

KIRKY NEWS

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Gateside – Joint Partnership

The partnership between Lothian and Borders Police and the City of Edinburgh Council remains a crucial part of the strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour in our communities and has recently been strengthened by the creation of a new Police Safer Communities Unit (SCU).

The unit has six police officers for the West Neighbourhood Area, of which Kirkliston is a part. Gateside is one of the first communities to benefit from this partnership. On 23 October, as part of 'Operation Ally', 10 police officers from the Safer Communities Unit and Youth Action Teams visited the Gateside estate. Each officer was teamed up with a colleague from the Council's West Community Safety Team and Environmental Wardens. Residents were asked about issues of concern and were given information packs with contact details for the West Neighbourhood Team. Police officers gave crime prevention advice and Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service were also present to provide fire safety information and to arrange follow-up visits to fit smoke alarms, where appropriate.

On Tuesday 20 November, the Operation Ally team visited South Queensferry High School. More than 50 young people from the estate attended and filled out questionnaires, outlining what they thought were the benefits and drawbacks of where they lived. They were then offered community safety and environmental advice from the Environmental Wardens and Police.

With the help of the Gateside community, both the Police and Council have now established issues of concern, aiming to solve the problems together.

The team welcome any query or suggestion from local residents and can be contacted at the Community Safety Surgery at Kirkliston Local Council Office on Wednesdays between 2pm and 4pm, on 0131 529 7440 or by email at westteam@edinburgh.gov.uk

Donation to Improve Local Disco

Thanks to a donation from BAA of more than £1,000 for new equipment, the forthcoming Blue Light Discos should be better than ever.

Isabella Ross – Community Council Pays Tribute

Following the tragic death of Isabella Ross in a fire at her home, Community Council Chairman Steve Lee paid tribute to her sterling work on behalf of both the Gateside Residents' Association and the wider community.

Santa's Annual Visit

Santa hopes to bring his sleigh to The Square on Christmas Eve in time for the end of the Family Service in the Church (around 7.30pm). He will have his usual sweets but any child with a food allergy should tell him, as he will also have a supply of alternative sweets for them.

Santa is looking for adults helpers on the night: contact Brian Brooks for details on 333 3710.

Dorcas Lunch Club

The annual Dorcas Christmas Lunch will be held in The Church Centre, The Square, on Tuesday 11 December from 12pm to 2pm. The three-course lunch with tea/coffee and mints costs just £5 and is in aid of the homeless and disadvantaged.

Church Festive Services

16 December: 11am, service of lessons and carols for Christmas. **23 December:** 11am, at this service, the Sunday School presents the nativity scene.

24 December: 6.30pm, service especially for those with young families, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Square; a visit from Santa is expected; 11.30pm, candlelit watchnight service.

LITTLE FLYERS
NURSERY



PLAYGROUP NOW OPEN!!!!

AT THE THOMAS CHALMERS CHURCH CENTRE
THE SQUARE, KIRKLISTON

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.15-11.45

Places available for children aged 2-5 years.

Contact Angela on 0131 333 4088 (During Opening Hours)
Or Michelle Mcleary 01506 854066 (7.30-6.00pm)

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.

Rotary Carol Concert

The Rotary Carol Concert is on Wednesday 19 December at 7.30pm in Kirkliston Parish Church. Kirkliston Primary School and Queensferry High School choirs will be performing. Tickets £4 for adults, children free; available from any Rotarian.

Gala 2008

Fundraising is now underway for the 2008 Gala and the committee, helpers and children will be out carol singing in December to help with this.

The Gala Committee are delighted to announce that George MacDonald ('George the Hairdresser') has kindly agreed to crown the 2008 gala queen.

Many thanks to all those who have helped with and donated to the Gala stalls at the School Christmas Fayre. Special thanks to Raz Ahmed at the Newsagent, Maqbool and Amna Abbasi at the Stop & Shop, Scotmid, George's the Hairdressers and Ellen and George at the Post Office.

Finally, any local groups interested in taking part in the 2008 Gala Day procession, please call Laura on 333 2364.

Kirkliston Library – New for Teens

A "Teen Zone" and other new services for young people are coming to Kirkliston Library in 2008. If you are aged between 12 and 19, you can help make these changes happen. The library is keen to hear your ideas on what you would like to see: equipment, furniture, new books, CDs DVDs, etc.

Join the film-making project and help make a documentary-style teen view of life in Kirky. The film will be edited and produced to professional standards and shown at the Filmhouse.

Join the Duke of Edinburgh Award Group and aim for a bronze, silver or gold award.

If you are interested in any or all of these projects go down to the library and let them know.

1st Kirkliston Scout Group

Table-top sale on Saturday 8 December in the Masonic Hall, 10am to 12pm. Teas, coffees, home baking and tombola. To book a table (£10 each), call Pam on 333 1570.

Queensferry Churches Care in the Community

QCCC welcome Margaret and Doreen who have joined as volunteers at Kirkliston Day Care.

If you are interested in volunteering with QCCC, contact Lorna on 331 5570 or visit their website www.qccc.org.uk

Bellevue West Community Church

Bellevue West Community Church invite you to a special Community Carol Service at 7.30pm on Saturday 22 December in Kirkliston Community Centre. Details from Colin Haxton, 333 3002.

Thinking About Trying to Quit Smoking?

Stop Smoking Group every Tuesday, 11am to 12pm at Kirkliston Community Centre.

Support and advice on stopping smoking (including Nicotine Replacement) available from a Stop Smoking Advisor. For further details ring Maureen Matthews, 01506 446656.

News from Kirkliston Community Centre

Quiz Night – Friday 8 February 2008. Cost £1 per person. Applications for teams of four – there is a prize for the best team name – to the Centre Office by 4 February. Individuals welcome – let Anne or Aileen know and they will make up teams.

Kirkliston 0-4s – drop-in group for parents/carers, Mondays and Wednesdays, 9am to 11.30am.

Senior Youth Club – Wednesday evenings, 7pm to 9pm for S1 to S3. Cost 50p. Last night before Christmas: 19 December; starting back 9 January.

Computer Classes – broaden your skills by joining the free and easy computer classes starting in January on Tuesday afternoons and evenings.

Safer Surfing Course – new course for parents of nursery and primary school children starting after February half-term covering safe internet and mobile phone usage, games/sites on the internet for children, types of internet sites and things to be aware of when children use chat rooms.

Everyday Reading, Writing and Numbers – Wednesday mornings covering adult reading, writing and number work.

Computer Tutor Wanted

Computer Tutor wanted for the Community Centre – Tuesday evenings. ECDL or better standard, and preferably some experience of teaching adults. Contact Anne on 333 4214.

The Community Centre will close at 5pm on Friday 21 December and open again on Thursday 3 January. It will continue to open on Sunday mornings for Bellevue West Church.

If you are interested in any of the above courses or if there are any other classes, groups or events you would like the centre to put on, drop in to see Anne or Aileen, or phone 333 4214.

Volunteers needed for *Kirky News*

We're looking for volunteers to help lay out, edit and proofread the *Kirky News*. Contact Anne at the Community Centre on 333 4214.

For Auld Lang Syne

Friends and one-time neighbours (30 years ago) of the late Tom and Jean Lindsay at the Old Manse are keen to pass on some good news to their sons about their Wolsley Hornet Special.

If anyone has contact details for Jim or David, please call 333 3586.