



the **BLACK** *bitch*

Linlithgow's news by Linlithgow's people

LINLITHGOW COMMUNITY MAGAZINE ISSUE 67 JULY 2019



TROUBLED SITES IN THE CONSERVATION AREA P6



LRCFC STRIKE GOLD P8



GROWTH IN VEGETABLE ALLOTMENTS P20



ART IN THE GARDEN P21

PLUS

Burgh Beautiful, Town Centre & Mill Road BID, Police Scotland, Paul Rolfe Property Review, Linlithgow Academy News, Bruce Jamieson & Local History...

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PUPIL LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR 2019-2020

LINLITHGOW ACADEMY HAVE WELCOMED THE NEW PUPIL LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR THE 2019-2020 SESSION. ALICE FERGUSON & ROBERT SZKUDLAREK AS HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY AND CIARA BENSON & ANGUS NELSON AS DEPUTE HEAD GIRL AND BOY.

> ALICE FERGUSON I am delighted to have been selected as Head Girl this year.

Being Head Girl I know requires a clear showcase and role model for the engagement and commitment Linlithgow Academy hopes every pupil to leave with. It is a role of management, leadership, organisation, representation, resilience and most significantly, pride.

For what I hope to accomplish in this position, I think most importantly I hope to exhibit and promote the visions, values and aims of the school by underpinning why they are in place and how Linlithgow Academy truly is an environment for pupils to thrive in whatever they choose to do; be it science, music, business, art or a multitude of other things which are taught, as well as celebrating the array of extra-curricular achievements.

The Black Bitch magazine is a tremendous way to strengthen the bridge between the school and the community and I am excited to promote our achievements in the coming year. The team we have is absolutely excellent and I cannot wait to crack on representing my peers.

> ROBERT SZKUDLAREK I am the current Head Boy of Linlithgow Academy. Currently I'm taking Advanced Higher Biology, Chemistry and Music with an aim to study Medicine at University. I enjoy playing the Trumpet in the Linlithgow Reed Band, School Senior Band and School Jazz Band. I am very honoured to have been given this position and look forward to representing Linlithgow Academy. I will work with the staff and fellow students to discuss possible changes in the areas of student satisfaction and extra-curricular educational benefits.



> CIARA BENSON Without a doubt, I have had a happy and fulfilling experience at Linlithgow Academy, and so to be given the role of Deputy Head Girl, where I can represent and give back to the school, is a great honour for me. Throughout my time in the school, working with both teachers and fellow students, I've learned what it means to be a part of the Linlithgow Academy team and can see that our greatest successes come when everyone's unique skills and contributions are valued. This year, I hope to provide a link between the teachers and pupils, allowing for pupils voices to be heard and for this strong team spirit to be maintained in our school. Needless to say, I am excited to see what positive change our leadership team can bring to Linlithgow Academy and look forward to all of the opportunities in store.

> ANGUS NELSON Linlithgow Academy has offered me the environment to thrive and grow as an individual, receiving this post of Deputy Head Boy allows me to give something back for which I am forever grateful. In my five years at the school I have gained an appreciation and immense respect for how the school is run and the hard work behind our success. Over the course of the year I hope not only to maintain the high standards of our school but also add to them by strengthening out of school relations and using our pupils' endless skills and talents for good in the wider community. I am thrilled to be working with an excellent pupil leadership team and hope to utilise their individual skills and opinions to better our school and wider environment over the forthcoming year.



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WHAT'S ON - JULY & AUG

* Repeating Event

July

Fri 12 Alice Boyle - Coming alive exhibition. Edinburgh-based artist, Linlithgow Burgh Halls. Till October 13

Wed 17 Scotch Hop, Linlithgow Palace*

Sat 20 Coastal Capers, rockpooling, beach art and games, Blackness Castle

Sun 21 Water safari, Linlithgow Loch by Canadian canoe from 9.30am

Mon 22, 29 Beecraigs Country Park Summer programme commences. book either a half day, 8am to 1pm or 1pm to 6pm or a full day

Tue 23 Big Butterfly Count, Linlithgow Palace and Peel, aged between 8 and 12

Sun 28 Falkirk Wheel Cruise, on the Saint Magdalene, 12 miles, starts Linlithgow Canal Centre

Qi Gong Mini Retreat 10am, Yoga & Mindfulness 7pm. Suitable both for beginners and experienced practitioners. The Old Pavilion

Tue 30 Survival Secrets, Build a shelter, light a fire and maybe even cook a snack. Meet at the Bonnytoun Road gate, 10am

August

Sun 4 The Great Campfire Cookout with Under the Trees from 11 am-1.30 pm. Families, House Of the Binns

Mon 5 Beecraigs Country Park Summer programme

Tue 6 Crannog Life, "people who lived on Linlithgow Loch thousands of years ago". Historic Environment Scotland

Sat 10 & 11 The award winning Party at The Palace. Gates open 12 noon. Early bird tickets are on sale now

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.



HENDRY OPTICIANS FUNDRAISE FOR AFRICA

Fiona Buckmaster from Hendry Opticians on the Linlithgow High Street is heading to Zambia this year with Vision Aid Overseas (VAO). See page 7.

Linlithgow and District Allotment Society (LADAS)

New members are welcome to join us by contacting our Membership Secretary, Ian Harkness, via our website on <https://linlithgowallotments.org.uk>
The annual rental cost is £1.00 per square metre plus £6.00 membership fee per year.



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

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

WANT TO WRITE / BLOG FOR THE BLACK BITCH MAGAZINE?

The magazine is looking for young people to help establish a regular presence on its website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. Contact me in via social media, tel or email **Alice Ferguson** MSYP
Twitter - @aliceMSYP
Instagram - @alicemsyp
Facebook - @aliceSYP



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 14 August 2019.

SCOTCH HOP STARTS 17 JULY...

This year's season starts on 17th July and runs every Wednesday from 7.30 until 14th August at Linlithgow Palace, one of our most beautiful historic locations (or the Lowport Centre in inclement weather).

www.scotchhop.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.



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'FOLK FAE LITHGAE' - TRACY CURLE

One of Linlithgow's many attractions is that it is a great place for the under-fives.

The wonderful local environment offers lots of opportunities for wee ones. The loch, the Peel and the canal, as well as the nearby country parks, are all huge assets which are free to everybody. One young Mum told me:

"We love a walk around the loch, feeding the birds on the way, and then into the Peel with the Giant's Cradle and the Rose Garden with the grassy steps, which my kids really enjoy. Another favourite jaunt is going along the canal to see the boats and Dudley the Cat's statue. With parks and play equipment everywhere, Linlithgow certainly has loads of public spaces where you can have great adventures!"

As well as what Nature has to offer, the MyLinlithgow.com website lists a whole range of organised activities for pre-school children, from soft play to dance classes.

Tracy Curle is the Session Leader for the long-established Mini Music Makers group, which is run by the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCOS). It meets on a Monday in St Michael's Kirk Hall and aims to open up a world of music to children and carers alike. Leaders are fully trained in the unique NYCOS method of early years music education, based on the teachings of

Hungarian composer and educator, Zoltan Kodaly. He believed that music education should start with the very youngest people.

Tracy told me:

"Music is very important for a child's development. Research has proved beyond doubt that singing and repeating rhymes with movement has an extremely positive effect on a child's development in many ways."

"We run classes for four different age groups on a Monday, with ages ranging from 0 to 5. The emphasis is on fun: tickling games, bouncing songs, play songs and lullabies, which bring music to life. Children enjoy participating in circle games with parachutes, singing songs with puppets, tapping drums and shaking shakers with the group. It is never too early to start singing with children- they will listen and learn."

Tracy moved to Linlithgow when she was married in 1995, having spent most of her formative years in Lenzie. She took her own two children along to Mini Music Makers when they were small and loved watching their musicality grow as they had fun singing and playing. Tracy plays the cello and was excited about bringing more children to an appreciation of music using the Kodaly approach, as she explained:

"It's the Kodaly approach to music that sold the classes to me, because there's so much educational grounding

in all of that. It's not just picking songs off the shelf and shoving them into a lesson plan. There is an idea behind what we are trying to teach the children without them being aware they are being taught anything at all. That's what inspired me to get involved."

Having decided on a career break when her kids were wee, Tracy undertook Mini Music Makers training through NYCOS and in 2010, was given the opportunity to take over the running of the Linlithgow classes.

Well known as a cello teacher, Tracy is also a familiar figure in West Lothian nurseries and schools, where she delivers musicianship training through NYCOS and the Youth Music Initiative. She is on the teaching staff of the NYCOS West Lothian Choir and is involved with the West Lothian Junior String Orchestra. Tracy also provides music opportunities for children through her work with the St Michael's Parish Church Sunday Club band.

Full details about the Mini Music Makers classes in Linlithgow can be found on the website www.nycos.co.uk/choirs/mini-music-makers-linlithgow/



Murdoch Kennedy



A VISION FOR TREES IN LINLITHGOW



Everyone loves trees, not only for their beauty, but for their importance in “locking up” carbon dioxide, absorbing sound and removing harmful particulates from the air to improve air quality in built up areas. The conservation of existing trees and the planting of new ones has now become a high priority.

In Linlithgow it may seem that we have a large number of trees, but look closer and the position is not so encouraging with almost no ancient trees in the town. The oldest may be Sycamores such as the one at the north-east corner of the Palace which dates back to about 1800. Street trees are very few, with none on the High Street east of the Vennel, and for the first time in photographic records there are none at the Cross.

Burgh Beautiful is starting to collect information on those trees we have, and considering how to publicise them. For instance, did you know that there is a Cedar of Lebanon, Dawn Redwoods, Swamp Cypress and ancient trees in evolutionary terms, such as the Ginkgo and Wollemi Pine, all tucked away?

Burgh Beautiful has started two projects in conjunction with West Lothian Council. The first is at Rosemont Park “a hidden gem”. The park has about 300 trees with 40 types. Burgh Beautiful has identified and mapped examples of the tree types in the park and is producing a “Guide to the Trees of Rosemont Park” and is considering how to develop the collection without changing the character of the Park.

1. *Make a collection of native Scottish trees;*
2. *Introduce more of the common naturalised trees such as Horse Chestnut, Sweet Chestnut, and Douglas Fir;*
3. *Plant a small number of attractive non-native trees such as Magnolias and Eucalyptus;*
4. *Add to the group of ‘survivor’ trees from ancient times such as the Monkey Puzzle, Ginkgo, Yew, and Dawn Redwood.*

Examples would be labelled and identified in the Guide and there may be the opportunity to sponsor standard trees for the collection. We aim to plant some trees this autumn and complete the collection in the winter of 2020/2021.

The other main project is to create a small area of Community Woodland west of the Leisure Centre, which can support about 400 trees. The main planting is planned for 1 December 2019, with trees provided by the Woodland Trust. All are welcome to take part in this community planting of what could be a feature of the town for a very long time. Initial work on the creation of the wood has involved clearing dead weeds and much of the bramble. The area has been marked by planting a boundary of fast growing non-native trees to define its shape as ‘Triangle Wood’. More paths have been made, and in time a Gruffalo may appreciate them!

