



60p **ISSUE 29** OCTOBER 2014

the **BLACK** *bitch*

Linlithgow's news by Linlithgow people



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First, a VERY BIG THANK-YOU to all who made our recent meeting at the Star & Garter Hotel such a productive and enjoyable evening. We're still digesting the feedback - hope you all enjoyed it too, let's do it again sometime soon!



We're Linlithgow's Community Magazine - your local magazine with local news & events.

Books, lovely books... and their authors

Local Development Plan
Speak now or forever hold your peace...

P12/13

Check this out Mate!

P5

Next copy deadline
11 Nov 2014.

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Folk Fae Lithgae

ALISON TRAIN

Alison Train loves to sing and her vocal talents have been put to good use for over twenty years in the annual shows staged by the Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions. (L.A.M.P.)

I caught up with Alison recently at a rehearsal for the next production - the Scottish amateur premiere of Irving Berlin's, 'A White Christmas', which runs from Monday 20th to Saturday 25th October in the Academy Theatre. She told me:

"My Dad was a founder member of L.A.M.P. in 1985, so, as a child, I was always running around at rehearsals, but I didn't get on the stage myself until I was sixteen. The L.A.M.P. Children's Theatre didn't exist when I was little, so I had to wait until I could join the adult company at sixteen."

Alison has been fortunate to play many leading roles, including Nancy in 'Oliver', Maria in 'The Sound of Music' and Sally in 'Me and my Girl', which was her favourite. She explained:

"I've been very lucky and am always very grateful to be chosen, because the talent in L.A.M.P. is actually really outstanding, so when you get a part, you really just count your blessings."

In 'White Christmas', Alison will play the part of Betty Haynes, the role taken by Rosemary Clooney in the 1954 film of the same name. The show has more songs than the film and Alison is very excited about it:

"There's loads of good music in it and lots of big dance numbers, tap numbers, as well as instantly recognisable Irving Berlin songs, such as 'Blue Skies', 'Happy Holidays', 'Sisters' and, of course, 'White Christmas' itself."

For everyone involved in L.A.M.P, the show is a huge commitment, as Alison explained:

"We start at the end of April and meet every Tuesday, but when it's nearer to the show, we rehearse three times a

week. We work hard and we do everything ourselves. We build the set, we get all the props, we even put the seats out. We do everything in the show, apart from the costumes. It's a huge effort, but that's what makes it so much fun. I really enjoy it."

In her professional life, Alison is employed in an organisation called LEAPS (Lothians Equal Access Programme for Schools) which works in fifty nine schools from Stirling to the Borders to encourage children from non-traditional backgrounds to consider going into Higher Education. Alison is based in West Lothian and visits local schools on a regular basis, offering advice and practical help.

I was interested to learn that, away from her career and LAMP commitments, Alison is a keen amateur archaeologist and regularly takes part in digs. She told me:

"I've done quite a lot of digs in York and I even appeared on Channel Four's 'Time Team'! I've done a Viking toilet, which wasn't very nice, and a Roman skeleton, which was pretty good. I'm now signed up with the Stirling county archaeologist and was involved quite a lot with the Bannockburn dig last year."

Originally from Bathgate, Alison has had links with Linlithgow for many years, due to her involvement with L.A.M.P. She moved here four and a half years ago and loves living in her adopted town.

"I think Linlithgow is such an amazing community and I really like that about it. With all the different groups and different people, there's always something going on. There's so much happening, I really think it's a real strength of the place. I like living here because of that."

Murdoch Kennedy



SHAKE UP THE COMMUNITY OR FACE ITS STAGNATION

KATE MARTIN ON DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL IN LINLITHGOW



I can't help thinking that if young people turned up to Community Council meetings, Linlithgow would be exponentially cooler. I know this because Linlithgow is a fantastic place to be a kid – plenty of open spaces, parks to play in, ducks to feed; but when adolescence sets in, so does your boredom and disillusionment with the town. For anyone in their teens, the best place in Linlithgow is the train station with its promise of escaping somewhere more interesting. The conversation about maybe building a skatepark in Linlithgow one day has lasted for as long as I can remember but the idea has never come close to fruition. Could the lack of amenities for young citizens be linked to the lack of youth representation in our democratic spaces?

I realise that what I'm advocating – mass participation in politics at the community level – seems like a big ask. Community councils generally suffer from a distinctly uncool reputation; cash-strapped and lacking in power, with their public meetings open to being hijacked by those who're happy to use the space as a professional whinge forum, but far less happy to make a meaningful contribution. However, this doesn't change the fact that the community council is an important link between citizens and the Council in Livingston. The open meetings they hold with the public are your main opportunity to speak out about your ambitions for the town.

This is exactly what happened on September 23rd when Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council (LLBCC) held a joint meeting with the Linlithgow Planning Forum to see what the people of Linlithgow thought about what is being proposed for the town's future. As part of the West Lothian Local Development Plan, West Lothian Council want to lift the "area of restraint" policy which has been applied to Linlithgow for the past 20 years. Under this policy, development in Linlithgow has been kept to a minimum and has been restricted to brownfield sites. If this policy is discontinued however, the council will be able to build on greenfield sites, allowing for significant new housing developments, car parking and improving Linlithgow's connectivity to other towns.

Why change things? Because Linlithgow is facing a number of challenges. The town's population is aging, with 45-74 year olds making up 40% of the population in 2011 – an increase of almost 9% over the space of a decade. It's thought that this is linked to the lack of affordable housing in Linlithgow, as new graduates and young professionals looking to get onto the property ladder are priced out of the market. Secondly, Linlithgow has a huge amount of commuter traffic, with 4000 passenger movements through Linlithgow Rail Station every weekday. This is the highest level of commuting in West Lothian, and yet, bizarrely, Linlithgow also has the lowest number of commuter parking spaces.

Nevertheless, not everybody likes the idea of speeding up Linlithgow's development. Sparks flew at LLBCC's public meeting on the Local Development Plan as Linlithgow residents voiced concerns over traffic congestion, air pollution and destruction of green spaces which could potentially result from reversing Linlithgow's status as an "area of restraint". In the end, 36 of the 51 attending the meeting voted to continue the policy of restraint until the infrastructure is fixed and only then continue with planned development.

David Tait, who represents Linlithgow Business Association on the Linlithgow Planning Forum and is a member of the Community Council has urged people who weren't at the meeting to come forward with their views. He said: "With the next 10 year Local Development Plan in preparation, now is the time for members of the Linlithgow community to make their voices heard. Get involved. Get informed. Make a constructive contribution. There is a duty and responsibility on residents to play their part. There will be no point in complaining later if you don't like the outcome. The Community Council and Planning Forum would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in participating positively in the process to produce the best outcome for Linlithgow."

To have your say or to become part of the Community Council, contact secretary@llbcc.org.uk. You can check out the Local Development Plan at <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/LDP>.

