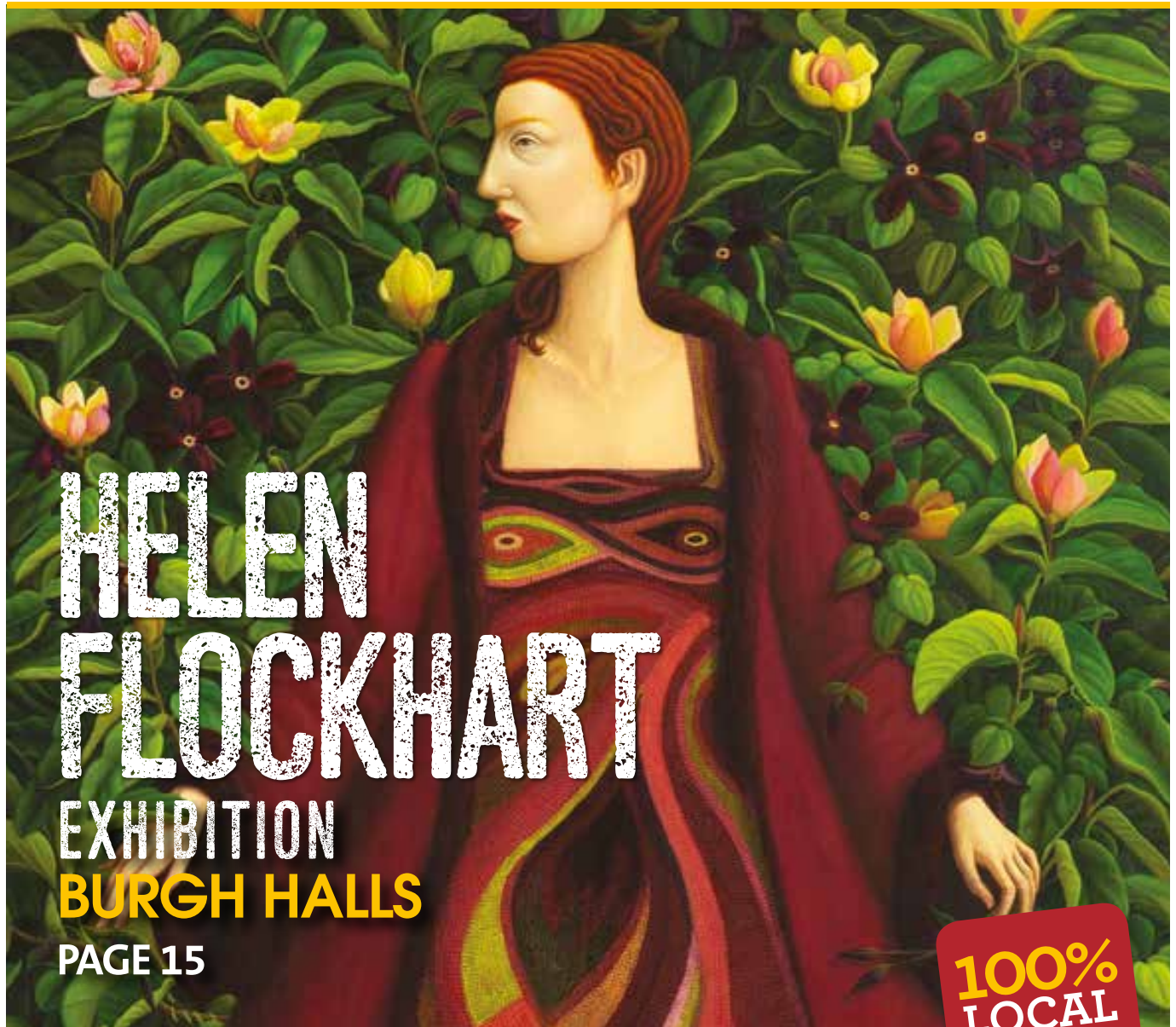




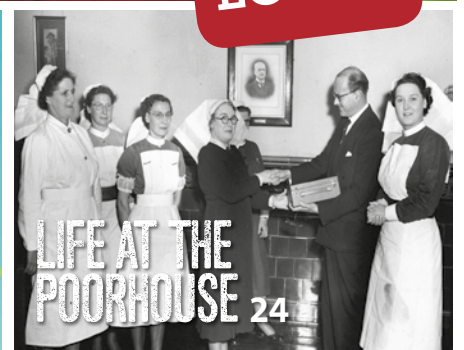
Linlithgow's news by Linlithgow's people

# the BLACK bitch

LINLITHGOW COMMUNITY MAGAZINE ISSUE 61 OCTOBER 2018 £1.00



**100%  
LOCAL**



## PLUS

New Hopetoun Gardens, Burgh Beautiful, Town Centre BID, Scottish Youth Parliament, Police Scotland, Lamp Productions, Roddy Simpson - Photographer, Book Review...



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## Contact the Black Bitch

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



Copy deadline for next issue is 7 November 2018. Congratulations to Janice Newlands - last issue's Competition winner.



**WIN!**

Want to win  
a copy of 'Thresholds' by  
photographer, Roddy Simpson.  
Simply email your  
contact details to:  
[on.a.lead@gmail.com](mailto:on.a.lead@gmail.com)  
to enter the draw.

**FREE  
COMPETITION**

**SEE PAGE 10**

**YOUR CHANCE  
TO WIN  
'THRESHOLDS'**

**BY LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER  
RODDY SIMPSON.**



## Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council

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

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

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

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

The Linlithgow Community Magazine (aka The Black Bitch) is  
a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO): SC042542

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](http://www.cghcreative.co.uk)



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# WHAT'S ON - OCTOBER

## Oct

**Fri 12, Sat 13** Plays & Wine, 7:30pm - 10:00pm, Linlithgow Primary School

**Sat 13** Piaf - Christine Bovill, 7:30pm Linlithgow Academy (Spirit of the Fringe Award Winner 2017.)

**Tue 16** Wildlife Superheroes, 10:30am - 12:30pm, Linlithgow Palace, Aimed at children aged between 8 and 12, must be accompanied by an adult.

**Wed 17** Behind the camera at the BBC by Jim Galbreath, 10:00am, Linlithgow Rose Club

**Thu 18** LCT visit to Riddle's Court, 3:00pm - 4:30pm, Riddle's Court, 322 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh

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

**Fri 19** Pick Your Own Pumpkin, Narrowboat Farm *Till 31 October*

**Sat 20** Linlithgow ArtsGuild, Japanese pianist Yo Kosuge, 7:30pm - 9:45pm Linlithgow Primary School

**Sun 21** Folk Session, 8:00pm at the Black Bitch Tavern\*

**Tue 23** Community Council 7:30pm - 9:00pm, Burgh Halls

**Fri 26 - Sun 28** The Linlithgow ExFEARience, 6:30pm - 9:30pm, Linlithgow Palace

**Sat 27** Guild Coffee Morning 10:00am - 1:00pm, Longcroft Memorial Halls

**Sun 28** Halloween Pumpkin Carving 1:30pm - 4:00pm, Linlithgow Burgh Halls

**Mon 29** "Hostiles" at Linlithgow Film Society, 7:30pm, Linlithgow Academy

**Wed 31** "The Birth of LinGin by Alyson & Ross Jamieson, 10:00am, Linlithgow Rose Club

## LINLITHGOW RAMBLERS WALKING CALENDAR



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

## Linlithgow 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 ★★★★★  
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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

T. McKerron: 01506 844425 Or come on the Night!  
[www.linlithgowfilmsociety.org.uk](http://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



**Linlithgow Floral Art Club**  
**Wed 17**  
**Oct: 7.30pm**  
Linlithgow Rose Football Social Club,  
Demonstrator  
Pam Alexander,  
Morpeth.



**Linlithgow Jazz Club**  
**Jerry Forde's New Phoenix Jazz Band**  
**3 Nov**

Traditional style jazz.

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

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**PAUL GAVIN PHOTOGRAPHY**

# TWENTY'S NOT PLENTY AS FOLKIES LOOK TO THE FUTURE



Photography: Martine Stead, Cat Egerton

*"Twenty's plenty" isn't a phrase you will hear from traditional music fans in Linlithgow, as they toast the huge success of this year's Folk Festival and look forward to making it even bigger and better next year.*

Last month's twentieth celebration of traditional music dance and song in the Royal Burgh had something for everyone, including three sell-out concerts, an outdoor family ceilidh at the Vennel, a musical evening at the Union Canal Centre, pub sessions, and a packed two-day programme of free music on the Nora Devine Stage at the Cross.

