DUNPENDER COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2019/2020

Whittingehame phone box

A Little Red Reading Hub

Over the past few years that much-loved icon the red telephone box has been reinventing itself in new ways to serve villages and towns up and down the country. This autumn, the Whittingehame box joined their number and has metamorphosed into a book exchange. It has been enthusiastically embraced locally, and in early October around 30 local residents joined together to toast its future and thank everyone who was involved in its rejuvenation. To mark the occasion local artist David Shaw Stewart painted an image of it in all its invigorated scarlet glory. The picture will be dated and go in the phone box once it is framed.

So thank you to Dunpender Community Council for helping to make it possible and of course all the volunteers; James Sandies for their enthusiastic support and advice, Peter Moulin for wielding his paint brush, Robin Webb for giving us light and last but not least Liam Clutton for slotting in the shelving.

The Whittingehame Book Club

East Linton Community Hall

East Linton Community Hall is well loved and well used and such a precious resource requires robust management. The Hall Committee is a group of volunteers who meet regularly and take responsibility for the smooth running, finances and maintenance of the Hall.

This past year has seen the Hall Committee organise an extensive programme of maintenance and improvements to the hall. Over the summer, the Main Hall was painted, a costly job involving scaffolding. The front door has been repainted and the stonework repaired. The old East Linton Community Hall sign has been taken down and replaced by lettering on the front wall. A new radiator has been installed in the foyer. Fire doors have been repaired and a special lock fitted on the door to the main hall. Financing these improvements has been made possible by increased use of the Hall and a successful fundraising disco. At present, repairs to the roof are being organised, floor maintenance options are being considered, a more environmentally friendly lighting system is being researched and installation of electric hand dryers is under discussion.

The Hall Committee is co chaired by Julia Edmonds and Janette Edmonds and welcomes comments, feedback and volunteers. Contact janette.edmonds68@gmail.com or julia.edmonds62@gmail.com to get involved or leave a comment.

A View from the Chair

This has been a year when progress feels to have been a bit slow on some of the issues with which the Community Council has to deal.

Planning matters moved extra slowly with no sign of a decision on either the lodges at Whitekirk or the restaurant at Tyninghame Links - and nothing has changed with the parking problems at the beach there either. Applications; we objected to such as the Scrapyard at Station Road, but went ahead regardless and we have little faith in the statutory consultation process. House are being built now at Pencraig Hill with no apparent thought given to the effect another 250 residents will have on our infrastructure.

The station at East Linton creeps slowly forward but we have failed to have any proper discussion with East Lothian Council (ELC) about what is planned for the Primary School and the Park.

I feel that our relationship with ELC is at an all-time low with staff shortages and budget cuts reducing any influence the Community Councils may once have enjoyed. In disposing of assets it seems likely that we shall lose the Council Chambers and its contents were removed without warning, to be stored in Haddington.

On a more positive note, we have put up no less that 19 benches at strategic points which everyone is enjoying - sturdy construction meant the one at the weir survived the recent flooding!

We produced a new edition of the popular Walks leaflet and negotiated some electric vehicle charge points at Station Road although we did lose some parking spots - not as many or as much yellow paint as was first suggested, however. We are chasing the proposal to limit traffic near the Primary School at either end of the school day. We've achieved speed restrictions and a Speed Reactive sign for A198 in Tyninghame but our 20mph limit in East Linton seems to in jeopardy through lack of proper legislation by ELC.

Plans are in progress to sort out the derelict playground in Rennie Place and we have finally found the money to refurbish the Fountain.

We spent some time responding to ELC's Climate Change strategy and focused our comments on matters such as the energy-efficiency of new houses and loss of agricultural land to housing developments.

We welcomed a new member for Tyninghame/Whitekirk, Alan Reid, and a new minutes secretary, Anne Hunter, both very welcome additions to our team. All our activities can be seen on our website, www.eastlinton.uk.com. As ever, many thanks to Alastair Seagroatt for running this and to Jill Taylor who allows us space in ELDA each month for a summary of our meetings. And thanks also to all members of the Community Council who volunteer their time, energy and expertise to Dunpender CC.

Judith Priest, December 2019

DCC LOCAL PRIORITIES 2019/2020

Website upgrade	£95.00
Walks leaflet 2019 edition	£1,498.00
East Linton Horticultural Society	£650.00
Community Fair 25 August 2019	£127.00
Whittingehame phone box fit and paint	£120.00
Defibrillator maintenance costs	£300.00
Fountain repair and repainting contribution	£1,099.00
Robert Noble Board planning charge	£101.00
TOTAL	**£3,990.00**

East Lothian Countryside Rangers

East Lothian Countryside Ranger Service Round Up 2019

The rangers have enjoyed working around the Dunpender area this year. We gave illustrated talks on the topic of East Lothian wildlife to the Traprain Guild in February and the East Linton Pensioners in May, and worked with East Linton Primary School P5's in March on their John Muir Award project learning about local wildlife habitats and how to conserve them, including doing a community litter pick.

