

# BLACKHALL BULLETIN

December 2019

PRODUCED BY BLACKHALL ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

No. 158

## Enjoy the festive spirit of **BLACKHALL VILLAGE**

Thurs 5th Dec 6.30 - 8.30pm

**ILLUMINATION OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT 7.00PM**



Please join us at this wonderful community event, bringing our residents and businesses together to celebrate the festive season in Blackhall Village!

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- \* Festive Fundraising Stalls from Local Community Groups in Bruce Collie's Yard \*
- \* Mulled Wine & Food Stalls \* Fun Costumed Characters \* Santa's Grotto \* Buy Stocking Fillers, Pocket Money Gifts & Christmas Crafts \* ...and much, much more! \*

*Organised by Blackhall Community Trust with the support of Blackhall Children's Sports Committee  
Raising funds for Alzheimer's Scotland (Early Onset) and Blackhall Community Trust*

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Thank you to the Blackhall businesses who contributed to the running of this event and also to Craigleith & Blackhall Community Council for providing the Christmas tree

*Blackhall Community Trust is a Scottish charity SC047250 and a Scottish company limited by guarantee*

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## SEASONAL MEMORIES

*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.*

We are now in the season of recollection and commemoration as we pass Remembrance and approach Advent. The clocks change, the nights draw in and we may be prone to nostalgic thoughts as another year nears its close. We may well wonder what 2020 may bring and look back to find some comfort in memories.

There was no big surprise at the last Boys' Brigade carol service I led! The youngsters lived up to my prediction by groaning loudly when they heard the words: "When I was your age....," as I began my reminiscence about the star that had been an important part of my childhood Christmas time. They had heard these words before of course, and not just from me but also from their own grandparents! Fortunately I was able to get a few laughs as my story unfolded. What had prompted my memory was finding a poem by an Irish bookseller of about my vintage, in which he recalled the post-war days and his family making the best of things in austerity. The family decorations, preserved with care, included a special star made of tin, and pierced with many holes to send out the light from the bulb over which it was fitted. His Dad took it out tenderly year by year, to hang in the hallway, so that it could be seen from the street and would welcome the carol singers when they came round. The poem was about the man's searching in vain over years to find another star to replace the one that had somehow been lost through time. Like our family string of silver bells and balls, painstakingly re-covered with the silver foil lining from tea-chests to adorn the tree, it was a special treasure, with its own magic effect in a time when bling was unknown, and 'Glitter frost' the main ingredient of a Christmas effect in the home. We had other well-preserved items to be carefully hung on the tree along with the new ones that we made as the excitement mounted. I vividly recall a cardboard golden horseshoe adorned with holly and bearing the inscription 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year' which always featured above the mantelpiece, who knows for how long. For every generation Christmas will always have such memories because it has a unique and persistent atmosphere. We may call it magic or think of it as mystery, but in many ways it can be called inexplicable, unless we recognise its source. In the darkness of winter or of history or of sadness, humanity can find comfort and warmth in happy memories. The world's memory of its origin may remain a mystery, but birth is something within all our experience. Christmas is about the birth of God into human life. In Jesus, God shared life with its memories, hopes and desires. What we celebrate as the Incarnation is the fact that God, in Jesus, was born as we are and grew up sharing the joys and sorrows of life. God has shared the experiences of Time as we understand it. The human memories of Jesus are still here for us to share and to learn from, and they can help us to deal with problems we have to face. Also, and importantly Jesus was able to join in human hospitality, celebrating life's joys, anniversaries, cheerful occasions to recall with gratitude. The Christian Advent messages to the world of hope, joy, peace and love continue, year by year.

May all of you readers find Christmas memories to share and add to the celebrations that I hope you will enjoy without boring the youngsters! And may you find confidence for a hopeful New Year when it comes.

*'Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.'*

Luke 1:78-79 Contemporary English Version (New Living Translation)



### Local and National Removals

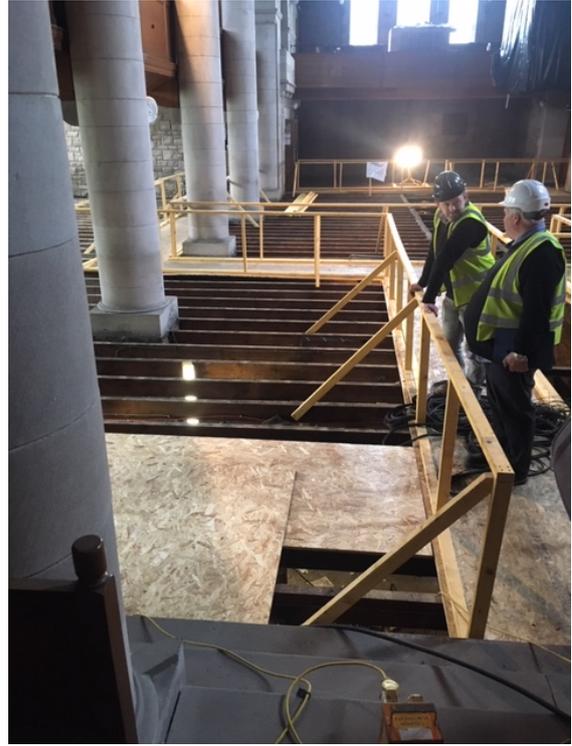
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# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Well... A lot has happened since the last Bulletin!

From these photographs taken in October, you'll not recognise the interior of the Sanctuary. There are no floorboards and all the old heating and electrical services have been stripped out.



