyston Primary and will be starting very soon in Forthview.

Reward Scheme

We've developed a loyalty card so that youngsters who are positive participants in youth clubs and sports clubs can gather points and receive a reward. It will run until Easter to see if it will be successful. So far Ainslie Park Leisure Centre and Craigroyston Community High School has offered free swims for individuals and families and each of the youth organisations involved has agreed to run a special reward night for those involved.

Teenagers

As well as all the youth clubs and sports opportunities that are available in the community, we have developed some out of hours sessions for teenagers – offering them the opportunity to get involved in activities later at night in an effort to combat the idea that there is nothing to do. If these sessions go well then more can be offered. These activities are taking place in Spartans and Pilton Youth and Children's Project.

Face North is a special project, working with some of the young people who are involved in anti-social behaviour and so far we have been able to involve these young people in working at Towford, the bothy owned by My Adventure. To help get the Bothy ready for use by local groups and

"A big part of the programme is helping children develop the skills to make good decisions"

organisations they have helped with basic maintenance, cleared ground, laid paths, chopped down and replanted trees and completed some minor repairs. They have also painted the kitchen area in Pilton Youth and Children's Project and will soon be doing some environmental work on the cycle path.

The Mentors in Violence Prevention
Programme is being implemented in
local High Schools as well as in the local
community. This gives older young people
the training and skills to work with younger
ones and help them think through how they
would handle a wide range of tricky incidents
giving young people and the community the
confidence to speak up against and challenge
issues such as bullying or other types of antiSocial behaviour.

Sessions for parents will be run towards the end of February – look out for dates or contact Community Learning and Development worker Sarah Neal if you are interested in attending. Her number is 552 5700.

Be Part Of It



Helping to make the north of Edinburgh a safer & more attractive place to live





WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE **COMMUNITY**

OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS FACENorth (Focussing on Alternatives to Crime Edinburgh North), in partnership with POP (Preventative Opportunities Programme) have been working with a core group of eight to ten young people running a series of work parties at Towford Outdoor Centre, the bothy owned and managed by Muirhouse Youth Development Group and MYAdventure. As well as working at Towford the group has painted the café in PYCP and bag-packed at Sainsbury's in Craigleith to raise money for MYDG.

This group of young people has been helping get Towford ready for use by the wider community whilst gaining real work experience, working as part of a team, following instructions, preparing and cooking their own meals, preparing a dinner table, washing up after themselves, showing respect for themselves, their environment and for others, planning and implementing ideas, conservation training, learning about their own and a new environment and most importantly putting something back into their own Community.

When we started, there was no heating or hot water in the bothy, few lights downstairs and very basic cooking facilities, so with some nights dropping to below freezing the warmth of sleeping bags at night with a meal and hot drink were very welcome.

So far the group has removed an unsafe, old mouldy shed which had stood unused for a number of years and turned the space left into to a temporary car parking space. They have also planted trees, removed old wood from around the site, cleared work areas, helped to create a temporary road surface at the entrance to the Centre, dug out trenches to create a drainage system to stop the access road from flooding, removed root systems around the trenches and carried out general labouring work.

With the Centre being surrounded by over 17 acres of ground including hills, forest and a large pond, the group intends to return to dig more trenches and create a proper road drainage system using underground pipes etc., create a new access road to the centre with an asphalt/concrete surface, clear an old deforested area to help create a football pitch/camp area, assist in the planning and creation of a bike and walking track, clear and

drain the pond area and re-route part of a river to run through the pond to allow this to be used for fishing, canoeing and wildlife area.

Once plans are finalised for the remembrance area for Mikaeel Kular the group is keen to contribute to getting this ready so that whole community of North Edinburgh has somewhere to spend some quiet reflection time.

At Pilton Youth and Children's Project the group has painted the café area, creating a brighter more user friendly area for centre users to enjoy and the group will shortly be taking part in a conservation project based on the local cycle paths.