Kate Martin



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LINLITHGOW ACADEMY

THE PUPILS' VOICE



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Linlithgow Academy is always developing to the needs and wants of the 1200 pupils that learn, perform, create and contribute to the community. In this busy and vibrant school, the experience of every pupil that walks in and out of the front doors every day is at the core of the school's aims and values. The Linlithgow Academy Pupil Council consists of pupils of all ages that represent the whole school. The council empowers every pupil to become involved in decisions that impact their whole experience at Linlithgow Academy.

The Pupil Council gives a platform for all pupils to have the opportunity to propose ideas, discuss concerns and consider the issues affecting their peers in an organised and democratic setting. It allows the school to enhance pupils' sense of citizenship and responsibility - both in school and throughout Linlithgow. With the support of a member of staff, pupils are actively involved in presenting proposals to the whole School Council and the Senior Management Team for consideration.

Linlithgow Academy is proud to have a number of elected representatives chosen from within our pupil body, by our own pupils. Each year, S1-S6, has several pupils that serve on each year group council, with two Year Representatives being elected to serve on the main Pupil Council. This is a structure that allows bi-monthly Pupil Council meetings to be held, where the two Year Representatives can feedback to their specific year councils. The year councils have the responsibility of listening to and providing feedback to the whole year. Representatives also go to West Lothian Youth Congress and Parent Council meetings.

The newly elected Pupil Council is already flooded with ideas on how to develop the school even further. Last year, the ultimate aim of the Pupil Council was to raise funds to buy a new pre-ordering cashless catering machine that would reduce queuing times, with the aim to allow pupils more time to attend the vast number of extra-curricular clubs during lunch times. The fundraising efforts involved pupils

and teachers putting their baking skills to the test in the first ever Linlithgow Academy 'cake off'. The Pupil Council also organised the extremely popular, annual Big Quiz. The school is also very thankful to LAA for using its budget to contribute to the purchase of these machines.

The Pupil Council also achieved a lot last year and is determined to do so again this year.

> The S3 year council organised the school's participation in world science day. The S4 year council worked with Burgh Beautiful to create a flower garden.

> The S5 year council provided induction activities for primary 7 pupils across the Linlithgow Academy catchment primary schools.

> The Pupil Council successfully ran a stall in the social area on non-smoking day and helped to organise 'Linlithgow's got nae talent' at the end of term, that saw teachers take to the stage with some rather interesting dance moves.

We recognised the need for an independence referendum awareness activity as many of us senior pupils received the vote for the very first time. S6 pupils provided information boards and internal debates that encouraged the 16 and 17 year olds of Linlithgow Academy to get involved with politics and a number of S6 attended the BBC Live Debate at the Hydro.

The Pupil Council aims to achieve a lot this year and is motivated to protect the pupils' voice as written in our own constitution. We aim to present Linlithgow Academy as a rights respecting school complying with articles 12 and 13 in the Children's Charter which highlights children's right to say what they think and be taken seriously. We will continue to work hard to positively impact the educational development of future year groups.

Neil Anderson (S6)



from
20-25
OCT

I'm dreaming of a...

LAMP are delighted to announce that our 2014 production, running from Monday 20th to Saturday 25th of October at Linlithgow Academy Theatre, will be a Scottish Amateur Premiere of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*.

'White Christmas' is a spectacular stage musical, telling the story of Bing Crosby's classic 1954 movie which brims with classic Irving Berlin hits like *Blue Skies*, *How Deep is the Ocean?*, *Happy Holiday*, *Sisters* and of course the unforgettable title song *White Christmas*.

The plot...

Bob Wallace and Phil Davies are army buddies from World War II who have become a very successful song and dance team. They meet up with Betty & Judy Haynes, the sisters of another of their army buddies and Phil, seeing that Bob is attracted to Betty, talks him into following the girls to their next show; an inn in Vermont.

When they get to the inn, it is practically empty because there is no snow. As they start to leave, the men learn that the innkeeper is their beloved former commanding general from World War II. They decide to stay to try to drum up some business for the old man. They bring their whole show up to the inn which helps, but is not quite enough.

Betty mistakenly thinks that Bob and Phil are taking

advantage of the general's misfortune to get free publicity, so she gets angry at him. Judy and Phil think that Betty is upset because she is afraid to fall in love with Bob because she has to look after Judy, so Judy and Phil pretend to get engaged.

Betty leaves for New York to get away from Bob but when the general's request to rejoin the army is denied, Bob goes on national TV to get the men from his World War II division to surprise the general on Christmas Eve. Betty sees the show, and realizes Bob really is a good guy so she returns to Vermont to participate in the big show.

The tickets...

Tickets are £10 / £7, with family tickets* £30 and can be ordered online at www.linlithgow-musicals.co.uk or by phone on 07949 475932 or through any cast member.

*Family tickets are only available for the performances on Monday 20th to Friday 24th inclusive.

Sandra Bain



Linlithgow Players Plays and Wine

Linlithgow Players serve up their annual Plays & Wine this coming month with performance nights on the 17th and 18th October. This year there is a feast of entertainment as the theme for this year's production is Food.

There will be three One Act plays plus a couple of sketches to whet the appetite. Included in the program will be a couple of written pieces by the Players themselves, Craig W Lowe's "Nightshade and Hemlock" and Judy Barker's "A Twist of Lemon". Both have a certain specific

theme which surrounds food but with a twist that will be a bit of surprise for the audience to get their teeth into.

Also incorporated into the program is an old favourite which many will recognise on the menu. "Waldorf Salad" a *Fawlty Towers* classic which includes the iconic figure of Basil Fawlty, one of sit-coms biggest stars of the 1970s. Written by John Cleese and Connie Booth, Waldorf Salad tells the story of an aggressive American who arrives at the hotel late for dinner and pays Basil to keep the kitchen open, with hilarious consequences as the saying goes.

Ray Myers plays the hapless Basil with

Judy Barker as long suffering wife Sybil, Brian Peebles is Mr Hamilton, the American guest, while Suzanne Cleland plays Mrs Hamilton.

Also in the program is the play *Cupboard Love* by playwright Jean McConnell which tells the story of two middle aged female joggers who get talking and find they have more in common than first appears.

Tickets for the evening of plays can be purchased at "Far from the Madding Crowd" in Linlithgow and are priced at £10 each.