Whilst Rosemont Park should have a formal collection of trees, we hope that in time Triangle Wood could become an informal collection, with both areas open and accessible for the enjoyment of all Linlithgow residents.

If you would like to contribute to these or other tree projects please contact:
Burgh Beautiful.bbl@lbt.scot



**Contributed by Roger Livermore
and members of Burgh Beautiful
Environment Working Group**

Rosemont Park in Winter showing Beech, Sessile Oak, Lime, Silver Birch, Corsican Pine, Whitebeam, Sycamore and Horse Chestnut.



Youngster helping Roger plant a Birch at The Triangle on 9 June.



LINLITHGOW HIGH STREET AND TOWN CENTRE



Last month's article provided a brief introduction to what the planning system is about and the main issues surrounding more housing in the town. It also explained the role of the Planning Forum - a sub group of the Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council - and how it is made up.

This month's contribution shines a spotlight on the High Street, the major planning applications that have affected it and other planning matters of significance including the changing nature of shopping. The article also attempts to offer further insights into how the planning system operates.

We are all aware of the historic importance of Linlithgow and its High Street - the Palace, St Michael's Parish Church, the Peel, the Loch and its mix of building styles from different periods in history - medieval, Georgian and Victorian up to more recent developments e.g. the Vennel and Westport flats. In recognition of its special architectural and historic interest, the 'Linlithgow Palace and High Street' is a Conservation Area. This means that there are a number of planning restrictions in place which are aimed at preserving the historic character and appearance of the town's centre. In practice, any changes to buildings, including replacement windows, doors, shop fronts, signage, stone cleaning, re-painting etc. will almost certainly require planning consent, and where relevant, also listed building consent.

Over the years there have been a number of developments which have had a major impact on the High Street, most recently, and notably, demolition of the Victoria Hall and the McCarthy & Stone (Templars Court) development on the site of the former bus station.

The Planning Forum continues to keep a close eye on these developments to make sure they are implemented in line with the planning permissions. We believe that a developer is still being sought for the Victoria Hall site whilst we continue to put pressure on the Council to pursue completion of the Templars Court project.

The Victoria Hall planning permission is for a mixed-use development comprising 2 commercial units and 16 flats. The planning application reference is 0591/FUL/18. After obtaining planning permission, the application is currently going through the Building Standards process. We understand that the timescale for beginning construction is unknown.

The Templars Court (McCarthy & Stone retirement homes) project remains unfinished. In addition to the 38 flats which have been built in the rear part of the site, the original planning permission made provision for a further 5 flats and 2 small commercial units at the front of the site, where the bus station offices stood. Due to a number of circumstances including concerns about ground stability, the frontage remains undeveloped. The Planning Forum considers this to be wholly unacceptable and continues to press for high quality traditional architecture at the front of this important site. It is our view that from an architectural and heritage perspective, the frontage is the most important part of the development.

In addition, and due to problems of instability associated with the Templars Court development, the gable wall of the adjacent property (77-79 High Street - Cross Cuts Hairdressing plus two apartments above) has been shored up. McCarthy & Stone's proposals for steel bracing were accepted by the Council but the proposals for the render finish were rejected. This rejection was confirmed by the Scottish Government on appeal.

In all, a complicated and as yet unresolved and highly unsatisfactory situation.

Another prominent site, with a question mark hanging over it, is the Vennel - (that part adjacent to Linlithgow Cross, and including the car park and the Guyancourt Vennel (former library, offices, public toilets etc.)

Readers may recall the consultation in 2017 undertaken by West Lothian Council, and also separately to a much greater level of detail by the Community Council, following publication by West Lothian Council of very sketchy draft planning guidance for the Vennel redevelopment. At that time, whole scale redevelopment of much of the site was anticipated. The prospect of this was/is welcomed by many townspeople and visitors who consider the design and appearance of the 1960s development to be totally out of keeping with the historic character of the rest of the High Street and The Cross. Built at a time when there was a need for more modern housing, the Vennel development destroyed the historic buildings on the west side of The Cross and beyond, resulting in one of the most significant losses of historic townscape in Scotland.

However, two years after West Lothian Council's draft planning brief, the prospect of securing a well designed replacement development in sympathy with Linlithgow's traditional buildings seems to be fading. In a report presented to the Linlithgow Local Area Committee on 4 June 2019, the results of a structural survey were conveyed. The report concluded that "Based on the external survey conclusions, the building, overall is considered to be in fair condition, and is consistent with a building of this age and construction. It exhibits only minor defects, which can be dealt with by regular planned maintenance, and whose cause could be attributed to a number of contributing factors, including water ingress,

frost damage and incorrect sealing. Taking the aforementioned repairs issues into account, tendering is currently underway to address the remedial repair issues”.

So it appears that despite ongoing maintenance issues and a number of elements of the development now lying vacant (e.g. library, public toilets, some shops/offices and car park) West Lothian Council would appear to be leaning towards repair rather than replace. The Planning Forum considers this to be a missed opportunity, and whilst it is sympathetic to the financial constraints facing West Lothian Council, will continue to push for wholesale redevelopment.

In order to ensure continued community involvement in the project, the Community Council submitted a formal ‘Participation Request’ to West Lothian Council in January of this year. This was a request for representation on the Vennel project team to contribute to the project briefing process and to ensure that the views of the community are taken into account. Although the request was granted, subject to a number of conditions, in reality the ‘participation’ amounted to no more than one meeting from which it rapidly became apparent that there are no plans in place for a formal working group or regular meetings amongst West Lothian Council officials.

The Planning Forum fully intends to consult further with tenants/owner occupiers of the Vennel and the wider public, as part of our ‘Plan for the Future’ Update.

Elsewhere in the High Street, it is clear that the face of the retail industry is changing. Whereas many independent clothes, shoes and food shops may have gone, Linlithgow High Street remains lively and vibrant, with a growing number of coffee shops, cafe/restaurants, beauty therapy and other specialist outlets. Whilst there is an undoubted increase in the turnover of shops, the High Street continues to be a magnet for local people, visitors and residents. This is in sharp contrast to many of Scotland’s High Streets where a growing number of long term empty premises, pawn shops, cash converters and betting shops have led to town centres becoming dismal and unwelcoming. We must continue to look after our unique High Street!

The Community Council remains fully engaged in planning matters and will try to keep members of the public informed about what is happening and how you can comment and participate.

Contact points:

» Planning Forum:
<https://linlithgowplanningforum.co.uk>

» Community Council:
<https://llbcc.org.uk/>

» The Black Bitch Magazine, the Editor at:
on.a.lead@gmail.com

Joyce Hartley, Planning Forum

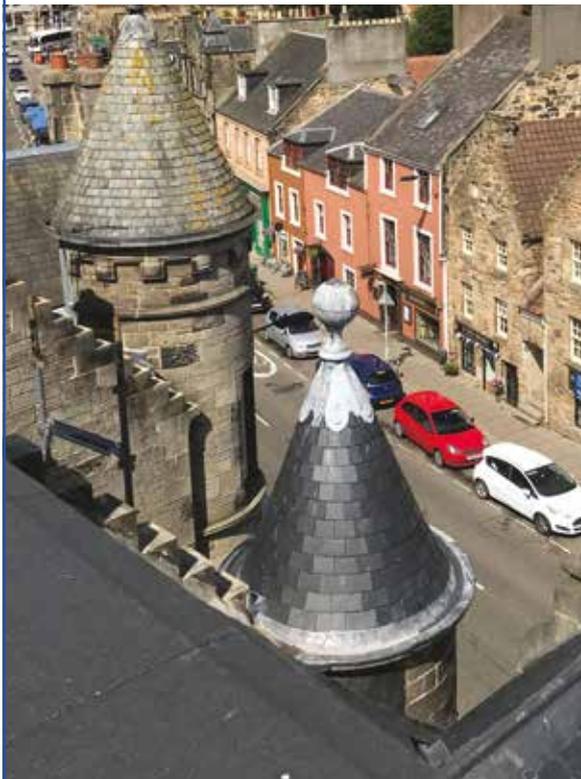


These articles are intended to keep you up to date with planning proposals and other planning matters which will have a major impact on the town. The Planning Forum is keen to have your views!

Contact the Editor, Black Bitch Magazine: on.a.lead@gmail.com

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LRCFC LADIES STRIKES GOLD IN DOFE SUCCESS AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE



Kirsty Barnes, Lucy McEwan, Megan McLeod of the LRCFC ladies team.



Buckingham Palace goes Gold for Linlithgow Rose Community Football Club DofE.

Three ladies from LRCFC Ladies Team in Linlithgow celebrated their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) success this week at a presentation event held in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. During the day, the group had the chance to meet HRH The Earl of Wessex and guest presenter, Phyllis Logan, who congratulated them on achieving this milestone.

The Gold Award is the highest level of DofE programme and can be completed by young people aged 16 years and above. During a 12-18 months journey, the participants explored new skills, challenges and opportunities to enhance their knowledge and abilities in five areas: volunteering, physical, skills, expedition and residential activities.

DofE programmes are personalised to the passions and needs of individuals, and the young people from LRCFC chose to take on a wide range of interests and pursuits, including wood work, painting, french polishing and cake decorating.

Fiona McRobbie, DofE Leader

"The girls have been working towards Gold since starting at Bronze level in July 2014 and this has involved volunteering in the local Linlithgow community and further afield, including St Michael's Hospital, The Red Cross Shop, LRCFC coaching and the Oxfam Shop. They have all shown great commitment and resilience, they planned and completed 3 nights wild camping in the North of Scotland for Gold, learning navigation, camp craft and team work amongst other skills which will benefit them and others in the future."

What the girls had to say:

Kirsty Barnes

"Doing my Duke of Edinburgh award is one of the best things I have achieved, and I am very proud of myself and the team for doing it. Doing the Bronze, Silver and Gold has its challenges but overall has given me amazing memories and some great experiences as well."

Going to Buckingham Palace was such a surreal experience, we spoke to Prince Edward and he was very interested in knowing about our journey and how it all started with Linlithgow Rose football girls. It was also so nice to meet the celebrities who were presenting the awards, and speak to them about the whole experience."

I would recommend doing the Duke of Edinburgh award to anyone who has the opportunity, as at the end of it you will gain so much you wouldn't even think you would learn."

Lucy McEwan

"Looking back, we thought the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award one night expedition was difficult, we came home bruised and bitten (midges). For the Gold it was three nights wild camping, which would have been impossible without the training from Bronze and Silver."

As part of the Gold section, I volunteered as a helper in a respite centre. I came home feeling very grateful, as I realised the struggles some people have in life."

For one of my skills, I did woodwork. I enjoyed it so much, I have just completed my first year at college in Furniture Craft."

My least favourite part was the weekly log book, but with encouragement from my team leader, Fiona - even that was possible!"

We had a great weekend a few weeks ago, when we were invited to Buckingham Palace, to receive our awards. We met

Prince Edward and a few other famous faces too. What an experience! The memories and life skills I've learned will be with me forever."

