

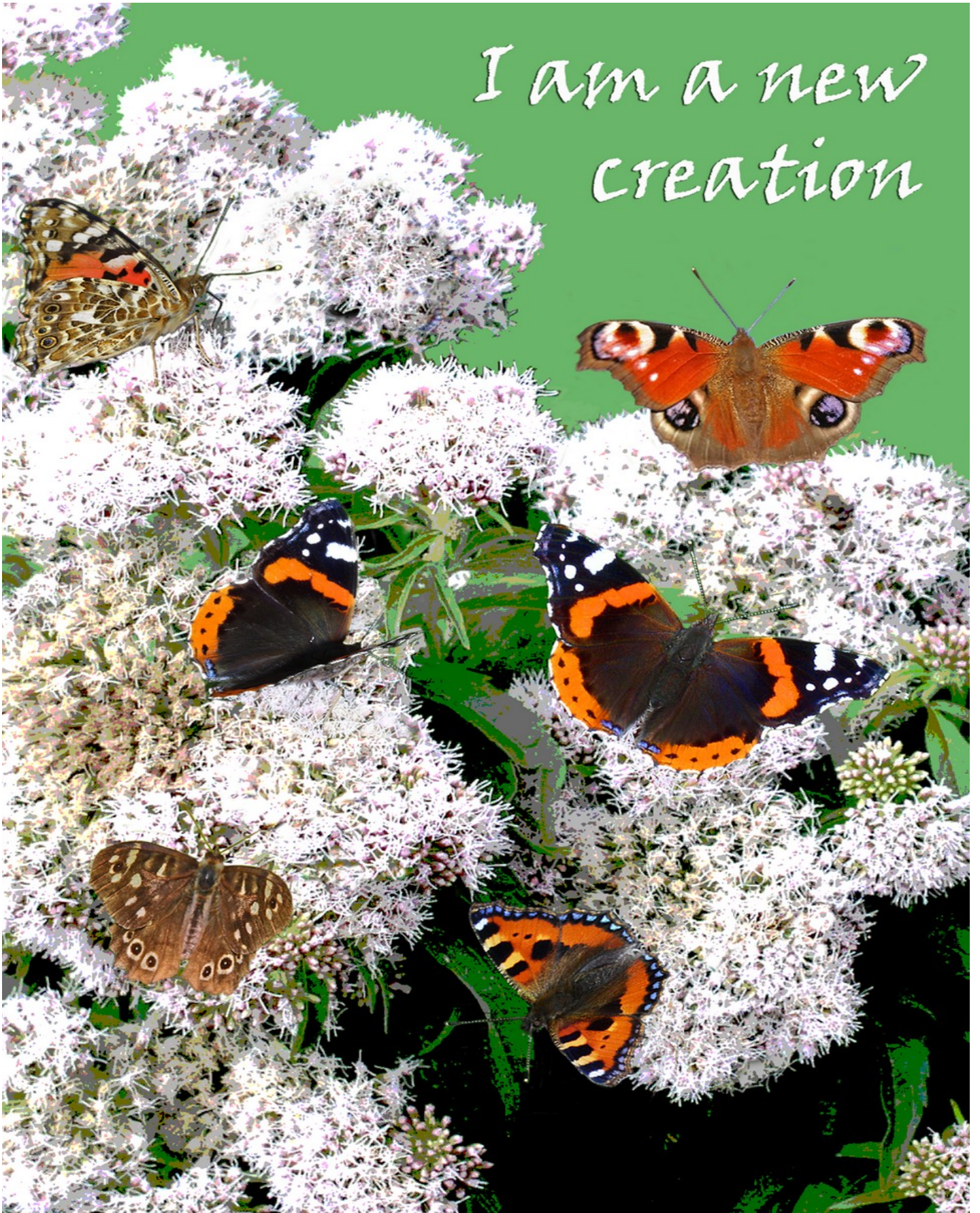
BLACKHALL BULLETIN

September 2019

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No. 157

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*From Gordon Farquharson, Locum minister.
The Bulletin is an important element in the life of our community and I'm glad to be able to make a contribution and to remind everyone I'm here to provide the services of ministry whenever called upon.*

KEEPING A LID ON IT

This is the time of pickling and preserving. The last fruits are being gathered; the harvest of the hedgerows or the family visitors' 'Pick-Your-Own' is picked and will be going into the jars that have been kept specially. I hope sufficient jars (with lids) have been found and that they haven't been too dusty, or even mislaid – again! Long ago the preserving processes were vital for the providing of a varied and interesting winter diet. In our age there are now so many ways of storing and preserving foods and of transporting them in a suspended 'fresh' condition that pickling and bottling are less essential, though we have to admit that home produce always will have the edge on commercial items. We have to recognise that there are places in the world where people are dependent on what can be saved, dried and otherwise packaged to be sent as aid. At our Harvest Services we make an annual special effort to help, and we remember that there is continuing need for us to share what we have among the human family.

There are other aspects to bottling things though. The expression about having 'the bottle' to do something seems to mean having the nerve or the courage for it, and seems to have crept into our everyday speech via TV soaps. But, closer to the processes of preserving and pickling is the idea of bottling things up, keeping the lid on, suppressing emotions or feelings of anger, fear, grief or distress. Usually that kind of bottling means that the true feelings eventually will burst out and may be given vent with unfortunate results, after being kept down for too long. There **are** emotions that shouldn't be pent up, for they can do serious harm to a person, changing nature and character. Unfortunately we often see this in situations of grief, but it's also evident in the hidden anger and growing hunger for revenge when someone is hurt physically or spiritually – all factors too obviously abroad in the world

The scriptural advice about not letting the sun go down on our wrath is to do with finding release for the pent-up feelings and a recommendation about coming to terms with disturbing temperamental effects. The main challenge to us is about coping with our feelings, not trying to suppress them in the hope that they will disappear or stay locked up for ever. In his famous message to a Christian congregation St. Paul highlighted the essential values of life. These values are FAITH HOPE AND LOVE. They are impossible to preserve or pickle because they must always be *active*. They can't be kept on a shelf or hidden away for they must be shared in among people and shown in action. They can't be stored in a bottle or a jar but have to be in the everyday speech and actions of life of the human world. They are the values which will enable us to deal with our deepest feelings

“AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.”

