# BLACKHALL BULLETIN

September 2025

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

No. 178





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#### REMEMBRANCE

This year, 2025, has seen a far greater number of Remembrance Services than usual. Owing to the year, throughout the country, we have been marking a number of 80th anniversaries relating to events in the Second World War. At the time of writing, Blackhall St Columba's itself has marked, with remembrance services, the end of the war in Italy and VE day, the end of the war in Europe. On 15th August, we will hold a similar service to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VJ day, the day the Japanese officially surrendered ending the war in the Far East. In addition to these 'special' services of remembrance, we have our traditional annual service of Remembrance on both11th November itself and on the Sunday nearest to it, this year Sunday 9th November.

As a consequence of my duties as a Royal Navy Reserve Chaplain, covering H.M.S. Caledonia and H.M.S. Scotia (both at Rosyth), I had the privilege of leading the annual service of commemoration at the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle.

The Scottish National War Memorial commemorates nearly 135,000 Scottish casualties in the First World War, 1914-18, more than 50,000 in the Second World War, 1939-45, and the campaigns since 1945, including the Malayan Emergency, the Korean War, Northern Ireland, the Falklands War and the Gulf War. The Memorial can be found in Crown Square at the very top of the rock on which Edinburgh Castle stands. In 1927, the architect Sir Robert Lorimer and 200 Scottish artists and craftsmen created a serene Hall of Honour and Shrine, where the names of the dead are contained in books that are on permanent display.



Few families in Scotland were not touched in some way by the impact of the war. Many men were serving in locally based Regular and Territorial Force units or had joined up together from the same district or village so that, when their regiments were committed to battle and when casualties were high, there were terrible repercussions on their local communities.

The opening ceremony took place on 14th July 1927. As the King had made it a policy not to open any war memorials, the ceremony was performed by The Prince of Wales and the King and Queen were the first visitors.

Following the Second World War, a further 50,000 names were added to the Rolls of Honour. At this time, it was decided to leave the memorial unchanged and no Second World War Battle Honours were added to the Regimental bays. It remains, a memorial to all who have died since 1914. Names are regularly added.

The need for remembrance and to honour the sacrifices of all who served to defend the freedoms we presently enjoy is as important today as it was before. We need only to turn on the news to see that the world has numerous conflicts, many which are in danger of escalating. In our country, we remember especially the lives lost by our own Armed Forces communities from Britain, the Commonwealth and our Allied nations.

With all our emphasis, especially this year, on remembrance, it is important to note the purpose of these services. We do not seek to glorify war but instead recognise that it is an abomination. It is an aberration that continues to devastate lives and destroys hope. It is against the wishes of God who desires peace for all His creation and all His children. Our symbols of remembrance, the memorials we have created, the wreaths we lay, the ceremonies we hold and the poppies we wear, should serve as a sign of our commitment to bringing about a future, where all might live in love and peace. Remembrance should serve to unite us in hatred of war and in love of peace.

There are numerous passages in the Bible that tell us of God's desire to end all wars.

In the Old Testament we read, in Isaiah 2:4; 'He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.' This is echoed in the words of Micah 4:3-4; 'He shall judge between many peoples and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.'

The New Testament too speaks to of God's desire for peace in the world. Jesus announced, in the Sermon on the Mount, narrated in Matthew 9:5 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God," and Paul, in his letter to the Romans wrote; 'Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.' Romans 12:16-18.

It is clear that the biblical narrative consistently points to a future where war will cease and peace will prevail under the reign of God. This hope is rooted in the character of God as a just and loving ruler and is fulfilled through the person and work of Jesus Christ. The end of war is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of God's shalom, His peace, which is a holistic peace that encompasses all of creation. Until that day, it is for us to do all in our power to resist and struggle against conflict, oppression and persecution wherever it is

Best wishes and blessings Fergus



#### **NATIVITY TRAIL 2025**

#### A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



#### THURSDAY 18th AND FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER 2025

I know it seems quite early to be mentioning Christmas BUT it is never too soon to save a date in your diary for a special celebration this Festive Season! Once again, something very special is happening in Blackhall St Columba's Church and we can't contain our excitement. As soon as you hear about it, I am sure you will want to share in the excitement too!

Our doors will be open wide to welcome everyone, young and not so young, to come in to the church at the heart of the Blackhall community and experience for themselves our "Nativity Trail- A Christmas Celebration". You will not want to miss these events and so get your diaries out and note down the details now.

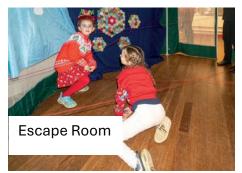
What? NATIVITY TRAIL- A CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION

Where? BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

When? THURSDAY 18th and FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER 2025

On the last Thursday and Friday before Christmas (just as schools close for the holidays), throughout the day and early evening, we will be spreading the Good News by hosting this interactive exploration of the Greatest Story Ever Told using the church itself and all its halls and buildings. We want members of our community to join us in finding out the true meaning of Christmas in a novel and exciting way as they hear the Angel Gabriel's message and go on their own journey with Mary and Joseph. They will find the shepherds and encounter King Herod before they reach Bethlehem and the stable and discover the most wonderful gift we have ever been given. As if that wasn't enough, we are also offering a Christmas Nativity Escape Room for the older children who come along. In addition, there will be lots of Christmas crafts, some seasonal musical entertainment and, of course, plenty of Christmas treats and refreshments.