Megan McLeod

"It was an honour to go to Buckingham Palace to receive my gold award and it is a day I will certainly never forget! I remember seeing photographs of people going to the Palace when I was just starting my Duke of Edinburgh journey and thinking wow they have completed all of it and I never thought I would be in their position a few years later! I met Prince Edward who was interested in hearing all our stories and Niomi Smart who is a youtuber that I have watched for years. It was lovely to speak to other gold award holders because whenever you meet someone else who has done gold there are so many things to talk about and you instantly have something in common."

The Duke of Edinburgh award made me realise that I was capable of so much more than I thought I was. A few years ago I would never have imagined walking for 4 days and wild camping but with a lot of encouragement from each other we did it and I am so proud of all of us! It's really important to do extracurricular activities outside of school not just for a fun break from school work but also for learning important life skills and growing as a person and Duke of Edinburgh provided me with the opportunity to do that. It helped me to become a better communicator and become more confident too which will really help me in my future career as a dentist."

LRCFC has been supporting its young people to complete their DofE for five years, encouraging participants to help their local community, look after the environment and their own wellbeing, and develop their skills and future prospects.

For more information about The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, visit www.DofE.org



HENDRY OPTICIANS FUNDRAISE FOR AFRICA

Optometrist Fiona Buckmaster from Hendry Opticians on the Linlithgow High Street is heading to Zambia this year with Vision Aid Overseas (VAO).

VAO is a charitable organisation which has been working to improve the eyesight of people across Africa for the past 30 years. Fiona will be flying out to Kabwe, Zambia in October as part of a small team of professional volunteers to train local Zambian health workers in new eye care skills. By training local health workers, these workers can then continue to serve their communities for years to come and decrease the number of people who are needlessly blind because of a lack of spectacles.

It is estimated by the World Health Organisation that up to 153 million people globally are visually impaired simply because they don't have a pair of glasses. The team at Hendry Opticians have been fundraising for Vision Aid Overseas to help support their work across Africa before Fiona departs for her trip in October. In June, Fiona cycled 207 miles



Fiona Buckmaster from Hendry Opticians

from Inverness to Glasgow (over 11,800ft of climbing) as part of her fundraising efforts, and to date Fiona and the team at Hendrys have raised a whopping £1,200!

FUNDRAISING

You can support their fundraising efforts by entering the raffle in store at Hendry Opticians (top prize is £200 worth of Hendry Opticians vouchers!), or by visiting Fiona's fundraising page at www.visionaidoverseas.org/fundraisers/fiona-buckmaster.

Fiona Buckmaster



ONE LINLITHGOW

With the existing Town Centre and Mill Road BIDs ending this year, we're getting excited about the One Linlithgow ballot! The postal ballot opens on 19th August and we need the active support of all Linlithgow businesses to make sure it gets voted through.

We've held an open stakeholder meeting in Play Bugs, up at the Mill Road Industrial Estate, to answer questions about the whole-town BID and how it would work after a positive vote, as well as talking about the fantastic projects in store. The full business plan will be available from the first week of August and we will be holding another open stakeholder meeting around that time. If you run a business in town and didn't get an email invitation to the last meeting, please

contact the Steering Group at onelinelithgow@mylinlithgow.com.

We cannot overemphasise how important it is for businesses to return ballot papers, so we'll be hammering the point home as powerfully as we can, right up until the ballot period ends, at the end of September. Our consultations have revealed strong support, but this needs to translate in to positive "yes" votes for the BID to continue.

It's very uncommon for BIDs not to succeed at renewal ballot, since they've had five years to demonstrate their value. Businesses in Linlithgow have shown strong support, suggesting a very heartening chance of success for One Linlithgow, but it's all to play for until those "yes" votes are returned. Only a few weeks ago, and despite a strong majority of the electorate voting to continue their BID, Dunfermline was dealt a hammer blow after the ballot conditions of "majority by rateable value" fell short. Their fireworks display and Christmas lights were among the sorest losses, having been immediately discontinued. In Linlithgow, similar losses would emerge in the event of an unsuccessful ballot. Christmas lights would be lost, the soon-to-be-operational town centre CCTV system would go unused,



ONE
LINLITHGOW
BUSINESS. COMMUNITY. ENTERPRISE

valued local groups would not receive the support they need (e.g. Burgh Beautiful), the Linlithgow Loyalty Lottery would be discontinued... the list goes on. Let's make sure that doesn't happen to Linlithgow!



MARCHES WINDOW COMPETITION

The wave of nostalgia which grips Linlithgow at The Marches was given an added dimension by a new business on the High Street as it celebrated its first anniversary.

mid-C-mod, which specialises in antiques and memorabilia from the 50s and 60s,

and has proved a real success story since it opened, won the top accolade for its Marches window, featuring photographs and newspaper cuttings from past Marches.

Jim Brown, who owns the shop along with his partner **Martin McKinnon**, said he was "humbled" to have received the Linlithgow Gazette trophy for local business participation during The Marches from the Deacons.

"It really belongs more to some fabulous people who gave me photographs and news cuttings from the Marches dating

from 1930s onwards (by coincidence the first year the trophy was presented, to James McLaren), along with the historical pictures of the Royal Scots Regiment when returning here from the 1st World War in 1919."

Continued Jim, *"The copies of the photographs of families and friends brought back many happy memories of the big day itself for a lot of people."*

"One particular lady recognised her whole family standing outside their home in The Vennel back around 1950. Her grandparents, parents and sisters were clearly enjoying the big lorries trundling by from Aitken's, Preston's Stores, BRS Workshops etc., all decorated with flowers and styles of the area."

Jim said that more recent photographs had shown a variety of colourful characters parading along the High Street, with one of the Linlithgow Rose football team of 1997.

He added, *"Some photographs are still available for collection from the shop."*

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: HALLIDAY HOMES

If proof were needed that Linlithgow is a desirable place to live, it has been provided by a young property and estate agents from Bridge of Allan, rapidly making their mark in Central Scotland.

Awarded the Scottish Estate Agent of Year accolade last year by "The Herald" in only its third year, Halliday Homes have decided Linlithgow is THE preferred location for expansion in the Central Belt.

"It's a lovely place to live, and in many respects - apart from its historical attractions - is quite similar to Bridge of Allan", said Halliday Homes founder Austin Halliday.

"The property prices are broadly similar to Bridge of Allan, and it is also well located for rail and road links to Edinburgh and Glasgow."

Austin said that when he left Wallace High in Stirling his only goal was to go into the property and letting market:

"My dad Bobby is a well-known architect in Bridge of Allan, and has a small property company, Crammond Select Homes, specialising in converting old farm steadings."

Austin said he had started off marketing converted steadings in his father's offices, then moved into his own premises in the centre of the town.

"From a small amount to begin with, we sold about 150 homes last year, as well as significantly increasing our letting portfolio. Virtually all of our clients come to us through word-of-mouth. We've established a reputation for honesty and integrity, and for the emphasis we place on the old-fashioned personal touch at all times."

Perhaps Austin's favourite testimonial is the following:

"We were delighted that Halliday Homes exceeded our expectations. We accepted an offer over the asking price after less than a week on the market. They are streets ahead of other agents in terms of providing compelling sales particulars, beautiful photographs, and local market insights. The team are very helpful and professional."

Austin added that he and his team, Marie Scott, Mark Fraser and Jack Oswald were all involved in helping set up the Linlithgow office, and that he had now begun the process of recruiting staff from the locality.



The team at Halliday Homes



MILL ROAD BID

Healthy Hearts at Mill Road!

Mill Road Industrial Estate is delighted to have installed TWO defibrillator units in the estate recently! One on the lovely shiny new Greensteam Building at the entrance to the estate and one right round at Playbugs just next to the big map sign on the end of the building. Working with Linlithgow Community First Responders we will be able to offer training to the businesses in the area so the equipment can be used safely (although we hope to never need it!).



Security kits

We are also delivering these nifty little Security DNA kits, this magic little bottle has a chemically created DNA and marked microdots inside it.

A little dab of this on your valuable tech with a marker sticker helps to put off any would be thief as it instantly makes it trackable back to you!

Every kit is registered online and the police have access, so IF your stuff does go wandering it should be making its way back to you! It helps Police Scotland to catch them "red handed" which also helps deter thefts in the long run.

We have the matching signage for outside your buildings too!

Sally McIntosh-Anderson
sally.anderson@linlithgowmillroadbid.com



THE GOLDEN CROSS *Bruce Jamieson*



The Golden Cross on the left and in close up.

The earliest written reference to a building at Number 2, The Cross comes in the mid 15th Century when a tenement was built on the site by the Forrest family - local landowners and merchants. In 1540, two years before the birth of Mary Stewart in Linlithgow Palace, the resident, Henry Forrest, was elected as the first Provost of Linlithgow. Later, he sold the property to a fellow merchant, Henry Duncan of Williamsraigs, and after that the building came into the possession of the Kerr family. That it must have been a fairly prestigious property at the time is reflected in the fact that Andrew Kerr became Linlithgow Town Clerk, serving under Provost James Hamilton. His son Robert followed him in the role and later he was appointed a Sheriff Clerk.

Through marriage, the property fell into the hands of the Crawford (Craufurd) family - the first registered owner being Charles Crawford, a merchant with shipping interests at Blackness. His son, James, became Burgh Dean of Guild, charged with the task of ensuring that local merchants kept their monopoly of trade with overseas countries. He also had the power to handle any trade disputes that arose in his judicial area.

In 1675, James Crawford erected a coat of arms over his front door.



The crest is an odd one as, although it does depict, within the oval cartouche, a stag's head - a symbol of the Scottish clan - it also incorporates five-pointed stars which feature on the English Crawford arms.

There is evidence, in the 1675 Sasine

records, of James Crawford receiving permission to alter the frontage of his property. This was probably in connection with some rebuilding and the erection of the "Crawford" crest plaque on the front wall.

James' son, Andrew, inherited the building on the death of his father in 1694 and, with the decline of Linlithgow's trading fortunes once Blackness ceased to have the monopoly of trade between the Rivers Avon and Almond, No. 2, The Cross, became the home of tradesmen such as James Bell, maltman, Peter Clark, meal-merchant, Thomas Fram, flesher, and Robert Ruthven, corn-merchant.

In 1790, the three-story building was split into two units. The ground flat was lived in by William Bowie, while the middle floor's occupant was John Scotland, minister of St. Michael's. Why he was not living in the Manse is unclear. He had been appointed to his position in 1778 and appears to have been a popular preacher as the Town Council decided, during his ministry, to raise the rents of the pews in the church. In 1791, Rev. Scotland left to take up a post in Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh so perhaps he was "between jobs" while living at The Cross. Sadly, he did not remain minister of Greyfriars for long. In 1792 "in the delirium of a fever" he leapt from a high window in his Edinburgh house and was killed! Meanwhile a Dr James Glen moved into No. 2, The Cross.



In 1830, the building was bought by Adam Dawson, Provost of Linlithgow from 1829 - 1848. Provost Dawson operated a distillery at St Magdalene's and he converted the lower level into a public house - with Robert Ruthven living

above and serving as the named publican. The hostelry so created was named "The Golden Cross Tavern".

The name echoed the location of the building with the prestigious name "Golden" being added in common with many other pub names.