[Bible passages referred to are Ephesians 26: 15 & I Corinthians 13]



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BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE - THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE BEGINS

It is always exciting when you actually start to see things happening, and after many months of planning, design, consultation, and negotiation we have now appointed our main contractor for Phase 1 of the redevelopment of St Columba's Blackhall. As you read this article, John Dennis & Company (Scotland) Ltd will have started on site to complete the transformation of our church Sanctuary. They expect to be finished in April 2020.

Getting to this stage has involved a great deal of work and it is good to know that, thanks to the generosity of the congregation and the efforts of the steering group, we are now able to go ahead.

The actual work being done in this phase

- Replacing the pews with chairs so that we can use the space more flexibly
- Extending the apse area at the front of the church
- Replacing the heating system
- Renewing the electrics and lighting
- Renewing the audio visual and sound equipment
- Introducing a Resource Area

What has happened so far?

So that the contractors had an empty space to start with we have:

- Packed up and stored all of the things that "live" in the church space
- Removed all of the pews – some have gone to members of the congregation, some to be reused elsewhere and some to be upcycled
- Moved to the Main Hall for our Sunday services – this is proving very popular, and everyone is welcome to join us

The Halls and Church Office

Those of you who come to events and organisations in the church halls will have seen the new look we've given them with their new red and cream colour scheme. We've also completely refitted the toilets to the rear of the main hall, bringing them to a high modern standard.

The Church Office has moved to a new temporary location at the top of the stairs at the rear of the Large Hall. Access to the Office will be through the door into the rear of the Large Hall as you approach from Queensferry Road using a bell, which will ring, in the new Office.

Keeping up to date

We know that people will be keen to keep up to date with what is happening, and we must thank one of our members, James Gentles for doing some amazing work to provide time lapse and virtual reality pictures of the Sanctuary. These can be found on the Church website www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk in the dropdown menu of the Building for the Future tab to the right of the headings on the home page.

We'll also be giving regular updates in the Blackhall Bulletin and Kirk News, and there is information on the notice boards in the church halls.

Longer-term future

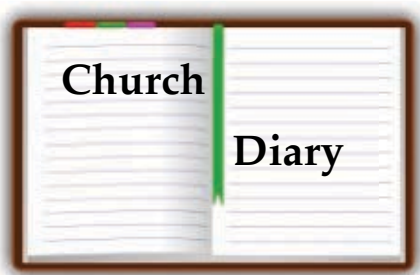
We are all conscious that the original plans were very ambitious and were divided into two phases, phase 1 being the Sanctuary and Office and phase 2 the Hall Complex. It is thanks to the generosity of everyone who has given that we have managed to reach this stage with phase 1 so thank you all!

We're hoping to implement phase 2 once we have the first phase completed and the funding available. The Kirk Session and the Steering Group believe that this programme belongs to everyone so do please feel free to ask what is going on at any time, or if you'd like to contribute to the redevelopment of this essential community resource, you can contact: Secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

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SEPTEMBER

1 st	11.00 am	Welcome Service
4 th	12 noon	Mid-Week Service
8 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship
15 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship
18 th	12 noon	Mid-Week Service
22 nd	11.00am	Morning Worship
29 th	11.00am	Morning Worship (followed by short service of communion)

OCTOBER

6 th	11.00am	Stewardship Service
9 th	12 noon	Mid-Week Service
13 th	11.00 am	Harvest Thanksgiving
20 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship
23 rd	12 noon	Mid-Week Service
27 th	9.30 am	Communion Service
	11.00 am	Communion Service

NOVEMBER

3 rd	11.00 am	Morning Worship
6 th	12 noon	Mid-Week Service
10 th	10.50 am	Remembrance Service
17 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship
20 th	12 noon	Mid-Week Service
24 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship (followed by short service of communion)

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19th October 2019

WATCH COMMITTEE COFFEE MORNING
9-12 NOON

26th October 2019

EDINBURGH FLORAL ART COFFEE MORNING
12-4PM



Harvest Service Sunday 13th October Foodbank Donations

As in recent years, the congregation is invited to bring donations of **non-perishable foodstuffs** to the Harvest Service on Sunday 13th October.

Donations will be shared between the Fresh Start Foodbank and the Edinburgh North East Foodbank. Before shopping you might find it helpful to check their websites to see what in particular is needed.

This is in addition to the on-going arrangement for donations of non-perishable foodstuffs to Fresh Start, which may be brought to the church any Sunday and placed in the box in the vestibule.

MIDWEEK SERVICES

We start our fortnightly Wednesday services at 12 noon on 4th September at Blackhall St Columba's Church. These take the form of a short service followed by a lunch of home made soup, home baking and coffee. Please come along - you will receive a warm welcome with good chat over lunch. Transport can be arranged. The talks are varied and interesting and the soup delicious.

We can always use extra help in soup making, serving, and especially transport. For more information please contact either the Church Office on 332 4431 or by email at secretary@blackhallstcolumba's.org, or Elspeth Williamson on 336 2600, or by email at elspethwilliamson@gmail.com.





Prayer Corner

For this reason I kneel before the Father. I pray that out of his glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being Eph 3 v 14-16

It empowers us when we turn to God. We hear more clearly and make better decisions. There is one way to be unified by peace and it's not through uniformity, when people are forced to conform, their God given differences are often squelched. Rather the way to unity is for each person to be obedient to the Lord. God does not contradict Himself, so when everyone is doing as He says we are actually working towards the same goal whether we realise it or not.

You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction so stay together both outwardly and inwardly, everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness .Eph 4: 4-6

Oh yes, that is a big ask, but the wonderful product of everyone doing his or her unique part, focussing on Him, than on the work or each other, is peace. To be united in Jesus is to be bound by peace and the best and most effective way to get anything done.

Dear God, I pray that we would be devoted to you, to your will, wholeheartedly so that we would have the peace and unity that glorify you. Amen
DM

Flowers in Church September 2019

This month the flowers will be donated as follows:

- 1st Mrs Liliast Skea
- 8th Mrs Christine Morrison
- 15th Mrs Joan Sims
- 22nd Mrs Elspeth Williamson
- 29th Mrs Ann Pugh

The flowers will be distributed by Miss Sheila Mackintosh and Mrs Kate Napier.

