

THE CONCRETE COLANDER*

PAGE 6



* Colander: retains solids, lets water run through



BURGH BEAUTIFUL
1st PLANTING PROJECT P8.

ROTARY & CIVIC TRUST
PICK LITTER P9.

LINLITHGOW COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
BLACK



ESTD. 2011

LINLITHGOW'S NEWS BY LINLITHGOW'S PEOPLE
BITCH

ISSUE NO.
105 APRIL 2024

CONTENTS

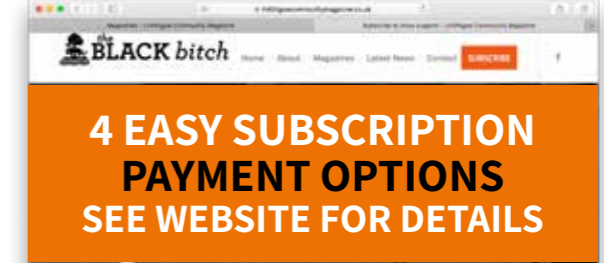
- 4 One Linlithgow Business Improvement District** Businesses in less well trodden places
- 6 Planning Forum** Vennel development – let’s answer some questions
- 8 Burgh Beautiful** 20 years of making the Burgh beautiful
- 10 Low Port Centre** Up and running now, official re-opening set for 18 May, all welcome
- 12 Perambulation of the Marches** A walk round the 1832 Parliamentary boundaries
- 13 Folk Fae Lithgae** Ken Richardson, Secretary, Linlithgow Rugby Club
- 14 Deacons Court** The Bay City Rollers, a Tartan special event at the Rugby Club Marquee
- 15 George Allan Tournament, Prestonfield** and tribute to the memory of Davie Roy, “Mr Linlithgow Rose”
- 16 Linlithgow Loch** Blue algae, a very complex issue
- 17 Rotary Tree of Light** Heartfelt thanks for fantastic support from Linlithgow community
- 18 New Hopetoun Gardens** Styling your garden with hot and cold colours
- 20 Bruce Jamieson** H.M. Cadell, Laird of Grange: the story from an entrepreneurial merchant to an experimental geologist
- 22 The Super Scribblers** Springfield and Low Port Primaries – a prelude to the publication of their timely book on community
- 24 Linlithgow Moondance** Hugely successful fundraiser in its 4th year, at the Rugby Club Marquee 15th June
- 26 Linlithgow Players** An outdoor production of Woman in Mind in Learmonth Gardens
- 27 Book Review with Lisa Nettleton** Remarkably Bright Creatures, a New York Times bestseller, giant octopus befriends lonely widow
- 29 Women’s Hour** At Linlithgow Cycle Circuit – coaching for all standards, confidence building to group riding skills and stamina
- 30 Linlithgow and District Allotment Society** How to get the best from starting from seeds
- 31 Gary Clinton** Finds out more about the Linlithgow String Orchestra
- 33 Low Port Primary** Celebrates 50th anniversary with events till end of the summer term
- 35 Polmonthill Ski Slope** Local community saves its future – great news for Linlithgow schools
- 38 Paul Rolfe** Housing Market commentary – 2024 positive start continues, inquiries increase, stronger sales than a year ago
- 39 Vets and Pets** Bella, fun loving sock stealer on the loose



**DAVID TAIT,
EDITOR**



**Subscribe to
the Black Bitch
Magazine**



**4 EASY SUBSCRIPTION
PAYMENT OPTIONS
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS**

**So what’s new
in this Issue?**

In this issue we cover news from across the town - and a wee bit beyond – from the **Super Scribblers of Springfield and Low Port Primary Schools** preparing to publish a book on the importance of community; to preparations for this year’s **Riding of the Marches**; the many sports activities at the **Rugby Club**, the **George Allan Football Tournament for youngsters**, **Polmonthill for skiers**, **Women’s Hour cycling for beginners and experts**, and, for less robust exercise, the **Perambulation of the Marches** which checks the town’s 1832 Parliamentary Boundaries; heritage with **Bruce Jamieson at “Grange” on Airngath Hill**; gardening update from **New Hopetoun**, the **Allotment Society** and of course **Burgh Beautiful** with their review of 20 years of achievement and a look to the plans for this summer.

Of interest to the town itself, we take a look again at the **troubling issue of algae on the loch**, blighting one of Linlithgow’s prime assets. If there is light at the end of the tunnel to solve this issue then it seems to be quite a long tunnel.

On the upside, the formal re-opening under community management of

Low Port Centre will take place on 18th May. It’s good to see what had been a highly valued community asset back in action again. Allocation of space is already well advanced and the community at large is invited to attend the formal opening to see what has already been achieved and hear of future plans.

There’s music too with **Gary Clinton’s review of the Linlithgow String Orchestra** and his interview with its “head honcho” **Helen Greig** revealing the work that has gone into the formation of the Orchestra and its aspirations. There is also something of a surprise in the return of the **Bay City Rollers in support of Deacons Court fundraising**.

It’s been said that every idea has its time and there is a strong feeling in the town that time is up for the **Vennel development at The Cross** which has long disfigured what has been described as “one of Scotland’s finest clusters of medieval buildings” comprising **Linlithgow Palace, St Michael’s Parish Church, The Burgh Halls, Cross House and The Cross**. At the time of its construction during the late 1960s, 55 years ago, the development was awarded a Saltire Society Award, arguably appropriate at the time, but that time has now passed. With a likely design life of 60 years the time is now right for a new structure to complement its surroundings and ensure that current residents and businesses can count on maintaining their community into the next generation. To try to explain the complexities involved and the work done by **Linlithgow’s Planning Forum** towards creating a feasible solution see their article with 10 Q & A’s on pages 6 & 7.

We very much hope you find items of interest amongst the articles in each magazine which, of course, depends on continuing income from advertisers, subscribers and donors, and inputs from our band of enthusiastic voluntary staff who generate, compile, organise and deliver the magazine free of charge to as many households and businesses as we can find in Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge.

**Magazine
Subscription**

If you’ve been meaning to subscribe or donate but haven’t quite got round to it yet please take action now. We are pleased to have been able to produce a magazine of 40 pages this time and it is the generous contributions of readers that allows us to do that.

So please use one of the methods on our website at www.linlithgowcommunitymagazine.co.uk to contribute and help the magazine to grow.



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



Linlithgow Physiotherapy

Local Physiotherapy Clinic.




We can help with:

- Back/Neck Pain
- Sports Injuries
- Joint/Muscle Pain
- Ante/post Natal Care
- Modified Pilates
- Bladder Problems
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Acupuncture

**26c High Street
Linlithgow
EH49 7AE**

**Karen Graham
Pamela Armstrong**


Tel. **01506 238189**

www.linlithgowphysiotherapy.co.uk
contacts@linlithgowphysiotherapy.co.uk

Healthcare Insurers Recognised
HCPC registered

A range of luxury gifts
handpicked and brought
to your High Street

Indulge in a little aromatherapy
to enhance physical &
emotional health



View our full range
and latest offers
instore or visit
lilypondcrafts.co.uk

LILYPOND CRAFTS & GIFTS

Follow us on facebook to discover our latests finds

25 The High Street, Linlithgow EH49 7AB • 01506 840225 - enquiries@lilypondcrafts.co.uk

>>> For details and events visit **what’s on** www.mylinlithgow.com <<<



NEXT ISSUE COPY DEADLINE
15 MAY 2024

CONTACT THE EDITOR
on.a.lead@gmail.com

**DOWNLOAD A PDF OF THIS
MAGAZINE FROM OUR WEBSITE:**
www.linlithgowcommunitymagazine.co.uk

WEDDINGS • EVENTS • PORTRAITS

UNIT 7
BRAEHEAD ROAD
EH49 6EP
(opposite Linlithgow Rose F.C.)

01506 671700
www.paulgavin.co.uk

MPA
Qualified MASTER Photographer

Gift Vouchers on sale now
Appointments available 7 days

**PAUL GAVIN
PHOTOGRAPHY**






INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE IN THE HILLS AROUND LINLITHGOW

George Clarke and his highly addictive TV series, *Amazing Spaces*, has a lot to be admired. He explores the world where people are turning tiny spaces into places to live, work and play and nothing is off limits – planes, trains and automobiles as well as caravans, houseboats, observatories, beach huts and an old lifeboat have been lovingly butchered and re-engineered into a place to call home.

This current trend is part of an evolutionary process that started off decades ago with the likes of John Amabile on *60-minute Makeover*; Kevin McCloud on *Grand Designs*; ex-footballer Dion Dublin on *Homes Under the Hammer*; and Sarah Beanie's renovations and charm. Don't forget the on-screen love-in between Kirsty and Phil on *Love It or List It – LIOLI*.

THERE WILL BE OTHERS, BUT WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH THE HILLS AROUND LINLITHGOW?

A short drive, walk or cycle from the High Street presents a scene of rolling hills, drystone walls, winding roads and amazing views of the bridges over the Forth.

There is hardly, if any, evidence of an old barn, abandoned steading, or golden opportunity for Kevin to film while being converted into a grand design with a workspace for one half of the couple mad enough to take on the project; let alone be filmed doing it.

That's because there is already a thriving business community beaver away off the beaten track, taking advantage of lower unit costs per square foot, privacy and a beautiful place to work. There is even a 'Burger Barn' at the Park Bistro.

There are the highly sought after accommodation provisions in the form of Carribber Cottages and WilliamsCraig Holiday Cottages attracting visitors from across the world as well as the caravan park in Beecraigs Country Park. We forget sometimes just how appealing the place we live is looked upon by others, until we witness gaping mouths open at the views we see every day.

We have highlighted some of the businesses to be found in the wider Linlithgow area.

But did you know in the areas classified as 'wider Linlithgow' the range of businesses varies from metal recycling; bespoke atelier creations for the whisky industry; precision tool making and so much more.

Just one more thing as the submission deadline is looming, after writing this article, we discovered that Architectural designer Charlie Luxton had been to Linlithgow to film '*Building the Dream*'

Series 7 Episode 6: Firth of Forth. Charlie meets a couple who are building a traditional Scottish cottage between Linlithgow and the beautiful Firth of Forth. But the weather puts pressure on their ambitious build. ([Channel4.com/programmes/building-the-dream/on-demand/63809-001](https://www.channel4.com/programmes/building-the-dream/on-demand/63809-001))

HIDEAWAY CAFÉ AT BEECRAIGS COUNTRY PARK



The award-winning café serves homemade soups, snacks, scones, kids meals, slushies, ice cream. It is also an official coeliac outlet that allows people with the condition to "live well gluten free". It is located in the beautiful Beecraigs Country Park that caters for a wide range of leisure and recreational activities within its 913 acres and can be discovered nestled high in the Bathgate Hills near the historic town of Linlithgow.

[Facebook.com/Beecraigs](https://www.facebook.com/Beecraigs)

The award-winning café serves homemade soups, snacks, scones, kids meals, slushies, ice cream. It is also an official

BROOKFIELD METAL RECYCLING



Merchants in Scotland. [Brookfieldmetalrecycling.co.uk](https://www.brookfieldmetalrecycling.co.uk)

Have over 30 years' experience in the Scrap Metal Industry and have become one of the leading Scrap Metal

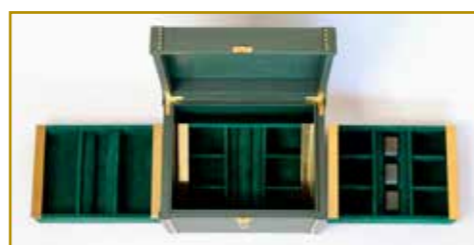
PROTOSHAPE LTD



an optimum mix of the best possible design and efficient and economical manufacturing. [Protoshape.co.uk](https://www.protoshape.co.uk)

Experts in the manufacture of plastic injection mould tools and in injection moulding. They can help you design a product so that there is

METHOD STUDIO



with small batch artisanal production. Method Studio is also one of the few trunk-making ateliers left. Combining the traditional techniques of the Malletier with their own fine cabinetmaking skills. [Methodstudio.co.uk](https://www.methodstudio.co.uk)

Since 2009 the skilled team has been blending sensitive creative direction, design and project-management

STEEDSY



Steadsy are involved in sales and hire of professional Audio. They always aim for the best available, in quality, service and attention to detail. The services supplied can range from a whole host of technical requirements. They have 50 years of experience in events, concerts, conferences, Music festivals.

[Steadsy.com](https://www.steadsy.com)

Steadsy are involved in sales and hire of professional Audio. They always aim for the best available, in quality,

TARDUFF MOTORS



for 58 years. As a family run business, they take pride in providing a quality job and honest service. [tarduffmotors.co.uk](https://www.tarduffmotors.co.uk)

Established in 1966, Tarduff Motors have provided quality motor servicing and repair in and around the Linlithgow area

THE KIDZ STOP



nursery is divided into 4 separate rooms giving the different age groups space to grow and develop with children their own age. [thekidzstop.co.uk](https://www.thekidzstop.co.uk)

The nursery opened in 2012, registered for 60 children in a converted detached former residential building. The

STRANGERS BREWING



clearly rooted in the local landscape. [Strangersbrewing.co.uk](https://www.strangersbrewing.co.uk)

Make beer sustainably, brewing in small batches with local ingredients at Narrowboat Farm. Distinctive, delicious, and

KINGSFIELD GOLF AND LEISURE

An elegant 9-hole golf course set in 70 acres of impressive



countryside. A driving range and putting greens. Kingsfield Barn is a flexible space with many options

for weddings, comfortably accommodating from 50 to 400 guests. [kingsfieldgolfandleisure.co.uk](https://www.kingsfieldgolfandleisure.co.uk)

OUT OF TOWN EATERIES

The local eateries out of town are well-loved by loyal local customers.

