

March 2019

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#### MARCH

3 <sup>rd</sup>	11am	Youth Sunday All Age Service
$6^{\text{th}}$	12 noon	Mid Week Service
$10^{\text{th}}$	11am	Morning Worship
$17^{\text{th}}$	11am	Morning Worship followed by
		SAM Meeting
$20^{\text{th}}$	12 noon	Mid Week Service
$24^{\text{th}}$	11am	Morning Worship
$26^{\text{th}}$	4pm	Strachan House Service
$31^{st}$	11am	Morning Worship followed by
		Short Communion

#### APRIL

$3^{rd}$	12 noon	Mid Week Service
7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Early Family Service
	11am	Morning Worship
$14^{\text{th}}$	11am	Palm Sunday
	3pm	half hour service
$17^{\text{th}}$	12 noon	Mid Week Service
$18^{\text{th}}$	7pm	Maundy Thursday
$19^{\text{th}}$	7pm	Good Friday
21 <sup>st</sup>	8am	Early Rise Service
		in Ravelston Park
	11am	Easter Service, with
		Baptism of Children
$28^{\text{th}}$	11am	Morning Worship followed
		by Short Communion
$30^{\text{th}}$	4pm	Strachan House Service

#### MAY

$1^{st}$	12noon	Mid Week Service
$5^{\text{th}}$	9.30am	Early Family Service
	11am	Morning Worship
$12^{\text{th}}$	11am	Morning Worship
		Christian Aid Service
19 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Worship
$26^{\text{th}}$	11am	Morning Worship
		with Short Communion
$28^{\text{th}}$	4pm	Strachan House Service



#### Palm Sunday 3pm service

Following positive feedback from last year, Blackhall St. Columba's will hold a half hour service on Palm Sunday (April 14th) at 3pm. A warm invitation is extended to those who for medical or other reasons find they cannot attend the traditional 11am service. After the service tea and coffee will be served in the church.

#### Easter Morning Early Rise Service Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April

In a change from previous years, our Early Rise Easter Service will take place in the more accessible

### **Ravelston Park**

Still starting at 8 am and followed by bacon rolls at Blackhall St Columba's Church We do hope you will come and join us

**Everyone welcome** 

#### **DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING SESSION**



Blackhall St Columba's Church now has its own defibrillator or "Heart Start" machine. A training officer from Linlithgow First Responders will come to the church to deliver the last training session on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2-4pm** in the Upper Hall.

Training will last approx. 2 hours and accommodate up to 20 people, (it is unlikely to go ahead if there are less than 8 names submitted.)

The training is open to all members of the congregation, hall users and interested members of the community.

To add you name to the list, please send your name and contact telephone number to Betty Watt on <u>lzbthwatt@yahoo.co.uk</u> or contact the Church Office on 0131 332 4431



We let you know in December that we had reached the stage of seeking approval from City of Edinburgh Council for the external work to the Church building. We're pleased to be able to let you know that Planning Permission has been granted, so we can progress with the new entrance doors on both Queensferry Road and Columba Road. These will make the church feel more open and welcoming.

Our interior designs were presented to the Kirk Session in January and approved. One outstanding feature is the choice of chairs to replace the pews. It's so important that we get that choice right, so we're taking our time and looking at as many options as we can to ensure we have chairs which are functional and comfortable.

We still have a lot of preparation ahead of any work starting, but we're making great progress. Our thanks to the many people and organisations who have helped with the rationalisation and disposal of "stuff" that was stored under the church and in the halls. It's amazing how much space has been freed up!

Looking ahead, the next few months will be very busy. Here's a few of the things we have to do:

- Tie down all of the final details of the work to be done so the tender documents can be prepared
- Selecting a list of potential contractors and inviting them to tender
- Scrutinising the tenders and selecting our main and subsidiary contractors
- Getting the halls ready for us to use for worship while the church is being upgraded
- Packing and preparing for storage of a large number of artefacts which need to be kept safe while work is ongoing
- Making sure things like the organ and stained glass windows are properly protected to prevent any damage

While all of this is going on, we'll be continuing with our fundraising. There's a separate article about our Christmas Tree Festival which was very well supported by local groups and businesses. Coming up we've more "Music at St Columba's" to look forward to, and watch out for other events like quiz nights.

