



# the **BLACK** *bitch*

Linlithgow's news by Linlithgow people

**100%  
LOCAL**



## HERE'S WHAT YOU THINK **ON THE VENNEL REDEVELOPMENT 4**



**Folk Festival  
Bigger & Better 12**



**WW1 Event  
Bruce Jamieson 19**



**Party at the Palace  
Roundup 20**

# PLUS

The Arts, New Hopetoun Gardens, Linlithgow Peace Garden Proposal, Town Centre BID  
Mill Road BID, Scottish Youth Parliament, Police Scotland, Book Review...



FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE OUR WEBSITE

[www.linlithgowcommunitymagazine.co.uk](http://www.linlithgowcommunitymagazine.co.uk)

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## Contact the Black Bitch

For editorial and to advertise: [on.a.lead@gmail.com](mailto:on.a.lead@gmail.com)  
Editor: David Tait, 07767 713024



Copy deadline for next issue is 1 November 2017

# WIN A BOTTLE OF JURA MALT



**PLUS**  
A COPY OF  
A PARADE  
OF PROVOSTS

Q. NAME ONE OF THE TOWN RETAIL BUSINESSES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS OCTOBER ISSUE?

**GOOD LUCK WITH OUR COMPETITION.**

Email the editor at: [on.a.lead@gmail.com](mailto:on.a.lead@gmail.com).  
Well done **Claire Clark**, Winner of the 'Walk for Jock' Competition.



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

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

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

[www.llbcc.org.uk](http://www.llbcc.org.uk)

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

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

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Black Bitch magazine design & production: [www.cghcreative.co.uk](http://www.cghcreative.co.uk)



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# WHAT'S ON - OCT/NOV.

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

## Oct

**Wed 4** Blackness SWI, 7:15pm  
Blackness Community Hall

**Thu 5** Folk Session, 8:00pm at the  
Black Bitch Tavern\*

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

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

**Sat 7** Arts Guild, Baroque Ensemble  
Passacaglia, 7:30pm - 10:00pm  
Linlithgow Academy

**Tue 10** Linlithgow Speakers, 7:30pm  
- 9:30pm, The Lounge, The Lowport  
Centre\*

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

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

**Sat 28** Arts Guild, Concert by the  
Joachim String Trio, 7:30pm - 10:00pm,  
Linlithgow Academy

**Sun 29** Blood Transfusion Service,  
10:30am - 12:30pm then 2:00pm - 3:45pm  
Low Port Centre

**Mon 30** Blood Transfusion Service,  
2:30am - 4:15pm then 5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Low Port Centre

## Nov

**Wed 1** Blackness SWI, 7:15pm  
Blackness Community Hall

**Thu 2** Folk Session, 8:00pm at the  
Black Bitch Tavern\*

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

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

**Mon 6** 5Rhythms dance drop in class,  
10:00pm - 11:30pm, MacKinnon Hall

**Sat 18** Arts Guild, RCS Voices concert,  
7:30pm - 10:00pm, St. Michael's Parish  
Church

**Tue 28** Community Council, 7:30pm -  
9:00pm, Burgh Halls

**Want to help  
us deliver the  
BB Magazine?**

**and keep fit at the same time**

**Email: [on.a.lead@gmail.com](mailto:on.a.lead@gmail.com)**

**Tel: Editor on 07767 713024.**

## LINLITHGOW KEEP FIT



**Meets every  
Thursday from 7pm – 9pm in the  
gym at the rear of the Academy.  
Contact Brian Gallacher:  
07984 930235**

## LINLITHGOW RAMBLERS WALKING CALENDAR



**With so many exciting walks  
pencilled in across the monthly  
calendar why not check out  
[www.linlithgow.info](http://www.linlithgow.info) for details  
on the type of walk, duration  
and your meeting point.**

### Linlithgow Floral Art Club, Rose F.C. Social Club:

**18.10.17** Demonstrator:  
*Shamima Hasan*

**15.11.17** Demonstrator: *John Dalton*

**6.12.17** Demonstrator:  
*Coral Gardiner*  
(Christmas at the Academy)

### Linlithgow Art Collective 'Pop Up Exhibition' LCCA at the Vennel Opens 6 October

### "Fashion & Well-being Show Sunday 29 October Linlithgow Bowling Club

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

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# LINLITHGOW PLANNING FORUM

## VENNEL REDEVELOPMENT

John Kelly & Ron Smith, Linlithgow Planning Forum

Over the summer, West Lothian Council ran a nine-week consultation on its plans for the proposed Vennel redevelopment project and, thanks to the efforts of the groups making up the Linlithgow Planning Forum<sup>1</sup>, Linlithgow responded in fine voice. Each representative organisation of the Forum submitted a letter summarising the views of the public and its members. The Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council response can be found at <http://lbcc.org.uk/planning/> and that of Linlithgow Civic Trust at <http://lbt.scot/civic-trust/planning>.

The Linlithgow Planning Forum ran an on-line survey and an identical paper based survey in the library to which 259 replies were received. It also organised two Saturday morning table events at the Cross, a BBQ with Vennel residents, a door to door survey with all Vennel residents, an exhibition at the Low Port Centre featuring a display prepared by Linlithgow Civic Trust (attended by 150 visitors) and a more detailed questionnaire on development ideas for the area which was completed by 120 people. In addition to answering questions, respondents included a huge number of comments which were all forwarded to West Lothian Council. Some of the comments are featured here.

### The Opinions of Linlithgow Folk

Many Linlithgow people acknowledge that this is a once in several lifetimes' opportunity to substantially improve the centre of Linlithgow for the benefit of residents, visitors and town centre businesses and 95% of respondents to the final questionnaire expressed a wish to see a design in sympathy with Linlithgow's traditional buildings in terms of built form and construction materials; some saw the opportunity to restore at least the west side of the Cross to its pre-1960s appearance. A similar proportion (97%) want to see the area made more attractive to tourists:

*"There is an opportunity to create the best tourist town in central Scotland here. We should demolish the Cross flats and recreate a high-quality town centre full of character and which reflects the town's history. Views of the loch, church and Palace should be*

*maximised from all locations."*

The Planning Forum believes that the current draft Planning Guidance issued by West Lothian Council is not detailed enough to seek development proposals which would fulfil the requirements of the Linlithgow community.

Over 80% of respondents wished to see the Linlithgow community actively represented at all stages of the compilation of a detailed Development Brief for the site - a clear message to West Lothian Council.

*"I absolutely do mind how the new development looks, but I'm not an expert. I would like an architect to work closely with the community to come up with some designs for consideration. In terms of the Vennel flats it is important to involve residents in any decisions about their homes. Overall I feel strongly that any development ought to be part of a broader future vision for Linlithgow town centre, including any improvements to improve air quality and town centre vibrancy."*

The flats between the library and The Cross prompted considerable comment of which the following is typical:

*"The flats next to the Cross and along the High Street are an eyesore and should be demolished and replaced with housing which compliments the existing housing at the Cross and surrounding area. Linlithgow also needs decent town parking to bring tourists and shoppers into the town. The Council has made mistakes in Linlithgow in the past and this is an opportunity to rectify these mistakes."*

82% of respondents to the initial survey and 90% of those who filled in the final questionnaire consider that the flats between the library and The Cross should be included in the Vennel redevelopment for aesthetic and one important social reason. The whole building is deteriorating and many residents complain of being cold through leaking windows and poor insulation; water ingress affects several properties. The Cross flats building will fail at some point in the future. Whether this point is reached in 5, 10 or even 15 years is immaterial in the context of the lifetime of the proposed project which gives the opportunity for residents to

be rehoused in new flats on the Vennel site prior to the demolition of the Cross flats. If this decision is delayed until any new flats elsewhere on the Vennel site are all completed and occupied then, on inevitable future demolition, the existing community of residents will be split up and rehoused, possibly all over West Lothian.

Given 89% support for the Planning Forum's draft development ideas shown in the exhibition at the Low Port Centre, the Forum intends to incorporate these into its community-approved 'Linlithgow Plan for the Future' document so that it reflects more fully the aspirations of the people of Linlithgow.

### Two Important Conclusions

1. It is the wish of the Linlithgow Community to be actively involved in the all stages leading up to and including the preparation of a properly-detailed Development Brief for the redevelopment of the appropriate parts of the Vennel and we believe that the clear results of the public consultation give us such a mandate.
2. The draft Planning Guidance issued by West Lothian Council mentions a forthcoming 'Masterplan' for the proposed redevelopment of the Vennel which would, presumably, follow on from the Development Brief. We would also wish to be involved in the forthcoming Masterplan, the scope of which should be extended to cover the wider town centre so that the redevelopment of the Vennel can be seen in its full environmental, social and economic context.





Map 1:

Possible Townscape and Landscape Framework

- Restoration of historic building frontages
- Other main frontages
- High-quality 'public realm' (paving, etc)
- Street and avenue trees
- Upgraded open space

Above and below: Sketch redevelopment ideas for the Vennel, as shown at the public exhibition to encourage debate and comment.

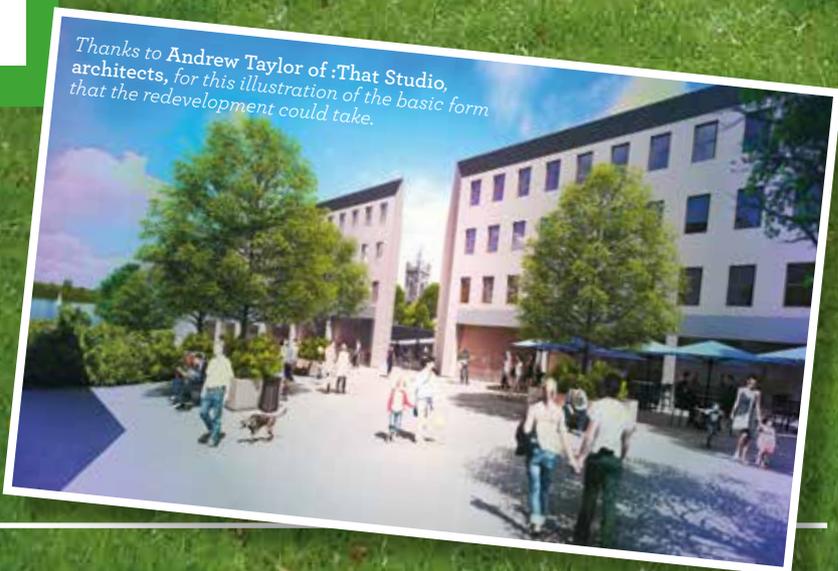
Map 2:

Possible Content of Development

- Flats with retail/commercial below
- Retail extending behind flats above
- Flats with specialised retail, workshops or youth facilities below
- Flats (whole height of building)
- Flats (16) or hotel (40 rooms?)  
Total of above flats - potentially 84
- Potential additional flats (16)
- Three-deck multi-storey car park, top level same as existing, potentially 280 spaces
- Ground-level car park
- Service area for shops etc.



Thanks to Andrew Taylor of :That Studio, architects, for this illustration of the basic form that the redevelopment could take.



1. Linlithgow Planning Forum was formed in 2013 as a group representative of Linlithgow organisations with an interest in Planning matters. Currently the organisations represented are Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council, Linlithgow Civic Trust, Linlithgow Business Association, Transition Linlithgow, Linlithgow Community Development Trust and Victoria Hall Trust.