In the late 19th century, the property remained in Dawson hands with the tenanted publican being J. D. Morris. Later in the 20th century, the establishment was renamed the "Golden Cross Café", under the management of Mrs K. Brock, telephone, Linlithgow 208.



By 1963 the "Joint Proprietresses" were Miss Millar and Miss Wight, with the cafe advertising itself in the Marches Magazine as "Two minutes from the Palace Grounds, offering Morning Coffee, Luncheon and Teas." However, by 1965 the property was boarded up, the doors permanently closed. Change was on the way.

On its demolition, the building revealed, beneath a later addition, an attic ceiling decorated with masonic symbols. This gave rise to the assumption that it was in this room in 1787 that Robert Burns was made a member of Masonic Lodge Ancient Brazen no. 17. However, this was not recorded in any masonic minute and it is not mentioned in any of Burns' letters or his diary.

The building has left many memories, and one physical reminder - the Crawford plaque - affixed in mocking fashion over the entrance to the Vennel car park - a sad tribute to the impressive building it once graced.



LINLITHGOW
DISTILLERY



A taste of summer!

Premium Gins; distilled, bottled, labelled and numbered by hand in Linlithgow.

Buy a 70cl or 50cl bottle* from any of our local retailers and get a free LinGin branded Copa Glass.

- Hopetoun Farm Shop
- Mannerstons Café & Shop
- Taste Café Deli
- Champany Cellars



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* On presentation of this advert prior to 31st August 2019 or while stocks last.



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For more information on our netball sessions at XCITE follow us on Facebook or
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**E : Lee Mellor artisanpd@hotmail.co.uk
Facebook @kinneilfitness.**

www.kinneilfitnessandpersonaltraining.com



Each evening starts at 7.30pm, and this year's dates are:

- > Wednesday 17 July
- > Wednesday 24 July
- > Wednesday 31 July
- > Wednesday 7 August
- > Wednesday 14 August

LINLITHGOW SCOTCH HOP 2019



Wed
JULY &
AUG

Linlithgow Scotch Hop is celebrating its 30th year in 2019 and we're delighted that John Carswell, its founder and inspiration, is still very much a part of the proceedings. The hundreds of international visitors, including many students attending language summer schools, demonstrates that Linlithgow Scotch Hop really is "Scottish Dancing for All" – all ages, backgrounds and levels of experience. This year's season starts on 17th July and runs every Wednesday from 7.30 until 14th August at Linlithgow Palace, one of our most beautiful historic locations (or the Lowport Centre in inclement weather). It is a truly unique experience to dance at Mary Queen of Scots' birthplace with hundreds of friendly people as the sun sets over Linlithgow Loch.

Last year, we welcomed visitors from China to Chile and USA to Ukraine. Here's what some of our guests said of their experience:

"We had a brilliant time and made it along to three of the nights, bringing visitors from

Australia and Belarus on two visits. They had a wonderful time, thank you."

"It was a trip down memory lane for us - a return visit to Linlithgow for yet another Scotch Hop in the courtyard."

"What an absolute privilege for my Australian born Scottish kids to be part of this 2 weeks ago. They danced all night. Hopefully something they will never forget. Thank you."

Sheila McCutcheon, our wonderful caller, has once again selected a brilliant programme to suit everyone, with lots of old favourites – Virginia Reel or Strip the Willow, anyone? – and some less familiar dances. Sheila will make sure that everyone has plenty of opportunity to walk through the dances first and there are lots of more experienced dancers on hand to help out.

Tickets must be purchased at the door, at £10 for adults and £8 for concessions, including tea and

shortbread. Under 12s go free. Season tickets are £32 for adults and £25 for concessions.

There has been a change to the printed programme, as Adin Graham has unfortunately had to cancel performing with his band on the last night following an injury (we wish you a speedy recovery Adin!). However, we are delighted to have booked the Adam Gibb Band from Biggar in their place.

Further details (including last minute confirmation of venue depending on weather):

- www.scotchhop.org.uk
- [@ScotchHopLin](https://twitter.com/ScotchHopLin)
- www.facebook.com/LinlithgowScotchHop

Or email ScotchHopCommittee@gmail.com

Janet Mundy, Chair, Linlithgow Scotch Hop

Registered as a Scottish Charity: Linlithgow Scotch Hop SCIO, number SC046165

THE THIN BLUE LINE IN LINLITHGOW



Constable Neil Hunter and Constable Andrew Murray are the two community officers based in Linlithgow Police station, which is now located within the newly refurbished Tam Dalyell House at Linlithgow Partnership Centre, High Street, Linlithgow.

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.

There is also a public assistance desk at the station, which is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

POLICE SURGERIES

To find details of future Linlithgow Community Police Surgeries, please log onto [West Lothian Police Facebook page](#), [Linlithgow Facebook Page](#) or [Neighbourhood Watch Scotland](#) for future dates or alternatively check local press for details.

The public is 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 you at another time at a police station or your home address. Alternatively you can email the Constables at - LinlithgowCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk
If we don't know then we can't fix it!

CALLING ALL LINLITHGOW PARENTS

Do you know where your children are in the evenings????

We have received several reports of large groups of young persons frequenting the "lagoon" area in the old quarry to the west of Avontoun Park with many being dropped off in the area by their parents.

There have been several thefts of wheelee bins reported and set on fire. Also numerous smashed alcohol bottles and lots of discarded cans in the area. There are also concerns about their personal safety whilst intoxicated in the area.

This behaviour is having a negative impact on the local community and there are also concerns regarding the personal safety of those involved.

Can parents please ensure that they are aware of their children's whereabouts and ensure that this worrying trend does not escalate.

The police would encourage parents to have an open discussion with their children, as to where they are going and what they are doing when out with friends in the evenings and check the contents of their bags/rucksacks.

Active parenting skills are required, to challenge and check on their children's whereabouts and encourage young people to make good decisions, focusing on

keeping young people and communities safe.

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SHUT OUT SCAMMERS



It's never easy to spot a bogus caller, anyone can be a victim of household scams. Be wary of cold callers at the door, on the phone and when online. Help is out there, here are details of a few of the services available:-

Free message alerts from key info providers www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk
Want advice on your consumer rights? Go to your local Citizens Advice Bureau or call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 164 6000.

Are you a victim or witness to a crime looking for free confidential support call 0800 160 1985? To report a matter to Trading Standards call 0808 164 6000.

HOLIDAY HOME SECURITY

Almost half of all housebreakings occur when a flat or house is empty. Here are a few tips of things you can do before you go on your holidays:

- > Make sure your home looks occupied. Ideally ask a trusted friend or neighbour to look after it (collect mail, water plants, feed pets). Let them have the spare keys but don't put your name and address on the keys.
- > Do not publicise your holiday on social media before or whilst you are away, it's not just friends and family that can view this.
- > Don't leave your curtains closed in the daytime as this shows the house is empty. Use automatic switches to turn your lights on when it gets dark.
- > Cancel regular deliveries such as newspapers or milk.
- > Avoid discussing holiday plans where strangers may hear details of your absence from home.
- > Cut the lawn before you go and trim back any plants that burglars could hide behind.
- > Uncollected mail is a sign that you are away.
- > The Royal Mail's "Keepsafe" service will keep your mail for up to two months while away.
- > Consider leaving important documents and valuable items with other family members or a bank. Or lock them in a safe.
- > If you normally leave valuable pedal cycles or similar items in your shed, consider putting them in the house.
- > Finally, don't forget to lock all external doors and windows. If you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is set.

> Just before you set off, it's worth spending a couple of minutes checking that you've done all you had to do and taken everything you need with you.

Oh and don't forget your passport and tickets and remember to have a great holiday!!!

PARKING IN LINLITHGOW

Police Scotland are disappointed to report that despite numerous appeals to the residents that inconsiderate parking is still continuing to blight the High Street and surrounding streets.

Despite previous articles highlighting the congestion on the High Street, the selfish attitudes of drivers who wish to flout the parking restrictions that are currently in place to save themselves walking short distances or a few minutes continues.

Should the attitudes of these drivers continue then action will be taken against them. Please as a resident of Linlithgow if you do need to drive please do not be a selfish motorist, park legally and adhere to the parking restriction signs.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCOTLAND

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. Police Scotland can send an alert to all users who may be effected or who may have an interest in the crime. Scheme is 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. **Register at <https://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk>** And follow the link to JOIN

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

101 makes the police more accessible & reduces pressure on the 999 system.

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 Hunter.

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



FOOTBALL RETURNS AT PRESTONFIELD



Having hosted their last match at Prestonfield on 1st June, Linlithgow Rose were back in action on Saturday 28th June with a pre-season friendly against Clyde. The Rose battled to a hard fought 2-1 win against their League One opponents, although these matches are designed to improve fitness and look at trialists, who may be potential signings.

The big news however was the launch of the new home playing kit and what a cracker it is! This year's model is a darker hue of maroon, but the thing that really makes it stand out is the incorporation of the Black Bitch motif at the neck on the rear of the shirt.

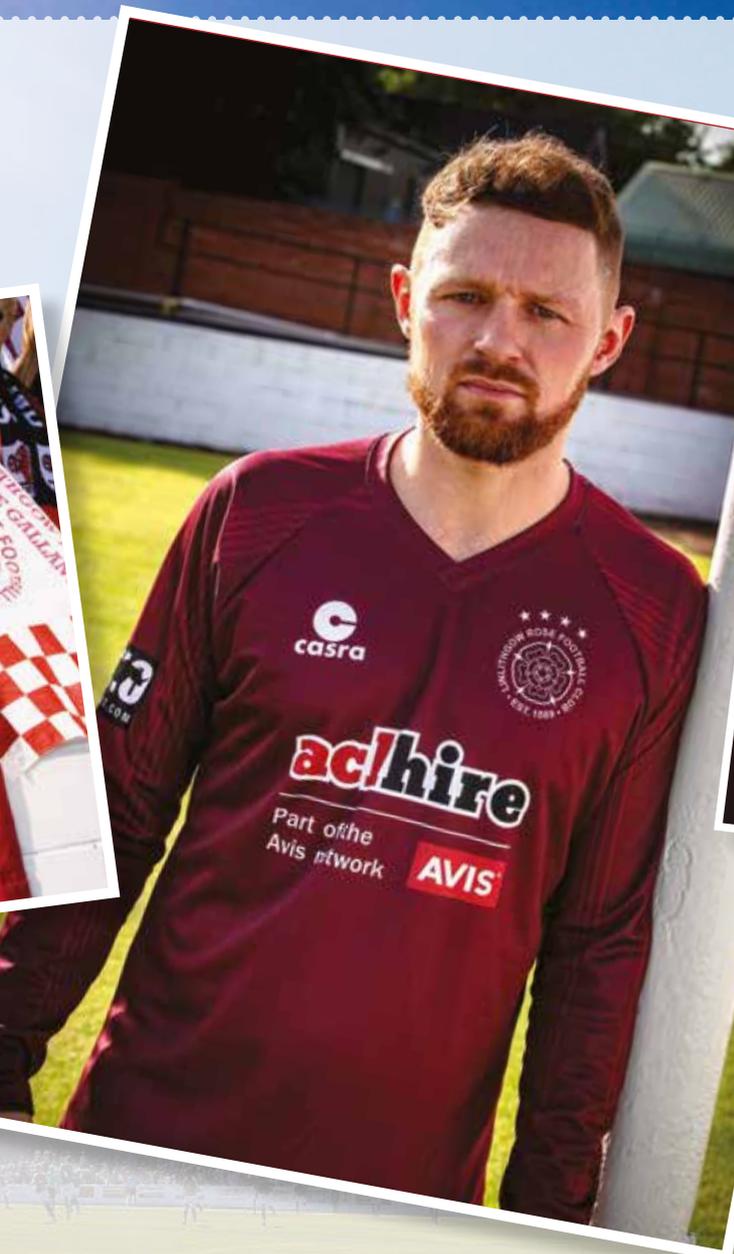
Club President Jon Mahoney takes up the story:

"We've been working with local firm Casra Sports for some time now to develop a strip that our players and supporters are happy with. We did some extensive canvassing amongst our supporters and they nominated the version which we have produced for this season. The inclusion of the Black Bitch on the back really sets the strip apart from anything we've done before, because

it feels like we're building Linlithgow and its history into our playing kit. The motif had to be produced in white because black on maroon just doesn't work from a visibility perspective, but we know that everyone who has an association with the town will understand exactly what the motif is and what it means to us all. We're grateful to Casra for working through this with us and it's fantastic to be working with a local business who are on hand when we need them."

