



the **BLACK** *bitch*

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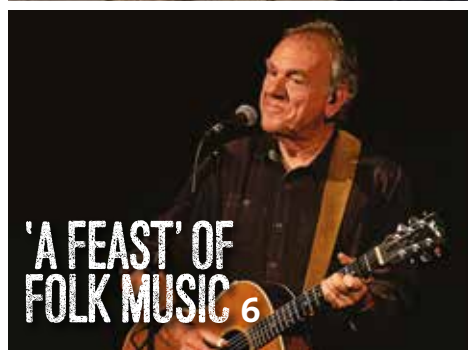
Linlithgow's news by Linlithgow's people



THE BIG CLEAN UP!

BUT WHAT ABOUT NEXT YEAR? PAGE 18

100%
LOCAL



'A FEAST' OF
FOLK MUSIC 6



LINLITHGOW
ACADEMY & 10K RACE 10



DOORS OPEN
DAY AWAITS 12

PLUS

New Hopetoun Gardens, Australian choir head to Linlithgow, Burgh Beautiful, Town Centre BID/Mill Road BID, Scottish Youth Parliament, Police Scotland, Book Review...



FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE OUR WEBSITE

www.linlithgowcommunitymagazine.co.uk

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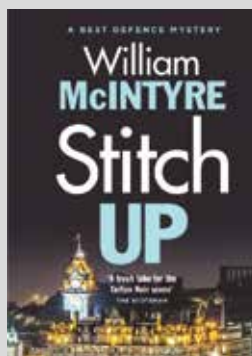
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Contact the Black Bitch

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



Copy deadline for next issue is 26 September 2018



BOOK COMPETITION! NAME THE LOCAL PATH IN THE IMAGES BELOW.

Want to win a copy of *Stitch Up* by William McIntyre?
Think you know the name of this town path?
Email your answer to: on.a.lead@gmail.com

*'Recommended to
all fans of Tartan
Noir who want
something just
a little different.'*

**Undiscovered
Scotland**



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

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

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

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

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



Linlithgow- a Great Visit!

www.linlithgow.com

Download the Linlithgow App Today!

Pride & Passion
LINLITHGOW

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

WHAT'S ON - AUG, SEPT, OCT

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

Aug

Thur 30 Linlithgow Keep Fit Club, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Linlithgow Academy - Small gym*

Former Children's Laureate Chris Riddell will be at Far From The Madding Crowd for a signing event new book Once Upon a Wild Wood

Sept

Sat 1, Sun 2 Doors Open Day, Scotland's largest free cultural festival and it celebrates the build environment.

Wed 5 - Sun 9 Linlithgow Folk Festival, Opens with Celebration Stramash, 8:00pm Linlithgow Bowling Club. *See page 6*

Thu 6 Linlithgow Keep Fit Club, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Linlithgow Academy - Small gym* *Throughout September*

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

Sat 8 Go Bats!, 8:00pm - 10:00pm, Linlithgow Palace. A Historic Environment Scotland ranger event.

Sun 16 Folk Session, 2:00pm at the Black Bitch Tavern*

Sat 22 Linlithgow Arts Guild., Budapest Cafe Orchestra, 7:30pm - 9:45pm, An exciting programme gypsy-flavoured music from across the Balkans and Russia, including Tzigane, Klezmer, Romanian Doinas and Hungarian Czardas styles. Linlithgow Academy

Australian Male Voice Choir & Guests, 7:30pm, St. Michael's Parish Church

Tue 25 Community Council 7:30pm - 9:00pm, Burgh Halls

Sat 29 Burgh Beautiful Autumn Fair, 10:00am - 4:00pm, St Michael's Kirk Hall, Linlithgow

Oct

Oct 4 Folk Session, 8:00pm at the Black Bitch Tavern*

LINLITHGOW RAMBLERS WALKING CALENDAR



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

Linlithgow Film Society

CINEMA IN THE COMMUNITY

JOIN US FOR OUR 46th SEASON

SEASON STARTS: MON 10TH SEPT
LINLITHGOW ACADEMY THEATRE: 7.30pm

★★★★ New Members Welcome ★★★★★
Guest Tickets / Concessions
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

T. McKerron: 01506 844425 Or come on the Night!
www.linlithgowfilmsociety.org.uk

2018	10 SEP	Paddington 2
	24 SEP	Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri
	8 OCT	Darkest Hour
	29 OCT	Hostiles
	5 NOV	A Man Called Ove
2019	12 NOV	Shape of Water
	26 NOV	A Quiet Place
	10 DEC	The Greatest Showman
	14 JAN	The Post
	21 JAN	Finding Your Feet
	4 FEB	The Midwife
	18 FEB	Murder on the Orient Express
	4 MAR	Breathe
	18 MAR	Death of Stalin

2018

2019

Free Event!! Tuesday 18th September 7.30pm, at Far From The Madding Crowd

All The Hidden Truths is Claire Askew's first novel, a mystery set in Edinburgh in the aftermath of a mass shooting.

Claire will be giving a reading and then talking about the experience of writing a novel.

Linlithgow Floral Art Club
Wed 19 Sept: 7.30pm
Linlithgow Rose Football Social Club, Demonstrator Alyson Christie, Fife.
Wed 17 Oct: 7.30 pm
Linlithgow Rose Football Social Club, Demonstrator Pam Alexander, Morpeth.

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

WEDDINGS • EVENTS • PORTRAITS

UNIT 7
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(opposite Linlithgow Rose F.C.)

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Folk Fae Lithgae

REV. CHRISTINE BARCLAY

Reverend Christine Barclay is the Rector of St Peter's Episcopal Church in Linlithgow and its sister church St Columba's in Bathgate, an appointment she took up exactly six years ago.

Christine ministers to both congregations from her base at the church house in Linlithgow and is accompanied by her seven year old West Highland terrier, Millie, who, Christine tells me, "is very much part of the team". The joint charge arrangement works well, as Christine explained:

"On a Sunday morning, we have a 9.30am service in Linlithgow and an 11.15 over in Bathgate. We have lots of other services in the week and I just divide my time between the two congregations. I go where I need to go and it pretty much works across the two churches."

Although she has always been involved in the church, Christine embarked on the road to the ministry much later than is common:

"I didn't start training until I was fifty", she told me. "I tell everybody that was my mid-life crisis. Other people have a sports car and decide they're going to play bridge or golf, but I trained for the ministry. I have been ordained eleven years and it's been the best thing I ever did. It's a

life style, not a job. Everything else fits in with it."

A mother of two adult children, Christine was a learning resources manager in a further education college in Fife for over twenty years, a job she describes as being "people centred"

"Everything I've done has been people-centred", she told me. "I'm very interested in people and making a difference in their lives".

Sandwiched neatly between the Golden Chip and First Impressions hairdressers at 153 High Street, St Peter's is the smallest church in Linlithgow, with room for only sixty worshippers. Episcopalians have been active in Linlithgow for hundreds of years, but the present church building only dates from 1928. This year's ninetieth anniversary celebrations have coincided with the opening of a new extension to the rear of the church, and this "community annexe" provides the building with much-needed facilities, such as accessible toilets, a fully fitted kitchen and a communal area for gatherings.

Bringing the church facilities up to date was something Christine wanted to do from the first time she set foot inside the vibrant red door and she is delighted that the vital upgrade has finally happened in this milestone year.

Christine is very keen to see as many people as possible using the impressive new space:

"We are part of the community and we want to share our facilities to reach out and serve the people of the town", she told me.

"A lot of the funding for the project came on the understanding that it would be used by the community, and local people helped enormously with our fundraising. We are here to support everybody in whatever way we can and we are now exploring just how we do that. We are hoping that people will come in and have a look at what we have to offer".

"St Michael is kind to strangers" is something Christine would agree with wholeheartedly and she has been deeply moved by the welcome she has received in Linlithgow.

"I got a good feeling from the very start", she said "It's a nice community, where the churches work together and are involved in the life and work of the community and to me that's hugely important. People meet each other and share, it's a quite unique place and long may that continue."

Murdoch Kennedy



ALICE FERGUSON MSYP

Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for the Linlithgow constituency. I recently celebrated my 16th birthday, meaning I am in fifth year Linlithgow Academy. I got involved in SYP through the school council. 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.



> A SUMMER OF PLANNING

This summer, I attended a Convenor training weekend at Bonaly after being elected into my new role as Convenor of the Health and Wellbeing Committee. The weekend was spent with other Convenors drawing up our committee plans for the year, receiving media and facilitation training, and constructing the plans for the new national campaign – Public Transport. The plans for the campaign will be released very soon (it's super exciting!!). The Health and Wellbeing committee will be focusing on introducing an SYP policy regarding standardising school procedures concerning class absences due to illness. Furthermore, we hope to launch a mini campaign on raising awareness of sensory impairments sometime next year. I am also excited to be participating in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) events and conferences in the near future.

With exam results recently announced, I would like to congratulate the many who participated in the stressful, tiring, SQA exams this year. Even if you didn't get the results that you wanted, there is no wrong path in life! Online, using the hashtag #NoWrongPath, you can find some inspiring life journeys and advice for life after exams.

I have been out of office for a while so I thought this article would be perfect to announce some opportunities for my constituents!

> CALLING ALL CREATIVES

Firstly, are you creative and have an interest in Children's Rights? The Scottish government and Young Scot are looking for young people to help in designing the new Baby Box! For more info & how to apply go to <https://bit.ly/2Bk1OzN>.

> MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

The Scottish Parliament is now accepting applications for their apprentice-ship programme, and they want to hear from you! The Scottish Parliament is committed to creating a workforce which reflects the diversity of Scotland. Their Modern Apprenticeship Programme contributes to that aim by bringing young people into the organisation and they welcome applications from across all communities. Over the last four years they've brought in over 20 Modern Apprentices, and nearly all have gone on to get permanent employment within the Parliament.

> WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? STAND FOR ELECTION AT THE SYP

Lastly, are you passionate about issues affecting young people? Want to make sure your voice is heard by decision-makers? Why not make 2019 the year you stand for election to the Scottish Youth Parliament? Make a difference and #Stand4SYP! <http://elections.syp.org.uk>



Alice Ferguson MSYP

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

<https://msyps.typeform.com/to/HKDrYE>

Twitter – @aliceMSYP

Instagram – @alicemsyp

Facebook – @aliceSYP

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



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROSE... SEE PAGE 9

>> Bookings now being taken for Xmas parties. Saturdays 8, 15 and 22nd December; 7.30pm till 1.00am

>> December Entertainment Friday 14th; 7.30pm till 1.00am; Monday 17th; All day, 1.30 pm till 9pm; David John, Jesse Garron and Bill Barclay.

>> Hogmanay Show Tickets available, menus and entertainment on request. >> New members welcome.

***** SATURDAY 3 NOV *****

7.30pm - 12.30am, 3 Course Dinner (Carvery Main Course £25.00pp)

TOP CLASS SHOW : **ELITE**

Bookings now being taken for Xmas parties. Includes tribute to Grease, Dirty Dancing. Bookings now being accepted.

CONTACT: DAVID MCDUGALL ON 01506 843736 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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.

Open 7 days

The Showcase is sponsored
by Linlithgow BID

YOUTH FESTIVAL SHOWCASE.

MUSIC SESSIONS AT
SELECTED VENUES.

