



SPRING NEWSLETTER



Community comes together for conference

More than fifty local residents participated in a community conference organised by CAN, Granton Improvement Society and Craigroyston Community High School's Community Centre in February.

The conference discussed the many challenges faced by our community and agreed priorities for community action. Five Action Groups have now been set up to address these and take the community agenda forward. The groups are: **Big Picture Action Group** (issues include employment, economy and decision-making), **Crime & Community Safety**, **Green Spaces & Environment**, **Housing** and the **Youth Action Group**.

If you'd like to know more about the Action Groups, their meeting dates or if you'd like to get involved, email us at communityactionnorth@gmail.com

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Placements

Community Action North currently has five local people on placements within the North Edinburgh community:

Claire and Danielle run the Muirhouse Minis mother and toddler group at the Millennium Centre. This popular group is really going from strength to strength, and the two local women are currently exploring the possibility of becoming a social enterprise. The Minis organised and ran a very successful fundraising fun day at the Centre last month and also unveiled a memorial bench to wee Kai Laidlaw (*above*). Well done, Claire and Danielle!

Sandra and Mark are both working with adults in substance recovery in North Edinburgh. Sandra is working with a local group to break down barriers of isolation through social activities (based on a successful project she is involved in in Leith), while Mark will volunteer with a number of agencies to gain the experience which will, in time, enable him to devise his own programme to offer support to local people in recovery.

Our latest recruit is **Sara**, who will be supported by Pilton Community Health Project. Among her many community interests Sara is passionate about the local environment and much of her work will focus on supporting West Pilton Park Action Group activities.

CAN IS LOOKING TO RECRUIT MORE PLACEMENTS – SEE BACK PAGE

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Shopping Centre Activities

When we've been out consulting with local people the state of Muirhouse Shopping Centre is always near the top of the list of complaints!

We've done what we CAN to brighten it up:

In December we introduced coloured lights and erected a real Christmas tree with a choir and a visit from Santa (a first for the Centre!)

In February we brought in and decorated new planters and organised a Wishing-Penny-Well event with live music and refreshments

We'll also be adding more stencil artworks to brighten up the bare walls

You'll have heard that the Scottish Government has now allocated over £2.2 million to regenerate the Centre and surrounding area. In the meantime we're looking at more events and ideas to brighten up the Centre until the serious work commences – and we'd welcome your suggestions!

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Who we are

CAN (Community Action North) is a community-led project funded by the STV Appeal. We believe that our community's greatest asset is its people and that the people who really know what a community needs are the people who live there. Everything CAN does is underpinned by these ideals and we work with others to make life in our community as good as it can be.

Staff

Our popular development worker Andy Dalzell has returned home to the USA but two new part-time staff, Julie Smith and David Graham, join us in April.

Placement & Training Opportunities

Have you got an idea that would improve our community? Is there something you could do that would help to build up your skills? CAN can support you with:

- *Training*
- *Mentoring*
- *Possible payment (where applicable)*

What is your idea? How will it improve North Edinburgh? What will you get out of it – will it improve your employment prospects or create new opportunities? Send us a summary of your idea before **Friday 29th April** and we'll be in touch!

How to contact us:

CAN is based at North Edinburgh Arts Centre, Pennywell Court

Telephone 0131 315 2151 or 0131 315 6405

Mobile 0791 817 3836

Email: communityactionnorth@gmail.com

Visit our Facebook page: Community Action North – CAN

Twitter: @action_can