

# BLACKHALL BULLETIN

June 2019

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

No. 156



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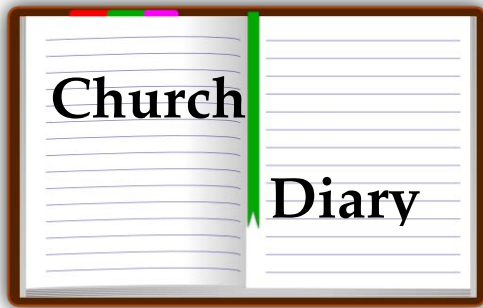
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## June

- 2 11.00 am Morning Worship
- 9 11.00 am Morning Worship
- 16 11.00 am Sunday Club Promotion Service
- 23 11.00 am Morning Worship
- 25 4.00 pm Service at Strachan House
- 30 9.30 am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 11.00 am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

## July

- 7 10.30am Morning Worship
- 14 10.30am Morning Worship
- 21 10.30am Morning Worship
- 28 10.30am Morning Worship followed by Short Communion
- 30 4.00pm Strachan House Service

## August

- 4 10.30am Morning Worship
- 11 10.30am Morning Worship
- 18 10.30am Morning Worship
- 25 10.30am Morning Worship followed by Short Communion
- 27 4.00pm Strachan House Service



## Junior Singers

The Junior Singers are now coming to the end of their 2018-19 session. They have had a busy year, having performed in Blackhall St Columba's Church during services and in the Nativity Play as well as for the residents of Queen's Court. This year's Singers have been a happy, enthusiastic group and we hope we see them all again on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September when we start up again after the summer break.

The Singers meet during term time every Thursday in the upstairs hall of the church buildings from 3.30 to 4.15pm and any child from P3 to P7 who enjoys singing will be made most welcome.

For more information, please contact Amy Donaldson 332 1354 or Church Office 332 8502

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# BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

## REV BENJAMIN J A ABELEDO

The Presbytery of Dunkeld and Meigle has sustained the call by Blairgowrie Parish Church for Benjamin to be their new minister. The Congregation said farewell to Benjamin on Sunday 7 April and the following is the tribute read out by Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk, that morning at the end of the Service.

*Benjamin, this is, of course your last Sunday with us. While your ministry here has been a relatively short one, I believe that it would be only fair to say that a great deal has been achieved over the past three years and importantly a lot of groundwork done to lay firm foundations to secure the future of Blackhall St Columba's.*

*Your vision led to the much needed and exciting Building for the Future initiative yet throughout the discussion and planning process you were careful not to influence any of the decisions leaving that responsibility to the members of the Steering Group and, ultimately, the Kirk Session. Benjamin, you guided us through the move to the Unitary Constitution, resulting in us as a Congregation being ahead of the game, so to speak, before the change in the constitution was imposed upon us by the charity regulator.*

*You also lead us through the Local Church Review exercise an all important piece of planning for the future here at Blackhall St Columba's, and the content of our report was commended at The Presbytery of Edinburgh earlier this year. It is unfortunate that you will not be with us to play your part in the team effort necessary to convert the plan into real action and outcomes but rest assured that others will. All in all, Benjamin, you have shown strong leadership, as we would expect from a former military man, and you have also instilled enthusiasm. For all that we are extremely grateful.*

*Benjamin, you should depart from Blackhall St Columba's knowing that you have given your all for the Congregation in terms of pastoral care and teaching of the Word with your sermons being particularly inspiring. You are the teacher after all and have carried out these responsibilities with great commitment. May God walk closely with you and Marie as you move into this new phase of your life and may you find joy, fulfilment and peace in Blairgowrie.*

Benjamin was then presented with a cheque in the amount donated by Elders and members of the congregation. Benjamin subsequently acknowledged the gift and added "you have always been a very generous congregation and in this presentation, you have once again demonstrated your kindness. As you continue to serve the Lord, let me wish you every blessing and success in all your endeavours and future service for Him".



Violet Troup presented a bouquet of flowers to Marie.

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## INTERIM MODERATOR



The Presbytery of Edinburgh has appointed The Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, Minister of Cramond Kirk, to be the Interim Moderator throughout the period of the vacancy. The Congregation is very fortunate in having a minister of Dr Barr's experience to lead them through the period of vacancy.

An Interim Moderator has a dual role to discharge. On the one hand, being the Presbytery's appointee, the Interim Moderator is expected to help in representing the views of Presbytery to the Congregation. On the other hand, as the Congregation's Minister for the time being, the Interim Moderator may be called on to help in representing the Congregation's views to the Presbytery.

The Interim Moderator acts with all the powers and authority of an inducted minister, even where the regular preaching and pastoral aspects of ministry are delivered by the Locum. That said, the Kirk Session, now in a period of vacancy, appreciate that Dr Barr also has the responsibilities for the good people of Cramond Kirk and their Kirk Session.

## LOCUM



During the period of the vacancy Rev Gordon Farquharson will be the Locum and will take most of the Services during the period of the vacancy. The Congregation is indeed fortunate having Gordon on site, so to speak, in terms of his role as Pastoral Assistant and therefore someone known and well respected by the Congregation. Gordon, with support of the Elders will perform the pastoral duties. The Congregation will be mindful that this is not a full time role.

## PROCESS TO APPOINT A NEW MINISTER

Following Benjamin's appointment as minister of Blairgowrie Parish Church being sustained by The Presbytery of Dunkeld and Meigle, arrangements are in place for his Induction on 20<sup>th</sup> June and a warm invitation is extended to those who may wish to attend.

With the congregation becoming vacant at that point, there is a process to be followed before the process of securing a successor can be started.

The Presbytery of Edinburgh has appointed The Very Rev Dr Russell Barr to serve as Interim Moderator and he will guide the Congregation through what needs to be done in order for the Presbytery to grant the necessary permission to call a new minister. This will include a number of edicts being read to the Congregation, the creation of an electoral role of people eligible to vote, and meetings with various Presbytery committees.

