

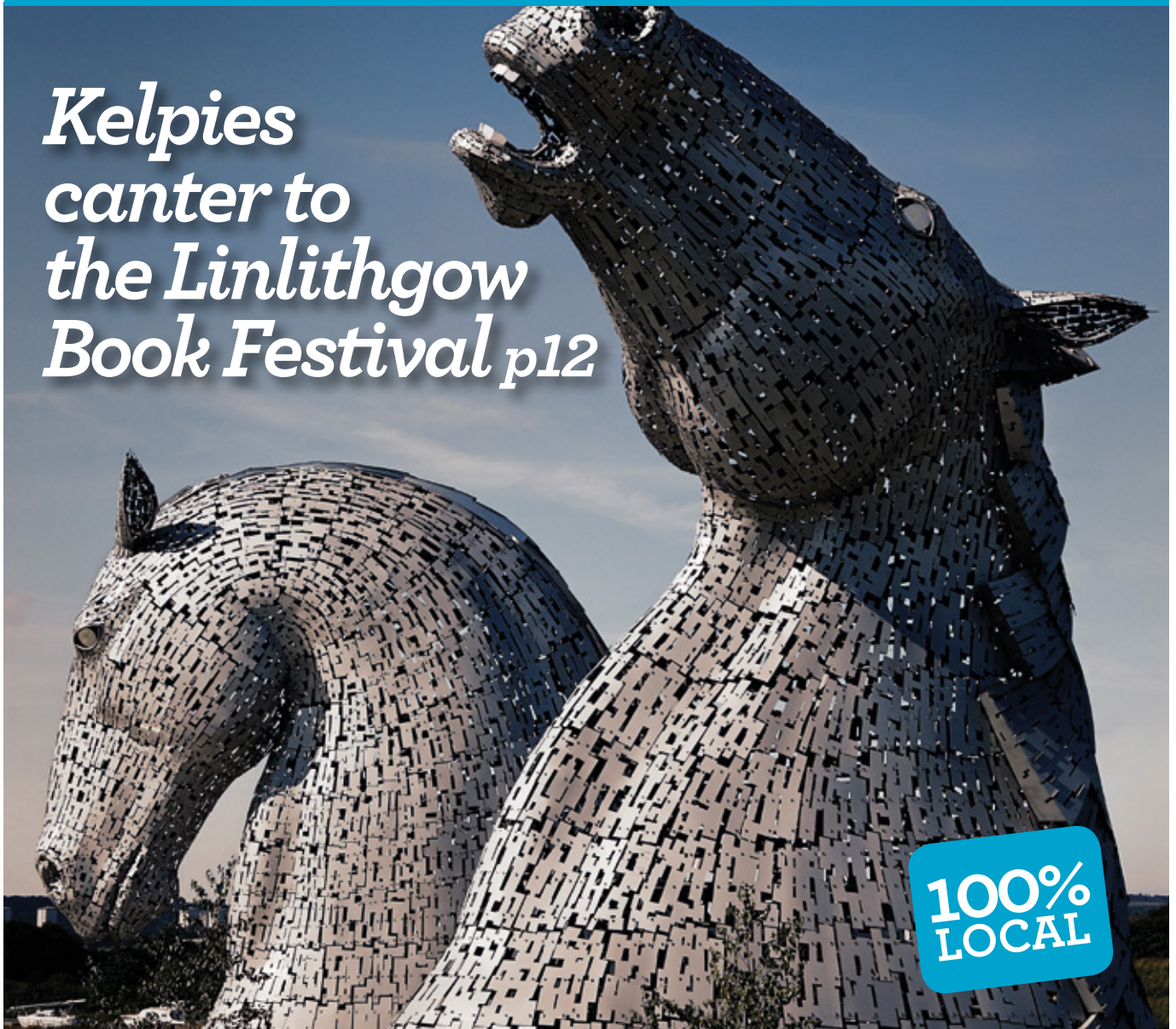


60p **ISSUE 37** OCT 2015

# *the* **BLACK** *bitch*

Linlithgow's news by Linlithgow people

*Kelpies  
canter to  
the Linlithgow  
Book Festival p12*



**100%  
LOCAL**



**Bell ringer Stephanie,  
shows us the ropes p4**



**Girl Guides go  
looking for leaders p7**



**Linlithgow Book  
Festival p12**

**Plus**

New Hopetoun Gardens, LAMP, Arts Guild, Local Business Profiles, Cricket, Linlithgow Players, Burgh Beautiful, Linlithgow Book Festival... and lots more!



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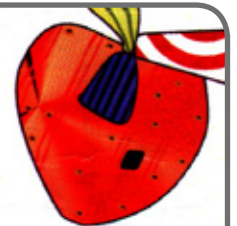
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Guess who's in the Rainbows....

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

*Future Linlithgow  
-Planning Forum*

*Linlithgow Arts Guild  
- Class Acts*

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*Burgh Beautiful -  
green finger appeal!*

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*Next copy  
deadline  
3 Nov 2015.*

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The Linlithgow Community Magazine (aka The Black Bitch) is  
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# Folk Fae Lithgae

STEPHANIE  
THOMSON

**F**or the past six months, twenty seven-year-old Stephanie Thomson, has been deputising for her uncle, David Brown, as the chief bell ringer at St Michael's Parish Church.

Stephanie grew up in Linlithgow with her mum and dad, Margaret and Gary Johnston and sister Ashley, and attended the local schools. The St Michael's bells have always been a part of her life – they were rung on her wedding day just a few weeks ago on 1 August – and her family has had a long involvement with them. Her Granny, Isobel Brown, was the sister-in-law of Freddie Smith, who rang the bells for fifty five years and retired in January 2010. Freddie made it a real family affair, drafting in assistance from his relatives, as Stephanie explained:

*“Uncle Freddie trained up everybody in the family and they could all ring the bells. My uncle David became his main assistant, and when he took over from Freddie five years ago I started helping him.”*

There are three very old bells at St Michael's – Alma Maria, St Michael and Meg Duncan – and they hang in the tower underneath the iconic crown spire. Meg Duncan is the smallest and was recast in 1718, while St Michael replaced an earlier bell of the same name and was recast in 1773.

The largest and oldest bell bears the Latin inscription: “The town of Linlithgow made me – I am called Alma Maria – in the time of the illustrious Lord James the Fourth in the year 1490.” It is one of the oldest bells still in use in Scotland and was in Linlithgow more than fifty years before the birth of Mary, Queen of Scots. In all probability, it was rung to celebrate her christening in St Michael's in December 1542.

The great historical significance of the bells is not lost on Stephanie. She told me: *“If I am on my own, perhaps ringing for a wedding, I find myself thinking about all the people who have rung the bells over hundreds of years, and all the occasions the bells have been rung, for example when Kings and Queens died.”*

The bells can be heard on Sunday mornings from 10.45 until 10.55. They sound out at weddings and on Remembrance Sunday, when Alma Maria is tolled, which means the clapper is controlled by hand and not by the rope. The bells also herald the arrival of Christmas Day at the Watch Night service on 24 December.

*“Uncle Freddie told me that they used to be rung more often at one time”, Stephanie explained, “not only when the congregation was going in, but also when the church was going out, on Sunday mornings. It was the call for the horses and carriages to be brought from the Star and Garter to pick up the parishioners. On Communion Sunday, they would be rung three times a day, and there have always been special occasions when they are rung, such as at the start of the London Olympics in 2012.”*

Stephanie is now settling into married life with her husband, Scott, following a recent trip to Mexico, which she described as “a fantastic two weeks.” She works in human resources at the Church of Scotland headquarters in Edinburgh, and is kept very busy in her role as a Brownie Guider at the Longcroft Hall. Stephanie has always been part of St Michael's Church and is very proud to be carrying on her family's great bell ringing tradition – complete with her very own customised sparkly ear protectors!