CARRIBBER COTTAGES

Three cottages sleeping 6 people each in an elevated position with stunning panoramic views of the open countryside.

[Carribbercottages.co.uk](https://www.carribbercottages.co.uk)

WILLIAMSCRAIG HOLIDAY COTTAGES



family events and just a few minutes' drive from romantic wedding venues such as Linlithgow Palace, Linlithgow Burgh Halls. [Holidaycottageslinlithgow.co.uk](https://www.holidaycottageslinlithgow.co.uk)

Eight stunning 4-star self-catering cottages with 3 to 6 bedrooms, all with Hot Tubs. A beautiful setting for photographing

PARK BISTRO



In 2020 'The Burger Barn' began operating from the Park Bistro Kitchen with the reintroduction of some original Park Farm classics for alfresco dining in the Courtyard or take away. [theparkbistro.co.uk](https://www.theparkbistro.co.uk)

Park Bistro is located on Park Farm, beside the Union Canal. The converted barn offers breakfast, lunch and dinner service.

THE ASHMAAN RESTAURANT



dishes that are important to them. They use local ingredients and authentic Punjabi spices to create dishes that are full of everything the family has always believed in. The family have owned the Ashmaan for 40 years since 1984 when their father opened the restaurant. The current generation are continuing the tradition of focusing on family and food. [theashmaan.co.uk](https://www.theashmaan.co.uk)

Specialising in classic halal cuisine from the Punjab region of Pakistan and India, where their family are from and prepare the

LOCAL CONVENIENCE

A shout out is also deserving for the small convenience stores we all use on the way home. The Spar, USave and Alexanders that open late into the evenings when we need that last minute item.



VENNEL REGENERATION UPDATE “REVAMP MAY BE TOO COSTLY”

Has 90% public support for ambitious development been disregarded by West Lothian Council – 10 Q & A’s shed some light.

This article is arranged as a response to questions asked of the Linlithgow Planning Forum with a focus on the recent moves towards the part redevelopment of the Vennel.

Question 1. I saw the front-page headline in the Linlithgow Gazette of 23rd February 2024. “Revamp may be too costly” what’s going on?

The Gazette was reporting on a meeting of West Lothian Council Executive Committee on 20 February

at which David Baird, Property Services Manager, reported “in light of the valuation report, the transformative redevelopment sought for the Vennel may not be achievable”. However, the Executive Committee agreed to continue with the approach to developers for a development proposal which would financially benefit West Lothian Council.

Question 2. Haven’t we been here before?”

Yes - during the summer of 2017, West Lothian Council conducted a 9-week consultation on its draft “planning guidance” for the redevelopment of a part of the Vennel comprising the area between the flats adjacent to the loch and the High Street. This comprises all buildings in the Vennel Avenue (library, toilets, youth club, offices and shops); the Vennel car

park and the Vennel green. The Planning Forum conducted a public consultation comprising an online and paper-based survey (259 replies) a door-to-door survey of all Vennel residents, and a public exhibition at Low Port Centre (150 attendees who completed 120 detailed questionnaires). Based on this information the Community Council submitted a 31-page response to the consultation to West Lothian Council.

Question 3. Going back to Question 1, with all that information someone should be able to determine what is financially possible?

In September 2018 the Planning Forum distilled the survey responses into a proposed statement of need and, with the help of a local architectural practice and an Edinburgh based chartered quantity surveying practice, undertook

a financial appraisal of six technical options. These ranged from the best option from a developer’s perspective to the best option from the community’s perspective. The developer’s option involves building flats for sale (to cover the cost of construction) with some further shops for rent. It was estimated that the annual income to West Lothian Council from this option would be in the order of £328,000 per annum. The community’s preferred option would be to include 10% of social housing, shops, tourist office and toilets, youth facility and a community hub, such as that currently run by Linlithgow Community Development Trust in the old library. This would give an annual income to West Lothian Council of £75,000, actually less than the Council currently gets from the car park but still a profit. **The underlying issue, however, is the answer to the question - what is best for Linlithgow? A redevelopment which respects Linlithgow’s heritage and Conservation Area status or a small financial gain for West Lothian Council?**

Question 4. Why keep the Cross flats, they are really showing their age?

During the Planning Forum’s 2017 consultation there was 90% public support to extend the development area to include the flats and shops at the west of the Cross as a part of the development. The Cross flats were built between 1967 and 1969 probably designed with a 60-year life. The building is constructed of masonry cavity wall and precast reinforced concrete roof and floor panels, a construction method which does not lend itself easily to upgrading or structural maintenance. The building received insulative over-cladding and new windows in 1994. A structural survey was carried out by Scott Bennett Associates, structural engineers, with a report issued in September 2017. The report concludes that the building is in fair structural condition with defects caused by water ingress, frost damage and incorrect past maintenance. A recent £200,000 maintenance contract was undertaken to alleviate the worst of the water ingress problems, but it is obvious that the

building will attract high maintenance costs between now and its final demolition. **The demolition of the building is a certainty whether this is in 5, 10 or 15 years so it is important for West Lothian Council to plan now for replacement accommodation for all those whose home is the Vennel and wish to stay in the Vennel.**

Question 5. Did West Lothian Council ever consider the results of its 2017 consultation?

On 6 October 2020 West Lothian Council Executive considered a 77-page report on the consultation carried out in 2017. The Executive approved, amongst other things, the participation of representatives from the Planning Forum in the development team. This engagement was further underlined in an update report to Council Executive on 9 February 2021. This agreement had two important elements, first, the involvement of the community in the specification of the development framework to be sent to interested developers and, secondly, the evaluation criteria against which proposed development partners proposals and submissions are to be evaluated.

Question 6. What did the development team achieve?

Meetings of the development team including representatives from the Planning Forum continued until March 2022. During this time the commercial value of all property was calculated and there were 13 notes of interest from developers. However, little, if anything, was agreed as to the viability of a partial development or how the community of Vennel residents could be maintained if The Cross flats were not included in the redevelopment.

Question 7. When was it determined that the revamp may be too costly?

As reported in the Linlithgow Gazette of 16 March 2024 members of the Planning Forum were surprised to hear that the cost of the Vennel was likely to be prohibitive, particularly since West Lothian Council has

undertaken no estimating of possible cost of options or their potential return.

Question 8. What is West Lothian Council’s next move?

On 27 March 2024 a meeting was held in the Burgh Halls between West Lothian Council’s David Baird, Property Services Manager, David Satchell, Commercial Property Surveyor and members of various Linlithgow organisations. The next move is to go back to developers and ask them for ideas as how to part develop the Vennel to provide income for West Lothian Council.

Question 9. This sounds like going back to the start again – what does the Planning Forum propose?

The appetite amongst officers to continue with the 2021 West Lothian Council Executive agreement to involve the community in key decision stages appears to have waned. The Planning Forum will be lobbying for support from our three councillors and hope to be able to report progress in the next Black Bitch.

Question 10. By the way, who make up the Linlithgow Planning Forum and can anyone join?

The Planning Forum was formed in 2013 as a committee of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council. Membership of the Planning Forum is only open to representatives of those organisations that have an interest in planning matters in Linlithgow not to individuals acting on their own behalf. Its aim is to be aware of, review, discuss and publicise planning matters related to Linlithgow and to contribute to the West Lothian Local Development Plan.



“DEFECTS CAUSED BY WATER INGRESS, FROST DAMAGE AND INCORRECT PAST MAINTENANCE.”

“YOU CAN’T DO THAT... IT’S A HISTORIC TOWN”

Right: *Planters on the High Street pavement!*



Below right: *Three of Burgh Beautiful's founding members.*

Bottom right: *Low Port Bed, the first to be planted.*

In 2004, the late Liz Burrows and I had been asked by the Linlithgow Civic Trust to investigate setting up a sub-group to undertake planting in the town. We were both keen gardeners. Ron Smith, then the Chair of the Civic Trust, was the prime mover in this and had the name ready for the group: **Burgh Beautiful**.

My husband and I had moved to Linlithgow in 2002 and I had been shocked by the dowdiness and unkempt, grubby appearance of the town. I was unfamiliar with this part of Scotland and so we visited various attractive towns, including Falkland, Pitlochry, Perth and Alness, all full of welcoming, cheerful and colourful flowers, clean streets and visitor signposts. I discovered that they were all winners in the Beautiful Scotland in Bloom competition, organised by Keep Scotland Beautiful. Liz and I made contact with the floral groups in these towns who were all extremely helpful and encouraging, and we visited others as well.

We then had a meeting with West Lothian Council's then Town Centre Manager, **Andrina Dunlop**, and the Council's senior conservation planner, **Stuart Eydmann**. He gave us short shrift, with comments

such as: “they didn’t have bedding plants in those days” and “you can’t put barrels at the Cross and certainly not on the pavements or outside the Star and Garter.” As for finger guideposts for visitors: “if you started where would it end?”. He then left the meeting. Andrina turned round and said “just do it” – and so we did!

We contacted the Council's NETS manager, **Jim Saunders**, who was already involved in his home town of Bathgate and, at that time, had a budget available. He introduced us to Pentland Plants (still our main supplier of bedding plants) and had men filling pots, digging beds, cutting back overgrown greenery, improving the soil and cleaning hard surfaces.

Burgh Beautiful officially got underway with a public meeting in the County Buildings on 26 April 2004, attended by about 50 people. A Steering Group was formed which first met on 20 May and had its first fund-raising plant sale before the end of the month! The first planting project was the bed in front of the Low Port Centre, and floral enhancement of the railway station soon followed.

Since then, Burgh Beautiful has grown and grown. It has seen a number of convenors heading the group including **Peter Burton, Greg Leonard, Joyce**

Paterson, Chris Gunstone and twice **Ron Smith** who continues as our valued convenor. We have had, and continue to have, some remarkable volunteers like **Liz Burrows, Tony Oxbrow and Averil Stewart**, all now sadly deceased, and individuals who have been with us since the beginning such as **John Carswell and Chantal Hamill**.

Over the years, we have, of course, changed from working in strong partnership with West Lothian Council to an almost entirely community run and funded organisation. Despite, or possibly because of these changes, I think we can



say that, having received national recognition through the Beautiful Scotland and Britain in Bloom competitions, we have had some success in making a positive difference to the look of Linlithgow, thanks to the wonderful financial and voluntary support received from local individuals, families, groups and businesses – we owe a massive ‘thank you’ to all who have played their part.

Kirsty Leonard

BURGH BEAUTIFUL IN SPRING 2024

Jean Long



With spring in the air Burgh Beautiful is putting on its gardening gloves. But before even that happens we had a go at tidying up the town with our litter pick on 9th March. This saw two groups coming together, Burgh Beautiful and Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange. Working together paid dividends with 60 bags collected in two hours. However, it is regrettable that this work is necessary – people should bin their litter. One picker commented how badly littered the Regent Centre area is, not a good message for shoppers: residents or visitors.

SALE 1 JUNE
VISITS 29/30 JUNE

As ever we have extensive plans for the coming season with work beginning in spring 2024. We are using permanent plants quite extensively. So keep your eye on the bed to the north of the canal basin which is being given a new look with permanent plants, the bed along the east wall in Learmonth is being



upgraded with permanent plants and one of the beds in front of Low Port Primary is having permanent plants added. Our Water Yett team is updating its children's attractions as the bed is a focal point for youngsters. The wicker teddy bears are disintegrating so the Water Yett team has come up with new ideas for its young audience. The newly arrived toadstools were made by a



volunteer in the **Linlithgow Shed**, to whom Burgh Beautiful extends its thanks - another example of groups in the town working together. More work is being done so lots for you to seek out in our Water Yett bed.

Always worth a mention is the Vennel bed to the west of the Cross area. Their winter theme of **Go by Bike**, which drew a lot of interest, is changing to **Gardening in a Changing Climate**. The display will incorporate rainwater collection, use of mulch to retain moisture, low growing perennials round the edge which do not require too much water, seeds propagated by the Vennel team, advice for the new gardener and lots more inspiring details.

The **Serpentine bed** is being reconditioned by an enthusiastic



team of volunteers ready for the summer. The tree labelling in the arboretum at Rosemount will be completed to complement the new information board. Improvements are being planned for the pathway leading from the Carmelite Friary to Rosemount Park. The Rotary bed at the end of St Ninian's Road at West Port has had its planting rearranged to improve the sight lines for drivers as they leave St Ninian's Road. As you know that will not be all with summer hanging baskets to go up and planters to be given their summer make-over. All to be enjoyed. A complete guide to our flower displays and sponsors can be found in our booklet **Floral Trails** which is available free of charge in the library and Burgh Halls. And finally many thanks to all our volunteers and supporters without whom all this would not happen.

Top left: *Rotary litter pickers*

Middle: *Phill helping at Water Yett and John from Linlithgow Shed*

Top Right: *Two of the Water Yett team looking for Australia!*

Above: *Vennel bed replanting*

Two events for your diary: our plant sale will take place at the Cross on **Saturday June 1st** with many plants to give your garden a fresh look for the summer. We are planning our **Inviting Gardens** event – a chance to view some of the private gardens in the town on the weekend of **29th and 30th June** with programmes at £5.00 each for sale at **Far from the Madding Crowd** – see you there.

LOW PORT CENTRE - APRIL 2024 WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!

We are delighted that The Low Port Centre is coming alive and is becoming increasingly busy. The building is now home to a number of organisations and businesses. Here's some of what's going on in Low Port already...

All of the activities of St John's Church have relocated to the Centre with services at 10.30am each Sunday in the auditorium, Sew Blessed on Monday mornings, Toddler group on Wednesday mornings and other groups meeting throughout the week.

