

PARISH PUBLICATION

EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Issue 8 . August / September 2025 . Distributed free



UPDATES & ARTICLES

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THE PARISH PUBLICATION

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If you would like to submit an article for consideration for inclusion in the magazine, please provide an unformatted Word document (**not PDF**) together with hi-resolution JPEG image(s) which should be attached separately.

Article: 500 words max

Notice: 150 words max

Deadline for the

October / November 2025

issue is Friday 19th September

Articles can be sent to the Editor at the email address above, or contact the Church Office.

Please note that all articles are subject to editing.

The magazine is printed by Spectrum Print, Edinburgh

*This is an Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church publication.
Registered Charity No. SC010313*

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Colinton Literary Society	Colin Fischbacher
Green Strollers	Jeanette Campbell
Guild of Friendship	Margaret Woodrow
Ladies Badminton Group	Linda Sharp
Leprosy Mission	Rita Brownlie
Messy Church	Alison Downie
Open Door Baby & Toddlers	Karen Barry & Linda Johnston

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Kath Hay
Editor

WELCOME...

In this issue of our magazine, two of the articles will take you on journeys from New York to Belgium, and there is another journey to a lovely Scottish house and garden. Readers will also find photos from two local Club events which took place in June.

Website and emails: following many changes to the Parish Church website and

contact details for key people, the email address for myself as Editor is now in place. Do please take note that, if you would like to submit an article for inclusion in future issues, my email is: editor@edinburghpentlands.church

Thanks to all our contributors and I do hope you enjoy reading this issue of *The Parish Publication*.

Felice Editrice

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, I hope that you are having a good summer. I am writing this on my first day back at work after our summer holiday.

After some time in London, my family and I drove to Belgium, taking our car onto the Channel Tunnel shuttle train. It was great to spend some time in Belgium once again.

Between 2003 and 2009, I lived and worked in Brussels for the Conference of European Churches, of which the Church of Scotland is a member. On this trip, we stayed in a farmhouse B&B near the Flemish city of Ieper, which is probably better known by its French name of Ypres. The neighbouring village has a name associated with dreadful loss of life - Passendale (or Passchendaele in French). In

1917, the Battle of Passchendaele resulted in the loss of at least half a million men, many of whom are buried in huge war cemeteries nearby. The village of Passendale was obliterated during the war and had to be completely rebuilt.

In medieval times the City of Ieper/Ypres was once one of the world's richest cities, thanks to the wool trade, but this beautiful medieval city was also reduced to ruins during the First World War. Both the medieval Cloth Hall and the Cathedral had to be totally rebuilt during the 1920s.

The city's Menin Gate was constructed as the British War Memorial and volunteers from the Ieper's fire brigade still play the *Last Post* on bugles at 8pm every evening. This is a very dignified and moving ceremony.

In 2006, I took the Moderator, the Very Rev. Dr Alan Macdonald, to lay a wreath at the *Last Post* ceremony, which he did on behalf of the Church of Scotland.

The Cloth Hall, Ypres
Image: Marc Ryckaert



I can highly recommend a visit to Ieper/Ypres. It is a lovely small city, full of beautiful architecture and some very good restaurants. It is hard to comprehend that nothing dates from before the 1920s because of the scale of destruction during the First World War, but the quality of restoration work is magnificent. What cannot be restored are the lives that were lost or blighted by war. Then and now, we are challenged by Jesus Christ:

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of
God. (Matthew 5:9)*

A century on from the First World War, the lessons must never be forgotten. Human life must matter above all politics and/or divisive tribalism. Too often the disastrous mistakes of

continued...p4

Rev. Matthew Ross...continued

history can be overlooked: the destruction and loss of life from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the conflict between Israeli forces and Hamas in Gaza, have had devastating and very tragic consequences.

Jesus said: *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.* (Matthew 5:44)

In the words and actions of Jesus Christ, we see the better way. I commend to you, and indeed to all the world's political leaders, these words of St Paul in Philippians 4:4-8:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious

about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanks-giving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praise-worthy, think about these things.

**Prayerful good wishes,
Rev. Matthew Ross
Locum Minister**



The Menin Gate

PS: If you would like to know more about visiting Ypres, go to:
<https://www.toerismeieper.be/en>
...and to find out more about the Conference of European Churches (CEC) have a look at their website:
<https://ceceurope.org>

Jamie Wilson and Alastair Elliot are the Safeguarding Co-ordinators for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church.

