

BLACKHALL BULLETIN

March 2018

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

No. 151

Call for Funding Applications to the Blackhall Children's Sports Committee

It's time to get your heads together and think about applying for funding from the Blackhall Children's Sports Committee.

Every year the BCSC provides Sports Awards to individuals, clubs or organisations. The Awards are available to support any child or children of up to 18 years old that live in the Blackhall catchment area. Does your child need support to further their sporting achievements? Or perhaps you volunteer in a local children's group who need new sporting equipment or training?

Applications for the awards are accepted from January to mid-April every year and are generally awarded during May. If you would like to apply for an award you should first review the eligibility criteria on our website (<http://www.activeblackhall.com/bcsc/sports-awards/>) after which you can submit the online form.

The Blackhall Children's Sports Committee (BCSC) has been in existence for over 100 years. It was formed in 1909 as a voluntary, non-profit, organisation with the aim of promoting and organising children's sports and activities in our own community. Now in 2018 it's just as relevant to the community as it was then, encouraging grassroots activity in sports and helping our community stay fit and healthy.

In 2017, the BCSC awarded almost £6,000 in sports funding to the community. Children who benefit from the awards ranged from toddlers right up to senior school level. The types of sports funded included climbing, swimming, table tennis, athletics, fencing, hockey, netball, tennis, sailing, badminton, outdoor camping, tumble tots and yoga. Preference is given to funding for equipment and coaching fees.



2018 BCSC Award Winners, Girl Guides
Portable Outdoor Weather Shelter



2017 BCSC Award Winner, Henry Smith – Entry Fees
for National Dinghy Regattas

For more information throughout the year please go to our Facebook page @BlackhallChildrenSC and Twitter account @blackhall_csc

Don't forget BLACKHALL SPORTS DAY on SATURDAY 2 JUNE - put it in your diary now

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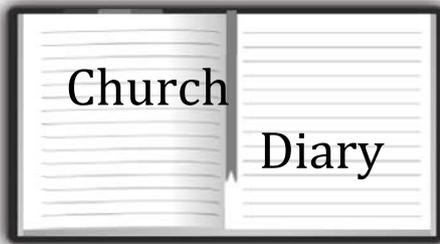
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**TAKE
IT TO
THE LORD
IN
PRAYER**

The words of the old hymn are just as relevant to-day as when they were first written. If you, or someone you care about, is having difficulty in coping with illness, bereavement or a worrying situation, why not contact the Prayer Chain. 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 send your request to the **new** Prayer Chain secretary, Lesley MacKenzie at lesleymack@hotmail.co.uk or by phoning 467 4873

MARCH 2018

- 4th 9.30am **Family Service**
- 11am **Morning Worship**
- 11th 11am **Morning Worship**
(Mothering Sunday)
- 18th 11am **Morning Worship** followed by Stated Annual Meeting
- 25th 11am **Palm Sunday Service** followed by short Communion service
- 29th 3pm **Short afternoon service**
- 7pm **Maundy Thursday** with sacrament of Communion
- 30th 7pm **Good Friday** service

APRIL 2018

- 1st 8am **Early Rise Service** at the Tower, Corstorphine Hill followed by bacon rolls at BStC's
- 11am **Family Easter Day Service** followed by short Sacrament of Communion
Easter Egg hunt for children
- 8th 11am **Morning Worship**
- 15th 11am **Morning Worship**
- 22nd 11am **Morning Worship**
- 29th 11am **Morning Worship** followed by Short Communion

MAY 2018

- 6th 9.30am **Early Family Service**
- 11am **Morning Worship**
- 13th 11am **Christian Aid Sunday**
- 20th 11am **Morning Worship**
- 27th 11am **Morning Worship** followed by Short Communion

FAMILY NEWS

DEATHS

December

- 23rd Mr Stanley Agnew
- 30th Mrs Joan Skilton

January

- 5th Mrs Buntly Roberts
- 18th Mrs Alison Johnson



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THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

During the service on Sunday 14th January, the Convener of the WATCH Committee, George Millar, presented a cheque for £4,460 to Pip Quinn, Fundraiser for Hearts and Minds as a contribution to the work of the Clowndoctors project. Pip was supported by Dr Fizz and Dr Crumble, practitioners who had helped at the Christmas Fair.

The WATCH Committee would like to thank all who supported and contributed to their fundraising events during 2017. The Summer Coin collection raised £864, followed by a Craft Coffee Morning in October which contributed £842. The Christmas Fair in December raised £6,400 in spite of a power cut just as the Fair started.

Overall the WATCH Committee events raised £8,056 of which £4,000 goes to the charity and we have received further donations specifically for the Clowndoctors from three other groups.

- The group who visited Valvona and Crolla donated £100
- The Carol Singers at Sainsbury's donated £130
- The guides who organised the Candlelight Concert donated £230



Every year all our events are well supported by the congregation and the local community and for this we are extremely grateful. We would especially like to thank the following companies who have helped with their backing and sponsorship.

WATCH Committee

a room in the west end

Abinger's Café - Craigcrook Rd.

Aitken & Niven

Alexander McCall Smith

Allan Ramsay Hotel

Angus Gordon

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Beautique - Blackhall

bia bistrot - Colinton Rd

Blackhall Chiropody

Blackhall Cycle Repairs

Blackhall Framing Gallery

Bob's Gents Hairdresser

Bowling Club - Blackhall

Butterfly & Insect World

Café Citron - Blackhall

Camera Obscura

Campbell Young - Blackhall

Charlie Miller

Cloudberry

Cockburn Business Consultancy

Comely Bank Chiropody

Conifox Adventure Park

Cringletie House Hotel

Curves Gym - D' Mains

Davidson's Mains Roofing

Delta Indian Takeaway-Roseburn

Edinburgh Bus Tours

Edinburgh Sports Club

Empire Hair Design

Envelope & Bacon

Farmer Autocare

Fitted Wardrobes - Blackhall

Fleur Florist

Gail Stewart Styling

Garden Fairies - Gabi Brown

George @ Mace

Glenkinchie Distillery

Great Grog - Leith

Heritage Portfolio - Signet Library

Holiday Inn City West

Hopetoun House

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La Favorita

Lauriston Farm Restaurant

Lindsay & Gilmour Chemist

Loch Fyne Restaurant

Martin Wishart

Mel Mackey hairdresser

Mercat Tours

Michael Neave Restaurant

Murrayfield Golf Club

Needle & Thread - Telford Rd

Peffer Paint Company

Pitlochry Theatre

Porteous Funeral Directors - Telford

Rd

Porto & Fi Bistro - Newhaven

Press-tige Dry Cleaners

Preston Hair - Craigcrook Road

Pure Brilliant Events

Rangers

Ravelston Golf Club

Ronaq Indian Restaurant

Sainsbury's

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Zumba with Gabi Brown

“Teach us to Number Our Days”

It is a rare gift, in this age of distractions, to have five minutes to rest and reflect.

Back in 2008, during my second tour of Afghanistan as an Army Chaplain, in between military operations, one day I had the opportunity to take an entire afternoon and do nothing. I was based in the desert in the furthest Southern region of Helmand Province, surrounded by dirty yellow sand, barren mountains, and the occasional breeze of hot and dusty air. As I looked out over the contrasting horizon of blue sky and yellow earth, I was struck by my own insignificance—something I rarely allowed myself to think about as I routinely filled my days with the busyness to justify my role as a Padre. That topography of sky and soil and isolated environment had been there long before I arrived and would surely remain long after I had departed—both from my operational tour and upon my departure from this world.



Despite this sobering thought, the gift of undistracted space did nourish me. I could appreciate the strange beauty all around me; marvel at the natural forces of nature that formed the mountains and valleys around me. I could wonder at my place in the vastness of the creation and feel my smallness and my human limitations. Having this kind of time to sit and to reflect is a rarity and was just as fleeting as the hot and dirty air around me.

Sadly, with the transience of life and the threat of death facing all of us, most seek lives of distraction. Whether or not we recognize that the fear of death is an underlying, albeit unconscious motivation, we nevertheless recognize how often we fill our lives in order to obscure these realities. Whether it is in juggling endless priorities, the relentless busyness of our age, or perpetual media noise, our lives are so full that we rarely find the space or time to reflect honestly about anything. Particularly in Western societies, mindless consumption numbs us to the eventuality of our mortal condition and our finitude.

It is easy to understand how the fear of death and suffering would compel human beings to live lives of distraction. Yet, the cost of that distraction is a pervasive and deadening apathy—apathy not simply as the inability to care about anything deeply, but the diminishment for engagement that comes from caring about the wrong things.

The ancient Hebrew poet, while meditating on the brevity of life, prayed: **“Teach us to number our days that we may present to you a heart of wisdom.”** (Psalm 90:12). It was the inevitability of death that motivated this prayer for wisdom. This was a wisdom that didn’t try to hide from the realities of life—be they joys or sorrows—but rather sought to keep finitude ever before it. Indeed, the poem ends with a cry for God to confirm the work of human hands. Whether a cry of despair or a cry of affirmation, numbering life’s days can lead to meaningful engagement in the world and in human work—and this was the mark of wisdom.

As I pondered the landscape around me in Afghanistan, I thought of dear loved ones, both family and friends, who will not look on this earthly horizon any more. I counted myself among them for one day my own eyes will cease to behold this kind of earthly beauty. Despite the temptation to disengage or distract myself from the pain of these thoughts, contemplation reminded me that I too must number my days. In dealing with significant loss and pain it is certainly understandable how one would long for escape but facing mortality and attending to it is the way to develop a heart of wisdom. Only then can one be open to the possibility of meaning and true significance.

Jesus, himself, faced his own death with intention and purpose. **“I am the Good Shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep... No one has taken it away from me, but I lay it down on my own initiative.”** (John 10:14-18).

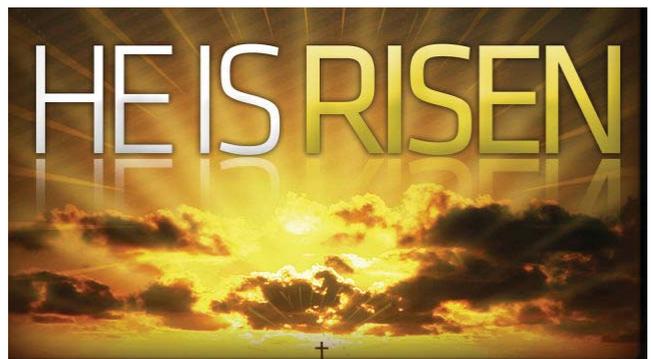
The way of wisdom demonstrated in the life of Jesus gives flesh and new possibility to the ancient psalmist’s exhortation. As he numbered his days, he calls those who would follow to engage mortality as a catalyst for purposeful, meaningful and actual living.

My dear friend, the One (Jesus) who laid his life down is the One who was raised. He is the One who declared, **“I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in me will live even though he dies.”**

What a promise! What a hope! *Will you reflect on this wonderful truth?*

Wishing you and yours every blessing,

Benjamin
(Minister)





Prayer Corner

Psalm 1 v2: On His law He meditates day and night. I call to you God and you answer me. Listen to me now and hear what I say.

