

DUNPENDER COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021/2022

WHITEKIRK HALL PURCHASE



Whitekirk Community Company launched the Whitekirk Village Hall Appeal in July 2020 and managed to raise the £22,000 needed to purchase the hall from the Church of Scotland. Due to incredible generosity from near and far, they have now been able to secure the village hall for the future of the community.

A cheese and wine evening is planned in the near future to celebrate the one year anniversary – “Owning the Village Hall”.

Maintenance of the hall and surrounding area is now top priority. There has been some work done on the roof, the electrics and the disabled toilet has been fully installed. The kitchen, after a major refit, has new shelving.

What else has been going on?

Broadband is now available in the hall, thanks to Lothian Broadband.

Whitekirk Brewers have been active, producing some wonderful beer.

Village book group will now meet in the village hall, to discuss books and local news. New and former participants welcome.

Landscaping is taking place at the back of the village hall, clearing the drains, painting and creating the much needed outside sitting area. We have built a pizza oven and have a large BBQ (kindly donated). The work is still in progress. Thank you to all those giving up their time to help.

Pop up Café our first this year in June (Covid rules applied). It was a beautiful sunny day and we had a great turn out. Our second in August was equally well attended. Thank you to the bakers and helpers.

BBQ & Pizza took place in July, the new pizza oven was a great success. There is now talk of a pizza competition.

The Book Exchange in the hall, will be open Thursday – Sunday 11am-4pm books for all. There is also a children's section.

We are always looking for volunteers, please get in touch if you want to be involved and have a little spare time.

It has been a difficult time for us all, however Whitekirk Community Company are now able to resume our functions and events in the village hall and are looking forward to everyone getting together again and having some fun.

www.whitekirkvillage.com

info@whitekirkvillage.com

<https://www.facebook.com/whitekirkvillage>

Hall bookings for events and celebrations are now open.

Whitekirk Community Company SC041321



A View from the Chair

Since the last Dunpender News in November 2020 it's been another very difficult year for everyone. Life was severely restricted until the summer but we continued to meet via Zoom, finally meeting face to face in September for the first time in 18 months. In spite of this we've done our best to continue working for the community.

At the elections for Community Councils in October our member Colin McWhannell chose not to continue for another term but all the rest of us have come back for more!

This year the station at East Linton has taken a leap forward and a new bridge to replace the level crossing at Markle has been proposed and approved.

We've written and produced a new short walks leaflet for visitors, installed more benches around the path network and repaired and repainted benches in the Park and elsewhere in the village. As money gets tighter at East Lothian Council it's become a case of do-it-yourself.

The fountain has been renovated and restored to its former glory – as best it can be after almost 140 years.

Speeding traffic continues to be a cause for concern. We've applied for grants and paid for three new speed reactive signs for Tyninghame, Whitekirk and East Linton to remind people to keep to the speed limits in these areas. We've also gone back to ELC on the problem of the narrow pavement (and road) at the corner by Prestonkirk and hope to see some action on this at long last. To achieve safe space here it has to be a single carriageway and that must be controlled by traffic lights, according to traffic regulations. The lights will be demand responsive so unlikely to result in queues of idling traffic at either end but they will be very effective at slowing traffic down.

We've continued to represent Dunpender on various groups such as the Access Forum, Joint Laws Advisory Group, Viridor and two Area Partnerships.

A lot of new people will have moved into East Linton over the last year and we welcome new residents. There's lots happening here but if you come from a larger town you may be surprised that we are left to arrange most activities ourselves! So please do consider joining in and helping out with your childrens' groups, with the Community Hall and whatever else you are interested in. Let's hope next year will give us a chance to go back to some of the clubs and events we've missed so much.

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 activities. And thanks also to all our members for signing up for another four years.

Judith Priest, October 2021

Update from RAGES (RAIL ACTION GROUP EAST OF SCOTLAND)

Planning permission was granted for East Linton Station on 7 September 2021, and was subject to several planning conditions. Construction of the station is likely to take between 12-18 months, with work commencing around February 2022 and an expected opening date in 2023.

A public consultation on the replacement of Markle level crossing with a road bridge was held, with the majority of respondents in favour of its replacement, and it has been confirmed that the Scottish Government will pay for the cost of this: it will run in tandem with the station re-building.