They were appointed by the Kirk Session to act on its behalf to ensure that the Safeguarding Act (instructions, recommendations and legislation relating to safeguarding practice in the Church) is implemented. Jamie (above) manages the safeguarding for Colinton Church and Alastair (right) for Juniper Green Church.



SAFEGUARDING AT EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH

skills to recognise, respond to and report concerns about harm or abuse.

- ◆ **Reporting Procedures:** Clear procedures are in place for reporting suspected or witnessed harm, ensuring that concerns are addressed promptly and appropriately.
- ◆ **Kirk Session:** Safeguarding Co-ordinators report regularly to the Kirk Session and safeguarding is a standing item on the meeting agendas.
- ◆ **Record Keeping:** Safeguarding Co-ordinators are required to maintain a register of all staff and volunteers who have PVG scheme membership. The register is attested by the Kirk Session and submitted annually to the Church of Scotland.

Safeguarding Co-ordinators are also members of the Edinburgh Pentlands Safeguarding Panel. This panel meets whenever there is a safeguarding issue to discuss, then agrees on actions to manage it.

Safeguarding Co-ordinators receive assistance from the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service. This provides advice on whether work being carried out is regulated work, offers training sessions, keeps Co-ordinators up to date with regulations and provides guidance when a safeguarding issue arises.

Anyone who wishes to contact either Jamie or Alastair can do so, in confidence, though the church office.

Church of Scotland Safeguarding refers to the commitment and procedures put in place to protect children and adults at risk from harm or abuse within the Church and its activities. It involves preventing harm, responding appropriately if harm occurs and ensuring a safe environment for all who engage with the Church, thereby ensuring a safe Church for all. The main responsibilities for Safeguarding Co-ordinators are:

- ◆ **Safe Recruitment:** Recruiting staff and volunteers to ensure that children and vulnerable people, with whom these individuals are working, are safe. This includes ensuring individuals have relevant PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) scheme membership.
- ◆ **Training and Awareness:** Safeguarding training is provided for staff, volunteers and other relevant individuals to equip them with the knowledge and

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

New Manse

I am pleased to report that our Manse Group has succeeded in arranging the purchase of a new Manse which meets the requirements of the Church of Scotland and of the Presbytery. The new Manse is within our Parish boundaries and well-located for access to both Colinton and Juniper Green Churches.



IAN MORRISON
SESSION CLERK

Colinton Manse parking

We are continuing to work on a revised planning application for the addition of a small number of car parking spaces near the Colinton Manse, to assist those who come by car to our Colinton services. Once this application has been submitted and, hopefully, the issue is resolved, we shall proceed with the process for the sale of the Colinton Manse building itself.

Pastoral Care Development Worker

I regret to report that, following a period of illness, our Pastoral

Care Development Worker, Nikki McCabe, has resigned from her post, in order to concentrate on improving her health. At its meeting in August, the Kirk Session will consider the possibility of replacing Nikki and, if so, whether there should be any adjustments to the job description for this post.

If we proceed with seeking a replacement, it is likely that we shall advertise the post in late August or early September. Should you know someone who might be interested in this post, please alert them to this opportunity.

GREEN STROLLERS

Looking through my Green Strollers' memorabilia, I discovered that 2025 marks the 20th year of strolling. It was in 2005 that Sheena Blair asked me to help her to set up a walking group. Sadly Sheena is no longer with us.

Back then, we started with around eight strollers, but now we number around 25...all a bit older, but still strolling, if maybe a little slower these days.

We have a number of walks in the pipeline and are also planning a three-day trip to the wonderful town of Pitlochry later in the year.

Details of future walks will be placed on the Parish Church website and also in Juniper Green Church Sunday intimations and, as always, new members are very welcome.



Happy Strolling,
Jeanette Campbell

COLINTON CHOIR AND BAND

Earlier this year, we were delighted that Ruth Burns, who has sung with the Colinton Church choir for many years, also joined the ranks of the Praise Band singers. This has enabled the Praise Band to lead worship on more occasions when other singers are away, as well as enhancing the sound of the full band. Equally, it has been great to see Louise Sloan singing with the band once again, now that she is getting used to life as a mother.

However, the choir continues to operate on a 'knife edge' as we only have enough singers to get by. Thanks to the dedication of its members, we are still able to sing four-part harmony on some occasions but, with only one or two singers now in most voice parts, this is challenging.