#Action Update

Housing

- 17 housing enforcement actions taken against residents in response to behaviour
- Includes 13 warnings, 1 Final Warning, 1 Notice to Quit, 1 Notice of Proceedings for Recovery of Possession, 1 ASBO under consideration

Offending

- 7 Young people identified and targeted due to offending (Police, Council, Social work etc).
 3 charged as adults, 2 in Children's Hearing system and 2 in court system (last four all reducing offending)
- 4 young people subject to Movement Restriction
- 4 young people placed in secure accommodation in last 12 months (2 twice)
- Calls to Police have really reduced between October and December 2014 (209 to 119 calls)
- Reduction in offences committed by the most problematic young people including a significant drop by one prolific housebreaker

Youth Work

- Positive engagement over a number of weeks with group working on bothy at Towford see article.
- Conversation cafe with Positive Prison organised for 30 January

Employment and Training

Employment experience and training programme developed by Council, Urban Union and Edinburgh College. First group ready to benefit.

Pre-School and School

- Respect programme expanded to Craigroyston and Forthview Primary Schools (see article)
- Youth Engagement Programme at Crewe Road Fire station – participants selected from Craigroyston Community High School (see article)

Physical Improvements

Community clean ups in backgreen at West Pilton Gardens/Crossway and roadside verge along Granton Mill well-attended

West Granton Community Council

Community payback team cut back bushes in West Pilton Park where motorbikes were being hidden

Communications

- Regular daily tweets and 1,343 followers
- Over 230 Facebook likes

Community activity

- Community survey planned to track community views about local action
- Tenants and Residents in Muirhouse
 #StrongerNorth campaign Community Shop
 window display
- Weekly lunch time drop in sessions at Muirhouse Community Shop and Pilton Community Association flat – six week programme started 19 January
- Community feedback event 4 February









Granton Marina MASTERPLAN SUBMITTED

A masterplan for the new Edinburgh Marina development was lodged with the city council by Granton Central Developments Ltd last month.

THE DEVELOPMENT will be the focal point of Granton Harbour's regeneration and, if approved, could provide a boost to inward investment in Edinburgh of over £300 million.

Granton Central Developments say the new development will deliver a 400 berth marina, homes for over 4,000 residents and a 123-bed spa hotel as well as providing local employment opportunities for up to 700 people. The new masterplan will also incorporate improved marine services, including a larger community boatyard and improved facilities for the Royal Forth and Forth Corinthian yacht clubs.

The revised scheme will see more family-sized homes available for rent and the layout of the development has been redesigned to provide a centre to the retail, commercial and leisure space, easily accessible to both residents and visitors.

It also makes provision for the proposed new transport facilities in the area, including the extension of the tram service and a potential fast link ferry service to and from Kirkcaldy, as well as facilities to accommodate cruise ship tenders.

A spokesman for Granton Central Developments Limited, said: "We are very pleased with the way in which our development plans have been supported by the local community and we look forward to starting work on this exciting project in 2015. We hope that Edinburgh Marina will soon be not just a gateway to Edinburgh, but a focal point of an exciting and energetic new community."

Not all local people have welcomed the plans, however. One Lower Granton Road resident attended the drop-in consultation session held in Granton Youth Centre before Christmas – and he remains to be convinced.

He told NEN: "We've seen plans like this before and they've come to nothing so I won't be holding my breath. Personally I don't think many local folk would have too much difficulty with what's being proposed but for one major drawback – traffic.

"First the heavy lorries when the site is being constructed, then there's the sheer volume of traffic a development of this nature would bring when it's built. It's a real concern.

He added: "We could see thousands of additional cars – visitors and residents – on local roads. Traffic has been a problem down here for as long as I can remember and the roads can't cope with the volume of traffic as it is now – these proposals would make it a hell of a lot worse. Planners will have to consider ways of resolving that, because if they don't this development is a non-starter."

COMMUNITY REGENERATION:

What is it all about?

THE IDEA OF 'community regeneration' is certainly not new, but at this time in Scotland with new Scottish government legislation on Community Empowerment, the time is now better than ever before for communities to take more control of assets. We can shape our community involving all who live, work and play within it. Now that would be real community regeneration!

Politicians talk about regeneration but do they deliver? What does that mean for the residents of North Edinburgh? We have a badly needed housing development in Muirhouse but without complementary services. The rest of the locality is left to decay with budget cuts making it harder for politicians (the council) to regenerate the larger area.

How will the project bring benefit?