It's gratifying to see now some of the new infrastructure beginning to be put in place with pipework and cabling, additional floor joists and trays to hold underfloor heating all being fitted. Work on the Apse extension also began in October and we can already get a good feel for how the new space will look.

We were delighted that so many of our pews went to very good homes....one as far afield as the USA, and another to France! Many went to be used developing new articles from old wood. The Grassmarket Project took some, and a local craft carpenter, Stewart Reid, made some beautiful picture frames which have been sold to members of the congregation and others. If you've got a pew, or a frame, send us some photos of how you are using it as we're going to make a montage showing where the wood has gone.

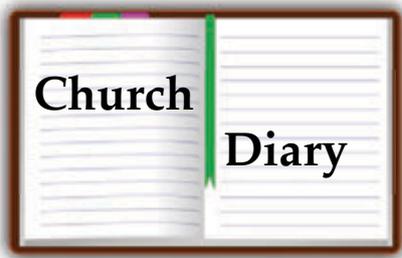
Once we get past the busy Christmas period, we'll start planning for the move back into the Sanctuary. The contractors should be finished before the end of April, then we'll need a few weeks for soft furnishings and to bring back and reinstate all the items which have been stored, so we expect to be back in the Sanctuary by the end of May. Meanwhile, you are very welcome to join us on a Sunday morning at 10.30 in our Main Hall, or at one of our many other activities.

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## DECEMBER

1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Advent)
4 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Mid-Week Service followed by light lunch
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Gift Service
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Choir Service
15 <sup>th</sup>	2-3pm	Carol Singing at Sainsbury's Craigleith
17 <sup>th</sup>	4pm	Strachan House Service
18 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Mid-Week Service followed by light lunch
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Church Band Service - St David's Band
24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00pm	Carols Round the Christmas Tree
24 <sup>th</sup>	11.15pm	Watchnight Service
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christmas Day Service
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (short communion)

## JANUARY

5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship
8 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Mid-Week Service followed by light lunch
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship
21 <sup>st</sup>	4pm	Strachan House Service
22 <sup>nd</sup>	12 noon	Mid-Week Service followed by light lunch
26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship followed by short communion

## FEBRUARY

2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship
5 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Mid-Week Service followed by light lunch
9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship
19 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Mid-Week Service followed by light lunch
23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
	11am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
25 <sup>th</sup>	4pm	Strachan House Service

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH DECEMBER 2019

This month the flowers will be donated as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs Muriel Morton
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Lynette Aitken
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Moira Purves

The flowers will be distributed by Mrs Jacqui Lowe and Mrs Lesley Johnson.

Violet Troup  
Flower Convener



## CHRISTMAS FAIR

On behalf of all the stallholders, the WATCH Committee of Blackhall St Columba's Church would like to sincerely thank all the businesses, members of the congregation and friends for their donations, help and support for the **Christmas Fair on 30<sup>th</sup> November**.

The proceeds from this year's Christmas Fair and our previous events are shared by **Beach Wheelchairs Portobello** and **Kindred**.

A full list of the business donations and the total sum raised by all the events this year will be in the March Bulletin.

George Millar  
WATCH Committee





## TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER

The words of the old hymn are just as relevant today as when they were first written. If you, or someone you care about, is having difficulty coping with illness, bereavement or a worrying situation, why not contact the Prayer Chain?

The Prayer Chain is a group of twelve people willing to pray daily for anyone who is in need of help. All requests are completely confidential. If the request is for someone else, please ensure that you have their permission.

Please contact the Prayer Chair secretary, Lesley MacKenzie on 07935327787 with your request.



*Wishing all our readers  
a Merry Christmas  
and  
a Happy New Year*



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## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Christmas for families and individuals who have experienced homelessness can often be a time to dread. Many are finding their feet and have little money to spare. For those with no cooker, how will they be able to make a pot of soup, far less cook a turkey and all the trimmings?!

Every year, Fresh Start's Cooker for Christmas Campaign helps those who are struggling on this special holiday by easing the pressures they face and providing those in need with essential white goods to help them feel more settled and at home in their tenancy. Earlier this year we helped one client to access a cooker and a washing machine and here's what he had to say:-

"I have never received support like it, now I no longer need for anything and can create a nice future for myself. You can go from a difficult situation into a good one with the correct support".

Any small donation would be greatly appreciated and will help to make a real difference not only to someone's festive period but also their life going forward. Thank You. [#cookersforChristmas2019](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CookersforChristmas2019)

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CookersforChristmas2019>



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## Lights in the Darkness

From Mid-October, those sparkling white lights in the Cloudberry Christmas Shop have brightened the darkening evenings, admired by passengers on the buses and by Blackhall residents alike.

Now that we are into December, many of us will be decorating our own windows – or even rooftops and gardens – with lights that twinkle or glow. Whatever theme or colour scheme we choose this year, it's the lights that will make all the difference to our display. As we switch them on and enjoy the “festive feel” they give to our everyday lives, it's good to take a moment to reflect on the significance of light in the original Christmas story.

The prophets long before Christ's birth had foretold that Light would shine in the darkness and, as we prepare to celebrate again the amazing event that took place in Bethlehem all those years ago, we are aware there is still much “darkness” around us, both in the world at large and in our own country too.

We may feel powerless to challenge those major problems, but each of us can make a real difference in our own community if we choose to be lights, sparkling lights or just gently glowing, celebrating Christmas by sharing the love that God showed us in that stable lit by a star.