Casra Sports isn't the only local firm signing up for the new season at Prestonfield, as Jonathan explained:

"We're delighted that we've been able to welcome a number of new business partners to the



club. Screwfix opened recently in Linlithgow and it's great to have them on board. Howdens are supporting us with a refit of our catering facilities for the new season. We've had excellent support from everyone at Kingsfield Golf in preparing our pitch for the new season and backing from Alan Steel Asset Management, who have been a big part of the local business scene for a long time now. Our new tracksuits will be sponsored by Rosehall Garage in Polmont whilst Rhinorecruitment.com have added to our shirt sponsorship. Finally, I can't express how pleased I am that our main sponsors ACL Hire and MV Commercial have continued their outstanding support. They've been

a huge part of what we are trying to achieve at the Rose and we're so lucky to have them"

This season, the Rose will be playing in the highly competitive Premier Division of the East of Scotland League, pitting their wits against many of their old foes from the Junior leagues, such as Bo'ness United and Newtongrange Star. The serious action kicks off on 27th July with an away fixture at nearby Blackburn United, followed by Sauchie at home on Wednesday 31st and then Whitehill Welfare at home on Saturday 3rd August.

A full list of fixtures is available on the club's website and Facebook pages. You can also find details of season tickets and Social Club membership.

Sandy Macpherson



HcL Transport Dial-A-Ride and Dial-A-Bus



Do you struggle to get to the shops? Do you struggle to access public transport? Would you like a service that picks you up from home and takes you where you need to be, but on a more affordable basis than taxis?

HcL Transport is a charity that runs vital transportation services for people with mobility challenges across West Lothian.

We run both services to help the elderly, people of any age with disabilities or Additional Support Needs or affected by geographic remoteness that makes public transport very difficult or impossible to use.

The service is also available to those who need help short-term eg while waiting for and following surgery such as a knee replacement or hip replacement.

Dial-A-Bus runs a service to Tesco Linlithgow every Friday afternoon and to Livingston every second Wednesday afternoon from Bridgend and Linlithgow.

The service is not just transportation, it is a door-through-door service which means the driver can help you from inside your home / outside your home to your destination. The driver will take your shopping onto the bus for you and then into your home (if you wish). All buses are fitted with wheel chair tie downs so can carry 2 wheelchairs on board with passengers able to remain in their wheelchair. The driver can help you on board, any walking aid and shopping.

To book you just call **0131 447 9949**. New passengers get their first Dial-A-Bus ride for free. A return journey is £3.80.

We would be delighted to hear from residents of Linlithgow about any additional services that would be of interest – Livingston, Tesco / Morrisons in Bathgate or Dobbies. Please contact Laura at laura.kearney@handicabs.org.uk with suggestions.

Dial-A-Ride provides a door-through-door transport service that can take you wherever you need to get to. The driver can help you from inside your home / outside your home to your destination. Journeys are varied and based on where the customer wants to go - medical appointments, meeting friends, visiting family, shops, cinema, theatre, concerts, to church, Waverley or Edinburgh Airport or even for a day trip.

Just phone **0131 447 1718**. New passengers get £5 off their first booking.

Our service-users find both of our services a huge help:

'DAR gives me independence, taking me to places I otherwise couldn't go. I am very happy with the service.'

'It is the best service offered since I became wheelchair bound. I have lost count the number of times I have been left at a taxi rank in the pouring rain because taxi drivers refuse to leave the vehicle to fit ramps etc. Thank you for all your hard work.'

'The service gives my son the opportunity to go to his activities without me, giving him independence. It also provides me with more

free time for myself. Wonderful service.'

'The service gives me independence. I use it for the hospital, shopping, meals with friends - taxis are very expensive.'

'The service is always very good and allows me to get out and about when I otherwise would be isolated at home alone. I very much appreciate the help, care and kindness of both drivers and office staff. Many, many thanks for a worthwhile service.'

If you think either, or both, services can help you or someone you know, please do get in touch. Registration is required, but is free of charge, to use either service.

Or if you are a local business who would like to support HcL, sponsor a bus, choose us as a charity of the year we would love to hear from you. If you would like to fundraise for us, have a money collection tin for us or even choose us as your charity for YPI at school, please do get in touch.

You can follow us on Facebook.

Our 250th follower will get a free trip on Dial-A-Bus and our 500th will get £5.00 of a Dial-A-Ride journey.



Hello
I'm Lass

Westport's Pet of the Month is Lass the 8 year old Greyhound. Lass was a racing dog in Ireland before she found her forever home and happy retirement in Linlithgow.

Her owners walked her a lot at Linlithgow Loch when they first rescued her, and this still is one of Lass's favourite places to go having many happy memories associated with it early on. She especially loves it when she meets her best Greyhound friend Laddie.

Lass is happiest when relaxing and sleeping - in her cosy bed even better if it's in the sun, or in the garden in the sun or on the couch in the sun! She also enjoys trips to the beach and loves trips to the West Sands in St Andrews or Silver Sands in Aberdeen.

She prefers human attention to toys and is in her absolute element when people stop to have a chin-wag with her!

She is allowed on the couch and whenever the family have a guest over, Lass has a cheeky habit of sitting as close to them as possible. At first her owners assumed it was to soak up their guest's affection, but slowly and surely she will start pushing them off her couch!

She has quite a lot of typical Greyhound traits, leaning on you and rolling on her back when she's happy which her family love to see.

She also likes to go for 'zoomies' - big energetic energy burst runs, often in the most awkward of places, choosing the top of Cockleroy as the best place for a 'zoomie'.

Her family say *"it's adorable when she doesn't know which direction to choose bounding about like a puppy, it makes us so happy"*

Our Linlithgow Lass is certainly living a very happy retirement and life to the full!

With Summer now here it is important we ensure our pets are kept cool. Unlike humans, our pets cannot self-regulate their body temperature, so it is our responsibility as owners to ensure their health is not put at risk in summer.

Take walks at cooler times of the day, in shaded areas and avoiding the hottest times in the day can help. Take plenty of water with you - travel fold-up bowls take up little room and are inexpensive.

Pavements and sand can get especially hot and can burn pets' paws. Apply the '5 second rule' test before they go out- this is where you put your hand on pavement or sand and if you are unable to keep it there for 5 seconds it

means it is too hot and could burn their paws.

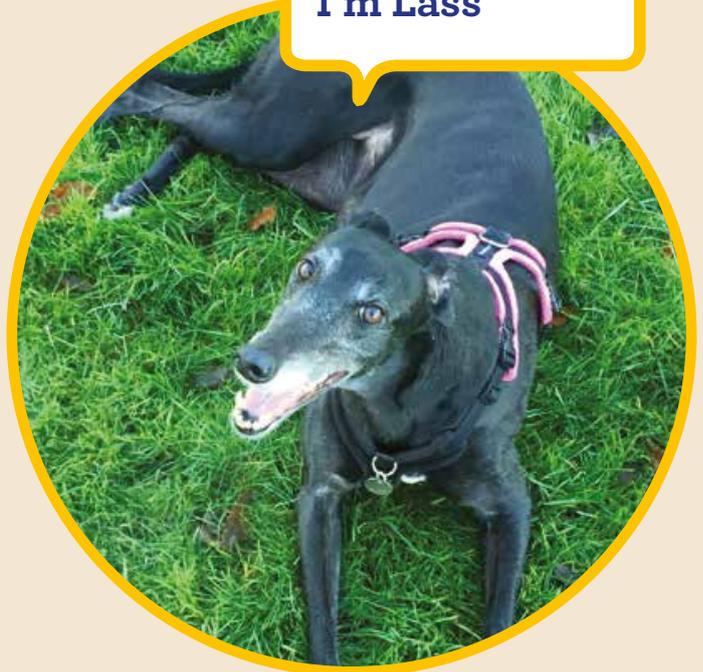
Remember that conservatories, cars and caravans heat up in an intense speed - never leave an animal in one. Even if it doesn't seem that hot out to us it doesn't mean it won't result in dangerously unsuitable temperatures for our companions. If you do travel somewhere remember to pack additional water and snacks and having sunshades on windows can help.

Cool mats are also a fantastic item - these are gel filled mats which cool when weight is applied. However, they must only be used under supervision and with caution as the inner gel is toxic if ingested, so consider your pet - not an item for chewers!

Rabbit and Guinea Pig hutches, as well as small animal cages, should be kept in well ventilated areas out of direct sunlight. The hutch roof should be solid to allow for shaded areas and outdoor runs must always include shaded areas. Filling a glass with ice cubes can be good as it gives them something to lie against which is cool - again with caution secure the glass so it won't topple over. Keep water fresh and topped up and recommend more water sources than there are animals.

All animals need water for survival. However, water which sits in direct sunlight can become dangerous. Ensure water bowls are kept in the shade where possible and clean and re-fresh throughout the day. Care to check for bowls which might have green areas from sitting out. Areas of stagnant water can also be highly toxic - take care to avoid known algae areas and don't take risks! Local council websites are a good place to get information on local reservoirs.

Padding pools are a cheap and cheerful tool keeping pets both cool and mentally stimulated. Putting some of your pet's food in the water for them to retrieve can help keep cool - raw carrot is always good fun as it will sink. Not just for water, you can use them



inside too: to hide toys, fill with cardboard for scent games even making it a ball pit indoors.

Caution should be taken if your children have a paddling pool - consideration must be taken if this will be safe and if so, you must take care to ensure your pet has their own version of fun activity to do when kids are playing.

All animals require mental stimulation and enrichment in their lives - if it's too hot to go out try something new! Use their food for scent games, make them something to play in or play with - teach them a new trick! All enrichment needs to cost you is your time.

Knowing the signs of heatstroke is important as well as understanding how to prevent it. Do not take risks with your pets' life in summer.