The acquisition of the land by the Granton Improvement Society will see the development of 54 luxury houses stopped and replaced with an International Garden Festival and create artisan studios in green space on the adjoining plot of land. The proposal will provide upwards of 100 permanent full time and part-time jobs, training and education in horticulture and other professions and trades. It will be an opportunity for local people to start up business in affordable workspaces. The unique visitor attraction of the International Garden Festival where each year it is different will ensure returning visitors to

"The people of the area know what is needed to regenerate their environment and it is not just housing"

The people of the area know what is needed to regenerate their environment and it is not just housing. The Granton on Sea project can be the corner stone of such development. A project that provides benefits across a wide spectrum of issues that have been unresolved over the past 20 years - even though the area was designated as a major regeneration area within the City of Edinburgh.

A community regeneration project requires the assets of the community to be in total, outright ownership of that community; this is not in place. Why then, when Scottish government policy is to transfer assets to communities have EDI, chaired by Councillor Frank Ross who is also convenor of the Economic Development committee, denied the project Granton on Sea the opportunity to begin one of Scotland's largest and most ambitious regeneration plans?

The EDI Finance Director and Waterfront manager both recommended that Granton Improvement Society be given a two year period where it would fully develop the project with the Lottery's Growing Community Assets unit. After 18 months it would begin to provide employment, training, tourism, visitors and economic benefits to North Edinburgh.

the project. That influx of tourists both International and National will see their spending retained in the local economy.

The real main benefit that the Granton on Sea project will bring is a local charity The Granton Improvement Society whose main objective is the regeneration of the North Edinburgh area. It will manage the income from the artisan village and the Garden Festival for the benefit of other projects throughout the North Edinburgh area.

What do we need from you, the community?

This community has waited for regeneration benefits for decades with the community being told that the benefits are coming: this has clearly not happened. We are not giving up! We are asking you to join the Granton Improvement Society and create a place for people to live work and play.

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Application forms for the Granton Improvement Society can be downloaded at https://grantonimprovementsociety.wordpress.com/and are available from the secretary, info@







Total-ly delighted!



THE STV APPEAL is the fund that just keeps on giving to projects in North Edinburgh - Total Craigroyston became the latest local beneficiary when it received almost £84,000 from the charity programme.

STV CEO and trustee of the STV Appeal Rob Woodward and Chris Wilson managing director, Retail and Private Banking, RBS, presented the cheque for £83, 980 to Total Craigroyston manager Christine Mackay on 30 January. The STV Appeal raised £2.6million in 2014 - £305,689 of this was raised by RBS branches

Total Craigroyston is an initiative set up by the Edinburgh Partnership to improve outcomes for children and families in the neighbourhood around Craigroyston Community High School. The project is doing this by taking a three pronged approach:

- strengthening services that are open to all like health, early years and schools;
- strengthening support for families;
- supporting local people to organise their own activities.

Now, working in partnership with charities Circle Scotland and the Muirhouse Link-up project, an idea has been developed to establish a Community Leadership College. This will help Total Craigroyston expand leadership capability amongst local residents.

Julie Crawford, Muirhouse Link Up development worker, said: "We are really excited about the opportunity that the STV Appeal has given us to turn our idea into reality. This project will help us work with local people to build on the excellent local leadership that exists at the moment and take it to the next level."

Chris Wilson, managing director, Retail and Private Banking, RBS, said: "It's fantastic to see first-hand the work of projects like Total Craigroyston and understand the real impact that the money from the STV Appeal will have on them. RBS is proud to support the STV Appeal and help change the lives of vulnerable children and young people in Scotland."

The STV Appeal is committed to making a difference in the lives of children and young people living in poverty in Scotland. Across the country, 220,000 children live in poverty and figures from the Campaign to End Child Poverty show that in the city of Edinburgh it's actually 21.1% of children - more than one in five.

"We are really excited about the opportunity that the STV Appeal has given us to turn our idea into reality"

by **DAVID PICKERING**

Total Craigroyston is just one of the projects the STV Appeal is supporting in North Edinburgh - Pilton Youth & Childrens Project, Changeworks and Fresh Start have all received grants from the funder.

Since launch in 2011, the STV Appeal has raised over £8.2 million with 297 big and small grants distributed to projects across all 32 local authority areas in Scotland, providing much needed support to over 37,000 children. The money raised is distributed to provide practical help like food and warm clothes; create opportunities for training and employability; and enable social and emotional support for those who need it most.

