

BLACKHALL BULLETIN

September 2020

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

No. 161

40th Birthday Edition

This page is a grid of 40 small newspaper-style pages, each titled "BLACKHALL BULLETIN". Each page contains various news items, photos, and community announcements. The content is organized into several rows and columns.

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'Build Back Better!'

Greetings Blackhall community,

My name is Fergus Cook and I am the minister at Blackhall St Columba's Parish Church. I took up this new role for myself on 22nd March 2020, the day before the lockdown began for the coronavirus pandemic.

As I write this letter, we are beginning to see the end of the restrictions that were put in place to protect the community from the Covid-19 pandemic. For many people, much in the world has changed, much in the community is still uncertain and much in their individual lives has been affected and continues to be affected. For some people though, now that we are returning to what is being described as the 'new normal', not a lot has changed for them. This state of affairs has been and is still the same for Blackhall St Columba's Parish Church, (BstC).

If you are a regular reader of the Bulletin, you will know that the sanctuary of the Church has been getting a major refurbishment and upgrading in order to make the building fit to serve the community in the 21st century. Work has resumed on this fantastic project and we, as a faith community, are making plans for a celebratory opening later this year. We hope that as many people as possible from the Blackhall area, and beyond, will come and see what has been achieved and consider how they might like participate in the life of the community.

As a Church, like many other organisations and even businesses, we have had to adapt the way we engage with people and the way we worship. Our online presence has never been so great with weekly worship services placed on our website at <https://www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk/> and regular reflections on our Facebook and Twitter social media pages. We continue to reach out to those who are not on the internet and, for those who have asked, we produce a weekly printed reflection and prayer which is delivered personally.

Change can be an unsettling time for people. I have always thought that, especially in large organisations, many changes are more about people trying to look busy and make their mark rather than actually making an appreciable improvement to the way things are done. Often the change merely creates the illusion of progress whilst, in fact, causing disruption and confusion and unsettling people. This is not to say that change in itself is bad just that we should always examine carefully the reason why we are changing things. I have found that most change usually brings both benefits and drawbacks. It is important then that the benefits should outweigh the drawbacks. This is, I believe, why people were so accepting of the changes we saw during lockdown. Everybody could see that they were a very real attempt to save lives and protect people and so the benefits were seen to clearly outweigh the drawbacks.

This is why this moment in time is so important not just for us as individuals or as a community in Blackhall but for the whole world and everybody in it. Things are changing again. We are, as I mentioned, entering into what will become the 'new normal'. We have an opportunity in the process to improve the way we were doing things.

It has been said that we are the first generation to fully understand the havoc that human beings have caused to the environment of the world. We are also the last generation who have the ability to change sufficiently the way we do things to ensure the future for our children, our grandchildren and generations to come.

In this time of change, as people of faith, we at BStC, recognise that only God, in His love for all people, is unchanging. You may remember that this was the theme of my last letter in the Bulletin. In the Book of Genesis, (a book that is regarded as holy scripture by Christians, Jews and Muslims alike) it is written: *“God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” (Genesis 1:28)*

We have come to recognise that, whilst historically some people have taken this passage to mean that we can take what we like from the world, it, in fact, means that we have a responsibility towards preserving God's creation for all. If we examine the dictionary definition of 'dominion', then we realise that it means to control something. Control does not infer a right to abuse and, in fact, it confers an obligation to control wisely.

The New Testament is also filled with many of Jesus' teachings about how people should behave, and these teachings have a relevance to the subject of our stewardship of the planet. (Try reading Luke 16:1-13 or Matthew 25:14-30 for instance.)

Now, in this time for change, we need to make sure that the changes which come about are for the benefit of all and are not merely for change's sake. This is a time when we, at BstC, are looking to build. We are building not only our physical church buildings but also our church community and our links with the wider Blackhall community. We are also building the way we do things differently. We hope that many of you will join us in that so that we cannot only build together but that we can build back better!



Take care and be safe
With best wishes and blessings

Fergus Cook



Blackhall St Columba's Church
SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER 11am – 3pm

Wondered what's been going on behind the hoardings and fences for the last 18 months?
 Now's your chance to come and see.

We'll be throwing our (new) doors open wide
 And welcoming everyone from the Blackhall community to have a wander round
 our newly refurbished church.

More information will be available on our website nearer the time.
www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

This is subject to Scottish Government and Church of Scotland guidelines on opening places of worship.
 We will be holding a celebration to re-dedicate the church in due course once restrictions lift sufficiently.



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Building for the Future update

As with all other construction projects our Building for the Future project was on hold for a about three months due to Covid 19. However, work has resumed, and we are in the final stages of the interior refurbishment.



As I write, there is still a spider crane in the Sanctuary, which is being used to finalise the fire system, clean the ceiling and install the main lighting. It should be removed by the end of this week (7th Aug).



There is as much activity as is allowed under the government guidelines with painters, electricians and joiners all hard at work. (but a little shy of having their photos taken!)

Those of you who have passed by the church on Columba Road may have noticed the new door fitted there. We'll also be renewing the Queensferry Road doors in a similar style, so the church is more open looking, light and welcoming.

The current plan, assuming no hitches or changes to the Covid guidelines, is that the contractors will hand back the church to us mid-September. We then will need about 3-4 weeks to get ourselves organised with furniture deliveries, bringing back stored items, re-siting the church office, and so on.

We know that many of you are excited to see the changes we've made, and we're planning to have an open day on the 17th of October, and hope that as many of the community as possible will take the opportunity to come and see the results of all the work. There's a notice elsewhere in the Bulletin with more information.

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Project Manager

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FRESH START

Many of you will have spent some time in the past few months sorting cupboards and putting aside items for Fresh Start. As this goes to press there is no news as to what the situation will be with regard to donations to Fresh Start starter packs in September. To date there is no guidance as to when the church halls will reopen and activities, including the Friday morning reception of goods, will restart.

Fresh Start has not been idle while everything has been shut. Working with other charities in the area they helped provide food, cleaning and toiletry packs. They opened their Pantry which is run for the community and hope to open their shop in October. It has been decided not to sell clothes but focus on the theme of "home".

