



Link

April 2018

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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A message of hope beyond death

Over the last number of years, indeed since Dr Pim Van Lommel had his research published in the Lancet journal in December 2001, I've had the reawakened interest in near-death experiences and how they relate, if at all, to Scripture.

I suppose this interest goes back to those college days in the 1990s when Dr Ruth Page the Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics set us the task of grappling with the question, "Is there Life After Death?" but without reference to Scripture as this was a Philosophy & Apologetics task and not a Biblical or Dogmatics one!

I happily engaged with the challenge for the question goes back even further in my mind to the day I stood at my Granny's grave in 1967, shivering in the December cold, wondering as a 7 year old, what on earth was going on? Why was Mummy crying? Where is Granny? And holding tight to Daddy's hand praying quietly inside myself that no one or nothing would take my Mummy or my Daddy away!

These feelings and thoughts connect me to Mary at the tomb of her Lord in John 20:11, weeping uncontrollably at the loss of one she had loved so deeply and depended on so greatly. But soon, following an encounter with the Risen Lord she has all the doubts wiped from her heart and mind and is told in John 20:17 to "Go and tell!" To carry the message to the others.

This is where the church finds its raison d'être! We



are carriers of the greatest news imaginable. Of death defeated and life beyond death!

Mary, Thomas, and the other apostles believed because they had seen Jesus risen with their own eyes and had touched Him, or in the case of Mary had clung to Him, with their own hands. But we who are 2000 years away from their unique experience might struggle to believe without seeing or touching!

That said we do 'see' enough of and are 'touched' enough by the living Christ to have faith in Him. The revelation of Scripture, the experiences of the apostles, the encounters of people across the years and across the world, the arguments used by great thinkers in support of faith, the emerging body of scientific research that challenges reductionist materialistic thinking, the innate "God" instinct or archetype within the human soul – but most of all with the hymn-writer many of us can simply answer, "You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart!"

We are carriers of the greatest message ever but we can't carry it until we have a firm grasp of it or we'll simply drop it along the way!

So if there are enough people reading this who would be interested in firming-up their grasp of it, I'd be happy to gather them together into a group or go deeper into the subject across a series of Sunday evenings.

This message is central to our Hope and with Paul we say "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all people!" (1 Corinthians 15:19), but thank God for the good news, "Don't be afraid, He's not here! He is Risen"

Happy Easter

Sam Torrens



You need to survive to grow

I had always expected my parents to divorce eventually, young cynic that I was.

What I hadn't expected was my parents to announce they were separating only a month after my eighteenth birthday.

Whether it's a sudden death, a marriage break up or unexpected unemployment, it can feel like the end of the world. Never mind growth, it's survival that's on your mind.

Yet, now, something that devastated our family has turned into stories of God's incredible provision and amazing growth for all of us.

My mother had been at home full-time when my dad left. She hadn't had a paid job since going on maternity leave before I was born. Her survival depended on finding work.

In the spring, she spotted an advert for a job at a local school for a pastoral assistant working with 16-18s. It felt like a long-shot, but my mum had led the 14-18 youth ministry at my church for many years and volunteered with a charity for young people, so she applied.

On the day of her interview, I received a text from her: "Does your friend Nina from church go to this school?". I replied that she did. Moments later, I had another message from Nina: "Is your mum called Jennie?". My church friend Nina had been asked to give my mum a tour of the school prior to her interview, and feedback her impressions to the interview panel.

With this boost to her confidence, my mum aced the interview.

Something that started as a route for survival then became an opportunity for growth. My mum has grown in character in the face of something that could have so easily broken her. She has been challenged to learn new skills and take on new projects. She still loves her job!

Not only that, but the nature of her job means that she can turn her growth into nurturing others. I love to hear the stories of the students she has helped.

My brother and I can tell similar stories. In the face of something that might have crushed us, we made choices to help us survive that turned into opportunities to grow.

Growth can come out of the darkest places. Seeds must be planted in the ground to allow them to grow and bear fruit.