Rob Woodward, STV CEO and trustee of the STV Appeal, said: "The money donated to the STV Appeal remains in Scotland and will help bring about a positive change to the lives of vulnerable children and young people on our doorstep. With the help of the extraordinary fundraising efforts taking place in communities across the country we have raised an incredible £2.6m in 2014 allowing us to make grants to 297 projects. We are extremely grateful to everyone who supported the Appeal."

Total Craigroyston

UPDATE

We are continuing to work towards improving outcomes for children and families in the Craigroyston cluster area.

Achievements in education

Other sections of the paper have covered the great reports that Craigroyston Community High School and the Community Learning provision in the area have achieved. As well as those, Craigroyston Early Years Centre has achieved the measure of excellent across all five areas that the Care Commission look at – for the second year in a row! This is a brilliant achievement.

Working with local landlords

We have been doing some work with private landlords. We are hoping to strengthen their role in the regeneration of the area by sharing information and to encourage them listen to residents views about the condition of area. So far, the landlords we have spoken to have been very keen to become involved.

Community Leadership College

One of the most exciting things we've been developing over recent months is the Community Leadership College. This is an idea that has been put together by Total Craigroyston, Muirhouse Linkup and Circle Scotland. The STV foundation has funded our idea, which will us to help build on the biggest asset the community has – it's people.

Many local people have become involved in community activities and volunteering through Linkup, The North Edinburgh Time Bank and many other community projects. The Community Leadership College will give us the opportunity take that involvement to the next level by providing training, support and other types of activities so that more leaders are created within the community.

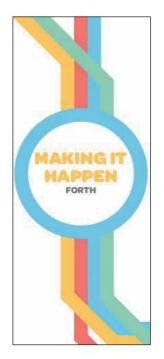
The development of the college will be directed by local residents themselves, initially through a series of 'Conversation Cafes', so that we can gather their ideas and develop the programme.

We expect that the impact will be that local people have a bigger influence on the development of services, gain skills to take up jobs, develop their ideas about making improvements to the area and the skills to turn those ideas into reality.

A cheque was presented at the Community Shop on Thursday 29 January.

Coming up

In the next few months we will be working with North Edinburgh Young People's Form to involve the areas young people in assessing the quality of services that they use, using the Youth Talk approach first developed in South Edinburgh. Watch this space for information about how that is going!



You are invited to the next meeting of the INVERLEITH NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP



Nature in your Neighbourhood

Find out about 'Edinburgh Living Landscape' project to create, restore & connect green areas of the city, making attractive and biodiverse landscapes to be enjoyed by residents & visitors. Help us identify potential areas.

Also – Looking after our local roads & pavements - find out how much the Council spends & how it decides what gets done. Have your say on future priorities / Fet-Lor Youth Club new building update / Community Grant applications.

Monday 23rd Feb 2015, Blackhall Library, 56 Hillhouse Rd, 6.30-8.30pm Call: 529 5270 or e: elaine.lennon@edinburgh.gov.uk for more info



Too grand STV Appeal support for PYCP

PILTON YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S PROJECT (PYCP) has received £2000 from the STV Appeal 2014. The funding is welcome news for the local project and will support PY's clubs and groups throughout the year.

The STV Appeal team's Natalie Wright called in at The Greenhouse last month to present the cheque and met children from PY's P5 - P7 Club.

The STV Appeal is committed to making a difference in the lives of children and young people living in poverty in Scotland. Across the country, 220,000 children live in poverty and figures from the Campaign to End Child Poverty show that in Edinburgh it's actually 21.1% of children. Pilton Youth and Children's Project is one of the projects the STV Appeal is supporting in Edinburgh.

PYCP provides a wide range of services and activities - from open clubs and groups to community and school-based individual support in North Edinburgh. Each provision is designed to meet the needs of a particular age and peer group, and activities are tailored to meet these needs in consultation with the children and young people involved.

PYCP carry out open access youth work plus promotion of good health and well being. The project offers targeted and referred support work to children and young people in need. There is also a Preventative Opportunities Programme which supports young people by engaging their whole family in activities, outings and workshops together.