The Westport Team are always here for you and your pets and are happy to discuss their care with you at any time 01506 844165.

Linlithgow and District Allotment Society (LADAS)



The Linlithgow and District Allotment Society (LADAS) was formed in 2008 to campaign for new allotment sites in and around Linlithgow, holding the first AGM on 26th August 2008.

The Oakwell site

In December 2009 we wrote to local landowners suggesting they might consider hosting allotments and received a positive reply from Oakwell Children's Nursery at Philpstoun. A request for planning permission to change the land use of the proposed site from agricultural to allotments was submitted in November 2010; this was granted in February 2011, with some conditions.

We were very lucky to obtain half of the required funding through Transition Linlithgow (previously known as Linlithgow Climate Challenge) from the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF). This is national funding which is made available for projects such as ours because growing your own food promotes a healthy lifestyle, reduces energy consumption in production and transport and contributes to greater general sustainability. This grant was conditional upon the money being spent

by the end of March 2011.

We secured matching funds from LEADER, which provides EU monies for rural development in Scotland via the Scotland Rural Development Programme. The Oakwell site is eligible for this due to being outwith the urban envelope of Linlithgow and within the Philpstoun district; we were awarded the funding on 23rd March 2011 after many hours devoted to form-filling and pressing for a decision, just in time to avoid losing the CCF funding.

Work started on laying out the Oakwell site on Monday, 4th April, and plot holders were able to get digging on 1st May 2011 when the allotment opened.

An elected committee of plot holders is responsible for oversight of the allotment. We hold an annual general meeting in late February/early March.

Each year we hold a Potato Day in the Masonic Hall, Linlithgow when a wide selection of seed potatoes is on sale. Burgh Beautiful and Transition Linlithgow also participate in this event.

In late July we have a Harvest Celebration when there are competitions for best vegetables, basket of produce, homemade jam and baking using fruit or vegetables grown on the allotment. A guest judge awards a trophy for the best large and small plots. We finish our celebrations with a barbecue.

In early November we have a hedge cutting morning followed by a bonfire and another barbecue.



Today we have 80 allotment plots varying in size from 60 square metres to 240 square metres. Members grow vegetables, fruit and flowers. Members of the Committee inspect the plots every so often to ensure that they are maintained in good condition and offer friendly advice and support if needed. We have a Bee Group who tend our hives, which provide a good supply of honey.

The annual rental cost is £1.00 per square metre plus £6.00 membership fee per year. New members are welcome to join us by contacting our Membership Secretary, Ian Harkness, via our website on <https://linlithgowallotments.org.uk>



Paul Taylor, Chair LADAS.



ART IN THE GARDEN...

Its July again so it must be 'art in the garden' again!

For the sixth year running we are installing original works of art, by artists working in Scotland, in our demonstration gardens here at New Hopetoun Gardens. For July and August you can explore our gardens and also vote for your favourite work of art, you are free to explore the displays whenever the garden centre is open.

We first met James Parker at Gardening Scotland many years ago and so enjoyed looking at his sculpture sitting opposite our showgarden for a week that we were tempted to buy it! A couple of years later at the Royal family's private view of the Chelsea flower show we were taking Princess Michael of Kent and her party around the showground. They asked us if we knew where James Parker's stand was, so we searched through the catalogue and led them to his stand. As we approached there was our James Parker standing proudly in his kilt amongst his sculpture. We had forgotten his surname and we don't think our royal party believed us when we said we owned a James Parker! Dougal took this picture of him this year waiting for the Queen to arrive for her private view. You can enjoy his 'DNA of a Dancer' which he has brought back from Chelsea and installed in our shady garden.



You may be surprised that we think of wasps as good guys, but you don't need a huge budget to enjoy some art in your garden. We picked up three of these lovely woven willow fish recently to put in our terracotta vase in the garden. We put Pine cones on sticks and seed heads in the vase and were tempted to add these lovely fish for the summer.



Lesley persuaded Dougal to make an Auricula Theatre for our courtyard to display her small collection of Primula auricula which flower in the spring. She has added some little Hostas and Ferns to extend the season of interest with foliage.

You'll notice that there are already lots of pieces of art in this corner... if Lesley can't get to sleep she doesn't count sheep, she just imagines walking around the garden and counting pieces of art! Luckily she doesn't wake up Dougal to ask if he thinks this counts as a piece of art or what's the name of the artist that did this piece.

Will you treat your garden to some art this summer?

Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson,
New Hopetoun Gardens



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THE ARTS

50 YEARS OF LINLITHGOW ARTS GUILD



The Kosmos Ensemble, playing an eclectic mix of Eastern European music on violins and accordion

Linlithgow Arts Guild

Linlithgow Arts Guild was formed in 1969, and celebrates its golden anniversary in the coming season. Around 8 to 10 events have been funded and promoted every year for 50 years, open to all the community, many of them bringing top international performers to the town at accessible prices. The organisation is now a registered charity, run by a small team of volunteers, who select and book the artists, obtain grants, sell tickets and run the events. The history, and information on all the events from September 2019 to April 2020, are all available on the Arts Guild's website at www.LinlithgowArtsGuild.co.uk.

Celebrations will open with a garden party for members and season ticket holders at the beginning of August. Starting in September an enviable programme of music, presenting many outstanding performers for the anniversary, will begin with Linlithgow's Steven Osborne on Piano, accompanied by Jean Johnson on clarinet.

There will be representation from several of Scotland's top orchestras and classical music performers, including groups from The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Sinfonia and the orchestra of Scottish Opera. Mezzo soprano Catriona Morison from Edinburgh, the first ever UK winner of the BBC Cardiff 'Singer of the World' competition will perform and an energetic trio, the Kosmos Ensemble, playing an eclectic mix of Eastern European music on violins and accordion look particularly interesting.

Events take place in Linlithgow Academy and St. Michael's Parish

Church. Season tickets, which give entry to all concerts are available from the Arts Guild for only £54, and prices for the individual events range from £14 to £16 (U26 £6, children free). The Arts Guild has launched an appeal for additional funding this year, in the face of closure of West Lothian Council's Arts Fund from which they have previously been grateful for support. The costs of the anniversary events are exceptional, and, programme sponsorship adverts are being sought as well as contributors to a '50 for 50' scheme which seeks an additional 50 local sponsors contributing £50 for the 50th anniversary.

St Michael's Parish Church

Before that, *The Trumpet Shall Sound*, at St Michael's Parish Church on 18th August at 3pm is a trumpet and organ concert with trumpet virtuoso Grant Golding.

New Hopetoun Gardens

Art in The Garden returns to New Hopetoun Gardens and runs till the end of August. Two of my favourite artists Brazing Hussy and Katy Galbraith return with their steel sculptures and mosaics, and there's a prize draw if you enter the People's Vote competition. The garden centre, and indeed the Art in the Garden event, gets a mention in Peter Irvine's Scotland The Best book, so take his recommendation as well as mine.

Linlithgow Burgh Halls

The latest exhibition at Linlithgow Burgh Halls will be open by the time this magazine is delivered to you, but I'll write more about it next time. *Coming Alive* is a new body of work by Edinburgh-based artist Alice Boyle and it's colourful!

Literary Lunches

Literary Lunches in conjunction with The Granary Café also start again on Monday 2 September with Edinburgh based author and poet, Claire Askew. She'll be talking about her award-winning D.I. Birch crime series, *All The Hidden Truths* and her latest book, *What You Pay For*. Tickets are £20 which includes a vegetarian set menu, soft drinks and discounts off the books which are available to buy on the day.



The Line Gallery

You have just over a week to see the latest exhibition at The Line Gallery – six artists come together to show their interpretation of the light that summer brings - John Williams sees bright sunsets and the opportunity for walks, Catherine King enjoys picnics and calm seas, Linda Farquharson sees colourful flowers, Leo du Feu

thinks of birds in the landscape and Ewa Polanek portrays sandy beaches and rolling waves beneath a blue sky. Sheena Christie, whose Sunny Brae; Hamish's House piece is shown, enjoys empty land and sea spaces, devoid of people. There is something for everyone in this bright and varied exhibition.

Far From the Madding Crowd

Far From the Madding Crowd is having a summer break from events during July & August, but return in September with a pretty exciting event. David Baldacci is coming to Linlithgow on Sunday 22 September at 2pm in the Burgh Halls. David is one of the most successful thriller writers in the world today, known for Absolute Power which was turned into a film with Clint Eastwood. To date, David has sold 130 million copies of his books worldwide! He'll be talking about his incredible career and inspiration and there will also be a chance to get your favourite book signed. Tickets £10 - for all enquiries email sally@maddingcrowdlinlithgow.com or call on 01506 845509.

Linlithgow Pottery

Linlithgow Pottery are running taster classes on the potter's wheel where you could make up to 4 glazed pieces for £50. If you'd like to spend longer, book 6 classes to take flexibly over 3 months or if the wheel isn't for you, they also offer printmaking and meditation rattle workshops. Email linlithgowpottery@gmail.com or call 07557 784 020.

ART OUTINGS PITTENWEEM

ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL, 3RD TO 11TH AUGUST

I thought it might be difficult to pick an outing this time with the Edinburgh Festivals coming up, so to avoid the difficulty of picking out one exhibition from the many that will be on my to do list I will point you in the direction of Fife.

If you have never been you absolutely must go to Pittenweem for the day between 3rd to 11th August, when the annual Arts Festival is on. Get there early and plan to be home late as there's so much to see. 134 artists are exhibiting in galleries, in their front room or even in their garage. The town is buzzing with visitors, there's a beach if you need a break, and hopefully the sun will be shining.



Please do keep in touch so that I know what's going on - patswan@virginmedia.com. I hope you have time to experience some ART this month.

Pat Swan

patswan@virginmedia.com.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"good music doesn't have an expiry date"

PENSIONS – DO YOU KNOW WHERE ALL YOUR POTS ARE?

Susan Ralston, Virtue Money



Virtue Money

The government is currently consulting on proposals for a new pension dashboard to enable pension savers in the UK to view all their pensions under one online login.