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

The headline concert with the legendary Ralph McTell - who is often described as "Folk Music Royalty" - was the highlight of the weekend, supported by the brilliant young musicians of the Iona Fyfe Trio, who spoke warmly of the wonderful response they had received on their second appearance in Linlithgow.

Last year's new events continued this year, including Songs and Reels at the Rose, which was sold out and the Youth

Showcase in the Kirk Hall, which was so successful that St Peter's Church had to be pressed into service to house an overspill event.

Many budding artistes appeared on the Nora Devine Stage at the Cross, strengthening the Festival's tremendous reputation for encouraging youngsters. The five-day event was not without its mishaps, however, as secretary Jonathan Moore explained:

*"There were a few things missing at LFF 2018; there was no boat for the canal cruise, as it had broken down four miles away; there was no fire, but the Fire Service turned out anyway and there was no gazebo on the Sunday at the Cross, because a freak gust of wind blew it down. However, there was plenty of music and plenty of laughter for our milestone twentieth Festival."*

Jonathan continued:

*"The Festival gets better every year and we are continually striving to keep things fresh. From the opening night in the Bowling Club to the final session at the Black Bitch, we heard some of the best music we have ever had, including*

*the fantastic Songs and Reels and Bluegrass concerts at the Rose Club and some superb performances at the Youth Showcase and Nora Devine Stage."*

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

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

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

**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.



## > ANNOUNCEMENTS & REPORTS

First, I am happy to announce the consultation for the next SYP sitting (SYP67 on 20th – 21st October in Kilmarnock) is live! Constituents living in West Lothian, aged 14-25, can have a say in policy making at SYP by following the link (<https://msyps.typeform.com/to/CBxW8x>).

I am also very pleased to report that the Scottish government has announced its intent to incorporate the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into domestic law. Suki Wan, SYP Chair has responded: "One of the aims of our campaign on young people's rights, Right Here, Right Now, is to influence law, policy and practice in order to strengthen the protection of young people's rights by calling for full incorporation of the UNCRC – ensuring these rights are binding, not guiding. We are so happy that in this – the Year of Young People – the First Minister has responded to our calls for a statement of her Government's intent on incorporation of the UNCRC. We know, though, that much still needs to be done to achieve full incorporation, and we will continue to work closely and constructively with partners, politicians and government to make that goal become a reality." This is excellent news, and clearly showcases the power and influence of young people and SYP in Scotland.

## > MENTAL HEALTH

Moreover, I was lucky to attend the launch of the Transitional Care Plans (TCP) which was co-created by a group of young people (The

Bridge the Gap Team) and clinicians. The plans aim to smooth the transition young people make from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to adult mental health services. The TCP ensure young people are at the core of this transition by ensuring that they have their say and they allow young people to communicate important information to mental health clinicians about their wellbeing, lifestyle, current treatment, and understanding of the transition process. The launch was attended by Clare Haughey, Minister for mental health who spoke about the plans being a 'ground-breaking' piece of work.

## > YOUTH LINK

I have also attended YouthLink's Policy Seminar on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as a child reporter. ACEs can be described as 'stressful or traumatic experiences that can have a huge impact on children and young people throughout their lives.' ACE's are often seen as key in causing health inequalities and it has been found that by simply giving young people a loving, supportive relationship, the effect of ACEs can be alleviated. The seminar was great to attend as I witnessed people discussing and learning together. It was not just speakers talking for the whole day, it was a conversation that thrived off willingness and interest in the topic. The role I had as child's reporter, entailed social media broadcasting throughout the day, interviewing participants, and publicising the seminar in real time. I really hope to see this role being offered to young people in other organisations, and for other events, as it not only gives the young person

a chance to engage, in often quite complex issues, but it also gives the organisation a great deal of input of ideas and skills from a different perspective.

## > A 'SHOUT OUT' TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE. WANT TO WRITE/ BLOG FOR THE BLACK BITCH MAGAZINE...

Lastly, it was great to meet with Councillor David Tait who publishes this magazine. He expressed his interest in engaging young readers and aspiring journalists. The magazine is looking for young people to help establish a regular presence on its website, Facebook and Twitter accounts to keep the magazine in readers' minds between issues by promoting articles online and expanding the magazine's network as well as offering some writing/ journalism opportunities. So, if you are interested make sure to get in touch with me via social media, email or face to face in order to get involved!

### 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 - @alicemsysp  
Facebook - @aliceSYP  
Website - <https://aliceruby.wixsite.com/msyp>



## WHAT'S ON AT THE ROSE...

>> 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.

\*\*\* £2,500 PRIZE MONEY \*\*\*  
2019 LINLITHGOW ROSE CLUB  
SOCIAL CLUB TALENT COMPETITION  
6 HEATS - COMMENCES FRIDAY 1 FEB  
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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



# LINLITH-GO-SOLAR

**In a wee corner of Linlithgow, a few enthusiastic residents have been busy working on a plan for a greener, brighter future for our town. This involves sunlight, electricity, a new energy enterprise and long-term economic and environmental benefits for us all.**

Linlithgow Community Development Trust are also asking for local people to invest in a new Community Bond to help kick start our enterprise.

As if our town weren't wonderful enough, according to the Gazetteer for Scotland, we receive an average of 1299 hours of sunshine every year.

Using solar panels in the right places in and around town, we could generate enough electricity from solar energy to meet our needs. Even on cloudy days! Whilst there are over 400 Solar PV systems already installed in Linlithgow, we have enough roof and land space available to accommodate so much more.

The ambition is to harness this great natural resource for the benefit of our town's folk. It's also about providing green energy and ethical investment opportunities to local people and businesses. Surplus funds generated from the sale of the electricity will be put back into beneficial projects and initiatives to assist everyone in Linlithgow.

**Linlith-Go-Solar is a new community energy enterprise**, which has been developed and could take advantage of the National Grid expectations of

'significant solar growth' for decades to come ('Energy' magazine - Autumn 2018). Like other pioneering Scottish communities such as Callendar, we would like to ensure that the benefits of this can be kept local.

The first 'Linlith-Go-Solar' project will be fitting a new Solar PV system on Linlithgow Rugby Club's training facility roof - picture here - that will generate electricity by capturing the sun's rays. This will save the rugby club about 10% on its energy costs - enough for example to buy a couple of new kits for the youth teams every year. **Ken Richardson, Chair of the club says: 'We are a club with a long history and want to be part of a new community initiative that benefits both ourselves and the wider town.'**

But first, this exciting initiative needs to raise investment capital to pay for the supply and installation of the solar panels. And that's where local community investors - Linlithgow residents, businesses and organisations - can make this happen by purchasing a Linlithgow Community Bond. The bond will be open to investors from 8th October. Investment in the community bond starts at £50.00 and offers a variable rate of return aligned to a range of investment periods. The bond will close to investors on 16th December 2018.

'Linlithgow Community Development Trust' is leading the development of Linlith-Go-Solar as part of a tripartite partnership. These partners are 'Linlithgow Rugby Club', which has been in the town since 1922 and wants to have

a wider positive impact on the local environment and the town. The third party is 'Scottish Communities Finance (SCF) Ltd' - a Community Benefit Society (BenCom) registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. SCF Ltd was established to assist communities to raise capital from within their community to be used to address the needs of communities.

The Linlith-Go-Solar business plan has also been assisted by 'Just Enterprise' - a consortium set up to provide expert advice to third sector organisations across Scotland.

Whilst all this support has brought the project to this stage, it's YOUR support we request now.

**If you would like further information about the Community Bond contact:**

**Neil Barnes**  
**energy@trust-linlithgow.org.uk**  
**t. 01506 238935**  
**m. 07827 294 879**  
**www.trust-linlithgow.org.uk**

To invest in a community bonds after 15th October, please download the Linlith-Go-Solar Bond offer here:

**www.scotcomfinance.scot/  
communitybonds/linlith-go-solar-  
rugby-club-project**

**Or contact: info@scotcomfinance.scot**



# WHERE HAVE ALL THOSE YEARS GONE?

**F**orty years ago this month Dougal took on a 20 year lease of the Walled Garden at Hopetoun House with the plan to create a garden centre which would fund the running costs of the garden. At the time he was a young landscape gardener working on his own and it seemed a great opportunity to have something to manage if he was ever unable to physically work, the sort of business model Peter Easton ran from his wheelchair at Easton's garden centre on the Queensferry road, now called Rouken Glen.



He had no experience of retailing or running a walled garden, but he did know about plants and how to create lovely gardens. Many of you will remember the old greenhouses and the wonderful views in the garden. It was here that over the next 20 years he focussed on how to help their customers to enjoy their gardens even more offering inspirational cameo gardens, explaining about all aspects of gardening and providing a great visitor experience. Lesley joined the team eight years later.