Violet Troup
Flower Convener




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WATCH COMMITTEE

Blackhall St Columba's Church

This year the WATCH Committee, with the agreement of the Kirk Session, is supporting two local charities and will share all funds raised between **Beach Wheelchairs Portobello** (Scottish Charity SC046190) and **Kindred** (Scottish Charity SC000264).

Beach Wheelchairs Portobello provides the free hire of beach wheelchairs adjacent to the promenade at Portobello beside the Tumbles car park. They have wheelchairs suitable for children and adults and a hoist is available if required. We hope to donate enough funds to provide a new chair for children.

Kindred have a team based at Edinburgh's Royal Hospital for Sick Children which provides practical information, emotional support and guidance, supporting families of children with complex needs. They also have a trained therapist who provides massage therapy in the ward.

We recognise that with the Building for the Future project already started in the halls and with the sanctuary unavailable for the rest of the year, there could be challenges ahead to our fundraising program. Nevertheless, the plan is to hold the usual events and continue the run of 28 consecutive Christmas Fairs at Blackhall St Columba's.

The Committee starts the fundraising through the **Summer Coin Collection**. Empty money bags are available at the Hall door and the bags, duly filled, can be handed in at any service during the summer.

We will also hold the **Craft Coffee Morning** on Saturday 19th October. Our final event will be the popular **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 30th November at 2 pm – a planning meeting for all involved in the organisation of this event will be held in September. More details about the Coffee Morning and the Christmas Fair will be published in forthcoming editions of the Kirk News and the Blackhall Bulletin.

Dates for your diary

- **Craft Coffee Morning** on Saturday 19th October from 10 am to 12 noon
- **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 30th November at 2 pm

The WATCH Committee very much appreciates the magnificent support given by the Blackhall St Columba's congregation and the local community over the last 27 years, raising over £250,000 for local charities and we hope that you will continue to support us this year.

George Millar, WATCH Committee Convener

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FRESH START

This year Fresh Start is celebrating 20 years since a group of people from Edinburgh churches launched the Starter Pack Project to help with some of the challenges faced by the homeless moving into a new tenancy. Blackhall St. Columba's was involved from the early days collecting items for starter packs. Even though the services Fresh Start now offers have grown, there is still a need for items to turn a house into a home.

Donations can be brought to the church halls on a Friday morning between 10am and 11.30am or, if it is more convenient, you can take them directly to the Fresh Start warehouse (22-24 Ferry Road Drive). A list of items for Starter Packs and an up to date list of items which are in short supply can be found on the notice board in the hall corridor.

FC

For further information about Fresh Start visit their website at www.freshstartweb.org.uk or like their Facebook page.

FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

For those who have been homeless, they have no belongings. When they move into a flat, they cannot make a cup of tea, light a lamp, shut their curtains, or snuggle up under their duvet. **YOU** can help. Below is a list of items we need for our Starter Packs. These are Packs of everyday household items that can help make a house a home.

Dishes & Cutlery

Dinner Plates
Side Plates
Bowls
Cutlery
Glass Tumblers
Mugs
Tea-Towels

Pots & Pans

Soup Pots
Frying Pans
Milk Pans
Cooking Utensils
Tupperware
Can Openers
Potato Peelers
Wooden Spoons

Electrical Items

Small Household
Electrical Items - Kettles,
Toasters, Lamps, Vacuum
Cleaners, Irons, Radios,
DVD Players,
Microwaves, Music
Systems.

Cleaning Items

Washing Up Basins
Washing Up Liquid
Toilet Cleaner
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Hand Soap
Toilet Rolls
Bin Bags & Liners
Dustpan & Brushes
All-Purpose Cleaner
Laundry Tablets
J-Cloths

Bed Linen & Towels

Single, Double & King
Sheets
Duvets
Pillows
Duvet Covers
Pillow Cases
Blankets
Towels
Curtains
Face Cloths

Food

Long Lasting Food
Products - Tins and Jars
of Beans, Spaghetti,
Soup, Vegetables, Meat,
Fish and Cooking
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and Biscuits; Tea Bags,
Instant Coffee, UHT Milk



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KNIT AND NATTER

The end of June saw the end of the fourth year of Knit and Natter, another successful session with lots of goodies to deliver to the two Early Years centre we donate to. As always they were happy to receive our creations. One has requested a visit to the children sometime to show them how these items are made.

Recently we were very sad that our member and friend , Irene Howard passed away. She was a beautiful knitter who we have missed during her illness and will continue to do so.

A lady in her nineties, who likes to have something to do while watching tv, has been keeping us supplied with beautiful squares. They sew up into lovely warm blankets which get passed onto Fresh Start.

If you would like to join us at Knit and Natter you would be most welcome . Please don't think that you wouldn't be good enough, not everything has a complicated pattern to follow and we often help each other out when we are unsure of something.

We start again on Monday September the 23rd at 7.30pm.

For further details please contact stcknitnatter@gmail.com

Lilian Cockburn.



CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

Here's a way to get unusual buttons and help Marie Curie

Who would have thought you could raise significant money by selling old buttons? The first *On the Button* in 2017 raised £4,500 for Marie Curie, and this year we hope to beat that for the same cause. Buttons have been donated from far and wide, and sorted ready for sale. There's everything from mini masterpieces to bargain basics, a huge selection for collectors and crafters alike. You can find the event on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2170991829859649/>



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Marie Curie is a charity registered in Scotland
No SC038731

On the Button is promoted by Creative Together
part of Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together,
a charity registered in Scotland No SC040773



Find it on Facebook



NORTH WEST HERITAGE

Our talks this year are as follows:

Wednesday 25th September – St. Columba’s Church Hall, Blackhall 8 pm. Topic “The Hydropathic Institutions of Scotland in the 19th Century: an unusual flowering”. Speaker Jane Tulloch

Wednesday 16th October – Davidson’s Mains Parish Church North Hall, 7.30pm Topic: “The Grand Fleet in the Forth”. Speaker Andrew Kerr

Wednesday 20th November – St. Columba’s Church Hall, Blackhall 8pm. Topic “Edinburgh ‘s New Town- Realising the Dream”. Speaker Eric Melvin.

Cost is £10 for annual membership and £2.00 for individual meetings.