**Murdoch Kennedy**



# LINLITHGOW A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE...

**I**magine finding in our local bookshop a box entitled 'Linlithgow A Plan for the Future'. On opening the box you find a game about Linlithgow. Inside are cards that say:

> *Algae bloom in the Loch, all fish die, lose 100 points.*

> *High levels of pollutants in the High Street, lose 50 points.*

> *Storm conditions flood the loch with sewage, lose 75 points.*

> *Supermarket approval means loss of four High Street shops, lose 130 points.*

*Also on the board are cards which say:*

> *Housing those in need, gain 100 points.*

> *Reclaiming High Street, gain 120 points.*

> *Providing better recreational facilities, gain 50 points.*

> *Linlithgow has achieved 100 per cent fuel self-sufficiency, gain 150 points.*

> *The re-roofed Linlithgow Palace has been voted the top attraction in Scotland, gain 250 points.*

You have not probably heard of the Linlithgow Planning Forum (LPF), but this group is made up of the Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council, Linlithgow Civic Trust (including Burgh Beautiful), Linlithgow Business Association, Linlithgow Cycle Action Group and Linlithgow Victoria Hall Trust.

It has been engaged in a joint endeavour to come up with a plan for the future of our town. The result of the work has been to produce a 'Linlithgow A Plan for the Future' –

an alternative to the Council's West Lothian Development Plan.



The document is available online here: <http://tinyurl.com/nrnmhj6>

The first section of the report discusses the main problems and threats which face Linlithgow, set against the strengths and opportunities that the LPF believes exist.

The second part deals with the actions recommended for the future, while suggesting ways in which the town could grow and thrive in a vibrant and sustainable way, making it one of the most attractive places to live and work in Scotland.

The plan highlights the serious housing shortage for the less well off and the failure to protect, develop and capitalise on the town's historic settings and buildings. New development can assist in providing much-needed infrastructure through the planning gain legislation, rather than, conversely, using the relatively poor infrastructure as a block to new building projects. Other issues requiring urgent resolution include roads, parking, transport services, education facilities, improvements to the townscape, and the provision of community and cultural facilities.

The lack of services for the young and elderly is highlighted, as is the potential to actively promote tourism in Linlithgow – the town doesn't even have a good tourist information centre.

The importance of shopping facilities, especially the small independent stores, is recognised, as well as the need to expand general business opportunities in order to increase the economic wealth of the town. The plan considers that all development should be placed in the context of environmental sustainability, and problems such

LINLITHGOW  
A Plan for the Future  
2015-30

Linlithgow Planning Forum  
September 2015

as existing poor water and air quality, and the overuse of cars and non-renewable sources of energy. These have to be tackled, in a collaborative way, involving all interested bodies (statutory and non-statutory) and the community.

This second part of the plan concentrates on concrete and pragmatic proposals for action. The plan concludes with a section on the financing of the recommendations and how the implementation of the plan is to be scrutinised and monitored.

LPF invites you to see an exhibition of its Plan in **The Lounge, Low Port Centre** Tuesday **17 November** from 10.00am till 8.00pm.

Tue  
17  
NOV

Members of the LPF will be on hand throughout the day to answer questions and you will be able to leave written comments on the proposals.

**I urge you to come along.**

**Chris Long**  
Chair Linlithgow Civic Trust  
Member Linlithgow Planning Forum

# LINLITHGOW ARTS GUILD 2015/16 CONCERTS: NEARLY 50 YEARS OF BRINGING CLASSICAL MUSICAL TALENT TO THE TOWN

BY DAVID LUNT



The Scottish Ensemble who will play the Julia Wade Legacy Concert on Saturday 5 March 2016. 18 year-old BBC Young Musician, Laura van Heijden, with pianist Tom Poster (also a former BBC Young Musician competition winner) who will accompany her,

**“Bringing top international artists to Linlithgow, to perform at events which are open to all of the community” – this could be the aim of ‘Party at the Palace’, but it is a good description of the activities of the Linlithgow Arts Guild. After 45 years of running around eight musical events every year, the Guild has become one of the largest and most successful of Scotland’s 70 music clubs.**

## A bit of history...

In the autumn of 1968 Linlithgow Town Council, against the background of an art exhibition put on by Richard Demarco, was enlightened enough to organise a fortnight of culture in the town. Mrs Julia Wade, then a member of the Council, was designated to bring this about.

Distinguished exponents of the arts were invited to give talks and lead discussions and seminars. Robert Ponsonby, the then director of the Edinburgh International Festival, was the music expert. At one of their many chats Robert Ponsonby asked Mrs Wade: “Why don’t you start an Arts Guild in Linlithgow? You could invite the Scottish National Orchestra to give a concert here.” Seeing her surprise, he went on: “You could have half of it here and the other half could go to some place like Dornoch.” And that is exactly what happened.

A committee of around 10 volunteers now organises and runs the annual programme, mainly of classical music, attracting audiences from a wide area across central

Scotland. Their work runs throughout the year, with major events being booked up to three years ahead, and top professional performers being sought and invited from the UK and Europe. Our annual budget is currently around £25,000, with the programme funded from grants and ticket sales.

## 2015-2016 – The 46th Season...

The coming season is particularly attractive. Julia Wade left a legacy to the Guild to organise a concert which we could not normally afford, and we are delighted to welcome the Scottish Ensemble to perform music which would have been to Julia’s taste. This will include ‘Eine Kleine Nachtmusik’, a double violin concerto by Vivaldi and Tchaikovsky’s ‘Serenade for Strings’, and will be held on Saturday 5 March 2016 in St Michael’s Parish Church.

**We are always keen to attract young people, and are delighted to welcome the winner of the BBC Young Musician competition in 2012, cellist Laura van Heijden. She gave an amazing performance in the competition at the age of 15, and she will play in Linlithgow Academy on Saturday 10 October.** This concert should be inspirational for any young person in Linlithgow learning an instrument, and we hope that parents will make the most of this opportunity. **Tickets for school pupils are free of charge.**

Scottish Opera will give a fully staged performance of Mozart’s ‘Cosi fan Tutte’ (with piano accompaniment) in Linlithgow Academy on Saturday 7 November. If you’ve never been to an opera before, then this is your chance. But do book tickets in advance, as we expect a full house.

Linlithgow, of course, has its own international music stars, and none more so than pianist Steven Osborne. Steven, who still lives in the town, will be playing music by Debussy, Schumann, Crumb and Rachmaninov in Linlithgow Academy on Saturday 30 January. We’ll be hiring a full concert grand piano for the event, and this is an opportunity for everyone to come along and hear Steven, whose performances are sought after worldwide.

There is lots more of course, all listed at [www.LinlithgowArtsGuild.co.uk](http://www.LinlithgowArtsGuild.co.uk) and events are also highlighted on Linlithgow Arts Guild’s Facebook page. Tickets for all events are available from the Burgh Halls and some other outlets in the Town and in Bo’ness. For anyone coming to four or more concerts the ‘membership’ season ticket is a great bargain.

Around two thirds of the audience currently comes from Linlithgow and the immediate surrounding area, with the other third travelling up to 50 miles for the events. Audience numbers average around 200, with major events attracting full houses of up to 370.

The Arts Guild is very grateful to its series sponsors, Creative Scotland through Enterprise Music Scotland, West Lothian Council and the A9 Partnership, plus event sponsors Peterkin and Kidd, JMK Printing and Design, and Peebles Financial.

Sat 10 OCT	Sat 7 NOV	Sat 30 JAN 2016	Sat 5 MAR 2016
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# GUIDE LEADERS NEEDED. URGENTLY!...

The Linlithgow Girlguiding team are launching an urgent appeal to recruit new volunteers to help run their groups.

**D**o you remember being a Rainbow, Brownie, a Guide, or a Ranger? Do you remember your uniform, the badges, the campfire songs and the fun and excitement of the weekly meetings? And most importantly – do you have a few hours a week to spare?

The Girlguiding organisation gives girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a real difference to their own lives and to their communities. With the support of leaders and helpers, Girlguiding builds girls' confidence, raises their aspirations, and gives them the chance to reach their full potential.

All those leaders – the backbone of the Guide movement – are volunteers. They give their time so that local girls can have the opportunity to have fun, learn and flourish. That commitment of time and enthusiasm is what keeps the Guides going. It doesn't have to be a huge amount of time – but we do need loads of enthusiasm!