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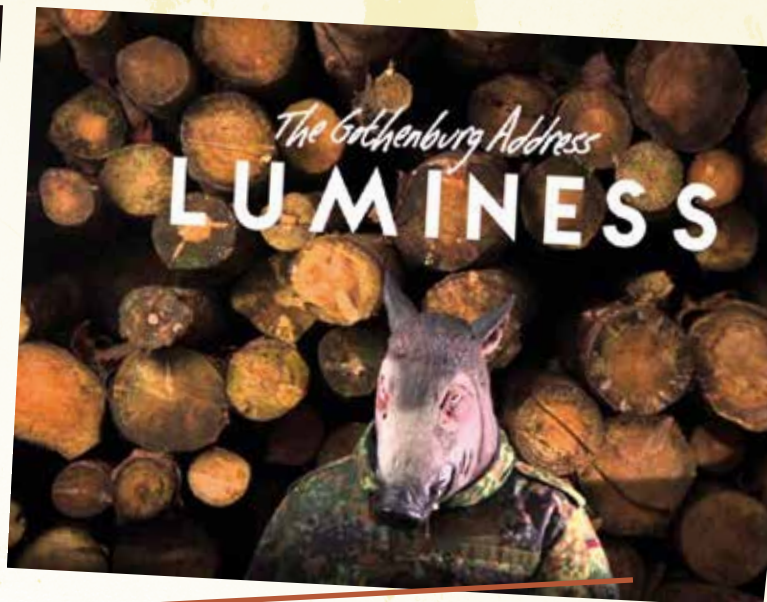
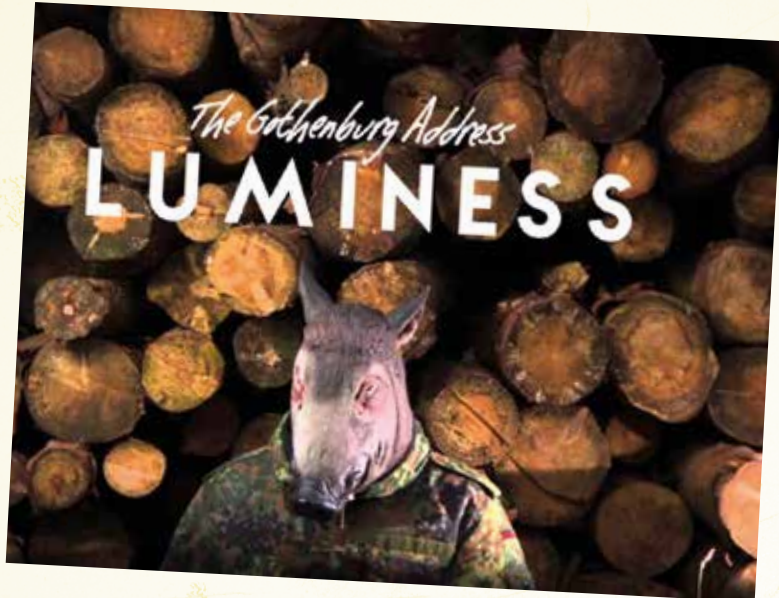
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THE GOTHENBURG ADDRESS

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The Gothenburg Address, who have played at George Square and have even supported post-rock kings Mogwai in the past, have had an ever changing line up since their inception in 2008. The current form of the band contains two Linlithgowers; two former members of Penguins Kill Polar Bears. Their latest release, a six track EP called "Luminess", shows that despite contentious shifting of members, the group are still keeping a tight and strong sound.

They're ethereal, atmospheric and cinematic. So much so that one of their older songs, "The Modern Dilemma", was used in the soundtrack of photographer Alex Boyd's movie, "Sonnets from Scotland".

It's not hard to see why; the epic chord progression and sheer wall of guitar fits perfectly to building ambience. When faced with their sound sculptures, it'd be very difficult to imagine putting vocals to the songs, because it's almost as if the instrumentation does that already.

Although "pigs and boars on album covers" has been tainted with the second wave of black metal in Norway, the music is far from anything as extreme as that. In fact, the music feels much more sincere; the emotions in the music are a strange yet complementary mix of elation, melancholy and energy.

It's the most attention-grabbing background music can get. Past experience greatly benefits the group. Members have been from Arab Strap, The Zephyr, The Fuse and of course, Penguins Kill Polar Bears. It's a super-group in principle, but you wouldn't imagine it from the close-knit band chemistry. The inspiration from the various sources of origin is definitely a merit, allowing a wide range of post-rock influence to work anthemic, voiceless ballads into our ears.

In contrast to their earlier work, there is something more explosive in their new work. The same level of rich production has stayed through to "Luminess", while shifting into some of the band's best work. There's more diversity to the melody than in their single "The Hessian", and something more sophisticated than the (still enjoyable) album, "The Sky. The Mountains. The Land."

Shoegaze influences echo throughout each song, along with the irregular time signatures and unorthodox ways of instrument playing; although playing a guitar with a cello bow was popularised by Icelandic music project Jonsi, it's still a very creative and original way to play an instrument so universal in modern music.

The Gothenburg Address recently released a teaser to their upcoming album for this autumn, and it sounds like a more explosive, adventurous expansion on this EP. If you're into

shoegaze and ambient rock, and you liked Penguins Killed Polar Bears but also wanting something more pure to its post-rock roots, then "Luminess" is a definite listen. It's not reinventing the wheel, but it does keep a music scene gap not heard of very often in Scotland rolling.

"Luminess" is now out on Soundcloud; <http://soundcloud.com/the-gothenburg-address>

The Gothenburg Address' previous work can be found on Bandcamp at <http://thegothenburgaddress.bandcamp.com/>

The band's website is at <http://thegothenburgaddress.com/>

Ian Macartney



WHEELED SPORTS FACILITY ON A ROLL



John Davidson

Although it may seem the initiative for a 'wheeled sports facility' has lain dormant for some time the prospect has in fact never seemed more realistic. In coordination with the Linlithgow Community Development Trust and their plan for a Community Sports Hub in the area beyond the leisure centre, on which there is more to come in the next issue, we have not only a site, but a connection with an established body of groups, clubs and individuals from within the community. Past efforts to establish a wheeled sports facility in Linlithgow have encountered opposition. However now the Wheeled Sports Initiative comes under the umbrella of the LCDT's Community Sports Hub, alongside the likes of Linlithgow Athletics club and West Lothian Clarion, we hope to bridge the preconceived gap between those who would use a wheeled sports area and those who live in proximity to one to provide a facility that can be enjoyed by generations to come.

In order for the LCDT and wheeled sports participants to be able to take the project forward effectively, the idea had to be aligned with the Trust's appraisal. The pertinent question being 'Does the project address an identified community need?' With attempts being made to have a facility constructed as long as two decades

ago, and a stream of interest ever since, it might be determined that it certainly is a point of continuous interest among young members of the community. At the same time there are likely many more who find the select group a nuisance, with skateboards making a lot of noise and bikes being obtrusive on pavements due to their size, and often the speed at which they travel could be intimidating to some. With this in mind the community benefit would be almost as much, if not more on those who find the presence of wheeled sports participants intrusive and annoying, as those participating themselves.