BADMINTON CLUB

The badminton club restarts on the 18th September 2019. There are two separate sections. The Wednesday evening section plays from 8 pm until 10.15 pm and the Thursday morning section plays from 9.30 am until midday. New badminton players are welcome. Further information can be obtained by emailing the secretary of the club. lindafinnie@hotmail.co.uk

ST COLUMBA’S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

The 2019 autumn term will commence on Thursday 26th September at 7.30 pm in the large hall of St Columba’s Church. Why not come along and give it a try? We have a very patient teacher who walks us through the dances. There is a cup of tea and a biscuit at half time and we finish at 9.30 pm. Our end of term Christmas Party will be held on Thursday 12th December.

A very warm welcome awaits our regular members and will be delighted to welcome new ladies and gentlemen. Give me a ring if you wish further information.

Margaret Brown 332 5957



CHURCH GOLF OUTING – INVOLVEMENT 88 CUP

The Church golf outing held on the afternoon of Friday 14th June 2019 was again played at Ravelston Golf Club with thirteen players enjoying a lovely afternoon which was a relief after the washout of 2018.

The Winners this year were :

Involvement 88 Cup	Alan Francey
Handicap Cup	Alistair Wood Sandy Horn Mike McKinnell

Ladies’ Cup	Diane Ross Jenny Clark Frances Douglas
-------------	--

Nearest Pin at 5 th	Alistair Wood
--------------------------------	---------------

Nearest Pin at 18 th	Sandy Weir
---------------------------------	------------

Once again a big ‘thank you’ to Ravelston for the use of their course and for the delicious meal afterwards which was enjoyed by all. Thanks also to Frances Douglas for sorting out the score cards and to Murrayfield House for their support and sponsorship of the Event.

Looking forward to a bigger turnout next year.

Mike McKinnell





The Blackhall St Columba's Art Club had a very successful exhibition in May, raising £1040 for Artlink, our charity selected for this year. We sold 27 framed and 11 unframed paintings as well as 120 handmade cards. 43 artists entered paintings for the exhibition and of those 19 sold at least one painting. The People's Choice award, for the artist whose painting received the most votes from visitors to the exhibition, was won this year by Lynne Williams.

The summer is a quiet period for the club with no official meetings from the AGM in mid-May until classes start again in the week of the 9th September.

Our next exhibition is a small one in the Blackhall Library from 14th December 2019 to 11th January 2020 so we will be starting work for that in September.

Although the art club currently has a small waiting list, if you fancy joining us, do please get in touch with our membership secretary, Anne McLennan 0131 336 4327 who will be delighted to hear from you.

Congratulations

We are delighted to congratulate Myra Ball, a member of the Blackhall Art Group on being selected as the overall winner for Scotland in the 2019 CrossReach Christmas Card competition.

As you read this Myra's prize, to have her Christmas Card titled "Sending Love at Christmas" will be being printed to be available for sale in time for Christmas. A presentation will be made to Myra by Mr Pete Cuthbertson from CrossReach at the end of September and we hope to have a photograph of it in the December edition.

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland and is celebrating its 150th anniversary. What better way to support them than by buying Myra's Christmas Card? It should be available after services during November or on the CrossReach website shop.

EDINBURGH FLORAL ART CLUB

The Club meets monthly in Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall from 2-4pm
The next meeting will take place on Friday 13th September when Dawn Weaver from Cheshire will give a demonstration entitled 'Artistic Licence'.
Do come along and see the beautiful flowers being arranged. Everyone is welcome.
Annual Subscription is £41 or Visitors can come for £7 per demonstration
Christine Morrison

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We're trying to trace anyone who was a Girl Guide or leader of the 19th City of Edinburgh Company who met at Bristo Baptist Church as we are organising a reunion and would love to see as many of our friends there as possible.

If you can help, please get in touch with either
Ruth Laidlaw (Pettigrew)
ruthlaidlaw@gmail.com
or
Jennifer Kelly (Dyce)
jenny@bpbones.plus.com

TUESDAY TOPICS

The 2019 / 2020 session of Tuesday Topics starts on 24th September in the small hall of Blackhall St Columba's Church, with a new programme of topics, which aim to be interesting, informative and fun.

Tuesday Topics is a group of mainly ladies, for all ages. We meet from late September to early May on alternate Tuesdays, starting at 7.30pm. Meetings are informal, usually a talk / presentation lasting about 45 minutes, followed by questions and then coffee, tea and biscuits. Visitors, men and women, are always very welcome.

We are looking forward to having our Edinburgh West MP Christine Jardine on 24th September to talk to us about Women in Politics. At the time of writing we cannot confirm details of our speaker for 8th October, but on 22nd October we have a presentation by the Water of Leith Conservation Trust. On 5th November there will be a presentation about the History of Riddles Court. Our Charity for 2019/2020 is Chest, Heart, and Stroke Scotland, and on 19th November we will learn about their work. Our last meeting before Christmas is on 3rd December when Christine Murdie will give us an illustrated talk about Polar Bears.

In 2020 our programme includes, as usual, a post-Xmas meal out, a theatre outing, and will finish with a surprise outing.

We look forward to welcoming our returning members, and also any new members. Membership costs £15 for the year, and visitors pay £2 per visit. For further information please contact:

Jacky Cowie, Secretary, 332 1066, or Eleanor Lowrie, President, 332 4827.



CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) Club

Our outing to Pettycur Bay, Kinghorn on Friday 24th May was an outstanding success. The weather was perfect – warm and sunny – and the views were spectacular. The meal was delicious and the staff so welcoming and friendly.



The Cameo Club meets fortnightly on a Friday morning in the hall of St Columba's Church from 10.15/30 to 12 noon. Coffee/tea/pancakes etc are served by our enthusiastic volunteers and then we sit back and relax and enjoy the entertainment for that morning.

We would be delighted to welcome new ladies and gentlemen. Just telephone one of us if you wish information.