In the Lochside wing, SJ Fitness Coaching, Art by Morrow and Origin Peptides have transformed their spaces beyond recognition bringing a gym, workshop, shop and science lab into the building.

The Art of Morrow artisan shop is open every Thursday to Sunday - please pop in to see the wide range of products available, all made locally.

The Reed Band are moving all their music, instruments and uniforms into the redecorated old drying room and their rehearsals and lessons are now in the centre, filling the building with music twice a week.

The New Well is in the process of changing a changing room, making calm, new spaces for counselling, Job Club and other support services.

On Monday evenings, The Falkirk District Wargames Club takes over the Auditorium for their group games nights.

The local Alcoholics Anonymous group meets each Tuesday evening in the meeting room 3.

Amy Norris has frequent photo studio sessions for individuals, groups and pets.

The West Lothian Climate Action Network Hub will be meeting and hosting more events at the Low Port Centre.

The NHS Blood Donation sessions will be regularly back in the Low Port Centre, from May.

Over the next few months, the refurbishment of the Low Port Centre continues with repairs to the guttering, cleaning of the external walls and extensive landscaping around the building. The work to upgrade the accommodation wing should be completed in the summer.

Please remember that the car park is private, so only park at the Low Port Centre if you are attending an activity in the building. The spaces are all clearly marked for staff and visitors.

The Official Reopening Day will be on 18 May - our Housewarming party to which everyone in the community is invited! Look out for more details on our social media.

SAT
18
MAY

If you want to book space, the information is on our website www.lowportcentre.org



new website: www.linlithgowpaving.co.uk

GROUNDWORKS RESURFACING LANDSCAPING

DRIVEWAYS PATIOS & WALLING

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

All work from design to completion carried out by our Linlithgow based, fully trained, professional teams.

CALL FOR A FREE QUOTATION:

TOM: 07419 315239

JAMES: 07801 354316



WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL APPROVED CONTRACTORS

PERAMBULATION OF LINLITHGOW MARCHES 2024 Chris Long



WED
12
JUNE

You are invited to participate in the Perambulation of the Marches this year!

The Perambulation compliments the Marches by walking the line of the Linlithgow parliamentary boundary as established in 1832.

The organisers, Linlithgow Civic Trust, invite town residents and visitors alike to attend.

The walk is four miles long (6.5km) and passes seven out of the eight marches stones, (one original and seven replica stones installed in 2014).

The Perambulation of the Marches takes place on Wednesday 12th June starting at 7pm at March Stone No. 1 in front of St Ninian's Craigmailen Church on Falkirk Road (just west of the West Port Hotel) and proceeds in a clockwise direction round the route.

The walk will be led by the provost, flagbearers, the halberdiers of the Deacons Court and the town crier. At each march stone along the route, a standard is mounted on the stone and a piper will play. The Perambulation stops for refreshments at Linlithgow Canal Centre where walkers will be entertained by Linlithgow Reed Band. Linlithgow Civic Trust hopes for a supportive turn out this year and looks forward to seeing you all.



LINLITHGOW GOLF CLUB

Sunday 12 May sees a major golf competition at Linlithgow Golf Club open to members and non-members alike. The Hugh Wright Memorial Trophy is a big fundraising event at the Club with the proceeds going to Cancer Research UK. The event is in memory of former Company Director Hugh Wright known as "Shug" to his family and friends who developed a love for golf after joining Linlithgow Golf Club as a teenager. Sadly Hugh died from peritoneal cancer in June 2018 aged just 57. The event in his memory has been running since 2019, organised by Club members Ian Shiells and Colin Fowler, and over £15,000 has been raised so far for the charity with £3,078 raised last year alone.

The competition which is in the format of a two player Texas Scramble runs from 8.00am to 4.00pm on the day and the cost per team is £25. Teams can be two men, two women or a mixed team of one man and one woman and as stated is open to all golfers whether they are members of Linlithgow Golf Club or not. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy taking part in this event and at the same time helping to raise money for a very worthy cause.

Further details are available from the Professional's Shop at Linlithgow Golf Club on 01506 844356 or you can book direct on the Club's website on www.linlithgowgolf.co.uk

Iain Alan



SUN
12
MAY

SAT
25
MAY



FOLK FAE LITHGAE
KEN RICHARDSON

Members of Linlithgow Rugby Club will be toasting a very successful season both on and off the field at their inaugural "Redsfest" on Saturday May 25th.

Featuring rugby Sevens on the pitches, a beer festival in the indoor marquee, live music, and good food, it's set to be an unmissable day out. Everyone is welcome, you don't need to be a member, and the event is family and dog friendly.

Leading the celebrations will be club secretary, Ken Richardson, who heads up what is a very impressive operation at the club's Mains Park base. A chemical engineer by profession, Ken spent many years at the BP plant in Grangemouth. He has been on the board at the Rugby Club since 2005, but his involvement goes back over more than thirty years, as he explained:

"My three sons were all born and brought up in Linlithgow and attended Low Port Primary and the Academy. They all played rugby and other sports in the town. In 1991, my eldest son persuaded me to take

him down to the mini rugby. I then started coaching and refereeing the youngsters and I've never looked back since. A few years later, I became a fully qualified referee and member of the Edinburgh Rugby Referees' Society. These days, I just do the occasional game when there's nobody else around to do it."

Ken is very proud that the club's huge investment in coaching and player development - ranging from nursery age and the Micros in early Primary all the way through to the Linlithgow Academy School of Rugby - appears to be paying off.

He told me:

"This year, our under-fifteens are unbeaten all season and our under-eighteens shared the East of Scotland Cup. Our first team won their league very convincingly and now move up into the national leagues. In their penultimate match, only two of the squad of nineteen had not come up through the ranks. It's great to see so many players coming through the system here."

"The team have done really well this year, and with a fresh challenge involving teams from all over the country, the aspiration will be to finish up in the top three in the division. As a club, our aim is to be the best we can be, but to be sustainable. We are

about natural development, and we will rise to a level we think is right. Having said that, we have built facilities here that are second to none at our level of rugby in Scotland. We've got one of the few indoor training facilities around, with a 3G pitch, which is ideal for training sessions, an indoor gym, as well as all the upgraded facilities in the clubhouse."

"We have always seen ourselves as a community Rugby Club and we are delighted to play such an active part in the life of the town, including hosting the annual fireworks display in November and turning the training facility into an indoor marquee for the Marches celebrations in June. We recognised the importance of the Civic Festival and have collaborated closely with the Deacons' Court and others to ensure that it continues. We have invested heavily so that we can provide a top-class venue for the various events"

The Rugby Club certainly has a lot to celebrate this year and all the various sections will be contributing to the "Redsfest" on May 25th. They would be delighted if the whole community could come along and join them. Full details are available from the club and are on the various social media pages.

Murdoch Kennedy



THE BAY CITY ROLLERS ARE COMING TO TOWN!!



Poster: Andrew West



Preparations for this year's **Riding of the Marches** are gathering pace and a number of fundraising events will be taking place in the weeks leading up to the big day on Tuesday June 18th – the traditional “First Tuesday after the Second Thursday”.

The Scotland football team's success in qualifying for the European Championships in June has led to the cancellation of the lucrative Provost's Wrestling Dinner at the Rugby Club indoor marquee. This would have taken place on Friday June 14th, but the organisers – the Deacons Court – have taken the very wise decision to avoid a clash with the opening game of the Championships that night, when Scotland will face the hosts, Germany.

Instead of the Provost's dinner, on **Saturday June 22nd** – the night of the Children's Gala Day – they will be turning the clock back to the 1970s with a concert by Scotland's original boy band – The Bay City Rollers. Famous for their tartan-trimmed outfits, the band sold over three hundred million

albums worldwide and attracted fans of all ages as a phenomenon known as “Rollermania” swept across the globe.

Bay City Rollers legend, **Stuart 'Woody' Wood** – one of the band members who topped the charts worldwide in the 1970s - has brought together a powerful group of musicians who embody the essence of the original Rollers. Be prepared to party to the ‘Shang-a-lang’ sound of the music and wallow in nostalgia with great hits such as “Bye-Bye-Baby”, “Give a little love”, “Keep on dancing”, “Remember (Sha-la-la)”, “Saturday Night” and “Summertime Sensation”.

Supporting the Bay City Rollers will be local maestro Malcolm Dougall, who as a young boy, together with his older brothers, starred on Hughie Green's 'Opportunity Knocks' TV show in 1973. The brothers went on to record singles at the famous Abbey Road Studios in London. Malcolm is a superb keyboard vocalist and a few guest artists will appear alongside him on the night.



Tickets for what promises to be a tremendous event at the **Rugby Club indoor marquee** are now on sale and can be purchased online via the scan code on the poster, or in person from:

Graeme 07508 017 135
or William 07784 640 512.

The email contact is :
deacons court.events@gmail.com

Murdoch Kennedy



ROSE LEGEND DAVIE ROY WILL BE HONOURED AT SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

Budding young footballers from the local Primary schools will parade their skills at the annual George Allan Memorial Football Festival on Sunday May 12th at Linlithgow Rose FC's Prestonfield ground. Kick-off is at 9am.

The event honours the memory of Linlithgow Bridge footballer, George “Dod” Allan, a star centre forward on both sides of the border who, in 1897, became Liverpool Football Club's first Scottish internationalist. Sadly, on the cusp of a glittering career, George died of tuberculosis in October 1899, at the age of only twenty-four.

George Allan was one of Liverpool FC's very first star players and the man described as “a model centre; of fine physique, great speed and no fear” has never been forgotten by the club. He netted their 100th goal and was the first player to score for Liverpool when they changed their colours from the original blue to the more familiar red in September 1896.

The Football Festival in his honour was first established in 1991. This year, it will also pay tribute to another footballing son of “The Brig” - Linlithgow Rose legend, **Davie Roy MBE**, who passed away on January 1st this year at the age of ninety-one.

The man known simply as “Mr Linlithgow Rose” took over as secretary in 1959 when there was just £4 in the accounts and the club was in danger of folding. By 1965, Davie and his hard-working committee had turned its fortunes around and the club emerged from obscurity to capture the Scottish Junior Cup. Davie would stay at the helm for an incredible fifty years and see his beloved Rose become firmly established as a major force in Junior football. They would win countless honours, including another three Scottish Cups. In 2000, in recognition of his outstanding service to the club, the newly built stand was christened “The Davie Roy Stand”. Even in his retirement, Davie's dedication never faltered, and he was to be found most days at Prestonfield, which was very much his second home.

Davie was a passionate supporter of the “George Allan”. He came along every year to offer his advice and practical help and always gave great encouragement to the youngsters taking part.



In April 1997, Davie was one of a seventeen-strong party from the Linlithgow area who travelled to Liverpool FC's Anfield stadium and presented the club with two framed photographs of

George Allan, to mark the centenary of his appearance for Scotland in the international against England.

Davie Roy was a very proud man that day and he wore his Rose blazer and tie with great distinction. He even received a special mention in the match programme. The presentation took place on the Anfield pitch, under the watchful eye of the club's Public Relations Officer, Brian Hall, who had been an integral part of Bill Shankly's great 1970s team.

Davie's family donated the proceeds from the retiring collection at his funeral to the George Allan Football Festival, a cause very dear to his heart. These funds will be used to ensure that Davie's memory is cherished in a tangible way. This year, a new shield will be presented, and all participants will receive a commemorative medal.

The organisers are delighted to welcome again as main sponsors the **Blue Eyes Sports Foundation (BESF)**, which is a family registered charity founded in 2012 by Linlithgow residents **Alex, Carole, and Robbie Brown**. The support given by Linlithgow Rose FC and Linlithgow Rose Community FC is also greatly appreciated.

The action gets underway at 9am on Sunday May 12th. Please come along and cheer on Linlithgow's football stars of the future.

Murdoch Kennedy

SUN
12
MAY



LINLITHGOW LOCH

Following on from the article posted in issue 101, Oct 2023, we said that we would keep you informed on efforts to improve water quality in the loch.

It's time for a different focus.

2042. 18 years from now, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the Scottish Government should be hosting a celebration of 500 years since Mary Queen of Scots was born.

Imagine the scene. A mega Party at the Palace with music, food stalls, artists, historical storytelling, plays, films, markets, busy local shops, etc.

That party can include a range of Loch activities like sailing, fishing, wild swimming, floating lanterns, perhaps even the biggest cardboard boat race we've ever seen.

OR

it could be cancelled and a wall of official signs saying 'don't swim here' 'keep yer dogs out' 'toxic algae can cause health issues' 'no fishing'...

Wouldn't it be ideal if we could concentrate efforts so that in 18 years' time we have a clean healthy loch?

I'm sure Mary would appreciate our efforts to clean up her garden pond!

So what's been happening since October 2023

The positive perspective...

The Linlithgow Loch Strategic Management Group (SMG), led by Craig Mearns - Director of Operations at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), met on 14th Feb to reconvene the Strategic Management Group to share the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology report and recommendations of the Linlithgow Loch nutrient load and

source apportionment study, and to propose a way forward.

Present were:

Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH)
NatureScot (NS)
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
West Lothian Council (WLC)
Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council
West Lothian Sailing Club
Forth Area Federation of Anglers
Linlithgow Kayak Racing & Scottish Canoe Association
Linlithgow Angling Club

So a good level of representation from the community and the key agencies most likely to lead on primary actions.

This was followed by a public meeting on 4th March, hosted by Lorna Slater, MSP and with Craig Mearns in attendance. The main purpose of which was to allow others to know what had happened at the SMG and to provide an opportunity to raise matters and discuss public feeling towards the issue and efforts being made (or not).

Craig promised at the meeting to improve communications and to come back to the community in approx 6 months time with an update and we will hold him to that.