There couldn't be a better way to start your Christmas celebrations! We look forward to welcoming you there. Shona Cook





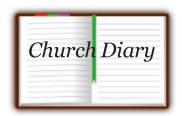


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#### **SEPTEMBER**

$7^{\text{th}}$	10.30 am	Morning Worship
$14^{th}$	10.30 am	Morning Worship
$21^{st}$	10.30 am	Morning Worship
$28^{th}$	10.30am	Morning Worship

#### **OCTOBER**

5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Holy Communion					
	3.00pm	Holy Communion					
$12^{\text{th}}$	10.30 am	Morning Worship –					
		Harvest service					
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship					
$26^{th}$	10.30 am	Morning Worship					



#### **NOVEMBER**

$2^{nd}$	10.30 am	Morning Worship
9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship
		Remembrance Sunday
$16^{th}$	10.30 am	Morning Worship
	10.30 am	Morning Worship
$23^{rd}$	10.30 am	Morning Worship
$30^{th}$	10.30 am	Morning Worship



If, for whatever reason, you find yourself unable to attend any service in person you can join with us on line when the service is happening (i.e. at 10.30am) or watch later if you cannot do that. Go to:

www.youtube.com@blackhallstcolumba

#### MIDWEEK PEACE SERVICES

Our next session begins on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 12 noon. Our meetings take the form of a short act of worship, usually with an invited speaker, followed by a soup lunch. The syllabus will be available at the first meeting.

It is an opportunity to share fellowship, food and worship together and everyone will be made very welcome. Please consider joining us.

We rely on volunteers to make and serve lunch and to drive some of our attendees to the church so if you think you might be able to help in this capacity, even on an ad hoc basis, then we would love to hear from you.

For more information please contact:

Shona Cook 07981 970054 or Ruth Laidlaw 07513 967974

#### The

## Prayer Circle



Do you know someone in need of prayer? A friend or relative perhaps who is unwell, grieving or find themselves in a position where they don't know where to turn?

Blackhall St Columba's Prayer Circle is a small team of people who will pray frequently for anyone in need of help in complete confidence. We are also happy to accept prayer requests giving thanks for a happy event or asking for God's help with any forthcoming personal endeavour or challenge.

Please contact Prayer Circle secretary Betty Watt at <a href="mailto:lzbthwatt@yahoo.co.uk">lzbthwatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> or Fergus Cook at <a href="mailto:Fcook@churchofscotland.org.uk">Fcook@churchofscotland.org.uk</a> or 0131 466 7503.

Alternatively, please put your request slip into the locked box marked "Prayer Requests" on the table at the back of the Church.



#### **WATCH COMMITTEE Charity for 2025**

This year's chosen charity is Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity (ECHC). We want to raise as much money as we can and hope you will all support us as much as possible.

## CRAFT COFFEE MORNING will take place on SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 10AM TO 12 noon.

Apart from the delicious coffee and savouries and sweets to tempt you, there will be stalls to browse including Home Baking and produce, crafts, hand painted cards, and pottery to name a few (cash only please). We also have a stunning patchwork quilt which we will raffle on the morning.

**QUIZ** - To exercise the brain a quiz has been designed by our amazing Mr & Mrs Quiz, and this will be available to purchase at the Coffee Morning £2.00 per entry. Winner will be announced in next edition of the Blackhall Bulletin.

And now for our **CHRISTMAS FAIR**(its never to early) so the date for the diary this year is **29th NOVEMBER**. This will get you all in the mood for the festive season we will have all the usual fun of the FAIR and SANTA will be there to start the Fair and then all the children can visit him in his Grotto with there Christmas wish list, then have their faces painted by one of Santa's Elves. There will loads of toys and books along with all the usual stalls BOOKS, BRIC A BRAC, Sweets and lucky dip, a massive TOMBOLA with amazing prizes and of course our fabulous HAMPERS.



#### BLACKHALL GARDENING CLUB

#### (Formally Blackhall Horticultural Society)

Summer is well and truly here with us and I hope we are all enjoying our gardens, balconies or even one or two plants on a window sill. Having battled a plague of slugs last year, I am glad to say they are greatly reduced in numbers and my Hostas have survived and thrived. This year though it seems the aphids are having some tasty meals!

Our 24/25 season ended with our AGM, with our President, Louise Wood, retiring. Our thanks to Louise for being such an inspiring President. We also voted to change the name from

Blackhall Horticultural Society to Blackhall Gardening Club. Refreshments were served during the second half of the evening while Fiona Wilson gave a very interesting talk on growing your own flowers for bouquets.

Earlier in 2025 we had very informative talks on Dahlias, Rhododendrons and Cacti and succulents. We are currently putting the finishing touches to our 2025/26 programme which will begin in October, having taken the decision not to arrange a meeting in September when many members are away.

In May we held a most successful Plant Sale in the Church Hall in partnership with the Christian Aid Coffee Morning and we were able to donate £400 to such a worthy cause as a result.