Their Green Grafters gardening team have been busy in North Edinburgh supporting people spruce up their gardens in a one-off session. This is similar to the Hit Squads and provides extra hands, the right tools and some gardening expertise to transform people's outdoor space. There were lots of positive comments from the community and many local residents were keen to help.

Fresh Start did open to receive donations of food and hard goods for their starter packs at the beginning of July but had to temporarily stop taking goods when they were overwhelmed.

For the latest information as to when they are able to accept donations again please go to the Fresh Start website

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

or visit their Facebook page

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"Thank You for the Music...."

Whether we love or hate the distinctly Abba-style harmonies, most of us will concur with the message of their well-known song. Music plays such a key role in our lives, whatever our preferred band, composer or era.

From our earliest days, we become aware of those soothing melodies that are sung, over and over, in the hope of encouraging sleep. The traditional "Ally Bally", with lyrics personalised to each child, has always been this Gran's choice.....a dozen or so repetitions, with firm pats on the back of the cuddled infant, generally has the desired effect. (Thank you for the music, indeed!)

With such well-loved favourites as "Row, Row, Row your Boat" and "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes", we move on through action songs to a whole repertoire of children's music, designed to make learning fun and to create fun through learning.

From then on, throughout the changing scenes of life, music continues to make a positive contribution, a vital part of every season and celebration. Our preferences may well change as we grow older, but certain music will be forever linked with certain events and people. Just the first few bars may be all it takes to evoke that early romantic encounter, that favourite place, that wedding celebration those final hours with a loved one.

In fact, there is clear evidence for the powerful impact of music - to encourage, to heal, to restore, to enhance our mood or improve our ability to concentrate - and it seems there is a specially designed "playlist" for every conceivable situation. Without sorting through stacks of CDs, my grandchildren simply "ask Alexa" and she provides not only the song but details of the singer and the source. Alternatively, the BBC will Soundtrack Your Day, including Beats and Rhythms "to get the job done"; Workout Anthems "to get you motivated"; and a Mindful Mix "to escape and find your zen".

Recent months, however, have been encapsulated for me in a later line from the title song -
"Without a song or a dance what are we?"

With Scottish Country Dancing and Jubilo Choir both wiped off my calendar, life could have become very empty. Add to that the closure of our churches (not that we do much dancing on an average Sunday at Blackhall!) it was tempting to echo Abba's question, "who can live without it?" Life WITHOUT music.....?

Thankfully, due to the marvels of technology, we have had the opportunity to experience a whole range of music from the comfort of our homes. From "The Magic Flute" and "Romeo and Juliet" at Covent Garden to screenings of "Cats", "Joseph" and other recent musicals, there has been so much to enjoy - including a nostalgic return to the Arena in Verona for Verdi's Aida. Our own online church service, too, has linked us to hymns and songs, both traditional and modern, from worship groups around the country.

Most moving of all, however, have been the various virtual choirs, created during our restricted times by the amazing skill of some very talented and committed people. One particular song, "The Blessing" has had a profound effect, from its first performance, in March, by Kari Jobe. It has now been recorded from "lockdown" homes by individuals from different churches, cities, countries - even continents - and put together in a mosaic of screens, dedicated to that particular city or country but with a message of hope for every one of us.

In a contemporary setting of the timeless words of the Aaronic blessing, these singers, many of them younger than the average churchgoer, encourage us to look beyond our present situation, remembering what God has done in the past and asking for His continued blessing on our future.

From the solo voice in

"The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine
Upon you"

it builds to the harmonies of the final

"And your family and your children
And their children and their children"

<https://youtu.be/PUtl3mNj5U>



Do take time to share this prayer for our nation - and may you and your family be blessed.

MS

KNIT and NATTER

Well, the hall is booked for our usual Monday evenings and we are just waiting for the time to be right so we can meet up again. So, have our needles been idle? Definitely not! Meet this loveable bunch of Trauma Teds, 38 in total. I received a request from a local reader of the Bulletin asking if we could help her by knitting some Trauma Teddies. She works with children in another area of the city who were in need of extra cuddles and comfort during such difficult times. She was amazed and delighted that we were able to produce so many in just under three weeks. Hopefully they are doing their job well.

I'm sure when we get back together we will have lots of other knitted items to pass on.

If you are interested in joining us please contact me at stcknitnatter@gmail.com

Everyone welcome, please don't think you have to be a good knitter.

Lilian Cockburn



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Since the club had to close in March due to the pandemic, we have kept in touch via weekly e-mails from Valerie, the chairperson, who has been sharing information on what members are doing, and with WhatsApp where some members have been uploading the paintings they have been working on. When we do eventually get back to class, we will display photographs of all these paintings on our club noticeboard in the church hall.

Unfortunately, we still do not know when we will be able to start classes again. It would usually be mid-September and if we can start then we may have to restrict numbers at each class to allow for social distancing. We cannot, therefore, accept new members until this is determined. We will have to wait for the Government announcements on the next phase of releasing lockdown before we can understand what we need to do.

Art has been a great way of passing the days for some of us, especially those who do not have gardens that need constant attention. We are looking forward to getting back together as soon as we are able.

July 2020

Valerie Gordon

BADMINTON CLUB

The badminton club plans to restart on the 23rd September if possible. Currently, indoor badminton is not allowed due to the coronavirus but hopefully this will change. The club has two sections; Wednesday 8 pm until 10.15 pm and Thursday 9.30 am until midday. New badminton players are welcome.

Linda Finnie

NORTH WEST HERITAGE SESSION 2020-2021

Due to the current pandemic situation it has been impossible to plan meetings and arrange speakers for the near future. It is difficult to ascertain the availability of church halls very far in advance and many members have lost confidence in attending gatherings of groups of people. The Committee have therefore decided to delay the start of session 2020/2021 to January 2021 and plan to have four meetings up to April 2021. It is hoped to be able to provide more information in the next issue of the Bulletin.

TUESDAY TOPICS

We hope our members and friends have managed to enjoy their summer, albeit a very different one.

Normally Tuesday Topics meets in the Small Hall of Blackhall St Columba's Church on alternate Tuesdays at 7.30pm for a talk or presentation, followed by a chat over coffee, tea, and biscuits, starting in September. However, in the present uncertain circumstances, we decided to delay our first meeting until 24th November, with our pre-Xmas meeting on 8th December. The 2021 meetings will start on 26th January.