It can be an upsetting and lonely experience when you have private issues that you cannot share with others. Perhaps they are too difficult to explain to a friend, or your loved ones just wouldn't understand? Keeping silent can make you feel isolated and discouraged, yet there is a friend who already knows what you are experiencing and His listening ear, understanding and wisdom are more than sufficient. He knows us and formed our inward parts and He know the forms and deceits the enemy can bombard us with every day. Therefore, whatever you are facing, talk it out with God. Just plainly tell Him how you feel even if it takes all night! Then listen, don't forget to listen! Be thankful for nights that turn into mornings, strangers that turn into friends, challenges that turn into achievements and dreams that turn into reality. God will reward every step of faith you take and every sacrifice you make in reaching out to Him through the name of Jesus. It is precisely when you reach the end of your own resources and strength that God in his grace and mercy starts to fill you with HIS.

Now the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13
D.M.

Flowers in Church March 2018

This month the flowers will be donated as follows

4th Mrs Muriel Morton

11th Mrs Alison Hewat

18th Mrs Phyllis King

25th The Allanson Family

Miss Mandy Crane and Mrs Alison Hewat will be delivering the flowers

Violet Troup
Flower convener



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There has been a great deal of work done on plans for Building for the Future in the church. A revised set of plans was drawn up by the architect and these, too, have been displayed in the church and on the church website. The aim was to simplify the proposed work to reduce costs while preserving the main features of the original proposal. This was achieved by not including the development of the gallery, which in turn meant that there would not need to be a lift from the sanctuary to the gallery. This had a knock on effect on what we would have to do in the small hall. In addition, there were some other minor changes such as not re-siting the vestry. The net effect of this was to reduce the overall headline cost from £3.3m to £2.2m – still a considerable sum but perhaps more realistic. The plans on display are merely a vision and are not detailed plans in any way.

Church House has now been sold which means that, taken together with available reserves, the figure realised from the sale gives us approximately £540k already.

Plan B, as it is being called, was presented to the Kirk Session who voted to approve it in principle and therefore to take the project forward. Technically, approval by the Kirk Session, who are the trustees for the church, is enough to enable us to proceed. However, the Minister and the Session are keen that the whole congregation should be engaged with the project and should, in some sense, feel ownership of it. A booklet was therefore prepared which aimed to set out the plans in some detail and to explain the vision behind them and also some of the practicalities. Following its distribution to members a congregational meeting was held on Saturday 27th January at which Alan Thomson, a director of LeeBoyd, the architects involved in the project, again presented the plans. This was followed by a question and answer session.

The next stage is that all members of the congregation are being invited to vote on whether or not to approve the Session's recommendation to take the project forward to the next stage. The closing date for voting was 23rd February. By the time this issue of the Bulletin is distributed the result of the vote will therefore be known.

Assuming that the congregation does give its approval, the next stage will be to embark on fundraising while at the same time continuing to develop the plans. Formal approval has to be granted by the Presbytery and then by the Church of Scotland General Trustees and this will not be forthcoming – indeed we would not be asking for it – until it is clear where the funding will be coming from.

During the various presentations the architect made it quite clear that there are numerous details to be worked out as the project progresses. Some of these relate to finishing touches such as colour schemes, some are of practical significance such as where to put storage facilities and some are fundamental to the final outcome such as exactly what we need to plan for in relation to the stage. These details will be worked on by the steering group and again input from user groups of the halls and from members of the congregation will be sought.

If the congregation does in the event reject the Session's recommendation then we will have to go back to the drawing board! There will still be a compelling need to modernise the infrastructure such as the electrics, technology, heating, lighting and sound. There will be much needed maintenance and decoration involving considerable cost and disruption so there will still be a great deal of thinking and work to be done. However, the Minister and the Session hope that the congregation will indeed approve the project so that it can go ahead as envisioned.

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CAMEO CLUB

The Cameo Club, which is mostly for older people, began twenty years ago on 2nd October 1998. It meets every second Friday in the Large Hall with currently twenty-five members and twenty-one people who help.

There are some who have been volunteers since the Club's inception. It is time to appeal for new helpers to swell the ranks and lend a hand. The tasks are simple and the group is a friendly one. We prepare plates of food to go with the coffees, which have to be served, and there are dish-washing duties. At present there are two ladies, who I am sure would like some assistance, who put together six monthly programmes of entertainment. Car drivers are needed to transport members for the 10.30 start and home again at 12.00. Some drivers stay for the morning but others enjoy free time between delivery and collection.

We enjoyed a Christmas Lunch outing to the Holiday Inn. Our next outing will be for coffee and pastries on Good Friday, and we have a bus trip in the summer for lunch out. I am sure if you speak to any of the members you will find they enjoy meeting their friends at the Club on a regular basis.

There are some gentlemen volunteers - anyone who is willing to give of their time would be welcome. Those who stay for the entertainment enjoys the time-tested performers as much as the members, and there are always some new artistes included in each programme.

We are looking for new members too – if you would like to come along for friendship and coffee every fortnight please give us a phone.

To volunteer, or come along and see what is involved, then contact Margaret Brown (Convener) 332 5957 or Fiona Drinnan (Deputy) 343 6762.

F.D.

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WALK THE HILL AND WALK THE WALK

Here is an invitation to two events for which we hope you will consider joining us

SUNDAY 1ST APRIL AT 8a.m. Start your Easter Sunday in a very different way - join us for the walk up the hill for our Easter open-air service at Corstorphine Tower. All are welcome (pet dogs included) to this short act of worship and then back at the church hall for coffee and bacon rolls.

SATURDAY 19TH MAY 10 a.m.

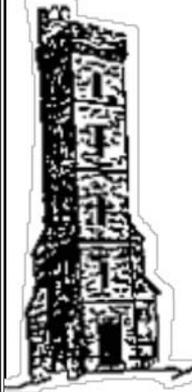


Blackhall will have its first sponsored walk for some years to raise money for Christian Aid. Anyone from the community or organisations operating in Blackhall can join in this "walk the walk" and raise money for Christian Aid. Christian Aid operates in over 37 countries working to meet the needs of refugees in the aftermath of natural disasters or warfare and has a goal to end world poverty. It operates in all parts of the world meeting needs irrespective of gender, race, creed, faith or no faith.



To take part in the walk money is needed so why not organise a team of six walkers, get sponsors for this 1.5 mile walk and feel good afterwards. We look forward to you joining us in this walk which will start and finish at the church halls.

For more information please contact Michael Cockburn (Outreach Blackhall St Columba's Church) on 332 4841 or Cockburn_carfrae@yahoo.co.uk



*Easter Morning
Early Rise Service
Sunday 1st April*

Come and join us
at
The Tower on Corstorphine Hill
at 8 a.m.
for an Easter Day service
followed by bacon rolls
at
Blackhall St Columba's Church

Everyone welcome
(including pet dogs)

Car access to the tower is by the gate on Clermiston Road North. The gate will be open from 7.30 a.m.

FRESH START

Thank you to everyone who donates items for the Starter Packs which Fresh Start gives to those moving from homelessness into a tenancy.

Here is feedback from one of their clients:

'I would like to say a very big thank you to Fresh Start for all of the items & food packs that you gave myself I appreciate them very much. And especially to all your VOLUNTEERS who do all this great work, support & help. The world would be a better place with more people around like that so would like to say a very big thank you to everyone'

Although our collection of items for these packs is on a Friday between 10-12 in the church halls, you can also take donations directly to the Fresh Start warehouse at 22-24 Ferry Road Drive. Their opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9-4 and Friday 9-1. All that is asked is that items are clean and unbroken and that they are on the Starter Pack list as unfortunately limited storage restricts what can be stored.

For information on Starter Packs and current volunteering opportunities please visit the Fresh Start website at:

<http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/>

A MINDFUL MINUTE

What can I hear?
What can I smell?
What can I feel?
What can I see?
What can I taste?

Take one minute, concentrate and fill your mind with what is happening right now. All your worries will disappear and you will feel calm and relaxed.



Clipart from My cute Graphics
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KNIT AND NATTER



In December we made our pre Christmas deliveries to Fresh Start and the Early Years centres at The Fort and South Queensferry who were all delighted to accept our gifts.

As well as five single blankets for Fresh Start, we also donated the sum of £50 to their Christmas cooker appeal. The Early Years Centres received a selection of hats, mitts, jumpers, cardigans, small blankets, toys and dolls clothes.

In addition the ladies also knitted a beautiful patchwork Aran blanket in shades of blue and cream. This was raffled and won by Mr I Hunter. The total amount raised was £102 which was donated to the future fabric fund.

Many thanks to all our knitters and those who have been kind enough to hand in donations.

Would you like to come and be part of our group? Please do come and join us on Monday evenings at 7.30 in the church halls.

Lilian Cockburn. stcknitnatter@gmail.com



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Blackhall Community Trust Public Consultation on exciting new designs for Ravelston Park Pavilion in Ravelston Park!

Please come along to our AGM on **Tues 6 March 7.30pm** St Columba's Small Hall to view the design options which could meet our community needs for a community hub and for more early years places in Ravelston Park Pavilion (Blackhall Nursery), Ravelston Park. These were identified through our community consultation in 2016/17.

We were recently awarded a grant by the Scottish Land Fund of just over £15,000 to produce a business plan and a feasibility study of design options for Ravelston Park Pavilion. This is part of exploring a possible transfer of ownership (or a long lease) of Ravelston Park Pavilion from the City of Edinburgh Council to Blackhall Community Trust, on behalf of the Blackhall community. After a competitive tendering process, we awarded contracts to Caskie & Co (business planning) and Malcolm Fraser Architects (design options). Malcolm's brief is to create a small community hub and a fit-for-purpose space for Blackhall Nursery, a community-run charity.

We are delighted to share with you Malcolm Fraser's preliminary design options and to seek your feedback in the following ways:

- **At Blackhall Library from 26 Feb to 6 March** (a display with feedback forms)
- **At our AGM on Tues 6 March 7.30pm:** please come along and view the plans and hear Malcolm's presentation. There will be an opportunity for questions and to give feedback.
- **Check our new website www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk** from late February/early March for further opportunities to share your views and see the design options.

We are still seeking your views and ideas for possible uses for the new community hub on **SurveyMonkey** www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BlackhallCT.

Blackhall Community Trust (BCT) Book Club meets in Ravelston Park Pavilion on the first Thursday of every month. The BCT walking group now goes on monthly walks. Our next coffee morning at Cloudberry for those who are new to the area or who would like to feel more connected to the community is on **Thursday 22nd March 10-11.30am**.

Blackhall Nursery Open Doors Evening, Wed 21 February, Ravelston Park Pavilion 7.30pm

Are you thinking about a place at Blackhall Nursery for your child? Or would you just like visit and see what Ravelston Park Pavilion looks like inside? Please come along to Blackhall Nursery's Open Doors Evening.

Blackhall Community Trust: Join our email/mail list or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.  @blackhallctd  @BlackhallCT Email us: blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com Visit: www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk

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

TUESDAY TOPICS

We are now into the second half of our syllabus. The 9th January was our post Christmas meal, which was enjoyed by all. We ate in the HOME restaurant at Queensferry Street, which was so handy for our buses. The next topic for our meetings was a presentation by Jane Tulloch on her novels based on Jenners. This was an interesting portrayal of life in this important Edinburgh store.