Now for the negative perspective...

This is now almost 9 years since the last public meeting convened by Fiona Hyslop, MSP, and the only step forward has been an apportionment study which focused on inlets to the loch and the outlet into river Avon but didn't include the CSOs (Combined Sewer Overflows) which dump raw sewage into the loch during storm events when the pipes to the treatment plant can't cope.

Nor does it consider that pollutants such as historical sources from leather works, coal gas or other industries could reside

in the sediment risking being released if dredging was proposed to fix the algae issue.

Equally, runoff from the M9 could be releasing poly aromatic hydrocarbons or other toxins from road transport with no filtration or storm flood control.

There's also little discussion about the invasive plant life and generally it seems that efforts are centred around what we can see as ugly (blue green algae), and not on the stuff we can't see.

Linlithgow Loch sits in a hollow in the landscape so it's almost impossible to prevent pollutants flowing downhill from surrounding lands and ending up in the loch.

With many different sources and solutions to each source, all with a hefty price tag, it seems we are in this for the long haul and just need to work through the worst and most cost effective solutions first. Some solutions need funding, or infrastructure changes, others need adjustments to land management or education.

When discussing this topic, one person asked what they could do. Assumptions are that it's all down to the council, Scottish Water, farmers or septic tanks and yes that is a big part of it, but it's also the chemicals you sprinkle on your lawn to make the grass greener, or fertilisers for flower beds, or car-wash suds that leak down via street drains.

So let's all make a start.

For more information, visit dedicated pages on WLC and HES website, or request to join Friends of Linlithgow Loch Facebook group.

[Friends of Linlithgow Loch](#)



LINLITHGOW'S ROTARY TREE OF LIGHT

The Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange (RCLG) continued its support of local charitable organisations again in 2023 with its Rotary Tree of Light festive period fundraising initiative. The event kicked off on the day of the Advent Fayre and ran until the end of December.

Thanks to the generosity of the good folks of Linlithgow, the fantastic support of numerous local businesses, and with the help of Gift Aid, £4,200 was raised over the five weeks of the event. A fantastic effort by any measure. River Kids, Linlithgow & District Community Day Care Centre, and Quiet Waters (pictured above with President Ken Mackenzie) - all local charities operating in the Linlithgow community - have all benefited from an equal share of the funds gathered.

RCLG would like to thank everyone who donated and/or placed a dedication on the Tree. Particular thanks go to Devine Dental, Robert Bennie and Sons, Strangers Brewing Co., and Veitch Solicitors for their very generous donations this year. Thanks also go to West Lothian Council for the use of their tree at the Cross, JMK Printing for their assistance, and our corporate sponsors Alan Steel Asset Management, Pacitti Jones, Stewart Electrical, and Cala Homes - their financial support ensures that every pound of public donation goes to the designated charities.

At the end of the day the Rotary Tree of Light is a community endeavour. Many other local businesses also rallied round again this year and supported the project in kind by taking donation packs and posters for wider distribution. Pacitti Jones, A Wee Mindin',

and Wilsons Newsagents also helped again this year as collection points. We are all incredibly grateful for this assistance. It makes such an enormous difference. We will of course be running the event once again in 2024, so look

out for the announcements in the Autumn.

The 2023 event was the eighth consecutive Tree of Light event run by RCLG. Since its inception, the event has raised £21,500 for local worthy causes.

More information can be found at www.linlithgowtreeoflight.org.uk or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LinlithgowTreeOfLight.

Allan M Robertson

The Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange



Linlithgow Union Canal Society

Weekend Opening Times

30th March to 29th September
Saturday & Sundays
1.30pm till 4.30pm



Afternoon Tea Cruises

Sunday 21st April
Sunday 12th May
Sunday 16th June (Fathers day)
Sunday 21st July
Sunday 18th August
Sunday 22nd September

A Great Day out for all the Family

Boat Trips

Town Trips every ½ hour
Avon Aqueduct Trips
Saturday and Sundays
Leave 2.00pm - Return 4.30pm
Falkirk Wheel Trips
Sundays 2nd June 30th June
Sundays 28th July 25th August



LUCS.ORG.UK

Canal Museum
Canal Fun Day
Sunday 4th August

Self-Drive Boat Hire

Venue for events, parties, Weddings - all year round



DRESSING OUR GARDEN POTS FOR THE SUMMER

What style are you going to choose for your summer pots this year? Here are a few plants that styled our garden last year, both hot and cold colours and plants for sunny places and partially shaded corners.

The first two were both in partial shade and fairly sheltered. The fiery orange of the tuberous **Begonia Glowing Embers** with its dark leaves, next to a small evergreen shrub **Abelia Kaleidoscope**



made a warm welcome at our front gate. Inside sitting at the top of the steps in partial shade was this cool, refreshing, willow basket generously filled with a **White Mocha Begonia** also with lovely dark leaves, a double **White Bizzy Lizzie** (they have now bred varieties that are resistant to the dreaded Impatiens Downy Mildew that used to kill them), and skirts of clean white trailing **Lobelia**.



Opposite the white basket we had a hardy **Fuchsia Delta's Sarah**, although we keep it in our unheated greenhouse over the winter, with the soil fairly dry as it isn't completely hardy in Scotland. Its pot sits in an old chimney pot to lift it up and show off its lovely blue and white elegant flowers.



Lesley always has a few pots with different coloured **Sweet Williams** which last a couple of years before needing to be replanted. They are in the family of Dianthus but unlike 'Pinks' they have no fragrance but the flowers last for a very long time. One story of

how they got their common name is that it was named after Prince William who brutally defeated us Scots in the Battle of Culloden. We didn't like his nickname, Sweet William, and renamed it **Stinking Billy**, they don't stink!



This old terracotta basket sits below a fig tree facing south but loses the sun after 2pm as it's shaded by the house. Last summer we popped in a bright **Coleus plant** (on the left) and a couple of brightly coloured **Sweet Potato Vines** (Ipomoea) which picked up the colour of the Coleus leaves. Sweet Potatoes don't really work well in Scotland but these two varieties make wonderful foliage plants with their golden and purply bronze spreading leaves.



Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson
New Hopetoun Gardens

so much more than just a garden centre

www.newhopetoungardens.co.uk



NOW'S THE TIME TO DRESS YOUR SUMMER POTS!

WE ALWAYS HAVE LOTS OF PLANTS FOR YOUR POTS BUT SOME OF THE TENDER ONES LIKE BEGONIAS AND LOBELIA ARE BEST LEFT UNTIL MAY.

Peterkin & Kidd

Solicitors and Estate Agents

**FAMILY LAW
ESTATE AGENCY
CONVEYANCING
WILLS
POWERS OF ATTORNEY
GUARDIANSHIPS
EXECUTRIES
COMPROMISE AGREEMENTS
AND MUCH MORE**

Contact us at:

Peterkin and Kidd

8 High Street, Linlithgow EH49 7AF T. 01506 845191

Further offices at:

Livingston & Bathgate (trading as KW Law)



H.M. CADDELL, LAIRD OF GRANGE

Bruce Jamieson



The Edwardian mansion standing on Airngath Hill, overlooking Linlithgow, is called “Grange”- not, as I often see it written or hear it said, “The Grange”. I have visited the imposing building on several occasions - notably in 1985 when a theatrical group, of which I was a member, staged a themed “Edwardian Christmas” in the building’s grand drawing room with its fine Connemara marble chimneypiece.



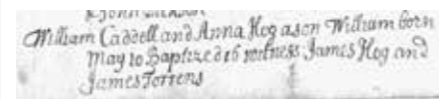
Bill Cadell (H.M. Cadell’s grandson), greets visitors in the baronial hall.



The guests await the entertainment.

With the evening’s entertainment all connected to the reign of King Edward VII, and with everyone in Edwardian dress, the 80-year-old building was returned to the time of its first incarnation when it was built for **Henry Moubray Cadell** between the years 1907 and 1909. It was constructed to a design by architects John Nichol Scott and Alexander Lorne Campbell – a partnership created in 1898. The duo were responsible for many grand buildings including St Andrew’s Church in Bo’ness, the Carnegie Library in Motherwell, Leith Poorhouse, Birmingham Art Gallery, Dowell’s Auction Rooms in George Street, Edinburgh and golf clubhouses at Baberton and Kingsknowe.

Grange became the home of the Cadell family, headed by Henry Moubray whose initials and those of his wife (Elizabeth Simpson) were carved on the south side of their new residence. The family could trace its entrepreneurial origins back to William Cadell, an 18th century East Lothian merchant, who acquired property in Cockenzie where his son (also called William) set up a business in international, mercantile trade, sailing from Port Seton. This brought in considerable wealth and William Junior invested his fortune in coal mining, potteries and vitriol (sulphuric acid) works in Prestonpans.



William Cadell Senior’s birth and baptism record, 1708.

William Cadell also imported iron from overseas and, believing that home production was better, proposed setting up a small iron works near Cockenzie.



The Carron Iron Works. In consultation with his partners,

however, it was decided to go for a much bigger project and so the Carron Iron Works was established in 1759 – one of the first such industrial enterprises in Scotland.

The Cadell family originally lived in “Old Grange” – a mansion house, built for the Hamilton family, dating back to the 16th century and set in a 150-acre estate at Bridgeness, close to the Firth of Forth. In this building, in the year 1860, Henry Moubray Cadell was born. Between 1878 and 1881, he studied geology at Edinburgh University and then went on to find employment with the Geological Society of Scotland, mostly undertaking survey work in the Highlands



Old Grange.

On the death of his father in 1888, Henry took over the running of the estate, living in “Old Grange” with his wife and five children. With the family interest in coal mining, it was rather ironic that excavations to remove the valuable commodity beneath the family home led to considerable undermining which caused the collapse of part of the north side of the venerable structure.

This subsidence, the house’s proximity to an increasing number of industrial buildings and lack of space for a growing family, led Henry Cadell to contemplate the construction of a new, imposing manor house on land on the Bonnytown Estate which had recently been purchased from its previous owner, timber merchant Robert Mickel.

Architects John Scott and Lorne Campbell were commissioned to design the new property on previously undeveloped land, 500 feet above sea level, on a commanding site, locally nicknamed Glower-o’er-em. Work began in 1907 on the creation of a fine, Edwardian laird’s residence, complete

with a large baronial hall, fine public rooms, a library, a billiard room, a conservatory, a geological museum, a school room, a nursery and six bedrooms.



A drawing made by architect A. Lorne Campbell.

Ancillary accommodation was built for the considerable number of staff including cooks, scullery maids, laundresses, housemaids and gardeners who were hired to look after the large, terraced gardens, greenhouses and lawn tennis courts. An additional workforce was required to tend the electrical generator, the spring water supply, the huge cast iron boiler, a large septic tank and the house’s many fireplaces.

Stabling and housing for up to four horses and four motor cars was provided with accommodation for a stable-hand and the coachman/chauffeur. Until World War One, all the staff were expected to attend morning prayers before breakfast with the Cadell family.

The main contractor for building the new Cadell abode was the firm of Hardie and Son from Bo’ness – a reputable firm who went on to construct the Bo’ness War Memorial, 24 workmen’s houses in Stewart Avenue, Bo’ness and St Peter’s Church in Linlithgow.

Henry M. Cadell took a keen interest in the development of his new accommodation and the construction of new access roads and garden layout. Unfortunately, his decision to use local sandstone for architectural dressings and other carved work has led to considerable erosion in some areas.



A. Lorne Campbell’s plans for the terraced garden.

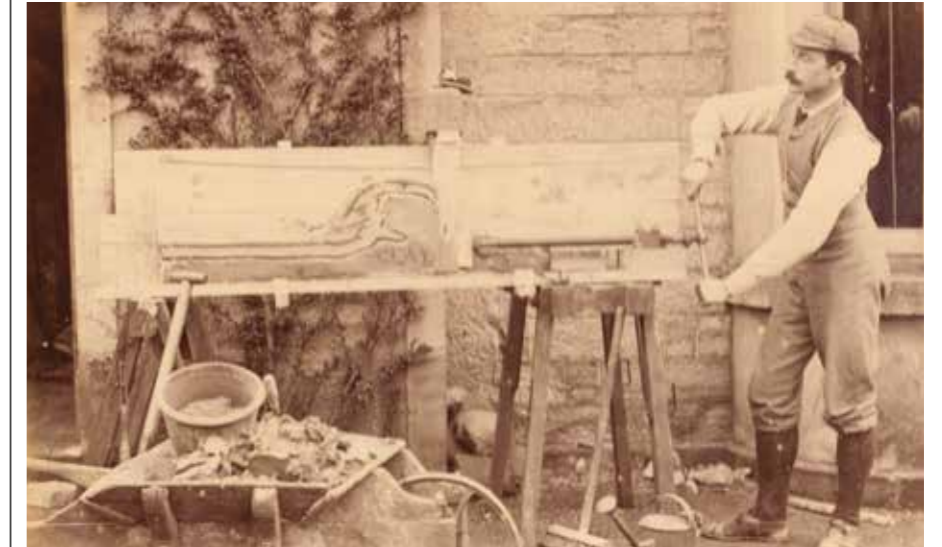
Henry Cadell stayed in Grange for twenty-four years, becoming involved with many aspects of local life: as

a member and then convener of Linlithgowshire County Council; taking an active part in the Army Volunteer Movement, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and continuing his interest in the local geology, particularly in shale mining, and publishing his iconic “The Story of the Forth” in 1913 and “Rocks of West Lothian” in 1925. He was honoured by having a geological feature, Lake Cadell, named after him.

lodge in the University of Edinburgh archives and in the National Library of Scotland.

For his considerable and unstinting work in the field of geology, the University of Edinburgh awarded him an honorary Doctorate (LLD) in 1932.