*Loving Father, help us to take time out from our busy Christmas preparations - time to follow that star back to the baby in the manger, the Light you sent into our darkness.*

*Show us how we can share that gift by bringing light into our families, our community and beyond.*

MS



# CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) Club



Cameo had a change of venue on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September when we gathered at the Holiday Inn for morning coffee and delicious pastries. The members enjoy having a visit to the local hotel – about 40 members and friends – and of course the volunteers enjoy having no dishes to wash!!! Our next outing is our Christmas party (again at the Holiday Inn) on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm.

Cameo meets fortnightly in the large hall of St Columba's Church from 10.15/30 – 12 noon. Why not come along and enjoy coffee/tea/pancakes and a good blether? We have a wonderful programme of singers, instrumentalists etc. We are a very happy and welcoming group so give us a ring if you would like to join us. Transport can be arranged.

Margaret Brown 332 5957

Fiona Drinnan 343 6762



## TUESDAY TOPICS

Tuesday Topics re-started on 24 September in the Small Hall of Blackhall St Columba's Church. Our excellent speakers have included Edinburgh West MP, Christine Jardine, and our topics have included travels in Germany and France, The Water of Leith Trust, The History of Riddles Court, and this year's charity Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

**In December, on 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we are looking forward to a return visit by Christine Murdie for her illustrated talk on Polar Bears.

**In January**, our post-Xmas meal will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and Roy Johnstone returns on 28<sup>th</sup> to give a talk on 'Robert Burns – His Life, His Poetry and His Songs'.

**In February**, on 11th, the topic is 'Wine, Women and Song (Mostly Song) by Peter Thomson from St. George's School Music Department. On 25<sup>th</sup>, Andrew Thomson from Backhouse Rossie Estate in Fife will give a presentation on its development.

If you would like to join us for any of our meetings we meet on alternate Tuesdays from late September to early May, starting at 7.30pm with a talk / presentation, then coffee, tea and biscuits. All visitors are welcome. Membership costs £15, and visitors pay £2 per visit.

For further information our full syllabus can be viewed on the Church web-site at [www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk](http://www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk) under Community Activities.

Meantime, best wishes for Xmas and the New Year.

Jacky Cowie, Secretary, Eleanor Lowrie, President.

## EDINBURGH FLORAL ART CLUB

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec Sara Barrow from Preston will Demonstrate "Mistletoe and Wine" to get us into the mood for Christmas. Visitors tickets £7.

We don't meet in January and have a Club Day in February so our next Demonstration will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March when John Dalton from Carlisle will demonstrate "Spring is in the Air".

## NORTH WEST HERITAGE

Our meetings for the New Year are as follows:

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 **Clermiston & Other Mansions of Old Cramond Parish**. Bill Weir continues his series on local Mansion Houses. Davidson's Mains Parish Church Hall at 7.30 pm

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 **Balerno Branch Railway**. Kenneth Williamson. St. Columba's Church, Blackhall at 8 pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 **William Speirs Bruce Scotland's Polar Explorer**. Simon Bendle. Davidson's Mains Parish Church Hall at 7.30 pm

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 **AGM followed by a talk on Edinburgh's Water Supply**. Douglas Lowe (Currie & District Local History Society) St. Columba's Church, Blackhall at 8 pm

## KNIT AND NATTER

We are hoping to grow our group of knit and natterers and wondered if **YOU** would like to come and join us on Monday evenings in the church hall at 7:30?

Everyone is welcome. Perhaps you haven't knitted for a long time and would like to take it up again, or maybe you would like to learn a new skill. We have wool, needles and patterns to start you off, or if that seems a bit ambitious, what about squares? Fresh Start is always delighted to get blankets.

Nattering and a cuppa are equally important and some evenings we do more of that! Please think about popping along some Monday to see us.

For more details contact Lilian Cockburn at [stcknitnatter@gmail.com](mailto:stcknitnatter@gmail.com)



Like many other organisations, our new term started in September, and there was a good turnout of both long-standing and new members on the Monday and Tuesday classes.

The club members have now started thinking about what they are going to produce for the art exhibition to be held in Blackhall Library from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December until Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January, so please put the dates in your current (and new 2020) diaries, and come along and see what we have been up to. Paintings will not be large (either in terms of size or price tag!) so might make an unusual and unique Christmas present for one of your nearest and dearest!

If you fancy finding out more about the Art Club then our membership secretary Anne McLennan will be delighted to tell you about it. Her contact details are 0131 336 4326 and her email address is [annemclennan@gmail.com](mailto:annemclennan@gmail.com). We currently have a small waiting list but if you are interested it is worth getting your name on the list so that you can be contacted if spaces become available.

Penni McCallum

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## Sending Love at Christmas

Readers will remember Myra Ball of Blackhall St Columba's Art Club was the overall winner in the 2019 CrossReach Christmas Card competition. We are pleased to include the photo of her presentation and her card in this issue. Packs of cards from CrossReach, including Myra's, can be purchased after services in November or directly from CrossReach at <https://shop.crossreach.org.uk>



Myra receiving her award from Mr Peter Cuthbertson from CrossReach



Sending Love at Christmas –  
Myra's prize-winning card



### **Blackhall Community Trust Dates for your Diary**

- **Blackhall Community Trust Quiz Night: Thursday 28 November 7.30pm** at the Holiday Inn Edinburgh City West. Tickets £10; email [blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com) to reserve your ticket ASAP. It would be fantastic if local groups were to put teams together!
- **Christmas in Blackhall Village: Thursday 5 December Blackhall Village AKA 'the Dip' 6.30pm to 8.30pm.** We're delighted to be organising this lovely community event, supported by Blackhall Children's Sports Committee, with Imogen (formerly of Maddie & Mark's) kindly chairing our sub-committee.