On February 6th we went on a trip from Luxor to Aswan in Egypt! Our 'guide' for the trip was Eric Melvin who entertained us last year with a fantastic illustrated talk on Japan. We look forward to this evening with great anticipation. Eric speaks very knowledgeably on a huge variety of subjects.

February 20th was a complete change when Chris Gunstone gave us his presentation on 'St Cuthbert's Way'. This again was of great interest to many of our members.

March 6th sees us all going to the Kings Theatre to enjoy the production of 'Hello Dolly'. This tends to be a yearly jaunt to the theatre to see a variety of productions.

Then our meeting on the 20th March is a presentation by Ken Williamson on 'Old Edinburgh and Leith Trams'. Sure to bring back some memories.

On the 3rd April we welcome back an old friend, Fred Daniels who is presenting the third part of our China visit - Gansu to Beijing.

On April 17th we are having a Beetle Drive and AGM. There is a great deal of hilarity at the Beetle Drive, maybe less so at the AGM!

May 1st is to be our outing, for which the venue has still to be decided. All of our meetings take place in the small hall of St Columba's and are open to visitors for a small fee of £2. We are always happy to welcome visitors. The meetings start at 7.30 and end around 9 pm after a chat and a cup of tea or coffee.

If you would like more information please contact either,

Diana Taylor. President. [0131 336 3616](tel:01313363616). Sheena Wilson

NORTH WEST HERITAGE

Our upcoming talks are as follows:

Thursday 15th March 2018 Grant More will be telling us about the Restoration of Cold War Bunker at Barnton Quarry. Davidson's Mains Parish Church Hall 7.30 pm

Thursday 19th April 2018 AGM followed by a talk on The Royal Palace at Stirling. A Grand Design Speaker, John Donaldson, Wood Carver of the Stirling Heads in Stirling Castle. This will be in St. Columba's Church, Blackhall at 7.30 pm



You might think that the month of May is still seem a long way off, but members of the Art Club are busy working on their pictures, together with hand painted cards, for the Annual Art Exhibition which will be held in the Church Hall from 2nd – 6th May, so please put the dates in your diary now!

Our chosen charity this year is **Downs Syndrome Scotland**, with a particular focus on the Lothian Branch which holds a weekly support session for parents and Downs Syndrome babies in the Church. So please do come along to the Exhibition where a proportion of all sales will go to the Charity - even if you are not moved to buy a painting or card, then there will be a donation can available!

We hope that those of you who visited our small exhibition in Blackhall Library over Christmas and New Year enjoyed viewing some of our work. Four members were delighted to have sold their paintings and we will be holding this exhibition at the same time this year.

FELLOWSHIP AFTERNOON GROUP

On 13th March at 2.15 in the Small Hall there will be a floral demonstration by Violet Troup. This has always been popular in the past so I am sure you will enjoy the afternoon. Meetings are open to all – ladies and gentleman – with, on this occasion, a chance to take an arrangement home with you.

We only have one more meeting left before the summer break. On 10th April Alastair Wood will be playing the accordion and may bring a guest. Alastair is very talented and will have an excellent programme, which we look forward to hearing. Visitors will be charged £2 with refreshments served. You are welcome to come to both meetings if you can – why not bring a friend?

F.D.

EDINBURGH FLORAL ART CLUB

Our meetings are held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall starting at 2 pm. You can come as a visitor for £7 or become a member for £40 for the year.

Our first demonstration is on 9th March when Gill Garrow from Elgin will be our demonstrator. On 13th April, Irene Parket from Northumberland has taken *Perfect Harmony* as her title for the afternoon. Finally, on 11th May, Delyth Price from Carmarthen will demonstrate on the title *Inspired by me*.

We do hope you will come along and join us and enjoy the demonstrations and a cup of tea.

CONGRATULATIONS

We always like to celebrate the successes and big events of our readers and are delighted to congratulate Caitlin Dodds and Grant Douglas on their great achievements



Local resident **Caitlin Dodds** has been selected as the only female member of the GB Golf Team, which will represent Great Britain at the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2019 in Abu Dhabi.

Caitlin, who has been a keen golfer since being introduced to the sport at college, was nominated by Lothian Special Olympics following her silver medal placing in the recent Special Olympics GB National Games. Special Olympics GB is the largest provider of a year-round, all ability, sports programme in Great Britain and supports over 10,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities.

The World Games in Abu Dhabi will feature seven days of competition in 24 sports with an estimated 7,000 Special Olympics athletes from over 100 countries taking part supported by their 2,600 coaches and 20,000 volunteers. Caitlin is very excited and honoured to have been selected as one of the eight members of the golf team and will be working very hard to deliver her best performance in Abu Dhabi.

Regular readers of the Blackhall Bulletin will be familiar with the story of the invention of the S'up Spoon by **Grant Douglas**.

This year Grant was awarded the MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List as *Founder and Chief Executive Officer, S'up Products Limited. For services to People with Disabilities.*

When I sent my congratulations to Grant asking if we could feature his award in the Bulletin he said "I will forever be indebted to Tom Cuthell, members of St. Columba's and readers of the Bulletin for their encouragement and support for the S'up spoon especially through the early days of the project." He also asked if I could say how much he appreciated all the cards and kind messages he has received from friends all over especially Blackhall.

Grant's investiture will take place in March at Buckingham Palace and he has promised us photos for the June Bulletin.

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blackhall playgroup

Blackhall Playgroup is a small friendly playgroup offering early learning and childcare in a play based setting for children from their second birthday. Based in St Columba's Church upper hall we meet Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 11.30am during school term time.

Our qualified staff support children's curiosity, social skills, wellbeing and learning through play in a caring and fun environment. Playgroup is a great stepping stone between home and nursery.