#### Fay Stirling

Some more dates for your diaries				
Blackhall Horticultural Club Plant Sale	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 9.30am – 12 noon			
Heart and Soul Evening	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May			
NHS Blood Donor	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2-8pm			
Art Club Exhibition	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May Small Hall			
Christian Aid Coffee Morning	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 10am – 12 noon			



## The Hope of Easter

It doesn't take long to become fearful and hopeless looking at the current state of the world. Wars, economic uncertainty, terrorism – it seems to be unending. Often, leaving us in a state of hopeless existence

There is an old saying: "When a person loses



**hope, they begin to hope for death.**" Life is hard without hope. Life becomes drudgery, misery, meaningless. One reason people lose hope is that they put their hope in the wrong things—beliefs that disappoint, dreams that are unrealistic, but, most of all, in other people who disappoint and disillusion us about life and, sadly, even about God.

But God never disappoints. He gets blamed for a lot of evil that people do, but He is the One we want to put our hope in. He always wants the best for us. His Word says, "*I know the plans I have for you, to give you hope and a future*" (Jeremiah 29:11). He always loves us. He's always faithful. Even in death He gives us hope. In His Son Jesus, we see He understands the pain of death and He gives us the hope of victory over death as well. When we have hope over death, we can begin to live hopefully every day. This, after all, is the message of Easter and of the Gospel of Jesus.

There is a legend of the merchant of Baghdad who sent his servant to the market in the ancient Middle Eastern city. The servant returned, pale and trembling, and the merchant asked him what was wrong. The servant told him he bumped into someone, looked up, and saw Death in a dark hooded robe pointing at him. He asked the merchant, **"Please let me borrow your horse so I can flee to Samara where he can't find me."** 

The merchant agreed. Later that day, the merchant went to the crowded market and saw Death standing to the side, and he asked, "Why did you frighten my servant?"

# Death responded, "I was only shocked to see him in Baghdad, for tonight I have an appointment with him in Samaria."

Dear friend, we all have an engagement with death. For every life, there is death. The statistics on death are 100%. But the fear of death is removed by receiving the promise of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. With faith, we can concentrate on living this life to the fullest.

Life's struggles invite us to discover where we place our hope. What about you? Where is your hope? No matter how miserable present circumstances appear, you really can believe the best is yet to come. Jesus Christ offers you this hope. You just have to believe it.

Wishing you a blessed Easter,

Benjamin (Minister)





### Prayer Corner

Let us search and try our ways and turn again to the Lord. Lam3v40. God's living word never fails us; it is our true source of strength, hope and encouragement. You cannot avoid problems. But they can be useful to you, if you trust God through them. In fact there is no more profound and effective way to learn spiritual truths than through your troubles. Your trials train you to rely upon God to overcome your hurdles and teach you what is really important. Trusting in the Holy Spirit as your instructor you are guided to avoid the pitfalls that could lead to or worsen your problems. Why? Because God our father wants you to know that "all things work together for good to them that love God." (Rom8v28) so that you will come and rely upon Him. He is waiting to fill you with peace, hope and strength so stretch out in faith and prayer. Accept his love and be assured he hears and is gently waiting to comfort and help our wounded souls. And that means no matter how you feel when you pray, the Holy Spirit joins in prayer with you and for you, changing your tiniest whispers and cries into powerful appeals to your father in Heaven. I love those who love me and those who seek me diligently will find me (Prov8 v 17). Dear God, Thank you for hearing my prayers what ever way they come to you I know they still reach your listening ear. Thank you for unconditionally loving me and for transforming all of my doubts into certainties. Amen DM



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



### **Flowers in Church March 2019**

This month the flowers will be donated as follows:

- 3rd Mrs Muriel Morton
- 10th Mrs Alison Hewat
- 17th Mrs Phyllis King
- 24th The Allanson family
- 31st Mrs Violet Troup

Mrs Alison Hewat and Mr & Mrs Brian Duffin will be delivering the flowers.

Violet Troup (Flower Convener)



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The Art Club joined several other organisations who decorated Christmas trees for display in the Church sanctuary. Our tree featured hand painted postcards which were mounted and hung on the tree to great effect.

With Christmas and New Year a distant memory, we now have Spring on our minds as we start working on paintings for the Club's Annual Art Exhibition and Sale which will be held in the Church Hall from 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> May, so please put this date in your new 2019 diaries!

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. Three members were delighted to sell their paintings and we shall again be holding this exhibition at the same time this year.

As always we are happy to hear from anyone interested in joining us either on a Monday or a Tuesday morning - please contact our membership secretary Anne McLennan on 336 4327.