The group meets at 7.45pm on the second Monday of the month from October to May in the small hall at Blackhall St Columba's Church. Look out for each month's poster displayed locally in Tescos and Sainsburys and on the church notice boards. You can also check out our Facebook page which can be found at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/211472892232483">www.facebook.com/groups/211472892232483</a>. Talks are open to members and non members, we look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings. If you would like more information please email <a href="mailto:blackhall.horti@hotmail.com">blackhall.horti@hotmail.com</a>.



#### FORTH VALLEY CHORUS

Forth Valley Chorus is a world-renowned women's barbershop a Capella chorus from Edinburgh (hint is in the name!). They have been UK Champions nine times and have had international success as a member of the *Sweet Adelines*, a worldwide network of female barbershop singers with over 20,000 members globally.

They gave an outstanding performance of a selection of their repertoire on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May in Blackhall St Columba's Church led by their musical director, David Sangster in aid of Christian Aid organised by the WATCH committee.

The audience enjoyed a great evening of well-loved songs old and new with original arrangements interspersed with stories and anecdotes by members of the chorus. We look forward to welcoming them back after their trip to the World Championship competition in Columbus, Ohio in October 2025.

Lynn Bunney

#### **BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH GOLF OUTING 2025**

Once again the Annual Golf Outing was held at Ravelston Golf Club on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, there were 15 players and 18 staying for a delicious high tea, our thanks go to Ravelston for a most enjoyable day.

The winners this year were:-

Involvement "88" Golf Cup: Graham Patterson
Murrayfield Ladies Cup Barbara Duguid

2<sup>nd</sup> Pam Harrington

3<sup>rd</sup> Frances Douglas **Murrayfield Cup** Matt McGowan

2<sup>nd</sup> Fergus Cook

3<sup>rd</sup> George Millar Diane Ross

Nearest the Pin 5<sup>th</sup> Graham Patterson

9<sup>th</sup> Barbara Halliday

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David Thomson Frances Douglas Secretary

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#### SOUP 'n' CHAT

Look at all the happy faces enjoying the July meeting of Soup n Chat before breaking up for the summer. Soup 'n' Chat started 2 years ago and is still going strong and is open to everyone in the Blackhall community not just church members or mature citizens.

From Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August we return to meeting every second Friday (Cameo one week Soup'n' Chat the next and so on) on the following dates below. It opens at 12 noon and there is always a warm welcome to all who come along. Why not bring along a friend or neighbour (any age welcomed) who would enjoy the company and make new friends. It finishes when the soup runs out and when chat is exhausted (the latter never happens).

If you are looking to do some volunteering we

are happy to slot you on the Chat Hosts or Kitchen Team whichever is your choice.

Do give Soup'n'Chat a try either on the 29<sup>th</sup> August or other dates and join this great community event. Enjoy the soup, warmth, chat and company-look forward to seeing you there.

Michael Lead Volunteer. cockburn carfrae@yahoo.co.uk

Dates for the first few sessions

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025 starting 12 noon. Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September starting 12 noon.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September starting at 12 noon Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October starting at 12 noon





Dee@Breath-Works and Yoga with Esme have joined forces to create a supportive yoga community within the heart of Blackhall.

Two experienced teachers, teaching different styles of yoga, but both with the same focus: to bring people together through yoga, helping their community to grow, uplift, support and inspire each other.

From gentle Yin Yoga to powerful Vinyasa, in the morning or the evening, there is a class to suit everyone.

Find your perfect class now! e-mail dee@breath-works.co.uk or esme@yogawithesme.com or scan the QR codes.



Breath-Works







In the last Blackhall Bulletin, we reported the increase in demand for "Starter Packs" across all household items. This has continued as many people (as well as our local homeless) are moving into Edinburgh particularly here in the north west of the city. Homeless numbers remain too high in our city, but FreshStart is working with their partners and city authorities and progress is being made, all be it slowly.

Please keep the household donations coming and if you cannot take the items directly to FreshStart (warehouse at 22-24 Ferry Road Drive open Monday to Thursday 9am to 4pm), on Fridays at the church halls, between 10 and 11.30am, one of our volunteers will be on duty to accept these. If you cannot come on a Friday to the church halls or deliver your donated items direct to FreshStart please get in touch.

#### Items required:

pots and pans, crockery, cutlery, clean bedding, towels, small to medium curtains, small electrical (working kettles, toasters & microwaves) Flat screen TVs

Kitchen utensils and cleaning products. These items must be in a clean and usable condition for FreshStart to pass them on to their clients. We cannot accept scissors, kitchen knives or wine/beer/spirit glasses due to FreshStart policies.

Over the summer FreshStart has been working, with other partners, helping families by keeping the community lunches on Tuesdays and Fridays going. For many families this is a welcome hot meal rather than a sandwich or less. The Pantry Shop has also been running a family membership scheme so shoppers with children pay £7 rather than the usual £5 and receive in return a significant boost in their shopping. This almost doubles the items they can have. Again this helps to put more food on the table to ensure children receive good meals over the school holidays. Although the scheme has now finished until the next school holidays it has had a considerable impact and reduced the stock in the shop. If you can donate non perishable food items that would be great and these can be brought on a Friday to the church hall along with household items.