# Folk Fae Lithgae

CHLOE HUTCHINSON

**S**ixteen year old **Chloe Hutchinson** recently caused a sensation in bowling circles throughout the country when she triumphed in the ladies' championship final at **Linlithgow Bowling Club**, beating Scotland internationalist, the legendary **Lorna Smith**, who is regarded by many as the world number one.

Lorna has won virtually everything within the game, including an unprecedented three consecutive Scottish singles titles and victory in the World Champion of Champions in 2014.

Chloe wasn't even born when Lorna won Commonwealth Games gold with her native South Africa in 1994, a feat she repeated four years later. Since moving to Scotland in 2008, she has enjoyed a reputation as the towering strength of women's lawn bowling in the country and has hardly lost a domestic game at Linlithgow.

Lorna was going for her tenth consecutive ladies championship at the local club in the final on August 17th, while Chloe, the reigning junior champion, was appearing in the competition for only the second time.

Despite the huge gulf in experience, Chloe took it all in her stride, as she told me:

*"I went into it as just a normal game,*

*thinking I've got there and that's enough, and that it would be a good experience for me."*

It looked to be curtains for the youngster when she found herself 13-2 down, but she showed remarkable resilience to fight back and win the game 21-20 to become the youngest champion in the club's 152 year history and the first to hold both junior and senior championships at the same time. The contest was described as *"real edge of the seat stuff"*, *"a wonderful spectacle of bowling"* and *"a brilliant match to watch."*

Chloe first became interested in bowls at the age of eight, when she went along to **Bellsburn Bowling Club** to watch her granddad, **Gordon Miller**. One day, he asked if she would like to have a go. Chloe was then taken under the wing of junior coach, **Campbell McLaren**.

*"He taught me everything"*, she told me, *"The rules, the etiquette, and he has helped me all the way"*. Chloe did most of her junior training at Bellsburn and moved two years ago to Linlithgow to join her friend, **Emma Fleming**, who is a product of the great Stein and Fleming local bowling families. Chloe and Emma have represented West Lothian at Junior level and this will be their last year of playing as juniors.

As well as her bowling, Chloe's other

great sporting passion is gymnastics, which she has been involved in from the age of three. On a Friday afternoon, she trains at the Academy and then walks up to the leisure centre, where she spends three hours coaching young children.

While studying for Highers at **Linlithgow Academy**, Chloe also does a mechanics course at **West Lothian College** on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Her ambition is to become a motor mechanic and she is already gaining hands-on experience by working alongside her Dad, **Paul**, in his long-established business, **Bellsburn Motor Services**. Chloe has her own vintage tractor and takes a great interest in her Dad's fleet of classic cars:

*"I love it"*, she told me. *"We go to classic car shows almost every Sunday and it's just good fun."*

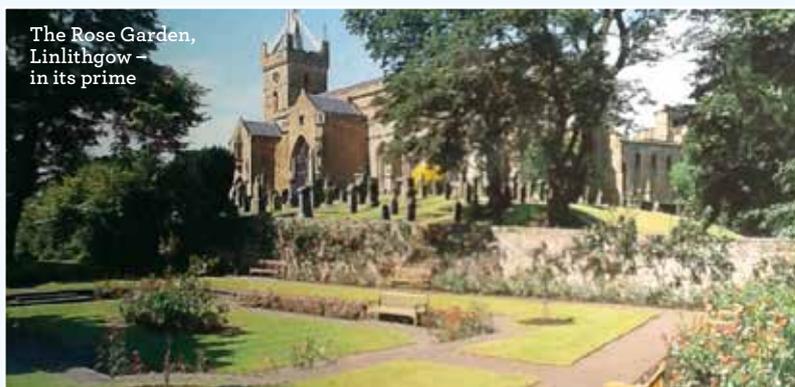
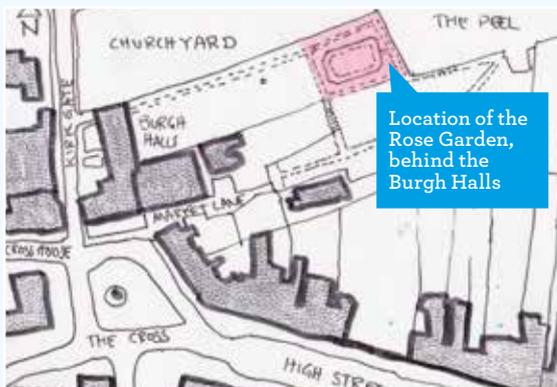
**The classic cars have to take second place to the bowls during the summer, as Chloe tries to juggle her various interests. Looking forward to the future, she would love to follow in the footsteps of Lorna Smith and play bowls for Scotland one day.**

**Murdoch Kennedy**



# Linlithgow World Peace Garden

Vision / Creativity / Community / Nurture / Enjoyment



The Rose Garden, Linlithgow – in its prime

Consideration is being given to an exciting vision to create a meaningful and beautiful lasting place of tranquil peace in the heart of Linlithgow, made with elements from all over Britain and the world, coming together in an inspired garden venue for visitors and events. There is always some turmoil in the world, our communities and our individual lives and we aim to create a special garden place of peace in which to nurture healthy and natural goodwill.

**A peace garden is not a war memorial, or a garden of remembrance. The purpose is to create something quite different and that is relevant to Linlithgow folk today. The inspiration is the garden in the Roman Catholic Church at Cana in Israel. St. Michael's Parish Church is twinned with the Holy Family Episcopal Church, Raineh, Galilee, visited in 2015 by the minister, Stewart Gillan, and members of the kirk session. For various reasons the proposals then developed for a similar garden in the manse in Kirk Wynd could not be carried through to completion.**

An area has been now been identified in Linlithgow known as the Rose Garden, behind the Burgh Halls. The secluded peaceful site, the location of the old Burgh School which was burnt down in 1902, comprises gardens and paved areas. In the past the garden has been used for curling and subsequently as a rose garden since 1945. The site, owned by West Lothian Council, is sandwiched between the Burgh Halls, the church graveyard and the Peel.

**Provost Tom Kerr** wrote in the spring version of Crosswind, the journal of St Michael's Parish Church: *"The Rose Garden holds some very pleasant past memories for myself and many*

*other folk in the town. It was a well maintained area with thriving roses and other plants. The garden was set up in the early 1900s and the soil is now suffering from rose sickness so alternative plants may be preferable. West Lothian Council with help from Burgh Beautiful and the Linlithgow Town Management Group have tried to bring it back to life, but either because of soil condition and/or lack of light, they have been unsuccessful, hence the proposal to develop a peace garden gives us the opportunity to start again with a fresh sheet."*

**A working party of interested parties, led by Provost Kerr and the Rev Dr Stewart Gillan has been formed to take the project forward. The aims are to create:**

- >> *A place to find tranquility in the heart of Linlithgow*
- >> *A place for those of religious faith or none*
- >> *A place for personal contemplation and reflection*
- >> *A place to gather in times of uncertainty*
- >> *A place for arts, music and celebration (weddings ceremonies, small events & photography).*



The Tibetan Peace Garden at the Mary Harmsworth Park, London.

Gardens of merit and interest looked at for ideas and inspiration include



The Patrick Geddes Garden, Edinburgh.

the Buddhist-inspired Tibetan Garden at the Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park adjacent to the Imperial War Museum in south London as well as, nearer home, the Patrick Geddes Garden, Sandeman House, Royal Mile, Edinburgh.

It is early days, but the working group has considered various approaches from a 'do nothing' approach to radical options to transform the area into two distinct areas.

- 1) A central space for wedding celebrations/photo opportunities, open air church services, small community events which also displays symbols of peace suggested by the local community and international places of peace.
- 2) A surrounding space, a sunny corner for the enjoyment of nature, picnicking, for quiet reflection.

**Would you be interested in assisting with fundraising, helping in managing the project or the long term management and maintenance of the project? If so then please contact: Chris Long (01506 843461) or contact: [chris.d.long@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chris.d.long@blueyonder.co.uk)**



**Chris Long**



If you are aged 12-25, I encourage you to speak to me! Whether that be through social media or face-to-face I will listen to what you have to say and fight for your issues at the Scottish Youth Parliament.

I also encourage the community to promote SYP and embark on this amazing journey that my constituents and I are about to partake in.

Please, if you are aged 12-25 years and live in or around Linlithgow express your views on the motions we West Lothian MSYPs will be voting on next month: <https://wlmsyps.typeform.com/to/bFr7ZZ>

## ALICE FERGUSON'S SYP NEWS ROUNDUP...

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR THE LINLITHGOW CONSTITUENCY

**H**i, my name is **Alice Ferguson** and earlier this year, I was elected as a **Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament** for the Linlithgow constituency. This year I celebrated my 15th birthday, meaning I am in fourth year of secondary school at Linlithgow Academy. I got involved in SYP through the School Council, from there I attended many meetings with members of the Council in preparation for the March 2017 election. I am pleased to have this opportunity to write for *The Black Bitch* and to explain how I hope to engage young people in my constituency during my term (two years) as a MSYP.

I have been very busy, participating in lots of exciting events and meetings! At the beginning of the month, I took part in the first official **Children in Scotland Young Peoples' Advisory Group (CYPAG)** – we are coming up with a more creative and easier-on-the-tongue name...). This newly founded group aims to meet monthly when young people and children from all over Scotland will get together. The group is run by **Children in Scotland**, which is the collective voice for children, young people and families in Scotland and

during the meetings we discuss what it's like being a young person or child. We are presented with opportunities, such as interviewing the **Children's Commissioner, Bruce Adamson**, and we get to socialise with new people!

This month, I also met with the **Linlithgow Academy Head Teacher – Mrs Jarvis**. I presented to her my ideas and plans I have to engage and work with the young people at Linlithgow Academy. These include: delivering my **'hot topics' workshop**. This workshop aims to identify the main issues and ideas young people currently find important, and to spark discussion between pupils and teachers - I aim to deliver this in Personal, Social, Education (PSE). Furthermore, I hope to have a **SYP stall set up at the school where myself and my co-MSYP, Lucy Martin**, will be available to consult with as well as offer SYP resources and updates. I also consulted with Mrs Jarvis about being able to meet with the pupils in the learning support base at Linlithgow Academy regularly, as I believe it is very important to hear what these young people have to say.

In the coming weeks, I will be preparing for **SYP 64 at the Scottish Parliament, Holyrood!** Every year SYP holds three two-day meetings at locations around Scotland. Here we vote and present on members' motions, meet in our subject committees - I am part of the Health and Wellbeing Committee - listen to keynote speakers, discuss the progress of our

national campaign (in October we will be launching the **Young People's Rights Campaign**) and meet with other MSYPs. I will be consulting heavily with my constituents about the current selection of Members' Motions on the run up to SYP64. For example, one such motion which MSYPs will be voting and debating on is: *'SYP believes that there should be a compulsory 20mph speed limit in and around school grounds including main roads leading into schools'*. Another is: *'SYP believes that concessionary or free transport should be provided for young and young adult carers in Scotland'*. This sitting will take place on the 27th/28th of October.

I also have been given the great opportunity to represent SYP at a meeting with **Swedish Delegates** on September 25th and to present at the full **West Lothian Council** meeting on September 26th about the **Scottish Youth Parliament** along with my fellow **West Lothian MSYPs**. These events I both highly look forward to and I will report back on how they went.