Margaret Brown 332 5957

Fiona Drinnan 343 6762





Blackhall Community Trust Update

Dates for your Diary for Autumn

Blackhall Ball: Saturday 28th September 2019 7pm at the Holiday Inn Edinburgh City West

Blackhall Community Trust Public Meeting: Tuesday 1st October 7.30pm at Ravelston Park Pavilion (Blackhall Nursery), Craigcrook Rd

Blackhall Community Trust Quiz Night: Thursday 28th November 7.30pm at the Holiday Inn Edinburgh City West

Christmas at Blackhall Village: Thursday 5th December Blackhall Village AKA 'the Dip'

We're delighted to invite you to join us at our first Blackhall Ball on Saturday 28th September. The ball is a dinner-dance which is celebrating the acquisition of Ravelston Park Pavilion by Blackhall Community Trust and the 20th anniversary of Blackhall Nursery. Email blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com for more information. Tickets (£30) include a welcome drink, two course dinner and celebratory cake. We would welcome any raffle donations!

Progress So Far with the Community Asset Transfer of Ravelston Park Pavilion

We are currently liaising with the City of Edinburgh Council to work through a number of legal processes before ownership of Ravelston Park Pavilion can be transferred from the Council to Blackhall Community Trust. We've already had some expressions of interest in local groups wishing to use the building eg in the evenings, at weekends and during the summer. Let us know if you would like to express interest in using the space. Blackhall Nursery will continue to be the anchor tenant. We don't know how long the legal process will take – we'll celebrate anyway on 28th September!

Christmas in Blackhall Village

We're really pleased to let you know that Blackhall Community Trust has joined forces with the wonderful Imogen of Maddie and Mark's shoe shop to organise the fantastic community event, Christmas in Blackhall Village. We're being supported by the Blackhall Children's Sports Committee and local businesses in Blackhall. Working together, we hope to make the event as fun-filled as ever and to put it on a sustainable footing for the future. We've set up a sub-committee which currently includes Imogen, three board members from Blackhall Community Trust, local residents and two Sports Committee representatives. Email us if you'd like to help!


Blackhall Community Trust Groups


We're currently investigating setting up a few new groups at the request of local residents, including an informal singing group and a 'discover your creativity' workshop. If you have a suggestion for an activity you'd like to see locally, or you're interested in one of these ideas, please let us know.

Our walking, coffee morning and book groups are still very active – the walking group (on the first Thursday morning of the month) now has 15 members. We usually walk for a maximum of 2.5 hours, sometimes locally and sometimes catching the bus to other parts of Edinburgh. The coffee morning group meets every two weeks in Cloudberry, Blackhall – see the poster in the café for the dates. The book group meets 7.30-8.30pm at Ravelston Park Pavilion, also on the first Thursday of every month. Email blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com for details.

Blackhall Community Trust Board Needs You!

We're currently looking for new board members. Contact us if you're able to volunteer.

Blackhall Community Trust: Join our email/mail list or follow us on Facebook or Twitter  [@blackhallct](https://www.facebook.com/blackhallct)

 [@BlackhallCT](https://twitter.com/BlackhallCT) Email us: blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com Visit: www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk

Write to us: c/o Blackhall Nursery, Ravelston Park Pavilion, Craigcrook Rd Edinburgh EH4 3RU.



Climate change more important than Brexit in the long-term, Brits say

Most UK adults care more about climate change in the long-term than Brexit and believe it should be a top priority for the new prime minister, a new poll has found.

Around 71% of people agree that climate change will be more important than the UK's departure from the European Union in the long-term, while the majority (61%) do not believe the Government is doing enough to prioritise climate change.

Even people in some higher Brexit voting parts of the UK such as Wales (78%) and the East Midlands (74%) are slightly more likely than the total (71%) to say that climate change is a more important issue than Brexit in the long-term.

The ComRes survey commissioned by Christian Aid also found that two thirds (66%) of UK adults agree that climate change should be a top priority for the next Prime Minister. Women were significantly more likely to say this – 71% compared to 62% of men.

Laura Taylor, director of advocacy for Christian Aid, said: 'As Prime Minister Boris Johnson gets his feet under the table at Number 10, there are a large number of urgent priorities. However, it's clear that beyond the present political turmoil, UK adults know there is a bigger crisis which is potentially catastrophic for the whole of humanity – particularly some of the world's poorest people, who are more vulnerable to the effects of this climate emergency.

'I hope the Prime Minister will hear the challenge from the majority of the UK public to do more to tackle this climate emergency. We need a rapid and radical shift to reduce emissions in the UK and we need global action for climate justice in which the most vulnerable communities are supported to not only survive but to thrive.

'As we have seen this week, the UK is increasingly subject to extreme weather patterns. These patterns are even more exacerbated in other parts of the world, where droughts, floods and storms are wreaking havoc, costing lives and seeing millions of pounds of damage each year.

'The pervasive impact of climate change on everyone – and particularly those in the communities in which Christian Aid works – means we cannot ignore it. The UK public is waking up to the devastating effects of the climate emergency – it's time the UK Government did so too.'

Responding to the IPCC report on climate change and land use, Christian Aid's Global Climate Lead, Dr Katherine Kramer, said:

"The global food system contributes up to a third of our total greenhouse gas emissions and needs to change. It is crazy that malnourishment is a problem even for over-consumers in rich countries, often through lack of fruit and vegetables and over consumption of meat, while people in poor countries continue to suffer from a lack of available food. All the while climate change accelerates the problem. A new and healthy balance for all is needed, for people and for planet.

Today's report is a clarion call for the need for us to manage land better for people, nature and the climate. There are many opportunities to create win-wins in the ways we use the land, but it's vital we implement these quickly to avoid having to make bleak choices between feeding people and reducing emissions.

Ecosystem conservation and restoration not only have carbon storage and removal benefits but also promotes access to sustainable sources of timber, food, feed and fibres for those that rely on natural resources for their lives and livelihoods."

The agricultural and food sectors are a challenge for the climate. The global food system, including agriculture and associated greenhouse gas emissions from storage, transport, packaging, processing, retail, and food preparation total 22-35% of all human-caused emissions, and may grow as much as 30-40% by 2050 unless there are interventions to make production and consumption more sustainable. Since 1961, global food calories consumption per person has increased by about one third, while the per capita consumption of meat and vegetable oils has more than doubled. But this has come through increasing obesity for some, while continued under- and mal-nourishment for many. The need for dietary changes - for the health of all and for the sake of the climate – is highlighted in the report.

Dr Kramer added: "No one should be in any doubt that the land sector alone cannot be a silver bullet: the IPCC's report on limiting warming to 1.5C demonstrated the need for rapid emissions reductions across all sectors, especially the energy sector. The need to end the fossil era as soon as possible remains as clear as ever. It's just that we need land to be part of the solution as well."