Linlithgow Girlguiding is a vibrant and dynamic group, and a well-established and much valued part of the town community. We meet in various halls in Linlithgow, including the Guide Hall in Dog Well Wynd, and have lots of units for girls of different ages.

But we are desperately short of leaders, and without more volunteers the Linlithgow Girlguides will struggle to survive – which would be a tragedy for the town's youngsters. We have already had to close one

Rainbow unit, which has meant 50 young girls losing out on the chance to enjoy the Guide movement. We have lots and lots of girls of all ages, on our waiting list, but we just can't offer more places without more volunteer leaders and helpers.

It is not just the girls who benefit from our active Girlguiding community – our volunteers do too. Whether you want to put your talents to good use, learn new things, meet new people, support your local community, or just like spending time with lively young people – volunteering with the Guides offers all of this.

**Do you fancy joining us? There are no formal qualifications, other than having a few hours a week to spare (in term time only) and enjoying working with young people. It's great fun – we are a varied and friendly bunch and it's a great opportunity to relive the things you did and enjoyed as a Guide. And, most importantly, you get to see the youngsters enjoy themselves, grow in confidence and develop new skills and abilities.**

**From camps to international travel and outdoor activities, you'll enjoy different activities, have great fun and try something new at the same time – what could be better?**

**Interested? Please contact Valerie Aitken on 01506 844672 ([jalaw48@hotmail.com](mailto:jalaw48@hotmail.com)) or Issy Cochran on 01506 823120 ([Issy.cochran@virginmedia.com](mailto:Issy.cochran@virginmedia.com)).**

**Valerie Aitken, Issy Cochran**



# BURGH BEAUTIFUL'S CHALLENGE TO LINLITHGOW: NOW YOU SEE THEM – NEXT YEAR YOU WON'T!



**I**n the last issue of the magazine we wrote about the great flower displays around town this summer.

Sadly, as part of recent budget cuts, West Lothian Council has decided to stop all annual planting. That means we may no longer see beds in Linlithgow like the serpentine bed opposite St Peter's, the Learmonth Gardens beds, the 'Four in One' bed at the West Port, or many of the colourful planters in the town centre.

Look out for the BYE BYE signs in the flower beds and tubs which are due to disappear!

Burgh Beautiful (BB), Linlithgow's environment group, is hugely disappointed at the impact that this council decision will have on Linlithgow, its residents, visitors and businesses. BB has worked closely over the years with the council to create a colourful and welcoming environment in the town, itself planting 8,652 bedding plants in 120 hanging baskets, 48 barrels and tubs and a range of beds throughout the town, but now it faces a massive challenge if the community wants any of the council's floral displays to continue - with more money needed by BB for plants and more volunteers needed to plant and care for them.

BB does its own fundraising (can collections, 'Inviting Gardens', plant sales, the advent fayre) and receives sponsorship from individuals, businesses and organisations. The watering of the hanging baskets is paid for by a grant from Linlithgow Town Centre Business Improvement District.

All BB's planting is done by volunteers. Planting each planter or tub takes no more than two hours for one person, once in the spring and once in the autumn. The bigger beds obviously take longer and a team or group may be a better solution depending on the size. Tubs do need watering and volunteers find ways to carry something like four or five gallons of water each week. If we have really hot and dry weather then that increases!

There are already groups in Linlithgow that contribute to the flower displays in association with BB (including St Peter's Church, LUCS, Transition Linlithgow, Linlithgow Grange Rotary and the Community Council). Plus the community gardeners round the Water Yett and St Ninian's Way. There are a lot of people who already make a big contribution. Can we add to this to take on some of the council's beds?

**If you want Linlithgow to continue looking as good as it did this summer please consider helping BB. You could help in many ways:**

**> Volunteer with us:** You don't need green fingers, just some time to plant up in the spring and the autumn, and then some time in the summer months to water, weed and remove dead heads. You could join up with a friend to work together, or if you are a member of an organisation, then a few of you could sign up as a group to help out.

**> Become a member at:**  
[www.lct.org.uk/membership\\_form.php](http://www.lct.org.uk/membership_form.php)

**> Sponsor us:** To sponsor hanging baskets or tubs, or simply make a donation, print off the sponsorship form at [http://www.lct.org.uk/burgh-beautiful/docs\\_pix/BB\\_Sponsorship\\_](http://www.lct.org.uk/burgh-beautiful/docs_pix/BB_Sponsorship_)

[form.doc](mailto:burgh-beautiful@lct.org.uk) or email [burgh-beautiful@lct.org.uk](mailto:burgh-beautiful@lct.org.uk) to request a form. Then send with your payment to BB's sponsorship coordinator: Ron Smith, 4 Rivaldsgreen Crescent, Linlithgow, EH49 6BB. Sponsorship can be made by an individual, an organisation or a business. Each sponsorship is acknowledged with a plaque.



**It won't happen without your help. If you need more information email us at [burgh-beautiful@lct.org.uk](mailto:burgh-beautiful@lct.org.uk) or telephone 01506 842676 (in October only – in November or December call 01506 842582).**

And please support BB at Linlithgow's advent fair stall on 28th November.

Chris Long

Sat  
28  
NOV



# LAMP - Celebrating 30 Years with a Showstopper of A Show!



As well as putting on top quality shows, amazing friendships have been formed, great laughs have been had and wonderful memories have been made. We hope that another amazing 30 years, and more, is in store for the company.

A really special show was required to mark this big anniversary and the company have chosen to put on **'The Drowsy Chaperone'**. It's a relatively new show which started life as a short gift show to be performed at the joint stag and hen party of a couple of prominent Canadian actors. It went down so well that it was developed into a full musical and had its Broadway debut in 2006 and its West End debut in 2007. Musical theatre big hitters Elaine Paige and Sutton Foster have starred in the show and it has won two Tony awards.

**G**et the flags out! Bake a huge cake and hold a massive party! LAMP (Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions) is celebrating its 30th year. Started by some local 'am dram' stalwarts, LAMP attracted experienced amateur stage folks and fresh local talent to put on its first show, 'Oklahoma', in 1985. Since then the company has gone from strength to strength, and adding the children's theatre group in 1995. Significant milestones have included: the Scottish amateur premieres of 'Billy Elliot: The Musical' and 'White Christmas'; local premieres of 'Crazy for You', 'Beauty and the Beast' and 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'; and a National Operatic and Dramatic Association award for recognition of community involvement.

So why should audiences take the time to go along and support the show this year? Well, your reporter visited a recent rehearsal and is delighted to report that the show is hilarious and thoroughly entertaining. The curtain rises on the apartment of a musical theatre fanatic who tells the audience that his favourite Broadway show is 'The Drowsy Chaperone' and asks them he can play them the record of the show? As the music begins, the cast of the show begin to appear and the show plays out, right in his apartment.

Set in the 1920s, and styled as a parody of musical comedies, the show within the show centres around the wedding of Broadway star Janet Van De Graaff and oil tycoon Robert Martin. However, all is not necessarily going to go according to plan and what follows includes mistaken identities, comedy gangsters, dream sequences and a number performed by cast members on roller skates - surely worth the ticket money alone?

Committee member Roddy Bain told me *"It sets out to entertain from the word go. It is sheer fun and takes you to another world for a couple of hours. I got to see the show earlier this year and it more than lived up to my expectations. I haven't laughed so much in years. The buzz afterwards, and the smiles on people's faces was infectious. I knew then it was a show that LAMP just had to do. It may not be a show that many people have heard of yet, but it's destined to become a firm favourite with all who go and see it. It is well written, witty and full of energy."*

Well I'm sold - how about you?

LAMP hopes that they will see the community out in force to help them celebrate this milestone year. The show is on from Monday 19 to Saturday 25 October in Linlithgow Academy Theatre, with curtain up at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available now from [www.linlithgow-musicals.co.uk](http://www.linlithgow-musicals.co.uk) or by calling the box office on 07949475932.