**Alice Ferguson** MSYP



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

Instagram - @aliceferguson\_syp

Twitter - @aliceMSYP

Facebook - @aliceSYP



# ORGANISERS TOAST ANOTHER "BEST-EVER" FOLK FESTIVAL



**L**inlithgow Folk Festival organisers are toasting the success of this year's event and are pledging that next year's 20th Festival will be even better.

Last month's five day celebration of traditional music dance and song had something for everyone, including four concerts, a family ceilidh in the Burgh Halls, two musical cruises on the Union Canal, pub sessions, and a packed two-day programme of free music on the Nora Devine Stage at the Cross and in the Masonic Hall.

The full programme of events attracted an appreciative audience of locals and visitors alike, some of the latter coming from as far afield as Linlithgow's twin towns of Guyancourt in France and Arnsberg in Germany, as well as the United States, Israel, Canada and Australia.

The headline concert with the brilliant young musicians - **BARLUATH** - was the highlight of the weekend and the band spoke warmly of the wonderful response they had received on their second appearance in Linlithgow.

Several new events took place this year, including the Songs and Reels at the Rose Social Club, featuring Burgh Piper Ross Miller and friends (sponsored by the Black Bitch Magazine), the Youth Showcase in the Kirk Hall (sponsored by the Town Centre BID) and the Taste of the Festival in Café/Bar 1807. The Linlithgow Ukulele Club got involved for the first time and ran a very successful Come and try Ukulele Session in the Masonic Hall. All these new events were very well received and are set to become a regular feature of the Festival programme.

Many budding artistes appeared on the Nora Devine Stage on the Saturday and on the Sunday when bad weather forced a move into the Masonic Hall. The family ceilidh also moved indoors, but this attracted record numbers, despite the change of venue.

Folk Festival Chairman, Murdoch Kennedy, said: *"The Festival gets better every year and the new events and new venues were particularly successful. From the opening night in the Bowling Club to the final Session in the West Port, we heard some of the best*

*music we have ever had, including the fantastic Songs and Reels event at the Rose Club and some superb performances by artistes of all ages on the Nora Devine Stage. These included visiting musicians from France and Germany, as well as the superbly talented youngsters from the Tolbooth Trad project in Stirling."*

Murdoch Kennedy praised the efforts of his committee, who work so hard to provide the community with a top quality music festival. He said:

*"Several first-time visitors said it was the best Folk Festival they had ever been to and one that people from all over the country should attend. That reputation is down to the hard work and dedication of our committee and the support of partner organisations such as the Linlithgow Town centre BID, local licensed traders, the Canal Society, the ATC, LYPP and the Business Association. Our sales outlet - Far from the Maddening Crowd - also played a pivotal role and we are indebted to Sally Pattle and her staff."*

We are constantly trying new things and look forward to doing so again next year. We already have some tremendous partners and hope to encourage many more local organisations and individuals to get involved in what we believe is fast becoming one of Scotland's best Folk Festivals.

**Jonathan Moore**  
[www.linlithgowfolk.com](http://www.linlithgowfolk.com)



# THE ARTS

## “MUSIC TO YOUR EARS”

Hanneline Visnes at the Burgh Halls. She has exhibited widely nationally and internationally, and has work in MoMA New York! High fashion and bright colours feature, but with a Scandinavian feel.

Thur  
9  
Nov

Music is easier to find in Linlithgow than you might think, and live music is generally an uplifting experience which I encourage you to indulge in over the next few weeks. Here's a summary of what's on.

### Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions (LAMP)



LAMP produce two shows a year – one from the adult section and the other from the children's theatre. Running from 16th to 21st October “Kiss Me, Kate” promises to be a fun evening of entertainment. It's about a group of people trying to produce a musical, and the conflict on and off-stage between the show's director, producer, and star, and his leading lady, who happens to be his ex-wife. I am assured that it's a very amusing show and you will have a good laugh, as well as recognising some of the Cole Porter music. Tickets are available online now priced at £13 with concessionary reductions.

If you are interested in joining or helping out with LAMP please contact them on [info@linlithgow-musicals.co.uk](mailto:info@linlithgow-musicals.co.uk). Anyone who is interested in stage-craft will be welcomed as the group build their own sets and source their own props. There are always jobs to be done and extra hands would be useful.

Unfortunately, due to high numbers, the waiting list for the children's theatre is currently closed. They will perform Les Miserables next Easter, and as they regularly sell out I suspect tickets will be snapped up early for this big production.

LAMP Christmas (sorry!) concert will be on Saturday 9 December and you may also have the pleasure of hearing them carol singing in the local supermarkets nearer that time of year.

### Linlithgow Arts Guild

The new season starts on 7 October and tickets are on sale online from the Arts Guild and from local shops including “Far from the Madding Crowd”. Full details of all of the concerts are at [www.LinlithgowArtsGuild.co.uk](http://www.LinlithgowArtsGuild.co.uk).

Concerts are on at Linlithgow Academy at 7.30pm on 7 and 28 October, and on Saturday 18 November at St Michaels Parish Church. Too many details to fit in here, but there's a bit of Mozart, madrigals, the harpsichord, Lennon/McCartney and Chilli Con Carne! I hope you are intrigued enough to give one a go.

The Linlithgow Ladies Choir present music from stage and screen on Saturday 28 October at 7.30pm in St Ninians and Craigmalen Church. Entry is by donation.

The Linlithgow Jazz concert on 7 October is Ali Affleck's Copper Cats (vintage style jazz), and on 4 November the Sue McHugh Quartet take to the stage. This one features Konrad Wiszniewski on tenor sax who won this year's Scottish Jazz Musician of the Year. Sue is a local lady with a velvety voice who I thoroughly recommend – I am so looking forward to this. Tickets on the door of Queen Margaret Hall from 7pm.

What's on in the rest of the art world in the near future – read on...

Linlithgow Bookshop host a couple of events as follows:

**Adam Kay, This Is Going To Hurt**  
Saturday 7 October, 12.30pm,  
Queen Margaret Hall

Sunday Times bestselling author Adam Kay is coming to Linlithgow as part of his UK tour! Adam is well known as a comedian and as part of Amateur Transplants and now his first book is rocketing up the bestseller charts. This Is Going To Hurt is his memoir of his time working as a Junior Doctor for the NHS - it's painfully funny and tragic by turns. Saturday 7 October is also National Bookshop Day, so there'll be plenty of special offers, discounts and of course cake in the shop during the day!

**Robert J Harris, The Thirty-One Kings**  
Wednesday 15 November, 7.00pm,  
The Canal Tea Rooms

Richard Hannay returns in the wonderful Thirty-One Kings! Author Robert J Harris continues the adventures of John Buchan's most famous character, Richard Hannay, in this rip-roaring adventure set in Paris in World War Two. Join Robert for an evening of intrigue, spies and good old-fashioned fun in the atmospheric Canal Tea Rooms.

Tickets are £5 for both events. Details at [www.maddingcrowdlinlithgow.com](http://www.maddingcrowdlinlithgow.com) or [sally@maddingcrowdlinlithgow.co.uk](mailto:sally@maddingcrowdlinlithgow.co.uk).

The Line Gallery's current exhibition titled **Keast & Thorin** showcases work by Sarah Keast and Elisabet Thorin. Both are influenced by the countryside they love, where the light is always changing. Sarah is a very experienced printer and Elisabet is showing her black and white photographs.

Drop in to this friendly gallery where there is always something affordable to buy. Christmas is coming!

There is still time to join Linlithgow Film Society – just turn up at the Academy on Monday 9 October at 7.30pm and pay your subscription. The film is “Arrival”, about mysterious spacecraft and alien visitors.



There is a new exhibition on at the Burgh Halls till January. Hanneline Visnes, who is originally from Norway, has called her exhibition “Notes from the VIP Lounge”, a great title. She now lives and works in Glasgow and is a Lecturer of Painting and Printmaking at Glasgow School of Art. She has exhibited widely nationally and internationally, and has work in MoMA New York! High fashion and bright colours feature, but with a Scandinavian feel. There is an artists' talk on Thursday 9 November from 7-9pm. Book on 01506 777666.

I'd like to do an article in a future edition on local artists, so we are all more aware of the creative work going on around us. Let me know if you would like to be included in this.

Please try to keep in touch so that I know what's going on, and you get some free advertising - [patswan@virginmedia.com](mailto:patswan@virginmedia.com). I hope you have time to experience some ART this month.

Pat Swan



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“when words fade,  
music speaks”

# THE THIN BLUE LINE IN LINLITHGOW

**101 IS THE NEW NUMBER TO CONTACT THE POLICE WHEN YOUR CALL IS LESS URGENT THAN 999.**

**F**irst of all let me introduce ourselves. We are Constable Andrew Murray and Constable Neill Drummond. We are the two community officers based at Linlithgow Police station. Between us we have over thirty years police service. We are keen to get involved in local community issues and want to hear your views and opinions on these issues. We will be publishing an article in the magazine every edition covering ongoing community issues which we are keen to address within the ward.

## APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

We are appealing for witnesses/information following an incident involving two micro light aircraft during Party at the Palace on Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th August 2017. On both days police were aware of these aircraft being flown over the event arena, and in particular, on Sunday the 13th, one of them flew so low over the stage that the headline act actually stopped singing. We are seeking to identify the pilots of both aircraft at the time.

If you know who was responsible you can contact the local community officers below on 101, or in confidence via Crimestoppers on: 0800 555 111.

tel.  
**0800  
555  
111**



## INCIDENT UPDATE

**Inc No. 2208 24/08/2017 Stones thrown at cars on Mains Road, Linlithgow**

Following enquiries undertaken by Police a positive line of enquiry is now being followed. Further update to follow next month.

**Inc No 1923 20/08/2017 Vandalism at Zio Geo, West Port, Linlithgow**

Enquiries are still ongoing into the vandalism.

If you know who was responsible you can contact the local community officers below on 101, or in confidence via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## ANTI-SOCIAL USE OF VEHICLES IN LINLITHGOW AREA

Driving carelessly and dangerously not only puts the lives of the drivers and passengers at risk, but also the lives of other road users and pedestrians.

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

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

Anyone who has concerns regarding anti social driving or use of any motor vehicle contact Police on 101.

**Be warned, enforcement will continue!**

## PARKING IN LINLITHGOW

Police Scotland are disappointed to report that despite previous appeals to motorists, selfish and inconsiderate parking is still continuing to blight the High Street and surrounding streets.

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

This selfish and inconsiderate attitude comes at the expense of other vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

On Wednesday last week in a three-hour period one community officer was able to issue no less than 20 parking tickets for yellow line offences and parking in bus stops.

Due to previous warnings clearly being ignored by motorists, rigorous enforcement will continue to take place whenever duties allow.

**If you do need to drive please do not be a selfish motorist, park legally and adhere to the parking restriction signs.**



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

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

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

## ‘Overcoming Adversity’ to win Gold National Recognition for Linlithgow



**W**e weeded and watered, brushed aerosol ‘silly string’ off walls, hoed gutters and swept pavements and then the sun shone and the judges came! West Lothian Council had played its part by painting some of the lampposts and tweaking the timing of its street cleaning. It was 2 August and time for Linlithgow to be judged!



**Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow** had entered the town in the Beautiful Scotland competition run by the environmental organisation, Keep Scotland Beautiful. The two judges, Colin Ainsworth and Jenny Sibbald, were shown the full range of Linlithgow’s floral displays from the ‘wow factor’ of crimson begonias at the Serpentine Bed and elsewhere, to our hanging baskets and those flower beds with a rich variety of insect-friendly flowers such as at Learmonth Gardens, the community gardens at Water Yett and West Port, and in the Springfield and Braehead areas. Equally noticeable were all the floral planters and barrels in the town,

including the nineteen new steel planters at The Cross and the town entrances, financed on a 50:50 basis between Burgh Beautiful and the Town Management Group.

The Linlithgow & District Embroiderers’ Guild’s fabulous new banners, commissioned by Burgh Beautiful, and the new floral barrels on the platforms, provided with the help of Morgan Sindall, Scotrail and Linlithgow Rugby Club, were shown to have greatly enhanced the station. Children charmed the judges at the recently restored raised bed at Dovecot Park, as did the Brownies in their garden tucked away beside Longcroft Hall.

The judges studied the story boards at the Transition Linlithgow’s Vennel bed - Help Protect our Peatlands - and examined the two beds of the ‘Physic Garden’ on either side of the entrance to the Health Centre. They were given copies of Burgh Beautiful’s new ‘Floral Trails’ guide, along with the Town Guide and other local heritage publications.

Focussing on entering the competition had drawn on creative energy and community spirit. Children’s anti-litter posters adorned the Library windows and windows at the library and Tesco reflected the Beautiful Scotland competition’s 2017 theme of ‘Birds, Bees and Trees’. They were informative and fun as were all the knitted flower-pots, bees and ladybirds in over twenty shop windows produced by the St Michael’s Parish Church Knitters Group.

As the judges ended their tour at The Cross, the Linlithgow Reed Band provided a sense of occasion before the Linlithgow Gazette photo shoot and the judges’ departure for Lanark, the next medium-sized town on their list. Burgh Beautiful’s small planning group of four adjourned for a modest celebration in a local restaurant!

**That was 2 August and now it was 7 September, the day the results would be revealed at ceremonies in the Glen Pavilion, Dunfermline. Just after 1pm, we were ushered into a small room where we took our turn to be presented with our ‘medal’ certificate by Jim Leishman, the Provost of Fife ... we were delighted to receive a ‘Gold’ award, but we had to wait until the evening for the rest.**

Keep Scotland Beautiful and Fife Council kept us entertained with local heritage and real-ale brewery tours, then a fine dinner, then tension rose throughout the hall as all the silverware on the stage was handed over to the deserving winners - would Linlithgow receive anything or not? It was impossible to tell until the description of the winners’ achievements gradually revealed their identity ... then it was our turn, the winner of the Medium Towns category is ... Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow!

To achieve this, it was amazing that we had achieved a better score than Cupar, Inverurie, Lanark, Milngavie or even Haddington which had won the



The judges made note of Linlithgow's celebration of local heritage and had particularly admired the new banners by the Embroiderers' Guild in the railway station.

But there was more to come: we were called up to the stage once again to receive a special 'Overcoming Adversity' trophy, awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society in Scotland. This was for our 'Bye Bye' campaign (the brainchild of Burgh Beautiful member Ian Orr) as a result of which, some would say against the odds, sufficient volunteer and financial support was gained from the magnificent Linlithgow community to take over practically ALL the planting and maintenance of the floral displays which were formerly the responsibility of West Lothian Council.

All in all, it was wonderful that all the hard work of Burgh Beautiful and all its supporters in the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow had been publicly recognised, literally on the national stage!

*And finally, for those who do not know, Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow is now part of the new Linlithgow*

*Burgh Trust – a charity or SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation), charity number SCO47211.*

*This means that the value of donations and sponsorship payments can be boosted by 25% by means of Gift Aid – worth bearing in mind if you are considering assisting our campaign financially.*

If you want to join the winning team, make a donation or would like to be a new sponsor for one of our floral displays, please contact us at [bbl@lbt.scot](mailto:bbl@lbt.scot).

By Averil Stewart & Ron Smith, Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow



equivalent UK-wide Britain in Bloom accolade in 2016! In fact, the score given to Linlithgow was 183 marks out of 200 which was only two marks behind the best in Scotland (North Berwick)!

In their assessment sheet, the judges paid tribute to the excellent quality of the town's floral displays, mentioning in particular Learmonth Gardens, the grass cutting being done by Burgh Beautiful to give the flowerbeds a decent setting and the community gardens at Water Yett and West Port.

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# Linlithgow's Orchards

## a growing community resource.



As well as being renowned for soft fruit growing, Scotland's climate can also sustain orchard fruits.

In particular apples, plums, pears and to a lesser extent cherries all thrive. Whilst providing both the pleasure of the spectacle of trees in full blossom in spring and the nutrition of the fruit in autumn, an orchard will also provide habitat for a diverse range of life increasing biodiversity in the area. We can feel happy that we can both take our harvest and leave a share for nature.

.....  
**The drive from supermarkets over recent years to sell 'perfect' looking fruit has led to a marked decrease in variety of taste being available. However, a wide range of varieties found to grow well in Scottish conditions through the centuries are available to be planted locally giving back the lost variety in taste and at the same time keeping those diverse varieties going and preserving a piece of Scottish heritage.**  
.....

By pruning out dead and diseased wood and pruning for good shape and airflow during the early years, the trees' natural defences can be maximised to avoid the need for chemical interventions.

Then there's harvest - from as early as August, through to November different fruits and varieties will come to maturity. Vision and touch are needed to assess ripeness with colour and size giving indications and texture (not too hard or too soft) the next confirmation - the final one being in the taste. Don't pick too early though.

All apple juice will contain natural sugars which means that the juice needs to be drunk quickly after bottling (even if kept cool) unless it is pasteurized.

Linlithgow now has three community orchards, funded and planted by members of Transition Linlithgow (TL). They are dotted around town to spread the benefit to local residents. We'd love to find more locations to plant more orchards in communal spaces. We can help with finding the funding, sourcing the trees from Scottish growers and giving support and advice on how to maintain and harvest. Our existing orchards are developing well and will take a few more years to mature. Some fruit has already been produced and tastes delicious.

TL has an apple press we bought for community use so if you've got a fruit tree in your garden and want to make some apple juice, or if you want to bring your apples together for a pressing day, we'd love to hear from you. Our press can be hired for a small donation to our charity.

Our vision is to increase this number of small orchards throughout the town and for everyone to share the harvest of fresh, chemical-free fruit. What better provenance for your food than knowing (or being!) the person who planted, cared for and picked it! - Nae packaging too!

**Please support our efforts to have more orchards around town. Help to identify new locations, avoid taking the fruit too early, leave plenty for others and help us to raise funds, volunteer at our pruning advice sessions advertised on our facebook page and on our newsletter.**

Here's to many fruitful years ahead for Linlithgow's mini Orchards.

.....  
**Transition Linlithgow**  
**[www.transitionlinlithgow.org.uk](http://www.transitionlinlithgow.org.uk)**



**Alan Brown**

# TO TIDY OR NOT TO TIDY – THE TRIALS OF A GARDEN

**C**ongratulations to the Burgh Beautiful Team! What a splendid result and worth all their continuous hard work throughout the year. We must say how lovely Linlithgow was looking at the beginning of August and absolutely no litter lying around. We spend our time picking up litter in our carpark and on the road verges outside on the main road and despair of the widespread attitude that



throwing litter out of the car window is the thing to do. Linlithgow has found the solution: the diligence and attention of the Burgh Beautiful Team has scared the residents into caring and appreciating their environment and litter is not dropped anywhere! *Long may this continue.*

**Tidying up in our own gardens is a slightly different thing.** We encourage you not to be too tidy at this time of the year and to avoid a scorched earth regime where every spent leaf and stem is removed. Leaf litter and mulches on your borders provide overwintering habitats for your wildlife visitors, even the smallest insects provide food for bigger visitors and between them they help look after your garden. You'll see robins and blackbirds poking around the litter for juicy morsels. Dead stems of herbaceous plants can host



overwintering bugs like ladybirds and they also look stunning covered in hoar frost on a cold sunny day.

**You may need to train yourself to be happy to leave this spent vegetation in your garden so we suggest you relax a little and come into the house as the days shorten.** Start lighting candles again now the central heating is on

and perhaps think about refreshing your houseplants by bringing in some of our 'Indestructible Houseplants'. We have a stylish collection of these plants that need hardly any care but that bring life and style to your home – you need never doubt your ability to care for these plants again!

**One of our favourite indestructibles is the Peace Lily (Spathiphyllum) which is associated with calm, healing and expanding our consciousness.** It is meant to create a feeling of things becoming right and whole. Certainly it's rich lush green leaves are generous and green is a very calming colour for humans. It's pure white flowers (spathes) are gracious and peaceful, lasting for several weeks and giving us a feeling of contentment. Have you tried living with one? They are happy growing in partial shade and perhaps an occasional visit into a lukewarm shower with you to remove the dust off their leaves!

**Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson**  
New Hopetoun Gardens



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## OUTLANDER

The TV time-travel blockbuster “Outlander” enjoys a cult following, and was described recently in a Scottish Sunday newspaper feature as the biggest thing to come out of Scotland since whisky.

Use the analogy for Linlithgow, and while it might not be the biggest thing to hit the Royal Burgh since Mary Queen of Scots, the use of the Palace as one of an array of Scottish locations has drawn hundreds of fans, mostly from the US, to the Royal Burgh. This has proved a welcome boost for local businesses, ranging from accommodation providers to cafés, gift shops to pubs, and a local tour company.

Linlithgow has not benefited solely because of the Palace, but because of its proximity to other locations. These include Blackness Castle, the Scottish Railway Preservation Society’s steam trains and station at Bo’ness, Hopetoun House, and Midhope Castle on Hopetoun Estate – “Lallybroch”, the fictional family home of the heart-throb

lead character Jamie Fraser, played by Sam Heughan.

Linlithgow Town Centre BID has been encouraging local businesses to actively seize the opportunities presented by the influx of Outlander fans to the town. Stewart Ness, the BID Coordinator, said that in addition to staging a successful seminar in the Burgh Building to highlight the Outlander spin-off potential, with VisitScotland and Visit West Lothian playing a prominent role, the organisation had been very pro-active:

*“some local businesses have realised they can benefit from the phenomenal success of the series, and we are doing all we can to bring more businesses on board.”*

One example of the potential comes from the recently-opened Lilypond Crafts. It has been selling Outlander slate tiles, featuring lead characters Jamie Fraser and Claire Randall, either for display or for use on tables. Co-owner Evelyn Noble said there had also been a demand



for stunning framed photographs of Linlithgow Palace by 15-year-old schoolboy Liam Green.

Next door at Purely Patchwork, joint owner Esther Anderson said that a wall panel featuring the Stone Circle from the series had been selling well, as were Outlander-themed fabrics – some made into cushions by Esther and her staff.

Local hotels the Star and Garter and the West Port have had significant numbers of Outlander fans staying, as has the Court Residence. Proprietor Jim Hay described the potential as “massive”, and he said he had been full booked for the recent Outlander gathering in the Burgh Buildings.

Jim said that a recent guest visiting from Warwick with her mother had been very complimentary about their accommodation and the town,

and about the biggest local Outlander success story – Mary’s Meanders.