In August we attended the East Linton Fete and ran a fungi foray in Pencraig wood where we found fairy rings, puffballs and stinkhorns! Our popular 'night life' family event at Preston Mill in September turned into an incredible wildlife spectacle as an emergence of hundreds of midges were attracted to our torches causing a mass of pipistrelle bats to swoop in for a feeding frenzy.

Between April and September we continued to record butterflies along the River Tyne for the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. This year we recorded 13 different species between East Linton and Hailes bridge – Painted lady, Orange tip, Peacock, Small tortoiseshell, Large white, Small white, Speckled wood, Red admiral, Ringlet, Green veined white, Wall brown, Meadow brown and Comma. We are always looking for volunteers to help with these surveys – no experience is needed, training is provided and it is a great way to get outdoors, be active and learn something new. Get in touch for more details on 01620-827279 or ranger@eastlothian.gov.uk

We have also been running new wildlife tours around the county using an electric car. Designed for small groups of up to 6 people, we take you out for a guided half or full day around the county to enjoy seasonal highlights of nature, landscape and geology. Meeting points are flexible and tours can be booked any time of the year. Why not book a tour with family or friends or give as a gift? Find out more about our wildlife tours and all our ranger events for 2020 at https://eastlothian.bookinglive.com/home/ranger-service-event-programme/

Also look out for our event posters on your local noticeboards and pick up a copy of our regular 'Mud In Your Eye' newsletter from the library, community hall or local shops.

Samantha Ranscombe
Countryside Ranger East Area

East Linton Horticultural Society

The three trees at Phantassie Roundabout

First planted in 2007, the three trees were selected to promote East Linton's Horticultural Heritage. The Jewel in the Crown is the golden form of the Scots pine. One was planted almost about 100 years ago at the entrance to Smeaton Lake by the Buchan Hepburn family. It became a champion tree, one of the tallest of its kind in the British Isles. Its foliage shines in the February sun, a joy to see in the early Spring. The present tree will take forty years to reach a decent height. Around this tree are three white birch trees. They come from the Himalayas and the closer they are to the snow line, the whiter the bark. It has a chemical used in the treatment of skin cancer as it can cope with high ultraviolet light. It is not known how they will cope with climate change. Birch trees originating in Scandinavia are suffering from stress as this photo taken at Harrogate in early September shows.

The third tree (pictured above at the Botanics, Edinburgh) is noted for the length of its lateral branches when mature and for the autumn colour of its leaves, starting deep red in the top shoots as the rest of the crown turns yellow and then red. Its common name is Persian ironwood. *(Parrotia persica*) It has taken fifteen years to produce this autumn colour. All were chosen by the East Linton Horticultural Society who are now concentrating on the topic of plants and trees suitable for a changing climate. You can learn more through membership which costs £3 annually per person or £5 per household.

East Linton Curling Club

Pictured are wo members of East Linton Curling Club enjoying the new improvements at Murrayfield Curling Club. They include the provision of a lift as well as better insulation to keep the ice in a stable condition. Interested in curling? The Club is exploring the opportunity for potential new members to come and try curling at the Edinburgh Curling Rink.

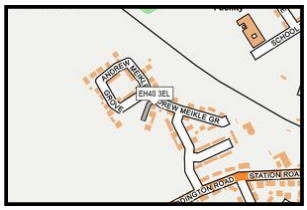
East Linton Christmas Lights

This year we have seen the addition of lights on another tree opposite the Community Hall. We would like to make a real feature of the lights in this area, so we are looking into maybe having lights under the other trees. Most lights need to be plugged into lampposts and we are running out of lampposts to do this but I'm sure there will be an alternative option. We also purchased new icicle lights for the oak tree to replace the faulty ones and some spare coloured lights for the oak tree in case they go faulty in the future.

The village is looking lovely again with all the greenery, thank you to everyone who donated greenery, helped make them up and also the group of people who went up the ladders and tied them to the lampposts. Thank you to the East Linton Firefighters who kindly put up our lampposts lights again this year, we couldn't manage without their help. It's lovely to see all the businesses supporting us again this year with their advertising stars and decorating their shop windows and even putting up lights outside their properties making the village look really festive.
A big thank you to all of them.

Thank you to everyone who has put money in our collecting tins, every penny counts. Sadly our fundraising has not been as successful as we would have liked. We had no stall at the Gala Day this year due to the terrible weather and our big fundraiser this year was 2 Hallowe'en parties which had to be cancelled due to lack of support. We were at the Christmas market this year and hopefully this will have raised some money for more new lights. Commercial Christmas Lights are extremely expensive and we need to continue to raise funds to cover the cost of the insurance for the 6 week period the lights are on, (cost of £400 each year) and maintenance costs also as next year the lights will all have to be adjusted as the trees have grown. Sadly the lights we have will deteriorate over coming years and will need to be replaced. So please support us when you can.