WHITETOP MOUNTAIN BAND.

RALPH McTELL.

SONGS & REELS
AT THE ROSE.

NORA DEVINE STAGE.

HANNAH RARITY BAND.

IONA FYFE TRIO.

from
5 to 9
SEPT

ORGANISERS PROMISE "A FEAST
OF FOLK" FOR MILESTONE YEAR



LINLITHGOW FOLK FESTIVAL 20TH

Linlithgow Folk Festival organisers are promising a real “Feast of Folk” at next month’s event, which is celebrating its 20th year in 2018. The Festival will run from the 5th to the 9th of September.

Fresh from their recent sell-out concert with Celtic music giants, Skipinnish, the Folk Festival Association is delighted to announce that this year’s headline artist will be the legendary **Ralph McTell**.

The revered singer/songwriter has been an influential figure on the UK Folk music scene since the 1960s.

Announcing this year’s programme, association secretary, Jonathan Moore said:

“Ralph is perhaps best known for his Streets of London, which has been covered by over two thousand artists around the world, and for his tale of Irish emigration, From Clare to here. He is often described as “Folk music royalty” and is still playing to packed houses all over the country.”

Ralph McTell will have a tremendous support act, as Jonathan explained:

“In recent years, Ralph has been working closely with young emerging artistes and we are delighted that the headline concert on Saturday September 8th in the Academy will feature three of Scotland’s finest – award-winning singer Iona Fyffe, accompanied by musicians Jack Badcock and Ross Miller, Linlithgow’s very own world champion Town Piper, who many people will have seen at this year’s Marches.”

Another wonderful young artist making an appearance in Linlithgow will be the BBC Young Traditional Musician of the Year, **Hannah Rarity** from Dechmont, who is earning rave reviews all over the country.

Describing the event as “one of the highlights of the weekend”, Jonathan Moore revealed:

“Hannah and her band will head up the second Songs and Reels at the Rose event at the Rose Social Club on September 6th. Her first outing at Linlithgow Festival will also be the West Lothian launch of her hotly anticipated debut album Neath the Gloaming Star, which features a whole host of musicians, including Phil Cunningham.”

International visitors this year will include the lively bluegrass band, **The Whitetop Mountain Band**, from Virginia USA, who will give a concert in the Rose Club on Friday September 7th.

First staged in 1999, the Festival is firmly established on the traditional music scene and all the mainstay events will take place again. These include the popular sessions in the Black Bitch and other venues, musical cruises on the canal, workshops, the family ceilidh at the Vennel, the Hub at the Masonic Hall, the Bluegrass Concert and Gospel Session, and the outdoor Nora Devine Stage at the Cross.

In this **Year of Young People**, there will also be another staging of the popular Youth Festival Showcase, which will give young musicians of school age from all over Scotland the opportunity to perform at the very heart of the Festival.

Full details of the programme can be found in the 12-page full colour Festival guide, which is available at “Far From the Madding Crowd” bookshop, the Burgh Halls and other local venues. A comprehensive run-down on who’s playing where also appears on the website www.linlithgowfolk.com



YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR TO STAR AT THE ROSE CLUB



SONGS & REELS AT THE ROSE.

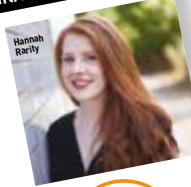
THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

Featuring BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2018 - West Lothian's very own Hannah Rarity - and her fabulous band. For "Songs and Reels at the Rose", Hannah will be joined by the brilliant young musicians Sally Simpson (fiddle/viola), Innes White (guitar), John Lowrie (piano) and Conan McDonagh (whistle).

8pm - 10.15pm
Linlithgow Rose Social Club
Braehead Road EH49 6HF

£10.00 at the door
for further information
t. 07910 729736

Tickets online at: www.linlithgowfolk.yapsody.com
£10 at the door. Check Facebook for details.



Tickets also available at Far From The Madding Crowd, 20 High Street, Linlithgow EH49 7AE.

This event is proudly supported by the Black Bitch Community Magazine

For the first time last year, a major Folk Festival event took place in the Rose Social Club. Dubbed, Songs and Reels at the Rose, the concert featured four of Scotland's leading young traditional musicians, including Linlithgow's town piper, Ross Miller.

The event returns again for the 20th Linlithgow Folk Festival and the organisers are delighted to welcome the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year - West Lothian's very own **Hannah Rarity** - and her fabulous band.

Recently featured in The Scotsman as one to watch in 2018, Hannah's spellbinding voice and warm, genuine stage manner have seen her become one of Scotland's foremost young singers.

Since graduating from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2016, she has toured internationally with the renowned Irish-American traditional group Cherish the Ladies, appeared as a soloist on BBC Scotland's Hogmanay Live 2016, sold out her 2017 Edinburgh Fringe debut and featured in projects for the RSNO, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and BBC Northern Ireland TV.

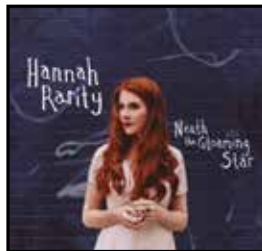
In recent weeks, she has appeared in the Robert Burns-inspired musical **A man's a man** at the Edinburgh Fringe.

For Songs and Reels at the Rose, Hannah will be joined by the brilliant young musicians Sally Simpson (fiddle/viola), Innes White (guitar), John Lowrie (piano) and Conan McDonagh (whistle)

Next month, Hannah follows up her acclaimed EP Beginnings with the release of her hotly anticipated debut album **Neath the**

Gloaming Star, which involves some of Scotland's most sought after young musical talent, as well as Folk legend, Phil Cunningham.

The album features interpretations of songs from the Folk genre Hannah embraces so effortlessly, including Scots songs from a number of sources, self-penned tracks and heart-wrenching covers of some of Scotland's greatest songwriters. Copies will be available at the Rose Club on September 6th.



Songs and reels at the Rose gets underway at 8pm and finishes at 10.15pm. Doors open at 7.15pm. Linlithgow Rose Social Club, Braehead Road EH49 6HF. £10 at the door. Tickets are available at Far From The Madding Crowd, 20 High Street, Linlithgow and can also be bought online at linlithgowfolk.yapsody.com. Check Facebook for details.

SONGS AND REELS AT THE ROSE is proudly sponsored by the Black Bitch Community Magazine.



Thur
6
Sept

Tickets £10.00

WHITETOP MOUNTAIN BAND.

BLUEGRASS CONCERT
FRI 7 SEPT

8pm-10.30pm. Doors open 7.15pm, Linlithgow Rose Social Club, Braehead Road EH49 6HF. £10 at the door. All seats unreserved. Licensed bar. Tickets available from Far From The Madding Crowd, 20 High Street, Linlithgow EH49 7AE.

ONLINE BOOKING AT:
www.linlithgowfolk.yapsody.com, also available at the door.

LINLITHGOW FOLK FESTIVAL 2018

A SECOND EVENT AT THE ROSE CLUB...

Another Folk Festival event will take place at the Rose Club on Friday September 7th. All the way from Virginia, USA, Bluegrass musicians The Whitetop Mountain Band will be making a welcome visit to Linlithgow, as part of their UK tour. The band is well known for their high energy and charisma on stage and their shows also include flat foot dancing.

Bluegrass concert starts 8pm and finishes at 10.30pm. Doors open at 7.15pm. Linlithgow Rose Social Club, Braehead Road EH49 6HF. £10 at the door. Tickets are available at Far From The Madding Crowd, and can also be bought online at linlithgowfolk.yapsody.com.

Fri
7
Sept



Murdoch
Kennedy





XMAS 2018 AT THE ROSE

JOIN US AT THE ROSE...

Family get togethers, groups of friends, office or work part - Linlithgow Rose provides you with a superb Christmas Party.

Dinner 7pm for 7.30pm. Carriages at 1am. Advanced Bookings - Tables will be reserved. Cost: £35.00 pp, (£5.00 discount for over 60's).

December 2018 Christmas Party Night Dates:

Saturday 8 December

Heart Beat, Outstanding vocal harmonies and Comedy from fabulous trio.

Clairemma, Tribute to female icons of popular music Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, The Supremes, Celione Dion and all your 90's favourites including Britney Spears, Shania Twain & Pink.

7.30pm - 1am

Friday 14 December

Trina Milne - Little Miss Diva, Diva Show - Musical Journey including comedy, big songs and memories rekindled.

David John, Solo international artist - who has worked alongside producers Maddscientist,

Heavy D, The Boys and 50 cent. A Great entertainer.

7.30pm - 1am

Saturday 15 December

Marilyn Childs-Duncan International artiste with an amazing range of sounds and styles from pop, rock, soul and haunting ballads.

Mike Munro - Real Diamond Experience, Mike's excellent guitar work, superb sound and light show has travelled the UK and abroad showcasing his Neil Diamond tribute.

7.30pm - 1am

Monday 17 December

The ever popular Afternoon Party, 1pm - 9pm Xmas Lunch, Show & Tea Time Buffet.

Cost: £32.00 pp, (Book early to avoid disappointment).

3.30pm - Jesse Garron, Rock 'n' Roll Circus, Fife's finest comedian with his original and best stories.

5.15pm - Bill Barclay, Popular Act with fantastic live music show.

7pm - David John, As featured in our 14 Dec Party night. He's just so good we are featuring him twice this year!

Saturday 22 December

Angela Minty, Top class vocalist across a range of songs. Angela was born to sing and will have you on your feet ready to party.

Mickee Blitz - Glam Rock, Mickee delivers an up tempo, high energy performance.

7.30pm - 1am

Hogmanay Bash

Monday 31 December

9pm - 2am

Brilliant vocalist Mr Onkel, plus support Act & Odette Clark. Plus Scottish Piper leading up to the Bells.

Admission by Ticket Only: £15 (includes Buffet).

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.

Open 7 days

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME



Christmas Party Night Menu 2018

Homemade Lentil Soup
Farmhouse Pate with Oatcakes
Fresh Melon

Prime Roast Silverside of Beef
Roast Breast of Turkey with Festive trimmings

Homemade Steak Pie

All served with seasonal vegetables and potatoes

Peach Melba
Chef's selection of Cheesecake
Homemade Sherry Trifle
Tea & Coffee

Special dietary needs can be catered for - please state when booking.
All main meal options to be pre-ordered.



CONTACT: DAVID MCDUGALL ON 01506 843736 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

A Heartfelt “Thank You” from Moondance for a Fabulous Fundraiser!



Moondance night in the Marches Marquee on Saturday 16th June. It was an absolutely brilliant night and we raised a staggering £7,937!

The Moondance team would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended the ladies Moondance night in the Marches Marquee on Saturday 16th June. It was an absolutely brilliant night and we raised a staggering £7,937! This money has been divided equally between our two charities: Breast Cancer Now and St. John's Breast Oncology Unit.

Thank you to everyone who made this event possible and certainly a night to remember. The dance floor was packed from the moment the band, Kerry and the Malting Boys, started playing, with everyone dancing away until late. The bar was buzzing with prosecco and cocktails, some lucky ladies won some fabulous raffle prizes, and the evening just kept getting better and better.

For those who didn't get a chance to be there, you missed a fabulous night but guess what? We are already in the process of planning the next one, so watch this space and keep Saturday 15th June 2019 free. For the latest updates please like our Facebook page. See you next year!