We do appreciate we are asking people again to dig deep but the need has never been greater. Your help is much appreciated by FreshStart and Blackhall is a valued partner to them.

Lilian & Michael c/o Church Office Blackhall St Columba's Church. 0131 332 4431

#### **KNIT & NATTER**

We will be starting up again on Monday September the 8<sup>th</sup> after a well-earned summer break and will be delighted to welcome any new members. Though I'm pretty sure needles won't all have been idle during this time.

In June we delivered everything we had knitted since the beginning of the year to Pregnancy Counselling and Care out at the Gyle shopping centre. They were delighted to receive our donation and hope we will keep knitting for them. If you have any any baby items still in good condition that you are finished with, they will find a good home for them. Their details can be found online if you want to contact them about donations.





Our Art Club continues to flourish following a successful Annual Exhibition in May.

This year's chosen charity was Erskine Veterans Charity. At the preview night Jim Watret came across from Glasgow and gave us a very interesting and informative talk about the charity and people it serves.

We were delighted to have a good turnout from the community and able to donate £1,130 to the Erskine Veterans. We thank everyone for coming along to support the event by buying paintings, handmade cards, and donations.

We also thank everyone who helped put the exhibition together from building exhibition boards, preparing catalogues, and taking turns during the week for being on hand for viewing.





The **People's Choice Award** for the most popular painting was awarded to Carol Carden for her painting 'Summer Meadow' and the Quaich was presented to her by Exhibition Organiser Kerry Houston.

The club starts up again on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September when we look forward to seeing current and new members.

For further information please contact: -

Joyce Whytock, secretary Family.whytock@blueyonder.co.uk or myself, Marge Whiteside, whiteside32@btinternet.com





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#### **CAMEO CLUB**

(Come And Meet Every One)

September's meetings begin on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> when Rose McBeth, who is a favourite singer on our programme, will be entertaining us. The next date will be Friday 19<sup>th</sup> when we will have a new musical guest, Johnny Collinton. He has an extensive repertoire of songs and we look forward to hearing what he will choose for us.

We welcome both men and women to our fortnightly meetings. We start off with refreshments at 10.30 until the entertainment begins at 11.00. Younger attendees can volunteer and help with serving coffees/teas, and we have spaces for car drivers, or you can just chat.

There is a varied programme each month for us to enjoy. October brings the Catalina Choir, and at a later date, Margo Falconer plays "Butterfly Music" on her acoustic guitar. Nearer Christmas we will be having a festive meal at the Murrayfield Leonardo Hotel. There is no charge to join Cameo but members do pay for our two annual Outings.

Generally, we have about thirty-five to forty attending with plenty room for more. Why not come along and see what we are about?

Fiona Drinnan 343 6762

#### EDINBURGH FLORAL ART CLUB

Edinburgh Floral Art Club meets on the second Friday of the month (not January, June, July and August) at Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall. Annual Membership subscription is £60.00. We look forward to welcoming you at our next two demonstrations and to our hands-on workshop in November:

#### 12<sup>th</sup> September

Annabel Findlay from Stirling Title 'Occasion, Occasion, Occasion'

#### 10<sup>th</sup> October

Lindsay Florey from Dumfries Title 'Garden Inspiration'

#### 7<sup>th</sup> November

Kirsten Coltman from Hands on Workshop Christmas Door Decoration

\*Booking essential, please! Contact Suzie Stark see below

Visitors are always welcome (£10 per meeting) and anyone wishing more information should contact **Suzie** on 07888 942561.



#### **TUESDAY TOPICS**

Hello from Tuesday Topics yet again. For anyone who hasn't heard of us, we are a group of mainly women, but we do have some gents who have found our talks interesting. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month in the small hall at 7.30pm and after a talk lasting about 45 minutes on various topics, we have tea and coffee and there's an opportunity to chat, discuss the topic or make new friends. If you haven't been before why not come and try? Membership is £25 or you can just come as a visitor and pay £3 per meeting.

We start on **September 30<sup>th</sup>** with a talk by Alistair McDonald. He has written a book called "the Cold Hand of Charity, Tales from the City Poor House" so we look forward to hearing how poverty was dealt with in those days.

On October 28<sup>th</sup> Maggie Quayle will tell us about the RNLI

On **November 25<sup>th</sup>** we will continue with the nautical theme and we have David Hughson who will speak to us about 'Lighthouses'.

That takes us to Christmas and we have some more excellent topics for the New Year which will be in the next Kirk News.