### **Blackhall Ball**

Our inaugural Blackhall Ball on Saturday 30 September was very successful – over 90 residents celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blackhall Nursery in style, fundraising over £1000 in the process! Many thanks to everyone who came along, to the Holiday Inn for hosting and to those who donated wonderful raffle prizes (the Holiday Inn, Cloudberry, Dynamic Earth and local residents).

### **Christmas in Blackhall Village**

Please join us on Thursday 5 December 6.30-8.30pm in Blackhall 'dip' for the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights outside Cloudberry's pop-up Christmas shop (formerly Maddie & Mark's). There will be singing (Blackhall Primary School, Captivate Drama, Blackhall St Columba's Choir), stalls from local organisations, food, fun activities, mulled wine, Santa, characters from *Frozen* and much, much more!

The event brings the whole community together, as local business open their doors for the evening and residents come along to join in the fun. We are very grateful to the local businesses for supporting this event, especially Cloudberry for hosting the electricity supply to the lights, and to everyone who gives their time and talent to make it all possible! Proceeds from this year's event will go to Alzheimer's Scotland (early onset) and Blackhall Community Trust. The tree itself is kindly sponsored by Craigleith Blackhall Community Council.

### **Progress So Far with the Community Asset Transfer of Ravelston Park Pavilion and adjacent land**

The City of Edinburgh Council recently ran a consultation into a specific legal requirement to enable the Community Asset Transfer to happen. Any alterations or changes to the existing building to make it fit-for-purpose for Blackhall Nursery and for use by community groups can only happen if this legal process is successful. We'll keep you posted!

Also, we're bidding for a grant for some pilot arts/creativity workshops in the building – let us know if you are interested in attending these. These will add to our popular walking, coffee morning and book groups!

### **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  
Email us: [blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com) Visit: [www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk](http://www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk) Write to us: c/o Blackhall Nursery, Ravelston Park Pavilion, Craigcrook Rd Edinburgh EH4 3RU.

# What's Happening in Blackhall in December?

## ST COLUMBA'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB CHANGE OF DATE

Due to the Hall being used for polling in the General Election, **The Scottish Country Dance Party will now be held on THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** at 7.30 in the large hall. Guests welcome £4.00 including a delicious supper.

Margaret Brown  
332 5957



## Blackhall St Columba's Christmas Fair Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November Opening 2pm

Lots of stalls including  
Baking, Bottle, Books, Bric-a-brac,  
Fashion accessories,  
Hampers, Light and Bright, Sweets,  
Toys and Tombola  
Admission 50p per adult

All proceeds to **Beach Wheelchairs Portobello** (reg charity SC046190) and **Kindred**, for parents of children with complex needs (reg charity SC000264)



## Come and join us Carol Singing at Sainsbury's on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm



All funds raised going to **Beach Wheelchairs Portobello** (reg charity SC046190) and **Kindred**, for parents of children with complex needs (reg charity SC000264)

## Why not join us celebrating Christmas in St Columba's?

1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30 am	First Sunday in Advent
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Family Gift Service
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Choir Service
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 am	Christmas service with St David's Brass Band
24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.00 pm	Carols round the Christmas Tree
	11.15 pm	Watchnight Service
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Christmas morning family service





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# BLACKHALL NURSERY NEWS



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.

It is a very busy and exciting time of year in Nursery with the children learning some Scottish Country dances to celebrate St Andrew's Day and learning lots of new songs to perform to our families at the Nativity Play. The playroom will soon be filled with colourful decorations baked and painted by the children, which always creates a lovely festive spirit. Although very busy, the children have not forgotten their responsibilities towards looking after the environment and have been recycling paper and making new handmade paper which we are using to decorate our special Christmas cards. Our Alternative Christmas Card project also helps the children to learn about the needs of other children around the world and with money they have donated they are able to choose life-changing gifts to through the World Vision charity to help other families. We are looking forward to our Winter Woodland Walks in Ravelston Woods when we will take some time to observe the changes that are occurring in nature and the children will also keep a tally of the different birds they spot in support of the RSPB's Big Birdwatch.

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. Throughout the 2019/20 session, we will continue to be part of the Council's pilot scheme to deliver 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare (up to six hours a day, term time only) ahead of the rollout by Scottish Government in August 2020.