#### **TUESDAY TOPICS**

Tuesday Topics runs from late September to April on alternate Tuesdays in the Small Hall of Blackhall St Columba's Church usually starting at 7.30 with a speaker, followed by tea or coffee and a chat. All are welcome to attend our meetings. Visitors pay £2 and the annual membership is £15.

**In March**, on 5th we are looking forward to our annual theatre outing. This year we see the Southern Light Opera's production of 'My Fair Lady' in the King's Theatre.

On 19th we are back in the Small Hall for a presentation about 'The History of Craigleith Hill and the Royal Victoria Hospital' by local resident Alan Ross.

**In April**, on 2nd, Aileen Orr from the Borders will talk to us about 'Wojtek, the Soldier Bear'. She has written a children's book entitled 'Teddies for Children' and plans to bring some with her for sale that evening. On 16th, we have our A.G.M. and now customary Beetle Drive, which is much enjoyed by the members.

Our last meeting of the session is reserved for an outing on 30th. At the time of writing we can say only that it will be 'a nice surprise outing'.

For further information our full syllabus can be viewed on the Church web-site at

www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk under Community Activities, or you contact:

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



KNIT AND NATTER

In the December issue of the Blackhall Bulletin I let you all know that we were busy knitting decorations for our entry to the Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you very much to everyone who came along and especially those of you who voted for our tree as your favourite. We were delighted and very proud to be presented with the Gold Certificate. This session we are all back to "just " making blankets, clothes and toys for Fresh Start and Early Years Centres. If you are a past, present or future knitter, why don't you come and join us on Monday evenings at 7.30pm in the church halls for a bit of knitting, a good natter and a cuppa? Don't forget the biscuits too!

For further details please contact <u>stcknitnnatter@gmail.com</u> Lilian Cockburn

#### FELLOWSHIP AFTERNOON GROUP

Our 2019 session got off to a good start on 15<sup>th</sup> January when our minister, Rev Benjamin Abeledo, gave an interesting talk about Sussanah Wesley, mother of Charles and John who are bothe well known names in the Methodist movement.

On 12<sup>th</sup> February Veronica Denholm from the National Library of Scotland gave us a fascinating illustrated talk about the National Library.

Our 12<sup>th</sup> March meeting will be a talk and demonstration on Fabergé eggs.

Our 2018-19 session ends on 9<sup>th</sup> April with entertainment by our organist, Donald Cameron.

Visitors are welcome at any of our Meetings

ΕH

#### NORTH WEST HERITAGE MEETINGS

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 The History of Riddles' Court. Speaker Russell Clegg from the Patrick Geddes Centre for Learning. St. Columba's Church Hall at 7.30 pm



I have been volunteering with Fresh Start since I retired in 2011. Despite the fact it is a very local homeless charity, I did not know a lot about them until one Sunday when a volunteer coordinator came to speak to our congregation about volunteering opportunities on their "Hit Squads!" Scary title I know, but not nearly as bad as it sounds!

Hit Squads are teams of 3-4 volunteers who work with a client in their new tenancy to decorate up to two rooms of their choosing. Sometimes for new tenants, the initial relief and excitement of being handed the keys of a new tenancy can fade very quickly if the walls are stained, paint flaking with bare floorboards. This is especially so, if there is no possibility of the client being able to afford the paint, ladders, brushes, never mind the knowhow to make things better by themselves. It seems like an insurmountable task and very dispiriting but that's where the Hit Squads fit in!

Clients are all over 16, from all walks of life and have been homeless prior to being given a new tenancy. They are referred to Fresh Start by a support worker. A Fresh Start coordinator then visits the client to assess their needs, discuss which rooms are to be decorated, establish the condition of the walls, ceiling, and woodwork and offer the client a choice of paint from the Fresh Start collection of about a dozen colours.

Volunteers are also all ages and from all walks of life, but mainly retired. (Although, one young woman I worked with on my last hit squad, set off for a shift at her own job after a day of decorating!) We are not professionals, just keen amateurs willing to help our fellow man.

On the day, the team members arrive at the warehouse in Ferry Road Drive about 09.15 where the volunteer coordinator briefs us on the client, location, and size of the job. We are always very keen to know how many flights of stairs there are, or if there is a lift! Then, if the van is already packed we set off, hopefully to arrive at the clients' house in time for a 10am start. Very soon we are working hard and chatting but not every client is outgoing. We respect the quiet clients too and take our lead from them. If the clients are fit and well they are usually keen to help and we encourage this, so they can learn the basics well enough to gain confidence to tackle other rooms by themselves. Some clients even say they enjoy the company of the team members as much as the decorating help because moving to a new home in a new location by themselves, can be a lonely experience initially. Volunteers take a packed lunch and a flask with them but usually only stop work for 15mins. Fresh Start provides all the equipment we need and a mobile phone to keep in touch with how the job is progressing. Most jobs are completed by 3pm when our team coordinator picks us up in the van and takes us back to the warehouse.