Do come and join us. For more details Lyndy Paton. Sec. 0131 332 7377 or 07460212174 Sheila Mackintosh 0131 336 1357

#### NORTH WEST HERITAGE

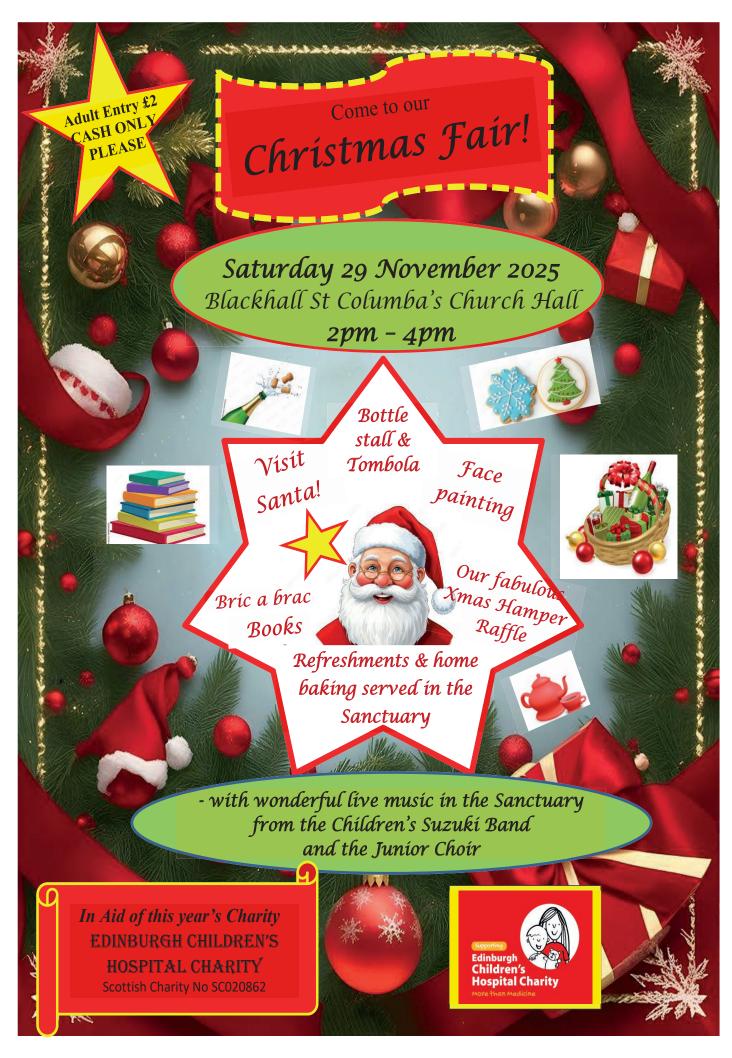
North West Heritage is a local history group which meets in Davidson's Mains Parish Church North Hall at 7.30 pm on the following dates. Good parking available. Membership is £15.00 per person or £25.00 per couple. Contact Charlotte Cowe on 336 2494 or <a href="mailto:charlotte@dmains.co.uk">charlotte@dmains.co.uk</a> if you would like further information.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025 Myths and Lies of Tartan and Highland Dress. Speaker Ian Low from Hopetoun House.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 Bletchley Park. Speaker Derek Douglas

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 The Bombing of Edinburgh and Leith. Speaker Tom Wood.





#### **BLACKHALL LIBRARY: UPDATE**

#### A new temporary library at Davidson's Mains Primary School

We have been exploring options to replace the Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) discovered at Blackhall Library since its closure in September 2023. Due to the extent of work required, the options are complex and a long-term solution will take time to be delivered.

It's important that you, your family and people across Blackhall and Davidson's Mains have access to quality local services in places that are convenient and accessible. That's why we've been progressing plans for a temporary library at Davidson Mains Primary School. The temporary unit will provide access to library services while we work on a long-term plan for the library and community services in the area.

## **Update on the delivery of the temporary library**

A planning application has been submitted seeking permission for a 'temporary library building with associated infrastructure and landscaping'. The planning application was granted permission at Development Management Sub Committee on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

The temporary unit will be delivered and installed during the October break with the aim of completing the works on site and opening the library in winter 2025/26.

The mobile library service will continue to operate in the meantime. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we deliver a limited range of library services from vehicle.

#### Long term library provision

In September we will open a 12-week engagement exercise with the wider community on a long-term solution for the provision of library services in the Blackhall and Davidson Mains area.

This engagement will include sharing the outcomes of the options appraisal (including refurbishing the existing building, rebuilding it or relocating to another site) to help us develop a longer-term solution and business case.

We know how important this service is to the community and want to hear from as many people in the community as possible. We will include opportunities for the wider community to provide feedback on a possible long-term option and influence how library services are provided in Blackhall and Davison Mains. We will continue to work with stakeholders including the working group with Parent Council and School representatives and The Friends of Blackhall Library.

#### Contact us

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions: 20minuteneighbourhood@edinburgh.gov.uk







#### SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

Since the last Bulletin was distributed, with news from our Daffodil Tea in February, we have enjoyed another three months of dancing together in the large hall at Blackhall St Columba's Church.

Thursday nights are always fun together, with a great mix of dancers and a varied programme to cater for all levels of ability. Taking as our theme the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of Edinburgh, our list this term included both traditional and recently devised dances with a local link.

Our annual "Spring Fling" was a night to remember, with live music by Matthew McLennan and with the addition of a number of guests, who enjoyed both the dancing and the generous buffet, provided by members of the class.

After the usual Easter break, we decided to have a further six weeks together, taking the opportunity to revisit some of the "old favourite" dances suggested by our members. With an informal "pot luck picnic" on the final night, it was agreed that this might well become part of our regular plan for the year.

The group restarts on Thursday  $18^{th}$  September, from 7-8.45 pm. New members would be very welcome and there are plenty of experienced dancers to help you "find your feet".