Once permission to call has been granted, the Congregation will choose a Nominating Committee who will prepare a Parish Profile and begin the work of looking for a new minister.

Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk

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# Building for the Future

Work on the Building for the Future project in the church is gathering pace. Contracts for the main work in the Sanctuary have gone out to tender and we now expect that the actual work will begin in July. As you will know, while the Sanctuary is out of commission we will be worshipping in the Large Hall. In fact, the first service to be held there will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. This is so that we can clear the Sanctuary properly and arrange for everything which will not be needed in the meantime to be safely stored. The pews, of course, are to be removed; some of these are being sold to members of the congregation to help with the fund raising effort and the rest are being sold to a firm which will recycle them, either as pews elsewhere or for the wood they contain.

The Church Office is also being refurbished and it too will be out of commission for the next nine or ten months. A temporary office is being established in the projection room which is upstairs at the rear of the Large Hall. Access to this will be by the blue door on the left as you approach the usual entrance to the halls.

Phase 2 of the entire ambitious project involves extensive work on the hall complex. However, it is realistic to expect that it will be some time before we are able to embark on this and even when we are in a financial position to go ahead there will be an appreciable lead time before work could actually begin. We will need to go through the whole process of commissioning detailed plans and getting building permissions and so on but in the meantime we are acutely aware that the halls are in need of some attention now. We are not yet in a position to do anything structural but there will be some redecoration.

The Large Hall itself is being redecorated as this is being written and this will have been completed by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May. This has meant some disruption to hall users and we have very been grateful for everyone's patience and understanding. Now the plan is to redecorate the Small Hall as well as the corridor and the stairs. We also plan to completely refurbish the toilets at the rear of the Large Hall. The aim is to schedule this work entirely within the summer holiday period so there shouldn't be any more disruption. Nevertheless, we will to some extent be in the hands of the contractors so we may find that we have to be flexible. We will certainly do all we can to try to ensure that everything goes as smoothly as possible.

Much planning has gone in to the practicalities of holding services in the Large Hall. The hall will be set out first thing on Sunday morning and will be cleared away by lunchtime. This means that the fact of using it for worship will not directly affect users. We will be able to continue our normal pattern of worship with the choir and the praise band providing music as usual. Access to the hall will be by the main door to the complex and also by the door at the rear of the hall. We very much hope that everyone will be comfortable with the arrangements. It may even provide a welcome note of variety and perhaps there may be some in the parish who might like to come along to experience what is bound to be a different, and perhaps more relaxed, atmosphere.

Finally, we are anxious to keep everyone as fully informed as possible and a leaflet and a covering letter giving more details about what has been done so far and about what the next steps will be has been delivered to members of the congregation. It was not practicable to send one to every house in the parish but if you do have specific questions about our plans or their implications please do contact the church office. The easiest way to do this in the first instance is probably by e mail on [secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk](mailto:secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk)

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As I write this, members of the club are busy preparing for the Annual Art Exhibition. By the time you read this, however, it will have been all packed away for another year, and a hopefully generous cheque will have been sent off to our charity partners this year, Artlink, an Edinburgh based organisation whose aim is to increase participation in the arts for those who experience disadvantage or disability, as a means of increasing their wellbeing. We hope that those of you who found time to visit the Exhibition, enjoyed it and were tempted with a purchase (or two!).

Our AGM and lunch will take place towards the end of the month and is being held for the first time in Murrayfield Golf Club. Then we have a rest over the summer before classes resume in September. As always, we welcome new members (although sometimes we have a waiting list) so if you fancy joining us please do get in touch with our Membership Secretary, Anne McLennan on 0131 336 4327 who will be delighted to hear from you.

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## FELLOWSHIP AFTERNOON GROUP

Our meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April was the last for the afternoon group. This was due to varying numbers attending during the session and difficulty finding new leaders. Fiona Drinnan was thanked for leading the group for three years, having previously been President of the Guild.

We ended with a bring and buy sale in aid of the Church Building for the Future Fund followed by entertainment from our organist Donald Cameron and friends.

It was sad to be ending the group, but we finished on a happy note.

E.H.

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## EDINBURGH FLORAL ART CLUB

The last meeting of the 2018-19 season will take place in Blackhall St Columba's Church hall from 2-4pm.

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June

The title of Elgin Gill Garrow's demonstration is "Inspirations"

This will also be our AGM.

For further information please contact Liliias Hoskins on 0131 477 0245

## Annual Golf Outing



The Annual Golf Outing will again be held at Ravelston Golf Club on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 1 pm. First tee-off 1.30pm followed by an excellent meal and refreshments at 5.30pm.

Do come along and enjoy the afternoon. The list for those wanting to participate is in the hallway between the large and small halls. Please add your name or contact me, Mike McKinnell on 332 5194

## TUESDAY TOPICS

Our 2018 – 2019 session has been another very good year, with well attended meetings for topics ranging from 'Celebrating the History of Health in Edinburgh' to 'Wojtek the Soldier Bear', whose statue can be seen in Princes Street Gardens. Our charity was 'Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance' (SCAA), to which we were able to donate £400 by the end of the session. We finished on 30<sup>th</sup> April with our summer outing to the Queen Charlotte Rooms in Leith for 'An Orient Express Experience', including a delicious afternoon tea.

The current office bearers are continuing into 2019 - 2020, with returning member Joan Cameron joining the committee. The Office Bearers for 2019 - 2020 are:

President: Eleanor Lowrie

Secretary: Jacky Cowie

Treasurer: Sheila Mackintosh,

Tea Convener: Lorna Fox

Committee Members: Lyndy Paton, Jean Ferris, Joan Cameron

The new session will start on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September in the Small Hall of Blackhall St Columba's Church at 7.30pm. Programme details will be in the September issue of the Blackhall Bulletin, and also on the Blackhall St Columba's web-site, [www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk](http://www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk). All ladies and visitors, including gentlemen, will be very welcome to attend.

Jacky Cowie



# Prayer Corner

Psalm 139 v 7

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?*

At times, big miracle solutions inspire people to turn to God. At other times, His soft voice assures believers that he is with them through every thought, every ache, pain and tear drop. Do we feel abandoned, at the mercy of our circumstances, afraid and hopeless? Yet no matter how far from God you feel, He is really just one turn away, the move your heart makes back to Him. His arms are always outstretched towards you, and he wants you to realise that He wants you to come to know His love for you.

Hebrews 13 v5

*God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you".* No matter where you find yourself God knows what you need and how to show you love. To those who withdraw He stretches out and gives courage and acceptance. To those who cannot find peace He sends tranquillity and assurance. Your constant friend knows how to reach you, so embrace Him with all your heart.

Hebrews 13 v6

*"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"*

Though most people do not expect to hear God, they long for Him to respond to them because His help, strength and peace are all in His answers. It is the experience of His presence

that truly satisfies our inquiring soul. Ezekiel 3 v 10 *Listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you.*

Thank you Father for giving us Jesus. I do want to figure you out, but most of all I just want to know you. Thank you for teaching me your ways. Amen.

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Recently Fresh Start got in touch to say thank you for the donations they have received:

*We appreciate your help in making sure that we can send out our packs. Just to make you aware: last year we sent out just short of 11,000 packs to 2,000 households in Edinburgh. These numbers are fantastic and definitely not possible without your help.*

There is always a list of items that Fresh Start requires on the notice board in the hall corridor.

To celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, Fresh Start is taking part in the Kilt Walk on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Whether a Mighty Stride, a Big Stroll or a Wee Wander (24, 15.5 or 5 miles), Fresh Start will have a team participating on each route. You can register your interest in joining them or sponsor Fresh Start by completing a form, available in the hall corridor or from Fresh Start. (admin@freshstartweb.org.uk). For everything raised, the Tom Hunter Foundation adds an additional 40%.

I would like to add my thanks to those who donate starter pack items that help people set up a home.

Fiona Cooke



## Blackhall St Columba's Church

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May we ran our last stall selling Traidcraft items. All stock was sold at knockdown prices with any stock left over being donated to the local foodbank. There will be no more Fairtrade stalls.

We are also discontinuing the recycling which we have done since we started in 2006. There are many outlets receiving things like mobile phones, batteries, spectacles etc in the area. You can also use the local authority blue boxes and recycling bins for many items.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last thirteen years.

Elsbeth Williamson

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# St Columba's Scottish Country Dance Club

Our end of term party on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April was a great success. There were around 35 members and guests present with Gary Donaldson on the accordion. A huge thank you to our members for providing the sandwiches, cakes etc which, as usual, were delicious and very much enjoyed at half time!

We are greatly indebted to Elizabeth Stuart for organising the programmes each week and walking us through the dances. Many thanks, Elizabeth, we do hope you will continue in the 2019/20 session!



Country dancing is a great way to keep fit (and keeps the brain active) so why not come along in the autumn on a Thursday evening and join in the fun? Four new members have joined recently and there is plenty of room for lots more ladies and gentlemen.

Check the September Blackhall Bulletin for the start of the winter session. In the meantime, to all our members and friends, have a relaxing summer.

Margaret Brown  
332 5957



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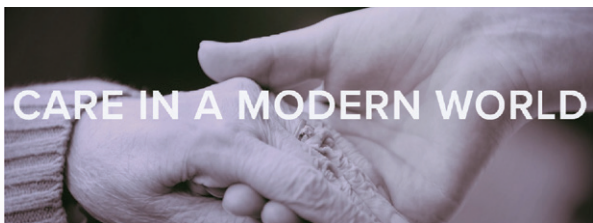
# CAMEO (Come and Meet each Other) CLUB

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 41 members and friends met at the Holiday Inn for coffee and pastries. Everyone enjoyed it so much that we are adding it to the programme for the session from July – December 2019. The pastries were delicious and our thanks again go to the staff at the Holiday Inn for their warm welcome and first class attention.

Cameo meets throughout the summer so why not come along once a fortnight on a Friday from 10.15/30 – 12 noon? We meet in the large hall, have coffee/tea, pancakes, scones and tray bakes and then sit back, relax and enjoy the entertainment for that morning.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June is the date after the distribution of the June Bulletin and we meet fortnightly thereafter. If you require transport then give one of us a ring.

Margaret Brown 332 5957 Fiona Drinnan 343 6762



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# Craigeith / Blackhall Community Council

Craigeith/Blackhall Community Council is a voluntary organisation set up by statute by Edinburgh City Council and run by local residents on a voluntary basis. In the 10 years since the Community Council was established, we have sought to make the community a better place in which to live. For example, as well as working with the City Council on the upgrading of the Blackhall Dip shopping centre, the Community Council has supported local residents in their objections to major planning applications from developers proposing inappropriate developments. These include a care home in Hillhouse Road Woods generating 150 objections (subsequently refused planning permission in February 2019 by the Scottish Government on appeal), a 9-storey tower block next to Orchard Brae House generating 50 objections, large illuminated advertisement hoardings at Strachan Road and Craigcrook Road junctions on Queensferry Road, and concerns about the scale of new housing on the former petrol filling station site on Craigeith Road.

In Craigeith, NHS Lothian has recently prepared a master plan for the reuse of the cleared Royal Victoria Hospital site on Craigeith Road for new housing. It can be viewed on the NHS Lothian or the Community Council web sites. To date no planning application has been submitted. It is expected that local residents will be informed of details through a pre-application notice consultation.

Bus services are important to the local community. The Crewe Road / Western General Hospital corridor is well served but the Queensferry Road corridor has over recent years seen a reduction in the number of stopping services. Despite the Community Council's efforts to maintain the link between parts of Blackhall and Stockbridge, Lothian Buses cut back the route of service 42 to Craigeith Shopping Centre. Service 200 to the Airport provides access to alternative destinations but unfortunately the route does not serve the majority of local residents. We welcome the continued financial support from the City Council for service 13. Looking to the future the Community Council will argue the case for improved bus services.