LAMP has also arranged a fantastic tie-in with the West Port Hotel, where audience members get 25 per cent off their food bill if they dine with them on the pre theatre menu before coming along to the show.

Gregor Preston



Want to comment? Get in touch at: [on.a.lead@gmail.com](mailto:on.a.lead@gmail.com)

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# MYTH: MEN ENJOY CUTTING THE GRASS!

New Hopetoun Gardens

**S**orry to disillusion you ladies, but cutting the grass is a chore just like any sort of housework – and almost as soon as you have finished it needs doing again. The only saving grace is if you tell us how good it looks and “well done”! What you need to understand is that men like a job that has a definite beginning and an end, without too much work in between, doesn't need to be repeated more than once a year, and earns them a reward of appreciation from everyone else.

Topiary appears to be the perfect job for men: once or twice a year you need to trim your topiary, the job doesn't go on and on, you can explore your creative side, everyone congratulates you on your finished piece. And, with a little bit of luck, the small amount of clippings generated may have been tidied up for you...

Do you remember the scene in Casino Royale where James bond is recuperating in a garden? This garden is on an island in Lake Como with the most amazing topiary trees. You may become addicted to this hobby and the prospect of looking after these Italian specimens, or the characters we spotted in Madeira, would be enough to terrify the majority of the male race. The effect is quite spectacular but would suit more of a 'pointing' gardener – point out to your staff which piece you would like them to trim today!



If you choose to grow it in a large frostproof pot, use a John Innes compost and you will need to water all year round. Being evergreen it will still be using water in the winter, and most of the falling rain will miss the pot, so it will rely on you. Feed it in the spring with a controlled release fertiliser. In the winter you should think about insulating the pot because the roots, being in the air, will get much colder than those in the ground - and it is more likely to die from killed roots than chilled leaves. Mind you, wrapping it up with some protective plant fleece or moving it to a more sheltered corner for January and February would be a kindness.

You can create a great effect by cleaning up the stem of a large conifer and keeping the top clipped over every other year or so. It allows you to see through the tree and stops them getting any bigger while keeping a very decorative bit of 'furniture' in your garden for all year round interest.

One of the best things about this time of the year is that it allows you to catch up with nature. Plants, especially the grass, stop growing - so once you've done the job you won't need to return to it until next year, and everyone can admire your efforts for the next six months. But don't forget to water any evergreen plants growing in pots!

Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson



The most popular plants to be turned into topiary are Yew, Box and Bay trees, all evergreen with smallish leaves, so you can create a dense firm piece of topiary that looks

grand all year round. Spheres, balls and lollipops are the most common shapes, but you can be as creative as you like - Monty Don is crafting a topiary of his dog Nigel! They are easiest to look after if planted in the ground where they can go and find their own water. The saying goes that you shouldn't clip your Bay trees until after Derby Day (early June time), once all danger of frost has passed. But if you do it then you will need to return with your shears at the end of August when it has finished its annual growth, and will then

look great until the following spring. Of course, if you do clip it twice a year you may get praised twice... or nagged to get on and tidy it up both times?



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# Linlithgow Floral Art Club

## Fun, Friendship and Flowers!

**D**o you enjoy flowers? Would you like to learn more about flower arranging? Or would you just like to have a night out with friends watching others demonstrate their skills in producing beautiful floral arrangements?

**Whichever category you fall into, Linlithgow Floral Art Club is just for you.**

*One of the oldest clubs in the town, Linlithgow Floral Art Club will be celebrating its Emerald Anniversary - 55 years of flower arranging in Linlithgow - in 2016.* The club currently has around 75 very active and friendly members, who meet on the third Wednesday of the month between September and May, usually at Linlithgow Rose Social Club. The exceptions are December, when a special charity Christmas show is staged in Linlithgow Academy theatre, and the AGM in May which is held in the Queen Margaret Hall.

*The question is often asked - what do you do at your meetings? Do I have to participate in the flower arranging?*

The answer is no, you don't have to participate. Merely come along, with a friend if you wish, sit and enjoy an hour or so of demonstration by a qualified floral artist, enjoy refreshments afterwards and have the opportunity to win one of the floral displays in our raffle. You will also be able to purchase floral art equipment from our sales table, hear about events in other clubs and sign up for a practical class if you wish. (No pressure!) During the year there are competitions for those who wish to be more actively involved.

*Linlithgow Floral Art Club is affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) and the Scottish Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (SAFAS).*

Their respective magazines, the Flower Arranger and the Floral Roundabout, are available to purchase through the club. The club is funded through member subscriptions, (£22 for annual membership, £5 for visitors), plus a grant from West Lothian Council. The cost of the flowers for the demonstrator is usually covered by income raised from our popular raffle - home baking after each meeting is donated by a rota of willing club members.

*All our demonstrators are either national, area or trainee registered and have to pass a test by accredited adjudicators before qualifying under NAFAS rules. You will find they not only talk us through the flowers they are arranging, but their personal anecdotes along the way keep their audience greatly entertained.*

*The club tries to contribute to the wider community. With this in mind, a rota of 12 members arrange flowers on a weekly basis at St Michael's Hospital. Last year some of our more experienced members participated in the special flower festival held in Glasgow Cathedral to celebrate the Commonwealth Games, and more recently in the flower festival in St Michael's Church. Some readers may also have benefited from our 'lonely bouquet day' when members left flowers to be picked up in various prominent parts of the town.*



*For a number of years now, a special charity Christmas show has been held in Linlithgow Academy, with the proceeds being split between local and Scottish charities. This year's event will be held on Wednesday 9th December when Kate Kerr from Dumfries, will demonstrate the topic 'With Christmas in Mind'. This is always a very popular event in the town in the lead up to Christmas. Tickets, available from club members or at the door on the night, include a glass of wine or soft drink. Tickets are £7 for members, £12 for visitors. There is always great excitement to see who will win the numerous beautiful Christmas arrangements which are always produced.*

*Watch out for our posters distributed throughout the town, and come along and give us a try - you will be made very welcome. For further information contact Joan Gillespie (671146) or Eleanor Rennie (844419).*

Wed  
9  
DEC

www.linlithgowcommunitymagazine.co.uk





10th

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY CAST OF STARS!

**A**niversaries are opportunities to celebrate the past and welcome the new. That is precisely what Linlithgow Book Festival is doing for its tenth festival which features one of its strongest ever lineups.

What began as a conversation between its founders, *Gail Boardman and Roy Dalgleish*, has grown from a one day event in 2006 to a full weekend's celebration of books and the written word. It is one of the finest and friendliest small book festivals in Scotland and has featured most of Scotland's best established writers including the nations Maker, *Liz Lochhead*, Booker Prize winner *James Kelman*, novelists *James Robertson* and *Al Kennedy*, historians *Trevor Royle* and *Michael Fry*, politicians *Tam Dalyell* and *Alistair Darling*, and poets like Linlithgow's own *Andy Philip*.

Special mention should be made of the late and much missed *Iain Banks* who took a chance on the very first festival

and returned for two further visits. Iain was a great friend of the festival. His early support helped ensure that we could grow and develop after its first year. Both the organisers and the town owe him a great debt.

The 2015 festival celebrates the richness of past festivals and welcomes new visitors to its stage.

The unique *Chris Brookmyre* returns for a fifth appearance to open the festival on the Friday evening. His journalist sleuth Jack Parlabane is back in his latest novel *Dead Girl Walking*. Parlabane was introduced in Chris's first novel *Quite Ugly One Morning* and is one of his most enduring and popular characters. As ever with Chris expect a range of colourful and scabrous stories from one of our most entertaining writers. Linlithgow will also be lucky to get a preview of his next book, *Black Widow*, due to be published in January.