This week Christian Aid launched the **Climate & Food Vulnerability Index**, that showed the injustice of the climate crisis with world's top ten hungriest countries generating only 0.08% of global CO2 emissions. Burundi topped the ranking as the most food insecure and also the smallest contributor of carbon dioxide per capita. In fact the report showed the average Briton generates the same CO2 as 212 Burundians. The average American the same as 581.

Some food for thought for us all from Christian Aid.

BLACKHALL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

What a summer for gardening we have had! I was never too sure if I needed sun cream or an 'all in one' rainsuit when I was in the garden this summer. However the crops are slowly being consumed via the kitchen while flowers decorate the sitting room, and thoughts are now on the autumn talks at the 'horti'. The committee have selected a first class range of speakers - three of whom worked at Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, two local nurserymen, and one of those 'wonders' who can tell us what is wrong with our plants.

Our talks, which are as usual on second Monday of the month, start on 9th September with a most interesting theme, 'Garden Heal Thyself' in which Eric Boa will tell us how to identify the causes of plant health problems from the symptoms. Eric is a renowned plant pathologist whose practical approach will help solve those puzzling issues that confront all of us growing flowers, fruit, and vegetables. Too often we blame the seed or the compost when in fact it can be a disease or pest. So come along to find out what might be causing your plants' to feel under the weather.

Following on from the theme that Stan da Prato covered in spring 2019 we are looking forward to a visit on 14th October from our good friends at Quercus Garden Plants who will explain the best scented plants to grow to attract butterflies and pollinators. There is far more required than just planting Buddleja and scattering a few poppy seeds to attract insects! If as yet you have not visited Quercus Garden Plants why not pop in any Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm. They are located at Whitmuir Farm, Lamancha EH46 7BB.

Early November is always associated with Remembrance Day and so 'the horti' were delighted when Robert Ross offered to come to us on Monday 11th November to tell us about the story of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. During our visits to far flung corners of the world we have all been impressed with how the cemeteries from World War One & Two, are full of garden plants, plus being gems of horticulture excellence. Under such a team coordinated by Robert these War Graves have been maintained with care and attention. Remember too that in numerous Scottish graveyards there are graves of those who fell in war, which come under the care of CWGC.

On 9th December we welcome Stan Green who will tell us 'How to get the best from your Garden Centre'. Stan's own background in horticulture makes him the ideal person to explain this theme. He owns a major wholesale nursery in Fife, he has had numerous years of input into the development of horticulture in Scotland including the attempts to establish a National Garden for Scotland, and he has an active role in the work of the Horticultural Trades Association, the UK lead body for horticulture. And one may ask where he gained much of his knowledge to which the answer is from the MacFarlanes who owned Pinegrove Garden Centre, and where Stan received much of his initial experience.

We look forward to seeing you at any or all of our meetings which are held in the small hall at St. Columba's Church, Blackhall. The meetings start at 7.45pm and after the talk, which lasts an hour, there is ample time to have a cup of tea/coffee plus a slice of homemade cake. Do just email me if you have any questions!

John MacLennan : Hon President

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Tom Scott, Rural Landscape, sold for £1,100



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BLACKHALL NURSERY NEWS

AUTUMN TERM



Blackhall Nursery is situated within the wonderful nature resource of Ravelston Park and Woods. At Blackhall Nursery, we put the children at the heart of everything we do. We provide a safe, healthy and happy environment where children grow and develop through play and active learning.

The past few weeks have seen the children settling into the new routines of Nursery and building new friendships. As always, our focus is on learning through play and we will be listening to and consulting with the children to ensure that learning experiences are built around their current interests.

We are very proud of our long-standing commitment to the Eco Schools Scotland programme and to have been awarded six Green Flags over the years. Taking care of the environment is embedded in our curriculum and our new children in Nursery are learning the words to our Eco Song which helps them to understand what tasks they have to do on a Friday for our 'Eco jobs', such as, recycling, composting, watering the plants and feeding the birds. We are looking forward to our Woodland Walks in Ravelston Woods where the children will be able to explore the great outdoors and begin observing the changes that occur in nature throughout the year. We are very grateful to the Blackhall Children's Sports Committee who have provided funding for children's football sessions which will take place in Ravelston Park.

Blackhall Nursery is a registered Scottish charity working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. We offer places in morning and afternoon classes, providing sessions of 3 hours 10 minutes for 3-5 year olds during term time. We are a feeder nursery for Blackhall Primary School and **all places are free and funded by the City of Edinburgh Council**. We are currently working with the City of Edinburgh Council as part of a pilot scheme to deliver 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare (up to six hours a day, term time only). The nature of this pilot scheme means that the Nursery will only be able to offer these extended hours to a small number of children.

You can place your child's name on the Nursery waiting list from their 2nd birthday by downloading an application form at www.blackhallnursery.co.uk or by contacting the Nursery for an application form on 0131 332 8296.



WANTED – NEW MEMBERS



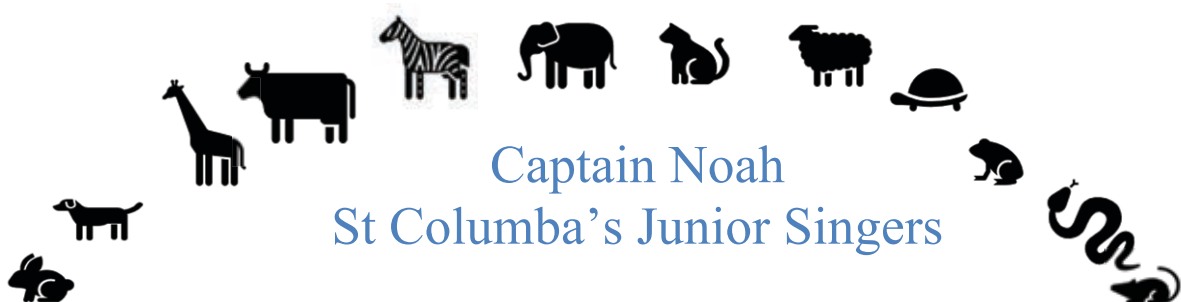
Does your child enjoy singing? Is he/she in P3 – P7? Then perhaps our group will be of interest to you.