Elsewhere, many thanks to all who responded to the consultation on the proposed timetable changes, which particularly affected Dunbar, as it was proposed to cut 13 trains a day from this busy station. Dunbar offers great connectivity to the South as well as shorter commuter journeys, so it is good to see these changes postponed. Our thanks to our newly elected MSP, Paul McLennan, who led the charge in organising the opposition to what would have been a disastrous move for rail services at Dunbar.

Finally, TransPennine Express have announced that from December 2021 they will introduce a new stopping service between Newcastle and Edinburgh, of five trains a day in each direction, calling at Dunbar and Reston. This service will also call at East Linton once the station is operational, and will allow connections between Edinburgh and all stations to Newcastle. East Linton will also benefit from existing Scotrail services.

Allison Cosgrove

Tynninghame

Despite the hall being closed during Covid-19 restrictions, we kept busy. The Tynninghame Village Hall Committee had made a commitment to make improvements to the village hall. You can read more about the projects and funding on our website.

In 2019 we installed secondary glazing in the main Hall, toilets and kitchen areas. During the period of Covid restrictions in 2020/21 when there were no Hall bookings and the building was empty, we were able to replace the ancient overhead radiant heaters with more modern ATC heaters and we have installed LED lighting. In February 2021 we insulated the central roof structure. Prior to this work, we commissioned a Bat Survey to find out if and where we had bats roosting in the Hall and what measures would be needed to protect them. Together, these four measures should make a real difference to the energy efficiency of the Hall and we will have a much warmer and more welcoming environment for our users, especially in winter.

In April 2021, we were finally able to undertake the work to modernise and upgrade the toilet facilities. We now have 3 unisex toilet cubicles plus a separate accessible toilet. We have also created some dedicated storage space.

The final stage of renovations will focus on upgrading the kitchen and sprucing up the Main Hall's stone walls and wooden floor. The photo on the right shows some of the improvements to date. You are very welcome to visit the Village Hall and take a look for yourself.



As restrictions eased towards the end of 2020 we were happy to be able to have a few seasonal events in the Hall and the Village. The first one, on 30 October, took the form of a Hallowe'en trail around the village with lanterns and pumpkin displays much to the enjoyment of the local children, parents and grandparents. In December we held Christmas wreath-making workshops both in the Hall and online at home for those who perhaps preferred or needed to self-isolate. This event proved very successful with more participants than in previous years. There were some very beautiful wreaths adorning the doors of Tynninghame village (and beyond!). To celebrate the festive season in 2020, the Tynninghame community displayed the Twelve Days of Christmas in windows throughout the village. In addition, the bus shelter was given a festive overhaul and there was an opportunity to leave good wishes for fellow villagers or even messages for Father Christmas himself. On Christmas Eve we were able to enjoy a socially distanced harp concert in the open air by the café which was well attended.

At Easter 2021 the bus shelter was brightly decorated by a group of grown-up Easter bunnies, featuring hanging eggs, paper flowers, birds and art from many budding artists! A nature trail and a few other activities including an Easter quiz, word search and bird identification sheet were put in the Shelter. There was a wee basket for each of the children to collect their finds. Some of the activities to do were 'hop like a rabbit', 'spot the silver trees', 'name some birds on the feeders', 'collect a feather', 'spot the animals in Frog Lane' and 'paint a picture'. A small reward was left for each child in a lidded box much to the delight of each one of them!

Members of the community organised a very successful bric-a-brac sale in the Hall on Saturday 25 August. The event was run in order to raise some much-needed funds for continuing with the Village Hall refurbishment. The day was a success because it was very much a community event open to everyone. It gave people a chance to clear out and offer once loved items to others. It allowed people to chat and share stories about some of their bric-a-brac. It enabled children to enjoy spending their wee bit of pocket money on a toy or book at a bargain price of 20p!



We held the first community apple pressing event at Tynninghame Village Hall on Sunday 12 September using the new apple pressing equipment. We pressed about 10 trugs of apples in about 4 hours doing almost 4 full presses. It was great fun and we produced a lot of very tasty apple juice. Such was the success that we ran another similar event on Sunday 3 October.

The theme of this year's Bus Stop Art was "Sea & Space, Stars & Skies" - open to all ages! The entries were on show in the bus stop shelter in September.