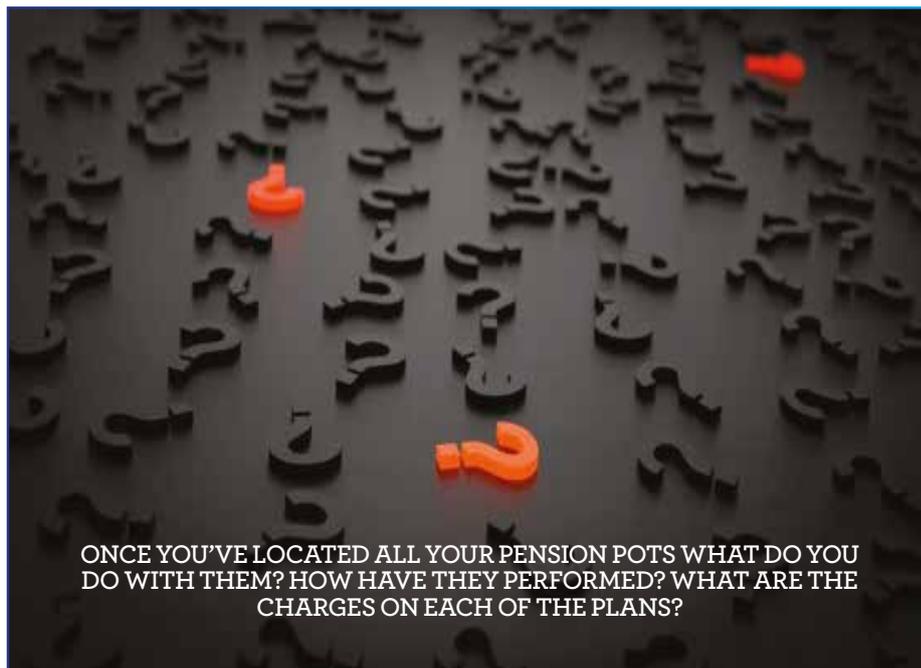
According to the Pension Dashboard Prototype Project, during our working lifetime, the average adult in the UK may have up to 11 different jobs. This means potentially 11 different pension pots which may be why they also estimate £400M of pensions monies are unclaimed.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pension, **Amber Rudd**, sent a written statement to Parliament in April this year advising that the Government expected to see the first workable models of the Pensions Dashboard developed and tested in 2019. Although pension schemes will be given 3-4 years to get the data of their members ready for inclusion on the Dashboards.

Rudd added that the dashboard project would eventually “enable people to access their pension information in a single place online, in a clear and simple form”.

Industry experts have suggested that the benefits of the Dashboard could be that we:

- >> Have a better understanding of our likely finances in retirement, based on our current situation
- >> Have a clearer grasp of the need for financial advice
- >> Be motivated to increase our pension contributions
- >> Have more inclination to take a proactive role in managing our potential retirement.



ONCE YOU'VE LOCATED ALL YOUR PENSION POTS WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THEM? HOW HAVE THEY PERFORMED? WHAT ARE THE CHARGES ON EACH OF THE PLANS?

Until the dashboard comes into play though, where are your pensions pots, have you lost track of some?

The **Money Advice Service** website has a myriad of advice on how to track down old pension. You could write to your old employer or provider (if known) and there are templates on the website to help you do this.

Both employers and providers can change their names making it difficult to trace them. If this is the case you could try the **Pension Tracing Services**. It's a free service which searches a database of more than 200,000 workplace and personal pension schemes to try and find the contact details you need.

Once you've located all your pension pots what do you do with them? How have they performed? What are the charges on each of the plans?

You might be thinking of merging multiple pension pots into one and

there can be potential advantages of doing this.

You can keep track of and manage your pension savings more easily, it might save money if you can transfer from higher-cost schemes to a lower-cost one and open the possibility of a greater choice of investments.

Unless you're confident that you understand the costs, benefits and risks involved then you will probably want financial advice on this matter.

If you would like to make an appointment to speak with one of our advisers regarding consolidating your pensions or any other aspect of your finances, life assurance, critical illness, income protection or retirement, then please give me call on 0345 034 3424 or email me at susan@virtuemoney.com and I will be happy to arrange this. The first consultation is completely free of charge with no obligation.



FREE
CONSULTATION

Susan Ralston
tel: 0345 034 3424 or
email: susan@virtuemoney.com

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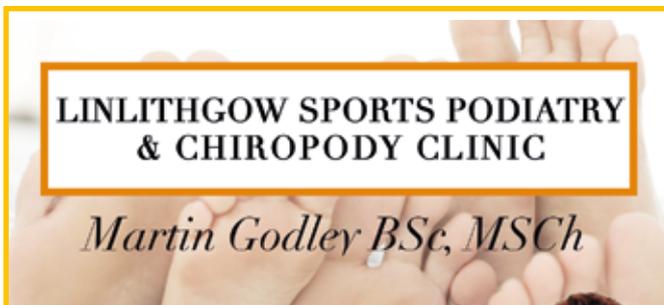
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Coming up at Transition Linlithgow

Transition Linlithgow is the town's environmental charity, committed to tackling climate change with the community. This summer we have a host of activities you can get involved in.

Tool Library

The Transition Linlithgow Tool Library has moved! Thanks to a new partnership with our friends at The Donaldson Trust we are now running the Tool Library every Tuesday evening, between 4pm and 7pm, from their workshop in Donaldson's School. Find us just off the car park down the left-hand side of the school.

This is a great opportunity to access a fantastic workshop space for personal and community projects. Over time, we will be making use of not just the space but also the range of machinery there, including the band saw, table saw and lathe. Contact Neil on neil@transitionlinlithgow.org.uk with any questions.

Workshops & Events

We have some great classes and events coming up this summer. Details about tickets can be found on our website, Facebook page and Eventbrite.

Sewing Workshops

We have a series of sewing workshops throughout the Summer, running from our new workshop space in Donaldson's School. Each workshop will run from 5pm till 7:30pm and includes all materials and light refreshments.

Introduction to Sewing: Starting at the beginning! Local sewer Nici will cover all the basics of setting up a sewing machine and making your first project - a reusable shopping tote bag. £35 for 2 sessions.

Makeup Bag and Reusable Makeup Removers: Learn how to make a simple make up bag and environmentally friendly, reusable makeup remover pads, all from reclaimed material. £45 for 3 sessions.

Clothes Upcycling: Jumper Slippers: Take your favourite jumper, which may have seen better days, and give it a new lease of life. £35 for 2 sessions.

Recycling Demystified

Come along to The Old Library @ The Vennel on Monday 22 July at 6pm for a discussion with the West Lothian Council Waste Aware Team and Transition Linlithgow all about recycling household waste. We will be on hand to answer all your questions!

We have other workshops and events still to be scheduled, including lamp making, food sustainability and furniture upcycling. Keep an eye out on our website and Facebook page for the latest announcements.

Walking & Cycling

Our free Nordic Walking Group continues to walk every Thursday at 10:30am. Meet us at

Transition Linlithgow (Braehead Road – opposite Linlithgow Rose Football Club) every Thursday at 10:30am for an hour's circular walk led by our Nordic Walk leader, Kay.

The walk ends back at Transition Linlithgow, where we enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, biscuits and a chat! Poles and full training will be provided and anyone of any fitness level can join – if you can walk, you can Nordic Walk!

We also continue to offer low cost electric bike hire, which can be hired from just £7.50. We've had a wide range of people hire them – from people curious about electric bikes and keen to try one out; to people looking to try before they buy; to people who can't manage hills like they used to; to people with visitors in town and just looking to enjoy the sights by bike.

We will be organising some cycling events over the summer, including bike maintenance classes, so keep an eye out on our Facebook page.

Contact Wendy on wendy@transitionlinlithgow.org.uk or call 01506 844182.

Volunteering

There are lots of ways to get involved and help Transition Linlithgow, no matter your skills or interests. We are looking for people to help with a range of projects, including attending events, taking photos, writing articles and promoting campaigns.

Gardening at Donaldson's School

We are working with The Donaldson Trust, volunteers from Sainsbury's Linlithgow Bridge and Burgh Beautiful to help create a kitchen garden in the ground of Donaldson's School. Right now, we need some willing volunteers with strong backs to help remove a troublesome plant from the middle of the raised bed!

Tree Planting

We have tree planting opportunities throughout the year with both Beecraigs Country Park and Burgh Beautiful. Tree planting is a great way to help improve our green spaces and directly combat carbon emissions.

Canal Fun Day

We are interested in getting a team together to enter the 2019 Canal Fun Day Cardboard Boat Race. This should be a fun building project and event!

See our website for more information about all our volunteering opportunities and contact details - www.transitionlinlithgow.org.uk/get-involved.html



We are looking for people to help with a range of projects, including attending events, taking photos, writing articles and promoting campaigns.

Susan White



Swifts, swallows and martins Lucy Purbrick



For me, summer's arrival in Linlithgow is measured by the birds and other wildlife I see - and none more so than swifts, swallows and martins. This group of birds has a special place in my heart because they helped me discover birdwatching.

One summer evening, eight year-old me was lying on the trampoline my family had in the garden. In the periwinkle-blue sky, small birds with forked tails wheeled around, never seeming to tire or land. I was entranced. But when I asked my dad what they were when he got home from work that night, he didn't know either. The very next day, he gave me an RSPB field guide of British birds. After identifying the mystery bird as a house martin, I became utterly obsessed with birds.

So, I have a soft spot for house martins, with their soft prit-prit call and dapper black, white and navy plumage. But sand martins (which have pleasant yet unassuming sienna and white feathers) are equally enjoyable, and

actually arrive earlier, choosing to return to their burrows in sand banks by March. Similarly swallows, with their gorgeous tail streamers and rusty throats, are a beloved symbol of summer in agricultural land. And it's impossible to forget swifts: tearing through the air on sickle-shaped wings made for flight as they scream in what almost seems to be joy.

Part of the beauty of these birds is that they often live incredibly close to humans, making them easy to find and watch. Anywhere with water is great (Linlithgow Loch, the Union Canal or the River Avon are ideal) especially at dusk as these birds all feed on flying insects which makes midges an excellent food source. Sand martins are primarily found at the loch.

Swifts, swallows and house martins however like slightly different living arrangements. Swifts nest in wall crevices, while both swallows and house martins build a cup of mud under an eave. Either way, a wide range of Linlithgow buildings, including houses, may be where a feathered family is raised.

Sadly, the UK populations of these birds have crashed in the past 30 years. Swifts especially have dropped by 38%. The reasons are complex, because while reduced insect populations and lack of suitable nest sites affect swallows, swifts and martins when nesting during the summer, they all migrate to sub-Saharan Africa for the winter. Here they face habitat loss and desertification (grassland becoming desert). And migration is perilous due to storms caused by global warming and barbaric hunting as the birds fly over Malta.

But if you want to help here in Linlithgow, installing specially built swift or swallow/martin boxes on your house, or even planting lots in your garden and refraining from using pesticides (which will encourage insects) are great things to do. I hope that you'll enjoy swifts, swallows and martins this summer, and that we can turn this town into a haven for them.



LUCY PURBRICK BIO:

I am 17 years old and I'm in 6th year at Linlithgow Academy. I am passionate about wildlife, conservation and eco-living. I hope to study Zoology and to have a career in conservation so in the meantime, I do volunteer work with the RSPB and the Scottish Ornithologists'.



Linlithgow First Responders David Booth, Group Coordinator and Responder



Responders: Keith Thomsom, Neil Mactavish, Gayle Hamilton, Kate Hamilton, Nicola Scott, Douglas Briton



Gayle Hamilton & David Booth
Group Coordinator and Responder

After nearly six months of back-and-forth, the local group of Linlithgow First Responders have achieved one of their long-term goals.

Having already placed numerous other public access defibrillators throughout the town – such as at both the Kingsfield and Linlithgow Golf Courses, and at Low Port Centre – the group have finally established their first 24-hour unit. Now placed in the phone box outside the Old Post Office on the High Street, the unit can be accessed by anyone should they need it.