We are always looking for new ideas and people to join our committee. If you are interested in being involved in any way, please contact Hilary at hilarymwhite@icloud.com or pop into Hilary White Hair Design, 3b Bridge Street, East Linton. Lastly a massive thank you to all the committee who work tirelessly to make our village look as festive as possible. They are doing a fabulous job.



Andrew Meikle Grove Residents' Association

The Association held their 3rd AGM in the Community Hall in May. As a number of issues relating to the completion of the estate by Miller Homes remained unresolved, the Committee was pleased to see a good turnout of members to discuss these and other matters of interest. Since the AGM the Association is pleased to report that some progress has been made and are hopeful that outstanding matters will soon be completed.

In the case of the SUDS, the adoption of this area by Scottish Water should take place no later than the end of the year. Thereafter Scottish Water intend to enter into an agreement with ELC for its' future maintenance – something that has been sadly lacking by Miller Homes since they left the estate in 2016. Thereafter the Association hopes to be allowed to further improve the attractiveness of the SUDS by installing plants and flowers in the surrounding area.

Despite the best efforts of the Association the roads and footways on the estate are still not in an acceptable condition which would allow them to be adopted by ELC. However we have recently been advised that the outstanding work still required has been agreed between Miller Homes and ELC and that this work should be undertaken shortly. This will be the fifth effort to bring them up to the required standard, so while hoping that this latest effort will finally enable adoption to take place given past failures we are not counting our chickens just yet!

While all communal areas have now been adopted by residents, and we continue our efforts to improve these, there has been a problem with the lack of maintenance of the area set aside for the proposed station and its car park. This has had an adverse effect on our adjoining communal areas. The Association has recently managed to persuade Miller Homes to strim this area and it is currently looking much better. The Association are trying to establish both who actually owns the land and to ensure a maintenance programme is put in place until construction is underway given that this could be a few years away.

The Association still awaits sight of the planning application for the station itself and when available we will be taking particular interest in the proposed access roads. There are major safety concerns, particularly for children, should these, unusually for a station, go through the middle of a housing estate. Our members have also expressed concern over the size of the proposed station parking area and the impact this could have on the residents of Andrew Meikle Grove and adjoining Orchardfield should this area not prove big enough to meet demand.

Finally, there have been an increasing number of issues with regard to the use of the play facilities and the surrounding grass area on the estate. This is a valuable amenity for young children on the estate and in the surrounding area the maintenance of which is the responsibility of the 37 privately owned houses in Andrew Meikle Grove. However the Association is aware of a number of instances recently of the facilities being abused. These include throwing stones at the structures, standing on tree supports and swinging/breaking the branches of the young trees and urinating on the grass area in the middle of the play facilities. By drawing attention to these incidents we hope people will assist us in our attempts to stamp such incidents out. If not, and damage is incurred requiring costly repairs, the retention of the play facilities may need to be reviewed which would be a shame for the many young children in the area who obtain great pleasure from them.

Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides)

Girlguiding continues to thrive in East Linton. We have developed closer links among the three sections (Rainbows age 5-7, Brownies age 7-10 and Guides age 10-14) and enjoyed a wonderful camp at Canty Bay with over 50 girls - playing games together, swimming in the sea and, of course, toasting marshmallows on the campfire. We're all now following the brand new Girlguiding programme which is packed full of fun, adventure and variety, with plenty of badges to earn on the six themes: Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills for My Future.

We're currently looking for more adult volunteers to help at Unit sessions or behind the scenes with admin. You don't need to have a daughter currently in Girlguiding. No matter how much time you have to give, there's an opportunity for you.

Register your daughter at www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter
Find out more about volunteering at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer

East Linton Whisky Society

2019 has been an exciting year for East Linton whisky lovers with the launch of the East Linton Whisky Society. Members and guests have already enjoyed 2 events, with the prospect of more before year end, and planning well underway for 2020. In the 6 months since the Society launched, membership has grown to 68.

PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

- Tasting No.1 took place on 27th June at East Linton Bowling Club
  Six whiskies, one each from Dufftown, Aberlour, Deanston, Edradour, Springbank & Benromach
- Tasting No.2 took place on 12th September at East Linton Bowling Club
  Six whiskies, one each from Glenallachie, Glen Scotia, Glenglasshaugh, Glenrothes, Arran and Port Askaig, with food provided by the Filling Station, Longniddry.
- Tasting No.3, was on 22nd November at East Linton Auction Mart. This tasting was sponsored by Deanston Distillery, who will be bringing six whiskies from their range. A Master at Arms and swordsmith, Paul Macdonald, will provide additional
  entertainment, and a traditional spread of haggis, neeps, and tatties will ensure everyone is well fed.

2020 will be an even more exciting year. Events are being organized and a number of distilleries are already booked to come to East Linton, with a highlight being an event sponsored by the Scotch Malt Whisky Society.

