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Craigmillar
childcare
Services

**Craigmillar Childcare Services
will be one this year.**

In order to celebrate, children and staff would like you to join them in a celebration of a year's hard work. Here's the details:

**Thursday 28, March
Hays Community Business Centre
From 11 a.m.**

There will be an opportunity to visit the Out of School Care facilities, Haystax Nursery and the Castleview 10-14 Youth Project.

A lot has been achieved over the last twelve months and everyone at Childcare Services would like you to be part of their first birthday party.

RSVP: Eileen on 657-9555.

**You can also check out our new website at
www.craigmillarchildcare.co.uk**

JACK hits the road



After 23 years with CFS, most of which were spent in the (very) hotseat as Organising Secretary, Jack O'Donnell left the Society at the end of January. This is the result of the re-organisation of the CFS which effectively rendered the position redundant.

Jack witnessed first hand many of the highs and lows in the Society's fortunes. He played a leading role in the development of a number of successful community initiatives, which at its peak provided jobs and training for hundreds of local people. More recently Jack oversaw a consistently dignified and co-operative approach by the CFS to dealing with the myriad difficulties of the last four years.

We are sure Jack will maintain close links with the community centre in his capacity as local councillor and will continue to contribute to Craigmillar's ongoing regeneration.

In the meantime, a big thanks to Jack and best wishes for the future.

This programme will be aimed at helping you learn more about Craigmillar, a bit of history of the area, what's changing and what's staying the same, what all the organisations around are all about and what they have to do with you.

The course will run over about 4 weeks, with three evening sessions, and one weekend workshop.

There will only be 16 places, so call the CBP now on 661 0200 if you or anyone you know would be interested in the programme.

FOUNDATIONS

The Newsletter of The Capacity Building Project

January 2002 Issue 12



Credit Union HEALTH CHECK

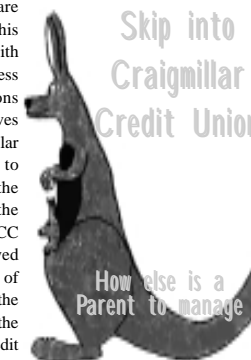
Craigmillar Credit Union faces an uncertain future at the moment, with developments taking place, which, if unchallenged, will effectively destroy its long-established development plans, and deprive Craigmillar people of a vital source of legitimate and affordable credit.

The vast new Royal infirmary at Little France opened its doors at the end of January and will eventually become 'home' for some 7,000 staff. This presents a huge potential market for local providers of services and resources, including financial services. Since it opened in 1995 Craigmillar Credit Union (CCU) has been providing such a service and has always been keenly aware of the opportunities the hospital would bring.

Accordingly, CCU has proactively explored ways to ensure they would be able to offer credit union membership to everyone based at the hospital, sitting as it does within the common bond that determines where the credit union can operate. Early negotiations with representatives from the Health Trust were very encouraging and the Trust appeared very keen to facilitate some formal presence within the new site. In the meantime it transpired recently that the trust has been approached by Capital Credit Union, who have adopted CCU's original idea. Capital has no local connections to the area and would in practice be encroaching into the common bond of another credit union, contrary to credit union principles and regulations.

More seriously, if the local credit union is effectively excluded from the opportunities offered by the hospital, then it stands little chance of achieving its goal of sustainability by 2006. Ultimately CCU would find itself struggling to provide basic services with no paid staff, no premises and no prospects as current funding runs out in 2006. Consequently what is currently a financial lifeline for local members could be lost.

The Board of CCU are particularly angry that this situation has developed with the participation of Business Community Connections (BCC), a project that receives funding from the Craigmillar Partnership and claims to broker links between the private sector and the Craigmillar community. BCC have actively been involved in promoting the interests of Capital Credit Union in the hospital development, to the detriment of the local credit union.



A spokesperson for the Board said 'For six years now, everyone involved in our credit union has worked extremely hard, voluntarily, to make it a success. Year-on-year we have demonstrated significant growth; in fact to date local people have borrowed almost a quarter of a million pounds from their local credit union. We are extremely angry to suddenly discover all that effort and success is being jeopardised by the actions of another local organisation that claims to represent Craigmillar's interests. We are determined to pursue this matter in any way necessary to protect our members' interests. We cannot overstate to our members, current and future, the threat this poses to their credit union and urge them to take this very seriously indeed.'

**VOLUNTEERING
DATABASE
one stop
for local
information**

Check out the new webpages for volunteering in Craigmillar! Access them through the Craignet - www.craignet.org.uk which will take you to a list of local agencies who need volunteers as well as giving a link to Edinburgh wide opportunities.

Two forms are enclosed. If you need volunteers, either fill out the "Need Volunteers" form and send it to CBP, 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace, Edinburgh EH16 4NX, or go to the webpages and enter your requirements.

If you want to volunteer fill in the "Willing to Volunteer" form and send it to CBP or call us on 661 0200. We'll keep you up to date on any new opportunities that come our way!



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Computer Passports

CBP has run 3 courses in collaboration withCCIS helping people to get the first stage of their European Computer Driving License which concentrates on Word Processing.

Just a few of the people who passed this first stage are shown here holding their ECDL passports. Many will on to get qualifications in spreadsheets, databases, desk top publishing and other software applications.



Open All Hours

As of April 1st there will be significant changes to the day-to-day running of the community centre on Niddrie Mains Terrace, with new procedures being introduced to ensure use of the centre remains both accessible and affordable, whilst covering its own running costs.