St Columba's Junior Singers came into being in November 2013 and is open to all children in Blackhall and the surrounding area. We now have a very enthusiastic group of boys and girls who meet in the upstairs hall of St Columba's Church Halls every **Thursday**, re-starting from **5th September 2019**, from **3.30pm till 4.15pm** and there is no charge to participate.

Each afternoon, we have a variety of musical activities – musical games, singing songs and sometimes working with percussion instruments when adding accompaniments to our songs. We also perform in public. In the last year, we have sung during the morning service in St Columba's Church several times and performed for the residents of Strachan House and in Queen's Court.

In the coming year we are planning to add to our repertoire with a performance of '**Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo**' and so would very much like to have some new members join us to swell our numbers.

If your child is interested, please phone Amy Donaldson (0131 332 1354) for more information or just turn up at the hall – we'll be delighted to see you!



Captain Noah
St Columba's Junior Singers

BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the end of the school year the Road Safety Group explain what they have done to make the journey to school safer and how successful it was. Hopefully this will continue in the new school year. Primary 5 pupils have reported on how the Enterprise Fair developed since December. Primary 7 reflect on their last term and the changes ahead.

ENTERPRISE FAIR NEWS

Primary 5 organised an Assault Course in the field for the whole school with money raised from our Enterprise Fair back in December. We got to go on the course for free but we charged other school pupils a suggested donation of £1 to put back into the school.

The first obstacle was a wall, which was quite difficult for some people because it did not have any spaces to put your hands and feet.

The second obstacle was a net that you had to climb up and over then you had to jump off.

The third obstacle was a rope bridge that you had to walk along and try not to miss place your feet.

The fourth obstacle was a bridge made out of metal with holes in it.

The fifth obstacle was a cargo net that you had to crawl under and you got really muddy.

The sixth obstacle was a rope swing that you had to cling onto and swing as high as you can.

The seventh obstacle was a tyre that you had to climb through feet first so that you would not get stuck.

The eighth obstacle was several tyres that you had to jump through as fast as possible.

It was so fun and we got to help out and show everyone else in the school what to do.

The leftover money from our Enterprise project is going to be spent on a P5 trip to the Filmhouse to see '2040' on Tuesday 25th June. This is an engaging documentary about the positive impact we can have on the environment. We were able to give £253.00 to the Pupil Equity Fund after paying for the cinema trip.

by Ella and Katie

PRIMARY 7 NEWS

Primary 7 have been really busy this term before we go to high school. Here are some of the things we have done.

We are currently working on our P7 show which this year is called *Rock Bottom*. It is coming on well and there are some very catchy songs in it. We have just had our final dress rehearsal in front of the P1, P2 and P3 classes who really enjoyed it.

We have also had a great trip to the Risk Factory where they had to solve real life scenarios, learning things that could save our own lives or other people's.

A group of students from P6 and P7 also had the joy of taking part in the Interscholastics which this year took place at George Watsons. They participated in running, relay and the cricket ball throw. The boys relay team reached the finals.

Primary 7 are really looking forward to their fun day but are sad to part from this school as it is getting close to the end of the year. This has been a great experience for them and they will definitely be missed.

Molly and Maryam

BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Park Smart Campaign at Blackhall Primary

In Blackhall Primary we have done some work on Fridays in Vertical Learning Groups. This meant that our group had children from all classes in the school from P1 to P7. Our group were looking at road safety led by the Junior Road Safety Officers. We decided to organise a Park Smart Campaign for the month of May.

Why?

We wanted people to try to walk, scoot or cycle to school or if they had to drive to park further away (the horses' field or Ravelston park)

- to make the road outside school safer for children walking, scooting and cycling,
- to give the lollypop lady a better view for safety
- to cut down on pollution outside school gates and think about our effect on Global Warming and Climate Change
- to encourage children to be fitter

What did we do?

- We assessed the road before we started and held an Assembly explaining the problems
- We designed cartoon figures to appear on our posters and the banner outside school to make the message memorable
- We asked all teachers, parents and children to sign a pledge to try to keep cars away from school
- The JRSOs and some of the older members of our group stood outside school at the beginning of each day in hi-viz with placards to remind people of their pledge

Was it successful?

- Yes - a lot of people supported us
- The cars outside school decreased by two thirds
- The Scottish Parliament congratulated us on our work and encouraged other schools to follow our example

The Future

- We have asked the road safety officer in the council to think about installing yellow lines applying at the beginning and end of school day between school and Strachan House
- We hope pupils and parents will continue to try to walk, scoot, cycle or park and stride.
- We hope to take part in the "Living Streets : Walk to School Badges Through the Year" scheme next session

Blackhall Primary Road Safety Group





Blackhall Guiding

All units enjoyed taking part in a very wet but fun district fun day in Ravelston Park. Taking part in obstacle courses, Scavenger Hunt and Problem Solving games. They toasted Marshmallows, hot dogs and toasted bananas



157th Rainbows have had a busy term working on lots of activities focused on 'Having Adventures' as part of the new Girlguiding program. Having learnt how to survive all weathers out of doors proved invaluable when we braved the rain during our District outdoor event where we had great fun solving puzzles and even toasted marshmallows! **Claire - 157 Rainbow Leader**



202 and 202B Brownies have been up to lots of adventures over the last few months. They had a magical weekend away to Forth Lodge at Bonaly. There was lots of excited girls when meeting guide dog puppy Iago and there was lots of hard work and concentrating for 5 weeks sewing sock monkeys. This term they are looking forward to being outdoors and completing more badges. At the end of the summer term 4 girls completed their brownie gold awards and 2 girls have worked really hard at home and completed all interest badges. **Nicole - 202 and 202B Brownie Leader**



The 157A Guides have had a busy last term. Girls have worked individually on their interest badges and as have completed another Skills Builders Badge. We cooked outside on the Trangia stoves pasta, rice and even nettle soup. We went Canoeing on the Union Canal, thanks to a grant from the BCSC and joined up with the 202 Unit for a weekend at PGL Dalguise and a sleepover at Innoflate in Livingston. **Karen - 157A Guide Leader**



Blackhall Rangers have had a fun term doing lots of exciting outdoor activities, all thanks to the good weather. Activities have included a trail in the woods, outdoor games and even making s'mores! The Rangers also planned an end of term trip to IKEA to fit in with the Skills for my Future theme. They completed a budgeting activity to find out how hard it would be to furnish a new home! **Mhari - Ranger Leader**



Volunteer with Girlguiding Edinburgh?

