

# Gordon Macdonald

## Member of the Scottish Parliament

May  
2018

Delivering for the people of  
Edinburgh Pentlands



## Over £40k to Organisations from CashBack for Communities



Creative projects in Edinburgh will benefit from over £40,000 as part of the Scottish Government's plan to tackle inequalities experienced by Scotland's young people, in this Year of Young People. Six arts projects throughout Edinburgh will receive funding as part of the CashBack for Creativity Open Fund, which has awarded a total of £252,000 to 32 projects across the country.

Gordon Macdonald MSP joined the Justice Secretary, Michael Matheson, to hear the announcement on a visit to WHALE Arts, which, in partnership with Dance Ihayami, will deliver one of the successful projects: Inspire Indian Dance Project, a project that will allow young people to participate in Indian dance, choreography, music activities, and costume and set design.

The fund, which redistributes the proceeds of crime to benefit young people, offers a fantastic chance to access a range of high-quality arts, screen and creative industry activities including film-making, fashion, design, arts and crafts, dance, music making and creative writing.

Commenting, Gordon Macdonald said, "It's great to see the Scottish Government investing in local creative projects, like the Inspire Indian Dance Project and The BIG Project in Broomhouse. It is so important for everyone to experience and explore these creative opportunities at a young age. These projects can inspire our young people, and put creativity at the heart of their educational and career development."

## Mobile Banking Service



Royal Bank of Scotland has started a new mobile banking service that will visit Juniper Green, Currie, and Balerno and every Tuesday.

Gordon commented, "It is disgraceful that RBS have closed so many branches and I campaigned against these closures; although this service is not an adequate replacement, I encourage its use otherwise it too could also be removed in future."

The Tuesday timetable is below.

### Balerno

Tuesday, 11:50 to 12:20  
Scotmid, 6 Main Street, EH14 7EH

### Currie

Tuesday, 13:35 to 14:05  
Library, 209 Lanark Rd W, EH14 5NT

### Juniper Green

Tuesday, 14:20 to 14:50  
Iceland, 598 Lanark Rd, EH14 5EN

Representing: Baberton, Balerno, Blinkbonny, Bonaly, Broomhouse, Buckstone, Calders, Colinton, Colinton Mains, Currie, Dregghorn, Fairmilehead, Firrhill, Hermiston, Juniper Green, Kingsknowe, Longstone, Oxbgangs, Parkhead, Ratho, Redhall, Saughton Mains, Sighthill, Spylaw, Stenhouse, Swanston, Wester Hailes and Whitson.

# Out and About...

## Schools Closure Update



Edinburgh Council has proposed three potential alternatives in the West Edinburgh School Review, which would have closed the WHEC and Currie High School.

Commenting, Gordon said, "I have stressed throughout that it is in everyone's interests that the four schools, Balerno, Currie, the WHEC, and Woodlands should remain open and on their current sites. Two of the options would still see the WHEC close as a school or involve catchment change, both of which are unacceptable; however, one option would see all three high schools remain open with Balerno and Currie increasing in capacity. This option has the potential to meet our objectives.

"Obviously, the devil will be in the detail and we still need assurances that the rebuilt Currie High School will be located on the same site.

"The Save Our Schools campaign have been very successful in making the views of our community heard by the Council."

On 22 May, a report will go to the Education Committee where it will be decided which, if any, of the options should go to consultation.

## Balerno Fair Trade Morning



Gordon attended the Balerno *Braw Fair Trade Event* in the Parish Church Halls.

Whilst there, Gordon said, "The Fair Trade Morning featured a wonderful array of stalls selling fairly traded crafts and foods with refreshments and activities for children.

"Events such as these help increase awareness of the benefits of fair trade, empower Fairtrade producers, and enable farmers to make a living."

## Extra £10 Million for Road Repairs



It has been a harsh and prolonged winter that culminated in Scotland's first ever Met Office Red Alert.

The effects of this weather have left many of our roads in a damaged and parlous state.

In response, the Scottish Government has announced an extra £10 million fund to cover the cost of road repairs following the recent bad weather.

This additional investment, over and above current funding, will help councils deal with the unexpected additional costs to their budgets.

### Contact Details

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Available for those who cannot travel

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Gordon Macdonald MSP



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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 Oxbgangs 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