As soon as we are able to provide more information about the meetings, we will contact all members. At that time the information will also be made available on the Church website at www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk under Community Activities, Tuesday Topics.

To update you on our charity for 2019 – 2020, 'Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland', we have now sent them our donation of £275.

Our very best wishes to all our members and friends.

Jacky Cowie, Secretary

Eleanor Lowrie, President

THE PEOPLE WHO PUT YOUR BULLETIN TOGETHER

I thought you might be interested in the people responsible for creating the Bulletin from the articles sent in four times a year.

The Editors:

1980 – 85 Margaret McArthur: 1985-89 Lin Field: 1989 – 93 Margaret McArthur and Kay Rich were co-editors: 1993 – 2005 Margaret McArthur: 2005 – 2010 Betty Thomson: 2010 – 2013 Alice Cameron and 2013 to now Me – Barbara Wilson.

Up to about 2006 there was a committee of 6 – 8 members helping to find the stories and put them together. As you can imagine that amounted to a lot of people. Our grateful thanks to all committee members.

But times changed and the way of printing changed. Committee members reduced and latterly it was just the editors with the assistance of Kay Rich (right) as advertising manager. Kay first joined the committee in 1988 and was a community reporter, gave advertising advice, and liaised with Blackhall Primary School. She then, as you can see, co-edited for four years. As the committee grew smaller minutes were not kept so it is difficult to know what exactly she did in the years before she became Advertising Manager in 2007. Sadly, Kay has decided to retire as our advertising manager after, as you can see, many years of involvement with the Bulletin. I know I speak for all of the editors when I wish Kay a long and happy retirement and say a big 'thank you' for your tireless work chasing up advertisers over the years. For without the income from the advertisers, we might not have the Bulletin. Kay received a bouquet of flowers and a voucher as a token of our appreciation for all her hard work.



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BLACKHALL BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 1980

Blackhall Playgroup

A "brand new" addition to the local community scene is a playgroup for 3—5 year-olds. Financed by a Lothian Regional grant for accommodation rent, heating, lighting and staff salaries, we hold four sessions per week; that is Monday and Tuesday 1—3.30pm and Wednesday and Thursday 9.30—12. These are held in the halls of St. Columba's Church, Blackhall to whom we are most indebted.

Play activities, through which children unconsciously learn, are varied, stimulating lively interest, and encouraging social inter-relationships. Examples are the book area, with many new colourful books, the musical instruments area, the "Home" corner with bed, dolls, dishes, dressing-up clothes and pram, and we have a sand trough and a water trough to encourage experiments with water-wheels, corks, funnels and so on (with of course, thick protection on the floors!!) Playdough, painting and the handicraft table are also extremely popular, where joyful, multi-coloured creations are produced.

We warmly welcome new faces to our group, as we have vacancies, and will also take names of children who will be in this 3—5 age range in the reasonable future.

Our chairman is Mrs K. Rafferty at 332 4478; our secretary Mrs M. Smith at 332 6027 — Telephone if you are interested in joining us!



Members of the Playgroup

"Double Trouble" Club

This club is open to all parents, or parents to be, of twins, triplets and quads, who live in Edinburgh or East Lothian. There will be regular monthly meetings in St. Columba's Church Hall on the first Tuesday of each month, the next being on 7th October—"Buy Us—Party Plan"!

The club hopes to promote the enjoyment of having twins by giving moral support and encouraging discussion on problems and experiences, on bringing up twins. There will also be 'expert' speakers and a Swapshop twice a year.

Anyone interested in joining the Club should contact: Mrs A. Crosbie, 332 7066.



Our first Community Magazine

Hello and Welcome

Hello and Welcome to the first edition of 'The Blackhall Bulletin' our Community Magazine.

In 'The Bulletin' we hope to bring you news and views on all that is happening in Blackhall, plus information on issues which are important to us all.

This is not the first Community Magazine in Blackhall. In 1918, the Blackhall Recreational Association brought out "The Rec", an annual production (see picture). To date, we have only been able to trace the 1918 and 1919 issues—if anyone knows of more, please let us know.

"The Bulletin" is coming out quarterly, the next issue being December, and is being produced by the Editorial Group of Blackhall St Columba's Church. Our first issue is being financed by the Edinburgh Social Work Dept., but we hope that ad-

vertising and fund raising ventures will help to cover the cost of future issues.

My thanks go to the Editorial Group for all their enthusiastic work—and our thanks go to all of you in the organisations for so willingly sending us your reports on your groups. Due to shortage of space, it has been necessary to shorten or alter most of the reports—we hope you will not object to this and that it will not deter you from sending us more material in the future.

Our thanks also to all those who have assisted in the distribution of The Magazine.

We would like to hear your views on "The Bulletin"—the Editorial Group has put forward its idea of a Community Newspaper, now let us hear yours!

Sheltered Housing Project for Blackhall

Viewpoint Housing Association plan to build Sheltered Housing Flats for the elderly at the former Maidencraig Quarry. It is hoped that building will start at the beginning of 1981 and, all going well, will be completed and ready for occupation by the autumn of 1982.

The Complex will provide accommodation for 48 people—24 one person flats and twelve flats for couples. Each flat is completely self-contained, but all are linked to the Resident Warden's flat and office, so that help is quickly available if it is required.

There will also be a communal lounge, laundry and guest rooms for those who wish to make use of these facilities.

The Association already has a very long waiting list but, in common with other Housing Associations, it does give a degree of priority to people living within the area.

If you feel you may be in need of this type of accommodation in the near future, it would be advisable to apply now.

The address to write to is Viewpoint Housing Association, 63 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh EH3 6JQ.

Forty years ago this was the front page of the Blackhall Bulletin. It shows the first Community Magazine in 1918. The Bulletin has changed a little over the years, but we still try to include items of interest to the community. As you read on the front page, we have covered many events over the 40 years. Here's to the next 40!