Many thanks, **Christine Evans**



CDT – Craft, Design and T-shirt?



Abbie Boles, Iona McPhilips and Douglas Pascal were all prizewinning finalists.

In what has now become tradition, 2018 T-shirt design has once more been created through a competition held within the Craft, Design and Technology (CDT) department at Linlithgow Academy. Each year, the pupils astound the 10k committee with the quality of their submissions and make it very challenging to single out a winner.

The number of entries again went well into three figures and the committee had to whittle this down to three finalists who were invited to make some final alterations before a decision would be made on which design would make it on to the T-shirts. **Abbie Boles, Iona McPhilips and Douglas Pascal** were all prizewinning finalists, with the design by Douglas chosen as the overall winner.

Linlithgow Athletic Club would like to thank all pupils from the Academy who took part in the competition.



Linlithgow Athletic Club

THE THIN BLUE LINE IN LINLITHGOW



Constables Neil Hunter and Andrew Murray are the two community officers based in Linlithgow Police station which is located in the newly refurbished Tam Dalyell House at Linlithgow Partnership Centre.

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

There is also a public assistance desk which will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

LINLITHGOW COMMUNITY POLICE SURGERY

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

LinlithgowCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

To find out details of future Linlithgow Community Police Surgeries please log on to West Lothian Police Facebook page or Linlithgow Facebook Page or Neighbourhood Watch Scotland for future dates or check local press for details

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

OFF ROAD BIKES AND QUADS

With the better weather we are seeing a marked increase in the use of off road bikes and quad bikes in and around the Linlithgow. We would like to take this opportunity to remind residents of the legal standing when it comes to the use of these types of vehicles.

All vehicles that are being ridden on the road must comply with the usual regulations and legislation, that is to say that they:-

1. Must be registered and have their registration plates on display in prescribed manner.
2. Must have insurance that covers the rider for at least third party risk.
3. Must have a valid MOT certificate if the vehicle is over 3 years old.
4. The rider must hold a valid drivers license for the type of vehicle being ridden.
5. The vehicle must conform to all current construction and use regulations.

Failure to comply with any of these will result in the rider being charged with relevant offences and, in the case of no insurance or no driver's licence, the bike will be seized by the police.

In some cases this could lead to points and/or disqualification; these offences are relevant, even when the offender does not hold a driving licence.

THIS IS ALSO AN OFFENCE!!!

Section 34 of the Road Traffic Act creates an offence for any person to drive a mechanically propelled vehicle anywhere other than a road without lawful authority or permission from the landowner. Neither Hopetoun Estates, West Lothian Council nor Scottish Canals have ever given permission for people to ride off road vehicles in the areas highlighted.

If you are caught riding your bike or quad in this manner, you will be dealt with through the relevant Anti-social behaviour legislation and it is likely that your bike will be seized.

IN SHORT, DON'T DO IT!!!

Is it really worth having to pay £150 to get your vehicle back, if you get it back at all, having to pay a further fine for any offences that you may be charged with and a criminal record?

CALLING ALL PARENTS

Over the past few weekends there have been complaints from residents in various areas of Linlithgow about large groups of youths congregating.

Unfortunately some of these groups have been involved in the consumption of alcohol, setting fires, shouting, swearing and littering the areas. The police and other partners are aware of these issues

and will be conducting patrols in the areas.

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

ALERT SYSTEM - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCOTLAND

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

This system allows users to receive alerts from Neighbourhood Watch and Police Scotland. Police Scotland can send an alert to all users who may be effected or who may have an interest in the crime.

Scheme is used to alert the public about:

- > **Crime Trends** – recent crimes that have occurred in their area, housebreakings etc.
- > **Missing Persons** – Details of High Risk missing persons can be broadcast to specific areas.

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

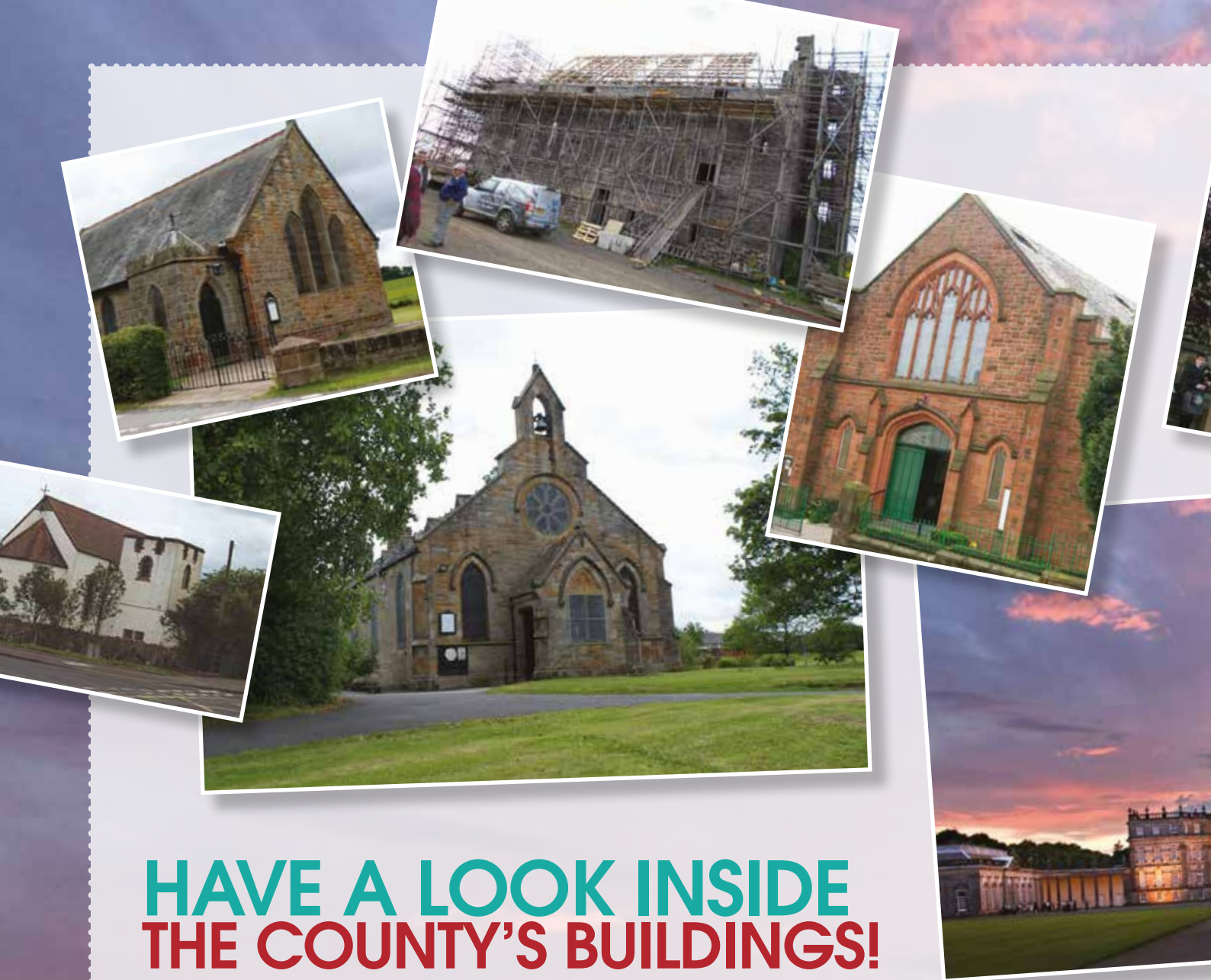
The key to the Neighbourhood Watch Alert system being a success is YOU, we require the public to register online; the more people who register the better. You can register at <https://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk>

And follow the link to JOIN

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

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

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



HAVE A LOOK INSIDE THE COUNTY'S BUILDINGS!

The weekend of 1 and 2 September 2018 will see the annual **Doors Open Days** event taking place in and around Linlithgow, and throughout West Lothian.

Doors Open Days forms part of Scotland's contribution to European Heritage Days, which sees over 25 million people from 50 countries take part annually, uniting our communities in a unique celebration of heritage in our own special ways.

Doors Open Days is now Scotland's largest free cultural festival. It celebrates the built environment and gives free access to around 1,000 venues across the country throughout the month of September, every year.

Doors Open Days is co-ordinated nationally by the Scottish Civic Trust with annual support from Historic Environment Scotland and others. Local area programmes are co-ordinated by a network of local authorities, heritage consultancies, civic societies and heritage groups who are in turn supported by a large number of volunteers, businesses, community organisations and building owners.

The purposes of the Doors Open Days event are –

- >> to provide free access to sites of historic, cultural, architectural and community interest;
- >> to increase public appreciation and enjoyment of Scotland's built heritage; and
- >> to promote inclusion in Scotland's civic spaces and activities.

The aims of the event are –

- >> to ensure that the Scottish historic environment delivers benefits for its communities by maximising social, cultural and economic opportunities for all;
- >> to stimulate and encourage the development of Scottish heritage, cultural and business sectors by creating unique opportunities for insight into Scotland's hidden heritage and world-class architecture; and
- >> to promote civic pride, community cohesion and to encourage understanding between local and visiting individuals across our regions.

Linlithgow Civic Trust has organised West Lothian's Doors Open Days since 2011 and are proud to be doing so again in 2018 and we have a varied programme once again this year.



As well as a few of the regular participants, including the **Canal House** and **Crossview Studios** in Linlithgow, and a number of ecclesiastical properties in and around Linlithgow including **St Michael's Parish Church**, there are a number of new venues this year including **The Tank House (aka Cathlaw Grange)** in Torphichen and **Hopetoun House** near South Queensferry. The dramatic 1960s **Boghall Parish Church** in Bathgate and the more traditional **Category A Listed Kirk of Calder in Mid Calder** have also joined the programme this year.

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church in Linlithgow makes a welcome return to the programme this year after its recent alteration and refurbishment, as does **Duntarvie Castle** near Winchburgh. **Mary's Meanders** are back too and will run a guided walk around Linlithgow. There will also be a chance to visit all three churches in the Parish of Pardovan,

Kingscavil and Winchburgh (PKW for short) this year – namely **Abercorn, Kingscavil and Winchburgh Parish Churches**.

Copies of the programme for West Lothian have been distributed around the town in a number of venues. Pick one up and hopefully it will inspire you to take part.

Please note that this year the Doors Open Days event in West Lothian takes place the weekend before the Linlithgow Folk Festival and Pedal for Scotland events.

For more details of what is happening in Linlithgow, West Lothian and across the country as whole, then check out the official event website at www.doorsopendays.org.uk.

For more details about the activities of the Scottish Civic Trust then visit <http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk/>.



For more details on the activities of Linlithgow Civic Trust then visit <http://lbt.scot/civic-trust>. Linlithgow Civic Trust is part of Linlithgow Burgh Trust. Linlithgow Burgh Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Scottish Charity No. SC047211).

Allan M Robertson

Linlithgow Civic Trust and West Lothian Doors Open Day Co-ordinator

**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS** 2018

open
**1 & 2
Sept**

THE ARTS

This is always a busy time of year for the Arts with the new season starting for many seasonal organisations, so please read on and maybe experience something new this year. Support for all the local volunteers who run these groups would also be most welcome.