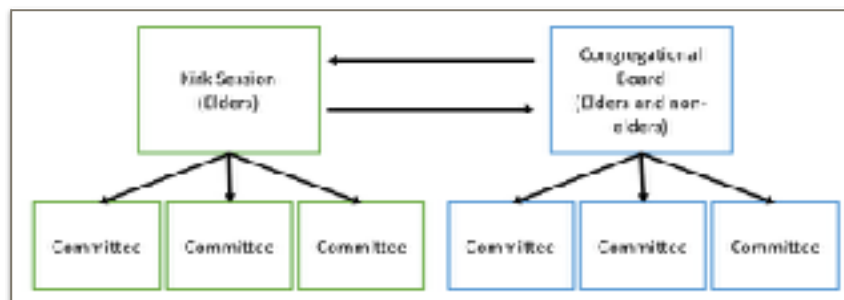
Emma Torry

Change is coming - Unpacking our constitution

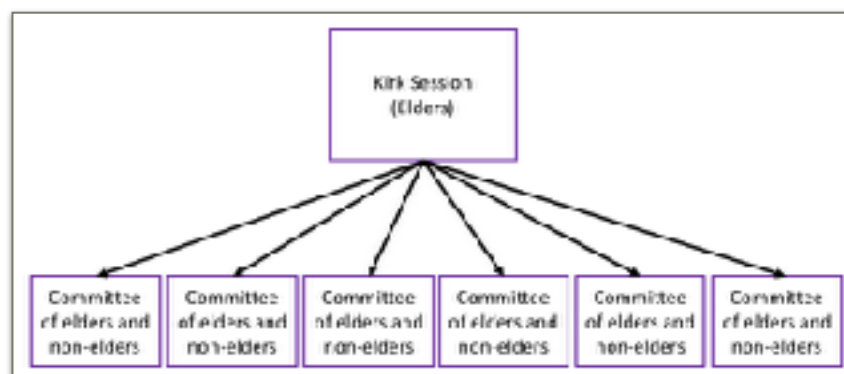
Recently, you may have heard that Barclay Viewforth is considering changing from a **Model** to a **Unitary Constitution**. This is a big change to the way that decisions about the church are made, and it will affect all of us.

What are a Model and a Unitary Constitution?

BVC currently operates a **Model** Constitution. This means we have two decision-making bodies - the Kirk Session (made up of the elders) and the Congregational Board (made up of elders and non-elders). The Session is responsible for spiritual decisions on issues like mission and worship, while the Board deals with practical issues like building and finance.



A **Unitary** Constitution has only one decision-making body - the Kirk Session. It is likely that we will then have a range of committees reporting to Kirk Session that do the legwork of discussing new ideas and making day-to-day decisions. These committees would have both elders and non-elders on them.



Why is a change being considered?

There are a few reasons the church is considering making this change:

1. Katharine Ellis is stepping down as the clerk to the Board, and finding a replacement would be a challenge!
2. The Leaders and Elders recognise that our current organisational systems are not as effective as they could be. This is a chance to improve them.
3. The Church of Scotland is only allowing new and merging churches to have a Unitary Constitution due to charities legislation, so we may be forced to make this change in future.

What is happening now?

Sam presented the proposal to move to the Unitary Constitution at a joint meeting of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board in February, and a group was set up to make a detailed proposal for the new organisational structure.

As part of this proposal, the group has also been asked to look at how we raise up, train and support people to be involved in our mission and ministries. This includes incorporating the Learning Communities and Huddles into the new structure.

The change to the constitution was also discussed at the Annual Stated Meeting.

It is hoped that the proposal for the new structure will be presented at the Kirk Session conference.

Want to discuss this further?

If you would like to know more about this process or how to input into it, please speak to Sam Torrens or John Ritchie.

*Fear knocked on the door,
faith answered it
and no one was there.*

English Proverb



Afternoon Fellowship

The appalling weather prevented many of our members from attending our meeting on 6 March, but our much-depleted group were treated to a very interesting and thought-provoking talk and slide show from Scott who came to us from Scottish Love in Action [SLA]. This organisation works with local organisations in India dealing with vulnerable and poverty-stricken children.

India has nearly one third of the 385 million children living in poverty in the world, and helping them is a complicated one as both the many religions and also the lingering effects of the Caste System need very thoughtful and sympathetic handling.

The projects which SLA is involved with are very practical, dealing with both physical well-being and education so that the children can move on to a better future. At the moment SLA are working with 3 projects:

- The Light of Love Children's Home and School
- Asritha Rainbow Home
- Voice 4 Girls

Anyone interested in finding out more about this organisation can contact them on enquiries@sla.org or visit www.sla.india.org

Our next meeting is on 27 March when we hope the weather will be much better.