Blackhall Playgroup, St Columba's Church, Columba Road, EH4 3QU
07999 514809 blackhallplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC011212



Looking for a Volunteer Role?

Are you retired, a student, a local child minder or maybe a local Mum, Dad, or Grandparent and looking to meet new people, learn new skills, use and share existing skills and feel you could volunteer within your local community? Blackhall Playgroup are currently looking for volunteers to support staff deliver our community playgroup. We have a range of roles including hands on roles with the children including emergency staff cover and regular session work, and administration roles on our board. Blackhall Playgroup is a fun environment, providing early learning and childcare in a play based environment. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at the above contact details. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Reindeer Playgroup turns 50!



Meeting at Holy Cross Church Hall in Davidson's Mains since 1968, this friendly local drop-off playgroup runs Tuesday to Friday from 9.15am to 11.45am. Our qualified staff welcome children aged 2 years to school age for playtime in a relaxed, caring environment. Children can attend between 1 and 4 sessions per week (£10 per session).

We are holding an open day from 10am to 11am on Saturday 5th May. Drop us a line on reindeerplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk to let us know if you're planning to come for a play with your wee one!

We look forward to welcoming you and your little one/ones on our Open Day

Are you a dog owner who sometimes want to go to the cinema, out for a meal or shopping but don't want to leave your dog too long? Do they suffer from separation anxiety? *Dogmore Play* at Ocean Terminal, Leith may be just what you need for those times. For more information and the facebook link go to dogmoreplay.co.uk and see the dogs having fun. My dog loves visiting Dogmore Play and meeting carers Sue and Monica and his doggy friends. That's him sitting on one of the armchairs – his favourite spot in the winter! – Ed.

Let Us Take Care Of Your Dog



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Saturday 11 - 6
Sunday Closed

8:30 Opening For
Full Days By Prior
Arrangement



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Additional Half Hours - £2 each
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Playful dogs enjoy the off-lead interaction with other dogs and timid dogs benefit from being around other friendly dogs in a safe, controlled situation.

Please pop in for a chat and a free assessment



Blackhall Guiding

Long Service Awards



Our congratulations to Helen and Muriel on receiving their 20 year long service awards from Girlguiding at a ceremony in the City Chambers in November last year. The awards recognise, in a small way, the effort and time put in by Guiding leaders in running their units and being an inspiration and role model for the approximately 1000 girls who have passed through their care in that time. When asked about their experiences both leaders said that they would be back next year for more!



Rainbows enjoyed a Yoga session with a visiting Yoga teacher and a Dentist taught us about dental health and we kept fit while attaining our Roundabout Get Heathy

badges. The annual District Christmas disco was a highlight. We will be marking 100 years since Women's Vote and Thinking Day this term.

- Claire, Leader
157 Rainbows



Brownies have been learning new skills in the run up to Xmas. Trying their hand at cross stitch, learning about Mexican culture, improving their ceilidh moves and eating haggis to celebrate St Andrew's day.



- Kate, Leader
202A Brownies



The Senior Section

Blackhall Senior Section

We are very proud of one our Senior Section.

Gaining both her Chief Guide Challenge & her Young Leader Qualification was a huge achievement.

Well done!! It was very well deserved.

-Kate, Leader,
Senior Section

Guides

Blackhall Guides

The girls enjoyed earning their first activity badge (Confectioner - always popular!). We had a magical pre

Christmas trip to St. Andrew Square ice skating and then 12 of the girls made their promise on the steps of the Dome, under all their magical fairy lights.

-Pam, Leader,
202 Guides



At the end of December Blackhall Guiding lost a valued, enthusiastic and respected leader who was extensively involved in the running of Senior Section, Guide and Rainbow units. We would like to thank her and wish her well for the future.

Blackhall Guiding NEEDS VOLUNTEERS NOW.

If we are to continue to offer your daughters, grand daughters and nieces the opportunities afforded by Girlguiding, we need your help.

Your couple of hours a week would make a huge difference.

Contact blackhallguiding@gmail.com for more information



BLACKHALL NURSERY NEWS

SPRING TERM



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

The Spring term has seen the children visiting Ravelston Woods looking and listening for different birds and keeping a tally of which birds we spotted. The children have also shown a great interest in “muddy puddles” and have enjoyed finding these during our nature walks! This led to us talking about children in other countries who walk for miles to collect water and the children were interested to see how using a filter can turn dirty water into cleaner water. As well as keeping fit and healthy during our visits to Ravelston Woods, the children’s stamina is growing and they are keen to run more and more laps of Ravelston Park during our Tuesday Trot. Nursery families and staff will get together this term for our Family Gardening Day to tidy up the garden and take care of all the little jobs that need attended to at this time of year.

Our Values

CARING –	<i>We put the children first and always show kindness to others</i>
HONESTY –	<i>We act with integrity at all times</i>
INCLUSION –	<i>We value the children as individuals and understand their unique needs</i>
LEARNING –	<i>We create a happy environment where children learn through high quality play experiences</i>
DIVERSITY –	<i>We embrace, value and celebrate difference</i>
RESPECT –	<i>We respect the children, their families, our colleagues and our surroundings</i>
ENVIRONMENT –	<i>We celebrate our unique setting and encourage a responsible attitude to the world around us</i>
NURTURE –	<i>We encourage and promote Health and Wellbeing and help each child to reach their potential</i>

Comments from Parents/Carers

“Excellent nursery, very caring with wonderful pastoral role”

“Delighted with the nursery set up and organisation. Great variety of activities, inside and outside, to stimulate and meet learner needs. [My child] talks proudly of staff and what she has been learning. Thank you”

“Fantastic nursery experience! It makes me smile that you still impress me and surprise me with the amount of work and effort you put into the nursery”

Blackhall Nursery is a registered Scottish charity working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council to offer (free) places for 3-5 year olds during term time. We are a feeder nursery for Blackhall Primary School and **all places are free and funded by the City of Edinburgh Council**. You can place your child’s name on the Nursery waiting list from their 2nd birthday by downloading an application form at www.blackhallnursery.co.uk or by contacting the Nursery for an application form on 0131 332 8296.