Linlithgow Arts Guild

Linlithgow Arts Guild has come up with another wide selection of top professional musicians and ensembles, bringing an exciting programme of events to the town for their winter Saturday night season. Enjoy a glass of wine in the interval and have some thoroughly enjoyable evenings of wonderful music. The concerts include folk jazz, choral music from English cathedral singers, a children's event with the poems of Roald Dahl, the "Rolling Stones" of baroque music, and several other Classical items. The performers come from Japan, Spain and Slovakia, as well as from the UK.



The fun starts on 22nd September with the exciting and unusual **Budapest Café Orchestra**. They present themselves as a street band from the Balkans, and their lively performance will include gypsy music and klezmer and czardas styles.

On October 20th, they welcome much admired Japanese pianist, **Yu Kosuge**, winner of the Suntory Music Award in 2017, Japan's most prestigious music award. She performs a wide-ranging programme on the theme of "Fire", with music by Liszt, Debussy, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky and De Falla.

I don't have space to mention everything but the website is very informative. All of the concerts are open to everyone. **Ticket prices for most concerts are £12 and tickets for school pupils are generally free of charge.**

"CROCHET, KLEZMER AND COOKING"

Season tickets are available online at www.LinlithgowArtsGuild.co.uk at the bargain price of £48 for all of the events. Tickets for individual events will also be available on-line as well as from outlets in Linlithgow High Street including "Far from the Madding Crowd", the Post Office and Peterkin and Kidd.

Norman Cummings workshops

Many of you will know that following Norman Cummings retirement a lovely lady, Linda Webb, is now running the shop. Some will not be aware however that she runs regular classes. The next batch of classes will be starting on 26th August including crochet, basic sewing, dressmaking, lampshades and knitting.



If you are interested in crochet, the popular four week beginner class will be back, and there will also be a few one off crochet workshops. Their four week beginners sewing class might be of interest, where you will learn the basics of using a sewing machine and complete a number of small projects over the four weeks. There will be a new three week follow up sewing class for those with a bit more experience. If you have always wanted to try dressmaking but weren't sure where to start, then their four and six week dressmaking classes would be perfect. Watch out for other one off workshops like lampshades and needle felting. **Information on all the classes will be on their Facebook page (Norman Cummings Textiles) or call the shop on 01506 842013.**

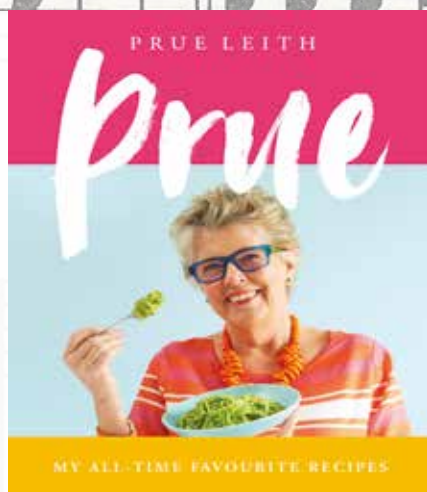
Linlithgow & District Art Group are currently showing a small selection of their work within Linlithgow Papercraft. They are looking for new members to join the group so if painting is your thing please get in touch with Margaret Bruce on 07906021875 or 01506 845805. Evening classes run on

Tuesdays and will be underway by the time you read this.

The group is a member of the **SAA (Society for All Artists)**. As we mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, the SAA has partnered with The Royal British Legion to stand together and say Thank You to the courageous men and women who served and sacrificed for our country. They are remembering them the best way they know how - by painting, and hopefully being part of the special WWI 100th Anniversary Exhibition.



The SAA hope to gather together as many paintings and drawings of poppies as they can, as well as raising money for this vital cause, and the members of the group here have started painting poppies ready to send them off for the exhibition.



What's on in the near future...

Linlithgow Bookshop have just had it confirmed that Prue Leith will be in town on Thursday 8th November! Prue is coming as part of her UK tour to promote her first cookery book in 25 years, *Prue: My All Time Favourite Recipes*. She will be in conversation with Sue Lawrence, a well-respected food writer in her own right. The event starts at 7pm in the Linlithgow Burgh Halls, tickets are £12 and books will be discounted on the night - see www.maddingcrowdlinlithgow.com.

com or email sally@maddingcrowdlinlithgow.co.uk. Another sell-out I'd imagine... so be fast.

The Linlithgow Jazz concert on 1st September is the Mellotones, a trio comprising Jimmy Taylor on vocals and double bass, Alan Anderson on piano, Bob Stewart on drums and special guest Martin Foster on saxes. These guys have had a Saturday afternoon residency in Edinburgh for decades.

The Folk Festival runs from 5th-9th September - see the full article on page 6-8 of the magazine.

The Linlithgow and District Embroiderers' Guild will start their new session on **Wednesday 26th September**. Please email d6eagle@gmail.com for information.

Linlithgow Film Society kicks off the new season on **Monday 10th September** with the crowd pleaser **Paddington 2**. There is an advert on page 3 detailing the Programme for the year.

LAMP is putting on Summer Holiday from 15th to 20th October, and you can enjoy "Plays and Wine" evenings with **The Linlithgow Players**, on October 12th to 13th (see article on page 27). Tickets are not on sale yet but get the dates in the diary.

The Jo Ganter exhibition continues in the Burgh Halls till 7th October.

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

Pat Swan

patswan@virginmedia.com



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"you can't overdose on music"

BOOK REVIEW A MAN'S A MAN: THE LIVES OF ROBERT BURNS ROD GRANT

Robert Burns has an enduring legacy in Scotland as the nation's much-loved poet. His works are oft quoted and capture hearts and minds in today's society just as they did to those of his contemporaries. He is a poet of the people; true and honest in his reflections, casting light on his own life and those around him with unflinching perception, wry humour and endearing charm.

*"For a' that, an a' that,
It's coming yet for a' that,
That Man to Man,
the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that"*
(A Man's a Man For A' That, 1795)

Burns' life and works are interwoven in this historical novel allowing readers to imagine life as it was for the son of an eighteenth century tenant farmer with a lust for life and a flair for linguistic expression. Grant brings the colourful, contradictory

character of Robert Burns to life through his imaginative narrative. As a man, Burns was many things to many people throughout his lifetime and thereafter. Poet, linguist, farmer, exciseman, lover, husband, father - Burns encapsulated all of these roles with his perfect imperfections although always with vigour, energy, truth and passion.

This novel is interesting because it weaves historic fact with Rod Grant's creative interpretation of the formative events in Burns' life, from childhood to adulthood, which most certainly shaped his writings, thoughts and actions. Grant provides readers with a wide range of Burns' poetry and includes some of his more obscure verses. Through Grant, we gain a sense of who Robert Burns was - the man behind the words - and learn more of the people that Burns held most dear.

*"Here lie the loving
husband's dear remains,
The tender father, and
the gen'rous friend;
The pitying heart that
felt for human woe,
The dauntless heart that
fear'd no human pride"*
(On My Ever Honoured
Father, 1784)

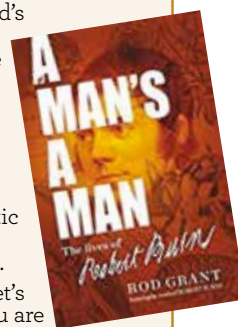
In the foreword of this novel Rod Grant writes that he has long been an admirer of the poetry and prose of Robert Burns and felt it would lend itself well to musical portrayal. "A Man's a Man" is a novel from the musical play of the same name, borne from a collaboration between Rod Grant and his colleague Martin Franssen. They share an interest and enthusiasm in the works of the nation's Bard and together have produced an original, imaginative portrayal of the creative journey of a unique and interesting historical figure. Burns' original poetry is sung to new melodies, composed by Franssen. Their successful play is running with an acclaimed cast for the second year at the Edinburgh International Fringe in August.

Both the novel and musical offer an opportunity to learn more about Scotland's national poet and gain a deeper sense of his artistic motivations, including lesser known works, enhancing our appreciation of his much-loved romantic verses and national celebratory classics.

'Right, Mr Burns! Let's calm down now. You are well loved throughout Scotland - do not spoil that reputation. Come on, lad, take a seat. Things are no' so bad, you know. Listen.

*"Should auld acquaintance
be forgot, And never
brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance
be forgot,
And auld lang syne!"*

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





Sat
22
Sept



AUSTRALIAN CHOIR'S UK TOUR STARTS IN LINLITHGOW

The Australian Welsh Male Voice Choir will be touring the UK during September and October, together with their guest soprano Ayşe Gökür Shanal. Linlithgow will host the first Concert of the tour, which goes on to destinations that include Newcastle, York, Liverpool and South Wales. They will end their tour in London's Royal Albert Hall when they join other choirs for a Gala Festival.

The Choir has visited the UK several times during its history, but this will be their first visit to Scotland. Following recommendations from a fellow Australian Choir - (Wagga City Male Voice who visited Linlithgow in 2010) - they approached Linlithgow RFC Male Voice Choir to discuss the possibility of a joint Concert to open their tour programme.

Chris Thomas, the Chairman of Linlithgow RFC Male Voice Choir takes up the story "Discussions started well over a year ago about arranging a Concert in Linlithgow. From the outset we were delighted to offer our support and it will be a privilege to welcome them to Linlithgow - and to Scotland - and host the first Concert of their tour. They are a Choir with a wonderful reputation and rich pedigree and it will be a tremendous experience - and

honour - to share a Concert with them and their fabulous guest soloist Ayşe Gökür Shanal. Both the Choir and Ayşe have performed at many prestigious international and Australian venues - including Sydney Opera House - so we're really looking forward to joining them for a Concert at the very special Linlithgow venue that is St. Michael's Parish Church. I'm equally delighted that Bruce Jamieson has agreed to be our Compère for the evening and I'm sure he'll guide us through what will undoubtedly be a hugely enjoyable and memorable programme."



Jim McGuigan, the Musical Director of Linlithgow RFC Male Voice Choir added "I'm working closely with Tom Buchanan, the Musical Director of Australian Welsh Male Voice Choir, to put together a programme that will provide a wonderful and entertaining evening of music to showcase the talents of both the Choirs and Ayşe. I'm particularly pleased that we have been able to include songs that the choirs can sing together, which I'm sure will be one of the Concert highlights."

From Sydney Opera House to St. Michael's

The Australian Welsh Male Voice Choir is based in the Melbourne area and was formed in 1974. In 1983 the choir was invited to join the Association of Welsh Choirs and became the first choir outside Wales to be accorded this honour. The following year the choir toured the United Kingdom where it became the first choir outside Wales to sing at the "1,000 Voice Festival" at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The choir again represented Australia in massed Welsh choir events in the UK in 1988, 2000, 2004, 2012 and 2015. Last year the Choir enjoyed a very successful tour of Taiwan, Hong Kong and China - with a highlight being a performance at the Great Wall. Appearances at the Sydney Opera House on two occasions and performances on ABC television are also part of the Choir's rich history.

Brisbane born soprano Ayşe Gökür Shanal is one of Australia's most versatile classical singers. She has performed at venues across Europe as well as the USA, Japan and Turkey. As a Dame Joan Sutherland Scholar, she studied at London's prestigious Royal College of Music and was an adjunct member of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.