The unit also holds a certain significance as it is dedicated to the memory of **John Hamilton**, who died in 2016 following a cardiac arrest. John's wife, Gayle, is now a supporter on the group, and included this about her husband -

“Hammy was born in Salsburgh and moved to Linlithgow in 1998 to work at Sun Microsystems, where he worked for 11 years. We met whilst working together at Sun Microsystems and were married in 2003. Our daughter, Kate, was born 3 years later. Hammy was a proud dad and family man with a dry sense of humour. He was content with life and enjoyed living in Linlithgow. His passions were cooking for family and friends, music and cycling - activities which filled most of his weekends! We are very grateful to our family and friends who have donated in Hammy's memory to allow this defibrillator to be purchased for the town.”

The process of using the equipment is also relatively simple. Should a member of the public need to use the defibrillator, all they need to do is phone 999 as usual. The ambulance controller can then supply the code for the defib cabinet, while also arranging help. Newer models, including all supplied to the town, will talk the user through the process of using the defibrillator as well, including the applying of pads and delivering the shock.

All defibrillators make it much easier for anyone to deliver crucial life saving aid to someone in need. If someone does go into cardiac arrest, the chance of survival drops by between ten and twenty per cent for every minute that goes by. By providing the general public with this life saving equipment, it could mean the difference between life and death, giving someone a better chance of surviving until an ambulance can reach them.

Additionally, the First Responders plan to continue providing more units to the wider community, increasing coverage across the town and surrounding area. Currently in partnership with the Mill Lane Project to locate two more 24-hour public access defibrillators in the town, the group also plan to locate a unit at Beecraigs Country Park.

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ACADEMY NEWS

Young Enterprise team
Wicks 'n' Wax!



Our Young Enterprise team Wicks 'n' Wax performed exceptionally well at this year's Lothian Area Awards evening on Thursday 28 March 2019 at Napier University. The team was awarded as the Best Company for the Lothian Area. This is an amazing achievement, considering the team was competing against 24 teams from schools across the Lothian region.

Additionally, the company collected individual & team awards, including:

- >> Joint Best Interview
- >> Best IT Director

This is continuing from the success at the 2018 Christmas Market in which the team achieved:

- >> Best Company Award
- >> Best Sales & Marketing Award

The team had to complete a number of tasks throughout the course of the year, including:

- >> Producing an effective stall for the Christmas Market
- >> Creating a Company video information presentation
- >> Producing a company Annual Report
- >> Participate in a Company Interview at Burness Paull in Edinburgh
- >> Presenting a Company Presentation at the Lothian Region Awards Evening

The team will now be participating in the Scottish Young Enterprise Finals which will take place on the 5th June at the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh.

Thank you to all those that have supported this business by buying their wonderful scented candles. Thanks to the Young Enterprise Scotland for providing an excellent Company Programme to develop entrepreneurial skills and get invaluable practical experience about how to run a business. Further thanks goes to our Business Adviser Peter Nixon for advising and supporting the school and the team.

Gregor Morgan, Konrad Spalony, Callum Leith, Hamish Banks



The four pupils have performed exceptionally throughout the Young Enterprise programme, establishing a successful and profitable business organisation. They have local businesses supporting them including the Lilypond and the Star and Garter. They have developed so many skills, qualities and experiences, which will put them in good stead for future life. It has been a privilege to be their Link Teachers.

Ms Amanda Smith & Mrs Satbinder Sandhu
Business Education Teachers
Linlithgow Academy

Business Adviser: Peter Nixon

In Their Own Words - The Team

At the start of August we began the *Young Enterprise programme*. Having no previous experience in how to run a business, it has culminated in us winning 'Best Company' and 'Best Interview' at the awards evening for Edinburgh and Lothians area. Throughout this journey our team and product has changed drastically. We started out with no idea how to produce a candle and now, after many prototypes and failed attempts, we have a premium candle which we are happy to produce and sell to the public. We feel that, as a team, the programme has helped us all as individuals, especially building our confidence. The programme has allowed us to gain an insight into

what it would be like running our own business. We are confident in the fact that the skills which we have learned throughout this experience will be extremely valuable to us in the future, both within and outside of business. We now go forward to the national finals in Edinburgh this summer against another 17 schools around Scotland. We would like to thank everyone who has purchased our candles and supported us throughout this journey. Finally to the upcoming kids that are thinking of taking up Young Enterprise, as a team we highly encourage you to do so as it gives you the opportunity to develop existing skills and learn new ones - you get out what you put in, so don't be scared.

Finally, the continuing public support of the company is much appreciated and thank you to anyone who has purchased one of our candles.



LINLITHGOW AND DISTRICT EMBROIDERERS' GUILD IS 25!



Linlithgow and District Embroiderers' Guild is about to celebrate its 25th birthday and we are planning to hold an exhibition to celebrate this next year. In the meantime, we would like to share with you some of the projects that we have been involved in recently.

Three years ago we worked with Burgh Beautiful to produce three banners for the station in the town. We are delighted that the stolen banner has been recovered and is displayed again.

Linlithgow Museum re-opened in April in new premises in the refurbished County Buildings, now called Tam Dalyell House. In preparation for the opening, the Branch was asked to complete two banners to display in the museum. One was a replica of an existing banner for the Cordiners (shoemakers) of the town as the original had been painted onto the fabric and was too fragile to display. The other was to be designed by the Guild members to depict

the various trades associated with the town. These included weavers, bakers, tailors, wheelwrights, dyers, distillers, stonemasons, hammermen and fleshers. The banners were completed in the summer and autumn of 2018 and now hang in the second room of the museum.

During its first year the Museum will display Historical Costume figures made by Branch member, Valerie Spence.

These are the result of more than fifty years work and will be displayed in three installments each of more than thirty figures. They are on the scale of 1/6th (2 inches to a foot) and cover the period 1070 to 1927. Each figure has been carved from balsa wood, painted and dressed as accurately as possible for the period depicted. These are housed in a special display case in the 'Education Room'. As this room will be used for group activities it is advisable to check with the Museum (01506 670677) that there will be access at the time of your visit.

Our second big project was an involvement in creating a wall panel to be displayed in the East Calder Partnership Centre. This was very much a community project with local schools, youth groups and adult craft groups

creating ideas. These ideas were taken mainly from the architectural features and foliage of the surrounding area. The background includes features from the lime and brickworks, and the seven wells, while the foreground displays oversized ferns, scale trees and conifers.

Members of the Guild worked on this printed panel to embellish sections of the design to create a more three-dimensional aspect to the artwork. This took place in the Burgh Halls over a two month period and involved over 300 hours of stitching. The finished piece was installed in the Centre in May and a few members were invited to an afternoon tea in the Centre to celebrate the occasion.

The Guild meets monthly from August to May on the last Wednesday of the month in the Library of Linlithgow Academy at 7pm. We also meet informally for stitching days on a regular basis and have three full day workshops throughout the year. We are a friendly group and would welcome anyone who is interested in textile art. We begin our new session on 28th August 2019 and would be pleased to see new members then. If you would like any more information please contact me at LinlithgowDistrictSec@embroiderersguild.co.uk.

Doreen Eaglesham



Property investment should be viewed as a medium to long term plan, it is difficult to achieve significant returns in the short term.

So, we thought it might be interesting to compare a few key facts about the Scottish property market from the last financial year, 2018/19, to immediately before the financial crisis, that is the financial year 2007/08.

The average house price in Scotland is now £178,991, compared to £154,817 in 2007/08, that is a rise of 16 per cent.

Yet the total volume of house sales in 2018/19 was 101,628, compared to 150,455 in 2007/08, still 32 per cent lower than before the financial crisis.

In 2018/19 cash sales (not involving any borrowing) accounted for 31 per cent of all transactions, almost double the volume of cash sales in 2007/08 at 16 per cent.

In spite of recent, year on year, modest increases in the volume of new build sales, in 2018/19 the volume of new build sales was still 34 percent lower than the pre-financial crisis peaks.

Some of these key facts clearly show that levels of activity in the housing market are still significantly lower than the pre-financial crisis peaks.

House Extensions

More homeowners are considering extending rather than moving, particularly owners of higher value properties above £350,000 where the new LBTT (Land and Building Transaction Tax) rates have significantly increased the amount of tax a buyer has to pay to the Scottish Government compared to the old stamp duty rates.



The average house price in Scotland is now £178,991, compared to £154,817 in 2007/08, that is a rise of 16 per cent.

£178,991

Average house price in Scotland

There are a number of important considerations involved in extending. Will it add value? property features in demand today include Utility Rooms, Ensuites and open plan Kitchen/Dining/Family areas. A professional Estate Agent should be happy to meet with you and discuss your proposed plans with a view to what is most likely to add value.

Neighbours? Councils will write to your immediate neighbours notifying them of your planning application, but it might be as well to have a chat with them first, to get them “onside”.

In semi detached and terraced properties any significant works or amendments to the party wall that divides your property from your neighbours will need their agreement.

Insurance, notify your home insurers of your planned extension, you will be increasing potential re-build costs, make sure you are adequately covered for the additional risks to your existing property and the extension during construction. Check that your contractor is properly insured, remember that even though they have liability insurance, in the event of a

problem, that liability may have to be proved.

Costs, draw up a proper budget. Remember there will most likely be VAT to pay on building materials and your contractor's invoice. We would recommend that you factor in 10% of the total project cost for contingencies.

Architects? There is no law that says you must engage an Architect to draw up plans for your extension, but you may want to consider engaging one. A professional Architect should be aware of all current planning regulations and build standards, and, if you want them to, will manage the planning application process and supervise the build to make sure your contractor is meeting the correct standards and build quality.



A PASSION FOR BURLESQUE

Image by Fiona Macleod



We all always had a real passion for dance, we joined a burlesque fitness group which had advertised in our area. We all started the same, didn't know anyone in the class and felt a bit out of our comfort zone but instantly felt a connection with so many of the ladies. Not only was the dance class exciting and fun, but very quickly realised the positive impact the class had on our mental health and wellbeing.

We felt energised, motivated and empowered. We wanted others to feel what we could feel, seeing beyond the boundaries of the existing group we began to plan a new future bringing together women, building confidence and self esteem and nurturing a new team - a family.

We very soon decided to become instructors and start our own company where we could reach out to women all over West Lothian and show the power of dance. We have built a strong support network for all our ladies, we work as a cohesive unit not only supporting each other but also supporting local charities nominated by our lovely lady dancers, ones that are close to our hearts.

This is not just a dance class, this is a way of life. To see some of ladies with low self esteem grow into the strong beautiful people they always were is just priceless. We are all from different backgrounds, we all have our stories, but we all come together as a team, stronger together.



Karyn and Dawn

Saltire Burlesque Classes

Monday:

Linlithgow Masonic Lodge 930-1030
Broxburn United Football Club 1115-1215
Linlithgow Masonic Lodge
515-615&615-715
Mid Calder Masonic Lodge 745-845

Tuesday

Armadale Kross Bar 1-2
Livingston Craigsfarm 630-730&730-830

Wednesday

Bathgate Regal theatre 1-2
Bathgate Regal Theatre 6-7
Bo'ness Fisons 7-8&8-9

Thursday

Livingston Craigsfarm 1-2
Armadale Kross Bar 7-8&8-9

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