Contact Muriel Stenhouse on 07908805364





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#### NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR SINGERS

......And so another session has come to an end – and what a session it has been for the members of Junior Singers!



We started off the session by finalising and then performing "Joseph & his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". This then led us on to our Christmas Season when we performed in church and for the residents of Strachan House and Queen's Court. We then finished the '24 -'25 session by putting on an extremely successful concert, along with the Blackhall Suzuki Violin Group, in church on the evening of 8th May. In this concert, we took our audience on a musical tour of Scotland and then performed the short musical, "Jonah Man Jazz".

It has been a very successful year with lots of fun and laughter – as well as a lot of hard work – but it has all been worthwhile and given pleasure to many. Unfortunately for the choir, several of our members will be moving on to secondary school after the summer and so will no longer be part of our group.

We therefor are looking out for other youngsters to join the choir so, if your child is in P3-P7 and enjoys singing, please do get in touch – we'd be delighted to hear from you.

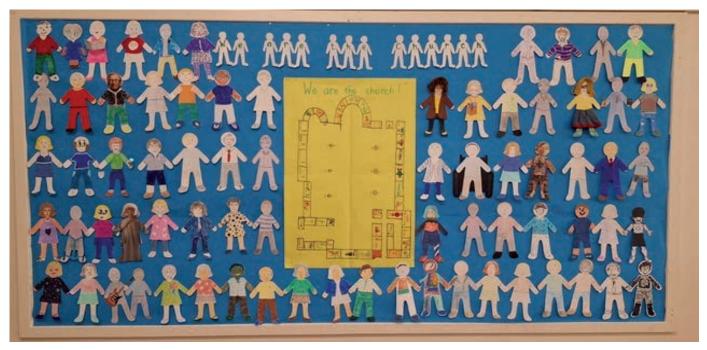
Amy Donaldson (Tel no.: 0131 332 1354

#### THE SUNDAY CLUB

During the summer months, the younger members of the congregation, joined by holiday visitors, have been learning about how important we all are in God's family. We may look very different; and we each have different gifts and abilities, but every one of us has a special place in the church.

Displayed round the Sunday Club diagram of the church building, a whole host of hand-drawn people, from lots of our wider family, illustrate that with colourful detail.

But there is always room for more and Sunday Club would welcome children any – or every - week to join in their varied programme of activities.



# BLACKHALL NURSERY NEWS SEPTEMBER 2025



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. This year marked our 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday and we were delighted to be graded as 'very good' (5) across all areas in a recent inspection by the Care Inspectorate.

As always, the summer term passed by in a flash. The children were very busy learning through play. Since Easter we have learned how to keep ourselves safe, with help from Corstorphine First Response, the police and Green watch from Drylaw Fire Station. We have been keeping ourselves healthy by tasting all sorts of different healthy foods, including passion fruit, avocado and fennel and moved our bodies to take part in Woodland walks, a tennis lesson, dancing and yoga. The children who were leaving us had visits to school, meeting their 'BFG', their new classmates and their new teachers. We watched our tadpoles, ladybirds and caterpillars grow and change.

In June, thanks to some amazing fundraising by our parent committee, we all went to East Links Farm Park for a full day trip – a very exciting trip out. It was a wonderful way to mark the departure of those children heading off to school and we now look forward to welcoming a new cohort due to start in August.

Blackhall Nursery is a registered Scottish charity working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. We offer full day (8:25am-2:35pm) places for 3-5 year olds during term time.

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 <a href="https://www.blackhallnursery.co.uk">www.blackhallnursery.co.uk</a> or by contacting the Nursery for an application form on 0131 332 8296.





# မြော Girlguiding

### **Blackhall Guiding**



9 Brownies and 3
Leaders joined
another unit and
went for 4 days on
an international to
Amsterdam to
Girlguiding
Scotland
Amsterdam
Adventure.

202A Rainbows had a busy term before the holidays learning how to communicate in different ways. They took part in some Olympic games and learned how to be an astronaut. This term they welcome 7 new rainbows who will start their journey. Barbara Bon – 202A Rainbow Leader

202A Rainbows had fun making s'mores on a campfire.



202 and 202B Brownies jetted of to Hawaii with fun crafts, mocktails and outfits

202 and 202B Brownies are looking forward to raising money for Cash for Kids Mission Christmas again by growing a £1. They are going paddleboarding and kayaking and expressing themselves in different ways as part of the express myself theme aswell as completing some of the new interest badges that have been released. Nicole Harland—202&202B Brownie Leader

2 of our volunteers attended Girlguiding Scotland's Let's Celebrate event after being nominated to attended for being Role Models.



202 Rainbows have recently completed their camp badge and had a trip to Gravity trampoline park. We have welcomed lots of new Rainbows this September and look forward to working on the Take Action theme this term.

Nicola McDermid - 202 Rainbow Leader

Blackhall Guides danced under the Queensferry Bridges on a silent disco boat trip and joined 350 other guides at the County Camp for 5 days of adventures. Matilda Lomas- 202 Guide Leader



202C Brownies really enjoyed completing lots of experiments last term for their I am a Physicist badge. The silent disco on the Maid of the Forth was popular too and some girls cant wait to go for a day out at Blair Drumond as part of the Girlguiding Scotland Roar and Explore event. Morag Higham – 202C **Brownie Leader** 

18 202&2202B
Brownies were
excited to receive
their gold award
and 202A
Rainbows
awarded their
first ever Gold
Award.