We are a feeder nursery for Blackhall Primary School and **all places are free and funded by the City of Edinburgh Council**. The Nursery enjoys an excellent reputation within the community but don't take our word for it, please take a look at the parents' comments on our Care Inspectorate report available at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

You can place your child's name on the Nursery waiting list from their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday by downloading an application form at [www.blackhallnursery.co.uk](http://www.blackhallnursery.co.uk) or by contacting the Nursery for an application form on 0131 332 8296. **If you would like to find out more about the Nursery and have a look around, please pop in to see us at our Open Door evening on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 from 7.30pm.**

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# BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL



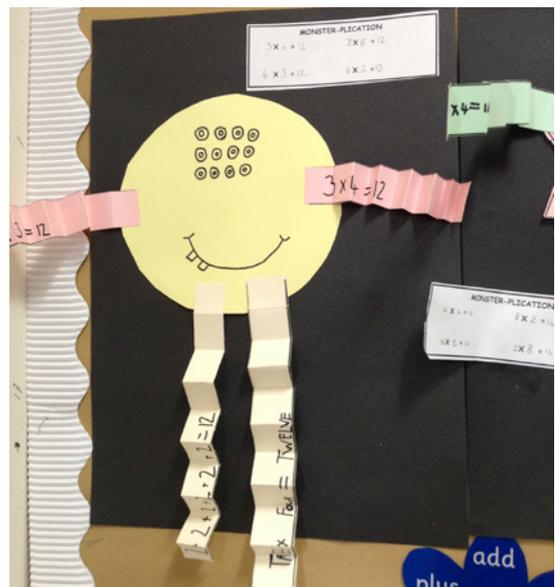
After visiting Blackhall Mosque the class were inspired by the Islamic patterns and created some of their own.



These houses have been inspired by dark and light from our energy topic.



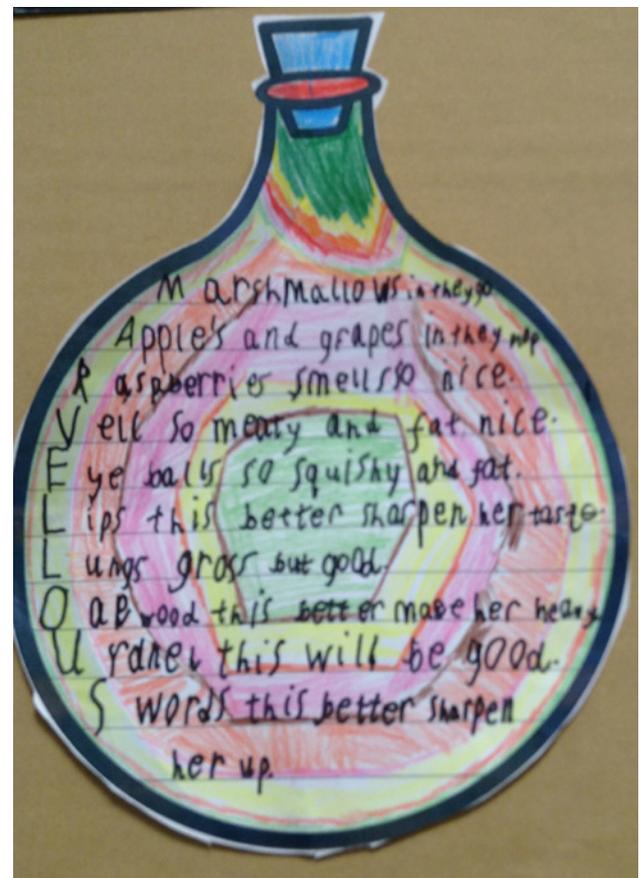
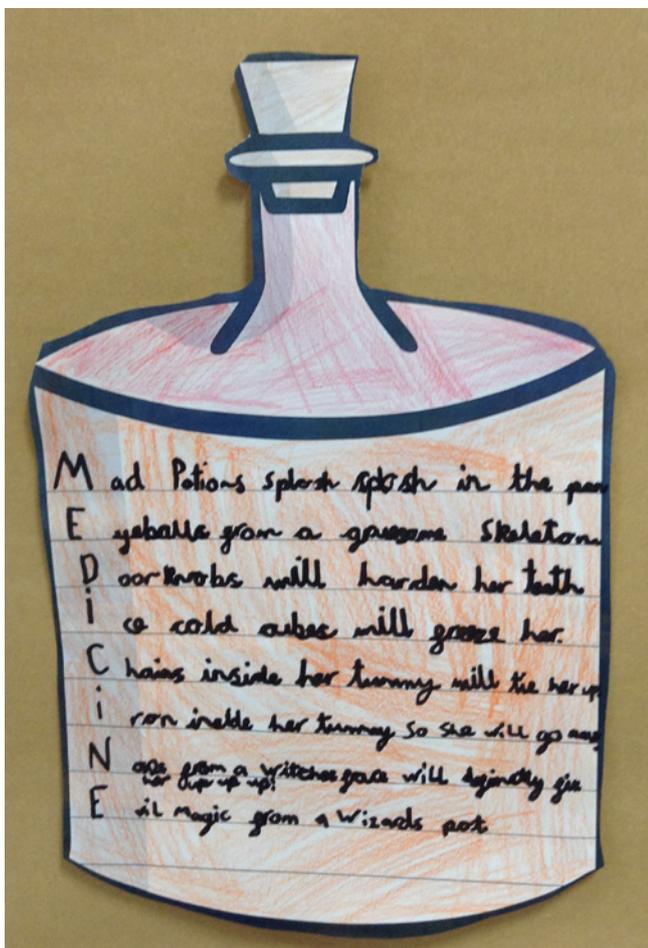
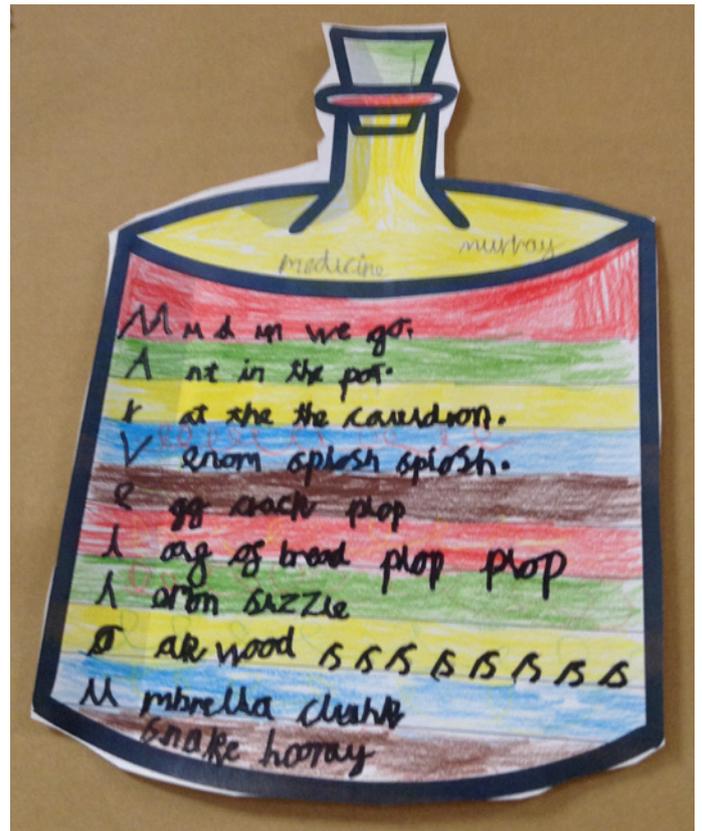
These Maths Monsters help us learn our tables.



# BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Unusually all the pieces contributed from one very busy class – Primary 4/3. The acrostic poems were written after reading George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl.

P4/3 have been enjoying our class novel George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl. We have also had fun making some acrostic gruesome medicine poems. Please enjoy reading.



# 23<sup>rd</sup> CRAIGALMOND SCOUT GROUP



As the year draws to a close I am delighted to report that all three sections are flourishing. This is down to the hard work of all the leaders who deliver exciting programmes week after week.

Ten new leaders have joined the group over the last year and all of them have commenced their initial training. Sadly, one of the scout leaders has left due to being relocated to America. We are very grateful to the parents who have joined the parent rota this helps with cover immensely.

The Beavers and Cubs have enjoyed time away at the Dalguise Adventure Centre, Dunkeld. The Scouts have enjoyed the thrill of the outdoors. The group is now preparing for a 'really big camp' to be held in May 2020 at Fordell Firs Scout Centre, Dunfermline. This will be attended by groups from the whole district of Craigalmond with over 1500 taking part.



The group is growing again but we shall always need volunteers to become leaders, as we need to work on a succession programme making sure that in the future we are not having to close colonies or packs through lack of leadership.

With a New Year on the horizon I can only thank everyone for their support over the last year and hope that many scouting memories will be made 2020,

Diane Ross MBE

Group Scout Leader

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# Blackhall Guiding

It has been a busy term for all units from a brownie sleepover at Innoflate and camps at Netherurd and Dalguise and a guide camp sleeping under the stars. We look forward to getting up to lots more adventures in 2020. From all at Blackhall Guiding we wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New year.



202 Rainbows have enjoyed learning "Skills for my Future" which includes Construction, Managing money and DIY! They constructed marble runs from cardboard tubes learned about the differences between Insulation and Masking tape, and bought/constructed fruit kebabs. Our 202A Rainbows which meets on Mondays is looking for another adult to join their leadership team so please contact us if interested. Nicola - 202 Rainbow Leader



202 and 202B Brownies started off the term with a trip to the Tartan Gig at the Hydro to watch Lewis Capaldi, Becky Hill, James Arthur and many more acts. This term we have been working on the Be Well theme. We had a visit from Corstorphine First response where we learned CPR, recovery position and how to put bandages on. We also went tubing at Hillend it was very cold but lots of fun was had whizzing down the slopes. In November we went to the Edinburgh Gang Show to watch 12 of our brownies perform. At the end of term we are looking forward to ending the term having a silent disco Nicole - 202 and 202B Brownie Leader



202 Guides have been doing activities on the "Be Well" theme this term, including learning first aid, going kayaking at Bridge 8 Hub and learning some mindfulness and meditation. Our international adventures continue with 4 Guides undertaking international experiences in the Netherlands this year. We also went to the in Gang Show at the Kings Theatre in November to



## 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 202A Rainbows which meets at Blackhall St Columbas church. On a Monday evening. Rainbows are aged 5-7 years. Weekly or occasional adult helpers are required as this unit starts at 6pm.

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](mailto:GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com)

# BLACKHALL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

With 2020 looming up amid the gloom of these winter months why not pop along to Edinburgh's most friendly and informative gardening club. Our first meeting of the year on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January is billed as a 'Social Evening and Seed Swap'. But may I assure you it will be far more than that with lots of chit chat over plants that need some 'TLC' in the garden, plus exchange of rooted cuttings. Come along at 7.45pm and find out.



In February we welcome Mike Traynor whose theme is 'Vegetable Gardening'. As we consider our eco footprint more consideration needs to be given in growing more edibles in our home environment, as well as encouraging our children and grandchildren of the merits of 'grow your own'. One initiative that is worth considering is Incredible Edibles [www.incredibleedible.org.uk](http://www.incredibleedible.org.uk). This idea first started in Todmorden in Yorkshire and has spread throughout the country using spare public spaces to grow 'edibles' that anyone can pick when ready. From the herb planters at church or shop doorsteps to planted beds at railway stations the scope is wide and varied. We look forward to Mike telling us how to be more self-sufficient as well as how to grow the less common types of vegetables.