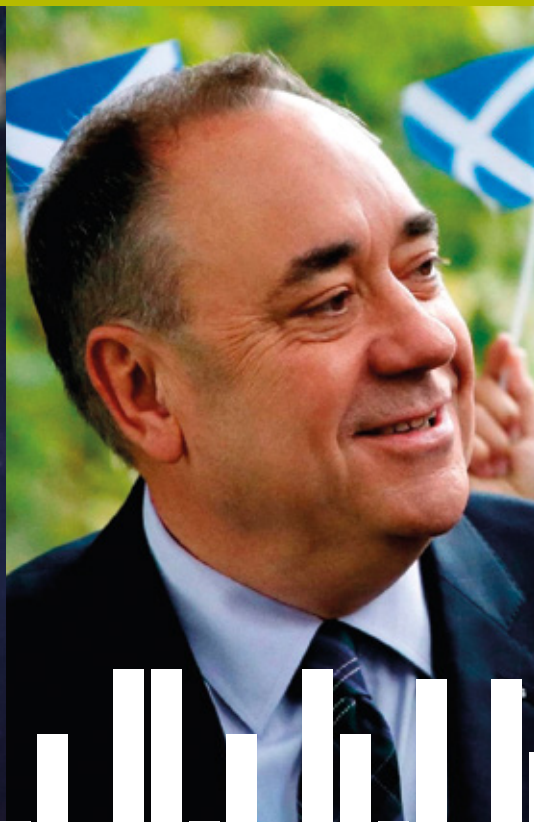
For the tenth year it is an especial honour to welcome Linlithgow's most famous son to the festival. Former First Minister *Alex Salmond* will be discussing his account of the

referendum campaign *The Dream Shall Never Die* with Alan Taylor at the Masonic Hall on the Saturday morning. Expect unique insights into the historic events of last year and discussion on where Scotland goes now.

The first festival saw the establishment of our poetry workshops. For 2015 we have the return of our first tutor *Bashabi Fraser*. *Bashabi* has published several collections including *Tartan and Turban* and *From the Ganga to the Tay*. She will also be reading from her new collection *Letters to My Mother and other mothers* at the Masonic Hall in the evening.

The ever insightful and wise *Janice Galloway* returns to talk about sex, love and parenthood as featured in the razor sharp tales from her new short story collection, *Jellyfish*. Janice's sparkling visceral prose always allows the reader to see the new in the ordinary and is to be savoured when read by herself.

Crime fiction has always been a mainstay of the festival and over the years it has featured many of our top crime writers. This year we are delighted to welcome *Val McDermid*



From  
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OCT



for her first visit to LBF. **Splinter the Silence** is her thirty third novel and features psychological profiler Tony Hill and former DCI Carol Jordan. This is a must for fans and newcomers alike. Alan Taylor will chair this session.

Many will remember Herald books editor **Rosemary Goring's** visit in summer 2013 for Linlithgow's Flodden commemorations. Then she talked about her novel **After Flodden**. Now there is a sequel **Dacre's War**. Set ten years after her first novel it is a vivid and fast moving tale of political intrigue set against the backdrop of the Scottish and English Border in the sixteenth century. Rosemary will be in discussion with Linlithgow resident **Douglas Watt** whose own novel **Pilgrim of Slaughter**, the third in a series of historical crime novels set in late seventeenth century Scotland will be published soon. **This event is sponsored by Far From The Madding Crowd Linlithgow. Far From The Madding Crowd and its previous incarnation, Linlithgow Book Shop has been the Festivals book selling partner since 2006.**

Linlithgow resident **John Fowler** has been a mainstay of the festival since its inception, he was the first writer to address the Masonic Hall audience. He returns to celebrate John Buchan, best known nowadays for his ever popular thriller **The Thirty-nine Steps**, published exactly 100 years ago. But

Buchan wrote a sequence of other novels in the same vein, and in this event **John Fowler** and **Judy Barker** present a programme of readings from some of the most exciting passages in the Buchan canon. Cliff-hangers galore! **This event is sponsored by JMK Printers and Stationers.**

**Gutter magazine and Freight books are among the best champions of new writing in Scotland and we are delighted to host three of their authors at this year's festival.** **Christine De Luca**, who writes in both English and Shetlandic, is a native Shetlander who lives in Edinburgh. With over a dozen books published, mainly poetry, but also a novel and some children's stories she was appointed Edinburgh's Makar or poet laureate in 2014. Her latest collection, **Dat Trickster Sun** was shortlisted for the Michael Marks Poetry Pamphlet Prize. **Harry Giles** is from Orkney and lives in Edinburgh. His recent publications include the narrative sequence **Drone** (2015), the map **Casual Games for Casual Hikers** (2015), and the box of concrete poetry postcards **Farmform** (2014). **Tonguit** is his first full collection, and was shortlisted for the inaugural Edwin Morgan Poetry Award. He founded the popular spoken word events series Inky Fingers, co-directs the live art platform Anatomy, and makes participatory theatre that has toured Europe, North America and Leith.

**Chrissy Barnacle** is a human and storyteller who plays nylon-stringed folk songs about, among other things, magical hazelnuts, cannibal rats and the impossibility of love.

**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.

*Sunday afternoon tea this year is with sculptor Andy Scott, whose magnificent Kelpies will be familiar to most, the maquettes for which will grace Linlithgow Cross for the duration of the festival. Andy is well experienced in the creation of site specific pieces and will explain the advent of the Kelpies as detailed in his *The Kelpies: the making of the world's largest equine sculptures* a copy of which will be raffled at the event in aid of West Lothian Foodbank.*

Linlithgow Book Festival 2015 takes place 30 October to 1 November, Linlithgow Masonic Hall.

For updates: <https://www.facebook.com/LinlithgowBookFestival?fref=ts>

**Roy Dalgleish**  
Linlithgow Book Festival



# GREENSTEAM

Environmentally friendly car cleaning



## GREENSTEAM

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**S**ince launching their mobile operation in June, Greensteam mobile have been steam cleaning cars, vans, horseboxes, caravans, motor homes, jet skis and burger vans in Linlithgow, Bo'ness, Edinburgh, and across central Scotland.

Along with corporate customers like Allan Steel Asset Management (where employees benefit from a group discount) and a newly-signed agreement to be part of the framework to wash and valet West Lothian Council's huge fleet of cars, vans, buses and refuse vehicles, it has been a busy few months for Greensteam mobile.

Greensteam partner **Tim Nicoll** said: *"The interest in the system we use to valet cars has been phenomenal. We are finding that a lot of businesses want to be associated with environmentally friendly processes to cut their carbon footprint. We recently signed a contract with West Lothian Council, so we decided to put another van on the road to meet demand". He added: "There are so many positive reasons to have your car cleaned by us – we offer an ecological alternative to cleaning vehicles with jet washes, which use vast amounts of water and polluting chemicals."*

Greensteam is an environmentally friendly car cleaning business that cleans car interiors and exteriors using new steam technology. The steam cleaning process uses high pressure steam vapour which results in a stunning clean while being completely safe on cars and the fragile environment.

### CLEANING YOUR CAR SHOULD NOT COST THE EARTH....

Whether you believe global warming is happening right now and the climate is changing, or you don't, Greensteam's ethos is that cleaning your car should not add to the world's pollution issues.

Tim explained *"We clean and polish car bodywork using only dry steam, eco-friendly wax and microfibre cloths. We also use steam to clean car interiors as it kills bacteria, removes allergens, deodorises and dries quickly. This system dramatically reduces water consumption and harmful chemical use, making it a very clean and environmentally friendly cleaning system."*

He added *"In Germany it is illegal to wash your car on your driveway, as the run-off pollutes the groundwater, so towns have designated wash areas. We eradicate this problem using steam, as the minimal run-off is caught in microfibre clothes."*

Greensteam have a fully equipped mobile unit for corporate customers and customers who like their cars cleaned at home:

> *Relax at home while Greensteam visits you.*

> *Book a time that fits in with your day.*

> *Have your car cleaned at your workplace.*

> *Three cars or more get a discount (get together with friends and neighbours).*

> *We use steam to clean your vehicle with little water run-off.*

> *Helping the environment and keeping your driveway clean.*

Call 01506 846512 or go to [www.greensteamscotland.com](http://www.greensteamscotland.com) or our facebook page for prices. e-mail - [info@greensteamscotland.com](mailto:info@greensteamscotland.com)

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# BOOK REVIEW By Lisa Nettleton A TALE FOR THE TIME BEING BY RUTH OZEKI



**A** Tale for the Time Being is a beautifully-written novel which transcends time and space to tell several interwoven tales which connect different generations of the same family. This is a uniquely-written novel which does well to encapsulate the central idea of 'a time being'; that although our time on this planet is fleeting in the greater history and timeframe of the universe, through our interactions and communications we are all connected to the past, to the present and to one another.

