

Spring Green Fair: the first of many?

Our first Green Fair, held in Penicuik Town Hall on Saturday 14 April, was a great success, a tribute to the effort put into it by all involved.

We had over 20 stalls including pottery, organic food by Breadshare (fabulous bread and almond buns), the Lost Garden of Penicuik (fresh salad picked on the day, jams, seed potatoes), and the organic takeaway and catering stall by Jillian Simon, who contributed a £50 discount voucher to the raffle in the shape of a carved melon. We also had representatives from a wide range of environmental groups: Friends of the Earth Midlothian, Scottish Wildlife Trust, ScotWays (Scottish Rights of Way), SPOKES, Accessible Transport and the Disability Alliance, and the Peace and Justice movement with Nukewatch.

The arts and crafts were represented by Penicuik Arts Association, two stalls with



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lovely pottery by Jane Kelly and David Begg – a difficult choice – Marion and Mary with their spinning wheel, and Fran Morton with prints of watercolours and digital artwork. Dave Stokes revealed the secrets of bee-keeping, and Mark and Anne provided books for sale. We also had face painting for children.

Julian Holbrook, Coordinator of Midlothian Climate Action and Champion for Edinburgh and Lothians Food



**Come to your branch meeting
– each fourth Tuesday or Thursday of the month!
See next page for information on our April meeting.**

Next month we'll be holding our AGM, please put this in your calendar.



Belt, was there all day to lead climate conversations.

We would like to thank Penicuik Community Development Trust for their generous hosting of our Spring Green Fair and for providing refreshments and delicious lentil soup in their Saturday café downstairs.

Also for giving us wall space for a very illuminating exhibition about the new A701 proposals and spectacular ground failures

around the Straiton caravan park and old quarries and mine workings along the proposed route of the new road. The exhibition also displayed information about the proposed film studio at Damhead and the Edinburgh Food Belt campaign.

We also want to thank Mose Hutchison for helping us with announcements in the absence of a PA system. Thanks to the generous donations of attendees and

stallholders, we had a large number of raffle prizes, and many people went away happy - and we added to our coffers!

Thank you everybody for a great day. We hope this was just the first of many 'Green Fairs' that we plan to run in different parts of Midlothian. If you want to be involved in the next one, please keep reading your MGP branch newsletter and watch out for the next Green Fair planning meeting.

Our next **MGP branch meeting**
will be on **Tuesday 24 April 7–9pm**
at **Penicuik Town Hall.**

The Scottish Green Party Campaigns Officer,
John Hardy, will be our guest speaker.



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