

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament

September
2017

Delivering for the people of
Edinburgh Pentlands



Baby Box Bairns



All babies in Scotland will now receive a box of essential items to help them through their first six months. The boxes show that the Scottish Government is determined that every child, regardless of circumstances should get the best start.

Each Baby Box contains a large number of items that are not only practical but designed to help tackle inequality and improve health. The box itself also doubles up as a safe sleep space, awarded British Safety standard accreditation as a crib for domestic use.

The Baby Box generation will also benefit from a new Early Years' Grant and access to nutritious food through the Healthy Start Voucher scheme for low income families, and 500 more health visitors by next year.

Local MSP, Gordon Macdonald notes, *"These Baby Boxes give children the best possible start in life, and we are committed to doing all we can to make sure Scotland is the best place for a child to grow up.*

"This includes our commitment virtually to double entitlement to free early learning and childcare hours. It will also benefit families by allowing parents to go back to work or further study.

"However, one of the other benefits of the Baby Box, if not the greatest benefit, is that it brings expectant mothers and fathers into contact with healthcare professionals who offer a unique opportunity to introduce them to a wide range of health promotion information. Many more parents are now likely to engage with ante-natal services than did so in the past."

The Scottish Government pledge to continue to listen to feedback as the Baby Box reaches more families and work with parents and healthcare professionals to keep the contents under review.

All babies due on or after 15 August 2017 are be eligible for a Baby Box.

Post Offices Revamp



The Balerno and Colinton Post Offices are to undergo a programme of modernisation to create new-style local branches.

Services will now be offered from a low-screened, open plan style service point. The branches will also be open for longer: -

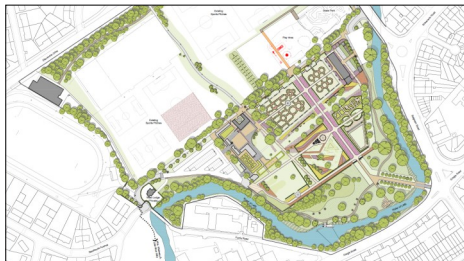
- Balerno: weekdays 9am to 5:30am, Saturdays 9am to 3pm.
- Colinton: weekdays 8:30am to 6:30pm, Saturday 9am to 5, Sunday 12:30am to 4:30pm.

However, for some services, such as Parcelforce Worldwide, non-US/EU currencies, Transcash, on demand travel insurance, and Passport Check & Send you will need to visit an alternative Post Office, go on-line, or telephone.

In order to makes these changes, the branches may need to close for up to seven days during November/December 2017.

Out and About...

Saughton Park



Work is underway on the £5.2 million redevelopment of Saughton Park.

Gordon noted, *“This was a five year effort by Friends of Saughton Park, who worked with the Council and community to raise funds.”* The Park will also serve as a new base for the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society.

Canal College



Gordon undertook a visit to the Canal College run by the Scottish Waterways Trust and participated in their training events. He noted, *“This is a fantastic heritage skills training programme that supports young people into employment. This is shown by the fact that most move into work, education, or further training.”*

Stich 'n' Time at WHALE



As part of Whale Arts 25th celebrations, the ladies of Stich 'n' Time have created a community banner for Wester Hailes. The banner is a hand sewn map of the area depicting all local landmarks and was unveiled at the weekend celebrations. The banner took the group, who meet once a week, three months to create.

Macmillan Support



Gordon met with local resident Louise Rae who has raised £450 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

At the Calders Residents' Association fun day, she raised £100 by shaving her blonde hair.



Gordon raised a motion in Parliament congratulating her achievement.

Tiphereth Presentation



Gordon presented the members of the Tiphereth Garden Group with a framed Parliamentary Motion to celebrate their success at the Gardening Scotland Show — they won 1st prize in the planter groups.

Contact Details

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Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

- 1st Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library
- 2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre
- 3rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library
- 4th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxfangs Library
- 5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands