

# Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
for Edinburgh Pentlands

December  
2022



## Christmas Card Competition



Pupils from Braidburn School, Canal View Primary School, and St Mark's RC Primary School took part in this year's annual Christmas Card competition.

This year's prizes, kindly provided by Aldi Store at Oxgangs Road North, included a top prize of £50 in vouchers with two runners-up prizes worth £25 in vouchers to spend in store.

The overall winner was Alfie Bailey, a P5 pupil at Braidburn School whose design will feature on the front of the card and the runners-up Emily Sheppard from Canal View Primary School and Aylya Dobрева from St Mark's RC Primary School designs will feature on the back of the card.

Commenting Gordon said, "This year's competition has been a huge success. With so many amazing entries to choose from it was an incredibly difficult decision to choose the winning designs. However, Alfie's artwork I'm sure everyone will agree is stunning and captures the season. Emily submitted a lovely hand drawn pencil and pen design and Aylya produced an eye-catching wreath collage.

"I want to thank all of the pupils who submitted entries for their hard work in creating some really great designs, they all made my job of selecting the winners very tough. I also want to thank the staff at all the participating schools who were instrumental in the submissions, in particular my thanks go to Braidburn School for their hospitality in supporting the prizegiving ceremony and of course Aldi Stores for the very generous prizes."

## Baby Boxes



Gordon has welcomed news that Scotland's Baby Box is receiving a makeover for its 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Scottish Government introduced the Baby Boxes scheme in 2017, entitling every new-born in Scotland to a box containing essential items intended to make sure that every child has the best possible start in life. So far, the scheme has delivered 41,408 boxes across NHS Lothian and 235,622 across Scotland.

Gordon said, "With updated clothing designs, the refreshed baby box now includes a baby toothbrush to promote oral health. Receiving a baby box with items for the first six months of their child's life is a welcome gift particularly when household budgets are under pressure with the cost-of-living crisis."

# ALSO THIS MONTH...

## Tesco and Trussell Trust Foodbank



Gordon attended the Tesco Winter Food Collection, which took place at Tesco stores across Scotland between Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The collection was run in conjunction with the Trussell Trust and FareShare — 2022 was the 10<sup>th</sup> year of working together.

Over a tonne of food was collected locally at the Colinton Mains Tesco store.

Gordon stated, “During the collection, Tesco customers donated long-life food items to help support the charities, with Tesco topping up customer donations with an additional 20% donation to the charities in cash to aid them in their work.”

Gordon continued, “The Trussell Trust support a nationwide network of food banks and provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty. I am fully supportive of their campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK. It is disgraceful that in the UK, more than 14 million people are living in poverty – including 4.5 million children.”

## Shop Locally this Winter



Gordon visited the newly opened The Plant Shop in Juniper Green as part of the Small Business Saturday initiative that took place on 3 December.

Gordon is urging local residents to shop local this winter, citing the pressures facing small businesses trying to recover from the pandemic, tackling the challenges of Brexit and meeting the cost of living pressures.

Gordon noted, “Shopping locally is a simple way for individuals to play a part in supporting their local businesses and economies – these businesses provide jobs in the local area and play a significant role in our community. We can all play our part too, by visiting local cafes, shops, bars, salons, and restaurants in the local area.”

## Dad’s Rock at 10



Gordon recently sponsored a reception in Parliament celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Dads Rock, a charity aimed at improving outcomes for children in Scotland.

The charity was established with the ethos that children have better outcomes in life when all parents are actively involved in their upbringing.

Gordon commented, “Dads Rock provide support to dads and families to help children get the best start in life and to promote a cultural shift in society toward accepting the vital role fathers play.”

As part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary programme of events, Dads Rock raised £390 in their 10th Birthday Appeal.

---

### Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

✉ [gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot)

☎ 0131 443 0595

📍 The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

📘 Gordon Macdonald MSP

🐦 @GMacdonaldMSP

### Weekly Surgeries

Gordon is now holding open surgeries for constituents to attend every Friday at 10am. The locations for these can be found at: -

<https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>

# Working for Edinburgh Pentlands