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BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary 6 Burns Supper

In Primary 6 we have been learning about Burns Suppers. We are going to share what we have learned in two assemblies, one to the pupils of Blackhall Primary and the second to the parents.

We are going to start by telling everyone a bit about Robert Burns. For example, he was born in Ayrshire on the 25th of January 1759 and that he was a famous poet and songwriter.

Next we are going to tell everyone what happens at a Burns Supper. A piper pipes in the guests and once everyone sits down another piper then leads in the chef with the haggis. The haggis is of course the star of the show. We will do this in our drama production .

For a starter you can have Cock - a - leekie soup. This is followed by the main course of haggis, neeps and tatties. Last of all the dessert is cranachan.

After the food there are toasts to the haggis, toast to the lassies and ladies and the toast to the immortal memory of Robert Burns. We are also going to recite some poems, such as Up in the Morning Early. There is also going to be some dancing. We are going to dance The Gay Gordons, Strip the Willow and the Highland Fling.

In Primary 6 we did a poetry competition, the top three from each class will recite their poems. For the finale, we all sing Auld Lang Syne.

By Rauri F, Isla W, Sergio P and Laura W.

Primary 5 have been making some unusual paintings of Robert Burns. Each complete picture is made up of four paintings done by different children.



Robert Burns
1759 - 1796





P5 Visit to Hopetoun House



On Tuesday 30th January P5c and P5T visited Hopetoun House. When we got there we went into an old-fashioned stable and we put our lunches on the table we were sitting at. After that we were put into 4 groups of roughly 14 children. We went to several different rooms in the house before lunch and we enjoyed activities like writing with a quill, playing Victorian street games, having a tour of the outside of the building and we went up onto the roof. For lunch we were asked to bring something Victorian and we were not allowed any sweets. After lunch we got dressed in Victorian servants' clothes. The servants were called butler, valet, footman, boot boy, lady's maid, housemaid, nursemaid and scullery maid.

When that was finished we went around the house and found out what our jobs would have been like. The butler was the most important type of servant. If an important person was at the door the butler would answer it. The valet was the second most important servant. He would assist the Lord with shaving, dressing and getting out of the bath. The footmen held the door open for the Lords, Ladies and distinguished guests; they also helped people out of carriages. The boot boys polished the boots and they hacked down trees down for the fires. We all had the opportunity to act out our roles and had so much fun!

By Jamie Wilson and Patrick Horan P5C





Mouse Makes

Follow the Easter story using the Bible references, then look for the words in the wordsearch puzzle

 Into Jerusalem 

read Matthew 21:1-11

DONKEY • ROAD
BRANCHES • PALMS
KING • HOSANNA

Last Supper

read Matthew 26:17-30

PASSOVER • ROOM
BREAD • WINE
 BODY • BLOOD
CUP • MEAL 

Betrayal and Death

 read Matthew 26:36 - 27:56

KISS • MESSIAH 
CHRIST • SON
CRUCIFY • JESUS
CROWN • THORNS
 ROBE • TREE
NAILS • CROSS
DARKNESS • QUAKE
DEATH • LOTS

Easter Wordsearch

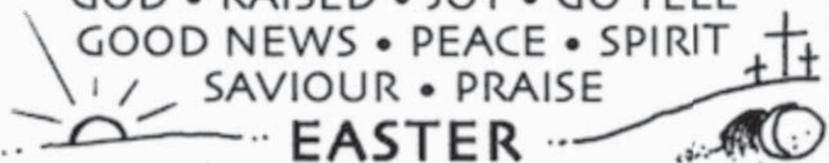


B	R	A	N	C	H	E	S	D		
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				M	E	S	S	I	A	H
			C	U	P	A	S	S	O	V
			W	A	N	O	S	W	I	N
S	M	E	A	L	N	N	M	E	S	B
R	O	A	D	M	A	N	B	L	O	O
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				C	R	U	C	I	F	Y
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P	R	A	I	S	E	A	A	S	T	E

Burial and Resurrection

read Matthew 27:57 - 28:20

TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN
GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT
SAVIOUR • PRAISE



EASTER

Blackhall Horticultural Society

Our session of winter talks continues with a talk on Monday 12th March when we will welcome Euan Cameron from Pittormie Fruit Farm, Fife. This is the talk he had to postpone in November. However the talk we did have in November was very interesting when Kate Everett told us all about Permaculture. It was a talk that stimulated much thought and discussion and challenged one to be more self sufficient and sustainable in our gardening. In some ways a March visit from Euan makes some sense as we can consider the various fruit crops to grow in the Blackhall garden as well as how to use them in the kitchen.

Garden Design is always a matter of stress or worry to the gardener. Have I chosen the right plant for the right place? Is there enough contrast and variation in the garden? But I can assure you that after Monday 9th April these fears will no longer be justified as Fenella Duncan will outline in a simple and easy to follow manner how to utilise your garden effectively.

One of the key dates in the Blackhall Calendar is the Plant Sale. This has been arranged for Saturday 5th May in the church halls with the doors opening at 10am. In previous years the majority of the plants are sold within half an hour. There is a clear focus to have plants that are ideal for planters and baskets, and so come along!

Our AGM is on Monday 14th of May followed on Saturday 19th May by our first garden visit of the summer months to Shepherd House, Inveresk at 2.30pm. There is a range of garden visits planned with details to follow.