We are always on the lookout for more singers to come and join us, particularly in the choir. The time commitment is only twice a month, for both an evening rehearsal and Sunday service, so if you could help, please let me know.

David Turner

Director of Music, Colinton Church





Open Gardens - June 2025

The Garden Club held its Annual Open Gardens Event on a fine day on Saturday 21st June. We were grateful to three members who welcomed us to their gardens

and allowed us to see the wide variety of plants, vegetables and flowers that can be grown in our area.

Refreshments and a plant stall were available and there was an opportunity to discuss the Cuddies Lane Project with Mike Scott and Eddie Banks in Mike's garden.

Summer Outing - July 2025

The Annual Summer Outing this year was to Dumfries House in Cumnock, Ayrshire. We travelled there by coach, enjoying a lovely drive down the 'Lang Whang' (A70). A member of staff was on hand to take us into the main house, where we had coffee, tea and shortbread. We were then given a guided tour of the wonderful gardens, including the walled garden, and were also shown pictures taken before the immense amount of work that has been carried out in recent years. Our tour guide was very knowledgeable and explained the development of the garden and the plans for the future. Some members were able to get helpful advice on garden management



Dumfries House images: Murdo McEwan

from staff. Many members also booked a tour of Dumfries House, which was well organised and informative. Unfortunately, the rain interrupted the latter part of our visit, but many members plan to return at a future date, to spend more time in the garden and grounds.

Avril Scott

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Following the end of Covid, when we had all been standing clapping and waving on our doorsteps, a couple of residents in Redford Loan decided to set up a Street Party in order to continue bringing neighbours together. And now, six years on, the party has got bigger and better! It's an opportunity not only to meet and mix with neighbours old and new, but also to raise money for charity. This year the choice was to donate to **Tiphereth Community**, and more than £850 was happily handed over to the office team there.

Well done to the organising team for the Redford Loan 2025 Summer Solstice Street Party



Messy Church will be back on Saturday 6th September and we have lots of exciting activities planned, as we consider our Church community as a home for all.

In Corinthians 1:12, the apostle Paul uses the image of the human body to help his readers understand how a church should work. Each part of our body has its own particular function and all parts contribute to our overall health. Some parts are very visible like our hands and feet, but the bits we cannot see can be even more important, like the bones which hold us up. Paul transfers these ideas to illustrate how every single person is important and has a part to play in our church community. We are all the body of Christ here on earth.

Messy Church has been described as "Church, but not as you know it". In more than 30 countries around the world, churches have set up their own Messy Church sessions, usually monthly, where people of all ages come together to discover Jesus, including those who have never been to church before. Expect a relaxed setting where you can choose to join in with activities, all based on the theme or story

MESSY CHURCH ALL ARE WELCOME



of the day. This is followed by Together Time - our worship section - where we sing songs and hear a story, before sharing some refreshments together and the all-important time to chat.

Last term, our age range at Messy Church was from a wee person just two weeks old to someone who was 87. Learning together is a treat and a joy as we explore our faith.

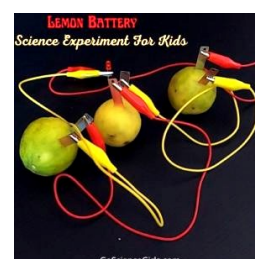
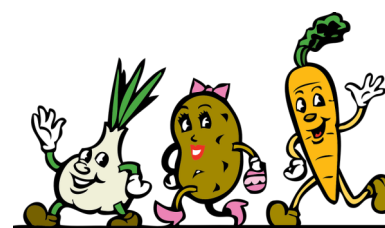
Some of the activities we have planned for September include meeting Mr Bones, our skeleton. Do you know how many bones are in our hand or our foot? We shall explore different body parts and, working together, can you use your voice to guide someone around a maze who has a blind-fold on? We shall also explore connections...can you make a simple electrical circuit to light up a bulb?...if you did not have a battery, would a lemon or potato

work? Do come along and find out! And, there will be more. These are just three of the eight activities we shall have for you to try and we hope to have something that interests everyone.

Messy Church on Saturday 4th October will be looking at **The Tree of Life**. And...very exciting news...we have had a special invitation to join the Guild of Friendship at Juniper Green. We will hold a **Messy Guild** afternoon in hall 1 at Juniper Green Church on Thursday 16th October, during the half-term school holiday. Details will follow in the next issue of *The Parish Publication*.

We look forward to meeting you!