Henry Cadell died unexpectedly in April, 1934, aged just 73. Tributes poured in from many who knew him – especially from members of the Royal



Henry Cadell experimenting with his “squeeze box”, into the geological nature of earth folds, faults and thrusts.

He was also the author of a long series of geological and geographical papers, many of which were the results of observations made during his frequent and extensive travels which included a detailed survey of the whole length of the Irrawaddy River in Burma (now Myanmar). His research, professional papers and field notebooks are now

lodged in the University of Edinburgh archives and in the National Library of Scotland. of which he was a founding member and later a Vice President.

The house, with its four-storey tower, A listed in 1971, is still in the ownership of the Cadell family – a continuing tribute to its creator, the Laird of Grange, Henry Moubray Cadell.



THE SUPER SCRIBBLERS

JOINTLY RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN BY THE SUPER SCRIBBLERS - PUPILS OF SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY AND LOW PORT PRIMARY SCHOOLS.



Low Port Primary and Springfield Primary's Community Book

We are soon to be launching our fabulous new community book. In this issue, we will be giving you a brief and general overview of what will be included in our book. All classes across Springfield and Low Port have chosen their topic, which includes industry, sports, events in surrounding areas, historic sites, and different areas in Linlithgow. The pupils have researched these topics by site visits to landmarks or areas of topic, interviewing/speaking to locals and internet research.

Our **Primary 1** classes have been focusing on the loch and the canal. They have learned how to be safe near the canal and that to preserve the water they shut the gate. They also found out the canal was hand built by a giant shovel. The P1s thoughts about the community book are very positive. We asked the P1s how they were learning about the loch and canal and they told us they went on a trip to the canal and interviewed a ranger who was in charge of the loch.



Primary 2 at both Low Port and Springfield have been learning about parks and green spaces for the community book. The P2 classes have been very busy researching this topic. They are very excited about making the community book. P2 in Springfield have visited Rosemount and Dovecot Park, and P2 in Low Port had plans to visit the Peel at the time of interviewing. P2 are planning to add pictures, maps, QR codes and maybe a word search. We hope you enjoy this section of the community book.



We have interviewed Mrs Hocknull about her vision for our community book.

"Last summer I was in Far From The Madding Crowd looking for a book on Linlithgow for a 10 year old relative visiting from Canada. Sadly, I could not find one. It got me thinking that it would be an excellent way to bring

research and learning about our local area to life. There are so many rich learning opportunities for our pupils at Low Port and Springfield by taking part in this project, for example:

- > Collaborated with peers across both schools*
- > A sense of achievement and pride in our local area and collectively writing and publishing a book*
- > Developing skills across the curriculum such as digital, art and social studies.*

For the community book, our **Primary 3** classes will be writing about historical statues in Linlithgow. This will help people learn about the history of them and where they can be found in our community. The P3s at Springfield visited some of the statues and have used the internet, more specifically The Linlithgow Community Website to get their information. Our P3s



are looking forward to drawing pictures of the statues and here are some of their opinions. Pupils from Low Port said "I love drawing

pictures" and *"I like learning facts about our local community."*

The **P4s** chapter in the book is all about the local shops and businesses along the High Street. They gathered their information in lots of different ways, such as walking down the High Street, interviewing members of our community and researching on the internet. They enjoyed walking down the High Street. Whilst reading the book, you will discover lots of useful information, like great places to go and where they are. We hope you like the P4 chapter of the book and enjoyed this little snippet!

P5 have been researching the history of Linlithgow for the community book. They are doing a rap. Here is a snippet:

*Yo listen up we're goin' to tell you a story,
Better listen cos' it's filled with glory*

They have discovered many facts about **Mary Queen of Scots** and **Linlithgow Palace**:

- > Mary Queen of Scots married 3 times.*
- > She was born in Linlithgow Palace.*
- > She had one child (James VI of Scotland and James I of England).*

P5 have enjoyed researching the history



of Linlithgow and have been on a trip to Linlithgow Palace.

P6 have been doing research on The Gala Day and The Marches for the

community book. **Liz Park, the Provost**, came in to tell P6 about The Marches and the routine they go through every year. Gala Day committee member **Rose Ann Bennie** came in to tell P6 about The Gala Day and all of its traditions.

Some of the P6s said: *"We're excited to see our writing in the community book!", "It's really good for tourists to learn about our community" and "We're excited to learn about the history of Linlithgow and why we celebrate it."*



The **Primary 7s** have been busy researching about Linlithgow's sports clubs and industries. The pupils from Low Port had fun visiting the local museum to learn more about local industries and the pupils from Springfield had a visit from The Cricket Club and The Linlithgow Sports Club. The P7s are looking forward to designing the pages for the book and have many creative ideas. They have found lots of very interesting information and are excited for people to read their part of the book. If you buy our book, look out for the P7 pages.



Our community book can be purchased in the local bookshop **Far From The Madding Crowd** at the end of May. Pupils in **Low Port and Springfield** have learned so much about Linlithgow through this project. It will all be in the community book for you to see. We hope you enjoyed this little sneak peek of our community book.

Sally Pattle, Manager of Far From The Madding Crowd, said *"The fact that the pupils at Low Port and Springfield Primary Schools are designing both the book and the content makes it really special - we can't wait to see it on the shelves."*



We need to talk about... Money

Advertising Feature

Money is often considered a taboo topic, especially within families. Many people feel uncomfortable discussing finances with their loved ones, whether it's due to fear of judgment, or simply not knowing how to broach the subject. However, avoiding these conversations can have detrimental effects on a family's financial well-being. In the realm of financial planning, open and honest communication about money is not just important; it's essential.

Understanding Financial Literacy

Financial literacy, or the knowledge and understanding of financial concepts, is a critical aspect of making informed financial decisions. Unfortunately this is not something which is taught at school and many people are expected to just know or learn along the way. Teaching your children about money and its associations will stand them in good stead. Knowing who you can turn to when you have a questions or need some help can also boost your own financial confidence.

Breaking the Taboo

The first step towards fostering better financial planning is breaking the taboo surrounding money conversations. Families must create an environment where talking about money is encouraged and normalised. This includes discussing topics such as budgeting, saving, investment planning, debt management, and financial goals. Talking about money within families provides an opportunity to impart important financial values and principles to younger generations. By openly discussing financial decisions and their implications children can learn valuable lessons about financial responsibility, discipline, and goal-setting from an early age.

Setting Collective Goals

Financial planning is not just an individual endeavour; it's a collaborative effort that involves the entire family. By engaging in conversations about money, families can set collective financial goals that align with their values and aspirations. Whether it's saving for a holiday, buying a home, funding education, or planning for retirement, having everyone on the same page increases the likelihood of success.

Building Trust and Transparency

Effective communication about money fosters trust and transparency within families. When everyone is aware of the family's financial situation, there are no hidden surprises or secrets. This transparency cultivates a sense of unity and shared responsibility, strengthening bonds and reducing conflicts related to money matters.

Know when to Seek Professional Guidance

While discussing money within families is crucial, it's also essential to recognise when professional guidance is needed. Financial Planners can offer objective advice and expertise to help families navigate complex financial decisions. They can facilitate discussions, provide education, and assist in developing comprehensive financial plans. Get in touch if you want help with you financial conversations

Archer Joy Financial Planning
07834 837 183
Archerjoy@sjpp.co.uk

Associate Partner Practice

**St
James's
Place**

Archer Joy Financial Planning is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website <http://www.sjpp.co.uk/products>. The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.



LINLITHGOW MOONDANCE 2024

On Saturday 15th June the indoor marquee at Linlithgow rugby club will open its doors to 400 women of all ages who will dance the night away. Held in the Marches marquee, a beautiful location where soft flowing fabrics drape the ceiling and fairy lights adorn the roof and walls, creating an enchanting setting to host one of the best nights of the year – the Linlithgow Moondance.

Back for its 4th year, we are delighted to be able to hold this event again in aid of two worthy charities: **Breast Cancer Now** and **Make 2nds Count**. Many will have heard of Breast Cancer Now, a charity providing support for today and hope for the future for everyone affected by breast cancer. Our second charity this year is Make 2nds Count, a family focussed charity dedicated to giving hope to women and men living with secondary breast cancer. Secondary breast cancer, also known as metastatic, advanced or stage IV breast cancer, is a cancer that has spread beyond the breast to other parts of the body. It can be treated but cannot be cured. Treatments aim to control and slow down the disease to enable patients to have the best possible quality of life for as long as possible.

Last year we raised an amazing £9,211. This year we hope to surpass this and,

with your help, exceed £10,000. Doors open at 7.30pm with a glass of fizz on arrival and from then until midnight there'll be live music, dancing, a bar, and a raffle with some fantastic prizes kindly donated by local companies and those further afield.

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Graceland back to play again. The five-piece band will be gracing our stage for a second year. The reception they received last year was phenomenal. The dance floor was packed the whole evening and Jamie, the lead singer, happily mingled while belting out some brilliant tracks. If you hop over to our Facebook page you'll get a flavour of the atmosphere. We've had so many requests for the band's return that we are delighted to be able to confirm they are back! Jamie said: *"We had a fantastic evening last year, the crowd was amazing, such a great location. When we were asked to play again it was a no brainer, with the added bonus of helping to raise money for two worthy causes"*.

Since 2018 we are proud to have managed to retain the same ticket price - £15 for a fantastic night out right on your doorstep. If you have already bought your ticket and feel that you would have liked to have spent a little more why not buy an extra raffle ticket on the night, in the knowledge that

you're helping two deserving charities.

Yet again, a stream of ticket sales since the beginning of the year already suggests the event is heading towards another sell-out. Tickets are available from the Moondance team consisting of local ladies: **Amanda Bannister, Kirstin Crombie, Christine Evans, Helen Hassall, Bridget McGee and Angela Moran.** They can also be purchased from **Linlithgow outlets - Beautique Beauty Salon, The Thread Counter, Flowers by Carolyn,** by messaging the Facebook page or email Linlithgowmoondance@gmail.com

If you haven't already, be sure to get your ticket, 'like' the Linlithgow Moondance Facebook page @linlithgowmoondance or scan the QR code at the bottom of the page to keep up with the latest Moondance news.

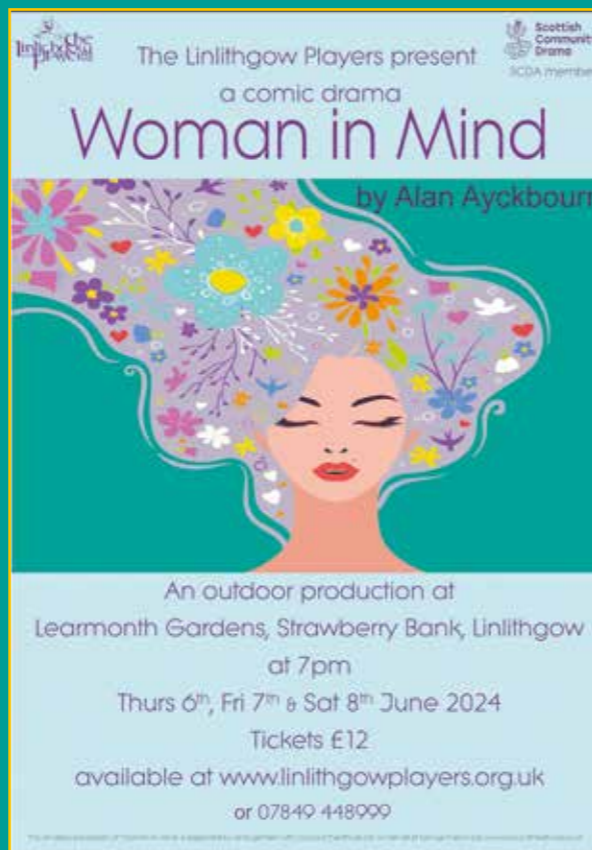


We are looking forward to another fantastic night and raising lots of money!

WOMAN IN MIND: AN OUTDOOR PRODUCTION BY THE LINLITHGOW PLAYERS



FROM
6
JUNE



If you fancy something different this summer, then why not let The Linlithgow Players immerse you into a different time and place, with their outdoor production of Alan Ayckbourn's *Woman in Mind*.

The Players invite you to be transported back in time to the mid 1980's, to the small suburban garden of Susan, a vicar's wife, who is trying to escape the difficult realities of her life.

Susan, (played by Thérèse Gallacher) is a witty and intelligent woman who has lost her way in life and is dealing with an uncomfortable empty nest. Her estranged son Rick (Daniel Todd) has left, leaving her with distracted and neglectful husband Gerald (Les Fulton) and morose sister-in-law Muriel (Erika Oulton). At the start of the play, she is being attended to by bumbling doctor, Bill (Derek Elsby) who is entirely ill at ease with his job and has a habit of falling over frogs and laughing at his own jokes. It is he who first notices that all is not well with Susan.

As the drama unfolds we realise this too. Throughout the play we see everything from Susan's perspective and it's not long before we meet her perfect "fantasy" family, who inhabit a vast estate and play jolly games of tennis while quaffing champagne. Her debonair husband Andy (Alasdair Maciver), delightful daughter Lucy (Heather Bone) and fiercely protective brother Tony (Ian Stewart) all provide the care and adoration in her fulfilled fantasy life that

she is so starved of in reality. But when actual son Rick returns and faces her with yet more difficult realities, the fantasy and real worlds begin to collide with increasingly comic, chaotic and crushing results.