Tollcross Community Pastors

TCP (Tollcross Community Pastors)

The TCP team were saddened by the loss of one of their 'family' in recent weeks. Alex Roberts was such an integral part of the team, bringing laughter and a bright faith along with a sense of his west-coast wit. The local shopkeepers responded well to Alex's cheerful banter on our fortnightly visits, and they too feel the loss. A number of BVC folks attended a thanksgiving service for Alex last month which was uplifting as it celebrated this man of faith. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his wife, Barbara.

Taking on the February theme of perseverance, the TCP team have battled on through this and other personal challenges, and continue to support the shopkeepers, as well as each other.

Look out for news of a TCP event probably later in April at which church members will be invited to join us. If you would like to come and see what we do on a Monday morning on our visits to the shopkeepers, please check the dates in the Sunday notice sheet

Elaine Hogan

Basics Bank



Bruntsfield Basics Bank takes place every Friday from 10am to 1pm in the upstairs hall at Bruntsfield Evangelical Church on Leamington Terrace. At Barclay Viewforth we support this through weekly donations of food that is then delivered by Sheila Webster and Irene Hall, and Fiona Tweedie helps in the storeroom on Friday mornings. The Basics Bank provides food and toiletries to those in need for up to six weeks – and sometimes for longer. Clients are referred by a variety of agencies via Edinburgh City Mission (ECM). When they arrive, they talk with one of the team to assess their situation. They then fill in a list of what they need, and enjoy a coffee and chat while their bags are prepared.

We are supported by an ECM worker, and while most of the people involved on a Friday attend BEC, a lot of others help to make it happen. Churches, including ourselves at Barclay Viewforth, King's, St Catherine's Argyle and Chalmers, regularly provide food. In addition, we get fresh food each Friday morning from Cyrenians Fareshare and Tesco in Tollcross, and a local Councillor advertises our needs in her newsletter. A local secondary school pupil helps with dating food as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. And last year we received huge quantities of food from harvest thanksgiving collections at St George's School for Girls and Pentland Primary School. In the past, we were fortunate to have a Citizens Advice Bureau worker available. He was able to help clients with benefits, tenancy or immigration issues and was a fabulous resource. Unfortunately, this post has now ceased and we are trying to support our clients in other ways.



As well as meeting people's physical needs we want them to find the Bread of Life, and there are opportunities to share the Gospel. We've been encouraged that some clients have attended Sunday services. Please pray that through this work many will find Jesus Christ as the One who can meet all their needs

We're really grateful for all your gifts of food and money, and for the coffee money that was used to buy the fridges and freezer last year. Non-perishable food that is in date can be left in the box

in the Pillar Hall, and money gifts can be put in the offering in an envelope marked Basics Bank. If you'd be interested in joining us on a Friday morning, regularly or occasionally, speak to Fiona Tweedie, or come along one week to see what we do.

At this time we particularly need **sugar**, **coffee** and good quality **tins of meat** (no hotdogs!)

Fiona Tweedie

Cairn Movement Training Hub

"Enabling you to grow in faith, influence your community and play your part in God's Kingdom purposes."

Training Hub is a ten-month training programme encompassing theological teaching, leadership development, practical training and spiritual growth. It's a place for training and equipping disciples from across the Celtic lands to serve God in every area of life and culture.



What is it?

Training Hub is a supported environment for learning and dreaming, gaining skills and stepping out. It's a team, a family, of like-minded people, breathing courage into one another. It's an additional investment alongside all your church might offer to take hold of God's call on your life and step into all that he is showing you. So we'll ensure you receive plenty of...

- **Imitation** – Opportunities to shadow others, receive personal input and on-the-job training. Partnership with your local church will ensure this happens in your context as well as in the Training Hub environment.
- **Innovation** – Encouragement to put knowledge and faith into practice, from simple daily rhythms to life-altering decisions.

Who is it for?

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Timothy 2:2)

God's kingdom grows when ordinary men and women are equipped and emboldened to live out their faith wherever God has placed them. Training Hub is designed to equip disciples to live missional lives, and is open to anyone who wants to grow in knowledge and faith to play their part in building the Kingdom of God.

How does it work?