The Tynninghame Village Hall Community & Committee is working hard to get some social events back on track and to engage the residents in various activities going forward. Our Pub Night is back on schedule on the 2nd Friday of each month. We continue with our groups including the Craft and Connect in the Hall, Singing Group, Wednesday Walkers and Local History Group. We end 2021 by hosting a late Harvest Lunch in November, another Hallowe'en trail and the very successful Wreath Making Workshop again.

Please take a look at our website www.tynninghamevillagehall.org for lots more information.



East Linton Library
Prestonkirk House
60A High Street
East Linton

Opening Hours

MONDAY	10am-1pm & 2-5pm
TUESDAY	10am-1pm & 2-6pm
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	CLOSED
FRIDAY	10am-1pm & 2-5pm

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.



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 10am - FIVE

Regular Activities

- ☐ Weekly Bookbug Sessions – songs and rhymes for Under 5's. Every Monday 2.15pm
- ☐ 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

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

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

eLibrary

- ☐ [eAudiobooks and eBooks](#)
- ☐ [eMagazines and eNewspapers](#)
- ☐ [Comics and graphic novels](#)
- ☐ [Music Concerts](#)
- ☐ [eResources](#)
- ☐ [eTraining](#)
- ☐ [East Lothian Libraries Blog](#)

East Linton Tennis Courts

Non-Members and Visitors

Prices: Hire of the courts (by the hour)

£2.50 per person for adults, £1 for juniors.

Please pay at honesty box (in the double doors of the pavilion opposite the courts)

Please ensure that you are wearing the correct footwear
i.e. court shoes

Coaching available



You must book a court in order to play. You can book a court online
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/EastLintonMemorialPark/Booking>

Please do not attend the club without first booking the court by logging into the website via your clubspark account
(or follow the prompts to set an account)

Please visit East Linton Tennis Club page for further info
<https://www.facebook.com/EastLintonTennisClub/>

Membership available

Adult £50, Over 60 / Students £45, Family £100,
Junior (12-16) £25, Junior (under 12) £15

Mobile: 07388 038189

eastlintontennisclub@gmail.com

“Fixing for a Future” and East Linton Tool Library

Back in January, having held many of our planned in-person workshops online, it was obvious it was still going to be a long time before we would be able to hold an in-person Repair Café at the Community Hall. We decided it was time for a change of tack. What, other than a Repair Café, would enable us to achieve the goals of the “Fixing for a Future” project? Answer: a tool library!

Between January and May a lot of work went on behind the scenes: renting and tidying up a portakabin at The Mart, setting up the online loaning system, designing a new website, buying some quality power tools and seeking donations of a great selection of hand tools to make up our inventory. Most importantly, we advertised for volunteers to attend the cabin during opening hours and to be involved in all aspects of tool library life, doing the electrical testing and keeping every item in good working order. We now have a fantastic team and the number of tools in our inventory has almost doubled since we opened in May. Membership is increasing steadily and we are always happy to hear of both the everyday and more unusual projects our members have been working on. Our most popular tools so far are the combi drills, SDS max breaker and the cordless hedge cutter.

We have also been able to hold a selection of in-person events. Mark and Dan, our bike repair tutors, ran two extremely popular drop-in repair sessions at The Mart and two half-day intensive workshops at the Community Hall. Millie Scott ran a brilliant Sashiko embroidery mending workshop and tool library volunteer, Chris, led a tool sharpening workshop, which was a fantastic success. A team of us, including volunteers Martin, Brian and Hanna, had fun building a bug hotel for the children at East Linton Primary School and we hope to embark on more such projects out in the community in the near future.

As the Tool Library goes from strength to strength we are recruiting more volunteers and planning further activities under the banner of “Fixing for a Future,” including a “Fix Your Own Bike” workshop for young people, and more on textile and furniture repair. If you have ideas and enthusiasm and would like to get involved with any of the above, get in touch and come and join us!



Tool Library Volunteers



Tool sharpening workshop

Rosie Harrison, Project Officer: eastlintontoollibrary@gmail.com

Website: www.eastlintontoollibrary.org

Tool inventory: <https://eastlintontoollibrary.myturn.com/library/inventory/browse>

East Linton Christmas Lights

It's lovely to get back to some kind of normality. We were delighted to be able to hold a switch on event this year on Sunday 28 November. Thank you to everyone who supported it. Thanks to East Linton's Community Choir and Anna and Alastair with their film for the entertainment. The money raised from the event and also the kind donations from local businesses will be used to maintain and buy new lights for next year.