SOCIETY NEWS AND MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone who is aged 18 years or over and lives or works in East Linton (or surrounding district). We offer a 'Society Membership' for an annual fee of £10 which gives priority access to tickets and helps to provide financial support to the Society. If you are interested in joining, please email us at: committee@eastlintonwhiskysociety.org

The Society uses the free website and 'app' called 'TeamApp' to organize membership, sell tickets and provide event details. The following links can be used to access public areas of the site, ncluding our Whisky List, which details all whiskies tasted so far, along with tasting notes. We welcome anyone who is interested to join the site (it is free to register).

TeamApp site: https://eastlintonwhiskysociety.teamapp.com

Whisky List: https://eastlintonwhiskysociety.teamapp.com/player_profiles

Look out for more information on our East Linton Whisky Society Facebook page.

The East Linton Whisky Society Committee members are: Phil Tsang (Chair); Matt Bishop (Secretary); Paddy Burns (Membership Secretary); Richard Mosley (Treasurer); Cam Murray (Executive Officer); Norrie McKinley (Executive Officer).

Traprain Treasure

12th May 2019 marked 100 years since a large hoard of Roman silver was discovered on Traprain Law by archaeologist Alexander Curle and his team. The hoard contained fragments from over 250 silver objects and were buried around AD450.

Initial thinking was that the silver had been stolen from retreating Romans. But following extensive research by Dr Fraser Hunter, National Museum of Scotland, it is now thought that the silver was cut up by the Romans during a period of economic crisis then sent north to be used as bullion for diplomatic gifts to the powerful leaders of Traprain Law.

Some of the hoard was on display in the John Gray Centre, Haddington until 27th October, but you can see more pieces in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

East Linton Library
Prestonkirk House
60A High Street
East Linton

Opening Hours

MONDAY	2pm-5pm
TUESDAY	10am-1pm, 2pm-5pm
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	10am-1pm
FRIDAY	2pm-5pm
SATURDAY	10am-1pm
SUNDAY	CLOSED

COMPUTER BASICS CLASSES

Bewildered by computers?
Would you like to learn how to use a keyboard?
How to use a mouse?
Sign up for free!
Small classes and lots of help available
Booking essential
TUESDAYS 10.30am-12.30pm

HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Enjoy reading but feel you can no longer walk the distance to the Library or find carrying heavy books a task.
WE can deliver directly to your door. Books chosen to meet your preferred genre. Contact us for further details.

MORE THAN JUST BOOKS
DVD HIRE, BLUE BOX COVERS
HEARING AID BATTERIES

WALK AND TALK BOOK GROUP

- Great company, friendly chat and fresh air!
- Walks around East Linton with coffee at the Library afterwards
- 30 minutes to an hour
- First TUESDAY of every month 10 AM- FREE

CODING CLUB –

Free on Mondays between 3.30pm-4.30pm?

- Coding club teaches children ways to create games, animations, websites and the key concepts of coding

Regular Activities

- Weekly Bookbug Sessions – songs and rhymes for Under 5's. Every Thursday and Saturday at 10.15am
- Adult Craft Group – every Tuesday 2.30pm-4.30pm
- Adult Book Group – second Tuesday of every month at 10.30am. The group meets to discuss books they have read and encourage members to read new authors and different genres from their favourites
- Regular children's craft events
  - BEGINNERS SPANISH Every Friday. 2.30 PM. Primary 4 . Learn Spanish in a fun and exciting way, through games and activities.

For more information about any of the above services, don't hesitate to contact us. WE ARE ALWAYS HERE TO HELP

Telephone: 01620 820635
Email: eastlinton.library@eastlothian.gov.uk

East Linton Drama Group

2019 was another very successful year for the drama group with three very different productions starting in January with all-child (P5 to S5) panto "Once Upon a Time" which, as always, showed how talented our local children are!

In May, instead of a play, we celebrated 20 years of the drama group with "That's Entertainment", an evening of short sketches - most of which were written by members of the group – along with songs and even some dance routines which was a novelty for many of us and much enjoyed by our audiences. We also raised money for Cancer Research from the raffle each evening.

October saw our ever-popular Murder Mystery dinner evening with "A Fashionable Murder" which was set backstage at a fashion show in the 1980s which truly was "the decade that style forgot" judging by the costumes! The audience was given lots of clues on and off stage to guess the guilty party. The raffle raised money for Parkinson's UK.

We are always looking for people for the stage and for behind the scenes. To find out more you can find our contact details on the inside back page of the ELDA magazine or on the East Linton village website *eastlinton.uk.com*. You can also follow or message us on Facebook - EastLinton-DramaGroup.

East Linton Community Choir

The theme of the choir's main concert in March of this year was "The Sound of America. This allowed the choir to perform a real mixture of styles from Country, Bluegrass, Gospel to Modern Pop. We also featured brilliant solos, duets, trio and a quartet. Our numbers have increased in the last year or two particularly in the men's section and overall the sound is both fuller and richer

By all accounts the audience really appreciated this new sound and many said it was our best concert so far! The individual ladies and men's songs were particularly good and we even had fun with the audience doing a little line dancing. The concerts were on 29th & 30th March but due to demand we added a matinee performance on the Saturday as well. We are delighted with the support of the local community and surrounding areas.