In Reminiscent Vein

The title of this page will be familiar to long time readers of the Bulletin. It featured in many editions and looked at people and places in the early Blackhall Village. I think it's quite appropriate to look at what has happened in Blackhall since 1980!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Golden Weddings

Alex and Jessie Easson
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 Mae & John Pettigrew
 Angus & Violet Troup
 Jack & Anne Burton
 Ron & Kathleen Lowry

Willie & Jennie Robertson
 Mae & John Pettigrew

74th Wedding Anniversary

Bill & Gina Wood

HONOURED BY HM THE QUEEN

Hugh Morton - Life Peer
 Bill Linkie - CBE
 Fiona Drinnan - OBE
 George McArthur - OBE
 Jean Cameron - MBE
 Grant Douglas - MBE
 Moira Knox - MBE



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD WINNERS

Claire Oberlander
 Iain Cooke

CENTENARIANS

Mrs Jane A Campbell
 Mrs Marion Brown
 Maud McPhie
 Elizabeth Thomson
 Mrs Babs Harvey
 Mr Thomas Smith
 Mr Bill Tait
 Ishbel Harrison
 Drew Turnbull
 Bill Wood
 Mrs Isa MacDonald

90 YEARS YOUNG

Mrs Chrissie Richie
 Mrs Alice Wilson
 Mrs Jan Jay
 Christina Matheson
 Mrs Drummond
 Mr William Moncreiff



We had lots to celebrate!



QUEEN'S SCOUTS

Gregor Arbuckle
 Martin Browne
 Malcolm Cutt
 Grant McDonnell
 and Gordon Sims received Good Citizen Award for 40 years of service to Scouting

QUEEN'S GUIDES

Julie Glendenning
 Lorna Hamden
 Fiona Lyon
 Fiona Skinner
 Alison Yuill
 and long service awards were received by Helen and Muriel

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Over the years **Richard Cook** has won 2 Gold medals and a Bronze and a silver European Championship Medal for Judo. He then took up ten pin bowling and won a further 3 Bronze medals.

Caitlin Dodds has won a Gold and a Bronze **Steven Thornton** a Bronze for golf.

WATCH COMMITTEE

Over the years since 1993 you have helped the Watch committee raise £226,584 for several worthy causes.

HORTICULTURE

William F. Murray has won 3 lifetime achievement awards for his work with Gladioli.

John MacLennan received a certificate of merit for his contribution to horticulture. I would also commend John for his regular contributions over many years to the Bulletin on all things gardening.

Violet Troup & Liz Brockie won a silver medal for their display in Gardening Scotland.

The **Eco Group** was set up in 2004 and two years later won an Eco Congregation Award. They also planted a Tree for Life in Ravelston Park in 2007

MORE UNUSUAL AWARDS

Mae Pettigrew finally received her ATS service medal some 65 years after leaving service!

Ross McDonald received the Stuart Rynsburger award for outstanding service to chiropractic.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Bulletin won runner up in the Parish Magazine Competition and, finally, went into full colour in 2020. The first church website went online in 2009 updated recently but with the same address:

www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk



Blackhall Community Trust has worked to keep the identity of Blackhall as a village and made many improvements over the years. "Christmas in the Dip" helps this community spirit with shopkeepers celebrating with their customers.

In Reminiscent Vein

MINISTERS SINCE 1980

Rev Ernest & Mrs Sangster
1976-1990
Rev Alex & Mrs Douglas
1992-2014
Rev Tom Cuthill (locum)
2014-2015
Rev Benjamin & Mrs Abeledo
2015-2019
Rev Gordon Farquharson (locum)
2019-2020
Rev Fergus & Mrs Cook 2020-

POINT OF CONCERN

For many years before social media, the Bulletin ran a *Point of Concern* page which covered many of the issues of the day, giving readers a balanced viewpoint.

Topics included

The Nuclear Debate: Violent Society:
Alcoholism: Unemployment; Amnesty
International: Transport for all:
Homelessness: Climate Change: Long
term care of the elderly: Clean water for
all: Asylum Seekers: GM Food: Slavery
in 2001: Compensation Culture: Make
Poverty History: Cancer: Euthanasia
All as relevant now as then.



The Pirie Mission Partnership Group was set up in 2006 to help the people of Pirie Mission in South Africa build a new church.

Reciprocal visits took place between 2006 and 2009. A site was chosen by 2011 and by 2016 the new church was built. This was possible through your support of the many enjoyable fund-raising events that took place.

WERE YOU EVER A MEMBER OF THESE CLUBS?

Knitting club	One world Group	Walking Group
Drama Club	Jubilo	Youth Fellowship
Probus Clubs	Fellowship Group	The Guild
Knit and Natter	Mother & Toddler	Double Trouble
Friends of Ravelston Park & Woods		North West Heritage
Scouts	Pamela Allam Dancing classes	Guides
Junior Choir	Blackhall Athletic Football Club	

There's been a whole lot of building gone on for all ages in the community

Blackhall Primary moved to Craigcrook Road in 1979 and an extension was needed by 2005.

Blackhall Nursery opened in Ravelston Park in 1999

Cockburn Court opened in 1983

Queen's Court opened in 1990 on site of old BPS b opened in 1996

And of course, **Sainsbury's** opened in the early 90s with **Craighleith Retail Park** following in 2006

There were so many things that happened recorded in the 160 copies of the Bulletin it was difficult to choose what to include in these two pages. One thing is certain. Blackhall has not stood still and is moving forward through these difficult times to the better times ahead. Ed.

DO YOU RECALL THESE SHOPS OVER THE FORTY YEARS?

St Cuthbert's Store	D Mains Safeway	McAndrew's Electrical & TV	Shearer fruit and veg
Miller & Son butchers	Cameron Hardware	James of Blackhall	Alonzi's
Ivy's Wool shop	RA Hunter Plumber	Raffan's Shoes	Alan Francey
Kevin Benson	Meikles newsagent	Ferndean	Murrayfield service centre
Craighleith DIY & Gardening	Zoots Hairdresser	Hillhouse minimarket	Maidencraig Garage
Bank of Scotland	Royal Bank of Scotland	TSB	Blackhall Chiropody
Blackhall video & late store	Angus Gordon	Blackhall Village Newsagent	Cloudberry
Whitehall Garage	Blackhall Garage	Farmer Autocare	Miscellany