Special thanks to our wonderful group of ladies who made us all the greenery and also to our team of men who assisted our fabulous electrician Chris Karpacz to put up the lights and decorations, We couldn't do this without you all! We were delighted to receive fabulous wooden decorations from June Forson which her husband Jim made during lockdown and they have been adorned with lights and put around the village for you all to enjoy. Hopefully we will add to these next year too.

Santa will be visiting the village again on Sunday 19 December. If you know any children 12 and under who live in East Linton or the Dunpender area, please make sure they have filled in the form in the November issue of ELDA and posted it in Santa's postbox which is located at The Mart Farm Shop. If you have not already registered your child to receive a small gift, please contact Hilary at hilarymwhite@icloud.com ASAP.

Lastly a massive thank you has to go to all the committee for all their hard work. We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and we hope that 2022 will be a better year for everyone.

Benches - here and there

A chance remark to DCC's Anne Pearson led to the refurbishment last spring of Jimmy Allan's bench in the Memorial Park by Anne, Vera Hoban, and Robert Russel. Since then other existing benches in the area have been spruced up by their efforts, and next in line are the benches and picnic tables in the Park area near the Memorial itself. Meanwhile DCC's indefatigable Barry Craighead has continued making and installing new benches around the area, as well as repairing some of the existing ones.



Lynton Day Centre

The Lynton Day Centre is now open again from Monday to Friday 10am-4pm. Over the past year we have been sending out lunches to members and can now welcome them here for lunch at 12noon, and activities 2-3pm. There is also a taxi service if needed by new members.

We still have space for more members and also volunteer helpers; contact Doreen on 01620 861807 if interested.

Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens regular monthly meetings have not started up again yet, but we will perhaps resume in February. There are concerns about the regulations and the age of the members.

We handed out Christmas gifts to all in December to let them know we were thinking of them. We also we gave members an Easter gift earlier in the year.

We hope our members have all been well over the past year and we will see them in 2022.

Ella Bell, Secretary

East Linton and District Old Time Dance Club

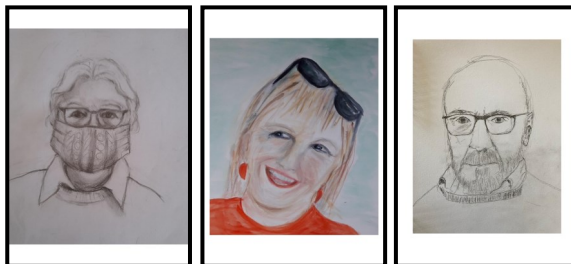
Having been dormant for over a year, we hope to resume on alternate Tuesdays, starting January 11th 2022 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall.

Contact Anne Holywell 01368 862957 for details.

East Linton Art Group

The East Linton Art Group returned to the Community Hall in September, the majority of our members happy to be back with others planning to return when the time is right for them.

The paints, pastels, pencils were soon put to use, producing new artwork.



Over the Covid break we had a 'Revolving Gallery' where the members would send their work in and it would be circulated around everyone on a weekly basis. This continued for 65 weeks and was a great success with everyone looking forward to seeing what the members were creating. Sometimes there would be a theme for the week but mostly everyone worked on their own subjects.

One week we did self portraits - do you recognise any of your neighbours?

Janet, Chair, East Linton Art Group

East Linton Drama Group

The drama group usually puts on two plays for adults in May and October each year. We hope to restart these productions in 2022. We also put on a pantomime performed by the local school children and a panto production is planned for January 2023.

Having no panto for two years has been sad for the young people who usually take part and this note, given by Cameron Bell to the director of the last panto in early 2020, shows how important it is to them:-



Panto was great for me. I started in P5, a young boy who hadn't had any acting experience before and from my first performance as an insignificant character to 2020 as Wizard Wilbert, I have developed confidence, teamwork and acting skills. I wouldn't be the same person I am today. So many awesome memories I have and six brilliant performances directed, produced, choreographed by amazing people who all put so much effort and time into it. I won't say any names because I would need another piece of paper! I hope these productions keep going and loads of great actors will continue to participate. Thank you everyone. Whatever happens in the future I will always remember East Linton pantos.

The adults who take part in our plays (front and backstage) also love and miss it!

We are a friendly bunch and are always looking for new adult members to act and to paint the sets, make costumes, sell tickets or direct a show – all are very welcome.