This comic drama is one of Alan Ayckbourn's best plays and would usually be performed in a traditional theatre setting. But director, Liz Drewett wanted to add another element of realism to the production by using an outdoor space in the town. "We have so many beautiful spots in Linlithgow, some small and a bit hidden away, that are great places to re-imagine and utilise as an intimate performance area. The gardens at the doocot are just one of these and really fit the bill: tucked between houses and in a central but quiet area of the town, with a bit of real life still happening around it, just as Susan's small garden would be."

"We'll be using the natural light too as the sun's rays (hopefully!) provide the warmth and colour of a summer's day at the start of the play before the darkness begins to descend in the skies as well as in Susan's mind. An 80's soundtrack provides an authentic audio backdrop to the piece."

The play is a wonderful mix of serious drama and comedy, with moments of great humour, brought by both the real and fantasy characters. In fact, some of the real characters are more ridiculous than the fantasy alternatives! All are being brought to life by an excellent and hard-working cast who are throwing themselves into this classic production. A particular shout out to Daniel Todd as

Rick in his first performance with the group and to Thérèse Gallacher as Susan, who never leaves the "stage" for the whole show (they'll let her pop to the loo at the interval).

Talking of which, Liz adds: "We are so grateful to the Linlithgow Union Canal Society (LUCS) for kindly offering their support by allowing our team and audiences use of their facilities, which are just across the bridge at the Canal Centre. Now all we need is the weather to be kind to us!"

Performances are 6th, 7th and 8th June at Learmonth Gardens (by the doocot), Strawberry Bank, Linlithgow. Performances start at 7 pm. Refreshments/bar available.

Fine weather almost guaranteed but brollies advised! Tickets, £12 can be ordered online at www.linlithgowplayers.org.uk Only 50 tickets available per performance so book early to avoid missing out.

This amateur production of "Woman in Mind" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Sue Spencer

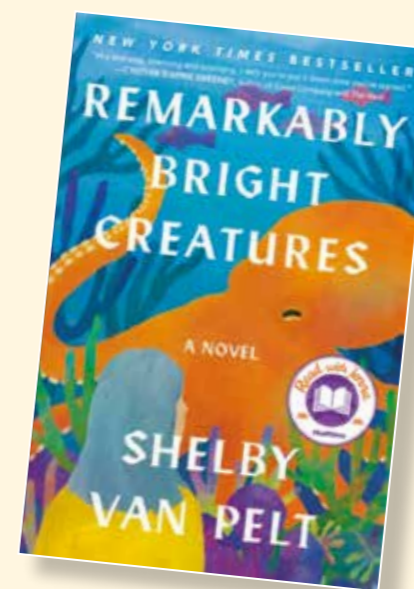
REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES SHELBY VAN PELT

This New York Times bestseller is a uniquely written novel about an unlikely bond that forms between a lonely widow and a giant Pacific octopus at the Sowell Bay Aquarium.

Tova Sullivan is an elderly woman happy in her quiet life, valuing her privacy even amongst her small, select group of friends. She is a woman of calm, internal reflection speaking only when she has something of value and discretion to say; a fact that earns her much respect amongst her acquaintances. When Tova's husband died she began to work as the night shift cleaner at the local aquarium, taking great care and pride over her work.

Vinegar with a hint of lemon tinges the air, wafting up from the wet tile. So much better than the dreadful solution they'd been using when Tova first started, bright green junk that singed her nostrils. For one thing it made her dizzy, and for another it left unsightly streaks on the floors.

It is Tova's keen observational skills that lead her to make a surprising discovery. The giant octopus that exhibits in one of the tanks in the aquarium is having illicit nightly adventures, squeezing his way through a small hole in one segment of its tank.



The sign on the giant octopus' enclosure informs the human visitors to the aquarium that "Octopuses are remarkably bright creatures" with a lifespan of four years and this one is certainly no exception. He is named Marcellus and possesses an unparalleled "intellectual prowess" with a fantastic sensory memory and recall for every sight, sound and sensation he has experienced in his lifespan. It is clear he holds his human captors with disdain – describing them as having "blunt minds, rudimentary neural systems" – and has no predisposition to comply with any of their wishes, until he encounters Tova, and her instinctive interventions save his life one eventful evening.

"But had I not been fortunate, it could have been my downfall. The cleaning woman. She saved me."

Shelby Van Pelt has written a highly entertaining novel, with a compelling page-turning mystery and a race against time to solve. Her story is written in the first-person narrative form, with viewpoints from several characters, including Marcellus, throughout the novel. Each character is well-crafted and brought to life as the story unfolds. Marcellus is acutely aware of his own mortality, and this drives the pace of the novel forward.

At the heart of this narrative is the sentiment that our lives are never linear and that we are in control of our own destinies. To understand the past, present and future we must be fully aware of each moment, observant to the actions and reactions of others, and always acting with the integrity and instincts deep rooted within our species.

"Why can humans not use their millions of words to simply tell one another what they desire?"

Lisa Nettleton

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



DISCUSS YOUR ADVERTISING NEEDS TODAY.

CONTACT THE EDITOR

on.a.lead@gmail.com

Reopening Day

Saturday May 18th

LOW PORT CENTRE

SUN 21 APR

LINLITHGOW STRING ORCHESTRA PLAY

The **Linlithgow String Orchestra** play the Burgh Halls on 21st April. With a jazz solo saxophonist playing saxo-rhapsody by Eric Coates

JAZZERCISE
WHERE FITNESS AND FUN
Come to party

New Customer Trial Pass
Enjoy 2 weeks UNLIMITED classes for just £20!

JAZZERCISE LINLITHGOW
SCAN QR CODE FOR CLASS SCHEDULE & BOOKING

kms77jazzercise@aol.com
Call Karen on 07725 085599
@jazzerciselinlithgow

Rotary
Club of Linlithgow Grange

Charity Beer and Gin Festival

Saturday 11th May 2024

Masonic Hall Linlithgow
1 PM until 10 PM

FREE ENTRY

16 Beers from local brewers including: 'Strangers' 'Not that California' Lin Gin + 6 local Gins

Good Food Live Music and a Great selection of Beers & Gins, What's not to Like!

REDSFEST
SATURDAY 25TH MAY 2024

BEER FESTIVAL RUGBY 7S MUSIC FOOD

MAINS PARK, LINLITHGOW EH49 6DB

SPONSORED BY GREENFOX ENERGY

SCAN THE QR CODE OR FOLLOW LINLITHGOW RUGBY CLUB ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE INFORMATION

WOMEN'S HOUR AT WEST LOTHIAN CYCLE CIRCUIT



Mondays are Women's Hour at West Lothian Cycle Circuit, where the women of West Lothian, and further afield, are being helped to take their cycling to the next level at weekly sessions at the Circuit. Targeting women who want to get back into cycling, or who want to cycle more, Women's Hour delivers two one-hour coaching sessions to three different groups of riders:

- Group 1**, from 6.30-7.30pm, is for women getting the bike back out of the shed, providing support to build confidence, skills, and fitness.
- Group 2**, from 7.30-8.30pm, focuses on group riding skills and progression towards group 3.
- Group 3**, from 7.30-8.30pm, is for women who can confidently ride in a group, with sessions a bit like an outdoor spin class, focusing on getting a good workout.

Every session is designed to support having fun, developing a skill, feeling more confident, and getting a good workout. From learning about and making effective use of your bike's gears, to working on your pedalling technique and cadence, cycling as a group, and improving cornering techniques, the super-friendly, knowledgeable, and

experienced coaches have got it all covered. Supported by **Scottish Cycling Power of the Bike** funding and **Linlithgow Community Development Trust**, group 1 sessions are free of charge, whilst group 2 and 3 are at the bargain price of £4 per session.

Beyond the development of skills, confidence and fitness, Women's Hour also aims to build a community of female cyclists, bringing together women based on their shared love of cycling and desire to develop. Sessions are designed to be welcoming and inclusive, where friendships can be formed, encouragement and support provided from and to everyone, where camaraderie and mutual respect develops from sharing experiences and being bold on a bike together. Beyond the 1km tarmacked surface, there is a private Facebook space supporting the group to keep in touch, to keep chatting about cycling and share experiences and knowledge for the benefit of the whole group.

Feedback from participants has been hugely positive, with almost 100% scores in a recent feedback survey for the quality of the coaching and the venue, and how likely participants would recommend the sessions to a friend. Comments included:

"Loved the coaching, everything was relevant and informative. Loved the relaxed and friendly encouraging vibe of the group every week."

"Different technical skills each week are great - really builds your confidence. Coaches and coaching style are first class! Make you feel extremely welcome and capable of doing anything! It's great getting to know other female cyclists - all very friendly!"

"The coaches are awesome. I leave energised wanting to do more and can't believe how much I have learnt in such a short time."

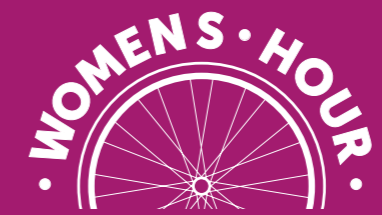
Future plans include sessions on bike maintenance and bike fit, to deliver a broad programme of knowledge and skills that will add to participants' long-term experience and enjoyment of cycling.

For more information and details of upcoming sessions, join the Women's Hour Spond group on the Spond app (using code VSVTM) and book onto the session you wish to attend. Or find us on Facebook, 'Women's Hour at West Lothian Cycle Circuit'

Claire Dowens
Women's co-ordinator,
West Lothian Clarion cycling club

Mondays from 6.15pm
@West Lothian Cycle Circuit, Xcite Linlithgow

Find us on Women's Hour at West Lothian Cycle Circuit



Book a session via the **Spond app** using code **VSVTM** scan the QR for more details



GROWING FROM SEED LINLITHGOW AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

There are still crops in the ground to harvest – leeks, broccoli, black radish and parsnips.



But the bulk of the vegetables beds at this time of year are being readied for planting out seedlings/small plants that have been brought on in greenhouses/polytunnels or on a window sill, and sowing seeds for the season ahead. Buying small vegetable plants is easy but can be costly. Growing plants from seed has many benefits. It is cheaper. Many plants can be grown from a packet of seeds and the packet usually lasts more than one season. There are more varieties to choose from. There is so much satisfaction from sowing seeds. Giving children the opportunity to learn where food comes from is so important. Even having a couple of plant pots with a few lettuce plants, pea plants or some herbs can be so rewarding and children love to see this new life appearing from the soil.



What are the best ways to ensure germination and successful growing from seeds?

Know what seeds need

It is important to realise that seeds need water, oxygen, heat and the correct levels of light to germinate and grow.

Take care when using old seeds

Seeds can go out of date. Some, like parsnips, onions and sweetcorn, have a short shelf life and are best grown each year from new seed. Others like pumpkin and cucumber seeds can last

several years. Always check the sell-by date on the packet and if in doubt buy new seed.

Use the correct soil mix

Many seeds are best started in seed compost and then planted out when large enough. Some seeds can be planted straight into the soil. I have found if the seeds are small, like carrots, it is worthwhile making a drill and putting in a little seed compost before sowing the seed. If you are planting seeds straight into the soil, break up any lumps and rake to a fine tilth. The seeds need contact with the fine soil to aid germination.



Sow seeds at the correct depth

Check your seed packet for sowing instructions. Small seeds, like basil and lettuce, will only need a light covering of soil or compost, while larger seeds, like squash and beans, will need to be sown deeper. A good basis is to plant seeds at 2-3 times their width.



Sow seeds at the correct time

Refer to the information on the seed packet but, beware, our weather can mean it is too early to plant as indicated on the packet. Sowing outside means we must be careful about the temperature of the soil. This can be raised by putting some sort of cover over the soil, cloches or membrane, to warm the soil up before sowing.



Very wet soil can also be a problem and we have had our fair share of very wet weather this spring! Some seeds can be started indoors but the young plants must be hardened off (slowly acclimatised to the outside temperature) before planting out.



Keep the soil moist

Always keep the soil moist, but too wet and the seeds are likely to rot; too dry and the seeds won't germinate or the seedlings will die.

Thin out seedlings

With small seeds that are scattered along the drill, from example lettuce, there is a tendency to end up with a bunch of seedlings all fighting for moisture and light.



Carefully remove some to give seedlings space between them. Thinning is not recommended for carrot seedlings because this can attract carrot root fly. Just sow these as thinly as you can.

Further Information

For those who have an established vegetable garden and want information about what to do each month we have a post on our website that gives growing information, month by month. This is on the left hand side of the home page. **Our website address for LADAS is linlithgowallotments.wordpress.com**

Val Corry
Chair LADAS



LINLITHGOW STRING ORCHESTRA GARY CLINTON



Linlithgow is home to a diverse collective of musical groups and hosts a wide selection of live performances. The Folk Festival, jazz at Queen Margaret Hall, LAMP productions at the Academy and contemporary acoustic performers at pubs on the High Street to name but a few. We also get to see even more groups like the Linlithgow Reed Band and West Lothian Salsa Band 'Sambalistic' on Marches day, and other community based days, however one group who are unable to participate on such occasions and arguably miss out on a bit of local exposure is the Linlithgow String Orchestra.

Recently I've been chatting to chair, founder, violist, social media manager and general head honcho **Helen Greig** about the group, the music it performs and it's aspirations. (Oh, and she can also belt out a fantastic Aria when required too!)

When and why did you decide to form a string orchestra in Linlithgow?



"Having kids and knowing I wouldn't be able to afford the time to go through to Edinburgh to continue playing in the Scottish Sinfonia plus knowing strings were played at the Academy and that there must be string playing adults in the town with nowhere to play. So in 2016 I put a post on Facebook to find out if people were interested in a string orchestra.

Also at the time the BBC were doing a drive to get adults back to playing. In fact we were interviewed by the BBC and we appeared as one of the groups performing Toreador Song virtually in the Proms."