No matter how passionate or logical you are about getting something done, money is likely to be an issue, skateparks certainly not being an exception. Now we find ourselves having to adopt a businesslike stance and talk funding, and even potentially becoming an incorporated organisation. **The Community Sports Hub** will have to be sustainable and we as wheeled sports participants, perhaps most of all, have to make a substantial case as to why we believe money should be put towards our cause and the benefits it would bring. It is certainly not impossible to come by funding for such projects however and **Sport Scotland** and the **National Lottery** are just two potential sources along with money raised locally. Two years down the line if the project comes through, our financial job will not be done as the facility will have to be maintained to a functioning and pleasant standard. As the majority

of outdoor skateparks it would likely be constructed out of concrete and hence almost totally unsusceptible to weather damage. It has been suggested that an equipment hire stall or room could be run within the Hub's 'Clubhouse' to contribute towards any required maintenance.

To conclude, the prospect of a wheeled sports facility to be built in Linlithgow has become substantially more realistic since we put forward our last article around two years ago. Becoming part of an initiative with such momentum and magnitude as the LCDT's Community Sports Hub has been encouraging and extremely beneficial for the project that has certainly had its peaks and troughs. We sincerely hope that we can fulfil the potential benefit to the community this project offers. LCDT has set up a Working Group to develop the idea and, although the favoured site would be part of the Kettilstoun Community Sports Hub, we are also looking at the potential of other sites within Linlithgow.

Linlithgow Community Development Trust Kettilstoun Community Sports Hub feature article to follow in next issue.

For enquiries or if you wish to be part of our initiative please contact; wheeledsports@trust-linlithgow.org.uk

TREES FOR LINLITHGOW..

Legend has it that the Black Bitch was tied to an Oak tree on an island in Linlithgow Loch to stop her swimming out to another island in the loch with food for her master who was sentenced to starve to death. Oak trees will generally grow far too big for today's gardens but we like to think that most gardens in Linlithgow can enjoy a tree that links back to the legend of the Black Bitch.

We have lots of lovely trees that would be suitable for your garden and our team can advise on the best choice for you, but we'd love to tell you about two of our favourite, well behaved, delightful small trees.

Prunus Frilly Frock is a small weeping tree with loads of blossom in the spring, leaves that turn variegated yellow and green in June and great autumn colour before the leaves drop off.



In this quiet and safe haven the tree flourished and produced the most stunning Spring blossom followed by a bumper harvest of exceptional apples.

Apples are grown on different roots to control the rate of growth and the size of the mature tree. We offer Little Pax on two different rootstocks: Rootstock M9 is dwarfing and you can keep the tree to 6ft (2m) tall by 4-5ft (1.3m) across; Rootstock MM106 is semi vigorous and you can prune your tree to keep it under 8ft (2.4m) tall and 6-7ft (2m) across.

Its firm crunchy skin gives way to a smooth, juicy flesh with a rich aromatic flavour like honeydew melon with lingering champagne-like quality! It does need another apple or crab apple to pollinate its flowers but it is mid-season flowering so it flowers when most other apples in Scotland flower.

It grows well in Scotland and the apples will store for winter use until February.

Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson
of New Hopetoun Gardens



The branches of weeping trees aren't strong enough to grow upwards, hence their weeping habit. You can train a young branch upwards with the support of a bamboo cane and after a year or two it will be strong enough to stay upright and the branches that grow out of it will then weep down and give you a taller weeping tree. Generally Frilly Frock will weep down from about 6ft (2m) and its umbrella shape will be about 4ft (1.2m) across. In the garden you can plant some Spring flowering bulbs and low perennials like Campanulas, Diascias and Hardy Geraniums beneath it to complete the picture.

Apple Little Pax is new to us this Autumn and has a lovely story to share. Not too long ago a little apple tree was gifted to St Cecilia's Abbey on the Isle of Wight. The nuns took in this little orphan without hesitation and planted it in their beautiful and peaceful walled gardens.



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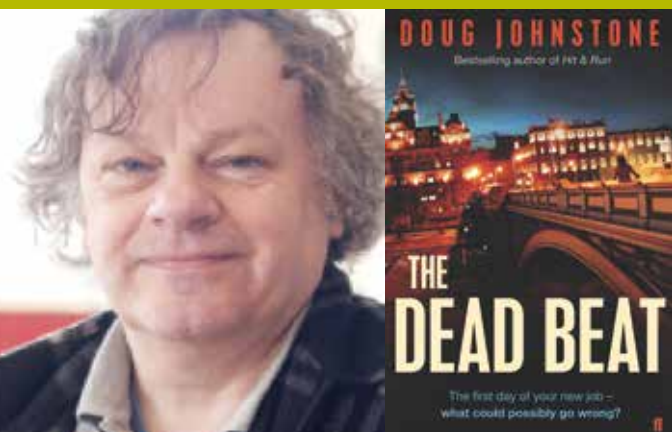
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'ECLECTIC PROGRAMME' GUARANTEED...

From October 31st to November 2nd, Linlithgow Book Festival offers its ninth and most eclectic programme yet with a host of writers many of whom will be making their first appearance in the atmospheric and welcoming Masonic Hall.

The festival opens on Friday evening with Edinburgh crime writer **Sara Sheridan** talking about *England Expects*, the third of her *Mirabelle Bevan Mysteries*, Sara has located the story in post-War England and has chosen the edgy genre of not-so-cosy crime. The eponymous heroine, first featured in the earlier books *Brighton Belle* and *London Calling*, was described by a Sunday Herald reviewer as having 'dogged tenacity to rival Poirot.' Mirabelle is the kind of woman who knows how to run in high heels and makes a wonderful antidote to the less feminine female protagonists in modern crime fiction. Transport yourself to 1953 Brighton, perhaps dress up, it is Halloween after all, and cocktails will be served. *This session is sponsored by Far from the Madding Crowd.*

Poetry has always been a strong thread throughout the Festival, and this year we are having a double helping. Saturday November 1st kicks off at the Mel Gray Centre at the Canal Basin where Linlithgow's own **Andrew Philip** will lead a poetry writing workshop. Drawing on his own experiences as a polished poet and popular tutor, Andy will encourage everyone to pull experience, ideas and words

together, and from these begin to create poetry. This workshop draws great reviews from participants and is not to be missed.

Science fiction has not often featured at Linlithgow. This year that changes with **Una McCormack** and **Ken MacLeod**. Una McCormack teaches creative writing at Anglia Ruskin University and is a prolific fan fiction writer. Author of the *Star Trek: Deep Nine* space novels, she is also the author of the Doctor Who novels *The King's Dragons* and *The Way through the Woods*. Una will be followed by Ken MacLeod, no stranger to Linlithgow. For his last visit he was accompanied by his great friend Iain Banks; a much missed supporter of Linlithgow's Festival. Ken has won many awards for his work ranging from Space Opera to dystopian futures. His novels and stories have received three BSFA awards and three Prometheus Awards, and several have been short-listed for the Clarke and Hugo Awards. Ken's new novel, *Descent* (2014) portrays a near-future Scotland transformed by technical and social change, through the eyes of a young man haunted by an encounter altogether too close for comfort. Ken is here to talk about that book, and about how Scotland has fired his imagination. **Ken MacLeod is sponsored by JMK Printers and Stationers.**

Kirsty Wark is well known for her journalism and broadcasting with the BBC. In that role she has interviewed some of the greatest living novelists including Toni Morrison and Philip Roth. She has now moved into fiction herself with *The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle*, a multi-generational story of love and belonging set



on the Scottish island of Arran. It is a captivating story of the richness behind so-called ordinary lives and the secrets and threads that hold women together as well as a reflection on twentieth century Scotland.