Participation in a variety of learning environments including:

- Five weekend conferences with teaching, worship and small group discussion
- Monthly local gatherings with input from a range of experienced trainers
- Accountability groups
- Personal involvement in regular rhythms of prayer and fasting, Bible engagement and missional living

When is it?

- September 2018 – June 2019
- Five weekend conferences (all day Friday and Saturday)
- Monthly evening teaching and accountability gatherings

What will you need?

- £900 course fees
- Commitment to attend all five weekend conferences and one evening per month
- A desire to learn, be stretched and make an impact for God's kingdom

Application deadline: Friday 1 June 2018

Early bird discount £800: apply by Friday 20 April 2018

If you would like more information or would like to chat further, please speak to Elaine Hogan (Elaine has been through the Training Hub process).

More information can be found on the Cairn Movement website: www.cairnmovement.com/traininghub/

Riding Lights Roughshod: Deliver

Five young people in search of their futures reveal some surprising stories of hope in their new faith-filled show for 2018.

A passenger on a train gets help from an unexpected stranger, a community is transformed by a shattering lesson, a small-time crook gets an offer he can't refuse...

Mixing comedy, dramatic storytelling, spoken word and the personal experience of the actors themselves, Riding Lights Roughshod deliver a show that asks: "What happens when God intervenes in ordinary lives?"

In an anxious world of mixed messages it can be hard to find truth among the headlines.

For one night only at Barclay Viewforth Church on **Saturday 28 April 2018 at 19:30**. Tickets on the door for only £5. Don't miss it!



Stepping Stones bereavement training



Since late February, around a dozen Barclay Viewforth people have participated in Stepping Stones on Tuesday evenings in the Church halls. This four-session programme is devised and led by Tom Gordon, a Church of Scotland minister and former chaplain at the Marie Curie Centre in Edinburgh. Tom has written a number of books about supporting people who are experiencing bereavement and loss and one of his books, *New Journeys Now Begin*, is the core text for the programme. While there is no commitment assumed beyond the initial four sessions, it is hoped and envisaged that some participants will be involved in setting up a Stepping Stones group to support people in the community who have lost loved ones and/or may be experiencing other forms of loss.

Alongside *New Journeys Now Begin*, which is a book sprinkled with diverse and thought-provoking literary, poetic and cultural references (from Shakespeare's Henry V to Julia Ward Howe's 'Mine eyes have seen the glory...' to Charles' Shultz's Charlie Brown), we have also been guided through a potted history of the main research-based theories concerning grief. Having myself undertaken social work training in the early 1990s, it has been both informative and helpful in figuring out where I'm at on my own grief and loss journey to learn of developments since that

time. From being quite prescriptive and focused on requirements to work through sequential stages, theories about what constitutes healthy grieving have moved on to become more fluid. Nowadays, grief and loss is viewed less as an illness with an implied 'cure' and there is much greater emphasis on 'a journey to be travelled'. One source of reference that rings true for me suggests that over time a route out of devastation emerges even if it is both not obvious and spirals back on itself.

In facilitating our understandings of where we are at on our own journeys of bereavement and loss and (we hope) enabling us to better understand where others might be on their journeys, Tom posits that none of us are grief experts but are fellow travellers. He is able to draw on vivid illustrations from several decades in his ministry, some of which are heart-wrenching and uncomfortable while others contain warm and humorous anecdotes to illustrate central themes. In our penultimate session last week, he spoke of death rarely occurring with violins playing and contended that death will always inherently offend us as human beings even with all the ways one can rationalise it, including Christian faith-based perspectives. Anger is highlighted as a wholly understandable and often necessary response to grief and loss, as are feelings of guilt. There can be

immense healing in being allowed to truly name these feelings in a way that is not soft-soaped. Furthermore, very few responses to grief nowadays are viewed as abnormal or pathological.

Having the opportunity to speak about one's feelings regarding bereavement and loss is very important, whether one wants to go deep, keep it light or indeed not talk about it at all. Tom Gordon suggests that we don't fundamentally solve things in bereavement, but rather we allow each other to talk.

This Easter time, your prayers for God's guidance regarding the direction of Stepping Stones both within and through Barclay Viewforth Church would be greatly appreciated.