THE LINLITHGOW STRING ORCHESTRA

The orchestra is fairly unique due to only consisting of string instruments and features seven 1st and seven 2nd violins, three violas, five celli and two double basses although over the years they have collaborated with many other instrumentalists including drummers, various soloists and other local groups such as the **Linlithgow Ladies Choir** and

Linlithgow Reed Band. Typically the LSO plays and performs classical music but has done musicals, jazz, Elizabethan, Scottish folk music and even an impressive arrangement of Queen's classic Bohemian Rhapsody. (Search for it on YouTube, it's great!). Helen also informs me their conductor, Bill Jones, a keen jazz fan, is a trombonist and has also solo'd with them at live performances.



LINLITHGOW SHOWS

The LSO have a busy performance schedule annually playing a spring/summer concert at the **Burgh Halls** and a November



concert on Remembrance Saturday at **St Michael's Parish Church**, plus other local events such as the **Festival Of Christmas Trees**. You may have also seen them busk at Tesco on the run up to Christmas to raise funds for their coffers as unfortunately the subs that members pay do not meet the running costs of the group. And that is one reason I wanted to feature them - to create awareness and hopefully help them continue to build so I asked Helen about future plans:

"We hope to one day soon do another big Linlithgow musical collaboration - In March 2023 at the end of the Reed Band concert to raise funds for the Aspire project at St Michael's, we were part of a mass music collaboration of the Reed Band, LSO, Linlithgow Ladies Choir, St Michael's Parish Church Choir and other invited singers to perform 'Zadok the Priest' in King Charles' Coronation year."

PASSIONATE ASPIRATIONS

Through chatting with Helen what is clear to me is how incredibly hard working, passionate and talented she is not just regarding music, but also the actual running of an orchestra. It is clear she understands the importance of collaboration plus is well aware of how significant the social aspect can be for both members and fans of the orchestra. Perhaps there are string players in the

woodwork of Linlithgow who don't know that a fantastic opportunity to join the LSO exists on an on-going basis and any new members can feel excited about being part of a well organised and friendly group of like minded musicians.

"We want to get more people playing strings in Linlithgow and the surrounding areas. We started in 2016 with initial aim to get adults back to playing so we're a really supportive place for any rusty players. In addition to this we'd love to get more younger players - we have a few teenage players but would love more! Some have gone off to University now but keep in contact to come back and play with us whenever they are back in town which was particularly wonderful at Christmas - it felt like welcoming back family members returning for the holiday season!

We'd like to get our name out around West Lothian as well as the surrounding areas. We are fairly unique being a purely string orchestra. In October 2024 we're trying to organise a joint concert with the **Bathgate Band**."

STRINGS AT THE PALACE?

Another exciting prospect for current and new LSO members is Helen understands that one must speculate to accumulate and be able to network with everyone and anyone who can help. For example whilst Helen and I were discussing her aspirations for the orchestra she mentioned the idea of the LSO playing with an act at **Party At The Palace**. Although line-ups are kept under wraps acts like Elbow or even Texas have used strings on many songs over the years so I have been in touch with organiser **John Richardson** to see what opportunities for the band may lie in wait. John has always maintained that he fully supports local acts and playing at the festival 'isn't all that hard' provided the acts are hardworking, they sound great and of course musically fit with the festival.



SO HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Just to manage expectations Helen can't promise playing with any headliners at PATP this year (!) however ideas like that typify her ambitions for the orchestra so if you are a string player of approximately Grade 5, no matter how rusty, and can attend weekly Monday rehearsals at the **Masonic Lodge**, 7:30pm-9:30pm during the school term, then scan the QR code above to visit the website where you can get in touch.

You can also find out about how to play or listen to the orchestra via their website, socials **facebook/linlithgowstringorchestra** and **instagram/linlithgow_string_orchestra** or look out for posters around town.



GARY CLINTON. You can keep up to date with Gary's tuition business through social media **Twitter: @GaryGuitar4 Facebook: garyclintonguitartutor**

Are you a local musical group? Contact me via gary@garyclinton.com to be included in future editions.

Carolyn Henry Photography



THE POWER OF PROACTIVE SKINCARE:

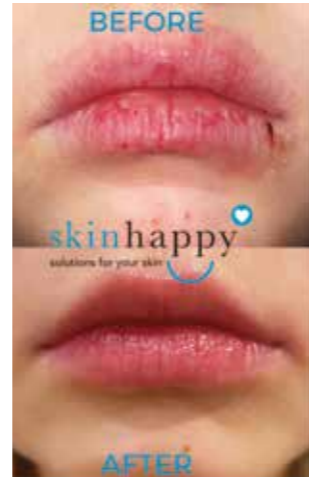
Preventing Problems Before They Arise

Proactive skincare, when combined with aesthetic treatments such as lasers, lights and Microneedling etc, offers multifaceted benefits for the skin. Firstly, **proactive skincare establishes a solid foundation by maintaining skin health** through regular cleansing, target serums/moisturising, and sun protection. This sets the stage for advanced aesthetic treatments to work more effectively, as healthy skin responds better to these interventions.

Additionally, these **in-clinic treatments provide targeted solutions to specific skin concerns** such as wrinkles, laxity, acne, vascular and pigmentation etc. By addressing these issues proactively, these treatments **help prevent future signs of aging and damage**, promoting long-term skin resilience and vitality.

Moreover, laser and light or Microneedling with EPN therapies **stimulate collagen production and promote skin rejuvenation**, resulting in improved texture, tone, and overall appearance. These procedures target deeper layers of the skin, addressing concerns that topical skincare products may not reach effectively.

Combining proactive skincare that is of an excellent quality such as medical grade, with in-clinic treatments alongside other measures like a balanced diet, sleep, hydration and stress management offers comprehensive care, ensuring healthy, youthful, and radiant skin. **By adopting preventive measures early and maintaining a consistent routine, individuals safeguard their skin**, preserve youthfulness, and achieve lasting results. Remember, when it comes to skincare, prevention truly is better than cure. **Investing in your skin today ensures a brighter, more beautiful tomorrow making you and your skin happy.**



I'm here to help you feel confident carefree and skin happy.



BOOK NOW

BOOK YOUR NO OBLIGATION CONSULTATION NOW.

To book your consultation scan the book now QR code or click on any of the book now buttons on the website. Click on **'Consultation Services'** followed by **'General Consultation'** and then follow the steps.

Skin Happy, 42 High Street, Linlithgow Tel: 01506 888138
www.skinhappy.co.uk
E: info@skinhappy.co.uk

SkinHappy skinhappyme

LOW PORT SCHOOL MARKS 50 YEAR MILESTONE



LOW PORT PRIMARY SCHOOL IS CELEBRATING ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR AND A NUMBER OF COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE END OF THE SUMMER TERM.

The building formerly housed Linlithgow Academy until the opening of the new school on Braehead Road in August 1968. As Linlithgow expanded in the late 1960s, there was a move to have the old Academy brought back into service as a Primary school for the east end of the town. After much delay, Low Port Primary School finally opened its doors in June 1973 – and then promptly closed them a few weeks later for the summer holidays. Therefore, 1973-1974 was the school's first full session and the fifty-year milestone will be celebrated in some style.

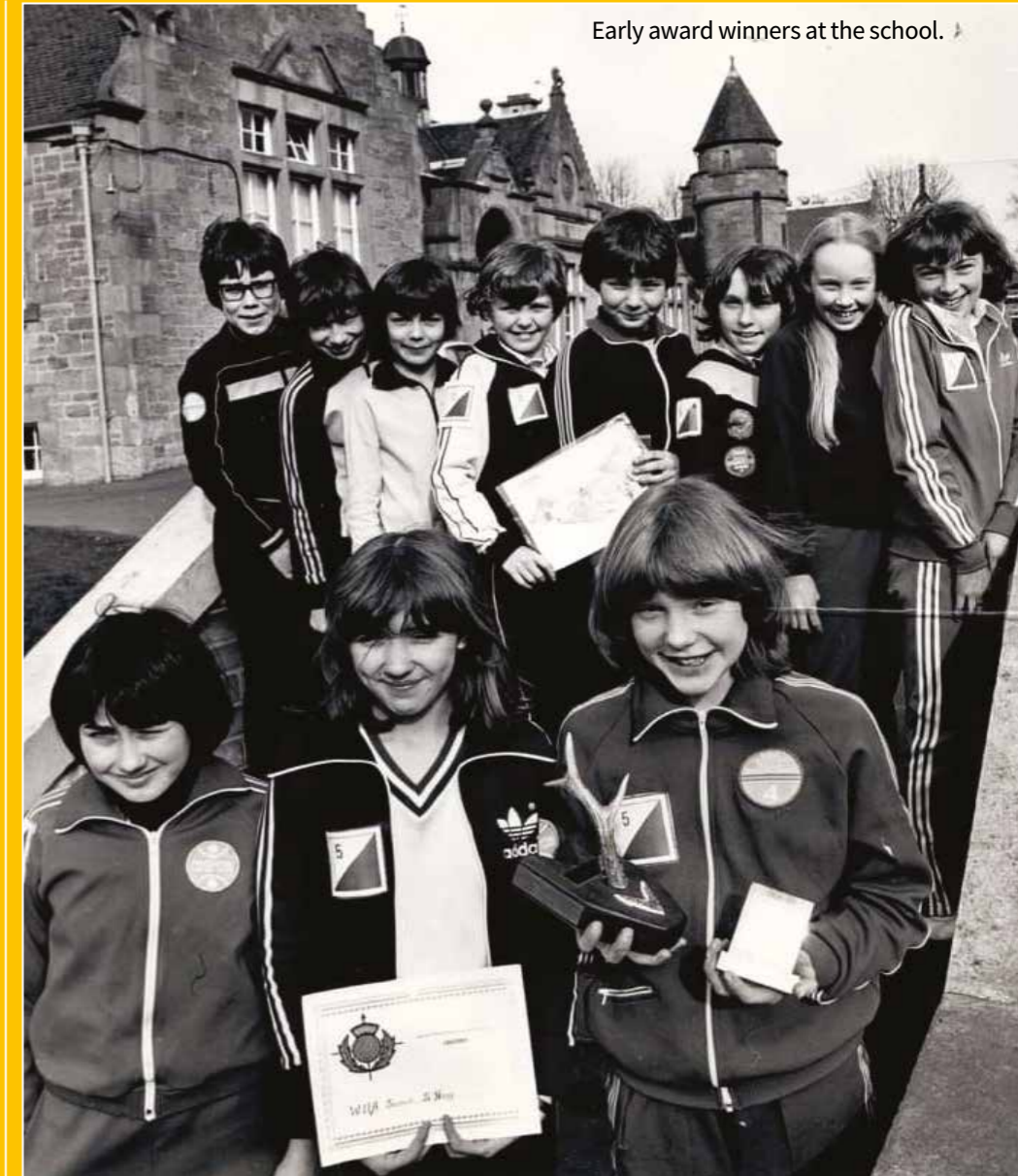
Friends of Low Port Primary School (FLPPS) - the parent and carers organisation that works with the school – are keen to hear from former pupils and staff about their memories of the school and would be delighted if they could also share any photographs or memorabilia.

Carrie Reid of FLPPS told me:

"We are particularly looking for anyone who attended or taught at the school fifty years ago to come and get involved and share some of their stories – and photos - with the pupils."

"It would be great if ex-pupils and ex-members of staff could get in touch. We have already contacted the first Head Teacher, Mr Joe Welsh. We are looking to have an exhibition at the local museum in May, as well as a display in the school. Pacitti Jones have given us sponsorship to put together a time capsule, which will be housed in a glass case in the foyer of the school, to be opened at the hundredth anniversary. Some of the stories and photos we gather may make their way into the time capsule and be used in a book we are putting together."

Past pupils have an intriguing story to share. People like **David Shearer**, who contacted me earlier this year and said:



Early award winners at the school.

"I was in the first cohort to move to the Low Port. I did primary six at West Port from August 1972 until the move to the Low Port in June '73 then did Primary seven in the now demolished annex (to the left of the main building) with a Miss Mairs until June 1974. The Headteacher was Joe Welsh. We pestered him to get us strips for the football team and one Friday he came to our class and asked me and another boy (Brian Kidd) to come with him. He then drove us to Bathgate where we went into a sports shop and chose the strip. Tangerine! Like Dundee United !!!"

If you are able to help with the Low Port Primary School celebrations, please email friendsoflpps@gmail.com. They would love to hear from you.



Davie "Deep Sea" Paterson at Low Port Primary School in 1974.

Murdoch Kennedy





The “Learn about Solar” workshops will be held at Linlithgow Rugby Club, 42 Mains Road, Linlithgow on the dates below:

Sunday 28th April, 09:15-11:00

Saturday 18th May, 09:15-11:00

To book a place for any of these dates on Eventbrite go here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learn-about-solar-with-greenfox-energy-tickets-837686461757>

You can also find the dates, further information and have any questions answered via the GreenFox Energy website here: <https://greenfoxenergy.co.uk/news/learn-about-solar-with-greenfox-energy>



MOT's • Servicing • Repairs
01506 830853

UNIT 10 PARDOVAN WORKS
PHILPSTOUN, LINLITHGOW
EH49 7TT



Services Offered:

- MOT testing
- Servicing
- Repairs

All cars & light commercial vehicles

NEW LOCAL GARAGE

Call us today and let us take care of your auto needs!

M9Garage.ltd@hotmail.com
@M9Garage 01506 830853



Solar for the Savvy

Thinking about solar but not sure how to do it or who to trust?

GreenFox is on a mission to give every homeowner in Scotland the confidence they need to embrace solar power, by providing honest, expert advice and through our network of highly skilled and reliable solar engineers.

