



the **BLACK** *bitch*

ISSUE 57 APRIL 2018 £1.00

Linlithgow's news by Linlithgow's people



100% LOCAL

LINLITHGOW ACADEMY TEAM
NEXT 'PIT-STOP' SINGAPORE... P10



A NEW ERA
LINLITHGOW GOLF CLUB 16



41 CLUB
50TH CELEBRATIONS 22



MOONDANCE
MARCHES MARQUEE 32

PLUS

The Arts, New Hopetoun Gardens, Burgh Beautiful, Town Centre BID/Mill Road BID, Scottish Youth Parliament, Friday Community Café, Rosie Crowe, Book Review...



FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE OUR WEBSITE

www.linlithgowcommunitymagazine.co.uk

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Contact the Black Bitch

For editorial and to advertise: on.a.lead@gmail.com
Editor: David Tait, 07767 713024



Copy deadline for next issue is 23 May 2018



WIN £50 SHOPPING VOUCHER

QUESTION

WHAT IS THE DATE FOR THE APRIL 'LATE NIGHT' SHOPPING EVENT?

GOOD LUCK WITH OUR COMPETITION.
Email the editor at: on.a.lead@gmail.com.

*Well done Pamela Banks,
Winner of the 'March Competition.'*

SPONSORED BY LINLITHGOW TOWN CENTRE BID
LOYALTY LOTTERY PROJECT



Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council is an elected body with the responsibility for ascertaining, communicating and coordinating the views of the community and taking action to promote the interests of the community. It is a statutory consultee for town planning matters. It aims to work with and support other groups in Linlithgow to address a wide range of issues, including:

- Health services and health centre provision
- Social and care provision.
- Transport, including high street traffic, bus services and rail services.
- Recreation, sport and community centres.
- Employment and business, including retail and the industrial estates.
- Youth facilities and groups.
- Tourism, including attractions, events and accommodation.
- Events, such as the Marches, Advent Fair and Remembrance Day parade.
- Housing and social housing.
- Policing and crime reduction.
- Development and planning, with a statutory right to comment on planning applications.

We welcome new members to join the Community Council, as elected or associate members, and take an active part in ensuring our community is well represented and that voluntary activity is supported.

www.llbcc.org.uk

The Linlithgow Community Magazine (aka The Black Bitch) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO): SCO42542

Find us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter. The paper we are using is FSC approved.

Images: A big thank you to all our photographers who support the magazine throughout the year.

Black Bitch magazine design & production: www.cghcreative.co.uk



Linlithgow- a Great Visit!

www.linlithgow.com

Download the Linlithgow App Today!

Pride & Passion
LINLITHGOW

Pride & Passion Linlithgow. Financially protected by Alan Steel Asset Management
Linlithgow's National Award Winning IFA
www.linlithgow.com/pride_passion.htm

WHAT'S ON - APRIL/MAY

***Note:** These events will run consecutively over several weeks or have weekly sessions confirmed. Check website for further details.

April

Tues 24 Community Council,
7:30pm - 9:00pm, Burgh Halls

Tues 26 Sambalistic*
7:30pm - 9:45pm, Linlithgow Academy

May

Wed 2 Blackness SWI, 7:15pm
Blackness Community Hall

Thu 3 Linlithgow Keep Fit Club*,
7:00pm - 9:00pm, Linlithgow Academy -
Small gym*

Folk Session, 8:00pm at the
Black Bitch Tavern*

Sambalistic*
7:30pm - 9:45pm, Linlithgow Academy

Thu 10 Linlithgow Keep Fit Club*,
7:00pm - 9:00pm, Linlithgow Academy -
Small gym*

Sambalistic*
7:30pm - 9:45pm, Linlithgow Academy

Thu 17 Linlithgow Keep Fit Club*,
7:00pm - 9:00pm, Linlithgow Academy -
Small gym*

Sambalistic*
7:30pm - 9:45pm, Linlithgow Academy

Thu 17-19 Ghost Writer, Linlithgow
Players, 7:30pm - 9:00pm, Linlithgow
Primary School

Sun 20 Folk Session, 2:00pm at the
Black Bitch Tavern*

Linlithgow Strings Orchestra Summer
Concert, 2:30pm - 4:30pm, Linlithgow
Burgh Halls

Tue 22 Community Council,
7:30pm - 9:00pm, Burgh Halls

Thu 24 Linlithgow Keep Fit Club*,
7:00pm - 9:00pm, Linlithgow Academy -
Small gym*

Sambalistic*
7:30pm - 9:45pm, Linlithgow Academy

LINLITHGOW RAMBLERS WALKING CALENDAR

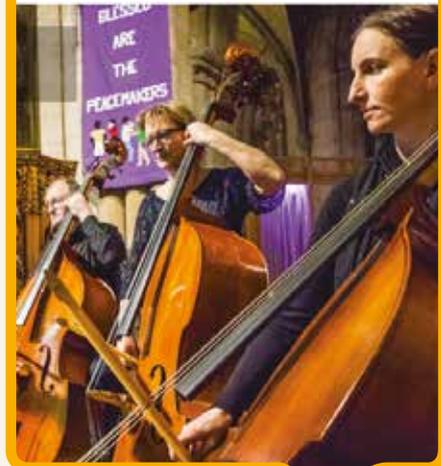


With so many exciting walks pencilled in across the monthly calendar why not check out www.linlithgow.info for details on the type of walk, duration and your meeting point.

LINLITHGOW STRING ORCHESTRA

MAY CONCERT
Sunday, May 20, 2018

2:30pm - 4:00pm
Linlithgow Burgh Halls
Linlithgow
EH49 7AH



BURGH BEAUTIFUL EVENTS

Plant sale at the Cross
Saturday **2nd June from 10am**
till 1pm. Great quality plants at
attractive prices.

Burgh Beautiful's
Inviting Gardens on
Saturday **30th June** and
Sunday **1st July** from
2pm till 4.30pm.

SEE PAGE 27

LINLITHGOW BURGH HALLS Seasonal Events 2018

Marches Day Barbeque

Tuesday 19 June, 11am-5pm.

Have a great time with
friends and family
at our traditional
Marches BBQ.
Sit in or take away.



FREE ENTRY

For more details and more events
visit the **what's on** page at www.linlithgow.info

WEDDINGS • EVENTS • PORTRAITS

UNIT 7
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EH49 6EP
(opposite Linlithgow Rose F.C.)

01506 671700
www.paulgavin.co.uk

Gift Vouchers on sale now
Appointments available 7 days

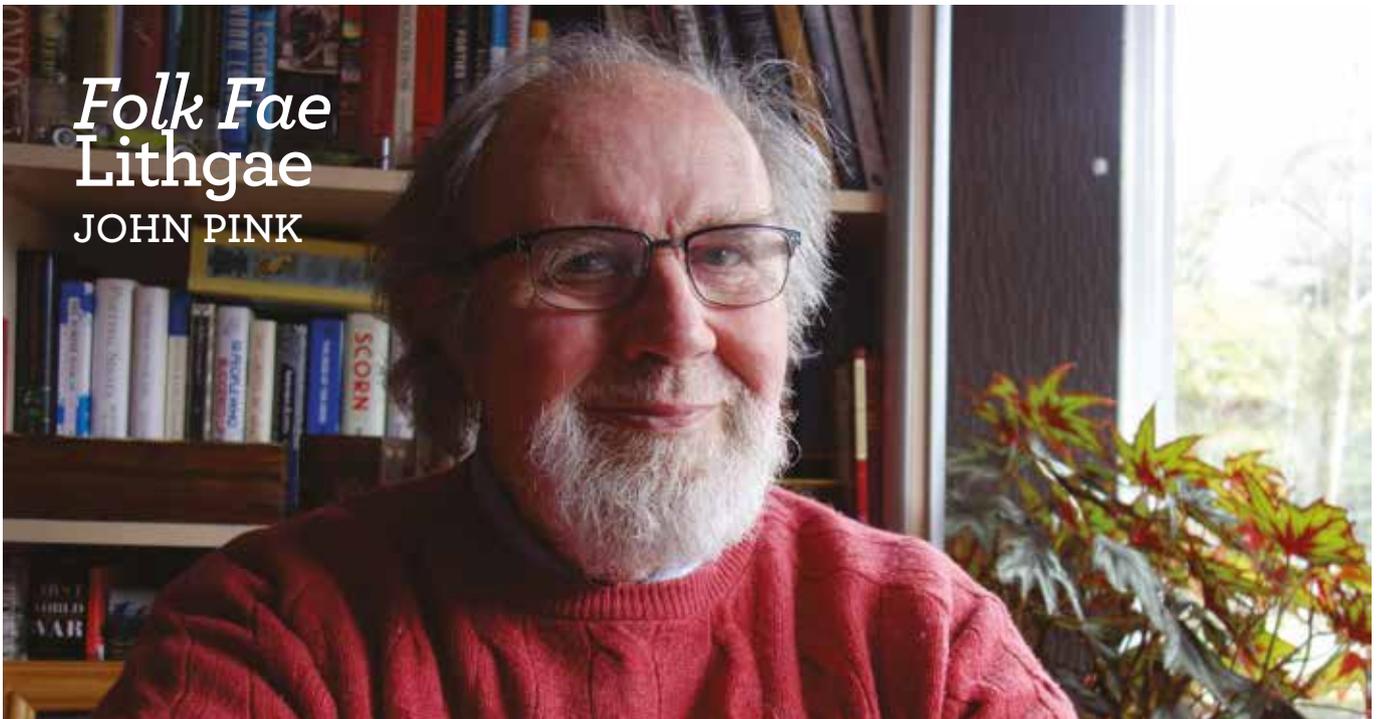
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PAUL GAVIN
PHOTOGRAPHY



Folk Fae Lithgae

JOHN PINK



“It’s like having our own art gallery, right here in Brae Court”, was how one resident described the wonderful paintings by his neighbour, **John Pink**, which adorn one of the corridors at the sheltered housing complex on Linlithgow High Street.

Now in his eighty eighth year, John revealed that he had *“a miserable education due to dyslexia”,* but succeeded in gaining a place at one of London’s art colleges, where, as he put it, *“imagination, discoveries and fantasy were encouraged.”*

Later, he was hired by one of the largest international progressive advertising agencies and he enjoyed a long and successful career, playing a pivotal role in helping to promote leading brands and services. As a creative director, he helped to set up sub-agencies all over the world.

“I entered advertising at the right time”, he told me, *“just after the war, when everything was dirty, grey and dreich. Then suddenly companies started making things and they wanted to excel. To do that, they used advertising. I was lucky enough to be in the big agencies, so I got to work with the most prestigious clients around.”*

John was in at the very start of commercial television in the mid-1950s and describes it as *“a fascinating period.”*

“In any one morning, you could start off with Playtex girdles and then several other accounts before lunch. You can’t begin to believe the stress!”

Nowadays, John is enjoying his retirement years in Linlithgow, where he moved ten years ago to be near family members. As he put it so succinctly:

“No longer agonised by creative presentations, stresses, strains and sales figures, I can simply enjoy the sheer wonderment of nature; the detail in a swan’s feather, the twinkle in a horse’s eye, and the chuckle of a child.”

John considers himself to be an illustrator, rather than a painter; a scribbler, rather than a scribe. *“Learning to draw is learning to see”,* he says.

“I now play with my pen and let it do what it wants. It’s such a luxury now to think, ‘Shall I use red or shall I use black’ and I don’t care. I let the pen do its thing and if people don’t like it, it’s no big deal.”