Alison Downie



The 'Lit'

Colinton Literary Society

Colinton Literary Society, founded in 1903, is an Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church organisation

Diaries at the Ready

This coming autumn will see the start of the Colinton Literary Society's 113th season of evening talks.

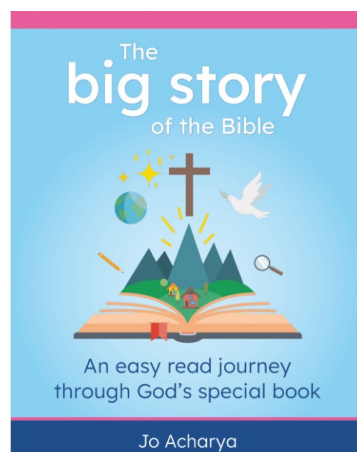
Commencing on Wednesday 15th October, our autumn series of talks offers an intriguing mixture of history and culture, many of which have Roman or Russian themes.

David Breeze and John Reid will give talks on the **Antonine Wall** and the influence of **Romans in Scotland**, Kath Hay will speak about **The Scots in Russia**, Ian Gardiner will present his talk on **Lenin** and Andrew Dugmore will speak about the **Vikings in Greenland**. We also have Stewart Miller from the National Robotics Centre who will discuss **Robots** and Pat Corbett will introduce us to the unusual combination of **Poetry and Geology**.

Our autumn term will end on Wednesday 3rd December with a buffet supper, along with a musical performance by the superb **Glencairn Ensemble**. Our talks at The 'Lit' are very reasonably priced at £3pp per talk, or £15 for all 15 talks. We meet in Dregghorn Loan Hall, Colinton, starting with tea, coffee or wine at 7:30pm, then the talk will commence at 8pm with a prompt finish at 9pm. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

RESOURCES AND FORTHCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

New 'easy read' book



A Roofbreaker called Jo (a church disability inclusion champion) has just had an easy read book published. It is called *The big story of the Bible*. It takes the reader through the Bible, showing how it all fits together. It has easy words, short sentences and a clear, colourful layout. It

is suitable for both children and adults, including people with learning difficulties. If you are interested in finding out more please visit the Valley of Springs website at: valleyofsprings.com/bigstoryofthebible

Training on including older people and people with dementia

Two Christian charities, **Through the Roof** and **Embracing Age**, are offering some online training in September. The training is about how to include, in church, older people and people with dementia. It will be presented, via Zoom, from 7pm-8pm on Monday 15th September. It's for anyone based in Scotland or Northern Ireland. There are also sessions for other parts of the UK.

Free downloadable resources

The Embracing Age website has some resources which are free to download. One of these is a booklet called *Words of Hope* which is designed for people living with dementia. It presents short Bible verses in large print along with vibrant pictures and could work well on a tablet or computer. Go to the view menu, select 'Page Display' then 'Two-Page View'. *Words of Hope* and all the other free resources that Embracing Age offers can be found at <https://www.embracingage.org.uk/resources.html>

Organisations that support Christians with hearing loss and sight loss

Open Ears is a Christian charity established and run to support anyone affected by impaired hearing. They understand the challenges of hearing loss and provide accessible Christian fellowship, and a supportive loving community, where everyone feels included, understood, and valued. Open Ears offers a range of support and advice both to individuals facing the challenges of living with impaired hearing

and to friends, families and supporters of people with hearing loss. Their support includes friendship, pastoral care, prayer, practical advice, opportunities to attend events, training, information on hearing loss, resources and links to useful websites. If you are interested in finding out more or getting involved, please visit Open Ears website at: <https://www.openears.org.uk/>

Torch Trust

Torch Trust ('Torch' for short) is an ecumenical Christian ministry which provides spiritual support and encouragement to blind and partially sighted people. It offers a range of services, including print materials in accessible formats, and local fellowship groups. For children, it offers a free cuddly toy that plays audible Bible stories.



Torch offers a personal service through its client careline. A member of its friendly team will signpost you to whichever service you are interested in. You can phone them on 01858 438 260 or email info@torchtrust.org. The office hours are Monday 9:30am to 4pm, Tuesday and Wednesday 9am to 4pm, and Thursday 10am to 4pm.

Please note: Should any members of our congregation be blind or partially sighted, they can approach Torch directly for assistance. Torch provides a transcription service for clients and can put print materials into accessible formats such as braille, large print or audio.