The Glasgow Garden Festival in 1988 put the business on the map – we created a garden called the **Life and Loves of Hardy Perennials** showing the conditions – sun, shade, damp or dry – that suited different perennial plants. We won a gold medal and the award for the best use of plants at the



Festival. The next year our turnover doubled as folk started to find us here in West Lothian. The **Potting Shed tearoom** with only 28 seats opened two years later, catering has now become an



expected garden centre offering.

**At the end of our lease we had to find a new home, managing to lease a site still close to our customers and staff, get planning permission and build the garden centre in 13 months!** So many customers supported us during this traumatic time and we wouldn't have survived without this loyalty. Twenty years later there are still 6 of the team that came up from Hopetoun and the rest of our 36 strong team are fascinated to hear our stories of the past. **Were you**



one of our customers at the Walled Garden?

Many of our team didn't realise why we are called New Hopetoun Gardens and our site has matured beautifully

over the last 20 years so the bomb site of November 1998 has long been forgotten. We continue to look to the future and there are always new fashions to follow. This autumn we have created an indoor winter scene called **Hopetoun Hollows**, a natural progression for us as the 'Scottish home of Miniature Fairy Gardening', do come and see what we have been up to!

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

so much more  
than just a  
garden centre

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

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# DUDLEY THE CAT LINLITHGOW'S ANSWER TO GREYFRIARS BOBBY?



**Question – Are you a) a dog lover b) a cat lover c) neither? Not so long ago, my answer would have been a) and my husband Ron's answer would have been c), but this was before we welcomed a new addition to our household – a cat called Dudley.**

Readers may be aware of a new addition to the scenic attractions of the Canal Basin – Burgh Beautiful's bronze statue of Dudley. He was installed in Mid-July and was officially unveiled on 3 September 2018 by Fiona Hyslop MSP.

Dudley was a much-loved companion of Liz Burrows, a canal-side resident who was a founder member of Burgh Beautiful. All those who knew Liz – she was well known in the town – would agree that she was a woman

of seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm which she applied to anything in which she was involved. Burgh Beautiful was only one of her many interests – she had been a secretary of Linlithgow Union Canal Society and was a keen collector of antiques. Film and theatre was another of her passions. She was also an animal lover, and several charities were close to her heart. She had led a varied and interesting life – a good part of her working life had been spent as a PA in the Middle East, and she had some quite colourful stories of her time in Libya and Saudi Arabia! As a group, Burgh Beautiful was indeed fortunate to have Liz as a member. Her creative drive and organisational skills, combined with a considerable degree of natural charm was a winning combination when it came to getting other people on board with our fundraising ideas and projects.

Liz had, in retirement, been the full-time carer of her mother, and it was ironic that Sybil lived to be 101, while Liz died at the age of 71 after a protracted battle with terminal breast cancer. She had fought the disease with her customary vigour and fortitude, and I suspect that she took some pleasure in proving the doctors' initial prognosis wrong – she had been given just months to live, but two years later she was still living a full and active life. Only latterly, when it became obvious that the disease was taking its toll on her energy and strength, did she have to draw back. She is much missed. A memorial plaque dedicated to her can be seen at the

station, where she tended the planters, and a bench at the canal centre is also dedicated to her.

Liz had asked if we would be willing to take care of Dudley after her death and, not wanting her to worry about his welfare, I agreed, though I have to admit that I was a little unsure, given that we knew nothing about cats, and, at that point, all I really knew about Dudley was that Liz had adopted him as a rescue cat, and that his name had come from the area of Edinburgh where he was found – Duddingston. All doubts vanished though, when we got to know Dudley, as it soon became clear that, apart from being very handsome, he was also friendly and affectionate – he loved to be petted and stroked, and, if you sat down for a moment you had to bear in mind that Dudley was liable to leap up in an instant to claim your lap as his own comfortable seat!

Unfortunately, though, it also became clear pretty quickly that he was a highly skilled food thief! Liz had already told me of the guinea fowl she had saved from a restaurant meal that had somehow found its way out of her handbag. She had intended to eat it later, but it had vanished – and Dudley was nowhere to be seen either! A member of our household also had cause to regret leaving her lunch unattended. Arriving late (as ever!) to the table, after everyone else had departed, Flora was perplexed to find that her bacon roll no longer contained any bacon! Again, Dudley





was conspicuous by his absence. His disappearing act after purloining food often brought to mind one of the poems from T S Eliot's famous anthology of cat poems (can you guess which one?)

Dudley was a very vocal cat! He was always the loudest animal at the vet's surgery, and, like Liz, In the midst of a telephone call, I would often have to apologise for the racket that he was making in the background! I was never sure whether he was puzzled as to why I was talking to an invisible person, or whether his message was more simple – you should be paying attention to me! He had been identified as an Ocicat, derived from the ocelot cat – and he often gave the impression that he was well aware that he was a step up from the average moggie! Dudley became a much loved member of our family, and, three years after his death, like his owner, he is still much missed.

The idea of a cat statue came after some discussion on how best to spend the remainder of Liz's generous bequest to Burgh Beautiful. Among other things, her bequest had financed the replacement of some dilapidated floral barrels in the town with new planters, and also some much needed improvements to our work base off Manse Road. A statue of Dudley, it was agreed, would be a fitting tribute to an indomitable woman and her rather special cat.

The artist responsible for the very life-like representation of Dudley is David Annand. David, as the sculptor behind the Mary Queen of Scots statue at Linlithgow Palace, as well as the St Andrews cat, Hamish McHamish, was an obvious choice. We were pleased when he accepted the commission and delighted with the finished sculpture. Ian Watson of St Andrews was the stonemason responsible for Dudley's handsome granite plinth, and Ecosc Landscaping of Broxburn efficiently

installed the surrounding paving and associated street furniture.

Some additional funding was required for the project and we are grateful to: West Lothian Council's Arts Fund, Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group, Linlithgow Town Centre Business Improvement District and the Rotary Club of Linlithgow and Bo'ness. Our grateful thanks also go to BT Openreach, whose contribution to the project was substantial in agreeing to remove, for operational reasons, the unsightly telegraph pole which used to be in place in the flower bed adjoining the statue. Its absence has significantly contributed to the overall appearance of the statue and its surroundings. Scottish Canals and Linlithgow Union Canal Society also provided much helpful advice and support throughout the project.

**Our first foray into Crowdfunding was also successful. Our thanks go to the individuals and businesses who generously contributed, and also to Liz's friends and family members, not only for their financial contributions, but also for their encouraging support throughout the project. It has indeed been heartwarming to hear from them how much Liz would have approved of the statue. No less heartwarming, in its way, is the sight of locals, visitors and passers by stopping to view the statue. Dudley has received much attention and favourable comments in the short time that he has been in place, not to mention much petting and nose stroking from children (and some adults!)**

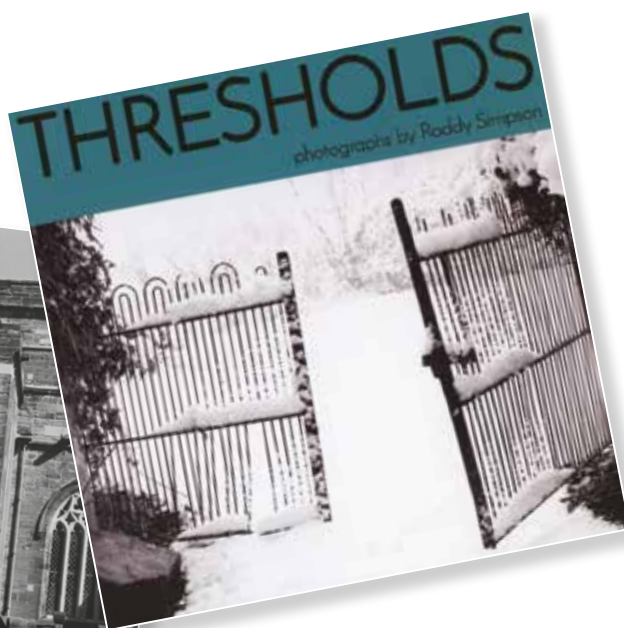
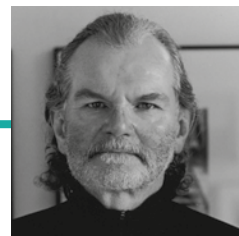
**How much the real life cat would have loved all this attention!**

**Myra Smith**  
Burgh Beautiful





# "THRESHOLDS" BY RODDY SIMPSON



I often say that if I had my life over again I'd do something creative as a career, and photography would be one of the options. When I was given a chance to meet local photographer Roddy Simpson to talk about his book "Thresholds", I jumped at the chance. I am also slightly obsessed with gates and doors so the subject matter was of great interest.