Could you spare some time to volunteer with us? It's an exciting time to be part of Girlguiding as we get to grips with our most exciting (and biggest) programme overhaul in 100 years!

We are looking for enthusiastic adults to help with Rainbow, Brownie & Guide units city-wide, but we are particularly in need of help at 202 Rainbows which meets at Blackhall St Columbas church. Rainbows are aged 5-7 years. Weekly or occasional adult helpers are required as this unit starts at the early time of 5pm.

Full training and support provided. See our website or register online for more information:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>

GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com



BLACKHALL PROBUS CLUB



We welcome retired men to join us for social chats over coffee/tea/biscuits followed by a series of illustrated talks given by experts in their subject field. We meet at The Blackhall Bowling Club, Keith Row at 10am on the first and third Thursdays of the month from October through to April. Meetings normally conclude around 12 noon. Our first meeting and talk of the 2019-20 session will be on Thursday 3rd October.

3rd October 2019 "Behind the Locked Cockpit Door"
17th October 2019 "Secret Tunnels of Edinburgh"

Further talks which have been arranged include:

"From Holyrood to Hollywood - A Technical Career in Motion Pictures"

"Weather you like it or not - Don't shoot the messenger!"

"Two-way Radio Contact on Scotland's Munros"

"Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance"

"Edinburgh Photo"

"Bridgescapes - Scotland's bridge-building heritage"

"Location Edinburgh - Films set in Edinburgh"

In addition to our Christmas and Spring Lunches to which partners are invited, we also organise a summer outing.

Our Summer outing this year was to the Pitlochry Festival Theatre to see Summer Holiday which is based on Cliff Richard's 1963 film of the same name. A most entertaining way to spend the afternoon after a pleasant lunch set against a backdrop of the sunny rolling Perthshire hills with a few songs from the musical sung on the return coach journey to Edinburgh.

We also had a sunny morning for our visit to Lauriston Castle in May. An impressive building set in our locality yet many of our members had not visited in the last 20 years.

So please join us on Thursday 3rd October at 10am in The Blackhall Bowling Club for our social chit chat and formal talk, or alternatively, contact the Secretary for more details and to receive a copy of our interesting and varied 2019 – 2020 syllabus.

Neil McIntosh, Secretary, Blackhall PROBUS Club.

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CRAIGLEITH MEN'S PROBUS CLUB



The autumn meetings of Craigleith Men's Probus Club recommence on Wednesday 2nd October. As regular readers are aware, our meetings are held in Blackhall Bowling Club, Keith Terrace, Craigcrook Road and start at 10am with a welcome cup of tea or coffee together with an assortment of biscuits.

Our speakers' secretary, Jim Martin, has prepared an excellent programme of talks with a wide selection of subjects which cater for all tastes. On Wednesday 2nd October our opening theme, 'James Clerk Maxwell - the man who changed everything and was then forgotten' will stimulate much discussion even more so as much of the Edinburgh population are known to stare his statue and, with its location being close to St. Andrew Square, wonder if it is St. Andrew in Victorian dress! We look forward to Dr Francis Toole outlining this great man's achievements in the world of mathematical physics. For over one hundred years Edinburgh has had a remarkable bus, tram and coach service, and so on Wednesday 16th October it will be a joy to hear Gavin Booth outlining its successes, and failures, the changes over the years in bus design, and even subtle reminders of the changes in the termini. How many of us can remember the 29 terminating at Blinkbonny, or, sitting on the number 1 all day going around the City in its Circle route? !

Our talk on 6th November is entitled ' Strokes - Everything you need to know about Strokes' and Prof Martin Dennis, one of the leading authorities on Stroke care, will be our speaker.

Each year we have two charity talks and so being aware that Freshstart has been serving the Edinburgh community for twenty years the committee thought we should highlight this charity's good work in helping people who have been homeless to establish themselves in a new home. <https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/about>. 'Freshstart' is always looking for donations for 'starter packs' and also help in their 'hit squads' who decorate flats when new residents move in. 'Freshstart' now has plans to take over the adjoining buildings currently used by Pilton Community Association, and the Community Thrift Shop, and to revamp these into a training hub, drop in base, and charity shop. Craigleith Probus look forward to hearing more about these plans when Brian Wilson comes along on Wednesday 20th November. (See too the Freshstart page in the Bulletin. Ed)

As the run up to Christmas comes, we are delighted on Wednesday 4th December to welcome Margaret Cook, an author, columnist, journalist, broadcaster, one-time agony aunt and moral muse. Her most recent book is entitled 'Borders Brothers' and is a historical novel based in fifteenth century Scotland dealing with political and medical intrigue and scandal. (*Now that sounds exactly what I need to buy for Christmas presents and of course duly signed by the author.*). Our final talk for 2019 will be on Wednesday 18th December and is about Fred Astaire, and given by Dr Peter Kendrick.

As the Club Secretary I am always happy to answer any questions you may have about Craigleith Men's Probus; as I said in the last Bulletin being a member keeps those brain cells buzzing. Do give us a try and if you like us join!

Bertie Allen

Secretary

infocpc@gmail.com

Two Sudoku puzzles in this issue - something for the autumn evenings.

EASY GRID


		5			9	3		4
4	6	3	8	2	1	7		5
7	8		1	3		9		
		6				1		
		1		6	7		2	3
1		4	3	8	5	2	6	9
6		8	4			5		

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MEDIUM GRID

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	3	1						
6				7				2
			8		4			
1				3				9
						6	5	
		9	1	5				
8		4				3		

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Church Secretary
 Ms Julie Nicol
 in Church Office from
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DEADLINES

Kirk News

Sunday 22nd September

Please send all items to the Editor,
 Christine Denham, c/o Church Office
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Blackhall Bulletin

Sunday 27th October

Please send all items to the Editor,
 Barbara Wilson, c/o Church Office
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Welcome to the area. We do hope you enjoy living here. To help you find your feet, Blackhall St Columba's Church website gives you all you need to know about activities happening there for young and old. From leisure activities like painting and dancing to our youth groups and junior singers. You can find it all at www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk or contact the office by phone (see above) or e mail secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk or

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