The numerous paintings John has on display in Brae Court are only a fraction of his portfolio. He adores horses and is delighted that his young granddaughter receives support from Riding for the Disabled. He is keen to take on commissions, such as the one he did for the Black Bitch pub, or to sell his existing artwork, with all

proceeds going to the local Riding for the Disabled group.

“I have been relatively successful in life, more by luck than anything else”, John admitted to me, and he certainly believes he is fortunate to be living in Brae Court.

“I consider myself exceedingly lucky to be here, because everybody is just lovely and friendly. And the staff are wonderful, always laughing. Nothing is too much trouble. If you happen to be on your own like so many of us, they are such an enormous bonus.”

John’s flat is a fascinating place, where more of his paintings can be seen. *“A room without books is a room without soul”,* he believes and his bedroom is not only his extensive library, but also his studio, retiral room and garage for his mobility scooter.

John can be seen on his regular tours around the Loch and the view of the Palace is a particular favourite of the man many have dubbed *“the artist in residence at Brae Court.”*

Those interested in buying some of his work (see opposite) and supporting his charity should contact John through Brae Court, Linlithgow, High Street.

Murdoch Kennedy





**Help raise funds
for Riding for the
Disabled...**

*John is keen to take
on commissions, such
as the one he did for
the Black Bitch pub,
or to sell his existing
artwork, with all
proceeds going to the
local 'Riding for the
Disabled' group.*

John

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SERVICE...



When West Lothian Council announced it was to cut free strings and percussion tuition in schools – but keep brass, woodwind and piping lessons – a group of concerned parents got together to lobby the Council’s Education Policy and Development Scrutiny Panel – where the proposal was being assessed. Yvonne Hall – whose daughter Eilidh is taught the violin at Linlithgow Academy – was one of the protesters. Here she explains why the protesters feel the plan is unfair – and what she thought of her first taste of local democracy in action

My daughter is in fourth year at Linlithgow Academy and plays violin and guitar – she has to play two instruments for her Music Nat 5 and Higher. We pay for her guitar and she plays violin through the school – she’s had the same teacher since she was in P5.

We knew there were going to be cuts but I don’t think anyone expected it to be just certain instruments. There’s always been this great camaraderie at

school; they are all musicians first and what instrument they play comes second. Suddenly there is this big divide and that’s been quite difficult for a lot of kids.

I am not normally someone who gets involved in these things. I’m not political or anything like that but this just feels unfair. We, unlike others, can pay for her violin tuition to get her through her exams but she’ll have to start with another teacher. And she’ll be taking her exams alongside students who have an advantage because they chose to do brass.

She also plays in an orchestra so she’ll miss out on the group aspect; the social side but also the team experience of working together towards a common target. There aren’t any other options for string players, whereas there are other brass groups like the Linlithgow Reed Band.

The reasons the Council gave are that more children from disadvantaged families play brass – but that’s not accurate – and that piping has a tradition in Scotland. However, the fiddle has been in Scotland for longer. They’ve also only looked at disadvantage, they haven’t looked at gender or ethnicity – there are more girls who play strings. It doesn’t stack up. It’s not very logical.

We only found out about it six days before the committee meeting so we didn’t have a lot of time. We started a petition which got 2000 signatures and lots of people came to the meeting in Livingston on the Tuesday. This committee decides whether to take proposals forward to the education committee. We hoped by going along and offering them an alternative, they would be prepared to consider it.

There were obviously a lot of people who had taken time off work to come. It was point ten on the agenda and one of the councillors asked to bring it forward so that people could get away and they said No. It was almost like when the guy said No, you thought, ‘Oh, OK, it’s going to be like that’. Some people had to leave before it got to that point.

You have to apply to have a slot to speak at the meeting. One of our group, Gordon Struth, pulled together a paper on the alternatives. With the majority of other councils in Scotland, music tuition isn’t free unless



you are on a low income. We were suggesting £5 a week for children during terms which would be cheaper than going for private tuition. Obviously it would be great if we could keep it free but we realise they have to make cutbacks.

He only had five minutes at the start. He then wasn't allowed to speak again and there was over an hour's debate. We found that really frustrating, there were times things were said that were inaccurate but we weren't allowed to correct them

*There was also a £300,000 gap in their figures. The provost, **Tom Kerr**, one of Linlithgow's three councillors, did ask a lot of questions about the numbers but the paper went through to the education executive with a sort of "oh, we'll sort that out later" attitude. That worries me, if they have that hole, what else isn't there?*

My personal overall view was that they used the rules to hide behind. One of the girls, a second year, after the meeting said it was like when you're asking your

mum and dad something and they've already decided to say no and they're not really listening.

There was a teenager from St Kent's, who had been standing all through the meeting, holding her violin. At the end she put her hand up and said she hadn't understood what she had to do to speak but she would really like to say something quickly now – and they said No. She was left crying. I get that they can't have people just coming off the streets but they need common sense and flexibility.

Then on April 3, many of us again took time off work to go along to a full council meeting as there was a motion being put down calling on officials to come up with proposals for charging for all instruments and leaving free tuition for those who can't afford it, whatever their instrument. But Cllr Kerr ruled it was out of order because it was dealing with a matter already before the council.

This was apparently on legal advice from officials but to say it was frustrating is a huge understatement – even if he could have let us know beforehand, people wouldn't have gone

to the bother of taking time off work and coming along. There are only so many times you can ask people to do that.

We're back at the council on April 17 for the Education Executive meeting but we seem to be caught in a tangle of rules. The council has an edict which says it can't reconsider a decision it has made within six months – Cllr Kerr has said that doesn't apply here as the council hasn't considered charging. But another councillor, David Dodds, says the six-month rule does apply – meaning by the time the council can consider charging, the cuts will have been made and it'll be too late anyway.

So who knows what will happen on April 17 – we could turn up and find we're just sent home again. There's plenty going on behind the scenes with options including a trust being set up so we are not disheartened but for those of us who are new to the workings of local democracy, it has been really shocking.

**Judy Vickers interviews
Yvonne Hall**

Hi, my name is Alice Ferguson and in March 2017, I was elected as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for the Linlithgow constituency. Last year I celebrated my 15th birthday, meaning I am in fourth year of secondary school at Linlithgow academy. I got involved in SYP through the school council, from there I attended many meetings with members of the council in preparation for the March 2017 election.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to write for The Black Bitch and to explain how I hope to engage young people in my constituency during my term (two years) as a MSYP.



ALICE FERGUSON MSYP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT
FOR THE **LINLITHGOW** CONSTITUENCY

> YOUTH VOLUNTEERING IN LINLITHGOW...

During my work, I am approached by many people in the community, not just young people. A common interest of many of these people and groups is getting young people engaged within their organisation, however how do they do this? Young people are constantly looking for opportunities to take on board – part time jobs, volunteering work, opportunities to build skills and things to add to their CV.

As part of my work as both an MSYP and a young person of Linlithgow, I have created a volunteering board which can be found displayed in Linlithgow Academy (Linlithgow Young People's Project, LYPP, have one in their space too). If there are any job opportunities for young people (under 18) or any volunteering opportunities etc. please let me or LYPP know. I'm sure you would agree that this is not only a great way for businesses and community groups to contact and reach out to young people, but it is also a wonderful way for young people to develop skills, meet new people and find something they love doing.

> SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT "HAVE YOUR SAY" ...

On another note, the March sitting in Saltcoats was cancelled due to 'The Beast from the East' however the event will be happening on 14th April.

This is the third sitting I will be attending. I really look forward to meeting with other MSYPs, debating issues, meeting in subject committees and participating in workshops. There is still time for you (if you are aged 12-25) to have a say on the motions which we will be debating, just follow the link below!

<https://wlmsyps.typeform.com/to/feItW5>

> YOUNG PEOPLE AND BREXIT...

Finally, the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are partnering to deliver a Brexit-themed event for young people in Scotland. The event, funded by EHRC, is a great opportunity to explore the impact of Brexit on children and young people's rights, and will address three themes:

- >> *What is the current situation in relation to children and young people's rights?*
- >> *What do young people want children and young people's rights in Scotland to look like after Brexit?*
- >> *What needs to happen to make sure children and young people's rights reflect what young people want to see in Scotland?*

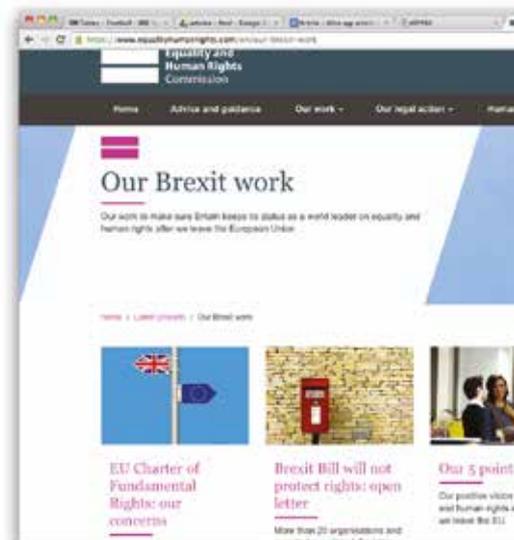
You can keep up to date with my work and how to get involved by following my social media or browsing my website!

Twitter - @aliceMSYP

Instagram - @alicemsysp

Facebook - @aliceSYP

Website - <https://aliceruby.wixsite.com>



Alice Ferguson MSYP





WE HAVE MOVED!!!

Linlithgow Police have now relocated to the newly refurbished Tam Dalyell House at Linlithgow Partnership Centre where the public assistance desk will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday



First of all let me introduce ourselves. We are Constable Andrew Murray and Constable Neill Drummond. We are the two community officers based at Linlithgow Police station. Between us we have over thirty years police service.

We are keen to get involved in local community issues and want to hear your views and opinions on these issues. We will be publishing an article in the magazine every edition covering ongoing community issues which we are keen to address within the ward.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCOTLAND

NEW ALERT SYSTEM!

We would like to take this opportunity to increase public awareness of the existence of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and their Alert system.

Police Scotland is one of many partnership agencies who are working alongside Neighbourhood Watch Scotland in order to develop and promote the Alert system.

This system allows users to receive alerts from Neighbourhood Watch and Police Scotland. The idea being that if there has been a recent crime trend, then officers from Police Scotland can send an alert to all users who may be effected or who may have an interest in the crime.

The alert would normally be received by means of an email, however in urgent situations it can be sent by text message and / or voice message. The scheme has numerous uses but from a police point of view it can be used to alert the public about:

> **Crime Trends – recent crimes that have occurred in their area, housebreakings etc.**

> **Missing Persons – Details of High Risk missing persons can be broadcast to specific areas.**

Members of the public can register online and the registration process is very simple. You can register as an individual or an association such as a residents association or community council / community group... Or both!!!

The key to the Neighbourhood Watch Alert system being a success is YOU, we require the public to register online; the more people who register the better.

You can register at:

www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk
And follow the link to JOIN.

ANTI-SOCIAL USE OF VEHICLES IN LINLITHGOW AREA

We are continuing to receive reports and information regarding drivers who drive carelessly and dangerously in the Linlithgow area, not only puts the lives of the themselves and passengers at risk, but also the lives of other road users and pedestrians.

It is our intention to continue to provide a local, visible presence and maintain a level of enforcement.

We would like to thank the public for their support in relation to this issue

[Anyone having concerns regarding anti social driving or use of any motor vehicle contact Police on 101.](#)

Be warned, enforcement will continue !!!!