The central character who runs as a constant connecting thread through the different narratives is Nao Yasutani. She is a likable, feisty, articulate teenager of Japanese heritage who was raised in California during the 1990s dot.com era. When the bubble bursts in Silicon Valley she and her family are forced to return to Japan and are finding the transition between such diverse cultures challenging. At the start of the novel Nao is struggling to adjust to life in Tokyo and is wrestling with feelings of isolation, loss and low self-esteem. This leads to her reclaiming her identity through delving deeper into her heritage by starting to write an account of her great-grandmother's life - a 104-year-old Zen Buddhist nun called Jiko Yasutani. She chooses to handwrite her account of Jiko's history in an upcycled edition of Marcel Proust's 'A la Recherche du Temps Perdu', a sentiment which perfectly complements the feeling of trying to make concrete fleeting moments in our history lest they be forgotten.

Ruth Ozeki has created a thought-provoking, topically diverse novel which challenges the traditional format of the genre. She includes many thought-provoking references to the Buddhist faith, World War Two, quantum physics, philosophy, Silicon

Valley, the Japanese school system and the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. There are many interesting descriptions of Japanese culture, history, Buddhist sayings and written Japanese script - all of which are explained by discrete, helpful footnotes at the bottom of each page. The reader is given a rich and interesting insight into Japanese culture, society and history in both past and present times.

Ozeki expertly captures the outspoken, emotional, often volatile voice of teenage Nao, and as the novel progresses we see this develop into a more mature, settled, reflective narrative. There is a feeling that the wisdom of gentle, calm great-grandmother Jiko is passed on through the ages, down through the Yasutani family tree and also, by default, onto the readers of this novel. The descriptions of people, places and emotions in the novel are creative and well developed. Ruth Ozeki creates a vivid, captivating reminder, not only of our unique sense of self, but also the shared humanity which connects us all.

*To grasp this truly, every being that exists in the entire world is linked together as moments in time, and at the same time they exist as individual moments of time.*

*Because all moments are the time being, they are your time being. Dogen Zenji, Uji*

*Lisa is a member of the book group which meets at 7.30pm in local bookstore Far From the Madding Crowd. New members welcome.*



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BENEFIT FROM PARKING AT THE DOOR

## Linlithgow Community Development Trust...



is delighted to be able to announce that our application to formally become a charity has been accepted. Seemingly minor, this important step allows the Trust to take the next steps planning, funding and bring to fruition its first projects for the benefit of the whole town.

The first of the proposed projects at Kettilstoun, including the wheeled sports facility. There is significant progress with this, specialists assisting to enable the Trust to consult with the town and work through the Council planning process before the end of 2015.  
*More details to follow.*

You can get involved with this project, and others upcoming by joining the Trust. Membership is open to residents of Linlithgow. Please join us, and invite your friends too - the more members we have in the town, the better we can deliver projects which truly represent the needs of the town.

*Further details available at*  
[www.trust-linlithgow.org.uk](http://www.trust-linlithgow.org.uk)

**Chris Horne**  
Founder Taylor Horne T.07557 270 981



# SCHOOL: IT DIVIDES OPINION.

by Rebecca Carey



**S**ome remember the learning and growing, the making friends and memories. While others are haunted by the recollections of strict teachers, awkward discos and bad lunches. For such a harmless looking word, school sparks such a huge conflict among people. All depending on what our experiences were like. Did school help or hinder us?

*Generally, I would say the former.* I am currently in my sixth year at Linlithgow Academy. It almost seems surreal to say it. My life at the Academy has flown by. It only seems like yesterday that I was a small, terrified little first year who was getting pushed up against corridors and was definitely too old for braids. Now, I'm fussing over university prospectuses and daring to imagine a life outside this school and even this town.

*I've learned a lot from this school and not just from the classes but the extra-curricular clubs too. From debating to the school newspaper, from orchestras to pupil council.*

*I have made so many friends and amazing memories because of them. These clubs are allowing me to become the person I want to be in the future. The way they have done for many others and they will continue to do, long after I leave. I couldn't have imagined doing these things without school and for that I am incredibly grateful.*

That doesn't mean it has been easy and it's not finished yet. Last year, for example, was especially difficult, juggling exam stress amongst other things. Driving my family crazy with all my moaning and groaning with all the blood, sweat and tears that come hand in hand with revision. At the beginning, the transition from primary to the 'big school' was hard for me also - I'm a stickler for routine! I did get used to it though, the routine of fifty minute periods, endless essays and lunch at ten past one - I'll miss it! I will miss the people I've met, the things I've done and even, though quite against my will, those horrendous maths textbooks!

*So help or hinder, school makes us the people that we are today and we have to at least thank it for that.*

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# LAURA BEST – TRANSFORMED AND HELPING OTHERS GET FIT...



**I**t's 2003 and 11-year-old Laura Best is in tears as she hands her nurse a handwritten note which pleads "please don't weigh me." Having just come off epilepsy medication, which caused her weight to balloon, Laura had been dreading this check-up all the way to the hospital. But the duty nurse is unmoved – "Didn't you know you weighed that much?" she says. Eleven-year-old Laura has been revealed to weigh 12 stone.

The memory of that hospital check-up has stuck with Laura, now 23. For years she was caught in a vicious cycle of comfort eating and feeling insecure about her body. Today however, life is very different. She has lost three stone and dropped four dress sizes, runs 10Ks for fun and has recently launched **Laura Best Fitness** – her own personal training business. Her physical transformation, she says, came about during her second year at university after her self-confidence "hit rock bottom". She says "Something just clicked inside my head and I wondered to myself, what would happen if I started going to the gym three times a week?"

The experiment quickly became a success: "After about three weeks

*I started noticing that my legs were getting a bit more toned, I was slimmer and I wasn't getting as out of breath. That was me hooked."* As her training regime began to evolve, she took pleasure in small victories: "I didn't have to take breaks when I was walking my dog. I wouldn't get sweaty going up hills. I could buy trousers without worrying about them digging into my waist. I was able to look in the mirror and quite like what I saw."

Once completely exercise-phobic, Laura remembers "the dread and humiliation" she used to feel when faced with Linlithgow Academy's notorious PE fitness test – the six minute run. Now, she says, "a six minute run is my warm-up."

After graduating from Stirling University last year with a degree in film and media, Laura struggled to find work in her preferred industry of radio production. While looking for graduate jobs, she supported herself by working in Greggs in Linlithgow. With little opportunities on the horizon, she decided to take matters into her own hands. She says: "I started looking for other graduate jobs, saw that one of them was personal training course and thought 'why not?'" Six weeks of intensive training later, and Laura had become a level three personal trainer, with certificates in boxing, circuits and spin, and two nutrition qualifications.

Laura is now based at Pure Gym in Edinburgh where her client base varies between people who want to lose a few pounds, athletes who're training for events, and even elderly people who want to increase their mobility (her oldest client is 70).

Her services however, aren't limited to Edinburgh. As well as instructing at Pure Gym, Laura offers 'distance personal training', where she creates training plans and gives regular advice and support to clients online. She has worked with customers from as far afield as the USA.

One of the challenges of the job is helping clients who feel self-conscious and anxious about training in the gym to feel comfortable. She says "I've done it and I know exactly what they're going through. I understand completely the idea of thinking that everyone's going to watch you in the gym, laugh at you for getting something wrong, being embarrassed about being heavy – but you have to start somewhere. The only difference between me and my clients is that I started first."