You can find our contact details on the inside back page of the ELDA magazine or on the Community Council website www.eastlinton.uk.com. You can also follow or message us on www.facebook.com/pg/EastLinton-DramaGroup.

East Linton Community Choir

Like all other recreational groups, the choir has missed the camaraderie and the opportunity to sing together and ultimately perform concerts in the last 18 months. In March 2020 when the first lockdown began, it was only 1 week before the choir was due to perform their annual concert, which was to be a great selection of songs from the 1960's.

However I am delighted to say that since this September the choir has now resumed and they are once again enjoying seeing each other and singing together. I am also delighted to be able to welcome 6 new members. We are very lucky to be able to rehearse in the large community hall allowing plenty of space for social distancing.

As well as being reintroduced to the songs from the 1960's, the choir rehearsed some Christmas songs which they performed at the Christmas lights switch on event in the Square.

The choir look forward to being able to perform the 1960's concert some time next year.

*Lorraine Cormack, Musical Director
East Linton Community Choir*

East Linton SHED

We are now officially The East Linton SHED, part of The Scottish Men's Shed Organisation - <https://scottishmsa.org.uk/>. This organisation was set up UK wide, mainly for men, to meet, share and learn skills and to socialise.

During the lockdown period, we were able to operate as there were many jobs to be done outside and usually by only one or two people at a distance.

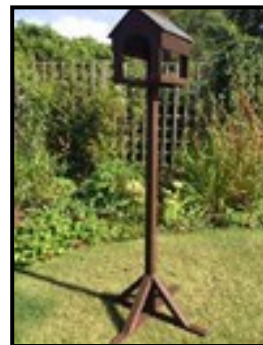
Here are some of the things we have done in the past year:

- Repairing and designing new items is key to what we do. So far, quite a few old metal-ended benches have been upcycled with new wood and the ends painted. Raised beds have been created both within the polytunnel and outside in the car park. We were kindly given the remains of a hut which has been constructed for use on site. Shears and a lawn mower blade have been sharpened.

- Together with The Ground Force team we displayed knitted poppies in the village during November.

- Looking after the borders at The Mart has allowed us to work through the Covid lockdown. By salvaging plants and growing seeds we have had a bumper crop of tomatoes, courgettes, parsnips, chard, spinach and some herbs, all of which find good homes among villagers and volunteers. Sadly the overwintered cauliflowers and cabbages were eaten by caterpillars.

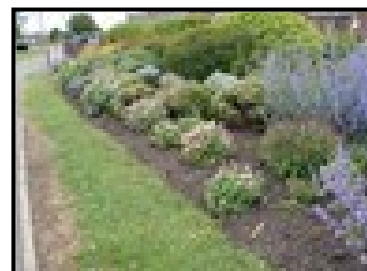
East Linton Shed Team: carmichaeljbb@yahoo.co.uk



Ground Force

The climate of hot days and bouts of torrential rain have not been particularly kind to some of the plants we use. But with exchanges and interest by a lot of villagers we have been able to fill the borders. Having one or two sales of plants during the year has helped with funding.

The small team works throughout the year on projects within the village. The areas we work on at present are the tubs outside the Fire Station, the four beds at the Linton Garage and the flower bed at the end of the car park by the Bowling Club. We also help the people in Kingsburgh Gardens work on one of the flower beds. The volunteers from the SHED and Ground Force work together on the poppy displays around the village.



If anyone is interested in joining our small group, just have a chat to us while we are working away.

The Ground Force Team: elgroundforce@gmail.com



East Linton Girlguiding

Rainbows were very excited to start back outdoor sessions in May - enjoying games in the sun in the park and our "Healthy Mind" badge. As the weather has started to turn we are delighted to be back in the Community Hall and have continued our wellbeing theme with our "Feel Good" badge.

Brownies soldiered on throughout the last year with a mixture of online and outdoor sessions. The advantage of making pancakes by Zoom was not having to clean up the splattered batter and Nutella in the Hall kitchen! We have loved being outside and plan to continue this as much as we can. We took part in the Big Beach Clean on a glorious June afternoon and had our end of year session at the beach too, where we were delighted to give out three Bronze Awards and a

Gold Award to Brownies who have worked so hard on their badges.