Ayşe has won many prestigious awards and scholarships including the Australian Singing Competition, the Dame Joan

Sutherland Scholarship and Award and the Sonderpreis der Loreley-Festspiele at the Neue Stimmen International Singing Competition (Germany).

She has collaborated with Australian and international composers and has appeared as a guest artist with Opera Australia and Turkish State Opera. She has also featured as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestras of Sydney, Queensland, Melbourne, Adelaide and West Australia.

Starting another great chapter for Linlithgow RFC Male Voice Choir

September will be the start of another terrific 12 months or so for Linlithgow RFC Male Voice Choir. As well as local engagements, the Choir will make a second visit to London's Royal Albert Hall, tour in South West France and in September 2019 they will host an Italian Choir from Florence. Deputy Chairman Harry Lynch commented: "We remain



very much a community based choir, but we have always enjoyed our tours abroad. Past visits have taken us to China, Canada, Ireland (both Northern and the Republic), France, Holland and most recently Belgium. I'm delighted that we are continuing the tradition with a further visit to France next May and we've also been invited to sing in Italy in 2020. To be returning to The Royal Albert Hall in November this year is an added highlight, when we will be joining with other Choirs in a Festival of Brass & Voices to help raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

We now have 30 singers in the Choir, but we are always happy to welcome new people and we can assure new members of a very warm welcome. Whilst our core objectives remain to enjoy our singing together and raise funds for worthwhile causes, we also very much enjoy the social side of things. So, if you

can sing and are interested in joining us, we would be delighted to hear from you. Now would be a great time with such an exciting period ahead."

A final comment from Chris

"I think the visit of The Australian Welsh Male Voice Choir and Ayşe will be a great event for the town and I'm hoping for a Full House at St. Michael's to celebrate the occasion. I'm also delighted that both the Choirs and Ayşe have agreed that the net Concert proceeds will be donated to Alzheimer Scotland. If you're free on the evening of Saturday 22nd September, please come along and join us for an outstanding and enjoyable evening in support of a great cause!"

Linlithgow RFC Male Voice Choir Contacts

Chris Thomas
t. 07823 884802
Chairman, Linlithgow RFC
Male Voice Choir

Harry Lynch
t. 07540 634550

CONCERT & TICKET DETAILS

When: 7.30pm on Saturday 22nd September 2018
Where: St. Michael's Parish Church, The Cross, Linlithgow
Tickets: £10 (£5 for primary school aged children with an adult)
From: Far from the Madding Crowd, Linlithgow High Street
Email: choir@lochan.org **Telephone:** 01506 844383





STREET CLEANING

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY? Averil Stewart of Burgh Beautiful

Some would say it is for “West Lothian Council to keep our streets clean. After all we pay taxes.” But at a time of cutbacks, the Council has to decide on priorities and make hard decisions. It would appear that the physical environment is bearing the brunt of the cutbacks, whether grass-cutting, flower beds, conservation projects, street and drain cleaning or removal of weeds. Yes, we want to see our environment cared for, but is this something for which we can help take responsibility?

The Britain in Bloom competition, in which Linlithgow’s Burgh Beautiful was invited to represent Scotland, has been a great way to focus minds and activities on what helps to make “Linlithgow one of the cleanest, greenest and most beautiful towns”.

Hanging baskets, planters and flower beds delivered by Burgh Beautiful and others bring much pleasure, as do ‘wow’ experiences such as the Serpentine bed or the informative World War 1 commemorative bed at the Vennel. But floral displays and main roads would have been diminished by

minimal grass-cutting and weed infested cobbles and kerbs.

Consequently, Britain in Bloom Judging Day on 9 August was preceded by a month of high activity by individuals, businesses, neighbourhoods, Hit Squad Days organised by Burgh Beautiful - over 400 hours was spent by volunteers in street care - and finally a machine sweep by WLC. Community Payback teams also made their contribution with the painting of benches, bins and bollards. Without the help of these dedicated people, the town would have continued to look very scruffy. Burgh Beautiful has to finance high quality grass-cutting to complement its floral displays. All has been greatly appreciated and commented upon by the Judges!

There is also the question of litter and fag-ends. Why can individuals not put these into the bin, not left on top or dropped by the side? Why should others have to sweep up after them? Yes, thousands of fag-ends were removed from pavements, under benches and by bins over this intensive period of trying to make Linlithgow cleaner.

The town was looking really smart and the sunny Judging Day ended with a rousing performance from the Linlithgow Reed Band reinforcing the enormous voluntary and financial support from townsfolk, from businesses and from many organisations. The Britain in Bloom

Judges were impressed but we must wait until 19 October for the results.

BUT WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW? Who will take the initiative and some responsibility no matter how small?

Could Linlithgow follow the continental example of expecting, indeed requiring, businesses and residents alike to take care of their own immediate surroundings? On the Continent, shopkeepers sweep and wash their pavements daily. Many in Linlithgow already do that, but could more not be done? Could not all property owners and occupiers alike take some responsibility to stop the accumulation of dirt which leads to weed growth, and keep kerb lines and gutters swept of detritus? Non-sweeping of street dirt can also lead to blocked drains and flooding.

Also worthy of consideration is the town receiving its own budget for the care of its streets and open spaces through a grant from the local authority - that way we could determine our own priorities and hopefully achieve a better overall result. Many aspire to the return of traditional town councils and this could be a ‘half-way house’.

A smarter, cleaner town can attract more visitors and tourists, enhance civic pride, and reinforce it as a community leading by example: all creating a greater sense of well-being for residents.

'NOSTALGIA AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE'

Looking back over some of the pictures we have saved over the last 40 years has evoked many memories, but they aren't always the rose-tinted memories of which some of our customers have been reminding us this year! This picture of the old greenhouses in Hopetoun's walled garden looks charming, but it also reminds us of the long cold winter days trying to keep warm in the uninsulated glasshouses and waiting for customers to make the journey along the shore road from South Queensferry.



Luckily for us we can always recall where we saw a particular plant performing well because this helps us to remember the best conditions for all the plants we recommend. Our list of our all time favourite 40 plants has been distilled from so many memories of seeing the plants growing happily and Dougal especially remembers growing Purple Sage in all his gardens. This is an ancient plant much favoured by the Greeks and Romans for its medicinal and culinary qualities.



We use it mainly as a small evergreen ornamental shrub, but we call it a herb and the British use it as a classic herb in stuffings and sauces although the French have never seemed to take to it. We use it all year adding a dozen leaves to the frying pan when we fry escalloped turkey, pork or chicken. In the garden it needs a really sunny well drained position as it is a Mediterranean plant that dislikes cold wet and heavy soils. It looks great



beneath rose bushes that can look so bare at their bases and in a small border alongside lavender, variegated lemon thyme or pink summer flowering twinspurs. Clip it over at Easter time to keep it bushy, although it can be rather short-lived but long-loved.

Many of you will remember that we only ever fed stale bread and bacon rind fat to the birds in our gardens.

Now we all spend a fortune buying lovely feeders and nutritious food for our feathered visitors. All of us can remember taking a bag of stale bread down to the local pond to feed the ducks but now this nostalgic memory is being destroyed as we are told by the experts that we should not feed bread to ducks and swans.

Signs at Linlithgow Loch ask us not feed bread to the ducks – carbohydrate offers little nutrition for them and fills them up so they take too little exercise get little goodness. Also any leftover bread encourages rats and if it sinks to the bottom causes poor water quality and algal blooms.

You can buy special food but they also like dried mealworms, rolled oats and thawed out frozen peas!

Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson,
New Hopetoun Gardens



so much more than just a garden centre

www.newhopetoungardens.co.uk

NEW
HOPETOUN
GARDENS

FREE PLANT FOOD!

IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

WHEN YOU SPEND £35 ON OUTDOOR
PLANTS TO GET THEM OFF TO A REALLY
GOOD START IN YOUR GARDEN!

THE HIGH STREET

It's strange to think that at the start of the year, local social media groups were beset by "doom and gloom" forecasts about Linlithgow town centre!

In the intervening months, we've welcomed Dollhouse, Igloo, Jewellery By Design, Küchenhaus, Lochside Café, Mac's Sweets and Ice Cream, M74 Studio, Mid-C-Mods and Vaporized.

We look forward to meeting yet more

businesses scheduled to open soon, so be sure to keep checking this section in each edition of the Black Bitch!

This increasing vibrancy owes much to Linlithgow women making their venture - some for the first time - in to town centre business. Existing shops being taken over and enhanced, and an exciting new bespoke furniture outlet, are further boosting the town's reputation as the go-to place for speciality shops.

In this edition, we feature three existing businesses being taken over by women, as well as the stunning M74.

To all this female influence we can add a male success story! **Mid-C-Mod**, opened recently by Jim Brown and his partner Martin McKinnon and now open every day, has been attracting both locals and visitors in droves with its collection of '50s and '60s furniture and memorabilia.

NEW BUSINESS: M74

A hitherto hidden "jewel in the crown" at Beecraigs Country Park near Linlithgow now has a presence in the town's High Street to exhibit its stunning bespoke furniture, figurative wood carvings, and vessels and bowls turned from local wood.

Method Studio has become a byword for quality and design, with a list of "blue chip" clients including Bentley, Burberry, Estée Lauder, Fortnum & Mason, Jaguar, Land Rover, Johnnie

Walker, and Glasgow School of Art.

Now, husband and wife owners **Callum Robinson and Marisa Giannasi** have opened M74 (at number 74 High Street) to show local people their work and discuss bespoke commissions.

Said Marisa, *"They will see that Method stands for quality and good design. We want to get inside people's heads and really understand what they would like... what would be unique to them."*

Marisa, an architect and designer, said that she

had cut back to one day a week teaching interior architecture at West of Scotland College, but loves teaching and didn't want to give it up completely.

For Callum, who followed his father into woodworking, it is "really special" for customers to realise that all the furniture at M74 was made only three miles away, from wood likely to have been sourced within a 10-mile radius.



NEW OWNERSHIP: TRULY SCRUMPTIOUS



Taking over Truly Scrumptious at The Cross was the perfect match for **Colleen Winning**. She could run a

successful business producing designer cakes - her main hobby for years!

But at the same she concedes that taking over a well-established business with a clutch of awards to its name is a daunting prospect: "I'm grateful to **Susan** (Archibald, the previous owner) for the advice and help she gave me at the start, but it's all down to me now!"

Colleen, who has a degree in events management and years of experience, said that she and her husband and business partner David wanted to do all they could to ensure clients felt completely at ease when discussing their requirements for a wedding, anniversary, birthday or some other special event:

"We are doing away with the glass cases and displaying our cakes on sideboards and shelves. Instead of a formal large table we've got coffee tables and casual seating. We want

people to realise we are a friendly, informal business, and not as expensive as some might think. Just pop in and talk to us, or make a Saturday appointment to discuss your wedding needs over some cake samples."

She said that "the sky's the limit" when it came to the themed cakes they could create at Truly Scrumptious - from Harry Potter to comic-strip heroes.

"I personally love the whole 'girlie thing', and if somebody asks for a Disney-themed cake I'm delighted!"