Sadly, many clients cannot believe that volunteers would give up their spare time to help them in this way. They are always very grateful to us and we hope we have helped them make their house, **their** home, a place to relax and call their own.

It is not uncommon for clients to offer their services as volunteers to Fresh Start when they get themselves back on their feet because they have gained confidence and hope from interacting with Fresh Start, which in turn helps them feel connected to main stream society again.

Fresh Start has volunteering opportunities in many different areas eg cooking classes, gardening projects, making up starter packs and food packs. Volunteering with Fresh Start is one of the best things I've done with my retirement so if you find yourself with a spare couple of hours in a week, why not give them a ring or go along for a chat? You'll find them at 22-24, Ferry Road Drive or phone 0131 476 7741.

Betty Watt

## **Blackhall Horticultural Society**

With just two more talks left in our winter session the 'horti' members are also thinking about what this spring and summer will bring garden wise. Our first talk of 2019, in January, was an eye opener on how to look after woody perennials which was followed, in February, with a historical look at women in Scottish gardening circles. So when we welcome Pam Whittle, one of the guiding lights in the restoration of Saughton Winter Gardens, on 11<sup>th</sup> March, it is clear both the previous themes dovetail into the 'Recent Developments at Saughton Winter Garden'. Pam, who is a Honorary Vice President of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, will tell us how 'the Caley' was originally involved at Saughton, and how they have assisted in the care and maintenance, as well as redesigning several of the features, in this greenspace. From the perspective of greenspace management such input from community groups is the way ahead in ensuring the continuity of such leisure facilities within our City. Interestingly, some of our members are now involved in similar initiatives at Lauriston Castle, yet another of Edinburgh's rich heritage of parks. If you would like to find out more about this activity at Saughton do pop along to our meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45pm.

Our final talk of the session takes place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.45pm and is by Stan da Prato on the theme 'Practical Biodiversity -Wildlife in your Garden'. It is tragic that over the past fifty years so much of the national flora and fauna has been decimated by the overuse of pesticides and changes in the agrarian way of life. However it is our gardens and city greenspaces that are now essential for maintaining our wildlife. We are all aware of urban foxes but the slow march south from the Scottish Highlands of red squirrels, now common in Aberdeen and St Andrews, is a major success. By using specific seed mixes and choosing a range of woody perennials that encourage birds, bees and butterflies we can all help to stop the decline in our local fauna and flora. Come along and hear more from Stan on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

We will have our AGM on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, an ideal time to make suggestions, which will be followed by a quiz.

The summer months include an outing to Redhall Market Garden which will take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm. Redhall is a growing site run by SAMH, and is part of the wider network of projects throughout Scotland involved in therapeutic horticulture; the overarching support group for such projects is Trellis Scotland. https://trellisscotland.org.uk/

Perhaps to many the highlight of the 'horti' year must be the Plant Sale, which in 2019 will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May with doors opening at 10am. Come early --- by noon there will be nothing left!!

For more information please email me johnmaclennanuk@googlemail.com, or blackhall.horti@gmail.com

John MacLennan: Hon President

#### EDINBURGH FLORAL ART CLUB

Our meetings take place on second Friday of the month in Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall from 2-4 pm. Visitors are welcome to all meetings £7.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019** Hetty Redwood, from Linlithgow Title of demonstration -' Memories' Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019
Susan Hall from Cleveland will give a demonstration entitled 'Nature's Tapestries '
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June
AGM and Gill Garrow from Elgin. The title of the demonstration is 'Inspirations'
For further information please contact Lilias Hoskins on 0131 477 0245



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### **CRAIGLEITH PROBUS**





Craigleith Probus has had one of best series of winter talks, it has been said, for many years. In arranging the programme care is always taken to ensure a good balance of themes and so from finding out if the common potato can really feed the world to the antics of Wotjek, the Polish Soldier Bear, who has his own memorial in West Princes Street Gardens, our members returned home each fortnight full of knowledge and chocolate biscuits. As our programme for session 2018-19 draws to a close we have three contrasting talks which should whet the enquiring mind of any semi retired, or fully retired, gentleman. On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March we welcome Heather McHaffie to the club. Heather's theme is Scottish Plant Conservation, a subject of much importance as we see our native flora under threat from invasive non-natives such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. A fortnight later, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, as one of our charity giving meetings, Olivia Giles will give us a presentation on the work of her charity '500 Miles', the aim of which is to provide prosthetic limbs on an international basis. It is always an honour to have such an inspirational speaker as Olivia and do remember guests are always welcome at our meetings. <u>http://www.500miles.co.uk/</u>.