The feted **Doug Johnstone** and **Helen Fitzgerald** are great friends and crime writers. Helen is the bestselling author of *Dead Lovely* (2007) and nine other adult and young adult thrillers, including *My Last Confession* (2009), *The Donor* (2011) and most recently *The Cry* (2013), which was longlisted for the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year. Doug's *The Dead Beat* revisits characters we first met in *Hit and Run* exploring their past and present and features Nirvana's only pub gig in Edinburgh. Hopefully, as with his last visit, Doug will have a song or two at the end of their set.

Ruth Nicol is a painter with an ear for words and an understanding of the significance of place. Her recent work has taken the poets depicted in Alexander Moffat's famous painting *The Poet's Pub* and studied the places and landscapes within which the poets lived. As a boy, MacDiarmid said he could tell exactly where he was in Langholm by the sound of the running water of each of the three rivers that run to a confluence there: the Wauchope, the Esk and the Ewes. Ruth will speak of the poets, their poetry and the importance of place. We hope for some original audio recording of the poets themselves.

LBF's Open Mic draws the Saturday to a close. This event has established itself as a place for new and aspiring writers to be seen and heard. Come to road test your new poems/short stories. Come just to drink in the atmosphere and enjoy the writing. Email admin@linlithgowbookfestival.org to request a reading slot. Music will be provided by Holm.

Sunday afternoon will see the return of the popular tea and cakes event, this time with **Andrew Crummy**. Here to speak on the Great Tapestry Andrew is a man of many parts. He has worked for *New Musical Express*, *The Observer* magazine, *Design Week*, *Creative Review* and *Time Out* magazine. He has developed multiple large-scale, collaborative artworks in public and community settings across the world. The Great Tapestry of Scotland, developed by Andrew, author Alexander McCall Smith, historian Alistair Moffat is an outstanding celebration of Scottish history and achievement from the end of the last Ice Age to the 21st century. More than 1,000 volunteer stitchers, led by stitch coordinator Dorie Wilkie, worked for 55,000 hours using 300 miles of wool to create the 160 panels of this extraordinary work of art. Using a range of embroidery skills and working on Scottish linen, men, women and youngsters from every corner of the country translated Andrew's artwork into a colourful, skilful and textural depiction of the history of Scotland and in doing so recorded a remarkable people's story.

Plans for 2015, the 10th anniversary if Linlithgow Book Festival are in development - if you have suggestions, or would like to get involved, please do complete one of the questionnaires which will be available at each event, or contact us via the website www.linlithgowbookfestival.org

Tickets for this year's event available now from The Line Gallery and Far from the Madding Crowd.

Gail Boardman

From
31
OCT

Tues
11
NOV

THE GREAT WAR THE LOCAL LEGACY

This year, November 11th marks the 96th anniversary of the ceasefire, which signalled the end of the First World War. That dreadful, four-year conflict began 100 years ago this year – Britain’s official declaration of war on Germany being on August 4th, 1914. To commemorate the event – and to highlight the local contribution to that tragic episode in our history - Bruce Jamieson will stage a multi-media presentation on Armistice Day: Tuesday, November 11th, at 7.00pm in the Linlithgow Academy Theatre.

Many will remember the last such presentation which commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Flodden. The World War One event, on the 11th day of the 11th month, will follow the same pattern with historic narration, projected images, recorded voices, dramatic sound and light effects and live music and song from ‘Cockleroy’.

The presentation will focus on the Scottish and the local contribution to the war and commemorate in particular the 158 young Linlithgow men who gave their lives in the conflict and who are commemorated on the war memorial in St. Michael’s Church that was unveiled on Sunday, July 24th, 1921. On that day, in front of a packed congregation, many of whom had lost family members in the conflict, Mrs Ella Coupar, wife of the minister of the church, pulled aside the Union Flag and revealed the white sandstone monument, designed specifically to be placed in the parish church by eminent Scottish architect, Peter Macgregor Chalmers.

The stories behind many of the names on that memorial will be recounted in the presentation. The author will also reveal how his research, locally and on several expeditions to the Western Front, has uncovered many stories of West Lothian participants and their part during the hostilities – both at home and overseas. Particularly moving is a recording of a local Great War veteran in the 1980s. There are no more: with the passing of Harry Patch in 2009, the last Tommy vanished.

The part played by local participants in the conflict’s unforgettable, set-piece battles will be featured, as well as the contribution made by those back in Linlithgow – particularly the munitions workers in the Nobel Factory at the Low Port. Most poignantly, the presentation will include the impact on the burgh of the hundreds of telegrams and letters received by the grieving womenfolk informing them of the loss of a loved one.

Linlithgow was changed forever between the years 1914 and 1918. The largely innocent townsfolk who welcomed King George V and Queen Mary to the burgh in July 1914 were never to be the same again.

Come along to Linlithgow Academy and find out how that transformation took place – and at what cost.

Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors:

Hunter’s Garage; Platform 3; Linlithgow and Bo’ness Rotary; Linlithgow Round Table and two local councillors, this dramatic and unique presentation will take place on November 11th. Doors open at 6.30pm. Free tickets for the event should be obtained from The Burgh Halls or “Far From The Madding Crowd.”

Donations are always welcome.

Bruce Jamieson

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Top: Souvenir postcard commemorating the visit to Linlithgow of King George V and Queen Mary on July 11th, 1914.

Lower: The Linlithgow War Memorial – photographed here just after its opening ceremony on July 24th, 1921.

GAME ON... LET'S PLAY CHESS!



Chess is an activity which is growing in popularity in Linlithgow's Primary Schools. Back in 2006, **Hector Woodhouse** started an after school chess club in Linlithgow Primary School. He was joined by **Ken Clarke**. Encouraged by the pupils' enthusiasm to learn to play chess, they have continued to run the club each year, holding various competitions to maintain interest and improve standards of play.

The pupils taking part are from P5 upwards. Each year the numbers have steadily increased with around 50 expected to attend in session 2014-15. This number includes some pupils from St Joseph's Primary.

One highlight in the calendar is the annual Staff versus Pupils match. So far the pupils have managed to win all of the matches - much to their delight!

In the last three years, lunchtime clubs have developed in the other Primary Schools - all run by volunteers - Richard Houston/Hector Woodhouse (Linlithgow Bridge), Ken Clarke/Hector Woodhouse (Springfield) and Richard Payne (Low Port). Again all are delighted at the obvious enjoyment the pupils get from playing chess and the growing interest in the game.