LINLITHGOW COMMUNITY POLICE SURGERY

Due to the positive response these surgeries have received more are currently being planned.

Once again the public will be invited to drop by, meet their local officers and chat through any concerns they have or highlight any areas they feel we should be giving further attention to. Alternatively if you want to discuss an issue which may require more privacy, arrangements can be made to speak with them another time at a police station or at your home address.

If we don't know then we can't fix it!

[To find out details of future Linlithgow Community Police Surgeries please log on to West Lothian Police Facebook page or Linlithgow Facebook Page for future dates or check local press for details.](#)

101 NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER

101 is the new number to contact the police when it's less urgent than 999.

The 101 non-emergency number will make it quicker and easier for you to

contact the police when you don't need an emergency response,

for example to:

- > Speak to your local police officer
- > Report a crime that's already happened, such as a theft or damage to property
- > Get crime prevention advice
- > Make us aware of any policing issues in your area

101 provides one easy-to-remember number to contact the police wherever you are in Scotland, or elsewhere in the UK.

The 101 non-emergency number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It costs a flat rate of 15p per call from both landline and mobile networks, no matter how long you are on the phone or what time of day it is.

When you dial 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the service centre covering your area.

By having one easy to remember number, 101 should make the police more accessible while reducing pressure on the 999 system.

In an emergency always dial 999 - when a life is in danger, a crime is in progress or a suspect is nearby.

**Remember...
If you want to report something anonymously call Crimestoppers
0800 555 111**

You can get more advice on a range of topics on the Police Scotland website.

Alternatively you can email LinlithgowCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or pop into the station and ask to speak to our Community officers, PC's Murray and Drummond.

Regards,
Your Local Community Police – Linlithgow
Website: www.scotland.police.uk
Twitter: [@policescotland](https://twitter.com/policescotland)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/policescotland

Team AcceleRace...

We are "Team AcceleRace powered by Inoapps" and recently we competed at the F1 in Schools UK National Finals. We won the place of UK national champions in development class and we will now be moving forward to compete at the F1 in Schools world finals which this year will be in Singapore.



F1 in Schools is a global STEM competition which involves teams designing, testing and making a model F1 car. Along with this teams need to gain sponsorship, work on marketing and work together to meet deadlines to be successful in the competition.

In the last issue of the Black Bitch Magazine we wrote all about our experience at the regional final for Scotland which took place in February. We were so excited to find out that we had won a place at the UK national final taking place at the home of UK motorsport, Silverstone race track.

We started last year around November to prepare for the regional final for Scotland. Towards the regional final we had a lot of fun preparing and then on the day we were delighted to find out that we had won the place to go to Silverstone race track to compete at the UK national Finals.

We had a lot of work to do to get ready for the national finals especially since there was only three weeks between the regional and national finals. This meant that we really had to work together to get everything ready. We focused a lot on improving our car and pit display as well as raising money to make the trip possible. We worked in the CDT department at school which was great because we could all be together.

On the day of the competition there were teams from all over the UK that had come to Silverstone. There were different categories for judging including scrutineering, engineering, verbal presentation, pit display and enterprise and of course racing the cars on the 20-metre track. We loved getting to see the Silverstone race track as well.

After a long day, it was time for all the awards for development class. We were thrilled to have won the fastest car and of course to have come first and secured a place at the world finals this year in Singapore. The whole team was very surprised but also extremely happy. Each of us have thoroughly enjoyed this whole experience and have also learnt so much from it and



we are all extremely happy to be going to Singapore this September to represent the UK at the World Finals.

Moving forward we will be looking to improve our car's speed with our design engineer, **Isla**, making a new design which is lighter. Isla will also be looking at designing new wheels which reduce the friction between the car and the track. We also want to be more active on our social media platforms so that we can connect with more people. A critical area for us going forward is fundraising and finding sponsors, as like a real F1 team, we need to fund our own research, buy materials and fund the travel to the events. Each team member has different jobs but we have all really valued working together on this project.

On our way to Silverstone we had many local companies that sponsored us. **We would like to say a huge thank you to Inoapps, Casra Sports, McNicoll Vehicle Hire, Express Micro Science, CCW Business Lawyers, JMK Printing, Good Company Discos, Boogie Bounce and Paul Hopwood. We are extremely grateful for all of the help that these companies have given to us.** Each of these companies helped us in a different way and without their help, going to Silverstone would not have been possible.

We are now working on the development of our new car for the World Finals in Singapore. The competition is now based on the professional class regulations, so we need to redesign our car.

The team consists of:
Manufacturing Engineer, **Molly Ganner**
Resource Manager, **Aoife Sutton**
Graphic Designer, **Louise Murray**
Design Engineer, **Isla Petrie**
Team Manager, **Louise Paterson**

We are looking at new areas such as reducing friction through the wheels to the axles using bearings and designing our own wheels to reduce the friction against the track. We also need to learn more about aerodynamics as we look to reduce the time our car takes to travel down the 20 metre track.

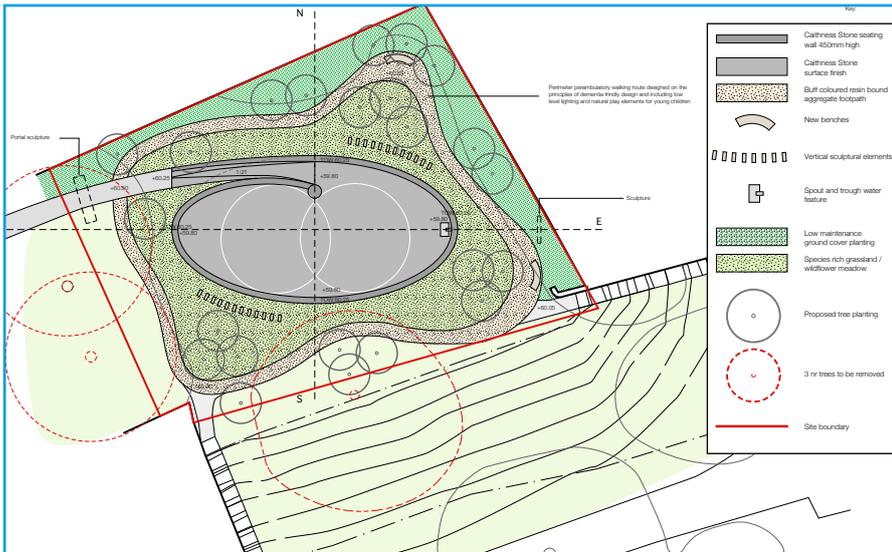
To keep up to date with what the team are working on you can follow us on social media. We have twitter and Instagram- @teamaccelerace and we can also be found on Facebook under TeamAcceleRace/.

We would love to hear from you if you think you can help with sponsorship and fundraising. If you want to help and offer us support you can contact us through our email which is team.accelerace@hotmail.com. You can also contact us through Mr Marshall at Linlithgow Academy.

Louise Paterson
Team Manager,
Team AcceleRace



LINLITHGOW PEACE GARDEN



In a very troubled world it may seem a great feat of optimism over reality, to seek to create a Linlithgow Peace Garden. Yet this is what an enthusiastic group of people from Community groups and churches ably supported by the three local councillors are proposing to do. The aim is to renovate the old Rose Garden, which is somewhat neglected and rather sad looking behind the Burgh Halls, into a place of tranquillity and beauty with interesting and colourful planting and the sound of water. It will be a place specially designed for people with

mobility problems and dementia sufferers, giving a garden where they can feel comfortable and content in their surroundings. It will also be an attractive area for families with children.

The Garden has been designed by two talented volunteers **Chris Long** a retired architect and **Mark Donaldson** a young, professional urban designer. It has been designed as low maintenance with attractive hard surfaces and carefully chosen plants that mostly look after themselves, and attract

butterflies and insects and provide all year colour. There are plans to plant a number of new trees that will be of a more suitable size and variety for the space. A few pieces of art work are planned to feature in the space.

.....
A Planning Application has been submitted and the group plans to have a small pop-up garden exhibition in the Burgh Halls in the entrance hall, sometime in May. After this it will tour round the churches and the library.

Efforts are already underway to fund raise, and an application has been made for the project to become a registered charity.

We hope that our vision for this very special garden will attract interest and support from local people, and plan to set up a "Friends of Linlithgow Peace Garden"

If anyone wishes more information or to offer to help make our lovely Garden happen, please contact Marilyne MacLaren: 01506 845 275 at marilynemaclaren@btinternet.com



Marilyne MacLaren

www.kitchenhaus.co.uk
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from
17
may

THE LINLITHGOW PLAYERS THE PLAY'S THE THING

This year's Linlithgow Players' Spring production is the hilarious black comedy Ghost Writer, and will see the Players returning to Linlithgow Primary School's stage on May 17th – 19th.



Since winning mentoring and coaching support from the Royal Shakespeare Company for their updated Twelfth Night, called *What... You Will?* in 2014, the talented Players have deliberately chosen unusual Linlithgow venues for their productions. The hardy, enthusiastic souls who saw the outside production of *What You... Will?* at Donaldson's School in April 2015, and in July at the RSC's open air theatre in Stratford, will testify to the fact that the Linlithgow Players show passionate determination and imagination in order to bring fresh, quality drama to their audiences.

Not that the venue for *The Weir* in 2016, was a desperate hardship. The function suite at The Star and Garter was snugly perfect for this haunting play set in an Irish bar. A total sell out and brilliant reviews!

Last year's *The Memory of Water*, staged in the Burgh Halls, was challenging for different reasons, especially as the top floor of the Halls was not designed as a theatre. A large projection screen served as a backdrop providing a place for

the stranded cast to hide behind for the entire time! Again, tickets sold out, the ingenious staging allowing the audience to see the whole play at floor level.

This year's play, *Ghost Writer* by David Tristram continues the 'other worldly' themes of recent Spring productions, even though it will be staged on the more equipped Linlithgow Primary School stage.

Ghost Writer is a ghost story whodunit with "scary funny bits and funny scary bits." A playwright's wife tragically dies from what is believed to be an overdose of booze and drugs at an after show party. Twelve months later the wife's ghost comes back to warn the writer that she was, in fact, murdered! You'll need to come along to the show in order to see what happens next.

The similarities to *Hamlet*, the play within a play, are referenced and yet the

style is closer to a modern-day *Blythe Spirit*. It's definitely fun, intriguing, and there may even be a thrilling twist!

The Linlithgow Players production of *Ghost Writer*, by David Tristram, is at Linlithgow Primary School from Thursday 17th May to Saturday 19th May, 7.30pm.

Tickets are available from Far From the Madding Crowd, online at www.linlithgowplayers.org.uk and group bookings through the Box Office number: 07847 735077.

For more information and photographs contact; Sue Vizard
Tel: 07711 700656

Alison Train





*Robert Blair,
photographed in
the 1850s.*

CAPTAIN ROBERT BLAIR VC

When I was doing research for the “Lest We Forget” presentation in St. Michael’s, I was surprised to discover that Linlithgow could lay claim to a Victoria Cross winner. However, Captain Robert Blair was awarded the highest recognition of bravery, not for exhibiting his courage in the First World War but in the ‘Indian Mutiny’.



Robert Blair was born in 1834 in Avontoun House. Robert was the son of William Blair, a lawyer who was appointed to head up several Royal Commissions into such concerns as slavery and the Poor Law. He was also a member of the Supreme Council administering the Ionian Islands, off the east coast of Greece when these islands were put under British control following Napoleon’s defeat. William married a South African woman, Jane Nourse, who in 1834 gave birth to their son, Robert.