Since launch in 2011, the STV Appeal has raised over £8.2 million with 297 big and small grants distributed to projects across all 32 local authority areas in Scotland, providing much needed support to over 37,000 children. The money raised is distributed to provide practical help like food and warm clothes; create opportunities for training and employability; and enable social and emotional support for those who need it most.

PYCP youth and children's worker Mark Hunter said: "As someone who has been part of PYCP for the past ten years, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that the project has made in the lives of so many young people, their families and the community around them.

"I think PYCP is unique in the way that it is there for children when they start their school career aged five and continues to be there for them until they are 18 and beyond. It is really important that we can provide opportunities for all children and young people in Pilton to have fun with their friends and take part in organised activities, all free of charge.

"Because of that we are ideally placed to offer additional support to those who want it and support all young people to reach their potential. Being part of PYCP has been immensely rewarding for me and I'm excited to see how the next ten years pans out too."

Rob Woodward, STV CEO and trustee of the STV Appeal, said: "The money donated to the STV Appeal remains in Scotland and will help bring about a positive change to the lives of vulnerable children and young people on our doorstep. With the help of the extraordinary fundraising efforts taking place in communities across the country we have raised an incredible £2.6m in 2014 allowing us to make grants to 297 projects. We are extremely grateful to everyone who supported this year's Appeal."

Sir Tom Hunter, trustee of the STV Appeal, said: "Yet again the people of Scotland have cast their vote — end child poverty. Through the STV Appeal we are attempting to deliver sustainable solutions to do just that. It is simply unacceptable in modern Scotland to still have young people debilitated by poverty; THROUGH THIS PROJECT AND MANY MORE THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND ARE doing their level best to combat poverty."

Sir Ian Wood, trustee of the STV Appeal, said: "The generosity of the people in Scotland who provide such great support to the STV Appeal is incredibly encouraging and heart-warming. However, it is deeply concerning that there continues to be a significant requirement across Scotland for financial support for child poverty.

"Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, a commission I chaired recently, has the overarching aim to enable Scotland's young people to move into sustainable employment upon leaving education. But how can they achieve positive destinations if they have a less than adequate start in life?

"I sincerely believe that the grants donated by the STV Appeal can have a significant impact on the lives of Scotland's young people and make a real contribution to eradicating child poverty in Scotland."

The STV Appeal 2015 is now well underway with an exciting line-up of fundraising activities planned. Watch this space!

NEWS from TRINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Working with the neighbours

Peter Strong, Forth Neighbourhood Partnership manager, attended Trinity Community Council's meeting last month.

Twelve Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) cover Edinburgh. Trinity lies within Forth Neighbourhood Partnership. Peter Strong (Manager of Forth and Inverleith NPs) presented proposals to monitor City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) performance locally but first gave a broad description of how CEC's organisation is planned to change.

NPs were set up by CEC to find better ways of planning and delivering services across the public sector – not only CEC but also police, NHS Lothian and voluntary organisations such as community councils. Forth NP currently has direct responsibility for Services for Communities while other CEC services (e.g. education, health and social care) remain centralised. Part of CEC's latest organisational planning is to devolve further services across four localities to align with NHS, Police, etc. and make all more jointly answerable to local communities.

Monitoring is proposed based on the four key priorities in the Forth Local Community Plan. Of those, 'Improve the way we engage with and support our communities' has the most developed local statistics. Local statistics need to be jointly developed for the others e.g.NHS Lothian is leading on "Healthy Lifestyles".

Monthly/quarterly statistics suggested to monitor "Improve the way we engage with and support our communities" include:

- Street Cleaning random checks by Keep Scotland Beautiful grade streets for litter, dog fouling etc. This will be supplemented by statistics on walkways.
- Refuse Collection complaint volumes, by reason.
- Parks grading versus standards and Green Flags.
- Council Houses Time to let, repair speed and rent collection rates (though less relevant for Trinity)
- Roads & Transport Officials are drawing up indicators

It was also agreed to maintain a rolling status update of all items identified during the annual Trinity Community Council walkabout.

Do you have thoughts about the information you would like to see about public services in our area? Let us know.

Contact in the Capital

You may have received a paper copy of the December North Edinburgh News (NEN). The final edition of this trial will be issued in February and decisions on its future taken thereafter.

Do you have a view? Let us know.

East Trinity Road

City councillors are to be briefed on the results of the East Trinity Rd/Lower Granton Rd traffic study, following which the data should become available for discussion with Trinity Community Council.