At Springfield Primary, 21 enthusiastic boys and girls from P6 and P7 attended the lunchtime chess club throughout the session. With minimum help they organised their own keenly contested league competitions. There was a significant improvement in their play, resulting in them finishing runners-up in the Inter Schools' Tournament.

At Linlithgow Bridge Primary the club started with P7's only. Extending it to P6 has proved to be a great success. The most encouraging aspect has been seeing pupils progress and become more confident in playing the game. What is also encouraging this year is that the majority of pupils interested in learning to play are girls. Perhaps this will result in more girls taking part in the Inter Schools' event next year as only one (from Linlithgow Bridge) participated in 2014.

Low Port went further than the other schools, by extending their welcome to all pupils interested in Chess, from P1 to P7. Over the course of the last year, over a third of all the children in the school have been involved. Some have been regular members, while others have been more involved on sunnier days, enticed by the large outdoor chess sets. Others have

been drawn by the prospect of the Staff v Pupils match, league and knockout competitions. It is good to see some of the older children take responsibility for helping the younger ones find their way around a chess board (literally at times when using a giant board with the children acting as the 32 pieces!). The younger ones are incredibly enthusiastic and show natural creativity and inventiveness in finding new ways to play their own kind of chess.

The climax of the 2013-14 session took place in March when the Inaugural Inter Schools' Tournament for Linlithgow Primary Schools was held!

The event was very successful with Low Port emerging as the winning team in a very close contest. The team was presented with a Shield and a medal for each member by **Provost Jack Adair**.

All participants received a commemorative certificate.

We hope to make this an annual event which everyone will look forward to.

Some of you reading this article may wonder how learning chess is useful for primary school children. It is enough to say that chess teaches players to think logically and to work out and face the consequences of what they do. In addition, it helps children to learn how to concentrate, to work things out, take calculated risks and so become confident in the decisions they make.

It is a great game to learn at any age but particularly so for Primary School children.

Here are some quotes from the children:

"The chess game is very good for your brain."
Oliver and Ryan P4

"The chess leaders are very helpful and informative."
Lewis E P7

"We enjoy chess. It is a quiet and relaxing game. It can get you away from the TV and it is good for your brain." Alasdair and Ted P4

"We have a chess league in school and anyone can enter - it's a great idea."
Frankie P7

"I like going to the playground to play garden chess. I like playing on the massive board."
Molly and Maisie P4

**So let's
play
chess...**

Car clubs in Linlithgow

the journey continues...



From June to September this year, Transition Linlithgow ran a promotional project of peer to peer car clubs in Linlithgow. With support from Carplus, the aim of the project was to help people understand the concept of a peer to peer car club (one that enables rental of private cars and vans) and encourage interested people to give it a go. The Black Bitch magazine ran an initial article on the project in June – how has the project progressed over the summer?

The promotion coordinator, Deborah Paton, says “We’ve been busy! Our car club blog posts on the Transition Linlithgow website have focused on different aspects and viewpoints – from a Car Owner’s perspective to a Driver’s. We’ve found the most popular posts have been those focusing on how it all works – the logistics of signing up online, indicating your car’s availability, making a booking and managing the rental itself. We also put it in context – how to live ‘car-lite’ in Linlithgow, and thoughts on the types of households who can benefit from car clubs locally. We’ve been out and about, talking to people at the Farmer’s Market in August and the Canal Fun Day, and communicating to local groups and interested individuals directly. The burden of car-ownership has frequently come up in conversation – some people really want to use their cars less and even get rid of a vehicle, but feel constrained by circumstance.”

At the time of writing, easyCar Club remains the only established peer to peer car club operator in the UK, although other start-ups are emerging. After operating as a London-only pilot for a year, easyCar Club launched UK wide in early 2014. How have people responded to the

scheme locally? Over the course of the summer, two Car Owners have signed up covering Linlithgow and surrounding areas. Three members have signed up as Drivers (renters) in the town. Transition Linlithgow has spoken to at least six other individuals who are considering signing up as Car Owners, and a local survey carried out in September suggested three-quarters of respondents were still considering signing up as members. (As context, nearby Edinburgh has nine Car Owners).

Where next for car clubs in Linlithgow? Alan Brown, Chair of Transition Linlithgow says “Our promotion of peer to peer car clubs has been really encouraging. Our September survey indicated support from respondents for a car club in Linlithgow, particularly for peer to peer car clubs – we held a public event on the topic in September, and some attendees felt these clubs were more “personal” and even “accountable”. There is definite interest out there, and we’re going to continue to look into different types of car clubs. We’ve also started a community conversation on the sharing economy in Linlithgow – renting out your car, your parking space, your spare room, even your dog! Linlithgow is bang ‘on-trend’ – our community is open to new ideas, and we’re excited to see how some of these ideas develop further with a local flavour.”

For more information on car clubs and to find out how to offer your time as a Transition Linlithgow volunteer, head to www.transitionlinlithgow.org.uk.

Alan Brown

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Planning is well underway for the annual Hopetoun Bonfire & Fireworks night, which is to take place this year on Saturday 1st November.

The theme this year is 'Spooktacular' and the award winning local company 21CC Group are now producing the event for Hopetoun, as well as designing and firing the pyro-musical show, which they have done for the past five years.

With Scotland's finest stately home providing the backdrop for this fabulous event, the evening will be hosted by Ewen Cameron from Heart Scotland and feature plenty of family entertainment including a stunning performance from the popular Rock Choir. With prizes for the best Halloween costumes and a variety of fairground rides, there's plenty to keep everyone entertained and plenty of hot food for sale to treat the family.

'This is such an exciting event for us to produce,' says Julie Ogilvie, Business Development Manager. *Hopetoun Bonfire & Fireworks night is a terrific evening out that appeals to everyone. Our creative team are having a lot of fun planning fabulous effects, all designed and choreographed to a brilliant soundtrack based around our theme.'*

With so many terrific events taking place in

Scotland this year, it has been a phenomenal year for the local firework, pyrotechnic and event company known collectively as 21CC Group Ltd.

You may have seen some of their work this year at events such as BBC Live at Edinburgh Castle, where they fired dramatic pyrotechnic effects from the Castle walls or the terrific finale fireworks at T in the Park. As suppliers to Glasgow Life, they also provided fireworks and pyrotechnics for the opening and closing concerts at Glasgow Green for the Commonwealth Games, as well as firing exciting effects for many of the Queen's Baton Relay Events throughout Scotland. The team also worked closely with the Army to create pyrotechnic special effects for the battle re-enactment at Armed Forces Day in Stirling, including noisy blasts and explosions, complete with smoke and fire!

Originally branded as 21CC Fireworks, the team who are located on the Hopetoun Estate, recognised the need to rebrand their company to incorporate all of their services (21CC Fireworks, 21CC Pyrotechnics and 21CC Events) which led to the launch of the new company, 21CC Group Ltd, earlier this year.