Robert’s father, William Blair, aged fifteen, painted by Scotland’s foremost portrait painter, Henry Raeburn in 1814.

Robert was aware that he had been born into one of Scotland’s most influential families. His grandfather, after whom he had been named, had been Solicitor General for Scotland, Lord President of the College of Justice.

Robert was an academically gifted student who excelled at Glasgow University and then at Balliol College, Oxford where, following in his father’s and grandfather’s footsteps, he studied law. However, he chose to join the army and a commission was



Robert’s grandfather, Robert Blair, Lord Avontoun, drawn by Scottish caricaturist, John Kay.

purchased for him in the Dragoon Guards. In 1856 he was posted to India where his regiment was involved in what was called, by the British, the Indian Mutiny.

In September 1857, after a fiercely fought cavalry action, Lieutenant Blair was ordered to retrieve an abandoned ammunition wagon. With a small platoon he was approaching the wagon when he was ambushed by sixty Indians. He received a severe sabre cut on his left shoulder and had to be rescued by one of his fellow soldiers. He was taken back to his own lines where his arm had to be amputated. Blair and his rescuer were both recommended for the VC, and Blair eventually received his medal from Queen Victoria on 2nd August 1858. Almost immediately after the investiture, Blair returned to India, but tragically he contracted smallpox and died in Cawnpore on 28th March 1859. He was buried in the Old British Cemetery in an unmarked grave. His VC is now in the Dragoon Guards Regimental Museum in Cardiff Castle.



Cawnpore (now Kanpur) Cemetery where the remains of Robert Blair lie in an unmarked grave.

Robert Blair’s birthplace, Avontoun House, was built in the mid 18th century by Robert Blair’s grandfather, Lord Avontoun, who spent a fortune on the house and its grounds.



The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hunt meeting at Avontoun House in 1927.

Through marriage, the house came into the possession of the Maconochie family but by the mid 1950s it was unoccupied and the Maconochie family were gradually selling off their interests in the area. One such sale in 1956 led to the new owner telling the Linlithgow Golf Club that they would have to quit the land they had leased from Sheriff Robert Maconochie.

In what are still unexplained circumstances the house burned down – a sad end to the birthplace of a Linlithgow VC holder. The area is now occupied by the Brookfield Metal Company.

Bruce Jamieson

GEORGE ALLAN WAS THE MO SALAH OF HIS DAY!

Liverpool's Mohammed Salah is enjoying an amazing first season for the club and is well on his way to being voted Player of the Year in the Barclay's Premier League.

He is currently the leading goal scorer in Europe's top five leagues, ahead of Barcelona's Lionel Messi, Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane and Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Salah seems to be breaking records every week, but when he scored in the 5-0 rout of Porto in the Champions' League on February 14th, on his 26th appearance, it was reported by Sky Sports News and others that he was only the second-fastest Liverpool player to reach 20 goals in a season.

That particular record is still held by Linlithgow Bridge-born, **George Allan**, who reached the milestone in 19 appearances in 1895. Mo Salah's exploits have recently drawn attention to another Liverpool player who had an incredible debut season.

George "Dod" Allan was the first goal-scoring hero at Anfield and was also the first to be capped by Scotland in April 1897. Born in Linlithgow Bridge in 1875, his footballing talents were first displayed in the village team, Vale of Avon. He moved on to play with Linlithgow Athletic at Captain's Park and then Broxburn Shamrock, before playing senior football for Bo'ness and Leith Athletic. In September 1895, he moved south to join the army of Scots who were plying their trade with Liverpool.

Allan was described by journalists of the time as *'a model centre; of fine physique, great speed and no fear'*. His 56 goals in 96 games between 1895-1899 only go to confirm this quote. Despite only being 5 ft. 10,

Allan knew how to throw his 13-stone weight about and he was a considerable talent.

His debut season was the 1895-96 campaign where he scored an amazing 25 goals in just 20 league appearances, helping the "Anfielders" secure promotion from Division Two. Liverpool scored 106 goals that season, a record amount that has yet to be beaten. Allan's individual tally would certainly have been larger had it not been for his eight-game suspension at the beginning of the season. The following term was Liverpool's return to Division One, after bouncing straight back from their relegation in 1895. With 17 goals from 34 games, Allan was top-goal scorer as Liverpool finished fifth in the First Division. Although this tally was not as impressive as the previous season's, Allan was establishing himself as a crucial part of the Liverpool team.

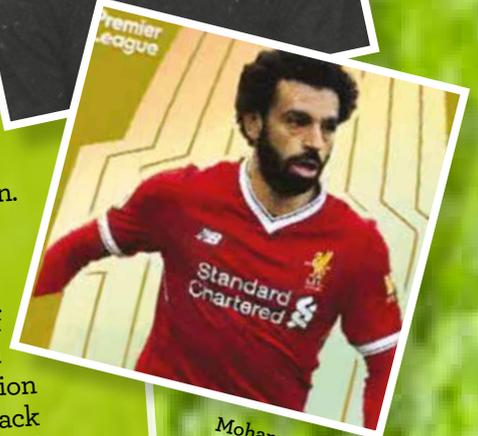
Allan moved to Celtic for 1897-98, where he bagged 15 goals in 17 games, but returned to Anfield at the end of that season. Tragically, his career was cut short when he was diagnosed with consumption and he died in October 1899 at the age of only 24.

The annual **George Allan Memorial Football Festival** for the local Primary schools will take place on Sunday May 20th at Linlithgow Rose F.C.'s Prestonfield ground. Kick off at 9am.

Murdoch Kennedy

(With thanks to Peter Kenny Jones)

Linlithgow Bridge-born, George Allan



Mohammed Salah of Liverpool



Sun
20
May



PARTY AT THE PALACE 2018

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED...



Recently I caught up with one of the Party at the Palace organisers, John Richardson, and asked some questions about the festival happening this year in our very own town of Linlithgow. He covers topics like this year's headliners; his own personal favourite bands playing; some new features that have been added and how Party at the Palace is going to be a greener environment for everyone. Here's what he had to say.

1) Last year was such success, is anything changing this year?

The one thing that we are looking to change is reducing our waste particularly plastic. So we no longer use straws, plastic cutlery or any kind of plastic food cartons. We are also hoping to get rid of all plastic single-use water bottles and hopefully the cups will be biodegradable as well. Aside from that, I don't think we're planning too many changes.

2) How do you feel about the headliners this year?

Delighted! I'm a big fan of James and we'd been trying to get both them and Texas since we started in 2014. I worked with James many years ago and bumped into them at Wembley a couple of years back for an England vs Scotland game when the whole band were in the Scotland end. We got chatting and this year is the result of that.

3) Was it hard to swing the headliner acts for this year?

It doesn't get any easier than booking the headline acts as it's fun to choose through your favourite music. There are so many other events all competing for the same bands so we were really happy to get our top two choices.

4) Did anything go wrong last year that you may have to change this year?

There were a few small technical issues but nothing particularly troublesome.

5) Are there any new features coming this year?

Space is always the biggest issue when introducing something new. To add something new we sometimes need to take something else away but there might be a few changes that people will notice. I think we'll get a new thrill ride along and expand the acoustic stage as it went so well last year. We're looking at some sort of pampering and freshening up area as well.

6) Who is your favourite act playing this year?

It would have to be James although I'm looking forward to Embrace as well. I read Peter Hook's biography on holiday over Easter on his time with Joy Division and New Order and that's got me back into those bands again as well. There are also a few bands on the second stage that I'll try to catch including Vida and The Nickajack Men.

7) Was it a hard year to organise? Did any difficulties arise?

Once the bands are booked the rest seems to fall into place fairly easily as we are working with the same suppliers each year now. Everyone knows the site and what to expect.

8) Lastly, how excited are you for this year compared to other years?

It's always a nervous kind of excitement. The night before we announce the line-up is a scary time as you're never quite sure how the reaction to the line-up...that you have spent months preparing...will go. But we got a great response again! Ticket sales are a fair bit ahead of last year already so hopefully as it gets nearer the event and the planning is further along I'll start to get even more excited.

So there we go! A little sneak-peak into some Party at the Palace developments and how one of its creators feels about the event this year. If it's anything like past years we should all be getting very excited. Roll on the summer of 2018!

Rosie Crowe





A New Era at Linlithgow Golf Club Alan Robertson



Linlithgow Golf Club, established in 1913 on land owned by the MacKinnon family of Drambuie fame, is one of the most attractive golf courses in the central belt of Scotland. Many non-golfing Linlithgow residents will walk past the course as they enjoy scenic walks along the Union Canal but may not appreciate what the club has to offer.



If you have never thought about playing golf, consider this – a game that can be played by all age ranges up to and including into your 90's! - a game that is competitive at all levels due to the universal handicapping system, – an enjoyable

means of getting fresh air and keeping fit, – a game that offers great social interaction both on the course and in the clubhouse, – truly a game for life.

There is a trend of declining golf club membership numbers in Scotland and **Linlithgow Golf Club** is no different in that although it has a loyal membership, the numbers of juniors and young adults have reduced in recent years resulting in the membership demographics rising in an unsustainable direction. So – an action plan designed to re-balance the membership was launched in March.

This initiative aims to tackle the decline by targeting three specific areas...

Junior coaching and development to generate the future club membership, **'Get into Golf' packages** including structured coaching plans aimed to attract new players and especially

families into the game, and **cost effective membership packages for Young Adults** in the 27 to 35 age range designed to appeal to those younger golfers struggling to balance the cost of full membership with the many other commitments of family and work.

In February, Linlithgow Golf Club appointed a **new Head Professional, Calum Lawson**. Calum, originally from Kirkcaldy, joined the club from Gleneagles where he held the position as Head Teaching Professional. Calum has a wealth of experience in teaching pupils of all standards, with his CV boasting positions as Scottish Development Coach and Perth and Kinross County Junior Squad coach. Calum achieved his PGA Qualification at The Blairgowrie Golf Club, before moving on to concentrate on playing on The Tartan Tour, while developing his teaching skills part time at Wellsgreen and Elmwood Golf Club. In addition to his focus on teaching, Calum and his team provide a fantastic custom-fitting facility as well as a retail unit stocking the best of hardware and soft goods in the game of golf.

Calum has appointed **Peter Whiteford** as his assistant. Peter, also from Kirkcaldy, played on the European Tour for seven years where he recorded multiple top five finishes in addition to winning three times on the Challenge Tour. Peter brings knowledge and experience gained from his playing days to the Professional team, and has enrolled to achieve his PGA Qualification.

They both have a major interest in bringing young players into the game and they have already embarked on an initiative designed to create the **'Linlithgow Junior Golf Academy'**. This will bring a fantastic structure to Junior Coaching at Linlithgow Golf Club and will allow juniors to enjoy

the game, learn in a safe environment and progress.

The Junior Academy will build on the well established, Scottish Government sponsored, Clubgolf experience offered to primary school pupils which has been provided by volunteers at the club since 2005.

Several years ago, the club extended the Pro Shop to include an indoor coaching and performance studio and the new Professional team are installing state of the art technology to create the very best facility in the County for coaching and club fitting. This initiative backs up the work the club is engaged in to develop the course itself. The Council believe that the best way for the club to survive is to create and maintain the best course possible given the topography of the location. Over the last several years the greens have been developed to provide free draining, consistent firm and fast surfaces which are challenging to all levels of player. The club is also in year three of a five year bunker re-development programme aimed at improving the quality and strategic positioning of the bunkers while at the same time introducing a consistent heathland style.