Proposed Sainsbury's Local in Craighall Road

City of Edinburgh Council Planning Committee undertook a visit to the site on 15 January and the application has now been approved.

Planning Application – 127 Trinity Road

Many will be aware of this application for five new town houses on the site of the disused car repair garage just off the lower end of Trinity Road. While the site needs development, we have concerns about the number of dwellings being fitted into the site, their height and access arrangements and are submitting an objection reflecting that.

North Edinburgh Transport Review?

Regular readers will know that we have been pushing for a North Edinburgh traffic and transport review given the extensive development since the previous review (2008), removal of trams to North Edinburgh from that plan, and the considerable housing/commercial development planned.

It is beginning to look like this might be getting somewhere as a meeting with the CEC Director of Transport has now been scheduled. We hope that this will consider the full range of ways to reduce congestion including car clubs, parking zones and the impact of the 20mph limit extension.

Fancy Improving Our Environment?

We have been asked by one resident if there might be interest in setting up an Improvement District which would fund enhancements to a specific amenity e.g. a park, over and above what CEC has responsibility for undertaking. It would involve a small annual contribution from all nearby residents if approved in a ballot. What do you think?

New Trinity Community Council website

We've set up a new, uncluttered website at https://trinitycommunitycouncil.wordpress.com/

Take a look - let us know what you think and how we might improve it.

Liz Grant

Sadly Liz Grant, a community councillor until very recently and former Chair of TCC, has passed away. Liz was a well known and loved face in our community and she will be missed for her contribution and easygoing personality. Her funeral was at Warriston on 15 January.

Trinity Community Council meets on Monday 9 February – the main agenda item is local parking issues. See the NEN blog for an update.

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Contact

Email us or contact your Community Councillor. Please visit: www. trinitycommunitycouncil.wordpress.com

This Land is Your Land!

GRANTON CASTLE'S 'forgotten' Garden may well be the Oldest Walled Garden in Edinburgh, and it deserves to be protected from neglect and demolition.

Local plantswoman Kirsty Sutherland was inspired by the idea that the two acre walled garden could become an oasis of locally grown food. After a visit to the garden in the spring of 2013, Kirsty returned with a group of interested community growers from North Edinburgh to do a bit of remedial pruning work on the old fruit trees. They all fell in love with this 'secret' garden, overgrown and tangled but magical in its air of faded grandeur. The wealth of tales recounted by the retired gardener from over 500 years of occupancy were fascinating, and the windfall of apples much appreciated!

The Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden, a small but dedicated group of locals, have campaigned since then to save the garden and restore it as a community resource for the area. Local gardeners, historians and community groups are keen to be involved.

Recent awareness-raising has garnered support from many people and organisations at a crucial time, when the future of the walled garden is being discussed by the planning department.

Strength in numbers is needed to persuade the city council that it is better to save this historic garden, rather than allow it to be demolished to make way for 17 luxury townhouses as developers wish.

Quote from a member of Transition Scotland & Fife Diet:

"North Edinburgh is leading Edinburgh's local food revolution. It has more community gardens per square mile than any other residential area in the city. Local people are increasingly coming to understand the fact that if we want cheap, fresh, healthy food, the best way to get it bar none, is to grow it yourself.

Community gardening is starting to heal fractured communities and help develop relationships, skills and top class nutrition for a whole new generation. The vision for Granton Castle's Garden is to create a safe and inclusive environment for local people to learn more about the history of their area and the skills needed to bring fresh food from local soil."



We are asking that anyone who wants to show their support fill out a membership form. These can be found at:

Muirhouse Community Shop 57 Pennywell Road, EH4 4TY

Pilton Community Health Project 73 Boswall Parkway, EH5 2PW

Royston Wardieburn Community Centre 1 Pilton Drive North, EH5 1NF

Forms can also be downloaded and printed from our website and posted to the Community Shop. Community groups and organisations can also join as associate members to show their support for our campaign.

We don't want this garden to be demolished for townhouses; it could be full of fruit, herbs, flowers and vegetables instead. A community cafe, visitor centre, plants & crafts for sale. A 'horticultural jewel', showcasing the history and cultural heritage of North Edinburgh.









A SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE youth engagement programme ran at Crewe Toll fire station last week in conjunction with pupils from Craigroyston High School.

Fire Service Youth Engagement Coordinator Ally Paterson explains: "Working with young people means that the fire service can raise awareness and challenge attitudes to fire safety and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

"The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Youth engagement project engages with young people aged between 12-17 in order to work towards reducing hoax calls and secondary fires and to increase awareness of local community safety issues.

"We encourage positive social behaviour by using a combination of intensive group work and fire service activities with a view to raising self-esteem, confidence, personal motivation and increase problem solving skills "The programme allows participants to experience basic fire service tasks such as team building, first aid, hose running and ladder climbing to develop physical stamina. All activities incorporate a fire safety message and endorse a strong group work component."

On the final day of the programme, the young people displayed a practical presentation to demonstrate the skills they have learned over the course of the week. The students were presented with certificates to recognise their achievements, and it was a great opportunity to invite friends, family and Craigroyston teaching staff along to the fire station to share in their success!

All aspects of electrical work: re-wires, electric shower, shop fitting, smoke alarms, lighting, sockets, testing and inspection, landlord certificates.

Telephone: 0131 555 0892 Mobile: 07543698172

info@mcelhoneelectricalservices.com www.mcelhoneelectricalservices.com



www.nen.press



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



Coming soon

PENNYWELL PHASE 1

- New homes in Pennywell
- 108 affordable homes for rent for City of Edinburgh Council
- **Available Summer 2015**
- Be part of a community

To find out more about the affordable homes to rent CONTACT: North Neighbourhood Office on 0131 529 5050 or email northteam@edinburgh.gov.uk





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

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 @cllrcammyday

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 vou.

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

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

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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
#StrongerNorth	529 5865

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
North Edinburgh Reformed Presbyterian Church, Craigroyston High School	07791 369626
Old Kirk & Muirhouse, Pennywell Gardens	332 4354
St David's Episcopal, Royston Mains Place	01890 819063
St Margaret Mary's, Boswall Parkway	552 3957
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 Community Shop, Pennywell Road	0791 494 2026
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

Craigleith Blackhall	secretary@craigleithblackhall.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.mooonfruit.com
Trinity	trinitycommunitycouncil.wordpress.com
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 Créche 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
Fresh Start	476 7741

Manor Estates Housing Association	337 3222
Muirhouse Housing Association	336 5282
Pennywell Tenants and Residents Association	476 2359
Port of Leith Housing Association	554 0403
West Granton Housing Co-operative	551 5035

HEALTH/WELFARE

HEALIH/ 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	08454 24 24 24
North Edinburgh Drug Advice Centre (NEDAC)	332 2314
North West Carers Centre	315 3130
Pilton Community Health Project	551 1671
Stockbridge Health Centre	225 9191
Western General Hospital	537 1000

RECREATION/ARTS

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. Evre 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



menhealth





Eat Better, Feel Bette

by **DAVID PICKERING**

THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT launched a new healthy eating initiative at Pilton Community Health Project on Boswall Parkway last month. The 'Eat Better Feel Better' campaign will help Scotland's families make simple changes to the way they shop, cook and eat.

Home cooking in Scotland is declining. according to a new survey commissioned by the Scottish Government, which shows that more families are turning to convenience foods and takeaways due to the pressures of family life.

The research accompanies a new campaign to inspire and support families with practical tips, advice and tools to help them make simple, quick and cheap changes to how they shop, cook and eat.

The research shows that less than half of Scotland's mums (47 per cent) consider themselves as very capable cooks and are happy to cook a meal using fresh or frozen ingredients, without the use of a recipe. However, more than a third of families (35 per cent) are eating takeaway food at least once a week and around one third of families (32 per cent) are eating ready meals at least three times a week.

Campaign launch

Public Health Minister Maureen Watt launched the Eat Better Feel Better campaign at Pilton Community Health Project (PCHP) - the first community health project in Scotland – which supports local people to eat more healthily through cooking skills, budgeting and meal planning.

PCHP's Food team works with volunteers and local partners to help local people develop their understanding and knowledge to eat well on a budget, including cooking skills, budgeting, meal planning and wider food issues.