The book is a collection of atmospheric black and white photographs, many of them taken in Linlithgow and the surrounding countryside. A threshold is defined as a point of entry or beginning, the sill of a house door or the point at which a stimulus begins to bring a response, and when you see the photos you will see that the title of the book is perfect. It is a calming and soothing book, described in the blurb as a *"series of lyrical, black and white photographs of Roddy's personal and emotional engagement with and exploration of place."* The photos encourage you to think about the history of the place, to imagine the path you might take, or simply to admire the view. It might encourage you to go exploring and find the images in real life. They stretch from Orkney to Iona to Kirkcudbright.

The book has evolved slowly over time with the images captured over many years, some before the idea of the book was even considered. Roddy will often revisit a location when he knows the light will be good, something I'd love to have time to do. However I know I would struggle to pick a few photos for a book from my digital collection of 1000's, but Roddy has made a very good job of doing this, and is obviously very proud of the images he has brought together in this publication. I encourage you to enjoy them.

Roddy is not only a photographer. He is a photo-historian and his photographs have appeared in numerous publications and his fine monochrome prints have been widely exhibited and are in private and public collections including the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. He is an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Culture and Creative Arts at the University of Glasgow and a Lifelong Learning tutor on the history of Scottish photography at the University of Edinburgh. His book, *The Photography of Victorian Scotland*, was published by Edinburgh University Press in 2012 and has been described as 'the seminal book on the history of Scottish photography'. You may have seen his photos in newspapers or in *The Scots Magazine*.

## WIN.WIN.WIN.

WIN A COPY OF  
THRESHOLDS -



FREE COMPETITION

We have two copies of the book to give away - if you would like a copy please email [on.a.lead@gmail.com](mailto:on.a.lead@gmail.com) with the title "Book Giveaway". The names will be picked at random from all the entries received by 31 October, and you will be able to pick up your free copy from our local bookshop.

## WIN.WIN.WIN.



"Thresholds" is available in Far From the Madding Crowd and the Post Office, and would make an original and interesting Christmas gift.



Pat Swan





# THE THIN BLUE LINE IN LINLITHGOW



**C**onstables 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](mailto: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!**

## THEFT OF NUMBER PLATES ENQUIRY UPDATE

Following the theft of 18 number plates from vehicles in August, Linlithgow community officers would now like to thank the public for their assistance in this matter, 2 youths have now been charged with all 18 thefts. The thefts of these number plates caused numerous motorists to be inconvenienced and out of pocket. We would like to thank the public for assisting our enquiries into this matter.

**2 YOUTHS CHARGED**

## 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.

## BOGUS CALLERS / WORKMEN IN LINLITHGOW AREA

Over the past couple of months we have been receiving calls regarding bogus callers and workmen. With the recent high winds and bad weather unfortunately it is expected that these persons will again return and attempt to take advantage of residents of Linlithgow and the surrounding area.

Residents are reminded to take the following precautions:-



- > Do not feel pressured into agreeing immediate work. Never listen to scare stories and beware of traders who suddenly appear after storms, floods or even snow and avoid claims that a low price is only available if you sign up right away.
- > Do not agree to buy from the first person who calls. Ask yourself if you really want these goods or services.
- > Do not pay cash up front. Never pay for work before it is completed and don't hand over large sums of money.
- > Do shop around if you decide you need work done. Get a minimum of three quotes from reputable traders. Why not consider the council's Trusted Trader Scheme - which is administered by the Trading Standards Department and can provide details of reliable local traders to carry out work around your home or garden.
- > Do report them. Don't ever feel embarrassed if you feel you have been the victim of doorstep crime. If you feel threatened, unsafe or suspicious of a caller

then contact police immediately on 999.

> If you see something suspicious in your area or want more advice on doorstep crime than contact police on 101, taking note of descriptions of people and vehicles used where possible.

You can also contact police anonymously through the Crimestoppers number on 0800 555 111.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.scotland.police.uk)  
Twitter: [@policescotland](https://twitter.com/policescotland)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/policescotland](https://www.facebook.com/policescotland)

As Linlithgow Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) enters the fifth and final year of its operational term, we're compelled to look forward to what the future holds for local, business-led investment in our town centre, as well as taking stock of Linlithgow's BID experience since the Town Centre and Mill Road BIDs were established in 2014.

A business forum was held on Monday 24 September, to which we were very pleased to welcome the CEO of newly-launched Scotland's Improvement Districts, **Phil Prentice**. We were yet more heartened to see strong representation of Linlithgow

businesses from the town centre and beyond.

Ordinarily in this column, we'd be tooting the trumpets of the fantastically diverse, independent businesses that we represent, but it is now immediately necessary for businesses and community groups the length and breadth of Linlithgow to think about sustaining meaningful investment in Linlithgow over the next five years.

To start that conversation, we will naturally be tooting our own trumpet, but also recognising where our member businesses have told us there's room for improvement.

**Linlithgow is presented with three**

**options: cancel all future BID investment, reinstate existing BIDs with renewed and improved Business Plans, or invite all businesses in Linlithgow to work towards a new, unifying BID.**

Each option is valid: nobody is trying to compel the businesses of Linlithgow to make one decision over another and any ballot will ultimately reflect the democratic will of Linlithgow's businesses. It is crucial, though, for that decision to be informed.

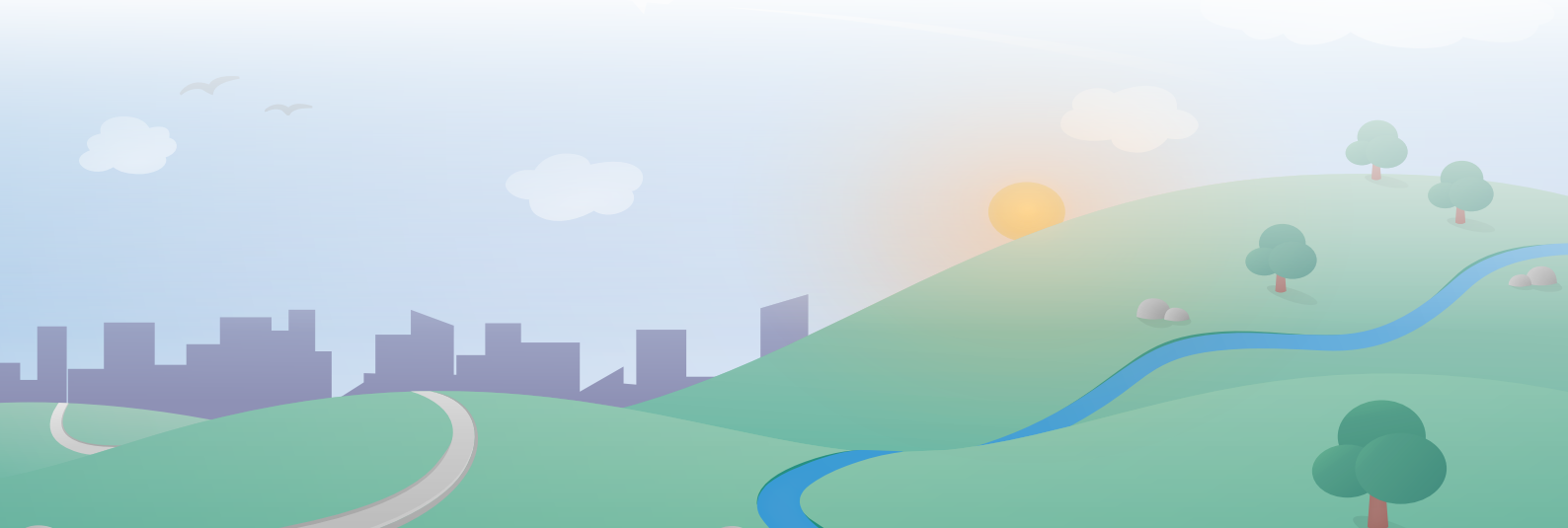
**If you'd like to join the conversation, please contact us ([info@linlithgow.info](mailto:info@linlithgow.info)). Until then, it makes sense to start where we began...**

## WHERE WE'VE COME FROM

Linlithgow's BIDs were established in 2014: one at the Mill Road industrial estate and one in the town centre. The businesses of each "BID area" voted by majority to secure five years of investment in their business environment.

Ever since, all eligible businesses have contributed to projects and services across the BID areas, administered by volunteer Boards of Directors and BID employees.