Please see the enclosed leaflet for details of the range of membership options available, make use of the two for one playing offer, and contact Gary Shephard, club secretary, or Calum Lawson, Head Professional on 01506 842585 for more information.

LGC website:
www.linlithgowgolf.co.uk



ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE?

Whilst searching through our old records for material to support our celebration of 40 years trading as a garden centre it was fascinating to be reminded of trends in gardening that have reappeared more recently having gone out of fashion.

40 years ago when we started in the walled garden at Hopetoun House we sold large numbers of herbs. Although we have consistently offered a good range of herbs over the following years, since the 'grow-your-own' boom from 2008 onwards the demand for herbs has grown enormously. At the same time demand for vegetable (including herb) seeds has grown to such an extent that while we previously would sell two packets of flower seeds for every packet of vegetable seeds, now we sell three packets of vegetable seeds for every one of flowers.

Some of the young plants we sell from our Herb sales tables are chosen for their fragrance and ornamental or medicinal use rather than for culinary purposes. But the majority are chosen primarily for their culinary use and most of these are pretty as well as productive plants with many having the extra charm of being fragrant.



We like to take a small bunch of useful herbs to friends' houses if we are visiting or going for a meal. Like the Victorian 'Tussie-Mussie' or earlier 'Nosegay' we tie the herbs into a pretty little bunch, using a rubber band to hold them and a bit of ribbon or twine to bind the stems finishing off with a bow. Make sure that the stems are all cut at the same length when you have finished and then the recipient can just pop the tussie-mussie into a small vase or wine glass.



Above Pic: (Spring Tussie Mussie)

The Victorians would use the different flowers or leaves in their bunch to give a message using the language of flowers – often attaching a wee card explaining the meaning so that there would be no confusion! For instance Rosemary was for remembrance, Thyme for activity, Mint for virtue, Primrose (here as an edible flower) meaning I can't live without you and Bay Leaf as 'I change only in death'.



In Spring our tussie –mussie might include all the above herbs, perhaps with some Curly Leaved Parsley and a sprig or two of Golden Marjoram. The herbs would look lovely on your own dining table or in a guest's bedroom. In the kitchen you might chose to use the bunch of herbs as a Bouquet Garni in a casserole or soup. Our choice for this would include Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, Thyme and Bay.



Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson
New Hopetoun Gardens

so much more
than just a
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NEW
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GARDENS

ARE YOU 35 THIS YEAR?
OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?
35 IS THE 'GARDENER'S BIRTHDAY'

Send us their name, date of birth and address and we will send them a **£35 Voucher** to spend here at New Hopetoun Gardens!



ANNUAL RIDING OF THE MARCHES

June is fast approaching and with that comes the excitement of the Civic week. For the Deacons Court preparations are already well underway for the Annual Riding of the Town's Marches which this year will have Provost John Cunningham take the lead for his first marches in his three year term of office.

Provost Cunningham is excited to get his first Marches off to a fantastic start with the **Annual Street Fair** kicking off the diary events on the 12th of May. The Street Fair encourages local organisations and charities to come together around the Cross Well with the Reed Band starting the afternoon off as they parade from the West Port to the Cross for the 1pm start. Recent years have seen a variety of stalls for all ages, including soaking your favourite member of the **Deacons Court** in the stalks and the **famous Deacons Court doughnuts**, and this year promises to be just as exciting.

The **Marquee** will play host to a number of the Deacons Court events this year including the **Fashion Show on the 12th of June** and the **Provost Dinner of the 15th of June**. The **Fashion Show** will be the first to be hosted by Provost Cunningham's wife, **Myra**, and is sure to be another excellent event with a number of retailers showcasing their latest

fashions. The Provost Dinner is also a not to be missed event when the Provost hosts the evening with after dinner speakers. If you would like any more information on these events, or any of the events organised by the Deacons Court, please email deacons court.events@gmail.com

The run up to the Marches also sees the traditional events and parades. **The Cryin' O' the Marches** sees **Town Crier, David Duncan**, walk from the Star and Garter to Linlithgow Bridge Primary School proclaiming to the inhabitants of Linlithgow that they must attend the Annual Riding of the Town's Marches in their best "apparel and array" or face the fine of "£100 Scots each!" The traditional proclamation is received by many who watch from the High Street and who join in behind the Town Crier and the Halberdiers with some of the pupils from the town's schools. **This year's Cryin' O' The Marches will take place on Friday 15th June at 1pm.**

The two Saturdays before the Marches Day will see the organisations taking part in the **Deacons Night Procession** from the West Port to the Low Port before returning to the Cross and going three times around the Cross Well. The Deacons and My Lords of each organisation will then be installed on the steps of the Burgh Halls as Provost Cunningham will offer them

a drink from the Loving Cup.

Marches Day itself will see many organisations within the town come together to take part in the parade. This year, the Deacons Court are hoping to encourage more participants in the procession. Are you part of a local organisation and would you like to take part? Whether it is as an organisation, club or society, as a group of friends or as a family, there are plenty of opportunities to take part. Either by walking in the procession, dressing up, entering a float - large or small - or perhaps your child would like to take part by decorating their bike and cycling in the procession.

However you would like to participate, we would love to hear from you - email linlithgowmarches@gmail.com

This year the **Deacons Court** would also like to encourage the participation of businesses within the town by asking shops to decorate their windows or create a window display as part of the Marches celebrations. By taking part, businesses would be entered into the Gazette Trophy category of prize giving on the Marches Day.

To keep up to date with all of the events leading up to the Marches Day and throughout the year, why not like us on Facebook by searching for Linlithgow Marches and Deacons Court.



LINLITHGOW MARCHES



Take part in this year's Marches.

Are you part of a local organisation or an individual and would like to take part in the annual riding of Linlithgow Marches?

Why not dress up, decorate a trailer or vehicle or perhaps decorate a bike and take part.

For more information on taking part in the Marches email linlithgowmarches@gmail.com

Long Live the Marches!

LATE-NIGHT OPENING

April sees the first “Pay Day Friday” late-opening evening in Linlithgow. On the last Friday of every month, High Street businesses will be keeping their doors open from 5pm ‘til late and welcoming shoppers normally unable to enjoy shopping in Linlithgow during standard business hours.

We’ve said it many times before, but it’s always worth repeating that Linlithgow’s High Street is one of the finest in the country, boasting a huge variety of independent shops, services, cafés, restaurants and more. Organised by Linlithgow High Street Traders and supported by Linlithgow Town Centre BID, the late-opening evenings provide an opportunity to shop at a leisurely pace in the evening, then perhaps pop in to one of our fine restaurants or pubs for some sustenance!

Mark the first date – April 27th – in your diary and set it to repeat on the last Friday of each month, so you don’t miss it!

**Fri
27
April**

LATE NIGHT
Shopping

Here are some of the special offers for the evening, but please keep up to date on the Facebook page:

Mark the first date
April 27th
in your diary

and set it to
repeat on the
last Friday of each month,
so you don’t miss it!



LINLITHGOW
TOWN CENTRE BID

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Mac’s Ice Cream and Sweets:



When it comes to career changes, Grant McMartin has a CV that really takes the biscuit - or perhaps that ought to be marshmallow wafer!

The man behind Mac’s Ice Cream Parlour and Sweet Shop in The Vennel (formerly Kelly’s) spent

15 years as a professional footballer in Scotland with Dundee and a string of other senior clubs before joining Scottish Widows in Edinburgh, which he left recently after 17 years.

“I was Pension Project Manager dealing with millions of pounds every day. I must admit I’m struggling at times with pic ‘n’ mix bags at 99p! I want to have a reputation for giving value for money, and everything in the shop is sold at the RRP. I don’t mark anything up, and no customer has come back to me and said they got the same cheaper elsewhere.”

When Grant says he has a range of ice creams and sweets to please all ages, it’s no idle boast: the list of what Mac’s has to offer is truly mind-boggling! 65 flavours from Porrelli’s ice cream range, with 25 on display at any given time, no fewer than 120 different sweets in the pic ‘n’ mix range, 76 jars of sweets (including lollies, sugar-free, and nostalgia-inducing sweets such

as rhubarb and custard and pear drops), 20 slush drinks, fresh crêpes made to order, waffles, brownies and coffee.

Grant added that he had received huge support with the new venture from locals and his wife Hazel, who has a senior position with Scottish Widows in Edinburgh. The couple have a son, Harry (14).

The Dollhouse:

The Dollhouse Nail and Beauty Bar at The Vennel has set the bar high by aiming to provide the same level of service, friendliness and quality for which another business in the town is widely recognised.

Delhi’s Winter in the Regent Centre may be a total contrast, but Jennifer Kalra is bringing the same philosophy to her new venture as her husband Raj applies in the popular restaurant.

Jennifer, a trained chef with years of experience in the hospitality business, said that she wanted to



ensure that The Dollhouse was as welcoming and inclusive as possible, and that clients could feel totally relaxed.

“The girls, Mica and Lauren, both worked in city-centre businesses before

and they bring a wealth of experience to The Dollhouse. We do everything from basic file and polish through to acrylic extensions, threading and waxing, with lash extensions proving really popular. We also offer a full-body Moroccan spray tan.”

Jennifer, who has two daughters, eight-year-old Gracie and Amber (16 months), is also offering a “mini me polish” that is certain to be a hit with mums and daughters. For £5, girls under 12 can have their nails done while mum is receiving a treatment at £15 or over.

Jennifer added that she was also introducing a masseuse two Saturdays a month, who would be using cruelty-free, vegan-friendly oils, sourced locally.

Kitchenhaus:

Choosing a new kitchen is a big and potentially very expensive decision – the last thing you want is to feel you are being pressurised into making it.

That will not happen when you call in to the recently-opened Kitchenhaus showroom on Linlithgow High Street, where informality and an absence of any in-your-face sales pitch are the order of the day.

Director Nicola Brydon said that she wanted potential clients to feel relaxed and unhurried as they toured the stunning and spacious showroom to view seven kitchens, featuring a variety of solid surfaces and taps.



“They can then sit over a coffee and look over our extensive product range of door fronts, work surfaces, niche panelling and so on. To enhance the experience for parents we’re also setting up a play area with soft drinks to keep the children occupied.”

Nicola, who has had seven years’ experience of designing kitchens from her Linlithgow home after a career largely spent in advertising, said that she had decided to open under a franchise arrangement with the German manufacturer, the largest in Europe, because of the reputation it had for quality.

“Nothing is flat-packed – everything we fit has a rigid carcass – but it’s important to stress that price-wise we are not high-end (not in the top 10%). The fitted kitchens in the showroom range from £5,000 to £16,000, which gives some indication of the outlay involved.”

Her new venture has been something of a family affair. Husband David, who works in the oil and gas business in Aberdeen, did a substantial amount of the conversion work on the former bookmaker’s premises.

Son Harry, who was a pupil at Linlithgow Academy, is working in the showroom while considering offers from American universities for a “soccer scholarship” studying business management. His brother, Max, a third-year pupil at the Academy, could also become involved in the business.

Vaporized:



“Vaping” has enjoyed something of a boom since its invention a few years ago, not least because it provides smokers with an alternative, safer means of delivering nicotine than cigarettes.