She wrote: *“Our two-day Outlander tour was the highlight of our trip, and I’m recommending them to all my friends who love Outlander or history in general. (they also do Mary Queen of Scots tours, etc).”*



## NEW BUSINESS: DANCE STUDIO



With a background in dancing and a 13-year-old daughter representing Scotland in song and dance at international competitions, Arlene Kane’s decision on a career change could not have been more logical. She has taken over Centre Stage Dancewear in Linlithgow High Street (run since 2008 by Dawn McEwan) after years as a florist doing arrangements for weddings and other special occasions.

With dance, ballet and gym-wear lines being added to almost daily, Arlene plans to capitalise on the outlet’s easily accessible location in the Central Belt.

Said Arlene, *“We’re the only specialist dancewear business between Edinburgh and Glasgow, and I want to attract more business from a wide area. I’m hoping that even if people are close to the cities they will find it easier to come here and find exactly what they are looking for.”*

Arlene said that she travelled widely to competitions with her daughter Matilda, and talking to contestants and their parents she kept up-to-date with what people were looking for in outfits and shoes. Currently, customers are “going crazy” for the So Dance SD16 ballet shoe.

Arlene said that she was continuing with a wide range of dance shoes from companies such as Jazz, Rock Valley, Capezio and Bloch. She also had a range of tights, bags and other dance accessories, as well as fashion leotards for gymnasts.

She is now adding a further string to her bow by embarking on a course for a qualification in fitting point shoes for ballet: *“I know they can be purchased online – I sell them online myself – but from my own experience with Matilda they need to be properly fitted. I now have the So Danca SD16, which is a top-selling ballet shoe, which everybody is going crazy for.”*

Arlene added that she was very appreciative of the help given on a Saturday in Centre Stage Dancewear by 17-year-old Denny High School pupil Katie Gallagher, who has carved a name for herself in dance.

## FESTIVE EVENTS

Linlithgow’s busy festive events calendar now includes the BID-funded festive late shopping evening, incorporating a special festive Loyalty Lottery draw, bespoke “Linlithgow” cotton bags and fun activities surrounding the late-opening evening in early December.



Christmas may seem a long way off, but now is the time to plan events in good time!

*In previous years, businesses suggested that a Thursday in early December was best, but if you have any suggestions, new ideas, or if we can help you promote what you’re doing, please get in touch!*



## Mid-term review and “behind the scenes” BID activity

***Linlithgow Town Centre BID has commissioned a full, independent mid-term review of activity since its inception in 2014. Businesses have been asked to review its effectiveness and to help identify areas for improvement, with businesses offering constructive comment, as well as particular praise for successful projects, such as the Loyalty Lottery, fake note kits, festive promotions and events and Premises Improvement Grants (affectionately known as PIGs).***

Perhaps less known to BID member businesses than the projects being mentioned in the mid-term review, but no less important, are a number of **strategic projects with the long-term vitality of the High Street** at heart.

***The recent “Keep Scotland Beautiful” street audit was funded by the BID to identify issues with cleanliness in the public realm and to ensure our town centre (a Conservation Area) receives the care and attention it deserves.***

***The town’s designation as an “Air Quality Monitoring Area” shows we have a duty to keep our air clean, but also provides the BID with an opportunity to ensure any resulting activity means improved access to and throughout the town centre.***

***BID staff have also made great progress towards operating “Cruise Forth” tours for cruise ship passengers docking at Rosyth. A consultation will be hosted by the BID in the coming months, offering businesses the opportunity to speak to Cruise Forth volunteers and find out how to get involved.***

***The Pedal For Scotland event has drawn a variety of comments, both positive and negative, from town centre businesses. The event is a great advert for the town, but must be organised in such a way that businesses are aware of the event in advance and that disruption to access is kept to a minimum. If you haven’t received a link to the BID survey via mailshot, please email the BID.***

## RETAIL CRIMEFIGHTING

BID staff have been made aware of a recent spate of shoplifting in Linlithgow town centre, as well as counterfeit notes appearing in Falkirk. Businesses in the BID area are reminded to order a “fake note kit” from the BID, if not ordered already. Just email the BID to secure yours free of charge. If you already have a kit, please ensure your staff are using the UV lamp and detector pen, and that window stickers are clearly displayed as a deterrent.

To combat shoplifting, the BID has approached the **Linlithgow Community Policing Team** and received advice for businesses to:

- >> Ensure shop layout allows clear field of vision from the till
- >> Put up signs saying “CCTV in operation” (whether you have CCTV or not)
- >> Use a buzzer system to attract staff attention (establish codes e.g. three buzzes for a suspect person)
- >> Ensure till point is staffed at all times
- >> Do not leave cash on site overnight and leave till open to show it’s empty.
- >> Ensure charity boxes are chained up
- >> Avoid placing items on the pavement outside
- >> Ensure staff know how to use CCTV system, if available, and burn/download copies
- >> If you use changing rooms, its best to have a locking door. This way, customers must request access, at which point staff can monitor how many items go in and come out
- >> Do not keep high value items near the exit
- >> Report all shoplifting to police

If your business has been affected by shoplifting or counterfeit currency, please contact the BID. A project similar to the “fake note kit”, but aimed at eradicating shoplifting may be developed if the problem continues.

Premises Improvement Grants are available from the BID to improve security in your premises.

Enquiries welcome at the email address below.



### Contacts

#### Stewart Ness

BID Manager  
stewart.ness@  
linlithgowmillroadbid.com  
07717 865225

Bridgette.Kleinman@  
linlithgowmillroadbid.com



## The collective turnover for the Mill Road area is higher than some of Scotland's biggest companies. **£161m**

### CHAIR'S UPDATE

Here at Mill Road BID, we recently held the first meeting of the Board of Directors for our new financial year, which marks the fourth of a five year term for our business Improvement district.

As a Board (comprised of Directors, Advisors from local authority & other agencies and key members of the BID staff team) we represent the interests of the businesses, organisations and stakeholders in the Mill Road BID area, and we take this responsibility seriously.



The start of Mill Road BID's new financial year, gives us a chance to review our projects and business plan, look at how successful we've been and how we might adjust our strategy going forward.

Mill Road BID have recently been in discussions with the Scottish Government regarding the provision of Broadband services in the area, and are delighted to have received their guidance to pass onto businesses who might be struggling to navigate the options available to them regarding what services and speed they can access for the type of activity they carry out. You can read the full article from the Scottish Government on our website, which includes tips on how to accurately measure your broadband speed.

We are also looking into First Aid training options for Mill Road BID businesses and the most effective way of arranging such a vital training course. If you're a Mill Road BID business that's interested, please contact either Stewart Ness or Myself by email (details at the bottom of the page).

Have a good month, Nicholas

### Mid-term review

As part of the Board's commitment to good governance, a mid-term review was recently completed. Richard and Tom from 4 consulting, spent time visiting business talking to them about the BID. The feedback that businesses provided is invaluable to the Board and will help guide the BID for the remainder of the first term.

*A full report on the results of the mid-term review will be available on the BID website shortly. In the meantime, here are some*

### key findings:

There are around 1,400 jobs based at the Mill Road industrial estate. The collective turnover for businesses in the Mill Road area was £161m. This is more than double the turnover of Linlithgow's town centre.

**The collective turnover and employment at the Mill Road industrial estate would feature among the top 50 largest companies in Scotland. The collective turnover for the Mill Road area is higher than some of Scotland's biggest companies. This includes both Edinburgh (£145m) and Glasgow (£103m) Airports as well as drinks company Whyte & Mackay (£146m).**

**More than three quarters of businesses in the Mill Road industrial estate have spoken with the Business Improvement District (BID). Nearly two-thirds were aware of the Business Improvement Grant (BIG) grant.**

**Around 8% of the estate's floorspace is currently vacant. Mill Road's vacancy rate is marginally below the industrial vacancy rate across Scotland (8.7%).**

**Site access was the most commonly cited strength of the Mill Road industrial estate. This is due to its location (within easy reach of Edinburgh and Glasgow), proximity to the motorway and the local train station.**

### Social Media Workshops BID FUNDED TRAINING

We have initiated a funded project to provide Social Media Training to Mill Road BID and all businesses are invited to take advantage of the training on offer. Sessions will be hands-on so that participants can

get started on social media or improve existing skills.

### WHO WILL DELIVER THE TRAINING?

Lisa Lumsden, the owner-operator of Sunnycat, a niche marketing consultancy based in West Lothian, will showcase how social media can help your business in a number of ways - from communications, to building a community and to improve sales. Lisa is CIM qualified and as well as having 17 years of all-round marketing and communications experience, she runs social media accounts for a number of businesses in varying sectors.

### TRAINING DATES / HOW TO SIGN UP

Training will be during the weeks commencing October 9 and 16, with beginner sessions in the first week and intermediate sessions in week two. These will be held locally in Develop Training's premises, with refreshments/lunch being provided.

We realise that plans can change, but we'd like to gauge initial numbers so we can plan accordingly - please therefore let us know as soon as possible if you'd like to take part.

We would encourage everyone to take up this FREE offer, and look forward to hearing from you.



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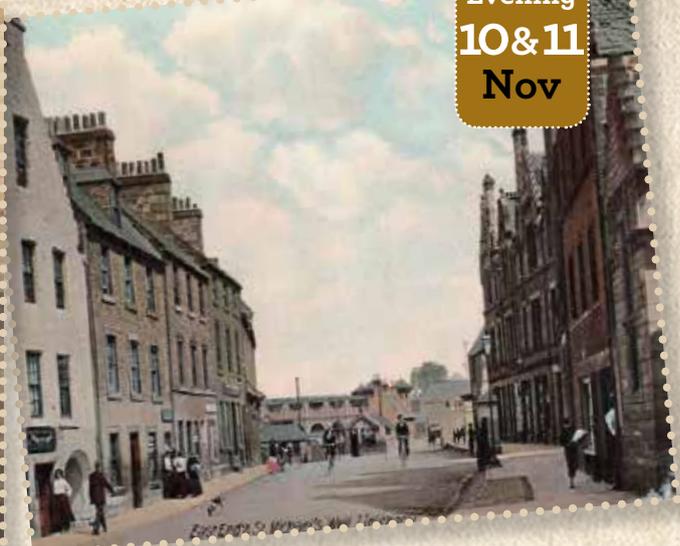
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## ‘LEST WE FORGET’ – REMEMBERING ARRAS AND PASSCHENDAELE

**O**ne hundred years ago, Scotland was embroiled in the “War to End All Wars” – or so they thought! Already, since 1914, Linlithgow had lost over 30 of its young men and 1917 was to bring further tragedy. Among the casualties of that year were William Wright and George Pringle Smith.

William Wright was a Bridgend boy, his father the Headmaster of the local primary school. With his parents and two older sisters, William lived in the school-house and attended Linlithgow Academy, then at the Low Port. In 1913, he joined the shale oil firm of James Ross and Co. as an apprentice engineer, gaining an engineering diploma. In 1916, as soon as he turned 18, like many of his contemporaries, he volunteered to enlist in the army and set off to train in Aberdeen with the Gordon Highlanders. His engineering training enabled him to qualify as a machine gun instructor and, duly experienced, he was sent to the Western Front, moving with his regiment into position just outside Ypres - ready for “The Big Push”. He survived the initial stages of the 1917 battle but, on October 27th, while taking part in the final assault on the village of Passchendaele, William was killed. His body was never recovered and is commemorated today on the Monument to the Missing at Thiepval.