One of my favourite films is Casablanca so it was a delight to find out from Ian Garden that he had researched the story behind its making. His talk will be illustrated with clips and stills from the film and explain why, in West Germany as late as 1980, this propaganda film was only available to be screened there as a heavily censored (20 minutes shorter), dubbed version with a totally different plot. Ian is another speaker of international repute with several books to his name who also organises a weekend hotel breaks on the theme "Spies, Lies and Entertainment - Film and Media Propaganda during World War Two". Whether you are 'Victor', 'Rick' or 'Heinrich Strasser' a welcome will be given on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, although 'Ilsa' will not be there!

Our year finishes on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April with a short AGM, which will be followed by a range of 'concert items', presented by John Davis and Phil Coad.

Craigleith Probus, who meet in Blackhall Bowling Club, at 10am for coffee followed by the talk at 10.30am, are always delighted if any semi retired gentlemen would like to join us. If the themes above are of interest do just pop along for these talks and, as it is the year end, they will be 'on the house'. Who else can offer that?

For more information please email me johnmaclennanuk@googlemail.com., or infocpc21@gmail.com John MacLennan: Speakers Secretary





**BLACKHALL PROBUS CLUB** 



Firstly, I must apologise for missing the deadline for the last issue of the Blackhall Bulletin.

We welcomed five new members to our club in October bring our membership to 54. The quality of our speakers this year has been exceptional. We were in awe when Sir Geoffrey Palmer exposed the Scottish Caribbean Connection to slave ownership and the greatest forced mass-transportation of people the world has known. Twenty million black Africans were shipped from the West Coast of Africa as slaves and only about ten million survived the journey to work on the plantations. Scottish plantation owners made fortunes from the sale of sugar and tobacco in Scotland that their chattel slaves toiled to harvest in Jamaica. Many of the grand historic houses and statues of dignitaries we admire today were funded by this trade but no reference is made to how the fortunes were made.

Other talks in the first half of the session were "A re-enactment of Hinkler's 1928 Solo Flight to Australia", "The Rise and Fall of Aerial Photography", "The Royal Observatory Edinburgh, Past, Present and Future", "Destination Forth - WWI - The Last Act and Beyond", "Police Collision Investigation" and "Learning and Participation at Capital Theatres". One Last Dram Before Midnight gave an insight to how whisky distilleries are capitalising on producing limited edition bottles and how investors are queuing up to buy them in the knowledge that they will more than triple their money by selling them at auction the following week.

Our Summer outing this year will be to the Pitlochry Festival Theatre to see Summer Holiday, which is based on Cliff Richard's 1963 film of the same name.

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. By the time this Bulletin is published we will be close to the end of this session with our last three talks being "Cramond - It's Employment and Industry" on 7<sup>th</sup> March, "The 100 Year Lifestyle" on 21<sup>st</sup> March, and on 18<sup>th</sup> April "The History and Development of Blackhouse Rossie Estate in Fife". So, if you are a retired gentleman interested in social chats over coffee/tea/biscuits before listening to a series of illustrated talks given by experts in their subject field, why not come along?

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

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- ★ We are delighted to have an amazing new Coaching Team, of Alejandro and Juan, starting this month! Their proogramme will cater for all ages and stages, bringing exciting, fun and innovative ideas to our favourite game. Join in-Get involved!
- ★ WATCH THIS SPACE for the date of our **OPEN DA**Y to be held in March /April.
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### THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The charity chosen by the WA<sup>+</sup>CH Committee for 2018 was Alzheimer Scotland based at the Prentice Centre in Granton (Scottish Charity SC022315). We agreed to donate all funds raised in 2018 to the charity and we expect our donation to be used to provide training for volunteers.

Alzheimer Scotland provides a service to individuals with a diagnosis of dementia and their families and carers. They offer information and advice, family outreach support, carer support and education, day centre opportunities, befriending and community activities.



