

KIRKY NEWS

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Community behind Council change of heart

Edinburgh Council have had a change of heart regarding the proposed second primary school. The Council confirmed that the backdown was a direct result of the strong views from the community. Instead, the Department of Children & Families will put forward a recommendation to extend the existing school – possibly to 18 classes in total.

It has long been the view of the Board, parents and Community Council that a second school would divide the village; the School Board are therefore delighted with this revised proposal which will have the added benefit of removing the 30-year-old ‘temporary’ huts and enhancing overstretched general purpose areas.

The Council has also agreed that money paid by Millers for the Dram development next to the school can be spent immediately without waiting for the North Kirkliston development.

Plans are being developed for a new room at the rear of the school and to alleviate the cramped office space of the Secretary. It is hoped that the first part of the work will be done during the summer holidays (2007).

School Board to dissolve

From 1 August 2007, the School Board will no longer exist. A new law aims to help parents become more involved with their child’s education and to provide easier ways for them to express their views and wishes. The Board and PTA will soon be writing to all parents/carers of children at Kirkliston Primary with more information.

New initiative for Kirkliston youngsters

The Blue Light Disco aims to give 12 to 15-year-olds something to do once a month on a Saturday night. This police-led initiative originated in Melbourne, Australia, and was brought over to Fife where it has been extremely successful.

Tickets cost £2 (on the door or from Queensferry High School or from Queensferry Police Station). A police presence at the disco means a safe environment for young people to socialise.

The next Blue Light Disco starts at 7.30pm on 24 March 2007 at Kirkliston Church Hall (Thomas Chalmers Centre).

Please email news, views and announcements to kirkynews@hotmail.co.uk, call 333 3586 or write to us at Kirky News, c/o Kirkliston Community Centre, 16-18 Queensferry Road, Kirkliston EH29 9AQ.

Change for the better or the worse?

Kirkliston is about to undergo massive changes. 600 houses in the North, another 100 on the malt factory site, a new runway, possibly a new railway line and a new bypass to Queensferry will all have an effect on our schools, our shops, our health services and our transport.

But what do you know about any of these plans? What questions would you like to ask? Let us know at *Kirky News*. See below for contact details.

Kirky cares – spring clean-up 10 March

A huge thankyou to everyone who turned out on a grey Saturday to reinvigorate a very sorry looking cycleway. The difference is fantastic and is, hopefully, the start of regular clean-ups in Kirkliston. As well as making Kirky a better place to live, litter picking gets you into the fresh air, is good exercise and can even be fun. If you are interested in taking part in another clean-up, or if you know of somewhere that could do with a little ‘tlc’, contact Iwan Thomas, Park Ranger, on 07990 787026 or at park.ranger1@btconnect.com

Finally, thanks to Joyce Faulkner and the Cleanferry group who loaned the equipment and did such a good job at the other end of the path.

Allison Park – a sore sight for eyes

We are so lucky to have a park with pool, waterfall and stream in this village. It is a lovely amenity becoming an eyesore! Why is litter and larger items of rubbish not cleared up? The weir has been deliberately broken, allowing the pool to shrink to less than half its size.

The pavilion has not been painted for a number of years and is covered with graffiti (go to www.kirkliston.org to see just how bad it is).

In a letter to *The Scotsman* (22 February 2007), Cllr Donald Anderson defended the City of Edinburgh Council’s spend on playing fields, citing a long list of improvements. He conceded, however, “that while £39 million has been invested in school sports facilities, other investment has been inadequate.”

Now there are rumours that the playing fields are to have houses built on them. Residents are right to be concerned.

KIRKLISTON OVER 50s WALKING GROUP

All walks start at 1.30pm unless otherwise stated

March	20	Track to Queensferry seeing new path
	27	Braid Hills
April	3	Torphin Quarry then Clubbiedean & Torduff reservoirs
	10	Dundas Estate (daffodils)
	17	Cramond Brig round by Cammo to Turnhouse
	24	Bilston Glen (bluebells)
May	1	Holyrood Park – 10am (Please remember bus pass)
	8	Water of Leith to Juniper Green via Blinkbonny (Bus pass again)
	15	Swanston with guide
	22	Canal walk from Ratho
	29	Alan, Country Ranger; walk to be decided later
June	5	Harlaw Black Springs & Wildflower Garden
	12	Roseburn to Botanics – 12.45pm
	19	Buteland across path towards Carlops
	26	Threipmuir Green Cleuch towards Loganlea – 10am

Alternative walks are available. For further details, please contact **Ann Gowans** on 333 3272.

News from Queensferry Care

QCCC would like to thank everyone who supported fundraising activities in the run up to Christmas. The annual prizewinners and can collection raised over £1,600.

QCCC are looking for volunteers, both on a regular and ad hoc basis. For details, please contact Lorna on 331 5570 or go to www.qccc.org.uk

Sponsored walk

The QCCC Annual Sponsored Walk will take place on Saturday 21 April at Hopetoun House. Sponsor sheets are available from The Haven or contact Jan on 331 5570.

Community Council meetings

There will be Community Council meetings on:

Tuesday 27 March

Tuesday 24 April

Tuesday 29 May

All meetings start at 7pm and are held in the Council offices in Station Road.

Kirkliston Primary summer fair

Saturday 26 May, 10am to 12pm – tombola, homebaking, raffle and more.

Kirkliston Centre quiz

Kirkliston Community Centre held their annual quiz evening on Friday 2 February. Eleven teams took part and the winners were The Mouldy Auld Cheesetowners, making it two years in a row.

Kirkliston 0-4s – This drop-in group for parents/carers on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9am to 11.30am is a place to come and play with your children aged 0 to 4 and meet other adults.

Senior Youth Club – Wednesdays, 7pm to 9pm for S1 to S3. Cost: 50p. Note, there is no club on 2 May as the Centre will be used as a polling station on 3 May.

Community learning

Emergency First Aid courses held over two half days and Mental Health First Aid courses held over four half days (or equivalent).

The computer classes are continuing. Contact the Centre if you would like to attend. Computers will be updated towards the end of March.

A tutor comes to the Centre on Wednesday mornings to cover reading, writing and number work. Contact Anne or Aileen on 333 4214 or Ben Seex on 316 4057.

Are there any other courses that you would like to see at the Centre? Arts and crafts, for example, or other interests, or courses to help you get or start a job or help you change the kind of work you do.

For information on any of the Centre's courses and activities, call Anne or Aileen on 333 4214.

Live theatre at Kirkliston Community Centre

Citadel Arts Group presents an amusing one-act play called *Rubbish* on Wednesday 4 April at 1.15pm. This is one of several plays specially written for an older audience. For further information, contact Anne or Aileen.

Stop smoking open afternoon

Want to stop smoking? Worried about your children starting? A Stop Smoking Open Afternoon is being held at the Community Centre on Friday 16 March from 2pm to 3pm.

Stop smoking group

A new stop smoking group starts Friday 16 March at 3pm, also at the Community Centre. The seven-week course offers free information, support and advice. For further details/booking call Katie Jack on 551 1671 or see Katie at the Open Afternoon.

Kung Fu at the Community Centre

February saw the start of a new class. Lau Gar is one of five family styles of Kung Fu from south-west China. Classes are open to all, Mondays 7pm to 9pm. For details go to www.sjncombatarts.info or call Gary on 07780 678374.

Happy retirement Pauline Crombie

A large turnout to give Pauline a good send off on 8 March indicated how highly valued Pauline's work has been. A community education worker for nearly 30 years, her advice and guidance will be missed by colleagues and voluntary organisations.