A newly-introduced line has really taken off in a matter of days: *"I hated seeing off-cuts from freshly baked cakes being binned. We use the off-cuts in cake-cups, which are twice the size of our cupcakes and we blend in buttercream and different jams."*



NEW OWNERSHIP: CENTRE STAGE DANCEWEAR

Centre Stage Dancewear, in the heart of Linlithgow High Street, could not be a more logical acquisition for business partners **Lesley Ann Craig**



and **Leigh White**.

Dance is a passion they have shared with their families for years, and this ensures they know what's "in", whether its any style of dancing or gymnastics.

The Studio has nothing to rival it in the Central Belt between Edinburgh and Glasgow and is attracting customers from a wide area.

Lesley Ann said she had been a customer of Dance Wear Studio for years. Her second daughter **Bryana**, who is 18, is now studying Musical Theatre at Lane Performing Arts in London: *"My background for 30 years has been in childcare, first with Falkirk District Council, then with the Aberlour Trust at Langlees in Falkirk"*.

Leigh said that she had long had an interest in

dance through her now grown-up daughters **Stephanie and Chloe**, and the chance to acquire the shop was *"too good to turn down"*. She was continuing to work part-time with husband **James** at their central heating business in Bonnybridge.

Among several innovations, the shop now offers a range of tartan dancewear and a service to have all types of wear personalised. Well-known brands like **Capezio**, **Bloch** and **So Danca** are all stocked.

NEW OWNERSHIP: NEWS AND CARD SHOP

The News and Card Shop on Linlithgow High Street, a stone's throw from the busy railway station, has become a local institution over the last 11 years.

The new owner, **Arlene Mendonca**, is mindful of the reputation it has built up for stocking a wide range of newspapers and magazines for early-morning commuters and for locals, as well as a huge range of cards.

"I want to maintain the service that Murat (Arlene's uncle) provided over the years, but bring in some changes that I think will further enhance the business. Linlithgow is such a lovely town to have a business in, and everybody has been so welcoming and friendly. There is a real sense of community here."

One of the first changes Arlene is making is in trying to ensure the large array of magazines is more aligned to customers' needs: "For instance we were carrying half a dozen copies of a specialist magazine on reptiles. Yet only one lady comes in for a copy. I'll certainly be happy to get any magazine in that a customer wants regularly."

Arlene said she had now begun appraising the huge array of cards in the shop. She felt quite a lot were "old-fashioned", and she intended introducing a range of cards more in tune with what customers were looking for.



She also had begun further extending the large range of celebration balloons (which she inflates). All ages would be catered for, as well as wedding, anniversary, and good luck balloons.

"I'm also introducing a bigger range of back-to-school materials, including folders, study cards, calculators, and Frixion erasable pens, which are hugely popular."

Arlene added that she was continuing to take dry-cleaning and keeping on the parcel and package delivery and collection service.

MILL ROAD BID

Emergency First Aid at Work

We've had fantastic feedback from everyone who attended the Emergency First Aid at Work Training, provided by TutorCare on 8 August, with attendees emailing us to say how good the trainer was and how much they enjoyed the course. We have of course passed this feedback on to TutorCare with thanks from the BID.

If you were unable to make the August date but would still be interested in attending a course, please let Bridgette know, and if numbers are sufficient, we can look at providing another course in the new year.

You can email bridgette.kleinman@linlithgowmillroadBID.com or call 07738 107155 and leave a message.

CCTV – extended coverage!

We've extended the coverage of our CCTV system and installed another two cameras on the estate, this time in e-Net Park. After a successful period of testing and monitoring the new cameras have been 'live' for a couple of months and have already been

instrumental in helping the Police to identify individuals and issue ASBO's for Anti-social Behaviour.

Remember the CCTV and ANPR system are there to protect you, your staff and your business, so if you see something suspicious – report it, we may have valuable information recorded that can help the Police.

A belated Welcome....

We're delighted to welcome another new business to the estate, this time it's **Blue Ptarmigan** who joined us back in 2017. Blue Ptarmigan are a Business Consultancy company focusing on 'People Improvement' and deliver bespoke training courses to ensure employers and employees have the necessary skills to effectively perform in their role.

Mark and his team help individuals and teams to develop a wide range of skills with their clientele ranging from Senior Executives of large organisations, to budding youngsters looking to take on a more supervisory role.

We wish **Blue Ptarmigan** every success and welcome them to Mill Road IE.

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

Contacts:

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www.linlithgowmillroadbid.com

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Project Manager
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07738 107155



Nicholas Gribben, Stewart Ness, Bridgette Kleinman

September is going to be a busy time in Linlithgow for community events! As part of the project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and LEADER to deliver a new museum, Linlithgow Heritage Trust is running a community archaeology dig in the town from the 14th-16th September with GUARD Archaeology. This is one of a series of activities that are being run in the lead up to the Museum opening in Spring 2019.

GUARD Archaeology are identifying five sites around the High Street where trenches will be dug to help us learn more about the history of the town. Being a community archaeology project means that this is a fantastic opportunity for people from the town to be involved and hopefully find some exciting material. Community volunteers will be provided with training and supervision to carry out the excavations, help identify finds and learn about the archaeological process.

GUARD Archaeology are an archaeology unit with a long record in delivering commercial and community archaeology projects. They are excited to be leading the excavations in a town with a rich past.

'The burgh was a long single street, the High Street, forming part of the route westwards from Edinburgh to Stirling

and Glasgow, with a shorter arm, Kirkgate, leading northwards to the royal palace and the parish church,' said Iraia Arabaolaza from GUARD Archaeology. 'This is an exciting way to find out more about Linlithgow's history from the core of its medieval town'.

Iraia is keen to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to help over the weekend. There will be plenty of different roles from doing the digging to helping with recording the artefacts.

When the work has been finished GUARD Archaeology will study the finds and produce a report on the work. Any finds will go through the Treasure Trove Unit, secretariat of Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel, which will then recommend a home for the finds. GUARD Archaeology have also kindly committed to coming back at a later date to provide a public talk and update us on the discoveries.

'We are really excited to be working with GUARD Archaeology to find out what is underneath the streets of Linlithgow,' added Stuart Kennedy from Linlithgow Heritage Trust. 'This project is an important part of the lead up to the Museum reopening in 2019 and becoming a real community focused space.'

The Linlithgow Young People's Project are also supporting the project by allowing their space to be used by volunteers as a meeting point and for refreshments through the day.

Making it a real heritage weekend there will be another of the very popular **Antiques, Vintage & Collectors Fair at Linlithgow Academy on Saturday 15th September**. It's a great opportunity to pop along and pick up a bargain. All the money from the £1 entry is raised in aid of Linlithgow Heritage Trust and goes towards the Museum being able to provide community activities.

The new Museum will have a community space to be used for Education and Reminiscence activities and will be available for touring exhibitions, workshops and meetings. Our programme for school visits will also be greatly enhanced by the provision of this dedicated space.

.....

So September looks to be an exciting month exploring the heritage of the town! Anyone who would like to help with the community archaeology weekend should contact Iraia at info@guard-archaeology.co.uk or on 0141 445 8800.



from
**14 to 16
SEPT**



Stuart from the Westport Veterinary Clinic tells us about some of his regular customers. This month it is Lottie Romanes

Hello

I'm Lottie Romanes

Lottie is a Bearded Collie and nearly 4 years old. Lottie used to be an Assistance In Disability (A.I.D) dog. In her role not only was she taught how to fetch mail, tv remotes and to clear up her toys but Lottie could also help disabled people take off their cardigans and socks.

Her position was made redundant and she now enjoys her retirement as a house dog and pet.

Lottie's favourite walks include Bo'Ness shore and Linlithgow Loch but her top walk is along the canal towpath where she loves the sights and smells. Unfortunately, she can get a bit scared when cyclists whizz past her, especially as she knows to lie down and wait until they pass if they remember to ring their bell.

Without a doubt her favourite toy is her ball which she will chase and fetch endlessly!

Lottie's only naughty habit is turning her nose up at her dry food until some cooked chicken, ham or cheese is added! Some people think Lottie is afraid of them, but she loves people and is just shy.

Diet and Nutrition

Diet and Nutrition is a vital component to ensuring you have a happy healthy companion! It is an owner's responsibility to ensure they provide their animal with

everything its body needs to grow, to nourish and to stay healthy - inside and out!

There are many different feeding options available and with so many options choosing the most appropriate can be overwhelming!

Complete Diet

A complete diet contains every nutrient required for dogs to stay healthy without needing any supplements or other foods to be added. They come in different formats, wet, dry and even some raw. Care must be taken not to over feed on a complete diet if combining different formats.

Complementary Diet and Mixers

Complementary diets and mixers do not contain the full mix of nutrients required for an animal to stay healthy and need to be mixed with usually a wet food to provide a complete diet.

Wet foods can be very tasty to dogs, however, if they are used to form a complete diet care should be taken to ensure they eat all parts of it. Dental care at home is vital, whatever type of food you use. Wet food, however, can be more likely to predispose dental disease so it is worth taking this into consideration - can you brush your dog's teeth? It can be easily trained, and the veterinary team

are happy to help you.

A Healthy Measure

Know how much you are feeding - weigh and measure out the food! Don't be tempted to use handfuls or bowlful as a gauge. These can vary massively and are often a common component when an animal gains weight.

The recommended daily allowance provided on food labels are a guide only - you should always aim to feed your companion for their ideal weight - this may not always be the weight the currently are!

More than the bowl!

Not all the food needs to be from the bowl. Take some food from their daily intake and use it for games, for enrichment and for scent work. Not only is this great fun for you and your dog, it provides good mental stimulation and encourages exercise!

The veterinary team are always here to advise and guide owners on appropriate feeding, diet, and routines best suited for each individual pet.



T. 01506 844165



Digging Linlithgow's Medieval past

Become an Archaeologist and help us find the remains of Medieval Linlithgow



Buried beneath the back gardens of Linlithgow High Street may be archaeological remains from Linlithgow's medieval past.

Come and work alongside other volunteers. Professional archaeologists will guide and train you in hand excavation, finds discovery and identification, recording of discoveries and dating of artefacts.

This is an exciting way to find out more about Linlithgow's history!

Digging will take place, over the weekend of 14-16th September 2018 in selected back gardens of Linlithgow's High Street.

If you would like to take part, please email

info@guard-archaeology.co.uk

or phone GUARD Archaeology

0141 445 8600



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Linlithgow Living Challenge 2020

A new and exciting project has started in Linlithgow.

Transition Linlithgow, through the Climate Challenge Fund, has secured funds to start and develop a new project - 'Linlithgow Living Challenge 2020'.

The project, based in 'UNIT 5', Braehead Road (opposite Linlithgow Rose Football Club) started in April 2018 and will run until March 2020.

The project has 5 members of staff, who you will meet further on, and has been set up to show people that small, easy steps can be taken to reduce our carbon footprints... often through fun and interesting activities.

You can come along and learn new skills in our workshops, such as building and upcycling furniture, wood carving and textiles. Borrow tools from our Tool Library, enjoy some LOCAL produce at our Food Hub, get free energy advice for your home, be part of a school 'walking bus' or learn how to bring that neglected bike in the shed back to life.

We understand that people have busy lives and that dealing with the ongoing challenge of climate change can be low on your priority list but, as the project's co-ordinator **Andy McCann** says, *"It's all about small steps, small changes - every change is a change for the better and we at Transition Linlithgow want to assist people in that journey by offering advice and fun activities."*

Workshops will be starting up in September - spoon making, low carbon cooking, furniture upcycling and woodworking. We also offer, in partnership with local organisation 1st Step, 'Dr Bike' maintenance sessions in UNIT 5 every second Saturday.