As we enter that fifth year, we at **Linlithgow Town Centre BID** feel we've delivered that support effectively, but not everyone agrees. We didn't get everything right. We delivered scores of effective projects, but did they benefit every business? We fully recognise that the answer is "some more than others", but would urge every business to join the conversation now by getting in touch! **Which projects should a renewed BID deliver, if voted in? Would you vote for it? Why?**





## WHERE WE ARE

Well, we said there'd be trumpet-tooting. Our own highlights include: **Premises Improvement Grants**, securing over £60,000 local investment at around 50% BID investment. The Linlithgow website ([linlithgow.com](http://linlithgow.com) and [linlithgow.info](http://linlithgow.info)): type "Linlithgow" in to your favourite search engine and let the results speak for themselves.

**Linlithgow's Loyalty Lottery**; Over £1,500 won annually by loyal shoppers, to be recirculated in the local economy. **30,000 copies of the Linlithgow Visitor Guides**, online and offline marketing (meaning, of course, our popular "Linlithgow BID" Facebook page, as well as this very submission and regular "Linlithgow Gazette" features).

**CCTV**; a major security undertaking bearing fruit in late 2018. **Festive lighting**; would Linlithgow look as good at Christmas without

BID investment? Answer: no. What about the Cross Well? Answer: also, no. **Fake Note Kits**; we've intercepted and disrupted thousands of pounds' worth fraudulent activity in the town centre alone. **KidSafe WiFi** lets families rest easy online in public venues. **Collective purchasing/facilitation** can save businesses more than their BID investment alone! **Community support** makes a tangible difference, perhaps most visible in its £2,500 annual contribution to Burgh Beautiful, Linlithgow's formidable army of green-fingered guerrillas. With our help, they secured our town's recognition by Britain In Bloom awards. Back at the BID, we showed the world that our town deserves a **Great British High Street award**, too. **The Town Centre Business Map** at Regent Centre; yes, that was us. We've produced almost 30 bespoke promotional "one-minute" videos, showcasing Linlithgow businesses and events at their best. We've leveraged external funding for events promoting sustainable travel and promoting Linlithgow food-and-drink venues. We've hosted arts events, created QR-code sports trails, oh, and run a popular tourist information and business liaison office

for almost two years.

Current projects include **developing cruise ship tours and tying-in with Hollywood productions "Outlander" and "Outlaw King"**. We're also looking in to "digital improvement grants", potentially offering businesses support towards making their digital stamp on the world.

But apart from that, what has Linlithgow Town Centre BID ever done for us?

We have had our shortcomings: we were told during our mid-term review that communication was lacking. Similarly, we ran many projects to benefit retail and the evening economy, but did we represent good value for all commercial sectors and all individual businesses?

We've always tried hard to maintain regular contact with member businesses and the public, through the Black Bitch, Facebook, business mailshots and one-to-one visits. We've developed a variety of sector-specific projects in response to business engagement. The best way to get involved, though, is by joining the conversation directly!

## WHERE WE'RE GOING

A meeting was held in September to begin the conversation about the future of BIDs and local investment in Linlithgow:

Around 50 business owners and local organisations who came together in Linlithgow Burgh Halls recently all shared one aim - to build on the town's Scottish-wide reputation as a vibrant, forward-looking community.

But their views on how this could be achieved differed widely, with several speakers critical of what has been achieved so far by Linlithgow Town Centre BID, and whether it was the vehicle to drive progress in the future.

There to suggest the way forward was Phil Prentice, who heads the Scottish Government's recently established Scotland's Improvement Districts. It has been charged with developing a path ahead for towns and cities in Scotland which would bring improvements to their appearance and economies.

As BIDs inevitably reach the ends of their current operational terms, Scotland's Improvement Districts encourages them to look to the future, embracing investment from corporate and national partners to offset the

necessary but painful withdrawal of Local Authority match-funding.

Phil Prentice acknowledged that BIDs throughout Scotland had been "hit or miss" since their 2006 inception and that greater support was needed at a national level. He warned "don't go ahead" with a ballot on a future BID if there's opposition to it.

Phil suggested securing investment by looking at a "One Linlithgow" BID, potentially incorporating the Town Centre, Mill Road industrial estate, Stockbridge retail park, and the Oracle.

Crucially, he continued, a far greater emphasis had to be placed on attracting additional funding from big business and major organisations, many of which he had been talking to in recent months and sit on the Board of Scotland's Towns Partnership. Among those would be **Historic Environment Scotland**, which derives substantial income from Linlithgow Palace, and **Abellio**, which makes a substantial amount from the town's busy rail connection.

After the meeting the **Chair of Linlithgow Town Centre BID, Jim Walker**, described the event staged by STP as "very worthwhile" both for Phil Prentice's valuable contribution and because it gave an unfettered opportunity for local businesses to air their views and any grievances they had.

*"We would like to see a 'One Linlithgow' BID and there will be early discussions with Mill Road BID, the retail park and Oracle, to explore whether this is a possibility or not."*

Jim said that talks would also be held with companies and organisations who might back a future BID. He had already sought the help of local MSP **Fiona Hyslop**, the Scottish Government Culture Secretary, to raise the issue with Historic Environment Scotland.

At a soon-to-be held follow-up meeting, it was hoped as many local organisations as possible as well as businesses would attend so a way forward could be drawn up.

Added Jim, *"We want to ensure everything possible is done to further enhance the town for businesses, locals, and visitors to Scotland as a popular destination."*

At the end of the meeting, around two-thirds of the audience indicated they'd be keen to join the conversation about starting a "One Linlithgow" BID.

# THE ARTS

When I start to think about writing my regular page I always wonder if I am going to find enough events to fill the page. It always falls into place, and as I start to write this month I am worried I won't be able to mention everything. There is an amazing amount going on for the size of Linlithgow. Music seems to be the focus again this month and there is an exciting initiative called Red Door on the music front, in collaboration with Far From the Madding Crowd, which I hope to write more about in future.



## Glasgow Phoenix Choir

The Rotary Club of Linlithgow & Bo'ness have organised a concert with the Glasgow Phoenix Choir in St Michael's Parish Church on 3rd November at 7.30pm (see advert for ticket details). Glasgow Phoenix Choir is one of the foremost and longest established choral groups in Scotland, and indeed, the UK. The choir today is a mixed voice choir of approximately 120 singing members, ranging in age from teenagers to octogenarians. With a library of over 1000 titles and over 30 albums recorded, the choir's extensive and varied repertoire encompasses music from the musicals, the world of pop, Scottish song, oratorio, opera, chamber music, and sacred music from all the major composers. A treat for music lovers.

# "IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON"

## Red Door

The Red Door takes you into St Peter's church and they are hosting a couple of high profile music and literary events in October and November. On Saturday 27th October Don Paterson and Graeme Stephen provide some guitar magic. Far From the Madding Crowd are going to be involved too



as this event will also be a launch event for Don's latest book, *The Fall at Home: New and Collected Aphorisms*. Together they promise melodic invention, warm audience engagement and a genuine sense of adventure I am reliably informed, so another treat for music lovers.

On Thursday 8th November, the multi BBC Folk Award winning singer-songwriter, and legendary poet, **Chris Wood** will entertain. Collaborators include Billy Bragg and Karine Polwart.

In a review it said he "*might be the Ken Loach of song writing. Very political, but at the same time full of compassion, and he grows sharper and more acute with each passing album*". Sounds like a good way to spend a Thursday evening.

Details of these events can be found on St Peter's Facebook page.

**Linlithgow Arts Guild** The new season started with a bang - the exciting Budapest Café Orchestra were highly entertaining. For anyone who thinks the Arts Guild is just about traditional classical music this would certainly have proved them wrong. There's still time to take out a subscription and save lots of money. **On October 20th, they welcome much admired Japanese pianist, Yu Kosuge. Please note the concert will be at Linlithgow Primary School, not at the Academy.**

On the literary front please read my article on page 8 about **Roddy Simpson's** book "*Thresholds*", and you may also be interested in a book being published in mid-November by Linlithgow Civic Trust. "*Looking at Linlithgow*", written by **Chris Long**, traces how artists over the centuries have been inspired by the history and appearance of the royal burgh. It is beautifully illustrated and shows the varied ways the town has appeared in art in its broadest sense, including work by painters, cartographers, sculptors and textile artists. It's currently available to order on their website ([www.lbt.scot](http://www.lbt.scot)) at a special pre-publication price of £17.50. Both books will make great Christmas presents.



I mentioned the upcoming workshops at Norman Cummings last time, and just wanted to bring to your attention the change of name for the shop. By the time you read this, the new signage will be in place - everything remains the same including the telephone number.