#### 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,

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

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

Blackhall.districtcomm@gmail.com



#### BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL



#### 2 Hearts, 1 Fate

A show written, produced and performed by P7 children from Blackhall school! A jaw-dropping, fast paced and funny remix of Romeo and Juliet. Company - Ewan Ramage's friends and family





What the company lacked in stage craft they amply made up for in sheer enthusiasm. They did their own sound, music and dance. They made inventive use of the minimum of props. The use of two chairs and a ring became a car, while an old piece of trellis and a white bench seemed to have a life of their own as a garden scene in almost alternate scenes.

A responsive audience of 60 were delighted with the entertainment.

Ewan's mum did a grand job as Stage Manager, although she would probably avoid repeating the exercise too soon. She was still writing dialog even after the dress rehearsal.

The show gave us a good opportunity to renovate our stage as a working facility. Thanks go to PSIAbsolute (Blacklight as was) for technical support and sourcing light bulbs for antique lamps, Bill Hume for source of extra lamps, and the church for support.

Peter Price

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#### BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The **Primary 2** team at Blackhall Primary framed their STEAM project around sustainability. By using WALL-E as a stimulus to scaffold our learning, the team explored how robots could help protect the Earth against climate change. We explored scientific themes like magnets (to pick up litter), and electrical circuits (to create functional robots). We also explored engineering combined with art and design by making our own robots out of 100% recycled materials. We worked our way through maths concepts like direction, allowing us to guide our robots around various spaces.

**Primary 3** wanted to design and create robots which clean our oceans and protect sea animals. As part of their learning they have collected data and presented it in bar charts, worked in groups to design a model then made this out of plasticine. The groups then went onto advertise these and animate them using the iPad. They also managed to include some cubism themed underwater art and created Hokusai's great wave out of paper.



**Primary 4** were inspired by the film "WALL-E", a robot whose mission was to have a cleaner planet

Through the use of **Science**, **Technology**, **Engineering and Maths**, Primary 4 designed, built and tested wind power robot models to link with **Sustainable Development Goal 7**, using clean energy to help our planet.



For the school STEAM event, **Primary 5** were learning about Reliable Robots. We had lots of fun making junk model robots and created robot artwork using Sketchbook on the iPads. Using cardboard, straws, and wool, we challenged ourselves to make robotic hands with moveable fingers. We explored the Scratch app on the iPads to try out some coding tasks. We learned about electrical circuits, and using the Snap 'n' Fix equipment, we designed our own circuits to make a fan, light, or speaker work.

#### BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The **Primary 6** classes have taken part in the Primary Engineer Project this year. Our task was to build a sturdy

tower with a switch to turn on an LED light

P6 learned about using robotics in Space. We designed and built a Mars Rover which is a robotic vehicle used to explore and gather data on the surface of Mars. In addition to the designing, we also created fact cards about various rovers. After that, we did some coding on Scratch to create an animation of The Big Dipper star constellation and another of a rocket visiting different planets. We created our own games on Codespark and coded Microbits to make patterns with lights and sounds.

By Tasha & Tiara, P6C





**Primary** 7 have designed robots to help solve a Global Goal. They have also researched the history of robots and explored how robots are being used today in the news. As part of our learning, we went to the Robotarium and interacted with humanoid robots. We also had the opportunity to develop our coding skills to manoeuvre driverless robotic cars.



#### BLACKHALL PROBUS CLUB





In April this year, the members of Blackhall Probus Club celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Club in 1985.

We enjoyed a celebration cake and also remembered some of the Club's achievements during that period. The most memorable of these was the setting up of a Fund, jointly with Lockerbie Probus Club. Over 400 Probus Clubs across the UK also contributed to the fund. The purpose of the fundraising was to help organisations in and around Lockerbie which had provided assistance during the Lockerbie bombing in December 1988. The total raised was over £6,500 and among those who benefitted were the British Red Cross, the Scottish Ambulance Service and The Salvation Army. A tremendous effort, but not the norm for a Probus Club!

Rather, our main focus is to provide a series of social events, usually involving bi-monthly talks on topics of interest and curiosity for retired and semi-retired gentlemen in the local area. Our membership currently stands at around 40, but we are always keen to welcome new members.

We usually meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from October to April (once per month in December and January) at Blackhall Bowling Club from 10am for a cuppa before the talks begin at 10.30.

We also hold a Christmas Lunch to which partners and spouses are invited. We have occasional 'Quiz Pie and Pint' sessions. One of our members leads a Walking Club in and around Edinburgh. We have occasional visits to local places of interest, usually linked to the subject matter of a talk.

Our programme starts on **Thursday 2nd October** with a talk from local historian Roy Johnstone on '*World War 2 - the UK contribution*'. Roy is a well-known speaker and will be paying his 4th visit to us. Later in the autumn we have talks about Rosslyn Chapel, Scottish Inventors, The Mandarin of Morningside and the Archives of the National Trust for Scotland.