No sooner had the much-loved Nifty Needles closed its doors than Vaporized jumped at the opportunity to set up shop in the prominent unit at 56 High Street. The size of the premises is testament to the huge variety of products now on offer inside.

Offering friendly e-cigarette advice and a vast selection of e-liquids, Vaporized Linlithgow is one of over 100 stores across the UK. Their knowledgeable staff – headed by manager

Sue Paterson – are always on hand to offer the best advice on “making the switch” from tobacco to e-liquids and can help you find the right products for your needs.

Each month, “manager’s specials” are offered on various kits to help customers get started on their journey to becoming tobacco-free!

Pop in, meet the team and find the combination that suits you.

Cafébar 1807:

The 1807 next to Linlithgow’s Cross now has an additional reason to celebrate its first birthday: it has made the shortlist of 10 in the “best cocktail bar” category in a prestigious competition for the licensed trade in Scotland.

Owner David Stein said that to have been voted into the top 10 in the Molson Coors-sponsored contest along with leading cocktail bars in Edinburgh and Glasgow was a tremendous accolade.

“It’s great for all the staff and it’s testament to our success in creating a ‘city centre feel’ in the 1807.”

The winners in all the categories will be revealed at a prestigious evening in Glasgow at the end of this month.



MILL ROAD BID

First Aid Training

The Mill Road BID has organised first aid training for member businesses. The ‘Emergency First Aid at Work’ training will last approximately 6 Hours and there are 12 places available on a first come first served basis. If you would like to book a place on this course, please contact us at info@linlithgowmillroadbid.com.

Newsletter

The last edition of the newsletter was very well received and work continues on the next edition. Expect to see it through your letterbox in the coming weeks! Bridgette has been visiting businesses for face-to-face interviews to discuss issues and to collect feedback.

If you would like to book an appointment to see her, please contact her on Bridgette.Kleinman@linlithgowmillroadbid.com.

Business Improvement Grant B.I.G

Member businesses can access funding support through the Business Improvement Grant. There is up to 75% of up to £1,000 available to each applicant for projects that will improve their businesses, either internally or externally. There is an easy application process that Stewart will help you with. Contact info@linlithgowmillroadbid.com for more information.

Board membership

The Board are looking for volunteers to become directors of the BID Company and oversee the projects and services delivered in the Mill Road Industrial Estate. If you have a couple of hours per month to spare and you’d like to get involved, please contact stewart.ness@linlithgowmillroadbid.com for more information.

For more information visit our website www.linlithgowmillroadbid.com or email Bridgette on Bridgette.Kleinman@linlithgowmillroadbid.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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www.linlithgowmillroadbid.com

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Bridgette.Kleinman@linlithgowmillroadbid.com



Nicholas Gribben & Stewart Ness



Fri
16
Nov

THE 41 CLUB REACHES 50

'CHARTER DINNER' – LINLITHGOW AND DISTRICT 41 CLUB



This year, the Linlithgow and District 41 Club will reach the grand old age of 50 years.

To mark the historic half century, the Club will be hosting a Charter Dinner on Friday November 16th, in either the local Golf Club or in the Rugby Club (depending on numbers). The speakers we expect (but to be confirmed) will include Jim Carlin, Donald Ford (who, by the way, attended the inaugural meeting all those years ago) and local personality Mike Wheatley.

41 Club is the more commonly used and shorter name for the "Association of ex-Round Tablers' Clubs", a social networking organisation for men aged over 40, who are also former members of Round Table. Thus, 41 Club forms part of the Round Table family of clubs, together with Round Table itself, Ladies Circle and Tangent.

Historically, 41 Club members came from the Round Table 'old boys' who, on reaching the age of 40, were obliged to 'retire', but now, we are pleased to include other interested parties in our membership. We currently have around 40 on our books, with a regular attendance of about half that number.

Linlithgow and District was formally accepted as an affiliated club on May 20th 1968. Our current chairman is Neil Edwards but Gordon Smith will be taking over that position prior to our Charter Dinner.

The 41 Club prides itself on being a good, responsible local organisation supporting local interests, with the highlight of our year being the Riding of the Marches. We have a huge input into the big day, with our tableau float, which always proves a hit with the crowd, and our members and guests wearing distinctive dress. With our tweed jackets, deerstalker hats and curly walking sticks,

we pay homage to the Marches of the past, where the various Trades and Craft Fraternities in the town all paraded in their own distinctive style.

Our meetings are held at the West Port Hotel on the first Wednesday of the month (not July or August) at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Meetings can take the following formats: Visiting Speakers / Outside Visits / Games Nights / Tastings / Quiz Nights / Seasonal Celebrations / Float Building / etc.

We would be delighted to welcome any prospective members.

George Wilson

ST PETER'S CHURCH Celebrating its 90th year

Bruce Jamieson



The white-painted front door of St Mildred's.



Barratt's Circus arrives in horse-drawn wagons.

People were also looking forward to the Marches Day, which was just over two weeks away. Local trade organisations were electing their deacons and the Town Council had made the decision to ban horses in the parade and to use only motorised vehicles - a decision which was incurring considerable opposition.



A prize-winning float from the 1928 Marches. It was a steam-driven lorry belonging to Aitken's of Stockbridge.

Just two years before, in 1926, the country had been racked by a General Strike and Provost John Hebson had caused great consternation by cancelling the Marches parade that year.

St. Peter's, Linlithgow, is 90 years old this May. The building was officially opened and consecrated on May 30th, 1928 by Bishop George Henry Somerset Walpole. The new church building, initially named St. Mildred's in honour of the Bishop's late wife, had occasioned considerable interest in the town - with its unusual Byzantine design and domed roof. However, the completion of the year-long build was not the only event occupying local attention. At the Mains Park, Barrett's Great Canadian Circus was setting up its big top and posters around the town advertised "20 star artistes, horses, elephants and lions."

However, on May 30th, 1928, the Provost was applauded as he marched in red and white ermine robes, accompanied by the uniformed halberdiers, from the Burgh Halls to St Mildred's where he, and the town's bailies, were met by several robed clerics including Bishop Walpole, the Dean of Edinburgh - the Very Reverend H. S. Reid, Canon Laurie, Canon Brereton and priest in charge, the Rev William Snow.

Also present were the Rev. Robert Coupar of St. Michael's and the Rev. John Morgan of St. Ninian's. The Bishop knocked three times on the white-painted door with his pastoral staff, declaring, "Open me the gates of righteousness that I may go into them and give thanks unto the Lord."

The procession moved inside to the hymn "The Church's One Foundation" and during his sermon the Bishop explained the significance of St. Mildred as an inspiration to all, and as an example of what women could do in the church. He went on to express the hope that the church would "stand for all the ideals which St Mildred (a 7th century Abbess) inspired in her day and bring an increasing measure of spiritual good in the burgh and beyond". He then mentioned the acquisition of the High Street site on which an unoccupied building had been cleared to make way for the church.

In 1978 the church changed its name back to that of the original Episcopal Mission in the town: St Peter's, and for the next 40 years the church continued the work of establishing a presence in the town - an input far above its tiny size. In addition to its weekly services, its Sunday School and its pastoral work, the church played host to a multitude of local events from Burns Suppers to Marches Day and Advent Fair cafes to plant sales and many other social occasions. An on-going problem however has always been its dearth of facilities. It lacked office space, a fully functioning kitchen and proper toilet facilities. Now, to celebrate its 90th year, it has all of those. A £250,000 project has resulted in a state of the art, fully accessible,

architect-designed annexe, which includes a lift, all the needed amenities and an "Upper Room" capable of hosting small gatherings.

Hard work, and considerable prayer, from the St Peter's congregation, and beyond, has seen the massive fund-raising drive culminating in the completion of the ambitious scheme. Invaluable help was also received from many local organisations including Linlithgow and Bo'ness Rotary and the Linlithgow Round Table and several other funding bodies including LandTrust, WREN Scottish Action Fund, EB Scotland, the National Churches Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Beatrice Laing Trust, the Baird Trust, the St Hilda's Fund for Mission, the Rank Foundation and AllChurches Trust.

Astonishing generosity from other churches also helped us to reach our target, as did some amazingly creative fund raising ideas from St Peter's congregation and many members of the local community.

On May 30th this year, Bishop of Edinburgh John Armes will formally dedicate the new facilities following a Celebratory Eucharist - and a new chapter in the 90 year old life of the church will begin.



Architect Grant Bulloch's drawing of the soon-to-be-completed extension

The new facilities are available for community use. Any organisation or group of people interested in using the church and its new bespoke accommodation should contact:

Ann on 07963805366.

Email: ronjeep5@gmail.com

HIGH STREET LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

The Linlithgow High Street Traders have recently set up a new Facebook page which will be used for advertising as well as sharing offers and deals. It's also a place for the public to ask questions about the businesses - please join and give your support. They are determined to create a bit of a buzz around Linlithgow High Street and celebrate the wonderful diversity of shops and businesses that can be found here.

The group have decided to launch a late night shopping evening on the last Friday of the month and the first one will be held this month. Lots of special offers will be available on the night, and they plan to stay open until 8pm (some maybe later).

At the time of writing I know

The Granary Cafe

A Wee Mindin'

The Creative Workshop

Crafted Merchant

The Retreat

QWorth

Norman Cummings

The Coffee Neuk

Oxfam

are definitely taking part but there will be others too. Families are welcome to come and browse in a relaxed environment.

Carol who owns Crafted Merchant said "the late-night Christmas shopping event was good fun ... great to meet new customers who can't get into town so much during the day, so I'm looking forward to this and more evening shopping events. Her favourite quote from a browsing customer was 'I am just enjoying the unusualness of everything.'"



Fri
27
April

LATE NIGHT Shopping list*

Here are some of the special offers for the evening, but please keep up to date on the Facebook page:

A Wee Mindin'
10% off all jewellery

The Creative Workshop -
reduced prices on most items
to make way for the big move!

Far from the Madding Crowd
10% off all books

QWorth 15% off everything!

Crafted Merchant
10% off all "re-styled" furniture

*on the last Friday of the month

Pat Swan patswan@virginmedia.com



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LIDSTER ROSEBOWL 7 A-SIDE CRICKET TOURNAMENT

JOHN MALONE (JUNIOR) AND ANDREW MALONE SEATED (CENTRAL)
G.M. BANNERMAN SEATED ON FAR LEFT. UMPIRES: T. WATSON & A. SHARP.



MRS J LIDSTER PRESENTING LIDSTER ROSEBOWL TO JOHN MALONE
OF THE FIRST TEAM TO WIN THE TROPHY IN 1956

In Jim Wilson's book "West Lothian County Cricket Association 50 Years of Cricket", the origins of the Lidster Rosebowl competition is recorded. Thus it was around this time "1956" that the club advertised for entries for a novice 7 a-side tournament with a silver Rosebowl presented by Mrs J Lidster going to the winners. This competition proved to be an immediate success in its inaugural season and to this date provides great fun and excitement to all who take part or watch, as well as providing an important boost to the club finances.

.....

In a further entry in Jim's book it states that "originally each team was allowed to include one experienced player who was not allowed to bowl and had to bat last but in recent times all seven players in the team had to be either without much cricketing experience or away from the game for a certain period. In recent years interest and participation in the tournament has waned but it is hoped that the concept of trying to bat, bowl and field continues."

Over the 60 years of competition many well known teams have emerged such as Johnny Malone's seven who were the first winners in 1956, Strachan Surveyors, Thomson and Balfour, Steins Brickworks, Kerr's Pinks, The Rugby Club, The Last Ace and St. John's Church to name but a few.