## What's on in October and beyond...

**The Line Gallery** is showing a mixed exhibition until October 23rd. Sounds very interesting - silk thread seascapes, copper pebbles and razor shell brooches feature, along with silver jewellery and forged and welded steel and brass.

**The Linlithgow Jazz** concert on 3rd November is **Jerry Forde's New Phoenix Jazz Band** who always go down well with their more traditional style of jazz. On 1st December at their Christmas party the **Sue McHugh** quartet will be joined by very special guests **Colin Steele** on trumpet, and on violin and vocals, the amazingly talented **Seonaid Aitken**.





**The Burgh Halls** opens a new exhibition on 12th October. Helen Flockhart's new body of work takes as its starting point the study of Mary Queen of Scots and her fascination with the way gender determined events in her life and, ultimately, history. Helen Flockhart has built a reputation as one of the finest and most distinctive Scottish artists of her generation. She has drawn her creative inspiration from a range of esoteric and mythical sources and developed a distinctive style often with backdrops of lush foliage with intricately painted patterns of decorative design.

**Far From The Madding Crowd** have several events on but many are sold out so it's best to check the website- [www.maddingcrowdlinlithgow.com](http://www.maddingcrowdlinlithgow.com) or email [sally@maddingcrowdlinlithgow.co.uk](mailto:sally@maddingcrowdlinlithgow.co.uk). At time of writing there are still spaces left for **Jess Kidd on Wednesday 24th October at 7.00pm**. The author of "Himself" will be discussing her latest novel, "The Hoarder". This is a creepy, suspenseful tale perfect for Halloween and it's free!

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



**Pat Swan**  
[patswan@virginmedia.com](mailto:patswan@virginmedia.com).



#### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"I say thank you for the music,  
for giving it to me"*

## BOOK REVIEW STITCH UP WILLIAM MCINTYRE

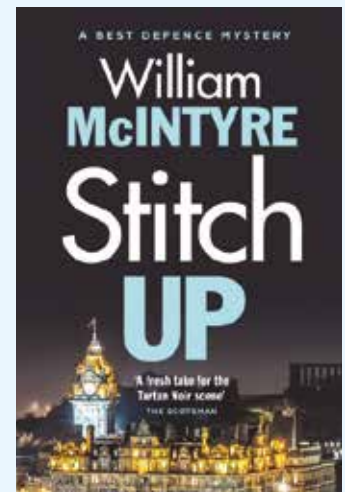
**William McIntyre is a Scottish writer honing his talent for crime fiction with every new instalment of the Best Defence series. He writes knowledgeably about legal issues with humour and perceptiveness. For local readers there is much to identify with in McIntyre's novels as they use Linlithgow landmarks and the surrounding countryside as the locus for each storyline.**

Criminal lawyer Robbie Munro is confronted with his most personal case to date. His father, Sergeant Alex Munro, is a retired policeman and has a steadfast career spanning over thirty years in the force to reflect upon. We learn that a hallmark moment in his service was the conviction of a notorious child-murderer, the crimes of whom terrorised the residents of Linlithgow twenty years ago.

When the Counter Corruption Unit decide to reinvestigate the case due to new scientific methods for DNA analysis being developed and reasonable doubt being cast over the outdated methods of suspect interviewing techniques. What follows is an interesting plunge into the official methods used to invigilate and uphold the justice system. Robbie must journey literally and figuratively through the original sequence of events, meeting key characters along the way; from revisiting the last sighting of the missing child at the playpark in Phillip Avenue through the eyes of those who can still bear witness to the present day Falkirk bail address of the accused. Even though the trail has gone cold in many places the passions and feelings of those connected to the events are still enflamed.

McIntyre's own career in criminal defence law has provided him with a wealth of knowledge into the Scottish legal system and an appreciation of the challenges that face those responsible for the duty of upholding law and order. McIntyre will also have a keen sense of the pressing caseload of a busy lawyer and the mental agility required when juggling more than one client. Indeed, his father's predicament is not the only investigative trail that Robbie must follow before the novel's conclusion.

The events of this story unfold in an interesting and organic manner with McIntyre introducing many surprising twists along the way. The outcome of the retrial will leave you guessing until the final chapters. He has an easy, flowing style and the sense of humour he weaves beautifully throughout his novels lifts the storyline and heightens the narrative. McIntyre writes with a pace, knowledge and creativity which combines to provide the reader with a highly enjoyable, escapist read.



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



# PENSIONS AND THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Susan Ralston, Virtue Money

If you are in your late 40's to 50's there is a good chance that you have worked for a Company that operated a Defined Benefit Scheme sometimes also known as a Final Salary Scheme.

Defined pension schemes pay their members a secure income for life which increases each year.

The pension income, if you are lucky to be a member of one of these types of schemes, is normally based on your pensionable service (the number of years you've been a member of the scheme), pensionable earnings (this may be your salary at retirement or an average over a set number of years) and the Accrual Rate (the proportion of your earnings you'll get as a pension for each year in the scheme (commonly 1/60th or 1/80th)).

Unfortunately, as these schemes are incredibly expensive to administer they are being phased out by employers in favour of Defined Contribution Schemes.

**Defined Contribution pension** work by building up a pension pot using your contributions and your employers (if applicable) plus the investment returns and tax relief.

If you are a member of a scheme through your workplace, then your employer usually deducts your contribution from your salary before it is taxed.

For our children and grandchildren this is the type of scheme that they will likely be enrolled in when they begin their working lives.

According to a recent Daily Express article sponsored by Key Retirement,



7 in 10 younger workers will experience a shortfall in their expected pension income because they are not saving enough.

Those around 30 years of age typically said they thought they'd need an income of around £23,000 for a comfortable retirement – this was based on a survey of 5,300 people.

However, when they looked at what would be the expected retirement income based on the amounts that people in this age bracket were saving it showed that they would be short by about £8,000 as the yearly income would typically be £15,000.

The report advised that if a 25-year-old wanted to achieve retirement income of £23,000 a year then they would have to look to start saving almost £300 each month into their pension.

As the younger generation may be struggling to save for their retirement due to Student Debts they may be paying back and saving for and buying their first home this is clearly a problem that has to be addressed.

Perhaps for this generation the help that we can offer with regards their pension is minimal with them perhaps looking toward money they'll receive from their grandparents and/or parent's estate to fund their retirement.

We can however help their children and although it seems like a strange idea to arrange a pension for someone who



still might be in nappies the argument is compelling. Parents or other family members can invest in a self-invested personal pension (SIPP) for a child, up to a maximum of £3,600 each year.

Thanks to the tax breaks that come with saving in a pension, this means investing £2,880 annually - or £240 each month – with the balance being automatically reclaimed from the HM Revenues and Customs.

The benefit of compound growth over the long term is key so the sooner you start saving the better.

There is no minimum age for a junior SIPP so it can be started the day that the child is born. The pension fund is outside the estate for inheritance tax purposes so this could become a valuable exercise if you need to reduce your estate.

For the here and now everyday emergencies or situations that our children find themselves in, the Bank of Mum and Dad or increasingly Gran and Grandad never seem to close, charges an incredibly favourable interest rate and rarely call a debt in.

**Saving for your child's or grandchild's pension whilst their retirement is a lifetime away may turn out to be one of the best investments you ever make for them.**

Wed  
7  
NOV

We are running our next Virtue Money Pre-retirement seminar on Wednesday the 7th of November 2018 between 9am and 1.15pm. We have guest speakers and will touch on the following, Wills, Powers of Attorneys, Tax, Health and of course Pensions. There will be a buffet lunch afterwards which gives you an informal opportunity to speak to our advisers if you have general questions regarding your pensions.

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

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





# LINLITHGOW ACADEMY

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AT BRAEHEAD

The 2018-2019 school session will mark exactly fifty years of Linlithgow Academy at Braehead Road.

Staff have been looking at ways to celebrate this major milestone and have announced plans for a special film. They are now appealing for help from the wider community.

Head Teacher, Mrs Karen Jarvis, told me:-

*"We are seeking support from the community to find former pupils who would be keen to be interviewed by current pupils in the school. The intention is that this would form part of a film to showcase elements of the recently refurbished areas, demonstrating the contrast of learning approaches across the decades."*

*As part of the film production, we are particularly keen to receive photos and other memorabilia, which could be recorded and then returned to the owners. There is the intention of having a big 50 for people to be photographed with and for the pupils to form a human 50, which we will record. As well as the film, we are also planning a quiz covering the five decades and a school fiftieth birthday cake."*

The need for a new Academy had been under discussion for many years and was given greater impetus by the huge expansion of private housing in Linlithgow from 1960 onwards. The long-awaited development finally opened its doors to pupils on Monday August 26th 1968.