Get in touch today on: hello@greenfoxenergy.co.uk

Find out more at: www.GreenFoxEnergy.co.uk



CHARITABLE STATUS FOR POLMONTHILL SLOPE

POLMONTHILL SKI SLOPE is one step closer to being saved from closure this week as a new charity has been created by the local community. The news will be welcomed by the Linlithgow schools and groups who use the nearby facility.

Facing threat of closure by Falkirk Council last year, a determined group of parents and supporters have worked hard together to rally support and safeguard the future of the Polmonthill Ski Slope. Their efforts have now culminated in the establishment of the charity Polmonthill Community Snowsports Centre (PCSC), a necessary step required before a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) can take place. Should all be successful, Polmonthill will become the second charity-run slope in both Scotland and the UK

Michael Alexander, parent and Trustee of PCSC says: “It has been a long process to get us to this stage but it is absolutely fantastic that we are now a Scottish registered charity. Charitable status means that we will now be able to apply for funding to help us run and maintain this brilliant slope that we are all so proud of and continue to

provide excellent facilities for skiers and boarders. This is such a well-used community club and now our efforts turn to the community asset transfer and keeping Polmonthill Snowsports Club available for future generations.”

Originally scheduled for closure in April, the community’s hard work has earned the newly established charity a reprieve, with the council extending the closure deadline until October. This additional time will allow the community group to develop a comprehensive business plan and demonstrate the financial viability of Polmonthill Snowsports Club, ensuring it’s future for years to come.

Michael adds: “It’s great news that we have gained charitable status but there is now a lot of work to do. Our first job will be to turn a profit and then ensure that the slope remains a widely and well-used facility. We would encourage everyone in the local community to come and support us and take advantage of the lessons available at every level. We are very much open for business!”

The slope is used by hundreds of skiers and snowboarders every week and throughout the holidays, including local school groups and club

training sessions. Easter holiday classes have just been released.

For more information and to keep up to date with the progress of the charity, visit www.polmonthill.co.uk



For further information please contact:

Rachel Colgan,
Rachel@building-relations.co.uk
or call 07886 873747

LINLITHGOW BASED

WEBSITE
ADVERTISING
LOGO
LEAFLETS

14 YEARS


cgh creative
CREATIVE DESIGN SOLUTIONS
FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

T. 07843 856922
www.cghcreative.co.uk

star barber

TRADITIONAL TURKISH BARBER

HOT TOWEL SHAVES
GENTS HAIR CUTS & STYLES
BEARD TRIMS & STYLES
OAP RATES
KIDS & BOYS HAIR CUTS
PATTERN DESIGNS
HIGH LIGHTS
GIFT VOUCHERS



ARXO **ARXO MEN**

OPENING HOURS
MON-TUE-WED- 9AM-6PM & THURS-FRI 9AM-7PM & SAT 8AM-5PM
76 THE VENNEL LINLITHGOW EH49 7ET 01506237387

Facebook

LINLITHGOW SPORTS PODIATRY & CHIROPODY CLINIC

Martin Godley BSc, MSc

Sports Podiatry & Chiropody Clinic Linlithgow

- > General/High Risk Foot & Nail Care
- > Biomechanics & Gait Analysis
- > Custom made Orthotics
- > Foot & Lower Leg Mobilisation
- > Low Level Laser Therapy
- > Both Elite and Recreational Athletes treated

Following guidelines from College of Podiatry the clinic is open to patients with Emergencies or in pain and discomfort. Full safety measures in place. For appointment please call 07596954189. Thank you for all your support.

Appointments available at:
Unit 8, Braehead Business Units
Braehead Rd, Linlithgow EH49 6EP
www.podiatryscotland.co.uk Tel: 07596 954189
Email: m.g.podiatry@gmail.com



RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL UPHOLSTERY SPECIALISTS

Johnston & Deans Upholstery Ltd provide the highest quality, tailored designs to suit the needs of all our customers.

We pride ourselves on the delivery of Upholstery, Bespoke Furniture and Commercial projects. Our team of craftsmen & skilled professionals will cost, design and create outstanding solutions from our base at Mill Road Ind. Estate, Linlithgow EH49 7DA.
www.johnstonanddeans.com

T: 01506 822744
E: johnstonanddeans@gmail.com



GROUT LOOKING TIRED?

TIME TO REFRESH OR RECOLOUR
NO GROUTING REQUIRED.

Louis Maguire
T: 07470 655063
www.groutgleam.co.uk/centralbeltscotland

SCAN ME → 

Sweet Pea Designs by KatzKrafts
Handmade & Commercial Giftware with a difference!

katzkrafts2022@gmail.com
sweetpeadesigns.uk

Mother's Day Gifts
Coasters
Standing Slate Plaques
& SO much more!
Customisations Available




Willow Tree Live Entertainment

Friday 8pm-late
3rd May - Jam Session

Saturday 9pm-late
20th April - Kenny Hanlon
27th April - Gerry's Karaoke
4th May - Chris Norris
11th May - Les Dee
18th May - Cameron Arndt
25th May - Gerry's Karaoke

Sunday 5pm-late
28th April & 26th May - Pure Malt
Function Suite

Offering an ideal setting for 46 seated guests & a further 15 standing. We offer a private bar with a wide range of Wines, Spirits & Beers.

Sky TNT Viaplay
Dedicated to bringing you the best live Sporting action. Come relax, watch and enjoy with us.

Facebook

D. WATSON ROOFING LTD

- > Tiled Roofing
- > Slate Roofing
- > Flat Roofs
- > Chimney Repairs
- > UPVC Roofline
- > Gutter Replacement
- > All Repairs and Re-roofing works undertaken.

T. 01506 847 885

www.dwatsonroofing.co.uk
email: graham@dwatsonroofing.co.uk
D Watson Roofing Limited
41 Mill Road Industrial Estate
Linlithgow EH49 7SF



CHAS
ANFR

Colin Lowie

PAINTER & DECORATOR

169B High Street, Linlithgow
www.colinlowiedecorating.co.uk

t. 01506 206161
m. 07817 105659

High Quality workmanship is our trademark.
Specialists in interior and exterior Painting and Decorating.
Call me for an estimate.



LINLITHGOW BASED, 16+ YEARS

NOT TO BE MISSED !!

Clearance Sale
Luxury handcrafted furniture and more...



16 Highfield Crescent
Linlithgow
Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th April 2024
10:00am - 4:00pm

Most cards (or cash) accepted
Local delivery available



HIGHFIELD WOOD CRAFT LINLITHGOW 07804 001634

PAUL ROLFE
APRIL 2024

Paul Rolfe
SALES AND LETTING



The Housing Market

The positive start to the year continues, with Rightmove recording an increase in buyer demand, measured by people sending enquiries to estate agents, and stronger sales numbers than a year ago.

The average price of property coming to the market for sale rises by 1.5% (+£5,279) this month to £368,118, as the market continues its recovery after a muted 2023. The positive start to the year continues, with Rightmove recording an increase in buyer demand, measured by people sending enquiries to estate agents, and stronger sales numbers than a year ago. This, alongside the usual Spring optimism, has put upwards pressure on prices.

This month's 1.5% price growth is notably higher than the average historic March increase of 1.0%, and the biggest monthly increase in prices for 10 months. However, average asking

prices are still £4,776 below the May 2023 peak and the increase in buyer activity suggests that more are seeing a window of opportunity to buy. Higher activity at the start of this year compared to last year must also be looked at in the context of the more cautious start to 2023.

Rather than the start of another market surge, the signs are that overall activity levels have now returned to steadier pre-pandemic norms. However, the elevated level of mortgage interest rates mean that the increased activity is skewed towards those buyers who are less sensitive to higher mortgage costs.

Since the beginning of March, the number of sales being agreed is 13% higher than at the same time last

year, continuing to pave the way for a higher number of transactions this year than the one million in 2023. Leading these higher sales agreed numbers is the less mortgage-rate-sensitive, top-of-the-ladder sector, where agreed sales are now 18% higher than last year. It is also this largest homes sector which is driving more people to get in touch with estate agents than at this time last year. In March so far, buyer demand for top-of-the-ladder properties is 12% higher than the same period last year, compared with 8% higher overall for all property types.



PETS' CORNER



Westport Vet's Pet of The Month is Bella is an 8 year old Cockapoo.

Bella's owners describe Bella as a fun loving sweet natured dog who just loves people.

We asked what she does that makes them smile, they told us that just looking at her is enough but to see her having fun on the beach or out in the hills chasing her ball is just joyous! She is the cutest thing when she sleeps whatever position she is in. She loves to wrestle with Shonagh which makes them all laugh and smile. When Bella wants attention or to play she will gently paw you or grab a toy and thrust it upon you.

Her cheeky habits are stealing socks and slippers and she wants them to chase her to get them back.

Her favourite toys are her squeaky balls (to chase), her soft (squeaky) toys especially her 3ft long sausage dog! Her favourite places to walk are on the beach or in the hills. She loves Cornwall and the Cairngorms.

Bella is a familiar waggy tail in town and is often found enjoying chin-wags with customers at her owners business, The Crannog, in the High Street.

Owner Shonagh says:

"Bella is great in the cafe, she splits her time between meeting and greeting people and

sleeping in her basket. Our customers love her and we have a bandana around her neck that says do not feed which works very well or she would be twice the size!!"

Bella is such a lovely dog, beautifully trained, well mannered and has a wonderful gentle nature - perfect for a dog friendly business like The Crannog! The Westport Team always have a wee chuckle when they pop into the cafe and see Bella entertaining Shonagh's customers, charming them and making people smile!

Linlithgow has a fantastic selection of dog friendly businesses, we are so fortunate to have such a great selection of local establishments which allow dogs in their premises! If you would like to take your dog into a business this is something which should be trained. In the same way you train your dog on how to behave in public areas, the same applies to dog friendly businesses.

This can be done at any age however care should be taken to consider how your dog might cope with this - not all dogs enjoy being around other people (or in close proximity to other dogs). As there is such a wonderful selection you have plenty of options to choose from options with indoor and outdoor areas.

We recommend owners learn about canine body language as this is a

massive indicator letting you know how your dog feels in any given situation or environment.

In accordance with UK law, owners can be prosecuted if their dog attacks someone on private property - such as in a pub. However, a dog doesn't have to bite or physically injure someone for an offence to take place. If a person feels your dog may hurt them, they may still be considered 'dangerously out of control'. This applies to dogs of all sizes, breeds and types.

There is no law or any health and safety regulations that ban dogs from being in premises where food and drink is served or sold. However, they must not enter areas where food is prepared, handled or stored, for example the kitchen. It's up to the owner of the establishment that serves food and drink whether they'd like to welcome dogs.

Plan ahead if taking your dog to a dog friendly business - build up training and never expect them just to know what you expect from them! The public should also respect the establishment they are visiting - have dogs on a short lead, bear in mind not everyone will want to speak to your dog when they are having food/drinks, and consider a clean and change first if you have gotten muddy on your walk.



If you would like to take your dog to dog friendly businesses but aren't sure where to start or need help with training, Lothlorien Dog Services can help you do this!

If you have any concerns about your pet contact Westport Vets 01506 844165. For enquiries please email: surgery@westportvets.com

Ace Tree SURGEONS

Fully qualified arboricultural specialists

specialising in:

- * Sectional felling of dangerous trees
- * Limb removal * Hedge trimming
- * Pruning and Shaping * Stump Grinding
- * Fully Insured * 24 Hour Service
- * Seasoned hardwood firewood for sale.

For a **FREE** estimate call (01506) 847 049 or mobile 07850 624 939

www.acetreesurgeons.com

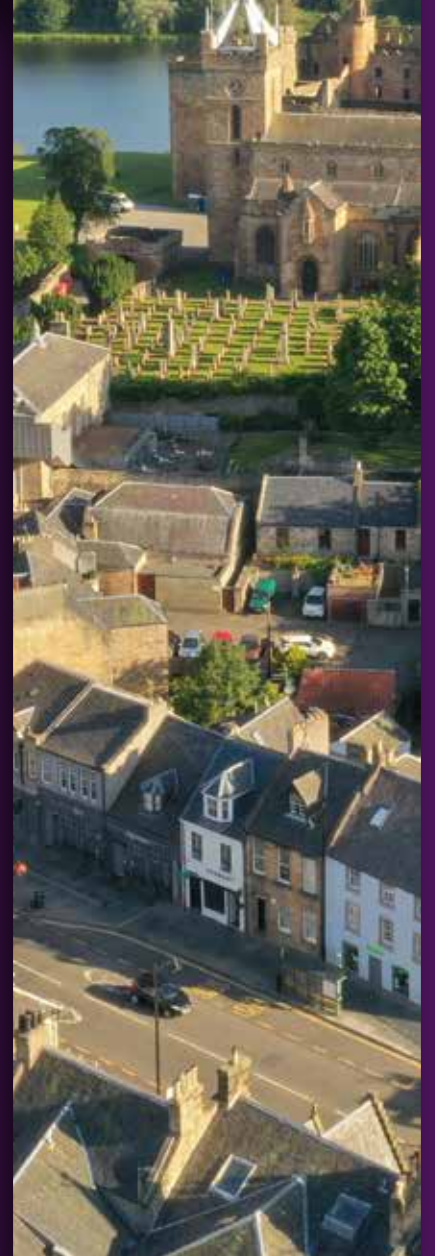
BLACK BITCH COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



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.





GET IT DONE WITH LINLITHGOW'S NUMBER

Trust in the leading estate agent
when you need us most*

Paul Rolfe 

T 01506 828282

E linlithgow@paulrolfe.co.uk

W paulrolfe.co.uk

*Based on Rightmove Intel Data for Sales Agreed in EH49 01/01/23 - 31/12/23.

