

Delivering for the people of  
Edinburgh Pentlands



## £450,000 to support Scottish libraries



Local libraries in Oxgangs, Wester Hailes, Sighthill, and Ratho will benefit from a range of projects across Scotland worth £450,000.

The funding will be shared between the Public Library Improvement Fund and other activities including the Scottish Government's "Read, Write, Count" initiative, the "Every Child A Library Member" programme, a pilot to try out a new single library card, and Book Week Scotland events in libraries and national reading activities.

Local MSP Gordon Macdonald, Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop, and Councillor Richard Lewis visited Wester Hailes Library to meet pupils who could benefit from the support for the Edinburgh Explorers project.

Gordon Macdonald MSP commented, "The manner in which people use libraries is changing – users still borrow books, but increasingly libraries are becoming spaces for learning, and somewhere for creative activities and community-based events. They have also become digital information hubs in addition to their role with traditional media. The Scottish Government has invested more than £2 million since 2014 in our public library strategy and this extra funding will keep libraries up to date with technology and ensure they continue to be relevant to the community across all age ranges".

## Protest Against Currie Bank Closure

Gordon Macdonald, MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands, led a delegation of councillors, Currie Community Council members, and local business representatives in a meeting with a director of the Bank of Scotland to discuss the proposed closure of its Currie branch.

The branch is due to close on 2nd November and this was an opportunity to highlight concerns directly to the senior management of the bank regarding the impact on residents and small businesses.

Mr Macdonald is angry at the decision, commenting, "Banks are an integral part of our community and it is disappointing that despite representations about the adverse impacts, the Bank of Scotland still intends to proceed with the closure. It was the taxpayers who bailed-out the banks in 2008; is this the way the banks thank the community?"

Bank officials conceded that the branch was "a busy enough wee unit", with on average, 4,400 transactions per month and that there were other branches not as profitable that will remain open.

Mr Macdonald noted, "I also understand that the bank has a

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# Out and About...

## At the Community Fun Days



Gordon had a great time catching up with local residents when he attended the Clovenstone Fun Day and the Broomhouse Street Party. Despite the weather both events were very successful and well attended.



## Balerno Fairtrade

Gordon Macdonald introduced into the Scottish Parliament a motion welcoming the recognition by the Fairtrade Foundation that Balerno is a Fair Trade Village and that the principles of fair trade encourage world citizenship. However, the motion also noted concern that the Brexit decision could have a huge detrimental impact on the lives of farmers and workers in developing countries.



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freehold over the property and that it would likely attract a lot of interest when it is put on the open market. 11% of the account holders at the branch do not bank anywhere else and will be left high and dry due to the closure."

At the end of an hour long discussion the bank was asked to supply its impact assessment on the closure, which is required by the British Bankers Association.

## Gordon Glows Gold for September



Gordon was proud to join the Glow Gold September campaign in the Scottish Parliament to support them in their mission to get the world "Glowing Gold" to change the face of childhood cancer. To read more on their campaign see: [facebook.com/GlowGoldSeptember/](https://facebook.com/GlowGoldSeptember/), or [glowgoldseptember.com](https://glowgoldseptember.com), or Twitter [@glowgoldkids](https://twitter.com/glowgoldkids), or Instagram [@glowgoldseptember](https://instagram.com/glowgoldseptember)

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### Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxfgangs Library  
5<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

## Working for Edinburgh Pentlands