He was one of 250,000 British casualties during the 14 weeks of fighting of what became known as the Battle of Passchendaele. And it was not the only military catastrophe of the year 1917. Earlier, there was fought the Battle of Arras – an even greater

tragedy for the young men of Scotland. **Of the 120 battalions that went into action 44 were Scottish.** During the two months of fighting, the average death toll among those battalions was 1516 personnel - per day! Among the fallen was **George Pringle Smith.** Born at 211 High Street, Linlithgow, he was the son of Robert – an engineer at the Avon Paper Works. George was a brilliant Linlithgow Academy scholar - winning several bursaries which enabled him to study Mathematics at Edinburgh University from where he graduated with a First Class Honours degree. All set to continue his studies at Cambridge, George instead answered his country’s call. He was killed in action in April 1917, and later buried in Brown’s Copse Cemetery – a quiet spot just outside Arras.

*The stories of these two men – along with many others now commemorated on the town’s war memorial - will be recalled on the evenings of November 10th and 11th (Armistice Day) when a multi-media presentation “Lest We Forget” will be staged in St. Michael’s Church. It will follow the course and aftermath of The Great War from 1914 up to the unveiling of the town’s war memorial in the church in July 1921. The part played by St. Michael’s during and after the war will be highlighted – and a tribute paid to the church’s 775th “anniversary”.*

A great deal of research has gone into this new, especially prepared event. This was undertaken by Bruce, by the local World War One History Group, librarian Chris Morrison and students of Linlithgow Academy. Those who were at Bruce Jamieson’s other similar, sold-out events (“Flodden” “The Great War” and “St. Michael’s Son et Lumiere”

will know they have a treat in store - albeit a moving one.

The illustrated presentation, sponsored by The Society of Friends of St. Michael’s, will be jointly narrated by Bruce and actor Thom Pollock. It will be brought to life by sound and light engineer John Barker and the St. Michael’s team of Phil Ratcliffe and Steven Blake. The music will be provided by organist and accompanist Andrew Sutherland and songstress, Sarah Gillan. The Linlithgow Rugby Club Male Voice Choir will supply the soldiers’ songs of the period. The voices of those that took part at the time will be provided by many members of the community whose contributions have been recorded for the event.

The Home Front will not be forgotten and Linlithgow life will be vividly recreated through the sights, sounds and smells of the time: the actions of the Provosts and Councils; the gas works, the explosives factory; zeppelin raids; war-time regulations, conscription and the arrival of the dreaded black-edged telegrams.

The performances are on November 10th and 11th, starting at 7-30pm. Tickets (£10-00 adult; £5-00 children) are available from “Far From The Madding Crowd”, St. Michael’s Church Office (open 9am – 12 noon) and from Margaret Henderson on 01506 844787.

**Bruce Jamieson**



# PARTY AT THE PALACE HIGHLIGHTS...

Party at the Palace made a triumphant return to its Bonnyton Farm location, after last year's successful move across to the other side of the loch. This let performers and festival-goers enjoy the beautiful sight of Linlithgow Palace with its amazing loch-side views. A near 16,000 people walked through the gates of what lots of people are saying is the best Party at the Palace yet. As well as three performance stages the organisers had put lots of effort into adding many new features such as the Purple Orange Acoustic tent and the bright lights of the all-new Kid Zone. In my opinion all acts exceeded my expectations and put on highly enjoyable shows. The atmosphere over the weekend was fun, relaxed and exciting.

## Rosie's Highlights – Main Stage, Saturday...

Many artists put on entertaining performances during the day - including a joyous show from the Noisettes and a nostalgic 90s throwback from Ash – but, in my opinion, all were eclipsed when the Kaiser Chiefs took to the stage. Front-man Ricky Wilson definitely stole the show! Nobody could take their eyes off him as he climbed over equipment, danced around the stage and swung his microphone around while belting out top-quality tunes that we all know and love. The lights were bright and spirits were high as the crowd danced, jumped and sang along to number one hits like "I Predict a Riot" and "Ruby". The Kaiser Chiefs kept the crowd enchanted all the way to their encore when the crowd chanted out the words to "Oh My God (I Cant Believe It)" for about half an hour. I was sad their set was coming to an end but very glad I had experienced the magic. They were entertaining and there was not one cheerless face in the audience. They were certainly a perfect pick for the Saturday night headliner.

## Sun Breakout Stage, Saturday...

The Sun Breakout stage really did bring some unknown gems to light over the course of the weekend. The first band on this stage was a four-piece band from Linlithgow called Altinak. A fair-sized crowd turned up to see this band and not one person left feeling disappointed. Their fiery lead singer has strong vocals and a great presence on stage. The entire band are all clearly skilled musicians and most certainly well-rehearsed. They put on an effortlessly great performance – definitely ones to watch in the future.

Lucy Spraggan, an ex-X Factor contestant, was also an entertaining show to watch on this stage. With her witty songs and all-round cheery atmosphere she was most certainly a crowd pleaser.

The last highlight for me from Saturday was the groove band "Easy". They jumped around the stage as 'happy as larry', making everyone beam with enjoyment. You can see their commitment to their music in their show and, if you will pardon the pun, I found that they were very 'easy' to watch!

## Main Stage, Sunday...

As on the previous day, Sunday's main stage performers certainly promised – and delivered – a good time for the crowd. Amy MacDonald was just back from her world tour and clearly happy to be back once more on home soil. She put on a slick show with her top rate hits but, for me, the highlights lay elsewhere. ABBA tribute band Bjorn Again and English indie-rock band Razorlight were my personal favourites. Not one soul in the audience was left out as ABBA's classic hits were pumped out – Bjorn Again absolutely know how to put a smile on everyone's faces. Razorlight had a hat full of chart hits to call upon and didn't fail to deliver. Johnny Borrel strutted on stage, oozing confidence (no white trousers, unfortunately!) and the band played an upbeat and bouncy set.

## Sun Breakout Stage, Sunday...

Sunday was another good day for fans of the Breakout stage. The first highlight was a band called The Asurus. They are a five-piece indie band, with oodles of good musical potential. With guitar riffs Oasis would be proud of and heavy vocals, this band are destined to go places.

Banshee are a fiery rock band who have already proved their worth by playing in venues such as the well-known Glasgow venues King Tut's Wah Wah Hut and the O2 Academy. Their performance was strong, loud and definitely memorable!

All in all, the whole weekend was an incredible success. Party at the Palace is a festival that continues to flourish every year. Everything was well-organised and thoughtfully laid out. There was an endless amount of food and drink with a great range of choice. I found that queuing (whether for the bar or the toilet) was non-existent. There were plenty of staff around to help with queries or issues if you needed them. Entry and accessibility for me and my family to the festival was as easy as pie.

**Party at the Palace has fully matured as a festival and has proved that it can only get better from here as the organisers are clearly committed to providing a festival that can be enjoyed by everyone in the family. Roll on Party at the Palace 2018!**

Rosie Crowe





# PARTY AT THE PALACE SOUNDBITES.

The end of the summer months brings to an end a series of events which has brought in the region of 50,000 extra visitors to Linlithgow. While some may have been before, many of those who came to the Historic Jousting, Party at The Palace or Pedal for Scotland, will be first time visitors to our town. Add on the estimated 40,000 visitors to Linlithgow Palace, those attending the Classic Car Day, The Folk Festival and the other events and it adds up to over 100,000 people visiting the town in the summer months.

A glance at the Linlithgow Facebook page would suggest that not everyone is keen on the disruption that hosting these events inevitably brings. Road closures, diversions, extra traffic, noise, litter and just the general inconvenience seem to be the main reasons for the dissatisfaction. After all, if you're not keen on jousting, loud music or cycling, it's difficult to see what the benefits are? Additionally, the short term effect on businesses isn't always positive if people are heading straight to the Palace and bypassing the cafes, shops and bars.

So why do other local authorities of towns and cities across the country spend huge sums of money trying to attract these events and what are the benefits?

The first has to be the short term and immediate effects that hosting an event has on the local economy. Each of the three events mentioned offer different short term benefits. The Historic Jousting is mainly day visitors who often take a walk along the High Street using the cafes and the restaurants. Party at The Palace has many weekend visitors with around 200 staying in the local

campsite and all hotels and bed & breakfasts over the weekend were full. You can also add on the crew and staff that are brought into the town in the days leading up to and following the events. The Folk Festival regularly attracts overseas visitors to their series of concerts. As well as the bars, restaurants and hotels benefitting, I know from looking at the PATP accounts that local car hire companies, bus companies, printers, DIY stores, kids' entertainers and others have also had business from our event. There were over 300 paid staff at this year's Party at The Palace and the large majority of them were from West Lothian.

There is also the investment in infrastructure. All three of the main events mentioned have contributed money directly towards improving access to the Peel with new gates on to the Peel, a new road surface through the boatyard of the Low Port Centre and improvements to the pathway around the Peel. These improvements benefit other organisations using the Peel such as the Gala Day, Low Port Centre or Low Port Primary School. Similar improvements to infrastructure were made at Bonnyton Farm ahead of last year's Party at the Palace, opening up a road that had been buried for decades and is now used for parking during large events at the Peel.

Then there are the longer term benefits - "putting the town on the map". The promotional campaign for both Party at The Palace and The Historic Jousting runs to tens of thousands of pounds. With Linlithgow at the heart of their marketing campaigns, both are seen by millions across Scotland and beyond. In the PATP post event survey, more than 88% are planning to visit the town

again. If the Pedal for Scotland and Historic Jousting match those figures that would mean that over 40,000 are planning on revisiting the town - and possibly bring the kids, granny, the mother-in-law etc. with them for a day out, a weekend, an evening meal or a trip along the canal. Spending money in the town, keeping business ticking over, paying their staff, hiring more staff, expanding etc.

Local Colleges including West Lothian and Forth Valley have provided students' placements to these events giving students an excellent opportunity to learn first hand what is involved in running events and business in general. Local organisations have benefitted from the funding through Linlithgow Plus and their arrangements with Loop Connections local reward scheme.

Towns such as Paisley are never going to host the Champions League Final but in recent years it has attracted the start point of The Monte Carlo Rally in 2015 and The Mod in 2013. The Tour de France start point was in Leeds in 2014. Could you imagine the Tour De France starting on the Peel? Neither can I but if you'd been asked a few years ago if you could imagine The Kaiser Chiefs, Simple Minds, Nile Rodgers, Deacon Blue and a host of bands playing in the town it would have seemed just as far fetched.

**Tourism and events are an essential part of Linlithgow's economy and will hopefully continue to thrive.**

**John Richardson**  
Party at The Palace

# INTERVIEW WITH JOHN RICHARDSON, PARTY AT THE PALACE CO-FOUNDER



**O**n Friday the 8th of September I caught up with John Richardson, one of the founders of Scottish festival Party at the Palace, to ask some questions. Here is what he had to say:

*Q. What originally gave you the idea to start Party at the Palace?*

**A.** "I've always been involved with music as a job. I used to own a recording studio and I managed bands and singers. Back in 2013, I went to a few festivals in England with this singer I was managing – ones like **Kendall Calling, and V festival** – and I just remember thinking how different the atmosphere at them was to other festivals like **T in the Park**. They were family friendly, relaxed and it got me thinking about putting on a small festival in Linlithgow, my adopted home town. So when I got back, I phoned up my friend Peter and he said 'let's do it'."