Police Scotland attend the monthly meetings of the Community Council. They reported recently a reduction in crime in the area. We are however aware that there are exceptions - bicycles in particular continue to be a target of thieves. Following concerns from residents in the Maidencraig Crescent area, Police Scotland has addressed anti-social behaviour problems on the Roseburn cycle and footpath. The police patrol the path regularly, extending to Ravelston Woods.

Do you have local concerns? The Community Council is always keen to hear about local issues. We know some residents are concerned about excessive traffic speeds despite the 20mph speed limit. Likewise, the build-up of peak hour traffic jams on Craigcrook Road and Strachan Road creates problems for local residents accessing their houses. But the issues can also be small scale such as the poor maintenance of the planters in Blackhall Dip.

Why not come along to our next regular monthly meeting held at Blackhall St Columba's Church on Monday 17 June at 7.30pm. If you live within the Community Council boundary, you can also become a community councillor - the next elections are in September 2019.

Alan Denham - Secretary: contact [sec.cbcc@gmail.com](mailto:sec.cbcc@gmail.com)  
Web site [www.craigeithblackhall.org](http://www.craigeithblackhall.org)

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## Blackhall Community Trust Update

**Our next public meeting is on Tuesday 4 June 2019 at 7.30pm, Small Hall, Blackhall St Columba's Church. Everyone is very welcome.**

This meeting will also be an EGM to approve minor changes to our Articles of Association. To help us explore funding options for the new Ravelston Park Pavilion, our guest speaker will be James Proctor of Community Shares Scotland who will be discussing community shares. Could a community share offer be part of the funding package for our new Ravelston Park Pavilion? Come along and share your views! We're also seeking new directors for Blackhall Community Trust to join our seven existing directors – please email us on [blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com) if you'd like more information.



### **Over the last few months, Blackhall Community Trust has**

- had our application for a Community Asset Transfer of Ravelston Park Pavilion to Blackhall Community Trust agreed by the City of Edinburgh Council. This is really exciting news and makes our plans for a new Ravelston Park Pavilion come another step closer. The ownership transfer has to take place by early September
- submitted our Scottish Land Fund grant bid to pay for the purchase of the building – we hear on 23 May
- increased our membership even more – we now have over 150 members. Please consider becoming a member – it's free and demonstrates your interest and support! See the application on our website or on the back of our newsletter, which will be delivered in the next few weeks
- been planning additional fundraising and social events. These include, on Sat 28 September, a Blackhall Ball with dinner and dance to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of Blackhall Nursery and, hopefully the acquisition of Ravelston Park Pavilion for the community and a quiz night on Thurs 28 Nov, both at the Holiday Inn. For Blackhall Ball tickets (£30 per person), email [blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com). More details to follow on the quiz night – look out for posters and information on our website.

### **Coming up...**

- Please look out for our petition which will invite you to support Blackhall Community Trust registering its interest in a local piece of land, under the new Community Right to Buy legislation
- We'll be at the Blackhall Children's Sports Day – we hope to see you there!

**Blackhall Community Trust (BCT) continues to organise a number of activities for local residents. The Book Club** meets in Ravelston Park Pavilion on the first Thursday evening of every month. **The BCT walking group** now goes on monthly walks on the first Thursday morning each month. Our coffee mornings at Cloudberry for those who are new to the area or who would like to feel more connected to the community are twice a month on Thursday mornings 10-11.30am. Please see our posters for more information. These activities are increasingly popular and we are delighted to be getting to know more local residents!

**Blackhall Community Trust:** Join our email/mail list or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.  [@blackhallet](https://www.facebook.com/blackhallet)  [@BlackhallCT](https://twitter.com/BlackhallCT)  
Email us: [blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com) Visit: [www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk](http://www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk)

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

# BLACKHALL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

After the very successful plant sale in early May and the AGM in mid May the 'horti' settles down to the range of activities that all those interested in gardening undertake. With the editors permission what I propose to outline is the issues that may affect us gardeners when we consider the message of 'care of our environment'.



As a club we addressed this theme in some depth when Stan da Prato, one of the linchpins in 'Bloom' activities in East Lothian who helps to organise the colour displays in Tranent, North Berwick & Haddington, popped along to speak to us. Stan mentioned the use of meadow flower mixes and the fact that one of the reasons for their increasing use is to encourage beneficial insects, remembering this includes beetles such as ladybugs/ladybirds. To a true botanist/ecologist these mixtures are introducing

non-native species to our environment; however our plant ecology has been evolving over a millennia and using these mixes in an urban scene will not cause an issue. Within such mixes of cornflowers and poppies are also many of the 'traditional' hardy annuals which were so common in the Victorian & Edwardian gardens such as Calendula, Clarkia, Godietia, and Nigella and even if you do not want to embrace the notion of a Blackhall garden with meadow flower mixes using these well proven hardy annuals will help the pollinating insects. It may be worth pointing out that by time of publication or reading the bulletin the correct slot for sowing in 2019 may have passed; however one old favourite which can still be sown are Nasturtiums.



Another area Stan covered was the use of plant material to attract butterflies and moths. Although Buddleia is the plant mostly commonly thought of for attracting butterflies and moths, my personal choices include Lavender, and most of us can remember lavender bags being made by our mothers/great aunts/grandmothers. The two common varieties of Lavender are Munstead, and Hidcote, but do also consider L. x intermedia Edelweiss, a most attractive, growing two feet in height. Lavendula stoechas can be grown in a sheltered location but as a native of Spain it tends to be slightly tender. Another moth attracting plant is the herb,

Marjoram, which is also known as Oregano. It is a perennial growing up to two foot in height but with regular trimming for the kitchen can be used successfully as an edging plant. Being a keen ornithologist, Stan introduced us to the various bird songs as well as selecting bird attracting plants. Teasel and sunflowers have excellent seed heads while berried plants include rowans and hawthorn. Growing ivy against a wall or fence can be beneficial as their flowers attract insects in the autumn, which then attracts birds such as wrens and robins.



I hope that these musings show that you will find out something extra at any talk at the 'horti'. In the next Bulletin details of our talks for September to April will be given, and hopefully these will attract you to garden and to encourage the fauna more.