It would be over three months, however, before the new school received its formal official opening on Friday December 6th 1968. The following week, the Journal & Gazette reported:

*"The fantastic new £750,000 Linlithgow Academy, built by a former pupil, was officially opened last Friday afternoon by another former pupil – the distinguished Sheriff Margaret Kidd, QC. The new Academy, one of the most up-to-date teaching establishments in the United Kingdom, was built by local builder James Harrison, who was present on the platform in the school's magnificent Assembly Hall."*

Millionaire builder James Harrison, who left the Academy at the age of 14, and whose firm had been involved in much of the housing boom in Linlithgow, had teachers, pupils and the public gasping with surprise when he handed over a cheque for 1000 guineas - £17,130 in today's money.

Another former pupil was fulsome in his praise for the new school. In his Pencillings column in the Journal & Gazette, Vic Wood declared:

*"We now have two Palaces in Linlithgow! Apart from the world-famous Linlithgow Palace, I nominate the second as the new Linlithgow Academy, which is indeed a 'Palace' of education."*

*The £750,000 building...is an absolutely fantastic piece of construction and the fittings are just too wonderful for words."*

*I sauntered through the three-tiered*

*Academy on Friday afternoon and was amazed at the set-up. I was so impressed that I just had to take a look on Friday evening when many parents had the opportunity of a peep at the pupils in action."*

*There were more electric cookers and washing machines than an Electricity Board showroom and the flat which has been luxuriously furnished in the Homecraft department, is the last word in comfort. I'll bet a luxury penthouse flat in London would have to hold some fantastic furniture before matching this one!*

*What a wonderful gesture it was by the millionaire Jimmy Harrison in donating a thousand quid to the school funds. I understand that Mr H. donates money to every school he opens in the county, but I'll bet this one will take some beating. And I couldn't even get a look at the cheque!"*

If you think you can help the 50th anniversary celebrations in any way, please contact Linlithgow Academy directly.

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50  
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# LAMP OCTOBER 15-20, AT THE ACADEMY



In 2014, LAMP put on the show “White Christmas” in their usual October slot, starting the festive season early! This year they’ve decided to try elongate the amazing summer of 2018 with “**Summer Holiday**” This show is going to be an energetic, fun, sunshiny way to spend an evening. It’s full of great music and unbelievable dancing.

Production team **Eddie MacLennan, Claire Withnell and Sandy Queenan** have been working hard to bring this great fun show to life. LAMP’S audiences have come to expect a high standard of shows from the company and, after the success of the Children’s Theatres version of ‘Les Misérables’ at Easter, the adults are raring to go.

The show “Summer Holiday” is based on the 1960’s Cliff Richard movie of the same name and contains a lot of the same famous songs which I’m sure the audience will want to join in with. Obviously “Summer Holiday” is in there, along with “Bachelor Boy” and “The Next Time”. However, some other massive Cliff hits have been added to the score such as “Move it” and “Living Doll”.

The show follows the story of four London bus mechanics (played by **Graeme Scott, Neil Gordon, Josh Ure and Darren Tasker**) who strike up a deal with London Transport to do up a double decker bus and drive it, as a moving hotel, to the south of France. If all goes well it could be a business opportunity for the future. Along the way they pick up all girl singing group “Do Re Mi” (played by **Karine Stalker, Hannah Easton and Rebecca Gillies**) who are on their way to Athens for a singing engagement but who have been stranded after a car break down. They also find themselves with a stowaway; an American boy called Bobby (played by **Siobhan Smith**). But Bobby isn’t all that he seems! And why is a mad American woman called Stella (**Carol Fraser**) and her sidekick Jerry (**Eric Brown**) chasing the bus? If you’ve ever cosied up with the movie and a large bag of Maltesers on a Sunday afternoon, then get yourself to the Academy to see this great fun show.

The performances are at 7.30pm each evening and run from Monday to Saturday the 15th – 20th October in the Linlithgow Academy theatre.

Tickets can be bought online from [www.linlithgow-musicals.co.uk](http://www.linlithgow-musicals.co.uk) or by calling 07949475932.

On a gorgeously sunny September morning, members of LAMP could be spotted sailing off down the canal on the fabulous canal boat Victoria. Maintained by the amazing Linlithgow Union Canal Society (LUCS), the boat was a fitting vehicle to take LAMP off on a cruise to promote “Summer Holiday”.

The pairing of LAMP and LUCS to do some promotional activity is a fitting one as both organisations are completely volunteer led. Given what both organisations bring to the town, that’s an amazing feat. If you would like to get involved, it’s worth bearing in mind the breadth of activity that members can be involved in - in a group like LAMP or LUCS. With LAMP, if singing and dancing isn’t your thing, there are sets to be built, advertising, fundraising and hospitality to be planned, backstage crew work, costume and prop sourcing and so on. With LUCS, to have LAMP along on Saturday, their members were staffing their tea room, tidying the garden areas as well as getting the boat ready. Linlithgow benefits from the things her voluntary groups contribute so, if you do have some time to spare, these groups, and others, will be richer for your involvement.

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# PARTY AT THE PALACE 2018

**N**ow in its fifth year this is fast becoming one of Scotland's favourite festivals, with something for everyone year after year. It seems PATP has the ability to cater for all ages, from toddler to ageing rocker. With face painting, inflatables, fairground rides, and numerous stalls handing out freebies and serving cracking food and drink, there is a family feel and a welcoming spirit everywhere.

As a local I have been lucky to see four out of the five PATP now. And, although numbers have swollen, the venue has changed, the stages have grown, the catering and bars have stretched and improved, thankfully a few things haven't changed... the smiles, the love, the warmth and the huge hug this festival delivers. From the friendly gate and bar staff, to the flower bearing, dancing policemen and first aiders; you can't help but celebrate whatever the weather. We should all feel spoiled to have this fantastic event on our doorstep.

This year's event kicked off with a community evening on the Friday. The evening had a lovely relaxed vibe with food stalls and bars open, and I was lucky to catch 'The Shackles' an up and coming band from Stonehaven, who will hopefully grace the weekend stage next


year. They managed to get a soggy local crowd up dancing and cheering with their current Indy style tunes, putting everyone in the mood for what was to come over the weekend. It was a lovely touch offering OAPs a free ride on the ferris wheel on the Friday, and it was taken up in droves.

Saturday started well with some heartfelt lyrics from the powerful Glaswegian presence of **Carly Connor**, who was as well received here as she was at T in the Park, when just 19 she wowed the crowds with her extraordinary voice. This was followed up with a fantastic set from the **Complete Stone Roses**, who Mani himself has complimented in the past and it is easy to see why, with a faultless set of classics from 'Waterfall' to 'Made of Stone' it was a proper treat for any fan, and there were lots of us there judging by the sing-along. Next up came the tribe known as **Colonel Mustard and the Dijon 5**, and with so many people on stage it was a feast for the eyes and ears. The crowd was a sea of yellow and their army of fans enjoyed the obligatory dance off as the party gathered steam. Former Spice Girl **Mel C** then reminded the crowd what a fantastic decade the 90s had been for dance music, churning out hit after hit, and dancing along herself to the delight of the audience. **Cast** followed Mel with a high energy set

containing all their classic hits from 'Fine Time' to 'Guiding Star', and **Gabrielle** then reminded us why she has one of the most celebrated voices in the UK with a memorable set featuring all her greatest hits culminating in the classic 'Dreams'. Finally Saturday night was wrapped up by **James** with a selection of their new album and some of their classic hits. Despite choosing to leave out a couple of their best known songs, it was clear from the audience interaction with **Tim Booth** and the reaction from the crowd they were the stand-out class act of the evening and continue to spread the love with every new gig. They were fantastic as ever and we can only hope they will grace the PATP stage again.