As for next years' songs, the programme of "Songs from the 1960's" will, I'm sure, prove popular both with the choir and the audiences.

The choir will be singing at Prestonkirk on 8th December with many local performers in 'Sing a Song for Christmas'.

I am delighted to say that we will have again some new members joining us this year as well as returning members .

I am really looking forward to the year ahead to see the improvements the choir can make and getting nostalgic with some great hits from The Sixties!

Lorraine Cormack
Musical Director

East Linton Art Group

The East Linton Art Group continues to paint and draw throughout the months September to May.

Last year we put together a calendar of work produced by and the favourite entries chosen by the Members. Thanks to everyone who bought our calendars.

Christmas Lunch was again enjoyed at The Open Arms, Dirleton. We finished off with a Quiz provided by this years Group Quizmaster, Jimmy before heading home on the bus.

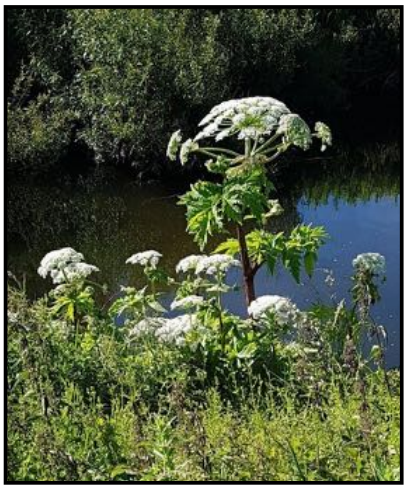
In January we had our Annual Painting Challenge – we painted individual portraits of the Mona Lisa. The results were all very different with a wide variety of styles.

Fiona Mayer, a tutor at The Poldrate, Haddington joined us to provide a Printing Workshop. We all learned the techniques to roduce ink prints with a variety of objects, fruit, leaves, wooden blocks etc,.

The Annual Exhibition was held in May and we would like to thank everyone who came to support us. The winner of the Agnes Wilkinson Bowl awarded to the painting with the most public votes was won by Irene Forbes with her painting Winter Hedgerow,

During the summer break we had two outdoor drawing/painting sessions, one at Port Seton during the 3Harbours Art Festival and the other at Cove.

Giant Hogweed Eradication Project



This year East Lothian Countryside Volunteers have started a project to completely eliminate Giant Hogweed from the River Tyne, covering the entire catchment: all 47 miles of the river and its tributaries.

Giant Hogweed is a non-native and invasive plant that can be a serious health hazard for humans. When the clear sap comes into contact with human skin on subsequent exposure to the sun it causes severe skin burns.

This is a voluntary scheme undertaken by all the riparian landowners along the entire length of the river, and all at their own cost. The project has had some support from SNH and Bayer UK.

This year has achieved a remarkable level of success with no known flowering plants left as we reached the end of the growing season in late August, and every other plant spotted sprayed or dug up. This is as good or better than any other Giant Hogweed control programme around the country! We have also made a start, where time permits, on removing Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam from some areas of the river, as we go through removing Giant Hogweed.

Due to the persistence of the seeds already in the ground, this eradication scheme will take a number of years to complete, so we need a few extra volunteers from next spring to help spot plants along the entire length of the river Tyne. We will know much better where to look, as where plants were found this year is likely where seeds have been deposited in previous years and so where new plants are likely to appear in the future

This year all the watercourses were surveyed and every plant's location added to an online map, which greatly assisted the landowners in their search for plants for treatment. If you do see any Giant Hogweed please report it with a precise location by email to hogweed@elcv.org.uk. See a full description of the whole scheme at https://www.elcv.org.uk/tasks/invasives/the-program/.

We have achieved our success this year thanks to the dedication of all the landowners and a few volunteer plant spotters and look forward to continued success next year.

James Wyllie
Project Co-ordinator
ELCV Giant Hogweed Eradication Project

Growing at Gilmerton

a local volunteer-led therapeutic garden

Our charity *Growing Matters* is based at the old walled garden on the Gilmerton estate near Athelstaneford. We have a 25 year lease from the Gilmerton Estate. Around four years ago this was a largely derelict site. Some old wall-trained fruit trees remained from the once productive garden that had served the needs of Gilmerton House, but all else had been cleared long ago.

In 2016 we started with a "blank canvas" and planted a small orchard of Scottish variety apple trees, then created a shrub border and a cut flower garden. Raspberries, strawberries and soft fruit bushes followed in due course. Our willow beds provide material for weaving the plant supports, hurdles and baskets we use in the garden.
Volunteers have access to subsidised workshop events providing training in craft skills and enjoy the free garden produce.