Now, gearing up for the 'busy' season, 21CC Group are preparing for a run of Guy Fawkes events all over the UK.

'We have a core team of 8 full time staff from the local area,' said Geoff Crow, Director. 'At this time of year we double our staff numbers and in addition to this we have a further 40 local crew who help deliver our events.'

Geoff added, *'After Guy Fawkes, we will go straight into delivering many Christmas Lights switch on events and then of course many Hogmanay celebrations. We are so busy all year round with a huge range of events including large & small weddings, festivals and sporting occasions. As well as our professional fireworks, we also operate a retail store from Hopetoun Sawmill, where you can buy fireworks and sparklers for your own celebrations and this is open to the public all year round. Fireworks are definitely not just for Guy Fawkes!'*

You can buy tickets online for the Hopetoun Bonfire & Fireworks event at www.hubtickets.co.uk or in person from Hopetoun Farm Shop and Edinburgh Fireworks Store.

For more information on Hopetoun Bonfire and Fireworks Night visit www.hopetoun.co.uk or contact 21CC on info@21ccgroup.com

For retail fireworks and directions to the Edinburgh Fireworks Store visit www.edinburghfireworksstore.com

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Amy McCallum's on a Mission...

My name is Amy McCallum and I am in sixth year at Linlithgow Academy studying for my advanced Highers with the hope of studying medicine at university. I have always wanted to work with people and try to make as much of a difference as I can, so when I heard about Project Trust I jumped at the opportunity to volunteer for a year away from home. Project Trust is an educational charity that sends school leavers, in their year out, to work in over twenty countries. Project Trust's aim is to provide every volunteer with an educational experience through living and working with people in communities, without taking work from local people.

At the end of May, I journeyed all the way to the Isle of Coll to go on a four day selection course with Project Trust.

It was exhausting but extremely rewarding and I was able to experience a range of different things such as living with a host family, teaching a lesson for the first time and completely immersing myself in island life. I am delighted to be able to tell you that I have been selected to volunteer in Guyana, South America for a year, teaching maths and science to secondary school pupils. Young people in Guyana receive a very basic level of education, however, a need for education in science and technology has been identified in order to modernise the workforce and aid Guyana out of poverty. There are no qualified teachers to fill this gap and I feel privileged to be able to give my time in order to increase the prospects for the young people to help Guyana develop whilst also developing skills which will help me as a doctor.

To fund this invaluable opportunity, I must raise £5900. I am hoping to do this through lots of different things with race nights, having stalls at local events and having bake sales to name a few. I have already managed to raise £2000 in the last two months which is incredible but now I need the community to come together and help me raise the remaining £3900. Any support would be very much appreciated, even in the form of advice. You can keep up with what I am doing both in terms of fundraising and my time in Guyana through liking my Facebook page - [facebook.com/AmyProjectTrust](https://www.facebook.com/AmyProjectTrust). I also hope to keep you informed of what I am doing through publishing future articles in the Black Bitch magazine and showing just how life changing this opportunity will be.

Amy McCallum



**As always - a big “thank you” to our team of volunteers... if you are not already a member why not come and join us?
email: on.a.lead@gmail.com**

David Tait, Editor



PHOTO COMPETITION: GUESS THE LOCATION!



Editor's Choice... David had "another wee break" in Scotland during the Summer... can you guess this new stunning location?

Email your entries to:
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the Editor, *The Black Bitch Magazine*

Closing date for entries:
11 November 2014.



The Black Bitch has joined forces with award winning malt whisky Jura. The holiday season is upon us and we're having a 'little fun in the sun'. So get your google maps out to find the secret location in the photograph above.



Congratulations again to previous winners *Slobodan Petrovic & Anne Matonti*. Many thanks to all who responded. *City location was BUDAPEST, Hungary.*

WIN A PRIZE

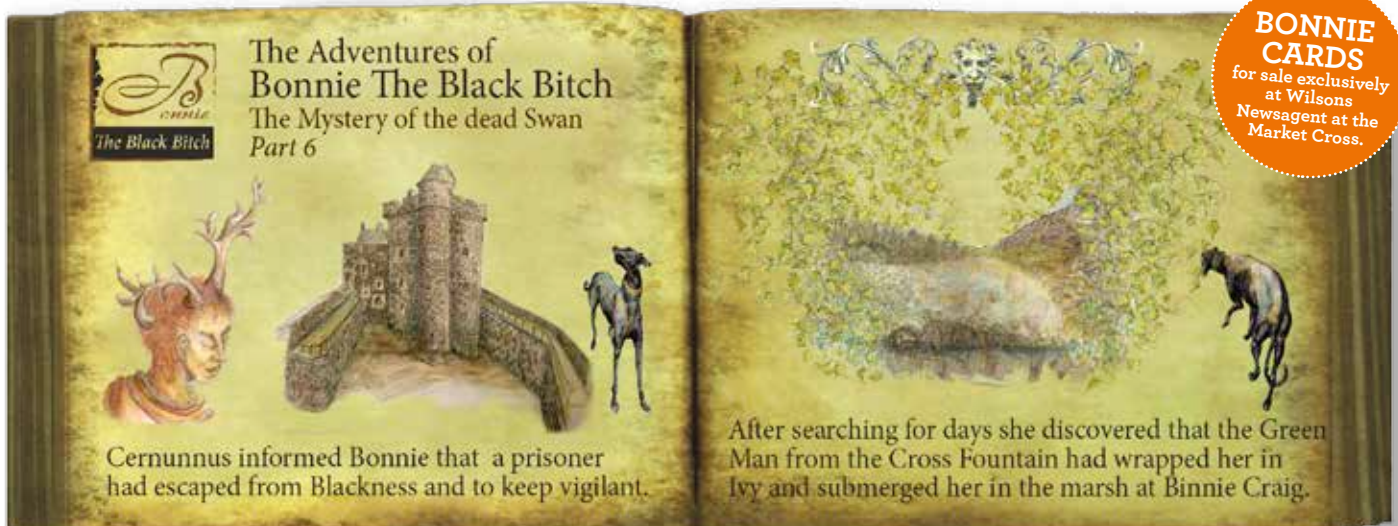
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ENTER NOW

Congratulations to September winner *Harris James* who was "first out of the hat" with *Knockan Crag, near Ullapool*

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Written and illustrated by Marjory Boyle Crooks© www.bonnietheblackbitch.co.uk e: bonnietheBB@gmail.com



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Events List

For more details and more events visit the
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9.15am, The Cross, Linlithgow

Wed 15 Moderate walk of 13.5km
9.30am, West Port, Linlithgow

Pub Quiz, 8.00pm
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Thur 16 Pub Quiz, 8.00pm
Platform 3

Fri 17 Star and Garter Live Music's
Fridays, Special Guests, 9.00pm,
Star & Garter Hotel