We would like to thank all who supported and

contributed to the fundraising events during 2018. The Summer Coin collection raised £900, followed by a Craft Coffee Morning in October which contributed another £800. The Christmas Fair in December raised  $\pounds 6,700$  and other groups and individuals added their donations.

At the service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019 we were delighted to present a cheque for £8,470 to Sally Davidson, Community Fundraiser, Alzheimer Scotland in front of the congregation.

#### WA<sup>+</sup>CH Committee

The WA<sup>+</sup>CH Committee would especially like to thank the following companies who helped to raise money for Alzheimer Scotland in 2018

A Room in the West End AM Interiors - Queensferry Road Abinger's café & Takeaway Alexander McCall Smith Baillie Signs BDW Vets – Blackhall Beautique – Blackhall Bia Bistro – Colinton Road **Blackhall Cycle Repairs** Blackhall framing Gallery Blackhall Late Store Bob's Gents Hairdresser Bowling Club - Blackhall Bruce Collie Builder Butterfly & Insect World Café Citron Cameo Cinema Camera Obscura Campbell Young Hair Design Charlie Miller Cloudberry Cockburn Business Consultancy Comely Bank Chiropody Conifox Adventure Park

Copper Woman –Blackhall Cringletie House Hotel Curves Gym Davidson's Mains Roofing **Discover** Chiropractic Edinburgh Bus Tours Edinburgh Sports Club Empire Hair Design – Blackhall Envelope & Bacon – Barnton Farmer Autocare Fleur Florist Forage and Chatter Restaurant Gail Stewart Styling Glenkinchie Distillerv Great Grog Heritage Portfolio – Colonnades Holiday Inn Edinburgh West Hopetoun House James Borthwick Newsagent Joy Beauty Therapy KD Wallace Optometry Loch Fyne Restaurant Martin Wishart Mercat Tours Michael Neave Restaurant Murrayfield Golf Club

Mussel Inn Peffer Paint Company Pitlochry Festival Theatre Porteous Funeral Directors Post Office – Blackhall Press-tige Dry Cleaners Rangers Ravelston Golf Club Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Sainsbury's Scotch Whisky Experience Scottish Grocers' Federation Scottish Rugby Union Seabird Centre Silverknowes Stores Slaters Outfitters Specialized Signs Stac Polly The Corner Shop The Orchard Restaurant Urban Vanity – Blackhall Valvona & Crolla W T Dunbar & Sons Westwoods Health Club



It's been a great winter for the Blackhall Children's Sports Committee and our fundraising efforts. November saw a new venue for Wine Night at Blackhall Bowling Club. We're very grateful to them for hosting it. Also, huge thanks to Elaine, Ian and Alex for acting as our 'Call my wine bluff' comperes.



Family fun day at St Columba's in Early February went off with a bang too, with sporting activities, a toy sale, face painting, tattoos, cake stall and the guys from Cool Creatures introducing the kids to Stinkerbell the skunk, Darwin the skink and Uncle Monty the Python!



Upcoming events include:

- QUIZ NIGHT: 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT EDINBURGH SPORTS CLUB Tickets £20 per person and available through the Facebook group
- FAMILY BIKE RIDE: 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY Ravelston Park to Victoria Park this is a social rather than a fundraiser so won't cost you anything!
- **SPORTS DAY: 1**<sup>ST</sup> **JUNE** Ravelston Park

If you want to apply for a funding award for sporting activities for children, find the link on our Facebook page. Applications for funding can be for individuals or small groups and should be in by the  $14^{th}$  of April. To apply, please find the link on our Facebook page.



#### **CROQUET AT LAURISTON CASTLE**



In the last couple of years the castle and gardens of Lauriston Castle have attracted many more visitors and they are now a favourite site for many of the citizens of the capital. Edinburgh Croquet Club leases the lawns in front of the Castle which have one of the finest views of the Firth of Forth in the city.

If you have played croquet before and would like to enjoy this exceptional location on long sunny summer days, you will certainly have fun if you join our friendly club. The membership fee for the 2019 season is only £60.

If croquet is a complete mystery to you or you haven't played it for a long time you might like to join the series of six lessons the club holds on Saturday mornings to introduce people to this fascinating game. The lessons start on Saturday,  $20^{th}$  April at 10.30am at Lauriston Castle, 2a Cramond Road South, Edinburgh EH4 6AD. The remaining sessions will mainly be held on the following five 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. If you join the club after the course, the course fee is deducted from your membership fee.