The club which has changed its name from West Lothian County Cricket Association to Linlithgow Cricket Club, intend to host the Lidster Rosebowl competition in 2018 when once again Boghall spectators will enjoy the

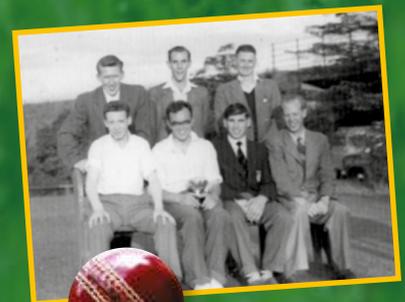
efforts of novices attempting to bat and bowl.

The attached picture shows the winners of the competition in 1958, led by a youthful George Strachan.

A dry summer would be a bonus!

LINLITHGOW CRICKET CLUB

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PLASTIC FREE LINLITHGOW

There's been much discussion recently on reducing single-use plastic. Blue Planet II led the way, and there have been many initiatives both at parliamentary and grass roots levels. Linlithgow businesses have been quick to respond. For instance, the Granary café now uses only eco friendly packaging, encourages people to bring their own take-away coffee cups, and uses only paper straws (on request only).

At a recent meeting of Transition Linlithgow, members and supporters discussed what we can do to reduce our own consumption of single-use plastic. Inspired by the discussion, a few volunteers then developed a plan for a 'Plastic Free Linlithgow'. The aims are to raise awareness, share knowledge, and ultimately reduce Linlithgow's plastic footprint. Linlithgow will be joining other like-minded communities such as Ullapool who recently went plastic straw free, and Shetland where campaigners are hoping to cut out single-use plastics such as straws and cups by the end of 2018.

Initially the project will explore our local businesses and organisations to find out where there is scope for change and look at potential alternatives. We'll run a campaign to coincide with 'Plastic Free July', a global initiative to encourage everyone to go plastic

free for a month. The third, longer term goal is to explore the viability of Linlithgow becoming a 'Plastic Free Community', as defined by 'Plastic Free Coastlines'. Going completely plastic free may be a step too far, but this organisation is encouraging local communities to set and work towards objectives for reducing use of single-use plastic.

We are hoping that individuals, local businesses and organisations will be willing to help as a first step by completing a short survey.

In the meantime, here are a few examples of how we can all help to reduce plastic waste:

- >> **SAY 'NO' TO DISPOSABLE PLASTIC STRAWS AND CUTLERY**
- >> **BUY LOCAL GOODS AND OPT FOR PLASTIC-FREE PACKAGING WHEREVER POSSIBLE**
- >> **USE A REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE INSTEAD OF BUYING BOTTLED WATER AND DRINKS**



Simple swaps for reducing plastic waste

Watch this space for updates on what we find and how we are progressing. If you'd like to help or complete our survey, we'd love to hear from you via our website www.transitionlinlithgow.org.uk/.

You can also join or follow our new Facebook group, Plastic-Free Linlithgow.



Tracy Hill





I hope many of you have recently been watching the BBC series “**MAKE! Craft Britain**”, which celebrates creativity, and the **ART** of making things. The debate about the crossover of art and craft has gone on for some time, and I have to say that perhaps it doesn’t really matter if you enjoy doing or seeing it. Many artists hate their work to be called craft, but often that argument is over the value of the art rather than its enjoyment. The theme running through the recent TV programme is that making things with your hands feeds the soul, slows you down, takes you away from your too busy life and gives you a sense of achievement often not found by some in their daily existence. There is scope to do this in Linlithgow and I encourage you to think about bringing some “making” into your life.

The Creative Workshop

Since it opened, The Creative Workshop has expanded what’s on offer and now provides a wide range of clay and ceramic based activities. The owner, Hepzibah, has confirmed that she will be moving premises shortly from her current base opposite the old library building. She has not finalised the details but hopes to be based on the High Street, and continue to provide the full range of classes as well as have a retail/gallery area.

If you are interested in classes please check Facebook and the website

(thecreativeworkshop30.com) for updates, and hopefully in the next issue I will be able to report on the Opening Event for the new location. Meantime pop in and see Hepzibah and discuss what you’d like to do, as she is very open to running classes to demand. She will be happy to take your details and you’ll be first on the list for classes in her new studio. She also offers Gift Vouchers if you’d like to treat a friend to some creative time.

Printmaking will also be available after the move. This is a very accessible way of producing hand-made prints or cards, even if feel you are not arty. Lino and mono print techniques allow you to use existing pictures or ideas to enable you to personalise your prints. You could be surprised how much you can achieve in a short time and how addictive it can become. It can also be pursued at home with very little need to invest in any expensive equipment.

I’ve mentioned before the very enjoyable tile decorating wine workshop I attended. These evening events are available to book for groups of 4 or more, and different activities can be provided such as wheelwork, tile decorating, glass painting, button making and decorating pre-made bisque ware. Get together a group of friends and enjoy creating something together.

Paw prints and children’s birthday parties are also offered.

Purely Patchwork

Purely Patchwork is another business in town where you can learn something new and benefit from the art of making. There’s a textile and stitching theme but it’s definitely not only about making patchwork quilts. Their website details the classes that are running over the next few months and Esther, who owns the business, is open to new suggestions for classes if



there’s something you’ve always wanted to do.

If you really can’t spare the time to attend a workshop, perhaps a kit is the answer to getting some creativity in your life. Beginners kits are available in Purely Patchwork and the staff will be happy to chat through what’s involved if you are worried about the level of expertise required. Give it a go.

Forth Valley Art Beat

Forth Valley Art Beat runs from 9-17 June and I hope to feature events in Linlithgow in the next magazine. Artists & organisations across Central Scotland host a variety of events from open studios, installations, temporary public artworks, pop-up shows, film, performance and exhibitions. Last year there were none in the town but I know of at least one group who are involved this year, so please get in touch if you are taking part and I can include some information about your work.

Once again I’d like to ask you to get in touch so that I can include your event on this page – patswan@virginmedia.com.

I hope you have time to experience some **ART**, or **CRAFT**, this month.

Pat Swan

patswan@virginmedia.com



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“it’s time to make art. my soul is hungry”

Colin Lowie

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Susan Ralston, Virtue Money

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adopting a risk level you can live with.

It's easy to find people with investing ideas – your hairdresser, your neighbour, or an “inside tip” from a someone “in the know”. But these kinds of well-meaning but not necessarily informed suggestions aren't a replacement for a real investment strategy.

At Virtue Money we believe that setting and maintaining your strategic asset allocation are amongst the most important ingredients in your long-term investment success. No matter what your situation, this means creating an investment mix based on your goals, risk tolerance, financial situation and timeline and being diversified both among and within different types of stocks, bonds and other investments.

Your portfolio needs a regular check-up. You should check your asset allocation at least once a year or any time your financial circumstances change significantly—things like losing you

job or getting a big bonus. This is also a good time to review your existing assets and risk strategy to see if it still meets your current situation and future plans.

WHY DIVERSIFY? The aim of diversification is not necessarily to improve performance—it won't ensure gains or guarantee against losses. However, once you choose to target a level of risk based on your goals, time horizon and tolerance for volatility, diversification may provide the potential to improve returns for that level of risk.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE A RISK LEVEL YOU CAN LIVE WITH? The value of a diversified portfolio usually reveals itself over time. Unfortunately, many people struggle to fully realise the benefits of their investment strategy because when markets are on the up, they tend to chase performance and purchase higher-risk investments. When there is a market downturn they do the opposite and look to move to lower-risk investment options. These are actions which can lead to missed opportunities.

It is important to understand that the decisions that you make about how to diversify, the time you choose to get into or out of the market, as well as fees you pay or underperforming funds choose, can cause you to generate returns far lower than the overall market.

Having a plan that includes appropriate asset allocation tailored to your attitude to risk and reviewing your portfolio on a regular basis can help you overcome (to a certain degree) the challenge of an uncertain market.

We will shortly be running our next Virtue Money Pre-retirement seminar, which is completely free of charge. We will have guest speakers and will touch on the following, Wills, Powers of Attorneys, Tax, Health and of course Pensions.

If you would like register your interest, or indeed make an appointment to speak to one of our advisers, please contact me, Susan Ralston, directly on 0345 034 3424 or email me at Susan@virtuemoney.com.



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This information is intended to be educational and is not tailored to the investment needs of any specific investor.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Diversification and asset allocation do not ensure a profit or guarantee against loss.

*Source data taken from YouGov Plc

Stuart from the Westport Veterinary Clinic tells us about some of his regular customers. This issue we bring you Rocket the rescue rabbit.

Rocket's favourite place to sleep is anywhere that isn't his bedroom! He always pulls all the bedding out and redistributes it all over the hutch!

His favourite toy is a wooden chew which is filled with hay, unfortunately, one of Rocket's naughtiest habits is chewing things other than his toys. His very kind humans bought him and his bunny friend a big playhouse which Rocket is nibbling his way through!

Rocket tries to look as innocent as possible when questioned about holes dug in the grass but the bits of dirt and grass hanging off his paws and chin are always a giveaway. Despite his best efforts he has a habit of looking guilty any time his humans look at him but that may be down to him being a cheeky chappy! According to Rocket's owners he causes them a fair bit of panic when he does his 'bunny flop' to lie down as he often looks dead!

Luckily for Rocket, his owners forgive all his cheeky tricks and describe him as a 'lovely, friendly boy who loves his bunny friend Luna'.

Rabbits are highly social and kept on their

own get lonely and stressed. Companionship is so important when it comes to rabbits so please ensure you have considered this before buying a pet rabbit.

Vaccinations give rabbits protection against life threatening diseases such as Myxomatosis and viral haemorrhagic disease (RHD) which are almost always fatal.

Male rabbits can be neutered around 4 months of age. This not only prevents unwanted babies but can also reduce aggression and urine spraying, both linked to hormones. Female rabbits can be spayed around 4 months of age and most importantly this will dramatically reduce the risk of your rabbit developing cancer of the uterus.

It is important to brush your rabbit regularly, checking for signs of illness and remember to keep a good eye on their dental health. All of these actions also provide your rabbit with some much-needed socialising.

If you have any concerns at all or need advice on appropriate food, shelter and behaviour please book an appointment to speak to one of our knowledgeable team.

Susanne McMorro

Hello
I'm Rocket Elliot



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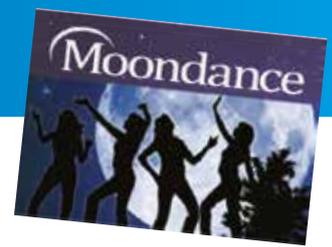
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MARCHES MARQUEE - 'MOONDANCE'



**Sat
16
June**

Linlithgow's first ever Moondance will take place on Saturday 16th June to raise money for the Breast Unit at St. John's Hospital and Breast Cancer Now. This huge fundraising event will be held in the Marches Marquee from 7.30pm to midnight and will be a ladies night.

Tickets are expected to sell-out so if you haven't bought yours, don't wait. They are priced at £15 each, or 10 tickets ensures a reserved table. Our very own local band Kerry & the Malting Boys are providing the music, there's a glass of fizz on arrival, and some amazing raffle prizes have been donated by companies both local and further afield for which the team are extremely grateful.