Andrew Stephenson

Kitchen notes: spiced oranges with honey and mint

Cooking – what does the thought of cooking a meal mean to you? Is it a chore, something to be tolerated, something to share with others or simply something to be enjoyed? I'll be honest; although I love cooking, I really dislike cooking for just me – left to myself, I'd probably eat cheesy pasta, toast and not a lot else. I tend to view my joy of cooking as a gift and as such I love being able to share it with others – be it sweet or savoury; planned or unplanned. Through my exploits in the kitchen, I can find opportunities to combine friends from different friendship groups or backgrounds.

The recipe below is one I used recently when I needed a dairy-free desert (bonus, it's also gluten-free!) and any leftover syrup goes really well on posh vanilla ice cream.

- 225g honey
- 170ml water
- 2 large sprigs of mint (and some extra to decorate if you feel posh)
- 8 whole cloves
- 4 large oranges

1. Put the honey, water, cloves and mint into a pan; bring to the boil and simmer rapidly for 5 mins until it is very syrupy
2. Cool the syrup completely and then strain to remove the mint and cloves
3. Peel the oranges (remove as much of the white pith as possible) and slice into thin rounds
4. Place the oranges in a serving bowl, pour over the syrup and chill. I serve this with vanilla ice cream.

Linda Garside



Barclay Viewforth Barbecue

A reminder that this year's festivities are almost on us – **Sunday 3 June** is the date you need in your diary. After the morning service we'll be off to Vogrie Country Park, between Gorebridge and Pathhead, where we will have our own enclosed space at one of the barbecue sites.

To make sure as many folk as possible can be there, we will share cars to go to Vogrie. When buying your ticket, you'll be asked if you have any space in your car, or whether you would be seeking a lift. We will then try to match up the numbers to make sure that everyone will get there (and back!).

Lunch will be about 1.30pm, or when we think that most people have arrived. After a brief rest, there will be a few leisurely activities for those who are interested, or siesta time for those who are not. There are lots of things to do at Vogrie which should appeal to all ages – including an adventure play area, Vogrie House, wildlife, walks and a nine-hole golf course.

Afternoon tea will be served just after 4pm, and we'll be packing-up and leaving about 5pm.

We will provide food (including vegetarian) from the barbecue, along with salad and other goodies. We'll also supply tea and coffee (bringing along a mug is always helpful), together with juice for the youngsters.

The cost of the tickets is only £5.50 for adults and £3.00 for children. Maps will be provided on the day to drivers to help you find your way to Vogrie. For those of you who appreciate home comforts, you might wish to bring a folding garden seat with you.

So – we hope to see you all on Sunday 3 June.



Ministries Team

Flower rota

Thank you to those who have donated and arranged the flowers for the sanctuary for April.



	Donated by	Arranged by
1	May Stewart	Anne Gaskell
8	Margaret Stewart	[TBC]
15	Dianne Miller	Karen Ferguson
22	Christine Wright	[TBC]
29	[TBC]	[TBC]

Useful information

Minister

Rev. Sam Torrens

minister@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Ministry Team

Administrator

Julie Nicholson

admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Pastoral Associate

Elaine Hogan

pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Officers

Session Clerk

John Ritchie

sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk ☎ 558 1381

Clerk to the Board

Katharine Ellis

boardclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk ☎ 228 4136

Assistant Clerk

Christine Wight

☎ 447 5498

Treasurer

Janet Darling

treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk ☎ 447 1578

Roll Keeper

Helen Miller

rollkeeper@barclayviewforth.org.uk ☎ 449 4470

Church Officer

Chris Hogan

Webmaster

Mike Ellis

webmaster@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Music

Organist/Choirmaster Andrew Robertson robbo2372@btinternet.com

Organist

Michael Bonaventure

Worship Band Leader Anna Nicholson

Missional communities(*), groups and teams

Afternoon Fellowship Jean Macaulay

Blessing*

Please contact the church office

Celebrate Recovery* Sam Torrens

Connect Plus*

Elaine Rumney

Football

Andrew Stephenson, Sam Torrens

Meals for Mums

Linda Garside, Katy Gray

TCP*

Elaine Hogan

The Net*

Alison Edmondson, Kirsteen Milne, Andrew Paterson

Contribute to the magazine

Barclay Viewforth Link relies on people like you to fill our pages each month. Please send us articles, pictures, poems, artwork, upcoming events and important notices!