C'mon in - we're open!

The Swing Café is ready to welcome you from 10am until 2pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Why not come and try sumptuous soups, savoury sandwiches, or delicious home baking.





Hello again. It's been a busy few months since the last time I wrote, but I am now back home and attended the Ecclesiastical History Society Summer Conference. There, I presented a paper on the Shorter Catechism in Literature. This was such an honour and the paper was well received.

When I last wrote, I was about to go to Newark, New Jersey in the USA. That was for a Strategy and Planning meeting of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), where we discussed plans for the upcoming General Council and began the work of drafting a statement on what we mean when we say we are a 'Communion'. The meeting was such a privilege to attend and I enjoyed serving as minute-taker. While there and, after business had ended for the day, I managed a trip to the Twin Towers monument in New York plus an evening road trip to Princeton. The USA trip was quickly followed by a visit home

ECUMENICAL ADVENTURES

Gemma King

for Easter - a much needed holiday in order to shift the jetlag. It was lovely being home.

My next trip home was for the Church of Scotland General Assembly, held in May, where I caught up with various church friends. This marked the end of my time as a full member of the Ecumenical Relations Committee. I will continue to attend meetings in my role as Church of Scotland trustee of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Aside from all my travels, I've been busy in the office with the Nicaea book project, the 150th anniversary of the WCRC exhibition preparations, and many other things. As I write this article, the Nicaea book is just about to be sent to the publishers. The 150th anniversary exhibition work has been such a pleasure, as I have been digging through the treasures of the archives in the office. I've loved reading through the early General Councils proceedings. They read more like newspaper accounts than dry, official documents and you really get a sense of the different characters who were

there at these meetings many years ago.

When I have been over in Hannover, I have attended RELISH (Reformed English Language International Service), Petrikerche and the German Reformed Church services, as well as enjoying a meal with RELISH friends (pictured below).

One amazing experience in Hannover was the Kirchentag Festival – just think **Heart and Soul** crossed with the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** and you can imagine how wonderful it was. There were stages set up all over the city, with worship bands performing. All the churches across Hannover opened their doors and hosted a programme of music, drama, worship and talks. There was such a buzz as people gathered from across Germany and further afield.

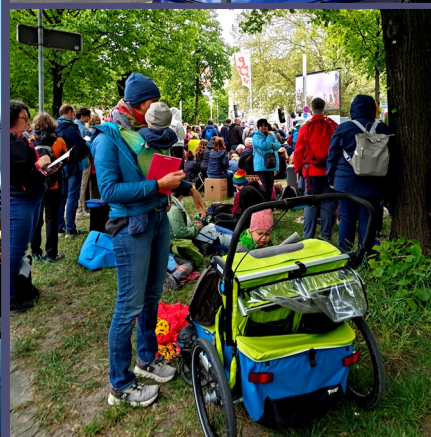
Once I'm back in Germany, it will be a busy two months again, then after that, I will be off to Thailand for the General Council meeting.

Newark (right)

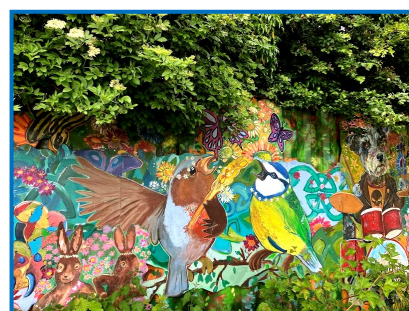
Twin Towers monument (below)



Kirchentag Festival queues (far right) and RELISH friends (below)



CAMPBELL PARK BIG LUNCH TOOK PLACE IN JUNE - AND A GREAT DAY WAS HAD BY ALL



Images: Kath Hay

COLINTON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Come and join us for some Scottish country dancing this autumn. Our term starts on Thursday 11th September and will continue fortnightly until we hold our party on 4th December. The dances are called, we have live music and lots of fun. Some prior knowledge of the steps and figures would be beneficial. We meet in St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, from 7:45pm-9:15pm. The cost is £5 per evening, with payment on arrival. Come on your own or with a partner and you'll be made very welcome, as we're a friendly bunch. For more information, just contact 07751 186 359 or 0748 381 4988.

LADIES BADMINTON GROUP

After a summer break, the Group will restart on 17th September. We meet on Wednesdays at 10am in Juniper Green Church Hall. We play for fun and also have a short break for coffee and chat. New players are always welcome. If you are interested, do come along to the Hall (entering from Woodhall Avenue) or contact Linda Sharp, 0131 453 4985, if you would like further information.