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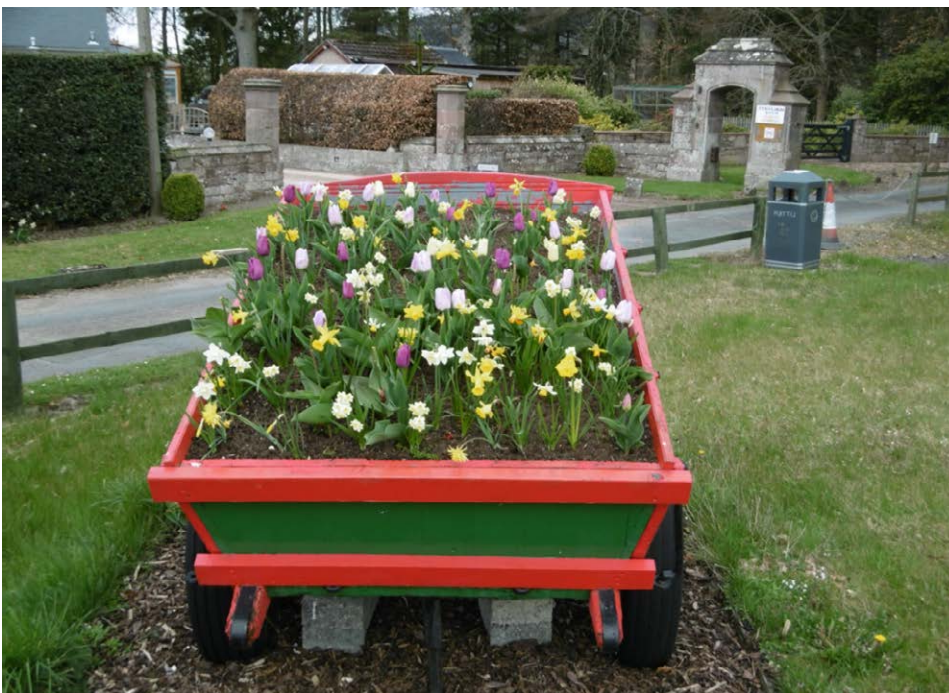
STILL GARDENING IN DIFFICULT TIMES!

Gardening in lockdown has certainly had its challenges! The major challenge was adhering to the initial stated mileage we could travel and realising that a visit to any garden centre or nursery exceeded that - well I'm still here! As an aside, although plants and gardening sundries are available online it is much better to support local, or in Blackhall's case, not so local plant suppliers, although I am sure many of us have seen the advantages of 'plant exchanges' with friends and neighbours. Interestingly this is one of the concepts that the 'to be formed' Friends of Lauriston Castle have been exploring.

As we move slowly into the late summer and early autumn, consideration should be given of what can be grown for autumn to winter colour, although amid these plants spring bulbs should be added. The seed and plant companies have been increasing the range of plants for autumn colour with improvements being made of some of the old favourites. Ajuga, commonly as Bugle, is an attractive low growing herbaceous perennial and with recent improvements in plant breeding /selection. two new varieties have been released - Black Scallop with very dark blue to purple foliage throughout the autumn and winter and blue flowers in the spring, and Blueberry Muffin, the foliage of which is more a mid to dark blue - in other words, like Blueberries! When using dark foliage plants, try to lighten up the containers or borders by adding something with yellow or variegated foliage such as Carex, although choose one that grows 50cm or less.



An alternative to Ajuga could be Heuchera. sometimes known as Alumroot or Coral Bells; the breeders have selected various colour combinations such as Marmalade, a wonderful range of colours from pale green to light reds Frizzy Lizzie, the foliage of which is ruffled and emerges as purple which turns green as it matures, and Quilters Joy with its purple leaves. There are numerous other foliage plants to choose and so just contact Blackhall Horticultural Society via its Facebook for extra advice.



The more traditional flowering plants for filling containers and odd corners are Bellis (Daisies), Myosotis (Forget -Me- Not), Primulas, including Polyanthus, and Violas including the increasing range of Pansies. My personal choice veers towards or small faced Violas, one of which is my favourite, Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow, the flowers of which change from white through blue to a light violet.

This is also the time of year to buy spring flowering bulbs. Space never permits the full range to be given, and we all have our preferences. The windiness of Edinburgh encourages the use of shorter stemmed tulips and within this category the Greigii ones, which have marbled foliage, and two popular varieties are Tulip Red Riding Hood, with bright red flowers and Pinocchio, with pink/white flowers, are an idea. When growing Narcissi, as well as choosing daffodils small cup/eye, or large cup/eye, a succession of flowering from early February until mid-May can be achieved, perhaps starting with Ice Follies, Tete-a-Tete, and February Gold and finishing with Sir Winston Churchill, Yellow Cheerfulness and Pheasant Eye. However, there are numerous other varieties to choose from and the choice of going to a specialist bulb producer, or retail nursery is yours.



And so, as lockdown and shielding continues and our socialising takes alternative approaches gardening probably is the best avenue and option to follow in autumn 2020!

For more detailed advice do look at, and join, the Facebook page of Blackhall Horticultural Society, and ask questions - nothing is ever too silly or simple to ask!

John MacLennan



NB This was written and received before lockdown and shielding were relaxed

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ANNUAL REPORT 2019 /2020

23RD CRAIGALMOND SCOUT GROUP



This year's annual report is very different to any you may have read before!

The Group started in September 2019 full of exciting plans for the year ahead.

The two Beaver Colonies had a night's away at Dalguise Outdoor Centre in Perthshire.

All the activities were thoroughly enjoyed by the Beavers, for many of them it was their first night away from home. Many colony nights between September and December are spent outdoors, weather permitting, and the leaders can often be seen in Ravelston Park teaching tent pitching, tracking all leading to various Beaver badges.

One freezing cold night in November I found myself at Bonaly Campsite visiting the Cub sixers/seconders weekend camp. Due to unforeseen circumstances they were unable to cook supper!! In true Scouting tradition problem solved! After a trip to a local Pizza Hut Cubs and Leaders went to bed very satisfied.....and no one had to do any washing up!!

The Scout troop numbers are increasing rapidly with a varied programme of activities they too had a weekend away at Dalguise planning an exciting trip to Switzerland in 2021! As the Church is out of commission our Remembrance Day service was held in the Church hall, well done the Scout colour party who had a problem with a low door and the Union Jack!!