You can submit content by email to magazine@barclayviewforth.org.uk or hand in a hard copy to the editor (Sunday mornings) or the church office. Articles should preferably be 400 words or less, or slightly less than one A4 page at 14pt.

Content for the **May** issue must be submitted by 17:00 on **Tuesday 17 April**.



Sun	1	08:30	Easter morning service on Blackford Hill	<i>Blackford Hill</i>
Sun	1	09:30	Breakfast at church	Halls
Sun	1	11:00	Easter Sunday all-age service	Sanctuary
Sun	1	19:30	Origin Scotland Resurrection concert	<i>Usher Hall</i>
Mon	2		Church office closed	
Sat	7	10:00	Football: BVU v. Gorgie	<i>[Ask Team]</i>
Sun	15	09:45	Prayer breakfast	Pillar Hall
Mon	16	19:00	Kirk Session	Pillar Hall
Tues	17	17:00	Magazine Deadline for May issue	
Thurs	19	19:30	Choir	
Sat	21	10:00	Football: BVU v. St Mary's Metropolitan	<i>[Ask Team]</i>
Sat	21	11:00	The NET Big Day Out @ Tall Ship Riverside	<i>Glasgow</i>
Sat	28	10:00	Football: BVU v. AC Oxfangs	<i>[Ask Team]</i>
Sat	28	DAY	Prophetic Training	TBC
Sat	28	19:30	Riding Lights Roughshod	Sanctuary
Sun	29	10:00	Gillespie Crescent service	<i>Gillespie Cres</i>
Sun	29	18:30	Informal communion service	Sanctuary

Congregational Roll

Death

Winifred (Winnie) Dalglish

18 March





Thurs	3	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Sat	5	10:00	Football: BVU v. Ladywell Baptists	[Ask Team]
Sun	6	12:15	Church Lunch	Pillar Hall
Sat	19	10:00	Football: BVU v. St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral	[Ask Team]
Sat	19	DAY	Prophetic Training	Pillar Hall
Sat	19		General Assembly 2018 starts	New College
Sun	20	09:45	Prayer Breakfast	Pillar Hall
Sun	20	PM	Heart and Soul	Princes St Gdns
Tues	22	17:00	Magazine deadline for June issue	
Fri	25		General Assembly ends	
Sun	27	10:00	Gillespie Crescent service	Gillespie Cres
Sun	27	18:30	Informal communion service	Sanctuary

Don't forget our regular groups!

Mondays	19:30	House group
Tuesdays	10:00	Toddlers
Wednesdays	19:30	House group
Thursdays	19:30	The NET bible study (runs in blocks of 6-8 weeks)
Fridays	09:30	The NET book group

Contact the group leaders or the church office for more information

Ministers Run Out of Town

In 1653 English forces occupying Edinburgh took exception to a meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Musketeers and horsemen escorted the Ministers out of town to Bruntsfield Links. After giving their names the ministers were allowed to return to the city overnight on condition that they left by Bam and did not travel in pairs.

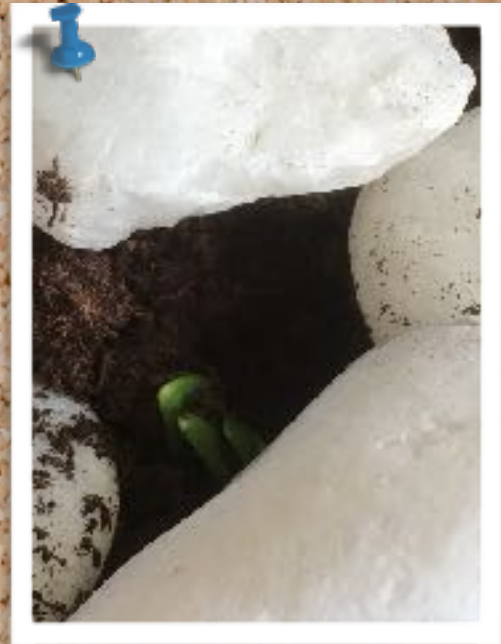
A little local history!



Welcoming new members Ana and Kevin



Sam gives a 'TED' talk at the Cairn Best Practice day



Signs of growth overcoming adversity



Is Elaine taking up a new career? Or talking about dealing with fear?

Want to see your photo here?
Email it to the address on p.13