John MacLennan: Hon. President: Blackhall Horticultural Society.



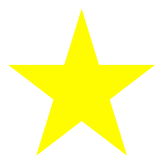
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# CONGRATULATIONS CAITLIN



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES ABU DHABI 2019

Caitlin Dodds who is a member of Ravelston Golf Club, has just returned from the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi with a bronze medal. Caitlin was part of the Great Britain Golf Team and competed in the 9-hole event over 4 days on the very difficult Yas Links course. A couple of the days had challenging windy conditions but she persevered to earn a marvellous bronze medal.

The Special Olympics World Games 2019, for athletes with intellectual difficulties, was hosted by United Arab Emirates who put on an amazing event welcoming 7,000 athletes, 2,600 coaches and spectators from around the world providing incredible facilities and support.

Caitlin would like to thank everyone who has helped and encouraged her over the past years to reach her goal of attending the World Games. She had a truly amazing experience.



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



I am pleased to report that all sections have had a varied and interesting year. Many badges have been presented and all sections are working well.

The Beavers have camped at Dalguise outdoor centre where (this is the easy part!) everything is laid on for the children and leaders so a great time is had by all! For the Beavers it may be their first time away from home, this usually worries the parents more than the child. Our leaders are very skilled at handling any problem that may occur.

Both Beavers and Cubs have large waiting lists. It is unfortunate that some children miss out altogether.

The Cubs joined in a District Camp at Bonaly. This one was under canvas and everything i.e. cooking, washing up and sleeping was conducted in the open. The foot of the Pentland Hills can be quite cold in the evenings but the wonderful camp fire, fantastic singing and the hot chocolate soon warmed everyone up.

The re-formed Scout troop has also been busy. They have learnt to fence, been on a city Ghost Tour by bus, been bouldering and are about to go off to camp at Lochgoilhead in April.

A challenge was set to all sections in October to raise money for St Columba's Hospice. Both Beaver colonies, the Monday Cub pack and the Scouts entered into it whole-heartedly. What fun the Beavers had running laps round Ravelston park! The Cubs I understand were throwing eggs from the balcony in the large hall. (Please no one tell Dorothea!) The Scouts did their own form of fitness. All sections did tremendously well and raised £13,550.

Over the last year we have gained ten new leaders. This may sound really good but you know the old saying "you win some you lose some" well we are about to lose the Friday Cub leaders and sadly Alex one of the new Scout leaders is off to work in America. Beavers' leaders on a whole only stay two years so it's a constant hunt for volunteers to keep the sections going.

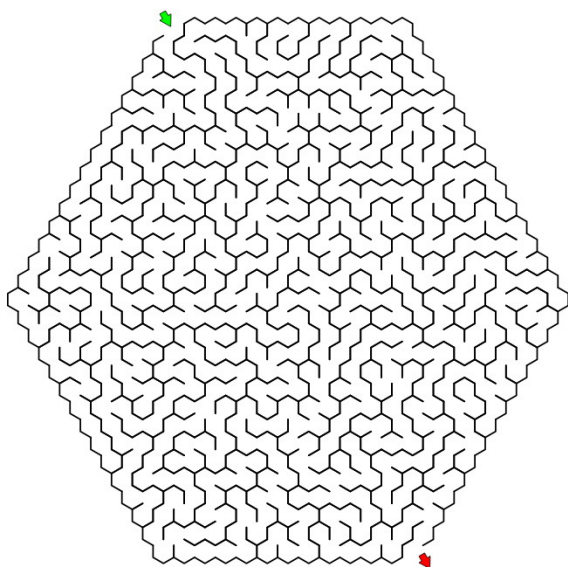
If no one comes forward then we shall have to consider closing the Friday Cub Pack, which would really be a shame as we worked hard to reinstate it two years ago.

Why can't we get people to come forward? Yes, I know everyone is busy! Parents are happy to leave their children with us for an hour or so each week but many of them are not prepared to help out. Sometimes it would seem that we are a babysitting service. Harsh words I know but if we are to continue having a flourishing Scout Group at St Columba's then it needs parental support both for the leadership team or as a Trustee on the Group Executive Committee.

Having just had to remove all our equipment from under the Church to enable the builders' access we found an old pull cart, which was used to pull the Scouts' equipment to camp at least one hundred years ago. Having put it all together it is in amazing condition and only goes to show just how long the Group has been around St Columba's. It would be a shame if because of the lack of leadership memories of today's Group will not be around in the future.

Diane Ross MBE Group Scout Leader

## SOME PUZZLES FOR THE RAINY SUMMER DAYS



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					6	7	2
2	8			1			
5					2	4	3

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# Blackhall Guiding

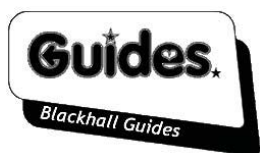
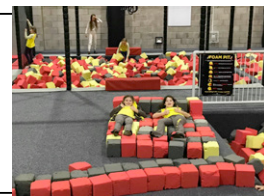
All Units have been making the most of the outdoors with lots of fun and adventures. We are looking forward to a district fun day on the 5<sup>th</sup> June when all units will take part in treasure hunts, a quiz and cooking different food.