To join the club or the beginners' course just send an email to <u>beginners@edinburghcroquetclub.com</u> You can also find further details at the "Learn to Play Croquet With Us" section of the club's website at <u>www.edinburghcroquetclub.com</u>



### Blackhall Guiding Blackhall Guiding Blackhall Guiding

All Units have been busy over the last few months getting to know the new Girlguiding resources that are split into 6 Themes. (Express Myself, Know Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, take Action and Skills for My Future). Girls are enjoying doing Interest Badges at home and Skill Builders in their unit to help them gain the theme awards.

All 3 Rainbow packs are having fun with the new programme and love earning the new badges. 202 Rainbows learned to "Know Themselves" and took home a Family Tree badge before Christmas. Girls are now working on "Express Myself badge" which included being Scientists and Robots and doing either a Storytelling or Drawing badge. Nicola - 202 Leader



202 and 202B Brownies Started the year by doing their Stargazing Badge by going to the Edinburgh Royal Observatory for a visit. The Girls are just back from a fabulous weekend away at 'Holiday in the House' at Netherurd were they had a Greatest Showman Theme and did lots of crafts, Drumming, Fencing and Caving. They are looking forward to another weekend away to Dalguise in April. **Nicole - 202 and 202B Leader** 





157A Guides had a fantastic 'Holiday in the House' at Netherurd. The highlight of the weekend was Geocaching. Karen – 157A Leader

### Volunteers are needed to help at Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units at Blackhall St.Columba's

What we want from you?

- Able to spare 1-2 hours a week during term time.
- Willing to complete a DBS check (paid for by Girlguiding)
- Enthusiasm for volunteering with children

What's in it for you?

- Great CV experience and potential for references
- Opportunities to complete qualifications including first aid
- Opportunities to go on trips and try new things
- A chance to meet new people
- Guaranteed fun every week!

### Contact <u>GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com</u> for more information



### BLACKHALL NURSERY NEWS SPRING TERM



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

We began this term with the children learning about snow and ice and using the thermometer in the garden to keep a record of the different temperatures. Some days it was below zero degrees and the water balloons hanging from our apple tree froze! The children have enjoyed more visits to Ravelston Woods exploring nature and using the equipment in their kit bags. To encourage the children to be responsible when out and about in the local community, they will take part in our Road Safety walks this month and look for safe places to cross the road. Our Eco Team will arrange a Family Gardening Day this term when Nursery families, staff and members of the local Beavers group will tidy up the garden, spread lots of bark and take care of all the little jobs that need attended to at this time of year.

Blackhall Nursery is a registered Scottish charity working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. We offer places in morning and afternoon classes, providing sessions of 3 hours 10 minutes for 3-5 year olds during term time and are delighted to have been included as part of the Council's pilot scheme for 2018/19 to deliver 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare (up to six hours a day, term time only) to a small number of children.

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

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 <u>www.blackhallnursery.co.uk</u> or by contacting the Nursery for an application form on 0131 332 8296.



### **BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL**









# **BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In this edition Primary 2 have a Newsletter about the work they have done on our local area, Primary 5M tell us about the enterprise project they took part in and Primary 5B have contributed some work on The Victorians. We also have a "Thank You" to the pupils from the residents of Queens' Court.



**Primary 2** have been learning about our local area as part of our Community topic. We presented our learning to parents and other visitors on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January and to the school on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Both audiences really enjoyed the show and P2 enjoyed performing.



Using collage we have made a map of Scotland as well as a map of Blackhall and we are learning more about where we are in the world. As we learn more in this topic we hope to find out about the history of the area too.

### PRIMARY 5 ENTERPRISE PROJECT

Primary 5 were given £5 per person from Virgin to take part in a special Enterprise Project. They had to work in groups and buy or make things to sell at a Christmas Fair for the rest of the school and their parents and try to make as much profit as possible. The £5 had to be sent back to Virgin so profit, profit, profit was the key!

Groups sold items such as bendy pencils, cakes, pumpkin loaf, books, cookies, squishies, sweets and edible slime. The fair was a huge success with every group making a profit. They made a whopping £635 profit which they have chosen to spend on a fun day possibly going to the cinema / having an adventure assault course in the playground.



### Thank You

### Blackhall Primary School

Blackhall Primary School children made a huge difference to the elderly residents of Queens Court. On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November as part of the Making a Difference project, they brought us beautiful home baked cakes, served them and then they entertained us with their excellent singing and dancing.