Saturday had been such a wonderful day, expectations were high for Sunday, and in spite of the rain the day didn't fail to deliver. The afternoon sets from **Dopesickfly** and **The Prince Experience** put everyone straight back in the mood with funky, high energy sets and a fitting tribute to the legend with some accurate covers along with moves and mannerisms from the lead singer, that took you back to Meadowbank Stadium and other classic Scottish Prince gigs. **The Bluebells** then took to the stage keeping things jaunty and continuing the singalong with a cracking rendition of Young at Heart, before the crowd were





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captivated by the first big surprise of the day. **Peter Hook** commanded the stage and wowed the crowds with a mixture of **The Lights** own brand of music, mixed with some fantastic tracks from his New Order and Joy Division days. We were truly in the presence of greatness and it was clear to see why Peter had such influence on the music scene in the 80's and 90's from his management of the Hacienda club to his production work for Stone Roses and Inspiral Carpets. **Gok Wan** continued the party with a lively DJ set from the Forth 1 Decks before **Embrace** reminded us why they spent so much time in the charts, rolling out cracking hits like 'Come Back to What You Know' and 'Gravity'. Following such a lively afternoon it was great to relax and enjoy the beautiful sound of **Emelda May**. It was clear to all why she is one of the most respected song-writers in the music business. Her collaborations really are a who's who of the music industry (Dave Gilmour, Tom Jones, U2, Smokey Robinson to name but a few), and with her current album riding high in the charts, you couldn't help but be entranced by her extraordinary voice and talent. And finally we come to **Texas** who most of us in Scotland have grown up with and admired over the past 30 years. If you were there on Sunday you have probably mentioned and raved about the gig to someone you know as they were spectacular, with **Charlene Spiteri** knocking it out the park with her cheeky mood, hits galore, and endearing and entertaining approach to audience participation. People rocked, sang, laughed and enjoyed watching the

lucky crowd member, who was hauled onto stage to enjoy hugs and banter with Scotland's favourite rock chick. Thank you Charlene for a cracking and memorable set, please come back to Linlithgow and entertain us again soon.

Just to stroll round the festival was a pleasant experience this year. The Breakthrough Stage was a popular spot, and I was lucky to catch **Vida, Alex Francis and Pyro on Saturday and Be Like Pablo and Sperry** on Sunday, all of whom were going down a storm and made me wish I could have seen every band over the course of the weekend. The acoustic tent also had some cracking live music and a welcoming and happy vibe, due in part to the lovely, smiley people working its coffee shop, whom my young son took a real shine to. If you were looking for a wind-down, the platinum lounge was a great place to be with comfortable seating and in-house music and if you wanted something a little different, you could pop into the silent disco.

Party at the Palace is something a little different for sure, but it's hard to put your finger on what makes it so. Having been to many festivals it could just be that it's hard to believe they can be done this well. A family festival, where everyone is welcome and crowds aren't intimidating. There is order, cleanliness and the police, litter-pickers, first-aiders and security staff seem as relaxed and happy as the public. For me though it comes down to the music, as year on year John and Peter manage to put together a line-up based on an admirable instinct for selecting line-ups that put the 'Party' into Party at the Palace.



Thank You Guys!!  
**Will Nettleton**



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

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The magazine is **looking for young people to help establish a regular presence on its website, Facebook and Twitter accounts to keep the magazine in readers' minds between issues by promoting articles online and expanding the magazine's network as well as offering some writing/journalism opportunities.** So, if you are interested make sure to get in touch with me via social media, email or face to face in order to get involved!

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# THE LINLITHGOW COMBINATION POORHOUSE

Bruce Jamieson

*In previous articles I have lamented the demise of buildings which once graced the landscape of our local area. In the case of the Linlithgow Combination Poorhouse few would mourn the passing of that establishment which stood to the east of the town just above the Union Canal. Little remains today of that building, opened in 1856 to house the poor and destitute of Linlithgowshire.*

*Linlithgow Poorhouse in the 1950s – then an Old Folks Home.*



*The site of the poorhouse today – little left except a flight of steps leading up to the flattened area where it stood.*

By the mid 19th century, it was increasingly obvious that the old Scottish system of looking after those in need was breaking down. A new Poor Law Scotland Amendment Act created Boards of Supervision which were empowered to recommend the setting up of institutions designed to house the unfortunate members of society.

Eight “West Lothian” parishes: Abercorn; Bathgate, Bo’ness; Carriden; Kirkliston; Linlithgow; Muiravonside and Whitburn decided to construct a shared Combination Poorhouse. The decision was driven partly out of a desire to help but also out of a legal obligation to assist the poor. If someone was offered a place in a poorhouse then that obligation was met. The steering committee set up to supervise the construction of the Linlithgow building noted that in the case of the Falkirk Poorhouse 9 out of every 10 paupers offered accommodation actually refused to enter – and this saved money! Chaired by Provost Adam Dawson, the committee approved a £7000 project but the cost actually rose to over £9000. One reason given for this was the fact that the original plan to discharge all sewage into Linlithgow Loch had been vetoed in favour of a more expensive system. The completed edifice which opened its doors in August, 1856, was a fine, if somewhat austere, baronial building comprising a large, rectangular main block, with a three storey central portion used to accommodate Governor John Reddie’s quarters. He and his wife had been chosen from 56 applications and, on appointment, they received a joint annual salary of £80

plus a free house, fuel, lighting and food. To the rear of the main building were some sheds where the able-bodied inmates were put to work. For the Linlithgow establishment operated on the principle of ‘Less Eligibility’: ie living in the workhouse had to be less attractive than the life of the lowest paid labourer out-with the house. This principle led to the concept of a ‘well-regulated hoose’ – a euphemism for ‘a pretty austere establishment’.



*Breaking stones in a poorhouse.*

A male newcomer was then handed his uniform which consisted of a long, woollen, double-breasted jacket, a thick, coarse-twilled, blue, ‘pilot cloth’ waistcoat, a striped cotton shirt; grey moleskin trousers and a cap. Women wore a shapeless frock reaching to the ankles, sometimes with a protective apron in front. The uniforms were sturdy and hard-wearing- but of course immediately marked out the wearer as Poorhouse property - stigmatized inmates.

Families were broken up and strictly segregated: women to one wing, men to another and children to a third – unless they were being boarded out in the homes of local families. Once in the appropriate ward, there was no privacy; sleeping was communal, in bleak, soulless dormitories containing from 5 to 30 beds. Meals were strictly controlled – in accordance with dietary regulations laid down by the central board, and eaten in silence, in a large communal dining hall on trestle tables and removable chairs.

The 1871 census for Linlithgow records 167 inmates living in the Poorhouse, including 2 blind adults and a blind 6

year old child; 2 ‘deaf and dumb’ residents and 3 adult imbeciles – with a mental age of between 3 and 7. Also included in the number were 26 lunatics – who seem to have come from all walks of life from pithead worker and cotton spinner; through grocer to a student of medicine.

The 19th century Regulations which governed daily existence were strictly enforced:

- > *Inmates will bathe once a week in bath water between 88 and 98 degrees F.*
- > *Under no circumstances are two patients to be bathed at once*
- > *All children under 15 will have their hair cut regularly to 2 inches for boys; 3 inches for girls*
- > *There will be no pretence at sickness*
- > *No leaving the premises without a pass*
- > *No noise when silence is ordered*
- > *No playing at cards or games of chance*
- > *No entering any part of the house other than one’s own.*
- > *No profane or obscene language anywhere within the walls*
- > *No refusal or neglect of work*

The building continued to operate (under increasingly gentler regimes) until 1948 when it was incorporated into the newly created National Health Service, operating under the watchful eye of Matron Wright and then Matron Macmillan.



*Matron Isa Wright receiving a presentation from Dr Alister Macleod at her leaving in 1955.*



The poorhouse building was closed in 1961 and weather and vandalism took its toll. It was eventually demolished in 1969 – little lamented perhaps but a sad end for a once fairly handsome building. Other poorhouses throughout Scotland have met kinder fates and have been turned into hospitals or luxury flats.





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# LINLITHGOW PLAYERS PLAYS & WINE

Small audiences, poor acting and cronky sets are what you can expect at the Linlithgow Players' Plays and Wine evening on 12 and 13 October. But don't worry, those are the issues facing the Little Grimley Players, not our talented Linlithgow Players!

In the first of 2 one-act plays, "Little Grimley Presents Strictly Sex Factor on Ice", the trials of putting on amateur theatre are wonderfully captured by award winning comedy writer, David Tristram. The members of Little Grimley amateur dramatics group are planning an entertainment extravaganza to entice audiences back from their sofas on a Saturday night. What follows is an hilarious attempt at a dance competition on skates - look out if you find yourself in the front row!

In the 2nd short play, the Player's premiere "Pulp Friction" by local writer, Ian Stewart. Part mystery and part dark comedy, the play promises to keep you guessing as the characters' hidden lives are revealed.

With the addition of some sketches, a complimentary drink, cheese and biscuits and a relaxed cabaret style seating, we hope to entice you too.

12 and 13th October at Linlithgow Primary School.  
Doors and bar open at 7pm for 7.30pm start.  
Tickets £10, available from [www.linlithgowplayers.org.uk](http://www.linlithgowplayers.org.uk),  
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**Saturday**  
**20 October**



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