Come along and find out what this new project has to offer you and learn some new skills, at the same time as doing your bit to save the planet.

events in the autumn, such as low carbon cooking classes (using locally produced ingredients) and climate related film nights.

Check us out at **Linlithgow Food Assembly's Facebook page** www.facebook.com/linlithgowfoodassembly or email me at co-ordinator@transitionlinlithgow.org.uk

Meet the Team



Andy McCann Project Co-ordinator

I oversee the running of the project and am also in the process of setting up a local 'Food Hub'. This will be an online market, supplying customers with locally produced goods, sourced within 30 miles of UNIT 5. We are talking to producers and hope to supply bakery products, fruit and veg, eggs, meats, vegan meats and other LOCALLY produced products at the Food Hub.

We will be running climate change



Wendy Graham
Active Travel Project Organiser

Looking to travel smarter in Linlithgow? We can help you find cheaper, healthier and quicker ways to get around town.

From cycle training, personalised journey planning, maps, bike maintenance and more, there's something for everyone. I'm always looking for new opportunities to help people see what travel options there are - for instance, at the end of August we had some electric bikes for free hire and we hope to offer this again soon.

In September, we're inviting everyone in Linlithgow to take part in 'The Linlithgow Challenge' - a month long challenge to get as many people cycling as possible. Every time you ride a bike for 10 minutes or more in September, log it on our Challenge website www.lovetoride.net/linlithgowchallenge and for every ride you log you'll be entered into a draw to win some great prizes - the more times you cycle the greater the chance of winning! You can also enter as part of a group e.g. as a workplace or community group, and you can compete against other groups of the same size to see who can get the most people cycling.

Of course, it's not all about cycling. We've got plenty of information on walking and public transport options, and can even set you up with some free fuel efficient driver training to help you save money and fuel every time you get in your car!

Contact Wendy on travel@transitionlinlithgow.org.uk to take part.



Neil Hutson Waste Project Organiser

Here at the Transition Linlithgow Tool Library and Fix-It Hub we are passionate about providing the local community with affordable access to tools alongside advice and information to help them complete their DIY tasks. We believe in the importance of practical knowledge and want to empower people with new skills in a fun and inviting environment.

With our Tool Library, people can borrow tools without the expense of buying them outright and the hassle of storing and maintaining them, all while helping reduce their carbon footprint by not buying brand new tools.

In our Fix-It Hub we use the knowledge of staff and local experts to help you fix and maintain everyday household items and have workshops in activities like wood carving and textile and furniture upcycling. Our workshop space is open to members to come and use our tools and work together on projects.

We want our members to borrow, learn and create. We hope you'll come and get involved!

If you are interested email me on waste@transitionlinlithgow.org.uk

Susannah Jennings Energy Project Organiser

I am the Energy Project Organiser and can assist you in reducing your carbon footprint by offering energy saving tips, which could also reduce your monthly energy bills. I can help with meter readings, understanding energy bills and signpost you to ways to save energy and money - all in the comfort of your own home.

Energy is an area that people often find a bit confusing. To give people information and the chance to ask questions, we plan to organise informal evening sessions so people can learn about particular opportunities to save energy - on 12 September experts will be at UNIT 5 to discuss solar panels and the solar collective initiative, and on 26 September I'm organising a price comparison/switching supplier workshop. So please do feel free to drop in.

Now the long nights are drawing in, this is the best time to think about reducing your energy usage and particularly reducing those high energy bills.

If you would like to book a free energy advice visit, or find out more about the sessions, please email me on energy@transitionlinlithgow.org.uk

Susan White Administrator

I deal with all of the background things which are important to keep everything running smoothly. It's my priority to set up systems to keep us all on track and to make sure that volunteers and customers are happy and have a good experience.

As a local girl, born in Linlithgow Bridge, I love being involved in a project which

is going to have a positive impact on the town and on the environment.

Phone UNIT 5 on 01506 844182
or email me on admin@transitionlinlithgow.org.uk
if you would like any general information on the project.



So come along to UNIT 5, Braehead Road, Linlithgow, EH49 6EP (tel. 01506 844182) where you can meet the team, find out more about what we can offer and help in your move towards creating a greener, cleaner Linlithgow.



For Runners and Volunteers (and Spectators)



**Sun
7
OCT**

The CCW Linlithgow 10k & Junior Fun Run 2018 will be held on 7th October. It is an event for everyone, not just the runners.

It is always pleasing over the summer months to see the increase in the number of people out jogging or running around the town, with the variety of previous year's Linlithgow 10k T-shirts on display being particularly pleasing to this race director. Some people like to go out on their own but many others prefer to go out in company, whether it be with friends or as part of a wider group.

Many of these will be training towards the CCW Linlithgow 10k.

Linlithgow Athletic Club is one of the group offerings that is available, with athletes gathering twice a week. The club membership consists of runners with a range of abilities and offers a good platform for anyone wishing to improve. Linlithgow Running Buddies can be seen around the town on a Thursday evening, fostering often those newer to the running community and helping them to develop, with some aspiring to run 10k and beyond. For those who wish to get on to the first rung of the ladder, **Let's Go Linlithgow** is a jogscotland group that has helped a number of joggers this year achieve the C25K (Couch to 5k) challenge, with several of them graduating recently at Falkirk parkrun. There are many other groups out there providing running or general fitness opportunities where runners can find the support to take them towards a 10k.

I was recently informed that there are over

one hundred and sixty community clubs and organisations in the town that rely on volunteers and Linlithgow Athletic Club is one of those. The club is run entirely by volunteers, with a separate 10k committee made up of a few dedicated souls. When it comes to race day though again that number of one hundred and sixty comes up as that is the number of roles that require to be filled to allow the event to go ahead. Fortunately, timing allows many volunteers are able to take on more than one role bringing the final total down closer to one hundred individuals.

Roles required include finish area set-up and clear-down, race registration in the Burgh Halls, marshaling both the 10k and fun run routes, handing out T-shirts and goody bags. There are lead and tail runners and cyclists to ensure that runners get around safely and a lead car for the 10k. There is signage out on course that needs to be set out in the morning and taken down after the event. A separate team manages the runners at the start of each race and another mans the water station.

The event is supported by community groups, including 4th West Lothian Scouts, Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange, 4th Linlithgow Guides and from further afield Police Scotland Youth Volunteers. Many more people are needed for this year's event so if you would like to be part of the team please e-mail in to linlithgow10k@virginmedia.com. Linlithgow Athletic Club would be delighted to welcome new and existing volunteers.

I forgot to mention spectators. Runners will bring friends and family along, many from out of town and these will add to the support provided by the townsfolk of

Linlithgow. Feedback from previous years is that all have enjoyed playing their own part in the event.

Whether it be running, volunteering or spectating, Linlithgow Athletic Club will be delighted to welcome you on 7th October.

Entry to the CCW Linlithgow 10k (for ages 16 to 116) is available online via <https://www.entrycentral.com/ccw-linlithgow-10k>

Entry to the CCW Linlithgow Junior Fun Run (for ages 8 to 15) is available online via <https://www.entrycentral.com/CCW-Linlithgow-Junior-Fun-Run>



**Graeme Lawson
Race Director, Linlithgow 10k**



Linlithgow Athletic Club

Let's Go Linlithgow
A Jogscotland group



LINLITHGOW PLAYERS

PLAYS AND WINE

The Linlithgow Players return to the stage on October 12th and 13th (Friday and Saturday) with their annual Plays and Wine event, to be held at Linlithgow Primary School.

For those unfamiliar with this very popular weekend, it consists of some quality drama performed in front of an audience who lounge around tables with their kith and kin, feasting on the finest cheeses and wines Linlithgow can offer, while your friend, wife, or lover, drip feeds you grapes. If that sounds too much like a Roman orgy, rest assured we will leave our togas at home!

This year as well as some short sketches, our two main attractions are the wonderfully titled, **Strictly Sex Factor on Ice** (by author David Tristram) and **Pulp Friction** (by Ian Stewart). David Tristram is one of Britain's most popular and performed playwrights and his comedies are firm favourites in amateur dramatic circles. Ian is also an award winning writer, although it should be pointed out that Ian's award was a 50 metre swimming badge from primary school!

In **Strictly Sex Factor**, **The Little Grimley Amateur Society** are faced with yet another threat to their very existence. Reality TV shows have ravaged their Saturday night audiences, which in their hey-day used to occasionally reach double figures. Never one to take these things lying down, Chairman Gordon has devised a cunning plan to compete head-on - their very own live Saturday night blockbuster, combining the best of all the other formats. All they need now is an audience, some contestants, four judges, a mirror ball... oh, yes, and some ice.

Pulp Friction on the other hand is described by Ian as, "part mystery and part dark comedy about that point where relationships just aren't working anymore. With a soundtrack from the early 80's punctuating the performance, the play poses many questions but does not necessarily give the answers: Who is Stan and what's his relationship to Dennis? What does David do at those damn conferences? Just what is Dennis's new

job with the Government? The audience is free to read into the play what they will. Everyone will have different ideas on what is being presented. Some may find it shocking, some may find it pointless, but perhaps that is the point."

Following feedback from audiences from previous years, the ticketing structure is a little different this year. Prices have been reduced to £10, but this includes a complimentary drink (alcoholic or otherwise) and as many grapes as you can handle! More drinks can be purchased from the licensed bar throughout the evening.

Tickets are available from Far From the Madding Crowd, from our website www.linlithgowplayers.org.uk, or can be reserved by phoning 07847 735077. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start.



LINLITHGOW COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Linlithgow's first "Community Calendar" is going on sale at various local outlets with the aim of raising thousands of pounds for local good causes.

The attractive 15-month desktop calendar, supported by businesses in the town, has been produced by Linlithgow and Bo'ness Rotary Club.

Each page features a stunning photograph of a Linlithgow scene - including of course the Palace and the loch - taken by Rotarian **Martin Brown**, whose work is well-known and admired in the area.

Rotarian **Ian Gibson**, who owns the Platform 3 pub on the High Street, said that JMK Printers were doing an initial

print run of 1,000, but the Rotary Club was confident more might be needed.

"We think this really could take off. We are sure lots of copies will be winging their way to ex-pats from Linlithgow all over the world. With this in mind, the calendar is being sold with an envelope which takes it exactly."

The calendar, priced at £7.95, will be on sale at Platform 3, Taste Cafe and Deli, J. Walker Carpets, Flowers by Carolyn, and the Black Bitch pub.

The 14 advertisers on each month's opposite page are Platform 3, Barclay & Co, Hunters of Linlithgow, Peterkin & Kidd, Flowers by Carolyn, Allan Patterson, Champfleurie Estate, Black Bitch pub, Champany, Jim Walker Carpets, Taste Cafe and Deli, Paul Rolfe, JMK Printers, and Oliver Electrics.

The reverse of month 15 in the calendar

is given over to a schedule of events to be held during Linlithgow Civic Week.

Ian explained that the fundraising idea had stemmed from an approach to the Rotary Club from the Children's Gala Day Committee, who were looking for financial support for a new stage.

"We decided it would be a good idea to do something that would not only raise money to help with the stage, but for other local good causes as well."