Sadly, all the plans made for 2020 took a strange unexpected turn when we all went into lockdown in March as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Beaver leaders had to cancel their nights away in May, they hoped to rearrange for later in the year but as yet no decision has been made. We wait for guidance from Scottish Headquarters as to when Face to Face Scouting will return.

The Monday Cubs are meeting virtually which is something we never expected. The Cubs taking part are all enjoying the different programmes. Badge work is being completed thus enabling the Cubs to gain their various awards therefore not missing out prior to going to Scouts. Their last meeting in June was a quiz night and they were honoured when a very important visitor Zoomed in to join them, Andrew Sharkey the Chief Commissioner for Scotland!!

The Scouts were entered for the District Camping Competition - it would have been a great experience for them. The whole group also missed out when the Really Big Camp scheduled for 1 – 3 May was cancelled. This event was to bring the whole of Craigalmont District together, over 900 were registered to take part. Nothing daunted, over the weekend 500 virtually camped in back gardens, bedrooms and under dining room tables, many Beavers slept in 'dens'.

Many videos were made of events throughout the weekend and the 23rd Scouts (produced by Scout Leader David Duffy) made a Necker throwing video which was enjoyed by all at camp.

I Zoomed into a scout meeting a few week ago to find them busy taking their Cook's badge!! Kitchen's all over Blackhall looked like disaster zones!!! Being good scouts, I am sure badge gained they left everything spotless!!

The Annual Census which is held in January showed an increase on all our numbers from last year. This is due to the Scouts and new volunteers coming on board as leaders. Our Waiting Lists for Beavers and Cubs grows all the time. If we had an abundance of leaders, we could easily run another Beaver colony and Cub pack. From the start of the Autumn term Adam Leyton will be in charge of both lists.

All our Leaders have been completing their mandatory training and I am delighted that three have gained their Wood Badges David Duffy (Scouts) Angela Kalheeli (Cubs yet to be presented) and Nial Tosh (Beavers).

As we go to print, we do not know when we shall be able to gain access to the Church Halls. Storage may become a problem, at the present time all we have is under the stage and it is full to capacity. After removing all our equipment from under the Church for the building work to commence, we had to store some with various Groups in the District. Promise of storage space once building was completed may not now be possible so in the near future, we may have to acquire a lock up or garage to rent. This of course will mean paying a rental fee and the potential for fund raising.

As Group Scout Leader I am extremely grateful and proud of the hard work and commitment my leaders show to their Colony. Pack or Troop. It's not just a one night a week! They give up a lot of their time for programme planning, outings and camps all for the benefit of the young people.

The Group are always looking for volunteers to continue the high standard of Scouting we wish to offer. Our parents play a big part in the weekly meetings by joining the parent rota, without their help most of the 'outside' programmes would not be possible.


My thanks to everyone for their support and help especially over the last few months. Sadly, we are not quite out of the woods yet, but we must 'Be Prepared' for anything in the future.

Diane Ross MBE
Group Scout Leader

Blackhall Guiding

Even though our units have not been able to meet at the moment. Some units have continued to meet through zoom sessions each week while other units have been completing adventure at home activities. We all look forward to getting back to face to face meetings at some point.


Blackhall Rainbows



Rainbows

202 Rainbows had fun on Zoom during the summer term and completed the Camping skills builder badge. We made dens and virtual camps and even crafted some animals that you might find if you had a sleepover at the zoo (monkey, flamingo and sloth!).
Nicola McDermid- 202 Rainbow leader

Blackhall Brownies



Brownies

202 and 202B Brownies have continued to have fun and adventures during lockdown and we also continued having brownies throughout the summer on zoom. The girls have been filled with enthusiasm each week from baking, crafts and visitors. One of the visitors we were joined by was five sister zoo who taught us about endangered animals and life cycles and showed us some of the animals they have at the zoo. Girls also completed many badges both through zoom and at home. With 16 girls completing their gold award before they left brownies and left us many wonderful keepsakes which we will use for many years. Girls have also been on 2 virtual camps where the girls set up camp for the night either in their home or garden and took part in lots of activities on zoom over 2 days. **Nicole Harland - 202 and 202B Brownie Leader**

Guides

Blackhall Guides

202 Guides continued with their Zoom meetings throughout the summer term. We attended a world record breaking "virtual camp", completed lots of interest badges, including Photography, Be Prepared, Confectioner, Mixology and Craftivism. We also had on-line visits from the Blue Cross, a photographer and a local councillor. **Lorna Kelly - 202 Guide Leader.**

Volunteer with Girlguiding Edinburgh?

Could you spare some time to volunteer with us? It's an exciting time to be part of Girlguiding as we get to grips with our most exciting (and biggest) programme overhaul in 100 years!

We are looking for enthusiastic adults to help with Rainbow, Brownie & Guide units city-wide,

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

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

GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com



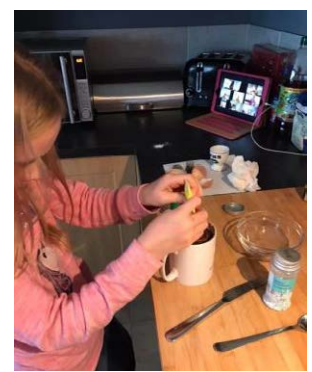
"I liked doing the virtual camps, making the chocolate brownies and meeting the man from the Five Sisters Zoo" **Gemma (202B Brownies)**

"I loved seeing the animals from the Five Sisters Zoo and hearing facts about them." **Nilla (202B Brownies)**

"The zooms have been so much fun and I loved baking the Rice Krispie cakes, they were delicious." **Summer (202B Brownies)**

"I really enjoyed learning new things about the animals at the zoo" **Esme (202 Brownies)**

"My favourite but was the 5 sisters zoo because I got to see the animals that live in the zoo." **Libby (202 Brownies)**



Blackhall Horticultural Society

Perhaps when I wrote 'let's be positive and remember that the 'horti' meetings will start again...' I was being rather premature!

Like numerous other groups and societies, the recommencement of our meetings is still unknown; this is based on not knowing whether a second outbreak will occur, plus the awareness that several of our members require to shield. But, as the main gardening club in North West Edinburgh, our activity has not ceased.