Interested in a taster personal training' session with Laura? Visit her website at <http://www.laurabestfitness.com>

**Kate Martin**



# Charity to the Fore as Kingsfield celebrate 'Record-Breaking' Katie's Cup by Ed Hodge



**A**s any local golfer will know, Kingsfield Golf Centre is a hive of activity at the best of times. Young and old, golfers head for a venue that continues to grow in reputation across Scotland. The enthusiasm of those set for the fairways, the practice range or the family putting green is certainly matched by Kingsfield owner Robert Arkley and his hard working, knowledgeable team, a warm welcome and helping hand always evident... and no more so than on Saturday 22 August 2015.

Kingsfield members mark down Katie's Cup day on the calendar as soon as the new season's fixture lists hits the club noticeboard or lands in email inboxes. Kingsfield's very own 'major' golf championship is an event not to be missed, the club's annual charity day where only one word matters - fun!

The popular tournament has gone from strength to strength in recent years, raising valuable funds for various charities through the teams who tee up, a raffle, auction and all manner of competitions, including the famous 'hit the gong' challenge to win a holiday!

This year, Kingsfield's chosen charities were the Children's Liver Disease Foundation and Bosom Buds, with a remarkable record figure of more than £22,000 raised to support their work. Across the five Katie's Cups staged, more than £55,000 has now been raised and everyone involved should be proud of such a total.

*"We would like to say a warm and heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who again came along and supported the*

*event this year, as well as those who provided yet more brilliant raffle and auction prizes,"* beamed Arkley, who runs the annual charity tournament at the course just outside Linlithgow, along with his sister, Jane.

For Jane, always offering a smile in running Kingsfield's Tee Caddy coffee shop, there is particular poignancy to the day each year, but also happiness at the incredible sums going to charity.

She said: *"I lost a baby 13 years ago, stillborn, who we called Katie. So, it was a friend of ours, six years ago, who said 'why don't you start up Katie's Cup?' Ever since, it has been a really good event.*

*"It's a very personal event for me and it makes it such a special day to see people so happy and all the money we raise for charities. The charity we choose each year always has to be close to our hearts. The first year was Sands, followed by Leukaemia Research @ The Beatson, the On Course Foundation and then liver disease last year."*

BBC Scotland sports reporter **Brian McLaughlin** and Clyde 1 presenter **Diane Knox**, sister of top Scottish professional Russell Knox, expertly took charge of this year's evening auction, with the likes of former Celtic footballer **Bobby Petta** and ex-Hearts manager **Jim Jefferies** competing in the golf.

Ryder Cup man and local resident **Stephen Gallacher**, a close friend of Arkley's who is based at Kingsfield, also attended the evening activities, with Stephen and his caddie, **Damian Moore**, among those helping generously with auction prizes.

*As for the golf itself, this year's teams were out to emulate Gallacher's young teenage son, Jack, who joined forces with Adam Cairns, Jordyn Rhind and Malcolm Anderson to win the 2014 Katie's Cup.*

In the four-player, texas scramble format, with each team greeted onto the first tee with an appropriate song from the loud speaker, it was the line-up of **Ed Hodge, Gordon Robinson, Scott Hardie and Ross Fenwick** who took the honours, after 'holing virtually everything on the greens'. Meantime, there was 'Gong Glory' for the club secretary, **Andrew Corr**, who secured a dream holiday to a Spanish villa.

*"The teams for the event are always sold-out, year-in, year-out and we end up having a waiting list,"* added Jane. *"It's a great family day with children coming along too for the activities at night. We are very, very lucky with our contacts and we really appreciate the support of everyone."*

Kingsfield, which also offers a range of event opportunities, goes from strength to strength. Gallacher, whose junior Foundation is blossoming in the Lothians and beyond, still has plans for a nine-hole kids' course on site.

**His fellow Tour professionals Richie Ramsay and Chris Doak are among others who use the Kingsfield facilities, as well as the national amateur squads and leading coaches. They all feel perfectly at ease in the surroundings, as does every golfer who passes through the doors. Make sure you pay Kingsfield Golf Centre a visit to see for yourself... www.kingsfieldleisure.com**

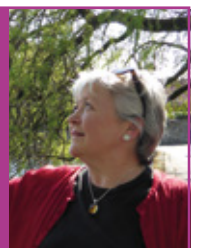
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# PLAYS & WINE

**A**s the Summer ends, and nights once again draw in, the time comes for thoughts of what to do on the dark nights. Well, why not come along to the Linlithgow Players' annual Plays and Wine? Fresh after one of their busiest seasons yet, the events showcase the group's best and brightest in a series of one-act plays and sketches that will be sure to make you laugh.

You may wonder how they're able to keep going, following on from the successful production of their brand new adaptation of 'Shakespeare's Twelfth Night' - What you Will. Having shown it at Donaldson School, they successfully took it down to Stratford-Upon-Avon, invited by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Despite problems with the weather calling off their originally scheduled performance, the day was saved by a Good Samaritan allowing them to perform inside.

Apart from that, their regular employment at Linlithgow Palace, performing historical re-enactments for Historic Scotland, drew large audiences and more provident weather. Now, at the conclusion of one of their most successful seasons, they look forward to their next year.

Looking forward to the hugely popular pantomime in January, this year's 'Puss in Boots' looks set to once again draw in crowds, and thrill and entertain to their usual standard. However, before then, they are rehearsing for the one-act plays in October.

**This year, they're stepping away from the usual comedy format, and trying something more of a serious bent, with 'Galway Girl', by South African Playwright Geraldine Aron, and 'Bride to Be' by Peter Quilter, plays of a more sentimental nature than have perhaps been performed in the past at this event.**

**This year, following on from last year's sell-out performances, tickets are only available beforehand, either from the ticket line on 07847 735077, from Far From the Madding Crowd, or from their new online ticketing system, at [www.linlithgowplayers.org.uk](http://www.linlithgowplayers.org.uk).**

Be sure to book now, as based on previous years, this will sell out fast, and is an event not to be missed.

**Sue Spencer, Linlithgow Players**  
[www.linlithgowplayers.org.uk](http://www.linlithgowplayers.org.uk)



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# CRICKET CLUB LAUNCHES CROWDFUNDER APPEAL



**W**est Lothian County Cricket Association (WLCCA) has launched a fundraising appeal on the Crowdfunder website, to help develop its clubhouse and to promote junior cricket in Linlithgow. Members are initially looking to raise the sum of £5,000, but would be delighted to achieve a much higher figure.

Built in 1979 by the members, the clubhouse at Boghall on the east side of the town has had a few facelifts - both inside and out - in previous years, but is now in need of major

refurbishment. WLCCA is looking to greatly improve both the structure and look of the buildings over this winter, before the new cricket season gets underway in the spring of 2016.

Alongside concerns about the state of the clubhouse, the club is also aware that junior development has not progressed in more recent years, and so the intention is to employ a coach next season to help with the juniors. In the past, youth development was always very strong at Boghall and it is hoped

that more talent will be nurtured by the employment of a coach.

To raise funds for both these ventures, a page has been opened on the Crowdfunder website. This will give the local community the opportunity to give financial support to the redevelopment, with pledges from £5 to £1,500.

Donors will be able to simply give money or help in a variety of ways. For example, by purchasing advertising at the ground and on the team shirts, or participating in the sponsorship of a game with drinks included for the duration. Details can be found on: <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/west-lothian-cricket-club-clubhouse-development/> WLCCA was formed in 1928 and played its

first match at Boghall in 1929. It played from 1930 in the Scottish Counties Championship and won it in 1965, 1984 and 1995, the final year of the competition. Nowadays, the club fields three senior teams in leagues organised by the East of Scotland Cricket Association, as well as junior teams for all age levels.

WLCCA has also enjoyed significant cup successes over the years and many players have gone on to achieve international recognition. Particularly notable was Gavin Hamilton, who learned his cricket at Boghall, and was first capped in 1993. He subsequently went on to play for Yorkshire and England.

**In a radical departure, the club is in the process of changing its name to LINLITHGOW CRICKET CLUB.**

It is felt that because of the West Lothian title, many people in the Linlithgow community do not know of the club and where it plays, and as a result local support is not forthcoming. At a recent meeting of members, there was unanimous support for the re-branding.