*Q. What has been your favourite year?*

**A.** "This year by far. There have been years where we have had a good event but lost a lot of money or where silly things have gone wrong. These things really make you feel disappointed in what you've done. I liked this year because of how smoothly things went and also the new things we added like the acoustic tent. Altogether I think this year went much better than past years. Always room to improve though."

*Q. What have been your favourite performances over the years?*

**A.** "There are two that stick out for me - **Simple Minds and Nile Rodgers**. The production of Nile Rodgers and the sheer amount of people he has on stage is really a sight. Simple Minds was one of those bands that I grew up listening to so to book them for a festival that you have created is quite special."

*Q. What would be a band you would like to see play in the future?*

**A.** "I have this running joke with my business partner Peter that in 20 years

or so we will have booked a band like **Coldplay**, when they're older and playing Butlin's! Other than that I don't want to say too much - because it might give the game away - but I would love to see bands like **James, Texas or Franz Ferdinand** play on our stages."

*Q. How do you think this year went compared to other years?*

**A.** "Last year there were four things that went wrong: the queues; the loos; the wasps and the food. All of these were easily fixed so it's frustrating when simple things go wrong. This year has definitely been the best year of Party at the Palace."

*Q. Do you get to enjoy the festival or do you have to work throughout?*

**A.** "Peter would say I 'hide' during the event – we couldn't be more opposite with what we do during the festival. Peter likes to roam around VIP, or hang out with the acts. I however, prefer to camp out in the control room with the police and health and safety just in case anything goes wrong. Our styles complement each other. There are always moments of stress throughout the event each year and most of the time the issues that cause problems are difficult to plan against. In year one it was one of our bands taking the huff because we'd lost a beetroot, year two it was a singer with a missing wig – that was the reason **Nile Rodgers** ran so late. Last year it was wasps and this year it was **Razorlight's** tour bus getting stuck under a bridge and another stropky stropky singer throwing his toys out the pram because we didn't have the right sort of nuts he asked for!"

*Q. What's it like to organise the festival? Do you enjoy it?*

**A.** "Party at the Palace is an incredibly fun thing to organise. My wages have quartered since we started Party at the Palace. Peter and I only do it because it is our passion. I used to drive around in a Porsche 911 and now I drive a nine year old Mini, but I really do love what

I do. It can be fun choosing what bands to play but can get frustrating when agents keep you hanging on. All in all though it is great fun."

*Q. How much do the local people get involved?*

**A.** "We try and get locals as much involved as we can. Year one the catering, bars and sound production were local. Unfortunately year one was a disaster because no one was ready for the scale of the event. Sometimes you have to use bigger and more experienced companies for the reassurance. This year we brought in some smaller companies again and it was easier. As well as a great team of local volunteers, we also get student placements from West Lothian and Forth Valley Colleges and the 4th West Lothian Scouts are a great help as well. Bringing locals in was something we wanted to do from the beginning and as the festival becomes bigger it gets a lot easier because we know what to expect."

*Q. How much has Party at the Palace impacted on your life?*

**A.** "I have a very understanding and supportive family. Obviously Party at the Palace has financially impacted me; really it was only this year when we started making money. Even if we weren't making much money, I love what I do. If you asked me after years one, two or three if it was worth it I would have said no but now I know after all this time Party at the Palace is definitely worth it for the buzz and enjoyment it brings to the town."

Rosie Crowe



# LOCH HOUSE FARM – INTERVIEW WITH DOROTHY JOHNSTON

In the weeks after the Party at the Palace festival, the community magazine team got in touch with Dorothy Johnston who, together with her husband Donald, runs the Loch House Farm caravan park. The Loch House Farm caravan park is situated in a scenic location on the outskirts of Linlithgow and is a thriving family run business.

For the past four years, they have hosted visitors to the Party at the Palace festival.

They have found that the growing popularity of the festival has meant that people come from as far afield as Aberdeen and York to soak up the family friendly atmosphere. Many of the campers have returned year after year such is their enjoyment of the event.

When we got in touch with Dorothy we asked for her impression of the atmosphere of the campers:

*“The people who come to stay with us are attracted by the family-friendly nature of the festival. It appeals to all ages as there is music to like across the board. As a festival it is growing every year, yet it is not too big which is perfect for attracting families. It brings a nice, upbeat feeling to the campsite.”*

For Dorothy and her family, the Party at the Palace festival has attracted positive acclaim for Linlithgow and has had a good impact on local businesses. They have found that many campers



are keen to visit other local attractions such as the Palace, the Loch and Beecraigs Country Park.

This year, for the first time, campers at the Loch House Farm enjoyed the benefits of an outside caterer who did bacon rolls for breakfast in the mornings after the festival. Dorothy explained that the festival organisers John and Peter have set the standards high so they wanted to welcome their guests with open arms and make their camping experience as enjoyable as possible.

**Lisa Nettleton**





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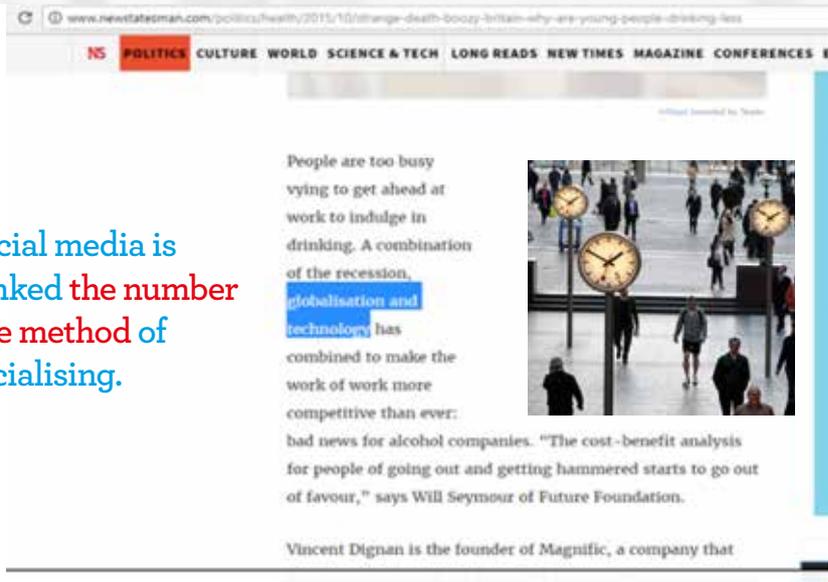
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Social media is ranked the number one method of socialising.



## HOW SOCIAL IS SOCIAL MEDIA?

In 2017, when the internet appears to have become all-encompassing it should, at first glance, be easier for the young to meet new friends and keep up with existing ones than ever before.

However, upon closer inspection, social media doesn't seem to be encouraging much interaction between young people after all.

I was recently shown the July 2017 issue of the MCA Report - which analyses the food and drink industry across the UK - by a concerned friend.

This came up with some of what I believe to be worrying trends. One prominent example is the findings of one of its surveys looking at the ways that young people (those aged between 18 and 25) prefer to spend their time with others. **Social media is ranked the number one method of socialising. In the same survey, social drinking only makes #16.** On top of this, it isn't just drinking that's apparently in decline - sports clubs - another outlet for meeting new people - are often either closing, or at least finding it hard to find new members. It's not to be said that you can't have fun without getting legless or playing rugby, but how much enjoyment can be experienced through the use of Facebook in comparison?

**What sense of fulfilment can be garnered from purely electronic communication?**

There's a deeper reason this confuses and concerns me too. Drinking among friends is surely a good way to unwind and relax, as well as meeting new people along the way. By contrast, how many people do we talk to on Tinder and Facebook and then actually meet in real life (particularly regarding the former), let alone regularly. It seems that rather than using their computers and smartphones as media to meet up with friends and so, many are instead hiding behind their electronic devices.

Social media also seems to breed negative aspects of our personalities such as narcissism. I've met several people openly obsessively talking about how many Facebook friends they have and who might have 'unfriended' them recently. And how often have you seen couples sitting together on the train staring at their mobile phones, swiping through Instagram to see how many likes their last photo got, simultaneously ignoring each other?

The use of social media has skyrocketed since 2010 or so. I fear that it may not be coincidental that we have seen increases in incidences of obesity and numerous mental health issues. While social media does make

our lives more convenient, I feel that more of a balance between ease of communication and enjoying other opportunities that life can bring is needed.

**There are, of course, exceptions to prove every rule. However, it sometimes seems as if those that control society (including perhaps the internet) want us to be as disconnected from the wider picture, in favour of obsessing over literal ones on Instagram. At other times, the likes of Twitter are replacing a serious contemplation of issues with 'sound bites' and who ultimately benefits from that?**

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MCA Report - July 2017

**Calum Smith**



# BOOK REVIEW THE SEAGULL WHO CAME TO STAY

PATRICIA M. STEWART

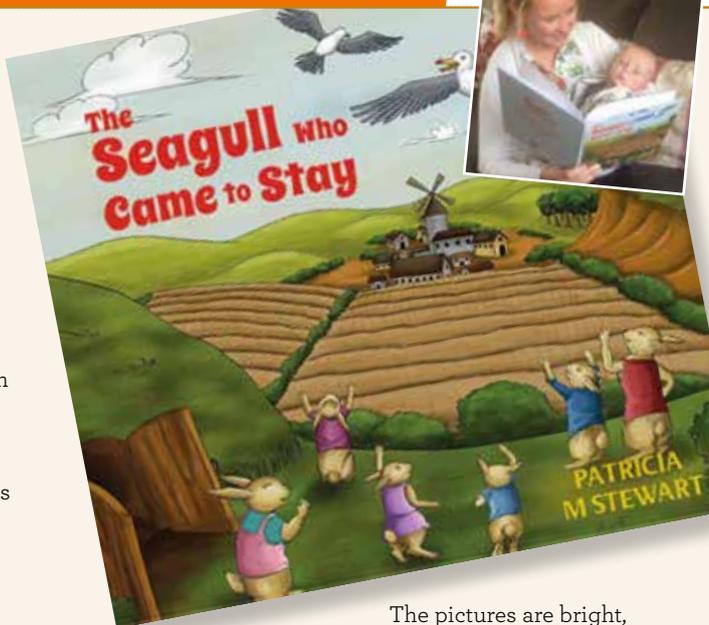
As a primary teacher and parent, I am always on the lookout for wholesome, catchy tales with a nice moral message. I was delighted when I stumbled across this well-written, sweet tale about a family of cute bunnies who are searching for the perfect burrow to call their home. The father of the little family is Bertie the bunny who has many animal friends around Farmer Smith's field.

Of course no children's book would be complete without a little adversity. In this tale, it comes in the form of Sammy the Seagull who has been unkind to the bunny family. However, in his hour of need,

the seagull finds that Bertie and friends selflessly come to his aid. Will one good turn deserve another? You will have to read the story to find out!

Author Patricia Stewart lives locally and reveals that her inspiration for story writing comes from the made-up stories that her own mother used to tell at bedtime - which Patricia often found herself re-telling to her own children. Her natural talent for storytelling shines throughout. The tale of **The Seagull Who Came to Stay** is told concisely with clear, thoughtful vocabulary which will appeal to children, especially those around toddler and preschool-age.