Biodiversity is important for us; we promote wildlife in the garden by avoiding any use of chemicals in our gardening and by selecting varieties of plants that will provide nectar and pollen for insect life. We practice both conventional and natural bee keeping.

Visitors are welcome to experience the garden and to chat to volunteers on Monday morning and Thursday afternoon from March to November. In the winter months we advertise workshops in tree planting and willow weaving. You can keep in touch with us on Facebook, Twitter and on our website: growingatgilmerton.org.

The Scottish Poppy Appeal

Every autumn throughout Britain, poppies become available in a variety of outlets. In East Linton these include local shops and businesses, the school and library. Donations raised go to support forces veterans and their families and in 2018, £1,200 was raised in the East Linton area.

In addition wreaths are laid at the War Memorial, and last year a group organised by "Ground Force" knitted poppies for the Memorial and Kirk Gates.

The East Linton Ground Force Team

This small team of 4 people started in 2017 when it was decided to see if areas within the village could be made smarter or more attractive. The local council was contacted and they suggested the Railway bridge needed clearance of leaves, moss and overgrown bushes. The team set to producing a very satisfying result.

Other areas which have been enhanced and cared for by the Team include the 4 circular beds at The Linton Garage - the owners were most receptive to the idea and help with watering when needed and the Fire Station staff acquired two half barrels which we decided to fill with red Pelargoniums.

Last winter it was noted that the cut between Kingsburgh Gardens and Rennie Place was becoming very overgrown and although it is strictly the responsibility of the owners in that area, residents were contacted and a willing group of volunteers succeeded in making a very tidy job of trimming the overgrowth. A recent pruning by a number of volunteers has kept this cut tidy.

The small strip of ground near the Bowling Club was recently tackled which is a challenge as the roots from over hanging trees makes this site difficult, but the begonias seem to do well there and add a welcome splash of colour.

With last November being a significant year for Remembrance Day, The Team asked for volunteer knitters to make the poppies for banners and tributes around the village. The response was overwhelming (see page 8).

The latest venture has been to help at The Mart in re-establishing the raised beds, plus a strip of ground adjacent to the car park. Enough plants were resuscitated from the old site to form the beginnings of an attractive display, plus some successfully grown seeds.

Two table top sales have given a small return in order to buy some plants and compost but the team also donate what they can.

Of course, all this takes time and energy to maintain, so we are always looking for more volunteers to help in this enjoyable social task!

The East Linton SHED at The Mart

A Portacabin was provided to set up a Men's SHED in East Linton. A meeting was set up and some men (and women) attended to assess the feasibility of such a venture, as other Men's SHEDS were running successfully within East Lothian.

The location is The Mart and at first the site of the Shed proved a little challenging as it resembled a builder's yard and had little appeal for some attenders. However, the cabin was moved to a site with a power connection adjacent to a poly tunnel which has become a useful addition to the Ground Force Team and SHED activities.

Two good work benches have been assembled in the SHED and some donated tools are available. Offers of help in upgrading and recycling old items have been most encouraging as we are hoping to raise some funds to buy other necessary tools and equipment. Examples are a bird table, up-cycled stools and outside seating benches.

With a kettle obtained from Freecycle, participants can now enjoy tea/coffee breaks.

Since the Mart has other community enterprises on site, a great community spirit is developing and more people are becoming interested and offering their skills.

The Volunteers meet every Thursday from 2-4pm, but if these hours do not suit there is a flexible arrangement whereby a volunteer can access the SHED and poly tunnel at their preferred time.

ALL ARE WELCOME – both men and women! Contact carmichaeljbb@yahoo.co.uk.

Traprain Law Race

This annual race happens on Gala Day which, this year, was on June 8th. Organised by Carnethy Running Club, it is 6.5 miles long and 710' of ascent. It costs £5 to enter; the record time is 36 min 26 sec in 1996.

The course starts in the Memorial Park, follows along and through the Tyne to a steep ascent of the eastern end of the Law. Then it returns by road and footpaths, past Hailes Castle and the banks of the Tyne. Alex Hinchcliffe was this year's winner in 43 min 5 sec. The prize categories are overall men women, 40+, 50+ and 60+ men/women, local men/women and team men/women. There were 88 runners but no local women entered this year. If you can beat 83 mins then you won't be last next year.

Tyninghame Village Hall

Following another busy year, Tyninghame Village Hall Committee are continuing to organise a varied programme of community events. We have regular monthly Pub Nights on the 2nd Friday of the month, sometimes with a special potluck food theme such as curry, pizza, or Greek. In October we tried out a Pub Night with a Story-telling theme for Hallowe'en and hosted a Harvest Lunch on the Sunday to showcase the wide variety of local produce. We are looking forward to running a Ceilidh on 9 November, and hosting other music events. Over the Christmas period, we will be holding the very popular wreath making workshops and hosting our Christmas Party. The Hall is also booked for a number of classes on a regular weekly basis, such as yoga and dog training, Singing for Fun and Craft & Connect. We would like to add other similar classes to our programme.