As a consequence of the reorganisation of the Craigmillar Festival Society, the Capacity Building Project will assume responsibility for management of the centre. This includes leasing of office space, for which existing occupants will have first option, hiring out of public areas for meetings etc, maintenance, repair and security.

The annual cost of running the centre, which is in use for up to fifteen hours per day every single day of the year are significant and therefore it will be necessary to introduce a sliding scale of

hire charges for the various meeting and public areas within the centre. Whilst this measure is necessary, the charges have been kept to a minimum and are intended solely to contribute to the centre's running costs. Hopefully previous and future users will agree that, pound for pound, the facilities on offer compare favourably to others in the area.

Full details of the costs as they would apply to your particular group or organisation are available on request or at the time of making a booking.

Whatever you need space for - social events or meetings - call us on 661 0200 to book.

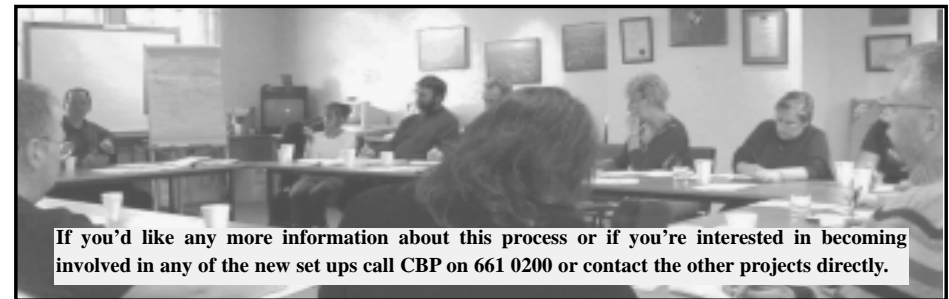
Independence Day

From April 1st all the projects currently managed by the Craigmillar Festival Society will adopt limited company status and will become independently responsible for managing their affairs. On or around the same date the CFS will effectively cease to exist as an organisation after nearly four decades of providing services in Craigmillar.

The CBP, The Learning Centre, Social Welfare, Phonelink, Womanzone and the Arts team have all been busy working on the necessary procedures for becoming registered as limited

companies under the Companies Act 1985. This includes the drafting of Memoranda and Articles of Association, identifying founding members of the company and the establishment of a Board of Directors.

Whilst adopting limited company status, all these projects will continue to provide their current services from their existing premises, with the same staffing and budgetary arrangements. Similar changes will also be happening at the recently established Disability Project but this is in accordance with original arrangements whereby it would become independent from CFS and is not as a direct consequence of the review of the Society.



If you'd like any more information about this process or if you're interested in becoming involved in any of the new set ups call CBP on 661 0200 or contact the other projects directly.

Disability Update MEDIA MADNESS

Crisis or Opportunity?

A rare opportunity presents itself in March when Debbie Storm - an experienced Public Relations officer will offer her services for free.

Debbie has offered her expertise on Wednesday March 20th, when she will operate a 'Media Relations Surgery'. Local projects can book a 45 minute slot to get some top level advice on how to improve the way they work with the media.

Whether you just want to get a positive image of your group in the public eye, or if you want specific help with a particular issue or media crisis you are currently facing, this is the ideal opportunity to tap into expert knowledge.

Debbie has worked for 5 years in public relations and her areas of expertise include crisis management and press relations including how to identify stories and get yourselves noticed.

If you want to have Debbie help your project get more media savvy, she would appreciate having some more information about your projects. **So call 661 0200 to book your slot and we'll let you know what information to send to help the process.**



Andrew Jackson, seen here at the launch of the Partnership's Equality Strategy is the new development worker with the Craigmillar Disability Project. Andrew's role is to offer support and advice to local folk with a disability. In particular he's working to setting up a disability forum so no doubt we'll hear from him soon.

Meanwhile independence for the project is approaching fast and the steering group, with some support from EVOC are working hard to draw up the paperwork.

This paperwork will determine the future of the project so **if you'd like to be part of this project give Nicky a ring on 661-4748 or drop in at the project at 65B Niddrie Mains Terrace.**

Eleven-a-Side

Capacity Building Project are looking to appoint another two staff to complement the work of the Credit Union and the running of the community centre. When appointed, the total staff team will be eleven, given the CBP's new responsibility for running the community centre and employing its staff.

Despite the current difficulties outlined on the front page, the Credit Union is appointing a full time manager to carry forward the development plan for expansion of the business. It will undoubtedly prove a challenging task but there are many excellent opportunities for credit unions to expand at the moment and there has never been a better time for credit unions throughout the country to consolidate their standing in the world of financial service provision.

In terms of the community centre, a full time admin/receptionist will be appointed to provide a first point of contact for visitors to the centre. Cash constraints in recent years have meant that often first time visitors to the centre were not welcomed on arrival and therefore left to find their way around the building on their own. The posts should be filled by the end of February.

Community Chest

After months of negotiations an agreement was recently reached to enable the four Community Representatives on the Craigmillar Partnership Board to take advantage of a new dedicated funding package to support the voluntary work they do on behalf of the community.

The package, 'Empowering Communities', from the Scottish Executive is worth up to sixty thousand pounds a year and will provide the reps with a number of new resources including a support worker, office/meeting space, IT facilities, professional fees, capital costs and expenses.

From next April, the four reps will have the funds administered on their behalf by the CBP, and will also have their own office facilities within the community centre on Niddrie Mains Terrace. The reps are delighted to have finally secured access to the package and believe it will hugely complement not only their own work but also the work of the whole Partnership. Call 661 0200 if you want to know more about the Partnership, the role of the community reps or the new funding.