As March beckons in the Spring the dusting down and oiling of the lawn mower comes to mind, and so to encourage us in how to manage our turf, Tony Garn, who spent most of his career at Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and where among many other horticultural undertakings he ensured the grass areas enhanced the botanical collection plus being ideal for visitors to sit on. On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, he will tell us his secrets of 'Caring for your Lawn'. There is far more to the lawn than just cutting it, as Tony will tell us. I am always sure the issue of greenspace maintenance within our City will be raised with the move at present to encourage biodiversity.



By April all signs of spring will be evident with hosts of daffodils and hopefully the readers of the Bulletin growing their vegetables in a more informed fashion and manicuring their lawn to perfection. Our April meeting includes a short talk on the History of the Blackhall Horticultural Society. Are you aware the society was started in 1952 with the guidance of the staff at Edinburgh & East of Scotland College of Agriculture? As a coincidence the speaker is one of the last students in practical horticulture at the College. After this reminiscence we will hear about the 'Its Your Neighbourhood' campaign, one of the 'Bloom' initiatives of the Royal Horticultural Society, and delivered in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful. Locally such projects that have entered IYN include 'The Centipede Project' which is based at Old Kirk Muirhouse, and Kirkliston Community Garden. Community gardening is the future in

numerous aspects of horticulture in Scotland with the community taking partial ownership of greenspaces and being the catalyst for local authorities to achieve funding for developments.

**A date, which must be added to your 2020 diary, is the Annual Plant Sale, which is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Doors open at 10am! And remember by noon it is all gone!**

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



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CAR PARKING AT CRAIGLEITH RETAIL PARK AND SAINSBURY'S

Did you know that these two car parks are run by two different companies? **Both have a time limit of 3 hours.**

In order to deter commuters from parking there and taking the bus to work, Craigleith Retail Park have had to begin enforcing this limit with a fine of £85 or £50 if paid within 14 days. So, if you are parking to buy your food from Sainsbury's use their car park and if you are gift shopping from the stores at Craigleith Retail Park, use theirs. But keep an eye on how long you are parked.



# BLACKHALL PROBUS CLUB



We opened our session in October with the incredible experience related by the British Airways Captain of flight BA2069 from London to Nairobi when a passenger entered his cockpit at 4am over Libya and fought to take over control of the aircraft putting it into nosedives, stalls and rolls. The reports at the time were, and continue to be, severely redacted with the incident being reported as “air rage” with the loss of control reported as 10 to 20 seconds rather than nearly 3 minutes as logged by the flight recorder. A video simulation produced from the flight recorder and presented at the talk, appeared on YouTube several years after the incident, but was then mysteriously removed with only the censored reports remaining. A video taken by a passenger and handed into the authorities also disappeared as stated in a Freedom of Information response. Our thoughts were, had the full story been reported at the time, could 9/11 have been avoided 10 months later with the pilots secured **"Behind the Locked Cockpit Door"**?

**"Secret Tunnels of Edinburgh"** opened with the speaker relating how he discovered a tunnel from the Grass Market to Hanover Street. He then did exhaustive research at the National Library and only found two references to its existence. He then illustrated its purpose and construction but, as he explained, if anyone relates his story, it won't be a secret anymore! However, he did go on to talk about the planning, financing and building feats of The Innocent Tunnel and the Scotland Street Tunnel, which are widely reported on the web.

By the time this article is published we will have heard about **"From Holyrood to Hollywood - A Technical Career in Motion Pictures"**, **"Technology Collections at National Museum of Scotland"** and **"Maps at the National Library of Scotland."**

Christopher Blanchett, a weather forecaster from the BBC, will give a talk on the 19<sup>th</sup> December entitled **"Weather you like it or not - Don't shoot the messenger!"**

Our first talk in the New Year is on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January by one of our members entitled **"Two-way Radio Contact on Scotland's Munros"** describing how, between 1982 and 1992, he climbed all 278 of Scotland's Munros and had 2-way radio contact from each one; he was the first person to do this. His talk will include scenic photographs of his climbs as well as some technical elements on how the radio operation was achieved.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January we hear about the work of **"Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance"** who work in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service. As an integral part of Scotland's frontline emergency response network, they respond to trauma incidents and medical emergencies across the country, covering an area of more than 30,000 square miles. Scotland's only charity air ambulance is funded by the people of Scotland, primarily through donations, fundraising events and their very own Life-saving Lottery.

On 6<sup>th</sup> February, we have a speaker telling the illustrated story of **"Construction Toys"** covering the history of Lincoln Logs, Meccano, Bayko Building, Lego and 3D Modelling and Visualisation on Computer. Pure nostalgia for boys and their toys!

20<sup>th</sup> Feb "Edinburgh at Work – A Photography Project"

5<sup>th</sup> March "Spitfire Women"

19<sup>th</sup> March "Bridgescapes - Scotland's Bridge Building Heritage"

16<sup>th</sup> April "Location Edinburgh - Films set in Edinburgh"

Twice a year we have a “Pie, Pint and Quiz Lunch” immediately after our talk and plan to have two members’ outings to places of interest. We also organise Christmas and Spring Lunches and a Summer Outing to which partners are invited.

We welcome retired men to join us for social chats over coffee/tea/biscuits followed by these 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.

So please join us on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 10am in The Blackhall Bowling Club for the second half of our programme preceded by social chit chat, 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.

Phone: 0131 312 6164 Email: [neil.mcintosh@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:neil.mcintosh@blueyonder.co.uk)

27 Hillpark Way, Edinburgh, EH4 7ST.



# CRAIGLEITH MEN'S PROBUS CLUB



Our series of winter talks are progressing well and from helping the homeless in our City to our City's bus and coach transport it is clear what an excellent programme, the best for several years, our Speakers Secretary, Jim Martin, has arranged for us. At the time of reading this Bulletin we will be, on 18<sup>th</sup> December, hearing from Peter Kendrick, about Fred Astaire. We curtail our January meetings to just one, which will be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January when our subject will be 'Piper Alpha'. Charles Greer, our speaker a well known expert on the theme, will tell us about this disaster which occurred over thirty years ago but is still fresh in many of our minds. From my working days in Aberdeen I can remember many of the conversations I had with colleagues and friends related to this and the Oil Exploration Industry.

Our February talks focus on Edinburgh with Tom Purdie's talk, on 5<sup>th</sup> February, on 'The Supreme Sacrifice - Hearts in WWI' - a subject close to several of our members who have, over the years, been season ticket holders at Tynecastle. A fortnight later, on a brighter theme, Maurice McIwrick will enlighten us about 'The Secret Tunnels of Edinburgh'. Some of these are still traversable although, for others, permission is required for access with the Scotland Street Tunnel being a prime example. This tunnel is a continuation from the Rodney Street Tunnel, close to Tesco, Broughton, which is now part of Edinburgh's cycle network, but within King George V Park the Scotland Street Tunnel commences with gradients of 1:27 and runs under Dublin Street and St Andrews Square terminating at Waverley Station behind a small metal grill.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March our talk focussing upon supporting Autism, and will be given by Cathy Steedman, from Autism Initiatives, who will explain the fact that autism is an integral part of a person and nothing to be ashamed of, plus the need for us all to recognise that the preference by professionals is to use the term an autistic person rather than a person with autism - in fact that is much better grammar, one does not say a person with music, rather a musical person! Guests are always welcome at anytime and as this meeting is also a Ladies' Day, everyone is welcome.

As the Club Secretary I am always happy to answer any questions you may have about Craighleith Men's Probus. Our meetings start at 10am with a cup of coffee or tea together with a range of biscuits and the talk commences at 10.30am. Meeting at Blackhall Bowling Club we are in the centre of the local community and close to bus stops. There is no restriction on where one lives and we have members who travel from the south of the City because Craighleith Probus is so friendly and informal. Do give us a try and join us.

Bertie Allen : Secretary : [infocpc@gmail.com](mailto:infocpc@gmail.com)

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from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

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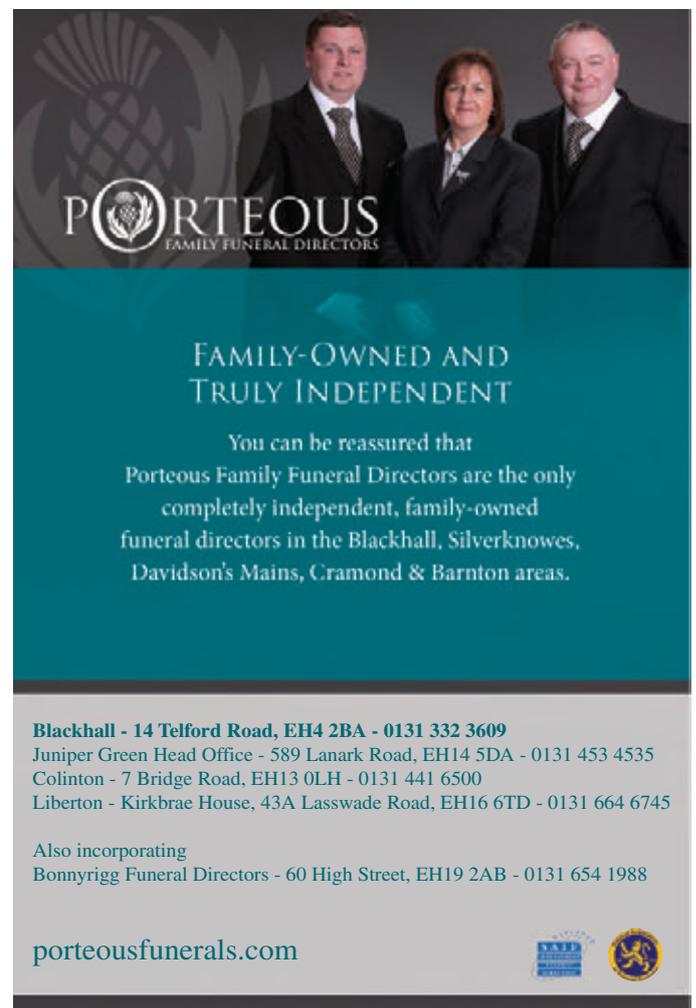
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**Church Secretary**

Ms Julie Nicol  
in Church Office from  
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**DEADLINES**

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Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Please send all items to the Editor,  
Christine Denham, c/o Church Office  
(Home tel: 336 5943) or e-mail:  
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**Blackhall Bulletin-  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

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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](http://www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk) or contact the office by phone (see above) or e mail [secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk](mailto:secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk) or

 follow us on [@BSiCC\\_EH](https://twitter.com/BSiCC_EH)

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