To keep our members involved a monthly newsletter has been emailed to our members as well as publishing it, plus lots of information on our Facebook page. One of the features in both the newsletter and 'Facebook' has been clarifying several generic gardening techniques as well as giving topical gardening tips and hints. Bill Murray, one of our long-standing members, wrote a most interesting feature about the early days of the Society as well as how we were involved in the organisation of the Blackhall Sports via the Blackhall Co-ordinating Committee. He reminded us of several local businesses who supported the establishment of our flower show which was a key feature of the 'village like' atmosphere in Blackhall, prevalent in the 1950-70s. How many of us can remember Simpson's Dairy, run by George Simpson? Or Graham Gibb, who had a seed merchant and greengrocer shop in Blackhall Village? And further afield Pinegrove Garden Centre, at Barnton roundabout, now covered with houses, or Windsor Nursery, Murrayfield, who grew such wonderful tomatoes? It is great to look back at these days and to remember how 'greater' Blackhall was, with the numerous banks. Three or more butchers' shops, a selection of 'fruit and vegetable' shops, grocery stores, and unique corner shops, such as O'Keefe's, who sold a vast quantity of hardware. However, do I hear comments of 'rose tinted spectacles'?!

As yet we are not clear when we will be allowed to meet again inside in the small hall at St. Columba's but until then the monthly newsletter will continue, 'plugs' of gardening interests will appear on our Facebook page (which is also a great way to get routine gardening advice from us), and hopefully a social get together at some stage in the autumn. And as the late summer months unfurl with our harvests of carrots, potatoes, tomatoes we wonder if more attention should have been given to watering and weeding and less time pontificating about it, and playing with the next generation! However, it is clear that throughout the summer months every available minute was used making Blackhall a riot of gardening.

John MacLennan
Hon. President



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BLACKHALL NURSERY NEWS

August 2020



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.

As we head into the new nursery year things remain a little uncertain around how childcare will operate when we open up again in August. We do know however, that the staff team at Blackhall are excited to see those who are returning to us and to meet and get to know the new families joining us for the first time.

We will be focusing on settling the children in after such a long period at home and their health and wellbeing will be our top priority at all times. The Nursery looks a little different as we have purchased some new furniture as well as having had to remove some of the harder to clean resources. We have embraced this opportunity and, at this time, have a large order of 'loose parts' awaiting delivery. Loose parts are things like planks, tyres, sticks, etc. In fact, anything that does not have a fixed purpose. They can be whatever the child chooses, and this means that imaginations are sparked and creativity stimulated. We cannot wait to see where the children will lead us this year!

Blackhall Nursery is a registered Scottish charity working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. This August will see us begin to offer 1140 hours to all children who attend the Nursery. This will be provided through full-time sessions of 6 hours per day (8.35am -2.35pm) in term time only. Parents can opt in for an extra hour per day (2.35-3.35pm) for a small fee.

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.

You can place your child's name on the Nursery waiting list from their 2nd birthday by downloading an application form at www.blackhallnursery.co.uk or by requesting an application form via email at staff@blackhallnursery.co.uk

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BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Contributions from Blackhall Primary School in this issue are all in the form of art works from various classes, completed before Covid 19 lockdown began so the classes referred to are before March 2020

Primaries 1 and 2/1 were learning about Rainforests. Here are their wall displays



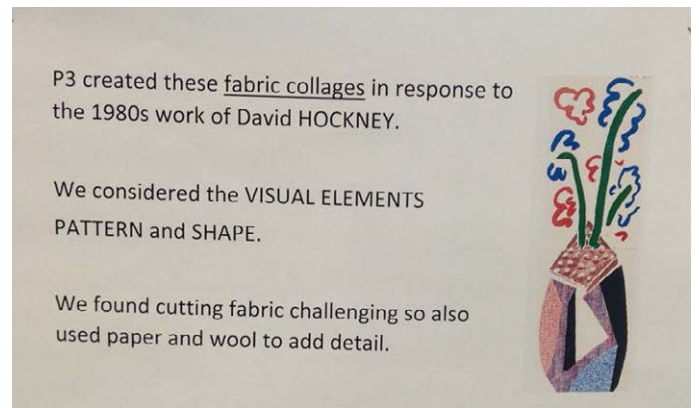
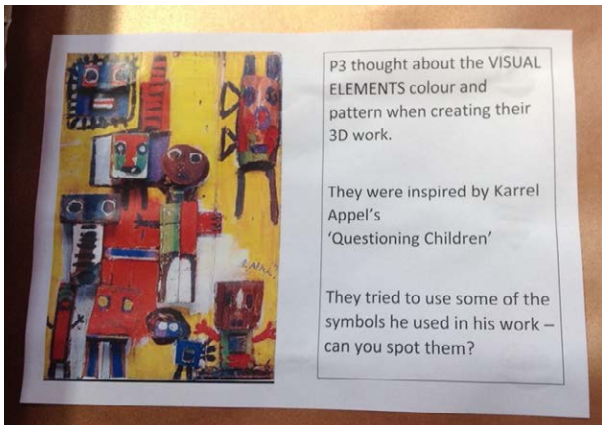
Primary 1