The Village Hall Committee is responsible for maintaining the interior of the Hall and making improvements to the interior. We installed secondary glazing over the winter and have started to appreciate the benefits of this. We continue to seek finance for further improvements to the heating, lighting, toilets and kitchen facilities. As yet we have had mixed success in attracting grant funding and we continue to investigate other options.

We are about to launch an updated website which we hope will improve communications for both commercial and community events. This and the newsletter will allow us to keep people informed as to our programme. If you wish to receive to our newsletter or join our village WhatsApp group or for Hall bookings, please email tyninghamebookings@gmail.com

A big thank you to all those who gave up their time and energies to continue to support our Village Hall events over the last year.

Barbara Schofield, Secretary

East Linton Art Show

The 51st Annual Exhibition opened on 5th September and ran until the 8th. Nearly three hundred works of art were submitted for the categories of Painting; Drawing; 3D; Print and Photography. A prize of £500 for the overall winner and five prizes of £100 to category winners were awarded, thanks to the continued sponsorship of Eve's Foundation. The Judge for the exhibition was Dr Geraldine Prince.

Overall winner; no. 89 - 'Cove Harbour' by Liz Maclarty Jones
1st Prize - Painting; no. 116 - 'Yellow Field and Copse' by Lucy Parsons
1st Prize - Drawing; no. 91 - 'Blackford Hill' by Gail Calvert
1st Prize - 3D; no. 149 - 'North Sea Roller' by Susheila Jamieson
1st Prize - Print; no. 242 - 'Which Witch' by Luise Valentiner
1st Prize - Photograph; no. 227 - 'Tyninghame Winter Woods' by James Carter

In addition, 5 works were commended - 'Paps of Jura' by Liz Neilson, 'Weathering' by Carol E Duff, 'Homeward Bound' by Andy Baker, 'Sunny Days crossing the Ocean' by Fernanda Bonini, 'Leaf Reflection 1,2 &3' by Alan McIntyre.

People's choice winner "angelheaded hipster" by Senada Borcilo
Our website is; https://eastlintonannualartshow.weebly.com

East Linton Senior Citizens

East Linton Senior Citizens have started their new session after the summer break, with a talk about the beach wheelchairs at North Berwick, then celebrated our birthday with a party in October. In November we had a talk about the shops on Dunbar High Street in the 1950s then our Xmas party night in December.

We have approx. 70 members with a regular attendance of 50 to 60 per meeting. If you are new to East Linton, it is a good way to get to know people. You get a cup of tea and a natter at same time. It costs only £8 to join for the year (ten meetings) and we also have a bus outing in June which is very popular with the members.

There has been a OAP group in East Linton since 1946, which has gone from strength to strength. If you would like to come along, we meet first Friday of the month at 7pm in Community Hall, we would like to see you there. For further information, please contact Ella Bell, Secretary, 01620 860766.

East Linton Flower Show 2019

This years show was a success. The baking & handcraft sections were again very well supported and although we were down in the flower and vegetable sections due to weather, it was made up by the floral art and the photography and a special well done to all the children that took part, more than last year.

Winner of the Dunpender Plate this year was Maud Denholm.

Lyntoun Day Centre

Lynton Day Centre ran a very successful café at the Tyninghame Garden Open Day this year, and managed to raise extra funds for the Day Centre. We are very grateful for the many donations of home baking we received from people in our community and to the residents' committee of Tyninghame House for giving us this opportunity. The extra money we used to boost our entertainment program during the past year, with a large variety of artists coming to entertain us. Music is very important in our Day Centre and highly appreciated by everyone. Our clients went to the East Linton Community Choir's matinee this year, where they enjoyed and afternoon of Country Music and had a go at line dancing.

We had story writing sessions, where our clients could share their stories, these stories have been written down by a story writer and bundled to make a unique booklet. The local nurseries 'bookbugs' have visited us once a month to share nursery songs and stories with our clients and staff.

We made local trips up the High Street to have a coffee in a local café and we took our clients to a local pub for a beer. We had trips to Dunbar and Merry Hatton garden centres, but most of all we enjoyed our own beautiful garden. We celebrate every special occasion and have lots of parties during the year, such as Burns' Night, Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, St. Andrew's Day and of course Christmas. We will go to the Eskmill Venue in Musselburgh in early December for a Christmas Party for senior citizens in East Lothian. Here we will enjoy a Christmas lunch and a disco in the afternoon.

This year we had many donations of apples, pears, plums, rhubarb and home-grown vegetables, from people in our local community. The staff has been peeling apples and fruits non-stop to fill our freezers for the winter.

We would like to express our gratitude for the ongoing support we receive from our local community, thank you all very much.

East Linton Bowling Club

East Linton Bowling Club was founded in 1862. Many of the original members had been members of the nearby Traprain Club.