202 Rainbows are looking forward to the nicer weather and spending more time outside. Plus they are getting excited about their first Rainbow sleepover! **Nicola - 202 Leader**



202 Brownies had great fun with a trampoline sleepover over in Livingston. Some of the girls were so tired they made a bed with cubes from the foam pit. **Helen - 202C Leader**



202nd Guides were delighted to host a Girl Scout, visiting Scotland from California. They will have enjoyed a trip on a canal boat as the finale to their Going Dutch challenge badge. They have been serving their community when they helped at Sainsbury's, bagpacking in aid of Comic Relief. **Claire - 202 Leader**



This term Rangers have welcomed a new leader and a unit helper and have completed various activities. The start of the term was spent getting to know each other and holding a relaxing pamper night. The Rangers also organised a Thinking Day Event to celebrate with all the other units who meet on Tuesdays. The highlight of the term though has probably been making Sticky Toffee Pudding cakes, which turned out very well despite someone forgetting the eggs! **Mhari - Ranger 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 [GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com](mailto:GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com) for more information

# BLACKHALL

## NURSERY NEWS

### SUMMER 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.

Summer term is always a very busy time in Nursery and so far the children have had thoroughly enjoyable outings to Gorgie City Farm where they met the chickens, piglets, sheep and cows, as well as the tortoise, bearded dragon and chinchilla! Thanks to the funding we received from the Blackhall Children's Sports Committee, we have been able to provide the children with Tennis & Ball Skills lessons which helped greatly in developing their balance and eye-hand coordination as well as allowing them to practise their throwing and catching skills. The summer term brings more opportunities for our 'Tuesday Trot' around Ravelston Park which helps towards promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. The children have been eager to continue with the Tuesday Trot in all weathers throughout the winter months and they are now managing to complete many laps of the Park – bravo!

Our health promotion will continue throughout June as the Blue, Yellow and Red Teams compete against each other at the Nursery Sports Day, followed by a cuppa for adults and an ice cream cone for the children. By the end of term, the children's excitement will reach new heights as they take part in different sports activities, such as, football, dancing, judo, Enjoy-a-Ball and parachute games during our Health Fortnight. By then, we will all be ready for the summer holidays!

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 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 [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

You can place your child's name on the Nursery waiting list from their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday by downloading an application form at [www.blackhallnursery.co.uk](http://www.blackhallnursery.co.uk) or by contacting the Nursery for an application form on 0131 332 8296.

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## BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term Primary 3A have been learning about the Romans

### A Day in the life of Romulus

*I am 22 years old and I work as a soldier. I live with my friend. My house is a mansion.  
In the morning I go for a run and during the afternoon I go to the Colosseum. In the evening I go for dinner.  
The best thing about my life is being a soldier.*

Henry P3A

### A Day in the life of Perseus

*My name is Perseus and I am 50 years old. I work as a master. I live in a domus with 2000 slaves. My home is huge.  
In the morning I tell my slaves to get me some food, then in the afternoon I go for a rest in the hottest pool in the bathhouse.  
In the evening I sleep.  
The best thing about my life is getting a massage every night.*

Hayden P3A

### A day in the life of Claudia

*My name is Claudia and I am 46 years old. I am a mistress and I live in a mansion. I live with my mum, my dad, my brother and my sister.  
In the morning I eat my breakfast and then I speak to the servants. In the afternoon I meet my friends. In the evening my slave helps me get ready for bed.  
The best thing about my life is my family.*

Alexa P3A



# BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary 6T have been learning about the Massacre of Glencoe and writing reports on what happened.

## The Massacre of Glencoe!

Alasdair Melan is claimed to have turned up late to sign an oath of loyalty to King William of Orange at the Massacre of Glencoe.



Alasdair Melan, the Chief of the Macdonald Clan went to Fort William to sign an oath of loyalty but when he turned up the Sheriff was on holiday and turned up six days late. King William was not happy and did something terrible to the Macdonald Clan.

King William sent some Government soldiers to the Macdonald Clan. The Macdonald family state that they gave them food, drink and shelter. Ten days later at 5 o'clock at night they slaughtered them leaving bodies on the ground. King William had got his revenge but he did not know what was going to happen in the next three years.

Three years later, the former king had a further look into what had happened and confirmed that no one would be charged.

## Evil attack on Macdonald Clan at Glencoe

Blatantly government troops maliciously bayoneted 38 innocent Macdonald clan members. It comes after Alistair Melan (Chief of Macdonald clan) was late to sign an oath. He got back to Glencoe 120 soldiers and 2 officers demanded hospitality and that's that's what they got for 10 days.



The attack happened at 5 a.m. on the 13th February 1692 and was completely unexpected. "This is one of the worst things ever to happen" said one survivor. The government troops were ordered to kill everyone under 70. "We were just following orders" said one of the government troops. It all started when Alistair Melan was three days late to where he could swear the oath of loyalty but the sheriff was on holiday. The oath wasn't signed until the sixth of January. The deadline was New Year's Day.

Incredibly no one was ever punished over this even though King William of Orange promised. To this day the event remains a disgraceful Red Coat action.

By Patrick Moran

## The Glencoe Massacre!

### The shocking event that shook the Jacobites!

The menacing Massacre of Glencoe all started when Alasdair Melan (The chief of the Macdonald clan) failed to swear the oath of loyalty to King William of Orange before the deadline. The deadline was on New Year's Day 1692, but he arrived on the 3rd of January. However, the Sheriff was on holiday so he didn't actually swear the oath until the 6th of January 1692.



On the 3rd of February 1692 120 Redcoat soldiers and 2 Redcoat officers arrived at Glencoe. The Macdonalds of Glencoe gave them food, drink, beds and entertainment for 10 days, then on the 13th of February 1692 at 5:00 am, the Redcoats murdered 38 men, women and children from the Macdonald clan. The Redcoat soldiers got their orders from Secretary.

Some of the orders were "Kill everyone under seventy years old!" We caught a quote from one of the Redcoat soldiers: "we were just following orders." The rest of the Macdonald clan escaped into nearby mountains and most of them were killed by it.

## Glencoe

There were no words for the despicable act even though King William said there would be.

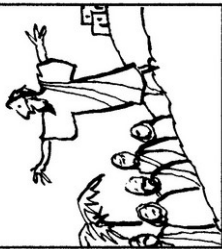


Janet Wilson, Media Correspondent



# The Tale of The Friend at Midnight

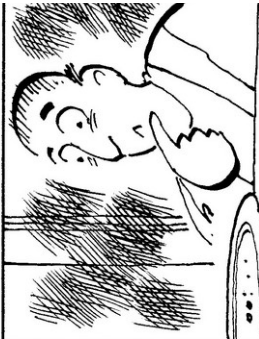
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.



EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MIDNIGHT...



ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD RUN OUT OF BREAD...

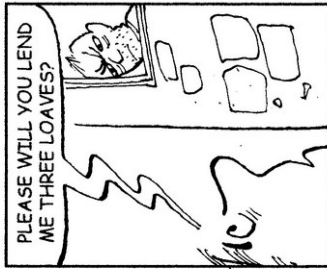


...HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE DOOR - LOUDLY!

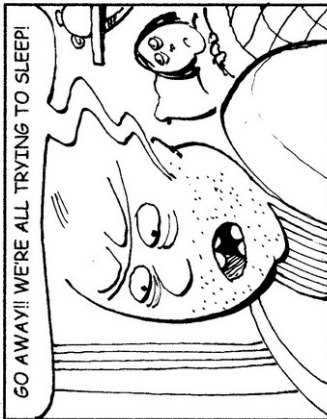


BLAM! BLAM!

WAKE UP!! I NEED SOME BREAD



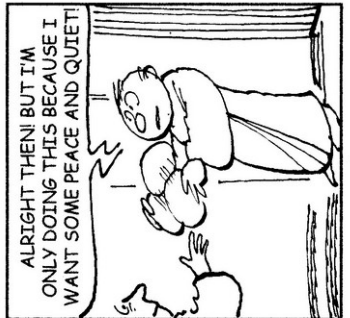
PLEASE WILL YOU LEND ME THREE LOAVES?



GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!



OH GO ON... PLEASE REALLY DO NEED SO!



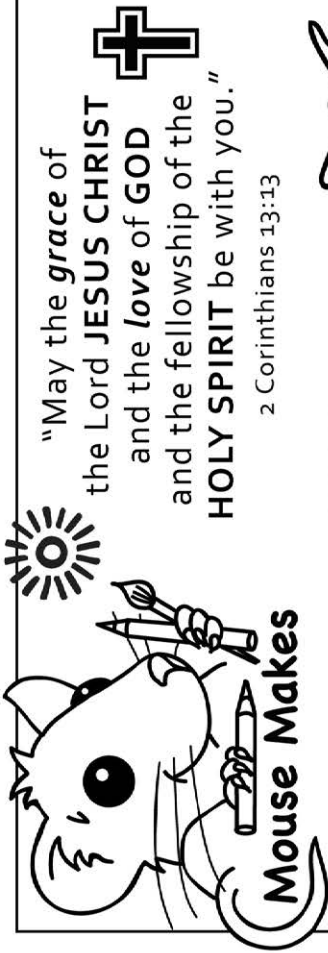
ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN KEPT ASKING'



'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR OUR PRAYERS.'

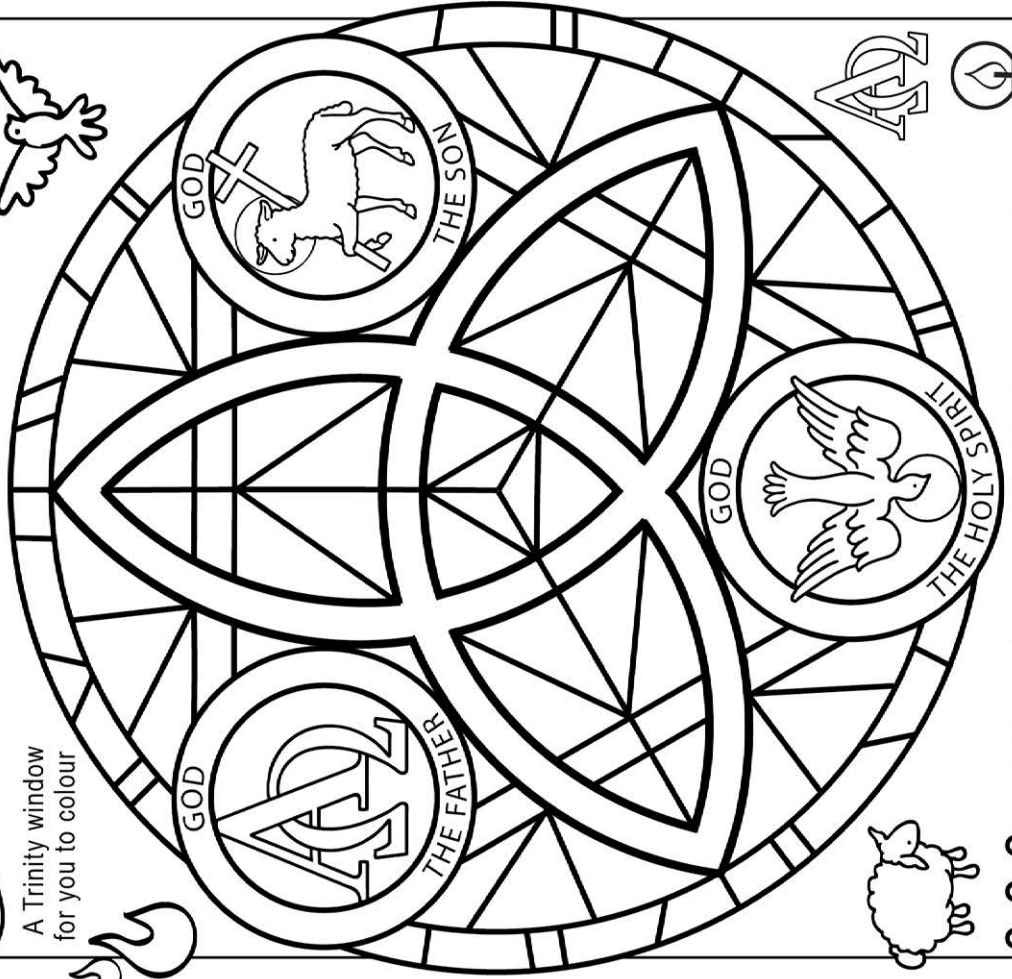


## Mouse Makes

A Trinity window for you to colour

"May the *grace* of the Lord **JESUS CHRIST** and the *love* of **GOD** and the fellowship of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you."