It does this by running cooking sessions, lots of 'cook and taste' sessions in the community, delivering 'bite size' sessions on eating well and much more. People can also get involved by joining one of the groups, becoming a volunteer or attending Food for Thought Forum meetings.

For many mums, the reluctance to cook from scratch is down to a number of obstacles which they see as prohibitive to making healthier meals for their families. Four in ten think that it costs too much money to shop for and cook healthier family meals, a third think that it takes too much time and around the same number say that they're too busy. A quarter say that their kids are too fussy.

Speaking at the launch Ms Watt said: "For many families across Scotland, buying, cooking and eating healthy food can be a real challenge. However, there are many quick and cheap changes that we can make which can lead to significant improvements in our daily diets. From dealing with fussy eaters and shopping on a budget to planning your meals and finding time to cook, Eat Better Feel Better aims to address the various challenges faced by families by providing lots of practical hints, tips and recipes to help families eat more healthily.

PCHP also gives the local community access to food related training courses to develop their skills, and can now support others to deliver quick and easy healthy eating sessions using a new nutrition toolkit: http://pchp. org.uk/projects/food

Through PCHP's work, local people tell them that although they do want to eat better, the barriers they face can make it difficult. Often people who attend the cooking groups lack basic equipment like cookers and fridges. Budgets are tight; we find that while locals are good at making small amounts of money go a long way, this often means they cannot afford healthier food options, or the fuel to cook them.

'Good Food for All'

At their December 'Good Food for All' event local people told PCHP that low income is the most significant barrier to eating healthily. Austerity measures, increasingly insecure employment and low wages mean

For many families... buying, cooking and eating healthy food can be a real challenge"

"We know that helping children to eat healthier from a young age can help them avoid major illnesses later in life. That's why we're working together with retailers and community groups from across the country in getting behind Scotland's families - to provide the support, encouragement and advice which will help them eat better and ultimately feel better.

Anita Aggarwal, Community **Development Manager at Pilton** Community Health Project, said: "It's great to have a Scottish Government campaign that complements and supports the work that community food and health projects like us are already doing. Pilton has a wealth of local community food projects that link together through the Food for Thought Forum. Because of the dedication and skills of these local residents and agencies, eating well in the area is easier. This campaign should help all these groups reach more local residents.'

that increasing numbers are resorting to food banks. The Poverty Alliance told PCHP about the shame people feel when they need to use food banks. While local food projects are working hard to support people with their cooking and budgeting skills, these financial barriers also need to be tackled at a policy level.

Kirsty Day, a 21 year-old student and a mum, was a big fast food fan but following the birth of her son Kelvin three years ago she decided that she didn't want him to be brought up with bad food habits and leading an unhealthy lifestyle. She was put in touch with Pilton Community Health Project.

Kirsty said: "I was eating a typical student diet, but as a mum I wanted to be able to set a good example for my son. The changes in my lifestyle over the past two years have been huge. I'm happier, I feel less tired and have more energy, and Kelvin is happier too.

Healthy eating initiative launched in North Edinburgh

"I definitely feel better by eating better"

"With my new knowledge of food and the cooking skills I have learned, I find it really easy to make healthy meals with fresh ingredients now. Over the course of the week it's affordable to eat and cook with fresh ingredients instead of pre-packed products and it definitely feels better eating fresh food. Some of my dishes actually work out cheaper than buying ready meal equivalents. I definitely feel better by eating better.'

Making it work

Eat Better Feel Better will be working alongside supermarkets and the convenience sector, as well as stakeholders and community groups from across Scotland's food and health industry, to provide ongoing support for families. From practical cooking classes at community groups to special offers on healthy ingredients in-store, the campaign will aim to provide advice and practical help in places and at times which suit them.

A new website – eatbetterfeelbetter. co.uk - provides recipes, tips from parents and healthier offers available from Scotland's food retailers. The site will also host a series of cook-along videos to provide practical, easy to follow guides to cooking healthier family favourites such as spaghetti Bolognese, home-made burgers and chicken curry.

A key strand of the campaign will be directing families across Scotland towards local events and support in their community, such as that provided by Pilton Community Health Project.

The campaign contributes to the Scottish Government's food and drink policy and aspiration for Scotland to become a Good Food Nation, a nation where it is second nature to serve, sell and eat fresh, healthy food.

Pilton Community Health Project www.pchp.org.uk