It is hoped that this move, which brings the cricket club into line with other sports clubs in the town, will generate greater interest and support.

**Bruce Dixon**

Chairman, West Lothian Cricket Club

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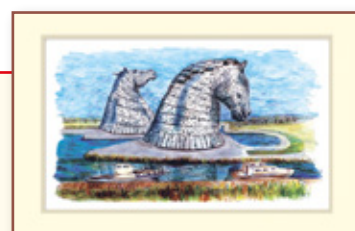
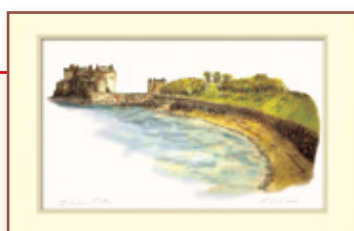
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Autumn – why not click through your  
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# Events List

For more details and more events visit the  
what's on page at [www.linlithgow.com](http://www.linlithgow.com)

## Oct

**Fri 9** Linlithgow Grange Rotary Club  
Wine Tasting, 7.00pm - 11.00pm,  
Linlithgow Academy

Monthly Quiz with Gavin Brown  
8.00pm, Rugby Club, Mains Park

**Sat 10** Coffee Morning,  
10.00am - 1.00pm, Cross House

Recital for Cello and Piano.  
BBC Young Musician, 7.30pm  
Linlithgow Academy

**Mon 12** Gone Girl - Linlithgow Film  
Society, 7.45pm, Linlithgow Academy  
Theatre

**Tue 13** Linlithgow Speakers Club  
Meeting, 7.45pm - 9.45pm  
Low Port Centre, Blackness Rd

**Fri 16** Plays and Wine, 7.30pm  
Linlithgow Primary School

**Sat 17** Plays and Wine, 7.30pm  
Linlithgow Primary School

**Sun 18** Wedding Fair,  
12.00 - 4.00pm,  
Linlithgow Burgh Halls

Folk Session, 2.00pm  
Black Bitch Tavern

**Mon 19** The Drowsy Chaperone  
7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre

**Tue 20** The Drowsy Chaperone  
7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre

**Wed 21** Floral Art Club, Bonnie  
Dundee, John McDonald 7.30pm,  
Linlithgow Rose Football Club

The Drowsy Chaperone, 7.30pm  
Linlithgow Academy Theatre

**Thu 22** The Drowsy Chaperone  
7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre

**Fri 23** The Drowsy Chaperone  
7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy

**Sat 24** The Drowsy Chaperone  
7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre

**Tue 27** Community Council meeting  
7.30pm, Burgh Halls

Linlithgow Speakers Club Meeting  
7.45pm-9.45pm, Low Port Centre,  
Blackness Rd

**Fri 30** Fright Night, 7.30pm - 9.00pm  
Linlithgow Palace

**Sat 31** Linlithgow v Hawick Linden  
1.00pm KO, Rugby Club, Mains Park

Rugby World Cup Final Party  
4.00pm, Rugby Club, Mains Park

Fright Night, 7.30pm - 9.00pm  
Linlithgow Palace

## Nov

**Mon 2** The Lunchbox - Linlithgow  
Film Society, 7.45pm, Linlithgow  
Academy Theatre

**Tue 3** Spanish For Holidays  
7.30pm - 9.00pm, Low Port Centre

**Thu 5** Folk Session, 8.00pm  
Football & Cricketers' Arms

**Fri 6** Fright Night, 7.30pm - 9.00pm  
Linlithgow Palace

Race Night, 7:30pm  
Queen Margaret Hall

Monthly Quiz with Gavin Brown  
8.00pm, Rugby Club, Mains Park

**Sat 7** Hopetoun Bonfire & Fireworks  
4.00pm, Hopetoun House

Linlithgow Fireworks Night  
6.30pm, Rugby Club, Mains Park

Fright Night, 7.30pm - 9.00pm  
Linlithgow Palace

Scottish Opera - Cosi Fan Tutte  
7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre

**Mon 9** The Theory of Everything,  
Linlithgow Film Society, 7.45pm  
Linlithgow Academy Theatre

**Tue 10** Linlithgow Deacons Court  
AGM, 7.30pm, Burgh Halls

Linlithgow Speakers Club Meeting  
7.45pm - 9.45pm, Low Port Centre,  
Blackness Rd

**Fri 13** Son et Lumiere  
7.00pm, Saint Michael's Church

St Michael's - The Local Legacy tbc  
St Michael's Parish Church

**Sat 14** Linlithgow Grange Rotary  
Club Scotch Hop, 7.30pm - 10.00pm  
Linlithgow Academy

Linlithgow v Hawick Harlequins  
2.00pm KO, Rugby Club, Mains Park

Son et Lumiere  
7.00pm, Saint Michael's Church

St Michael's - The Local Legacy tbc  
St Michael's Parish Church

**Sun 15** Folk Session, 2:00pm  
Black Bitch Tavern

**Wed 18** Floral Art Club, Christmas  
Delights, Hetty Redwood 7.30pm  
Linlithgow Rose Football Club

## LINLITHGOW RAMBLERS WALKING CALENDAR



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# LINLITHGOW BOOK FESTIVAL

Oct 30 - Nov 1 2015

Fri Oct 30th

**7.30pm Masonic Hall CHRISTOPHER BROOKMYRE £10.00**

Festival favorite, Chris Brookmyre, makes a welcome return to talk about his latest Jack Parlabane thriller, *Dead Girl Walking* and preview the next, *Black Widow*.

Sat Oct 31st

**10.30am Masonic Hall ALEX SALMOND £10.00**

Linlithgow Book Festival is very proud to welcome the former First Minister back to his home town to talk about his account of the referendum campaign, *The Dream Shall Never Die*.

**11.00am Mel Gray Centre, Linlithgow Canal Centre  
POETRY WORKSHOP WITH BASHABI FRASER**

Our ever popular poetry workshop will be with poet and teacher Bashabi Fraser who will be introducing her new collection *My Mothers Letters* and other mothers in the evening.

**12 noon Masonic Hall JANICE GALLOWAY £8.00**

Janice returns to the festival to talk about sex, love and parenthood as featured in her sparkling new short story collection, *Jellyfish*.

**2.00pm Masonic Hall VAL MCDERMID £10.00**

It is a delight to welcome Val for her first visit to LBF. She will be reading from her new Tony Hill novel *Splinter the Silence*

**3.15pm Masonic Hall ROSEMARY GORING £8.00**

Rosemary will be introducing *Dacre's War* the sequel to her historical novel *After Flodden*.

**4.15pm Masonic Hall JOHN BUCHAN EVENT £6.00**

John Buchan, best known nowadays for *The Thirty-nine Steps*, published exactly 100 years ago also wrote other novels in the same vein. In this event John Fowler and Judy Barker present a programme of readings from some of the most exciting passages in the Buchan canon. *Cliff-hangers galore!*

**7.00pm Masonic Hall BASHABI FRASER free**

Bashabi will read from her new poetry collection *My Mothers Letters* and other mothers.

**7.30pm Masonic Hall A NIGHT IN THE GUTTER £6.00**

New writing from *Freight Books* and *Gutter* magazine, with Christine de Luca, Harry Giles and Chrissy Barnacle.

**9.00pm approx Masonic Hall OPEN MIC free**

Come and read your own work at our ever popular open mike.

Sun Nov 1st

**2.00pm Masonic Hall TEA WITH ANDY SCOTT  
AND THE KELPIES £12.00**

Andy Scott, whose magnificent Kelpie maquettes will grace Linlithgow Cross for the duration of the festival is well experienced in the creation of site specific work, will discuss his *The Kelpies: the making of the world's largest equine sculptures* a copy of which will be raffled at the event in aid of West Lothian Foodbank.

[www.linlithgowbookfestival.org](http://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 by letter to:

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and tickets will be forwarded.

Please add £1 for p&p per order.

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.



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](mailto:admin@linlithgowbookfestival.org) to request a reading slot. FREE event.



Robert Callander  
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The Line Gallery

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