2 Corinthians 13:13



The Bible teaches us that God is three persons in one: **GOD = FATHER and SON and HOLY SPIRIT**



# CRAIGLEITH PROBUS CLUB



On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April Craighleith Probus concluded their activities for session 2018-19 with an informal entertainment of songs, stories and ditties given by Phil Coad and John Davis, plus our AGM. As a Club we were sorry that our very competent speakers secretary, John MacLennan, had decided to stand down due to increasing demands for his knowledge and skills within horticultural circles, but were delighted that Jim Martin has filled John's shoes. Bob King steps into Jim's role as Club President.

Summer months for Probus members involves visits to family and short breaks away from Edinburgh as well as trips to events at the Festival and Fringe. These latter trips give us ample to talk about when the Club recommences in October 2019. Before standing down John had arranged a well structured programme of talks for us to enjoy from early October until early April, and with a range of themes of 'James Clerk Maxwell', 'Edinburgh Buses – 100 years', 'Everything you need to know about Strokes' & 'Freshstart – our first 25 years', it is clear that there will be much of interest – remembering these are just the first four themes in the programme.

The first talk will be on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and after a cup of tea or coffee we settle down by 10.30am to hear our speaker. We meet in the clubhouse at Blackhall Bowling Club, who provide us with excellent facilities at a competitive rental.

If you would like more information about Craighleith Probus Club please contact me via [infoopc21@gmail.com](mailto:infoopc21@gmail.com), or look at our web page [craighleithprobusthemyfreesites.net](http://craighleithprobusthemyfreesites.net).

Being a member is a good way of keeping those brain cells buzzing, and to be involved with our Club the only criteria are being semi retired, over 55, and male. As you will be aware within the greater Craighleith community, as well as ourselves and Blackhall Probusthemyfreesites.net, there are also two very active ladies Probusthemyfreesites.net Clubs, – Blackhall Ladies, who meet at the same location as us, and Craighleith Ladies who meet at Maitland Bowling Club.

Bertie Allen  
Secretary  
Craighleith Probusthemyfreesites.net Club

A poem sent to me by one of our regular readers. It is so very true !

### DUTY DONE (for this month) By Nigel Beeton

Sitting there, on Sunday morning,  
Congregations in their pews  
Read their magazines, informing  
Them of all the latest news.  
All save one who sits there smiling –  
She knows that journal very well  
Having spent a month compiling –  
She knows what those pages tell!  
She it was who, deadlines facing  
Got those varied items in  
Phoning, asking, pleading, chasing  
Each a battle she must win!  
Though she earns no princely wages  
Though she gladly gives her time  
Efficiently she fills those pages  
Choosing pictures, prose, and rhyme.  
So she sits, her rest deserving  
For this month her duty's done  
Maybe she's just strength conserving –  
Soon she starts another one!

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[@ann\\_kennedy\\_muir\\_beauty&skincare](mailto:@ann_kennedy_muir_beauty&skincare)



## BLACKHALL PROBUS CLUB



Our new session starts on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. This is a résumé of our last few exceptional talks in February and March 2019 to give potential new members a taster of the types of subjects included in our syllabus.

Dominic Bate spoke about the work of the Woodland Trust. He explained how the Trust protects our woods that are under threat, restores hundreds of devastated ancient woodlands and creates thousands of hectares of new native woodland, including 250 community woods. Dominic informed us that Woodland Trust were given the incredibly rare opportunity to purchase their very first mountain and were currently in the process of raising £1.6 million to purchase Ben Shieldaig. Since our talk the Trust announced that they had raised the purchase price in under two months and the mountain is now in their care.

Brian Murray, an ex-miner, gave us an excellent and well-illustrated talk entitled “The History of Coal Mining in Scotland.” Brian related not only the early history of coal mining but also his life long experience of coal mining commencing at the coal face through to nationalisation and the enormous investment in mechanisation.

Bill Weir, who is part of the Cramond Association and has undertaken considerable work researching North Edinburgh area, gave us a fascinating talk “Cramond - It's Employment and Industry” which looked at the industries of the Old Cramond Parish, with a focus on the Mills of the River Almond and the impact of the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s.

Our talk “The 100 Year Lifestyle” was given by Ross McDonald, a Director of the local practice, Discover Chiropractic. Ross has been President of the Scottish Chiropractic Association since 2007 and is currently working towards the creation of a Chiropractic university in Scotland to open in 2020. We were fortunate to have Ross who regularly speaks at national and international conferences and has provided his services to many national and international sports teams. He gave us an interesting insight into his work and explained how proper posture and nervous system function is directly related to balance, eye movements and control over your breathing pathways.

We have arranged a visit to Lauriston Castle in May to see the parts of this impressive house that are not seen by the general public.

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 have completed the session's programme but 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 to the first meeting of the next session on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October?

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



## BLACKHALL LADIES PROBUS CLUB



Membership of the Club has remained strong, and we enjoyed a varied programme of speakers over the 2018-19 session.

Jenny Calcott gave our first talk in October on “The Beautiful Amazon”, when she painted a vivid picture of her travels and experiences there. This was followed in November by Ian Rhodes of the Butterfly Conservation Trust, who underlined to us the importance of bees in our ecological system. Bruce Cannon's slides and talk in December on “My Edinburgh” had much local interest and brought back memories to those native to the Blackhall area.

In January Prof Anthony Busuttill gave us an insight into the work of the forensic pathologist, and the developments, which are helping to bring to justice the perpetrators of, previously unsolved crimes. Our well-attended post-Christmas lunch took place in January at the Royal Burgess Golf Club. Jim Ruxton of Red Dot Radio, who gave an interesting and entertaining description of the work done by Edinburgh Hospitals' Broadcasting Service, followed this in February. Our last speaker of the session, Sir Geoff Palmer OBE gave a riveting and thought provoking talk on Scotland's historical connection with the Caribbean slave trade.

Christine Proudfoot  
Secretary

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Scottish Registered Charity No SC008756

**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

**DEADLINES**

**Kirk News –  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

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

**Blackhall Bulletin-  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

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