Primary 2/1

BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRIMARY 3



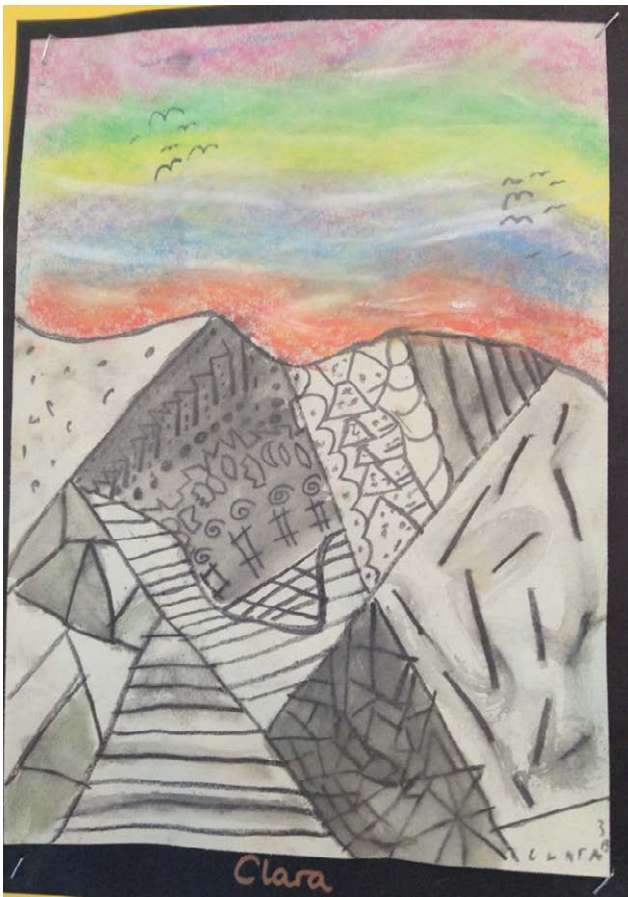
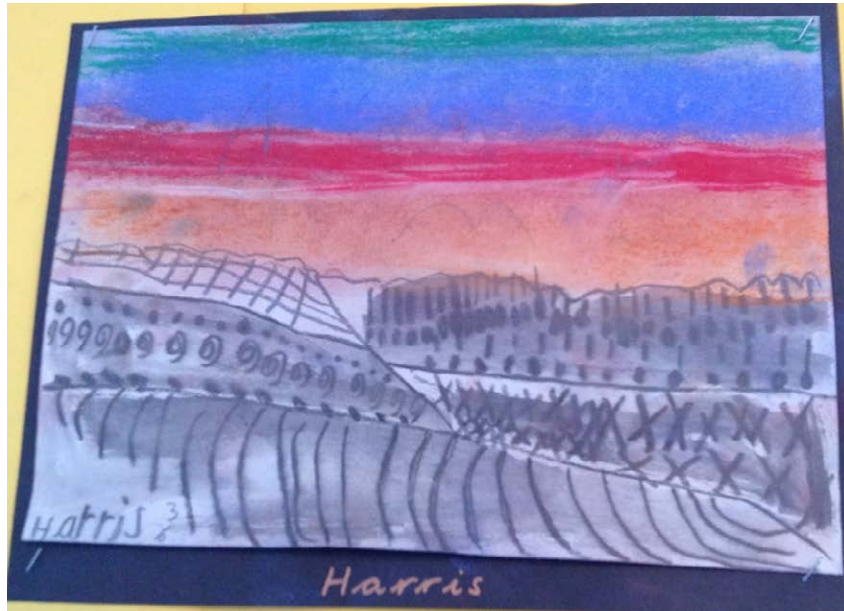
We are grateful to Mrs Lilian Cockburn who has been our regular link with the school for many years for having the foresight to take these photos for us. Mrs Cockburn has now retired, and all involved with the Blackhall Bulletin would like to wish her a long and happy retirement.

BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

P3B Art with
Mr Galloway



- We have been exploring pattern and tone.
- We created tone by making patterns with graphite sticks which we blended with water.
- We blended pastels to create our skies and blended colours together.





PROBUS NEWS



BLACKHALL PROBUS CLUB

The Blackhall Probud Club is part of a UK-wide group which organizes social events for retired gentlemen in the local area. With a membership of around fifty, we normally meet on the first and third Thursday of the month from October through to April at the Blackhall Bowling Club on Keith Row at 10:00 to chat over tea/coffee/biscuits before listening to a talk given by experts and enthusiasts across a diverse range of subjects.

Due to Covid-19, our programme has been curtailed this year but we hope to re-start in January 2021, subject to Government restrictions.

We are always pleased to welcome new members, so if you would like to join us for the start of the new session in January please contact the Secretary for more details.

Keith Gilroy,

Secretary,

Blackhall Probud Club.

Phone: 0131 312 6160

Email: ksgprobud@virginmedia.com

CRAIGLEITH MEN'S PROBUS

As the issues of lockdown and shielding progress, Craigleith Men's Probud are still not clear when they can recommence. Although we are not that elderly, thus require to be cosseted, we do need to consider the overall wellbeing of our members and their families. In principle it is planned to reconvene in early 2021, and until then the occasional exchange of emails and phone calls will continue.

As our membership were aware, we were sorry to lose two of our active members. George Inglis, and David Russell in the early summer months; in the case of George there was a large contingent outside Maitland Bowling Club to clap when the cortege passed by, and although a sad occasion gave us time to reminisce.

If you would like more information about Craigleith Probud please just look at our webpage <https://craigleithprobud.myfreesites.net>.

John MacLennan

Past President

BLACKHALL LADIES PROBUS CLUB

The Club continued to thrive, with full membership during 2019-20. The session began in October with "The Class of 34", an inspirational but moving talk given by WW2 veteran Jim Allen about his Motherwell schoolfellows who like him joined the forces, but unlike Jim did not come back. In November we had another inspirational talk, this time from a much younger gentleman, Adam Kent, on Maggie's Centres. Its popularity was reflected in the very generous donation to Maggie's of £250 raised by the ladies from a raffle along with a contribution from club funds. The final talk of 2019 was given by the author, Jane Tulloch, about the department stores which over the years have disappeared from the streets of Edinburgh. Jane also gave us the history of Jenners, its owners and staff, a very interesting and amusing account. The first talk of 2020 was given by Roy Johnstone on the amazing women pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary during WW2, including those women who flew Spitfires to RAF bases. The annual post-Christmas lunch was held at the Bruntsfield Links Golf Club. Our February talk was given by Fred Daniels accompanied by his wife, Rita, on their US trip from Deadwood to Yellowstone Park. The last talk of the 2019/2020 session was given by Richard Gillanders about the three local quarries which provided much of the stone for prominent buildings not only in Edinburgh but elsewhere in the country. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our AGM due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Due to the continuing restrictions, and subject to Government guidelines at the time, our next session is planned to start in January 2021 when we can look forward to a very interesting, although shorter, programme for the Spring, our AGM, and possibly a social event at the end of the session.

Christine Proudfoot

Secretary

Phone: 0131 343 1761



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Blackhall Bulletin- Sunday 25th October

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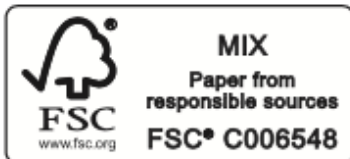
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youth groups and junior singers. You can find it
all at www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk or
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