The event has been in planning since last year and was initiated by Angela Moran who has lived in Linlithgow for the past 20 years. Angela originally considered the possibility of holding a Moondance last year and after floating the idea with friends decided that this could definitely become a reality. With very little time to pull things together she decided to aim for 2018 which gave time to enlist the help of Kirstin Crombie, Amanda Bannister, Christine Evans, Helen Hassall, Bridget McGee, and Susan Weyzig. Together the Moondance team have been busy since last September organising a

fantastic ladies night with two well deserved beneficiaries being the focus of the event.

Angela was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 and has now been clear for 11 1/2 years. During her illness she experienced the support, care and expertise of St. John's Oncology Breast Unit first hand. One of the reasons that this department is so close to Angela's heart is that it played a vital role in supporting her from diagnosis right through her treatment. Angela has since been volunteering in the Breast Cancer unit for the past 9 years and once a fortnight she meets and greets patients; chats to them and their families; talks about her own treatment and experience; and provides the reassurance and comfort that patients diagnosed with breast cancer need.

Half the money raised from the Moondance on 16th June will go towards the Breast Cancer Unit in St. John's Oncology. Within this department are two services - Headstrong and Complementary Therapies. Both these provide much needed support to patients during and after treatment, assisting patient recovery, and helping those ladies to feel good about themselves whilst undergoing a difficult and challenging time in their lives. These services are self-funded and not supported by the NHS so this money will allow these services to continue. The remainder of the money raised will be donated to Breast Cancer Now

- a charity that funds ground - breaking research, campaigns for better services and treatments and raises awareness of breast cancer.

Moondance events are starting to pop up all over the country after having been started by Val McGavin in 2011. To date there have been 29 Moondances across Scotland and there are many more in the pipeline. It is hoped that the Linlithgow Moondance will be the start of something special.

The Linlithgow Moondance Team would like to say a huge thank you in advance to the Linlithgow Round Table for sponsoring the event and offering their help on the night. Thank you also to our advertisers and also to our ticket outlets - Beautique Beauty Salon, Walkers Carpets and Kerry at Linlithgow Leisure Centre.



If you haven't already, please like the Linlithgow Moondance Facebook page @ linlithgowmoondance or scan the QR code at the bottom of the page, like and share away. We are looking forward to a fantastic night and raising lots of money!

Christine Evans, Moondance Team



BOOK REVIEW THE HOUSE BY THE LAKE THOMAS HARDING

"In the sand of Brandenburg the springs of life have flowed and still flow everywhere, and every square foot of ground has its story and is telling it too, - but one has to be willing to listen to these often quiet voices."

This quote by Theodor Fontane provides the foreword to Thomas Harding's novel, *The House by the Lake*. The novel is an interesting account of life in occupied Berlin during the Second World War. It follows the lives of five families - the struggles they face and the hardships they endure - where the one constant is not people but instead property. The common thread which links the families together is not their close communication or contact - indeed many of them never met or knew of the others' existence - but that they were all inhabitants at some time in their lives of a little house by a lake in East Berlin. The lake was Groß (pr. Gross) Glienicke Lake which was a popular day-vacation destination for many wealthy Berliners prior to the outbreak of war and the

construction of the Berlin wall. It was a beautiful and tranquil location, steeped in tradition, with generations of families swimming and sailing on the lake and "exploring its islands, hidden beaches and coves". This novel is a work of fact and Harding has researched the families and time periods thoroughly. There are many interesting details about the changing political and cultural landscape of Germany over an hundred year span which allows us to better understand the people who come to live in the little house and also what the house means for them. He has relied upon *Zeitzeugen* (time-witnesses) and *Augenzeugen* (eye-witnesses). Harding provides the family trees of each of the inhabitants of the cabin by the lake (plus some photographs) which is a useful point of reference when tracking individuals through the generations. Another unique feature of this novel is that, prior to providing the narrative of a family, Harding inserts a basic floor-plan of the house as it would have been for that group of inhabitants along with the name

they bestowed upon their lodgings. It allows the readers an opportunity to see how the house was renovated and redesigned to suit the changing needs of its occupants.

The novel begins in 1890 with **Otto Wollank** who buys the estate land on which the lake house will eventually be constructed as a means to increasing his fortune and status. He worked hard to transform the land, grow the estate and then, with real vision, realise that the best way to preserve the estate's finances would be to lease portions of land next to the lake to wealthy Berliners who were looking for second homes (weekend-haus) in the countryside. The Alexander family were delighted to take Wollank up on this advantageous offer and, in 1930, leased the land for 15 years and "**would be allowed to build a house, use the lake and... would have first option to buy the land if and when Wollank decided to sell.**"

From here the story of the lake house takes many twists and turns heralded by the outbreak of war. The Alexander family are forced to flee Germany as anti-Semitic feelings and barriers rise. They make a dramatic journey to Britain, settling here as refugees, and it is from this family that Thomas Harding is descended. He had grown up listening to his grandmother talk candidly about her "soul place" - remembering

with fondness a time when life was "easy, fun and simple". They have mixed emotions about Germany - the country of their origins - which abandoned them in their hour of need. As a family they felt fortunate to survive when so many of their people did not yet they mourned the comfortable life that had been snatched away from them.

The house by the lake is a symbol of hope, safety and love for the Alexanders and all the other families who inhabited it. It represents different things to different people but ultimately the human emotions and everyday family moments which bind us all are the same. The triumphs and tragedies, the "weddings, births, secret trusts...betrayals, illnesses" occur for everyone even in the midst of a turbulent period in history. **The house on the lake was on the front line of history and Thomas Harding has provided it with a voice; he lets it tell its own quiet tale of survival and endurance through the ages.**

Lisa Nettleton
Lisa Nettleton is a teacher who lives in Linlithgow and enjoys reading on her daily rail commute into Edinburgh.



FRIDAY COMMUNITY CAFÉ: COME IN AS A CUSTOMER... LEAVE AS A FRIEND



It is fair to say that Linlithgow is spoiled for choice when looking for a café and to question why St. John's Evangelical Church runs yet another café on Friday mornings between 10am and 12 noon at 183 High Street.

The answer of course is that the Community Café isn't just a café ... we don't charge!

Our menu is free however if you would like to donate then you just leave it in the pot on the table. Our scones and jams are home-made, and we offer a choice of quality Fairtrade coffee e.g. Cappuccino, Latte or Espresso from our coffee machine. A choice of freshly brewed Teas and Hot Chocolate is also on offer and is a hit with our younger customers.

The Community Café aims to provide a neutral place for Church and Community to connect and is run by a team of café volunteers who feel that being part of a church is more than turning up at a church service in the Academy on a Sunday. We believe that as part of the church and local community we can serve God through the café by providing a warm, friendly and welcoming environment.

A wide variety of people visit the café:

- >> Mums and children (we have a small play area and provide juice and biscuits)
- >> People meeting friends both young and older

>> People on their own who appreciate the opportunity to chat with other people (not easy to do in an ordinary café)

Volunteers are sensitive to the needs of those who attend and happy to lend a listening ear and give support but only if this is wanted.

The café was started as a way for the local community to get together and usually brings in enough money through donations to cover costs and to support local causes. It's not about how much we have been able to raise ... if we can offer a warm welcome and support making a difference even to one person each week it has been worthwhile.

In the past year we have engaged with and donated to the following local groups:

- >> Burgh Beautiful: sponsorship of a 'Hanging Basket' on the High Street.
- >> Meeting Point -Senior Citizens Group
- >> Linlithgow Link >> Food Bank
- >> 1st Step Recovery Community Café

We were delighted to be able to present 1st Step with a cheque for £300 raised from Community Café donations during February. It has been a wonderful opportunity to get alongside the work of 1st Step whose aim is to support recovery from addictions and have a positive impact on the community. The 1st Step Recovery Café is based at The Longcroft Hall, Philip Avenue Linlithgow and meets every Tuesday. The café offers a range of activities including

skills workshops as well as advice sessions and peer support groups. **Volunteering places for members of the public are also available.**

For more information contact:
firststepdevelopment@gmail.com
 or 07827841993.



As well as supporting local groups, the Friday Community Charity has been able to provide work placements to several young people: the most recent being a sixth-year pupil from Linlithgow Academy. This has been very successful and mutually beneficial. The café benefits from the input of youthful enthusiasm and a fresh pair of eyes. The young person benefits from the opportunity to work as part of a team, developing customer service, communication and barista skills.

Local Opportunities:

>> Are you part of a local group who would like to link in with and be supported by the Community Café? For further information please contact stjcomcafe@gmail.com

>> If you are you at a loose end on a Friday morning, why don't you pop in and try the café for yourself?

We look forward to meeting you.

May Grafen & Christine Young



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROSE

Marches Day Lunches.
Book Now. 1.30pm - 2.30pm. £15 pp.
Children £10.00

SAT 7 JULY
DAVID JOHN (VOCALIST)
& SAFFRON (MOTOWN)
3 course dinner
£22 per person,
7.30-12.30.



MEMBER AND GUEST NIGHT:

SAT 1 SEPT MALCOLM DOUGALL & DOUGIE ORR AND ANDREW CARLIN (NEIL DIAMOND & ELVIS TRIBUTE ACT) PLUS 3 COURSE DINNER £22 per person. Booking essential.

Full Session Bingo at 8pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings.

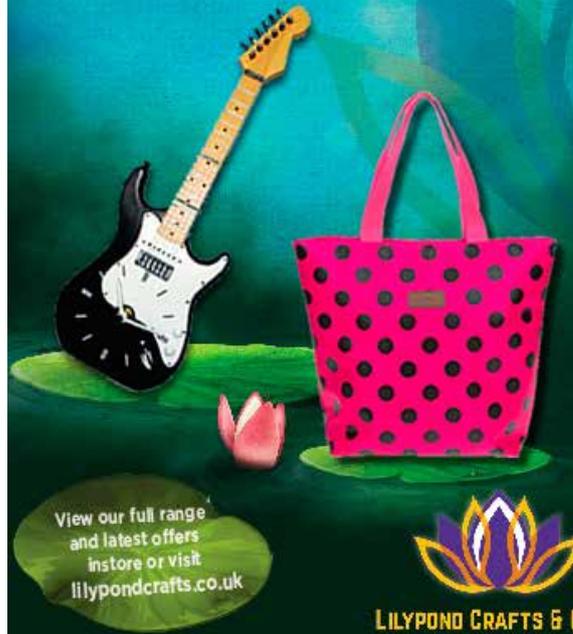
Live entertainment every Saturday and Sunday evening.

Domino competitions on Wednesday afternoons and Friday evenings.

We're open 7 days.

CONTACT: DAVID MCDUGALL ON 01506 843736 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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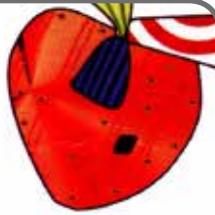


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10TH
ANNIVERSARY



YOUNG ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND CHARITY GOLF DAY



Friday 15th June 2018

To be held at West Lothian Golf Club
First tee off time approx 1pm

Entry forms available at lothianyes.com/events

Young Enterprise Scotland is a Charity Registered in Scotland - SC018180
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June Events Burgh Beautiful

Your opportunity to support Burgh Beautiful!

Plant sale at the Cross Saturday 2nd June from 10am till 1pm. Great quality plants at attractive prices.

Burgh Beautiful's Inviting Gardens on Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July from 2pm till 4.30pm. A chance to visit some of the town's fascinating, private gardens. Programmes will go on sale from Far from the Madding Crowd and The Line Gallery from mid May at £5.00 per person.

<http://lbt.scot/burgh-beautiful>

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