Very many thanks to all involved in organising the evening.

Well done Blackhall Primary. We look forward to your future visits.

Kind regards Dawn Niven Development Manager Queens Court

### **CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)**

Cameo had a very successful Christmas Lunch at the Holiday Inn on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December. The meal was delicious and the staff very attentive. We started up again on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January and the entertainment at our fortnightly meetings has been arranged for the first half of the year.

If you would like to join us once a fortnight from 10.15/30 am - 12 noon, then give one of us a ring. Cameo is a great way to meet other folk, have coffee (or tea !) and pancakes, enjoy entertainment and have a good blether! Transport can be arranged.





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### BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

For 3 days in early December the church was adorned not only by our usual glorious tree but by an additional 40 Christmas trees. Each one was decorated by a Church group, organisation or a local business and they were all exquisite as you can see from the photos of just some of them. Unfortunately we did not manage to get photos of all the prize winners.

Each tree was decorated to reflect the nature and purpose of the group and the thought, imagination and creativity that went in was plain to see. The organisers were delighted with the enthusiasm, planning and commitment that went in to make each tree so attractive and we thank you all for your support in this first time event.

We are very pleased to report that the sum of  $\pounds 1,382.29$  was raised for the Building for the Future project and we thank every participant, visitor and volunteer.

Congratulations to the prize winners (as voted by the visitors to the festival) who are as follows: 1st Knit and Natter

- 2nd The Blackhall Horticultural Society
- 3rd NGP Architecture Ltd

Junior prize Junior Singers



















**MOVIE** Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

# People in our way?

A Dog's Way Home tells the story of Bella, a beautiful dog who becomes separated from her beloved human family and embarks on an epic 400-mile journey home. For those of us who have despaired at films filled with ear-splitting explosions or salacious storylines, A Dog's Way Home will be a breath of fresh air (indeed you can almost feel the fresh air as Bella travels through wonderful scenery beautifully filmed). But this is more than a feel-good movie for dog-lovers, as it illustrates important lessons for our own journey through life.



Though Bella is ceaselessly focused on her goal, yet she still stops to provide comfort and support to those she meets along the way. And, although her love for others is unconditional, the help she provides subsequently leads to assistance for herself in her own time of need. Sometimes this is reciprocated directly, as with the orphaned baby cougar whom she adopts and feeds. At other times the benefit is tangential, as with the man she digs out of an avalanche. But, in each case, her gift of love is selfless and the benefit is serendipitous.



Written by the animal-loving husband and wife team Bruce Cameron and Cathryn Michon, this film does not claim to be a true story, but the underlying principles certainly are true-to-life. And it might cause us to reflect upon how we, as humans, treat others. When we are resolutely focused on a goal, how should we respond to the needs of those we meet along the way? Might apparent distractions turn out to be blessings in disguise?



EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.



### ST COLUMBA'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB



The new term started on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Attendances have been good, making three sets each night. There are six more Thursdays to go, with the end of term party being held on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Why not come along and join in the fun?

We meet every Thurs from 7.30 - 9.30 pm in the large hall with tea and biscuits at half time. You will receive a warm welcome.

Margaret Brown 332 5957





The Church of Scotland swing band, Heart and Soul will be performing in Blackhall St Columba's on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May

It is sure to be an evening to get your toes tapping to that swing music so put it in your diary now

There will be no charge, but a collection will be taken





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#### Minister

Rev Benjamin J.A. Abeledo 5 Blinkbonny Crescent Edinburgh EH4 3NB Telephone 315 2019 Session Clerk 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

#### Kirk News – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Please send all items to the Editor, Christine Denham, c/o Church Office (Home tel: 336 5943) or e-mail: kirknews@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

#### DEADLINES Blackhall Bulletin-Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Please send all items to the Editor, Barbara Wilson, c/o Church Office (Home tel: 312 6035) or e-mail bulletin@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

#### **Advertising Enquiries**

Enquiries regarding advertising should be sent to Kay Rich, 8 Queen's Ave South, EH4 3BU Home tel: 332 8502



The weather is getting warmer and the days are a little longer. With new jewellery and lighter scarves for the warmer weather, along with lots of goodies for children's birthdays and Easter, it's time to get excited for spring.

#### Easter Sunday: 21st April 2019

193 Whitehouse Rd, Barnton, EH4 6BU 0131 538 0168 5 Seaforth Terrace, Blackhall, EH4 2BS 0131 467 2878



### 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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