COLINTON & MERCHISTON COMMUNITY CHOIR - an invitation to our Open Rehearsals

Please join us for either or both of our **Open Rehearsals** at 7pm on Monday the 8th and Monday 15th September, in the Memorial Hall at Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road. These Open Rehearsals provide an opportunity for you to find out more about our choir, have fun singing with us, but with no commitment on your part.

We are a very welcoming, non-auditioning choir with a mixed range of ages and singing and sight-reading abilities. On Monday evenings from 8th September, we shall be singing well known Christmas music, in preparation for our Christmas Concert in December. After the Open Rehearsals, our rehearsals will begin at 7:15pm and end at 9pm, but it's not a problem if you can't be there for 7:15pm or have to leave early.

To access the Memorial Hall, come to the main school building and turn right into the East Quad. There will be someone at the entry door in the left hand corner to let you in. We have great fun but also learn a lot with our enthusiastic and dynamic Director of Music, Tim Coleman, and our superb Accompanist, the excellent and well-known Morley Whitehead. For more information about our choir, please consult our website: www.colintonchoir.org

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Oh no it's not – Oh yes it is!!!

It may be August, but Christmas is only 20 weeks away and it is time to look out your shoeboxes as we shall once again be supporting the Blythswood Care 2025 Shoe Box Appeal. Last year, we sent a total of 136 boxes which had been filled by members and friends of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church. Details of the appeal for this year will be published in due course. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support for this worthwhile cause.

Irene Falla



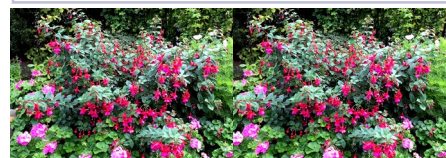
PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISM

Rosie Fiona Chapman

FUNERALS

Elizabeth May
Sheila Wells



The winter meetings for the Society do not start until October, but about 25 of our members enjoyed the summer outing to Broomhall House, near Limekilns, pictured on the right, which is the home of the Earl of Elgin.

Although the house is not normally open to the public, thanks to a helpful contact,

we were able to organise a private visit there. We were fortunate to have the Earl's son, Lord Bruce, as our guide. He not only told us about the important part that the family had played locally, but also their huge contribution in general to both Scotland and the UK. It was both a very enjoyable and informative visit... although we didn't see any of the 'marbles'!

One of our members, Robert Henderson, decided to find out as much as he could about Bonaly and its history and his research has resulted in our Society publishing its third book: *Bonaly: Three Centuries of Rural Life in an Edinburgh Suburb*. The book chronicles the everyday life of residents and how that life was affected by the changing ownership of the land and developments in agricultural practices.

The author, Robert Henderson, commented: *As a resident of Bonaly for over 45 years I have been interested in the area's history for a long time. However, I have found that very little has been written about Bonaly and some of what I have read is very debateable. I therefore decided to start researching the history myself, using such original material as I could find. I opted to look at, and try to explain, the*



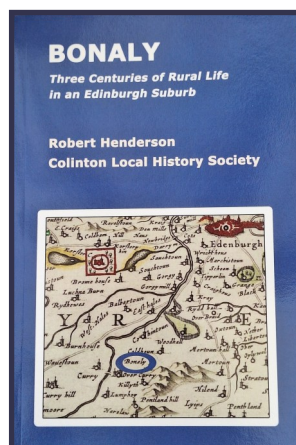
changes which have occurred in Bonaly over the last three centuries and the impact that these have had on the local residents.

Winter programme

Back now to our winter programme, which will get underway on **Monday 6th October**. Our first Guest Speaker is David Maule who will be talking about the history of *The Stone of Scone* and this is followed on October 20th with Simon Fuller exploring *The History of Edinburgh's Water Supply*.

Our meetings are held in the Loan Hall, Dreghorn Loan, Colinton, on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, commencing at 8pm. So, if you are interested in history or simply enjoy listening to interesting talks, please do come along. You can also contact us at: enquiries@colintonhistory.org.uk for further information.

Derek Douglas



Bonaly: Three Centuries of Rural Life in an Edinburgh Suburb is now on sale. You can buy copies at Colinton Post Office, or contact Colinton Local History Society.

The Parish Publication . Issue 8 . August / September 2025 . Distributed free



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