If you are interested in any of our talks or other activities, please contact me or come along to our first meeting. You will be made very welcome.

Gordon Hamilton, President

gdhprobus@gmail.com

0131 332 6089





#### BLACKHALL LADIES PROBUS CLUB



The Club has a healthy membership, and we are looking forward to an interesting and varied programme next session.

In October we will hear from Roy Johnstone, with a talk on Henry VIII and his Six Wives. This will be followed in November by a talk from Dr Mike Winters on the work of the Vine Trust, which is our chosen charity for the session. In December, we will hear from Kath Hay on Scotland's Hidden Treasure, with refreshments and Christmas treats. In January, the author Flora Johnston will talk about her novel "The Endeavours of Elsie Mackay", inspired by the pioneering Scottish aviator. This will be followed a week later by our Post Christmas Lunch. We look forward to a talk on the 1911 Census in Scotland and Suffragettes by Ruth Boreham in February, and in March Rebecca Parr of the Royal Zoological Society will give a talk on Giraffes. In April our AGM will take place, followed by refreshments. Membership is open to ladies who are retired or semi-retired, and we meet at Blackhall Bowling Club on the second Thursday of the month from October to April, from 10.00 am to 12 noon with tea/coffee and biscuits before every talk. Enquiries from ladies who are interested in joining are welcome, and should be made to the Secretary, details below.

Christine Proudfoot, Secretary.

Phone: 0131 343 1761

Email: proudfootchristine2@gmail.com



#### CRAIGLEITH MEN'S PROBUS CLUB



As the autumn tints appear in the rowan trees and the nights extend unwelcoming, joining your local Probus Club is at least one way to bring that spring back into your step. In Blackhall there are two lively Men's Probus Clubs and if a Wednesday is your preference, Craigleith Men's is the one for you. We meet at Blackhall Bowling Club for a welcoming tea or coffee plus biscuits at 10am, and followed, at 10.30am by an informative talk on a wide range of themes. Larry, our efficient speakers secretary, has arranged a varied syllabus from considering Edinburgh's Medieval Churches to travelling Edinburgh's Suburban Railway. 'Auld Reekie' is certainly the flavour for our winter session! Our first meeting, which is on Wednesday 1st October, is a talk from David Land whose theme, 'Counting, Writing. and Speaking', was postponed from our AGM, at which our retiring President, Craig Duncan, gave us a talk on his activities as assistant secretary of SSTA.

A fortnight later, on 15th October, Jackie Sangster, will tell us about The Scott Monument, that renowned built heritage feature in Princes Street Gardens. Did you know the architect's name is "John Morvo", the medieval architect of Melrose Abbey. Impossible, I hear you say, but true. Find out more on the 15th! One of our local villages is Davidson's Mains and on 5th November its 'Now & Then' will be explained by Neil McIntosh. Straying out of Edinburgh our theme on 19th November will relate to Shale Mining in Scotland, and how 'Paraffin' Young perfected the refining of mineral oils. (and if you want the Edinburgh connection a past Lord Provost, John McKay, received his doctorate on this theme)

And so, as Christmas beckons, Ken Williamson, on 3rd December will give an illustrated talk about Edinburgh's Suburban and Southside Railway, while we will 'P-P-Pick up a Penguin' on 17th when the RZSS team will tell us all about their Penguins

Just drop me an email if you want more information and no need for a formal invite, just pop along

John MacLennan - Secretary johnmaclennanuk@googlemail.com

#### **PUZZLE PAGE**

#### Across

1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said,

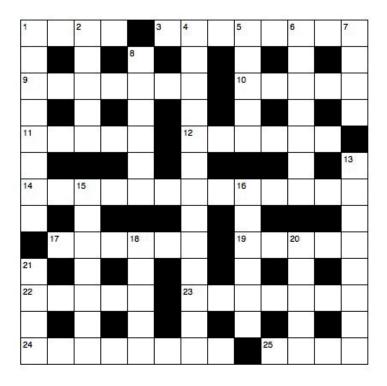
"You — are one of them" (Luke 22:58) (4)

- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — '(2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, eading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to —, O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust '(Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

#### Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all —, but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your ——— is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

A crossword this issue. You might find a Bible handy for some of the answers. Enjoy!



1

4

9

3

8 2 3

3

2

9

And for those who prefer the logic of maths here's an easy sudoku on the left and a slightly harder one on the right.

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			7		8		3	

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7	1			9		7	8			4
	3			5	2					
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#### Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Scottish Registered Charity No SC008756

#### Minister Rev Fergus Cook 5 Blinkbonny Crescent Edinburgh EH4 3NB

Telephone 466 7503

#### Session Clerk Eddie Thorn Telephone 332 5702

Church Secretary
Church Office
Tues-Thurs 9-12 noon
Tel: 332 4431 or email
secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

#### **DEADLINES**

#### Kirk News (November edition) Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Please send all items to the Editor; Judith Mair, c/o Church Office or by e-mail to: judith.mair@hotmail.com

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#### Blackhall Bulletin (December edition) Sunday 26th October

Please send all items, including **Advertising Enquiries** to the Editor: Barbara Wilson, c/o Church Office or by email to: bulletin@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

## READING THE BULLETIN FOR THE FIRST TIME?

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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