"These will include The Deacons Court, the Reed Band, and Burgh Beautiful."

Ian added that it was hoped that volunteers from the organisations in the frame, friends and families, would all "do their bit" by buying the calendar.

John Smith

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Linlithgow Longcroft Table Tennis Group

Play Table Tennis in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere in the Longcroft Hall, Philip Avenue. Our Group is affiliated to Table Tennis Scotland.



Wednesdays
from 5th Sept
8.15 pm - 9.45 pm

Open to everyone
£3.00 per night
(Under 18's £2.00)

Call Allan Scott on **01506 842602** for information.

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What's NEW...

➤ **BLACK BITCH LIVE MUSIC** We love live! And because you can't download a live experience, we bring you a variety of local artists. Sat 1st Sammie Lee, 8th - Lynne Size, 22nd Angela Minty & Sun 30th Pure Malt. We are home to Linlithgow Folk Festival Association and will be participating in the 20th Folk Festival 5th-8th Sept - Sessions 5th, 6th & 16th. Come along and play, sing or just enjoy, our door is always open! ➤ **BLACK BITCH PRIVATE FUNCTION SUIT** Available for hire, Birthdays • Anniversaries • Retirements • Baby Showers. Whatever the occasion we offer a personalised package tailored to your individual needs. ➤ **SKY & BT SPORTS** Dedicated to showing you the best live sporting action bringing you the biggest names and the biggest games. Come relax, watch and enjoy with us.

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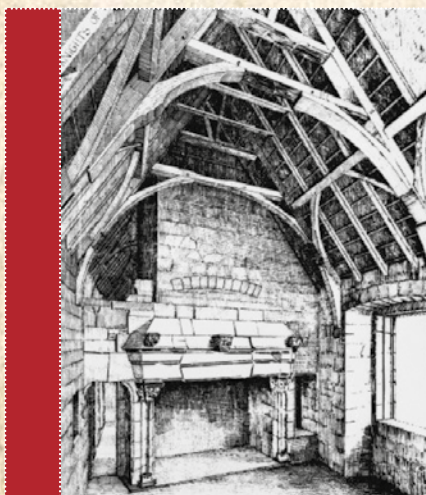


THE MINT

The tall, dark-coloured building to the left of this famous 1845 photograph, taken by Robert Adamson, was locally called 'The Mint'.

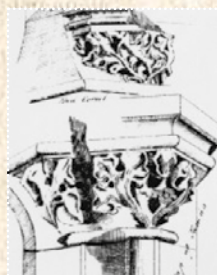
It was built around the year 1490 as the Town House of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, also known as the Knights Hospitallers – a medieval organisation originally created to assist travellers in the Holy land. After a period in decline, the society was resurrected and still continues today as a charitable organisation helping the sick and the poor.

In the 16th century, King James IV patronised the order and regularly visited their main HQ in Torphichen and their Linlithgow quarters – a building complex praised by architectural historian Colin McWilliam as 'the finest recorded medieval town house in Scotland'. It came under the jurisdiction of the Preceptors of Torphichen such as Sir William Knollis and Sir George Dundas and they must have dined on the first floor (of its five storeys) in the building's Great Hall with its magnificent, nine foot wide fireplace, fine mouldings and wonderful, wooden and stone carvings. Above was constructed a unique open-timbered, oak roof – one of the finest to be built in Scotland.



The hammer-beam roof and an architectural detail from large fireplace of The Mint, drawn by architect Thomas Ross.

Downstairs, in the kitchen and storage area, the chefs prepared the banquet for the high officials seated above. Above the hall were domestic



apartments for the principal residents of the imposing structure. How the building got the name of The Mint is uncertain. Coins were struck in Linlithgow in the reign of King James I and bear the wording 'VILLA DE LINLITHE'. However they were minted around the year 1420 and could not have been produced in the considerably later building. In the reigns of later Scots kings, coins were produced, or at least the metal for them was cut, in a variety of available properties and perhaps the Knights Hospitallers' impressive Linlithgow residence was one such place – allowing the proud occupants to entitle it 'a Mint'.

The structure fell into some disrepair and eventually in 1885, despite protestations from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the Town Council of Linlithgow, it was demolished.



The abandoned property photographed shortly before its demolition.

In its place was built what was then the St Michael's Hotel - since 1992 converted into flats.



St Michael's Hotel photographed not long after its opening in 1886.

(An enlarged copy of this photograph now hangs on the wall of RGM – the estate agent now occupying the west of the building.)

A small portion of the Mint buildings remained until comparatively recently. This was a semi-circular foundation – the remains of the old South west circular staircase. Today, even this small reminder has gone – replaced by a car parking area. The Mint is no more so there is no trace of what architectural historian Geoffrey Stell recorded as 'undoubtedly the most impressive and, at the time of its demolition, the most unaltered 15th century urban building in the land'.

Bruce Jamieson



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HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF A PENSION SCAM

Susan Ralston, Virtue Money

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and The Pension Regulator (TPR) have recently launched a campaign to alert people of the risk of pension fraud after it was reported that victims of pensions scams lost on average around £91,000 last year according to the figures reported by Action Fraud.

Although according to the Financial Conduct Authority's Financial Lives report suggest this figure may be higher after figures suggest that 107,000 people between 55 to 64 may have been victims of pension scams in the last year.

The new campaign names "ScamSmart" aims to target people with pension savings ages between 45 and 65 as this is the group who they found are most at risk.

According to the FCA and TPR, cold calling and offering a "free pension review" is the most common tactic used by the pension scammers.

You could also be contacted by letter, email or via social media with a promise of incredible returns for your pension savings.

The old adage, "If it appears too good to be true then it probably is" often pans out and chances are you could be about to become a victim of a pension scam.



Mark Steward, the executive direct of enforcement and market oversight at the FCA urges anyone who might be thinking about transferring their pension to only use firms will be authorised by the FCA.

Mark also advised that if you are in any doubt at all about the information you have received regarding your pension transfer then you should visit the ScamSmart website.

Pension Wise, which is the Government's free and impartial retirement guidance service open to everyone seeking information about turning their pension fund into a

retirement income, is also a fantastic source of information.

The offers made to you regarding your pension pot may sound incredibly convincing however the message is clear the if in any doubt hang up on the "cold caller", don't respond to the letter, email or social media post but do contact Action Fraud and report it.

It's up to you to be proactive because once your pension pot has vanished into a pension scam blackhole although the FCA and TPR can investigate and may be able to prosecute the fraudsters they CANNOT get your money back.



Why not call or email to make an appointment to speak to one of our advisers, telephone 0345 034 3424 or email me at Susan@virtuemoney.com



Action fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime and where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime.

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The Auld Alliance is alive and well with Christine Bovill as Edith Piaf

GAYNOR PARRY



Scotland and France have been supportive of one other since 1295 when the Auld Alliance between the two countries was first established. More recently, in a speech delivered in Edinburgh in 1942, Charles de Gaulle described the alliance between Scotland and France as the “oldest alliance in the world”. Linlithgow proudly became party to that alliance on 9 July 1989, an auspicious day which saw the signing in the Rose Garden of a Twinning Charter between Linlithgow and Guyancourt.

The twinning links with Guyancourt, which is close to Paris, have gone from strength to strength and many long lasting friendships have been formed due to the unique experience of staying with local families during the biennial exchange visits.

Visitors from Guyancourt will be in Linlithgow during the Easter weekend of 2019, when the towns will be marking the 30th anniversary of their twinning link. Plans are already in hand to make this a memorable, enjoyable and entertaining weekend.

To start the celebrations, Linlithgow Twinning Association is thrilled to present a concert starring the absolutely sensational Christine Bovill of Edinburgh Fringe fame.

The award-winning Glasgow born chanteuse threads her own remarkable journey in song with the life and works of Edith Piaf. No gimmicks. No pretence. Nothing but a voice, smoky and evocative, singing of life's triumphs and tragedies. A powerful musical homage to France's most endearing and enduring icon. Christine Bovill's Piaf has thrilled audiences in London, Berlin, Ireland and the Far East.

This outstanding performer will grace the stage at Linlithgow Academy on Saturday 13 October 2018 from 7.30pm with tickets costing £12. This will be a BYOB event and doors will open from 7.00pm.



**Fri
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Oct**

Tickets will be available;

In person from Far from the Madding Crowd, 20 High Street Linlithgow EH49 7AE and Fair Tradewinds, 131-133 high Street Linlithgow EH49 7EJ; or On-line from www.linlithgowfolk.com



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RALLY ROUND THE ROSE!!

Linlithgow Rose received more good news from the SFA in August when their club licence award was confirmed by the sport's governing body. The Rose were the first team at their level to secure the prestigious award of a club licence back in 2013 and maintaining it is confirmation that the club meets all its governance, coaching and safety obligations. With the Community Club enjoying Legacy status for the work they are doing, football in Linlithgow is being recognised at every level and we should pay tribute to the many volunteers who put their time and effort into making such an effort on behalf of the whole town.

The team are now well into their first season in senior football and kicked off their league campaign against Inverkeithing Hillfield Swifts on Wednesday 15th August. The Swifts are a well-established community club but prior to this season had limited involvement in adult football. Having put together a brand new squad in a matter of weeks, it was little surprise that they found the Rose hard to handle as Linlithgow ran out 10 - 0 winners. Tougher challenges lie ahead!

As the club becomes accustomed to its new football environment, we've been heartened by the way that the community has rallied round us. We've seen a significant increase in the level of pitch side advertising and we have all of our players

sponsored by supporters, organisations or businesses. **If you want to help us build a strong local football team there are plenty ways to get involved - here are just a few!**

1. *Get along to Prestonfield on a Saturday and give your backing to the players. At £6 for an adult, £3 for a concession and free entry for kids accompanied by a paying adult it's not an expensive day out. And you'll have the chance to enjoy a pint before the game in the social club beside the ground. For away fixtures, you can join our supporters club and enjoy pre-arranged bus travel to away matches.*
2. *If you're really keen, consider taking out a season ticket. These will save you money and also enable you to become a member of the football club so that you can have a direct say in how the club is run.*
3. *Get in touch with us if you'd like a child to be a mascot at one of our home fixtures. Spaces fill up fast though so if you're interested in a specific date, have a look at the fixture list in this month's issue and then contact is on info@linlithgowrose.co.uk.*
4. *We offer full match-day hospitality which is an ideal way for local businesses to entertain clients or to book as a present for a loved one. For league matches, these cost*

£40 per head and can start from as few as two people. For that you'll get entry to the game, a seat in the stand, drinks before the match in our hospitality suite, a buffet at half time and a drink after the game.

5. *Local businesses may be interested in pitch side advertising. First year costs are £200 to include design and manufacture of your board and then £140 per year thereafter.*

6. *Think about getting involved in helping us to run the club. There are a myriad of things to do to run a club the size of Linlithgow Rose. We're particularly interested in support from people who may have some spare time during the day and from tradesmen who can help us with the day to day maintenance of Prestonfield.*

There are lots of exciting things happening at Linlithgow Rose just now and we'll focus on a few of them in the months ahead. Our club is your club - it is and will be what you want to make it!

JONATHAN MAHONEY
PRESIDENT
LINLITHGOW ROSE
FOOTBALL CLUB

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