The original green, which was on the south bank of the Tyne at Lauder Place, was opened in June 1863. The expanding club moved to its existing site in June 1881 on land initially leased, then purchased, from the Trustees of Phantassie Estate. Electricity was installed in 1930, the green was radically altered in 1952 and a new clubhouse extension opened in 1974. The clubhouse was further extended to its current footprint in 1990.

In 1883 the Club was a founder member of the East Lothian Bowling Association (ELBA). In 1893 the club joined the Scottish Bowling Association and in the same year reached the last sixteen of the national fours competition. Club honours at county level include 21 successes in the ELBA's Jubilee Cup and 24 in the County Cup. The club was also the first to have two teams in the county's top Gent's League. A Scottish Fours title was won in 1979 followed by the British Isles Fours Championship the following year. The Club has also had representatives at international level, in the Ladies' team (1985 & 1986) and Gent's under-25 team between 2011 and 2014. In 2019 the club were Senior League Division 1 Champions and the Club's Champion was East Lothian Champion of Champions.

The Club's focus throughout the summer is the bowling green, competing in Ladies' and Gent's leagues and in several county and club competitions. As the nights draw in, attention turns to darts on a Monday, Thursday pool league and monthly Quiz nights which attract a small but dedicated following. The clubhouse is also used for a range of other activities, among them funeral teas, line dancing, live music events and, occasionally, host whisky tasting events.

The Club has a membership of around 55 bowling members and 50 social members who benefit from a friendly atmosphere, a well-stocked bar, a dart board, a high quality pool table and, when spring arrives, one of the best bowling greens in East Lothian. We are always keen to recruit new members.

When the bowling season comes around in April we'd be delighted to welcome you to the Club and to introduce you to the game of bowls. All you need is a pair of flat soled shoes; everything else is provided at the Club.

East Linton Golf Club

The East Linton Golf Season starts in April with our Captain's Day but this year it was abandoned due to heavy rain! However our captain, Kirstine McKenzie,(pictured left) rearranged it for the last day of the season and it was played in October.

One of the trophies that we play for is the Killey Quaich which was presented to the club in 1981 by Miss Margaret Killey who lived in Drylaw Terrace. She was Lady Captain of Dunbar Golf Club, 1984-1985.

Geoff Cusden
Secretary

Dunpender Community Council

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Meetings are on the first Thursday of every month (except July and August) at 7.30pm, in East Linton Council Chambers

East Linton Melting Pot news and updates

East Linton Melting Pot: wanting to do something for our climate and living world

Since starting a year ago the East Linton Melting Pot has grown into an active group, with meet ups once a month to share ideas and tips on different topics, as well as planning a variety of activities.

What would you like to see happening in the East Linton area?

Results from everyone that filled in the survey have now been put together and will be shared very soon. Key areas of interest include renewable energy, ways to reduce waste and consumption, recycling and plastic (alongside many others such as community gardening, ransport and more).

In March next year we will host a climate day, which will be an opportunity for everyone in the community explore how to take some of the themes and ideas forward. For now, a few groups have formed to start making things happen.

Tree planting group

We have a newly formed tree-planting group which is aiming to plant trees in the early new year and then continue to plant trees on an ongoing basis. Any help from anyone will be welcome.

A pledge tree from the Community Fair (where folk wrote individual pledges on action they want to take to reduce their carbon footprint) will also be planted shortly in the village to inspire us all.

Renewables group

We have a newly formed 'renewable energy' group which will be exploring options for renewable energy within the East Linton area.

Repair café

We are currently applying for funding to run a monthly repair café next year, together with the Shed : where skilled volunteers are able to help people fix items which are broken. If you have any skills that you would be happy to share to help fix things (e.g. for electrical repairing, joinery, sewing, general repair skills) we would love to hear from you.

East Lothian Rise Up! Rally

In September together with lots of local sustainability groups in East Lothian we organised a climate justice rally in Haddington. The aim was to show support to East Lothian Council's declaration of a climate emergency but also to push them for more urgent and ambitious action. We are now in the early stages of forming an East Lothian wide network of groups to work together on issues that we can better influence together.

Big Climate Conversation

In October, East Linton hosted a Big Climate Conversation facilitated by MAD Challenges, where we were able to share our thoughts on climate change and our views on how Scotland should be responding. These discussions will be fed directly back to the Scottish Government.

'Introduction to Community Energy Futures'

We attended the Community Energy Futures event hosted by Sustaining Dunbar, to help us explore what we can do locally.

Affiliated member of Sustaining Dunbar

The Melting Pot has become an affiliated member of Sustaining Dunbar, so that we can work together and support each other as much as possible.

If you fancy getting involved with East Linton Melting Pot, you're very welcome, the more the merrier! We are a friendly, informal group of people who are all learning as we go how to be more climate friendly.

If you would like to know more or get involved please get in touch by emailing eastlintonmeltingpot@gmail.com or look us up on Facebook - East Linton Melting Pot.

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