John MacLennan: Hon President

plant Sale Saturday 5th May Doors Open 10 a.m.





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BLACKHALL PROBUS CLUB



We have enjoyed a varied series of talks by experts in their field over the first half of the session: Drone Photography, Corstorphine Transport through the Ages, My Time as a Design Engineer with Gillette, The Third Reich's Celluloid War - Exploring the Myth about Nazi Film Propaganda, Me and my Ships, The Law Man in Black – A Lawyer and an International Football Referee followed by the secret story of Barnton Quarry – Air Defence of the UK Defence. Every talk has been enthusiastically presented and illustrated with slides and video. We even had a hands-on look at drones and safety razors.

Our talks in March, after the publication of this Bulletin, begin on the 1st with a talk by Sir Geoffrey Palmer OBE on The Scottish Caribbean Historical Connection. They continue as follows:

- 15th March Connecting East Lothian
- 5th April The Silver Line: A Free Telephone Helpline for Older People
- 19th April Golden America – Chicago to Yellowstone followed by Spring Lunch
- 26th May Pitlochry Festival Theatre outing to see Chicago

We welcome retired PROfessional and BUSiness men who would like to join us to come along for social chats over coffee/tea/biscuits and listen to the series of illustrated talks. 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. Alternatively, contact the Secretary for more details and to receive a copy of our interesting and varied 2017 – 2018 syllabus.

Neil McIntosh, Secretary, Blackhall PROBUS Club.
Phone: 0131 312 6164 Email: neil.mcintosh@blueyonder.co.uk
27 Hillpark Way, Edinburgh, EH4 7ST



CRAIGLEITH PROBUS CLUB



Craigleith Probus continues with a most interesting and wide-ranging programme of talks. The month of February included visits to the studios of Red Dot Radio at Western General Hospital. Red Dot broadcasts to WGH as well as Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. In contrast we are visiting the Royal 'Dick' Vet at Easter Bush in the afternoon of 11th April.

Likewise there is a contrast in the charities we have supported in session 2017-18 with, on March 21st, Stef Robertson explaining about Cystic Fibrosis, while on December 20th we enjoyed a visit from Janet Halton from Nordoff Robbins Scotland. Nordoff Robbins is a locally based charity involved with Music Therapy for all ages. We found this very enlightening and learned much about the value of music as a means of communication and relaxation in a therapeutic setting. We would recommend inviting them to speak to your group. In a similar vein The Butterfly Trust, based at Swanston is the leading Cystic Fibrosis charity and offer one to one support to families affected. We always welcome visitors to our meetings and so, if Cystic Fibrosis is a condition about which you wish to know more, do pop along to on March 21st.

The Assassination of Marilyn Monroe is our theme on March 7th and maybe Bruce Lindsay will be able provide evidence on how she died – one of top unexplained infamous deaths of the 20th century!

Our AGM on Wednesday 4th April, which will be brief, will be followed by our retiring President, John Davis, singing a few Scottish songs and giving a few Scottish recitations – having heard John before I can assure you that this is a meeting, or do I mean concert, not to miss.

We do also plan to have a couple of informal outings in the summer months so that not too much time is spent in the garden.

As regular Bulletin readers will remember from October to April we meet in Blackhall Bowling Club on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am for coffee or tea plus biscuits which is followed at 10.30am by a talk for an hour or so. For more information please just email us on infocpc21@gmail.com.

John MacLennan: Speakers Secretary.

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Croquet at Lauriston Castle



The house and gardens of Lauriston Castle are among the most popular attractions in the west of Edinburgh, not least because of the spectacular views of the Firth of Forth. The lawns in front of the castle are the home of Edinburgh Croquet Club.

Each year the club holds six lessons on Saturday mornings to introduce people to the fascinating game of croquet. These have proved both popular and good fun in previous years and 2018 should be no exception. Several members have gone on to join the Club and now play regularly in the summer sunshine.

So if you would like to learn a new skill that all ages can enjoy, with friendly, informal teaching in a glorious setting, why not sign up to this year's course? The lessons start on Saturday, 21st April at 10.30 a.m. at Lauriston Castle, 2a Cramond Road South. The remaining sessions will mainly be held on the following 5 Saturday mornings but we do our best to accommodate those who cannot make Saturdays. The course is open to all, with equipment provided, and costs £25.

Anyone interested should visit the "Learn to Play Croquet With Us" section of the club's website at www.edinburghcroquetclub.com to get further details and to apply for the course.




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Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland, Edinburgh
 Scottish Registered Charity No SC008756

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 Edinburgh EH4 3NB
 Telephone 315 2019

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 Eddie Thorn
 158 Craigleith Road
 Edinburgh EH4 2EQ
 Telephone 332 5702

Church Secretary
 Ms Julie Nicol
 in Church Office from
 Mon-Fri 10.00-12.30p.m.
 Tel/fax 332 4431

DEADLINES

Kirk News – Sunday 21st April

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 6th May

Please send all items to the Editor,
 Barbara Wilson, c/o Church Office
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STOP PRESS: First Degree Burns

An excellent Burns Supper was held in the Holiday Inn Hotel, Edinburgh City West, on 27th January with 96 guests from the community and beyond enjoying first class entertainment and new company. Organised for the benefit of Blackhall St Columba's Church and its mission the organisers would like to thank the hotel, Sainsbury's, Craigleith, and Wilson's, butchers in Corstorphine, for their valuable assistance in supporting their venture.

READING THE BULLETIN FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Blackhall St. Columba's Church also produces a pack with useful information about the area - doctors, schools, churches, youth organisations, sporting facilities etc.

If you would like a pack please contact the church office either by telephoning 0131 332 4431 or e-mail secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk



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