Plays and Wine, 7.30pm
Linlithgow Primary School

Sat 18 Hopetoun Fungi Walk
10.00am-12.00pm, Hopetoun House

Plays and Wine, 7.30pm
Linlithgow Primary School

Sun 19 Folk Session, 2.00pm
Black Bitch Tavern

Mon 20 'White Christmas'
7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre

Tue 21 'White Christmas'
7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre

Wed 22 Hopetoun Autumn Walk
10.30am-12pm, Hopetoun House

Leisurely walk of 9km (5.5 miles)
10.00am, West Port, Linlithgow

'White Christmas', 7.30pm
Linlithgow Academy Theatre

Pub Quiz, 8.00pm
Star and Garter Hotel

Thur 23 'White Christmas'
7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre

Fri 24 Star and Garter Live
Music's Fridays, 10.00pm
Star and Garter Hotel

'White Christmas', 7.30pm
Linlithgow Academy Theatre

Sat 25 Farmers Market, 10.00am -
2:00pm, The Cross

Linlithgow v Dunbar, 3.00pm KO
Linlithgow Rugby Club

'White Christmas', 7.30pm
Linlithgow Academy Theatre

Fires of Love, 7.30pm
Linlithgow Primary School

Sun 26 Moderate walk of 11km
8.30am, The Cross, Linlithgow

Mon 27 Linlithgow Film Society
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS, 7.30pm
Linlithgow Academy

Tue 28 Community Council meeting
7.30pm, Burgh Halls

Wed 29 Pub Quiz, 8.00pm
Star and Garter Hotel

Fri 31 Star and Garter Live
Music's Fridays, DJ, Halloween,
Star and Garter Hotel

NOVEMBER

Sat 1 Bonfire & Fireworks Night
4.00pm doors open, 6.00pm last entry
Hopetoun House

Town Fireworks Display, 7.00pm to
8.30pm, Linlithgow Rugby Club

Thur 6 Folk Session, 8.30pm
West Port Hotel, Linlithgow

Mon 10 Linlithgow Film Society
BLUE JASMINE, 7.30pm
Linlithgow Academy

Tue 11 The Great War - Local Legacy
7:00pm, Linlithgow Academy

Fri 14 FRIED GREEN TOMATOES
AT THE WHISTLESTOP CAFE,
7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy

Star and Garter Live
Music's Fridays, CrossCut Saw,
9.30pm, Star and Garter Hotel

Sat 15 Scotch Hop - Linlithgow
Grange Rotary, 7.30pm,
Linlithgow Academy

Sun 16 Folk Session, 2.00pm
Black Bitch Tavern

Thur 20 Pub Quiz, 10.00pm
Platform 3

Sat 22 Pistons and Pipes
7.30pm, St. Michael's Parish Church

Mon 24 Linlithgow Film Society
PHILOMENA, 7.30pm,
Linlithgow Academy

Tue 25 Community Council meeting
7.30pm, Burgh Halls

Fri 28 Hopetoun Christmas
Shopping Fair, 10.00am-4.00pm
Hopetoun House

Sat 29 Hopetoun Christmas
Shopping Fair, 10.00am-4.00pm
Hopetoun House

Linlithgow v Hawick Linden
2.00pm KO, Linlithgow Rugby Club

WALKING CALENDAR

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



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LINLITHGOW

BOOK

FESTIVAL

Oct 31 - Nov 2 2014

Fri Oct 31st

7.30pm Masonic Hall SARA SHERIDAN introduces her new novel *England Expects* - £10.00

Set during the summer heatwave of 1953, *England Expects* finds Mirabelle and Vesta investigating the seemingly unrelated murders of a racing journalist and a cleaning woman. Their searches lead them through Brighton Pavilion's crumbling passageways to the quad of a Cambridge college and finally into the shady underworld of Brighton freemasonry - a hive of secrecy the women find themselves compelled to uncover.

Sponsored by Far from the Madding Crowd.

Linlithgow is readily accessible by both car and train, and The Masonic Hall is just beside Linlithgow Burgh Halls at the Cross. Paid for parking is available at The Vennel.

Sun Nov 1st

10.30am Linlithgow Canal Centre POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP led by ANDREW PHILIP £12.00

"Inspiring" "made me want to get me head in gear and write"
Come and be encouraged by Linlithgow's own poet and tutor to develop your own writing.

12.30pm Masonic Hall UNA MCCORMACK £8.00

With a focus on the Doctor the author of both *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* novels and *Dr Who* stories will discuss her writing practice. This will be a session to cherish!

1.30pm Masonic Hall KEN MACLEOD *Descent* (2014) £8.00

"My genre model for *Descent* was bloke-lit - that's basically first-person, self-serving, rueful confessional by a youngish man looking back on youthful stupidities... *Descent* is about flying saucers, hidden races, and Antonio Gramsci's concept of passive revolution, all set in a tale of Scottish middle class family life in and after the Great Depression of the 21st Century. Almost mainstream fiction, really."

Sponsored by JMK Printers & Stationers

2.30pm Masonic Hall KIRSTY WARK £10.00

One of the UK's most respected and well-known journalists and broadcasters moves into fiction. The Legacy of *Elizabeth Pringle* is a multi-generational story of love and belonging set on the Scottish island of Arran.

3.45pm Masonic Hall DOUG JOHNSTONE £10.00

The Dead Beat - the first day of your new job, what could possibly go wrong? A finely tuned tale of family, secrets and past wrongs.
and HELEN FITZGERALD *The Cry* - Baby Noah is missing. Someone is hiding the truth. But can the truth make things right?

7.30pm Masonic Hall RUTH NICOL £8.00

Three Rivers Meet - Taking Alexander Moffat's 1980's painting *The Poet's Pub* as key, painter Ruth Nicol explores the landscapes significant to each of the poets. The poems and writing central to this process will be explored.

9.00pm Masonic Hall OPEN MIC with music from Holm Free

Sun Nov 2nd

2.00pm Masonic Hall ANDREW CRUMMY AND THE GREAT TAPESTRY OF SCOTLAND £10.00

The designer and co-instigator of this magnificent labour of love will discuss its complexity and creation. With tea and cakes.

www.linlithgowbookfestival.org



Tickets are available in person from Far from the Madding Crowd and The Line Gallery, both on Linlithgow High Street. Alternatively order via www.linlithgowbookfestival.org or by letter to LBF, 238 The High Street, Linlithgow EH49 7ES and tickets will be forwarded. Please add £1 for p & p per order. Online booking available.



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Robert Callander
optician



The Line Gallery

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Open Mic Linlithgow Book Festival's open mic has established itself as a place for new and aspiring writers to be seen and heard. Come to road test your new poems/short stories. Come just to drink in the atmosphere and enjoy the writing. E-mail admin@linlithgowbookfestival.org to request a reading slot. Music from Holm. FREE