Patricia gained inspiration for her story descriptions from



the animals and fields around Linlithgow and it is easy for local readers to imagine a little family of bunnies living nearby having some fine adventures.

The hardback version of this story is good quality and with a durable outer cover - an important feature for those with a knowledge of our youngest readers!

The pictures are bright, eye-catching and appealing to children. This story itself is light-hearted and entertaining - it would make a lovely addition to any child's library.

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



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# PROTECTING YOUR LOVED ONES

Susan Ralston, Virtue Money

**It's a subject that no-one likes to think about let alone discuss but what provision do you have in place for your family in the event of your death?**

A life insurance policy is an insurance contract. In exchange for regular premiums, the contract offers to pay an agreed lump sum of money on joint life policies if one of the lives covered dies during the term of the policy.

Generally, the younger and healthier you are the cheaper this type of insurance is and when your family is young this insurance can give you the "biggest bang for your buck".

You may already have a plan that covers the outstanding mortgage on your home but what about not only the day-to-day costs but the future costs your family might encounter – university, weddings and help getting children on the property ladder.

**Some of the things that you might like to consider are "how much cover do I think you need" and "how long do you need the cover for"? As with any other financial decision you make, the product has to fit your needs.**



**What is Term Life Insurance and what does it mean?**

**>> You have to die for it to be paid out**

**>> It only covers a set period of time at the end of which it expires**

**If the person or persons insured live longer than the term of the insurance policy, then no cash value is payable under a term life insurance plan. Level term life insurance provides cover of a set amount of cover for a set period of time.**

**There are different types of life insurance, level (premium and cover remain the same), increasing (premium and cover increase in line with the contract) and decreasing (cover decrease and premium generally remains the same).**

The type, amount and term of cover required is always going to depend on an individual's circumstances. Essentially, you need to work out the financial impact to your family in the event of your death, and how much money they would need to survive. You can add critical illness cover for an extra cost when you take out your policy. It could pay out a cash lump sum if you are diagnosed with one

of the specified critical illnesses that your plan covers during the length of the policy, such as heart attack, cancer or stroke. You can also add Terminal Illness cover, again for an additional cost, which pays out a cash sum if you are diagnosed with a terminal illness from which you are expected to die within 12 months of the diagnosis.

**If you would like to make an appointment to speak with one of our advisers regarding life assurance, retirement, critical illness, income protection or any other aspect of your finances then please give me a call or send me an email and I will be happy to arrange this. The first consultation is completely free of charge and no obligation.**

**At Virtue Money, we also run regular Pre-Retirement Seminars which are aimed towards people with between 5-10 years until retirement. We have speakers that cover a variety of topics, tax, legal matters, health and wellbeing and of course pensions. The seminars run from 9am to 1.15pm and we have tea, coffee and (yummy) pastries before we begin and a buffet lunch afterward.**



The people that have already attended have all been incredibly positive and one lady recently commented on how refreshing it was to be in a room with people who were at the same life stage as her. Pension portfolios come in all shapes and sizes so please don't be put off thinking you have too much or too little – we are happy to look at all scenarios.

**Our next seminar is being held in our office in the Oracle Building in Linlithgow on Wednesday the 1 November 2017.**

If you would like to attend then you can book your place by either giving me a quick call on 0345 034 3424 or emailing me at [susan@virtuemoney.com](mailto:susan@virtuemoney.com). The seminar is free of charge so you have nothing to lose and hopefully a whole lot of thought provoking information to gain.



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This article is intended to provide a general review and opinion of certain topics and its purpose is to inform but not to recommend or support any specific investment or course of action.

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# WHAT'S ON AT THE ROSE



## WHAT'S ON AT THE ROSE

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

Live entertainment every Saturday and Sunday evening.

Domino competitions on Wednesday afternoons and Friday evenings.

We're open 7 days.

**BOOKINGS** now being taken for Christmas Party Nights for members and their guests - office and work parties are most welcome.

December Party Night Dates:

**Saturday 9 December**  
7.30pm - 1am

**Friday 15 December**  
7.30pm - 1am

**HOGMANAY**  
**Sunday 31 December**  
9pm - 2am

*Brilliant vocalist*  
*Donna Glass plus*  
*Support Act & Scottish Piper*  
*leading up to the Bells.*

**£12 includes Buffet.**  
*Admission by Ticket Only*

**SAT 25 NOVEMBER 7.30PM - 12.30AM**

Three Course Dinner and entertainment - featuring Malcolm Dougall and Dougie Orr. And Top Vocal Comedienne Marion Martell. Bookings Being taken now. **£20 per person.**

**CONTACT: DAVID MCDUGALL ON 01506 843736 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



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# ORRGANISE: HELPING YOU BE A BETTER YOU

**Francine Orr** is a Linlithgow resident who is an experienced hypnotherapy, Reiki and NLP practitioner – as well as a talented life and business coach.

Francine has a background in coaching and counselling with qualifications in hypnotherapy, Reiki, coaching and NLP.

Francine set up Orrganise in 2013 and works across central Scotland. Here in Linlithgow she works out of the Beautique on the High Street.

**Francine said:** "I set up Orrganise because I wanted to spend my working life doing something positive, working with people to help then improve their lives and achieve their goals. Making a difference to someone's life is a job satisfaction like no other, and I have been privileged to assist many people to make a real difference in their own lives.

*We all do things that hold us back. I can support you to let go of behaviour which is harming you and can help you to create new, better habits.*

*Many of my clients have suffered with anxiety, and I worked with them to cope with challenging situations like driving tests, exams, flying or just dealing with difficult social situations.*

*I am experienced in working with young people and, as we get further into the academic year, we need to watch that our children and young people don't become overwhelmed.*

*For teenagers in particular this can be a really stressful time, and I can help them manage the anxiety around studying and exams.*

*Being part of the local community is really important to me, and I am happy to offer a discounted rate for fellow Linlithgow residents."*



## How Orrganise can help you:

Orrganise can help with weight loss, stopping smoking, anxiety, stress management, achieving your goals and helping you change those habits that are holding you back.

## We offer:

**Hypnotherapy** – through this safe and effective technique you will enjoy the experience of a 'trance like' state whilst your therapist makes positive suggestions to your subconscious mind. Hypnotherapy can help you to change negative habits like smoking, overeating, anxiety and stress and overcoming those phobias that may have got in your way for a long time.

Hypnotherapy won't change who you are but it will support you to be all you can be.

**Reiki** – this ancient Japanese technique helps with relaxation, stress reduction and promotes healing. It can be a hands-on or hands-off treatment and is based on working with your energy. Reiki can help you relax, strengthen your wellbeing, reduce pain anxiety and fatigue and can work with any other symptoms you have.

**Neuro – Linguistic Programming (NLP)** focuses on:

- >> The mind and how we think
- >> How we speak to ourselves and the effect that the language we use has on us and our loved ones
- >> What we do and how we set about achieving our goals

**Client feedback** – 'Francine was able to help me set up my new business... it was a daunting step to take but she has helped me to focus on the positive and now my business is thriving'.

Wouldn't it be great if now was the time to make all those changes and reach that goal you've been dreaming of?



## Do you want to?

- stop smoking
- build your confidence
- lose weight
- get a good night's sleep
- get rid of a phobia or unwanted habit
- be more successful in your business or personal life

If this is you then Hypnotherapy or Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) can help you

Deciding to make changes can be daunting... take the first step  
Make an appointment for your free 20 minute initial consultation by contacting Francine at Orrganise  
Tel: 07772 401634 or Email: francine@orrganise.co.uk



## GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

Orrganise can provide gift vouchers for all of its services.

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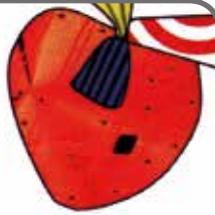


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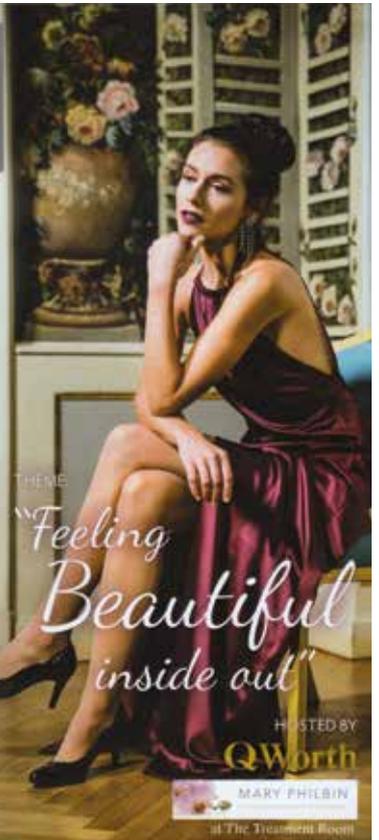
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# WE'RE ON THE MOVE...



## Annet House Museum



As the refurbishment of Linlithgow Partnership Centre nears completion, Linlithgow Heritage Trust are pleased to report the plans for the relocation of the

museum to the new Tam Dalyell House are progressing. The Trust have now submitted a Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund application and significant match-funding has already been secured. The Trust are continuing to raise all the funds needed in preparation for the move and are holding several events in the next few months in support of the new museum.

The **Allander Jazz Band**, a group of Dixieland enthusiasts who enjoy playing happy foot tapping music, are holding a Jazz Night in Queen Margaret Hall Blackness Road on 10 November at 7.30pm. **Tickets priced £10 will be available from Far from the Madding Crowd.**

St Michael's Church is the venue for a Winter Concert by the Linlithgow String Orchestra, Conductor Robin Foulkes on 25 November at 7.30pm.

Admission by donation at the Door.

The Dalyell Talks will begin on 25 October at 7.30pm in the Community Space, Tam Dalyell House, when the guest speaker will be **Tom Brown** whose subject is "Wombs, Witches and Whiplash" hysteria through the ages. Tom is a retired Consultant Psychiatrist who latterly worked at Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board. **Tickets priced £5 including light refreshment available from or at the door.**

The proceeds from all these events will be used towards the cost of the Community Space in the new Museum. The Community Space will be a huge asset to the town providing facilities for Education and Reminiscence activities as well as being available for touring exhibitions, workshops and meetings.

*Please support these events to help the Trust provide a new and exciting museum to be enjoyed by visitors and locals of all ages. For further information go to [www.annethousemuseum.org.uk](http://www.annethousemuseum.org.uk)*



Sheila Menzies



## LINLITHGOW FLYERS NETBALL TEAM



**Bounce Back Linlithgow Netball Team for women of 16 years and over.**

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If you have any queries or questions please contact Emma [ecpickering@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ecpickering@hotmail.co.uk) .... or.... join Facebook page, just search for Linlithgow Flyers.

www.linlithgowcommunitymagazine.co.uk



### DO YOU LIKE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Our new Scottish Country Dancing season has started again, at 7-45pm every Friday night at The Chalmers Hall, Linlithgow Bridge.

We will also hold informal instruction sessions, on 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7-00pm and hold a special dance in Queen Margaret Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> November, with live music from Scott Band's Band.

We are a small friendly, sociable Club and welcome new members, whatever their standard.

Web Site: [www.linlithgowscdc.org](http://www.linlithgowscdc.org)

or contact John Carswell on 01506 845698



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