Guides took to Zoom again this year and who knew so much fun could be had with video backgrounds! We've surfed, baked, quizzed, crafted and "taskmastered" online. A highlight of our year was working on our photography badge! We all learned about different photographic techniques, what we can do to take a better picture and had fun putting together our own galleries and sharing them with the unit. Amazing pictures, all different and all giving an insight into what makes each of us happy. We headed outside for our end of year meeting, thinking about what it means to be a Guide and the part we can play in our community. It was so lovely to be outside face-to-face again as 3 of our Guides made their promises. We were excited to give out 2 Bronze Awards this year - a huge effort and commitment for each girl. Sadly we said goodbye to our young leader as she prepared to head off to university. We'll miss her and all she gave to the unit. We started regular indoor meetings again in October and are looking forward to the year ahead.



East Linton Bowling Club 2021

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 25 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 a Thursday pool league, monthly Quiz nights which attract a small but dedicated following, and regular Bingo nights. The clubhouse is also used for a range of other activities, among them funeral teas, line dancing, live music events and occasionally hosting 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 Curling Club

Curling at the Murrayfield Ice rink resumed on 30 September for the nineteen regular members of the East Linton Club and seven reserves. Only seven are now resident in the Dunpender area. The club has reduced the number of rinks to four. Most members can expect to play up to eight games this season. Two days before the start of the season, a new format called Quick Curling was announced for ice rinks in Scotland. Games are limited to 55 minutes and involve three players, a skip, a lead and one sweeper playing a 3x3 format with two stones each and a maximum of 2 points scored per end. Modifications to the traditional game are not unknown such as the usual 4 by 4 format where thirds skip or roles are sometimes rotated. The aim of this format is to allow rinks to manage two games within the normal ice times. Will all local clubs give it a try? Will it be a lifeline for clubs with fewer members? The current club programme does not include the new option.

Opportunities to give curling a try can be found on the *Try Curling* website.

David Affleck

East Linton Golf Club

The Club's activities this year have again been affected by Covid-19. Restrictions placed on golf clubs meant that competitive matches were not allowed until half way through the season. Although the club has met on a few occasions and enjoyed playing golf at Dunbar and meeting up with members again, none of the usual competitions were played or cups awarded.

We are looking forward to a full season in 2022 and hopefully our members will continue to avoid contracting Covid.

Geoff Cusden, Secretary

Displays at The Bridge. East Linton Horticultural Society

East Linton Brownies have assisted the Society in recent years by planting the special tulip bulbs we use for our displays at Linton Bridge. Because of the pandemic rules last October, the Brownies could not be involved last year but eighteen of the special containers have now been planted by the Brownies for us to enjoy next spring. These should start to come into flower in late February and continue until late April. Some of the bulbs are able to be replanted after they have flowered in ground that will not be disturbed such as the War Memorial.

Thanks to the local leaders for helping us to keep *bringing colour to East Linton!*

David Affleck

Climate Action East Linton (CAEL) update

During such an important year with COP26 in Glasgow, and the impacts of the climate crisis being felt worldwide, a lot has been happening with Climate Action East Linton. We have new members to the steering group, a website www.cael.community and a number of teams working on different projects. Here are some of the highlights....



Twa Burns Wood

Forty volunteers planted 750 mixed rowan, hawthorn, alder, crab apple, elder, blackthorn, willow, holly, dog rose, and cherry stems, covering the whole site, during two consecutive weekends in March 2021, and then returned mid-April to spend two days watering the young trees to help them through an unexpected dry spell.



This was all a good investment of time and the plants have thrived, with a survival rate of over 80% and some rowan having put on 60cm of growth by late August! Each tree was protected with a wire mesh enclosure and supported by a stout stake and they look very smart. Future work will include mulching for weed suppression around each tree for 2022.

ELC designated the area a Local Biodiversity Site in 2018 and CAEL has set up a professional programme of biodiversity monitoring in the nascent wood, run by volunteers, to recognised standards, so that changes to plants, insects and bird life can be assessed over time.

Coming together as a community in March and April was a wonderful antidote to the relative isolation of 2020. Thanks to all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication, to Forth Resource Management, Tynninghame Sawmill and Proven Plants for material support and guidance and especially to Tommy and Robbie Dale for sharing the land on which to create the new woodland.



Wildlife Network

Wildlife Network: *Giving local nature a home* was launched at the end of spring 2021. Residents are invited to set aside an area of their garden (or window box / hanging basket) for wildlife, doing whatever they choose including pollinator friendly plants, plots going wild, ponds or pots of water, bird boxes, insect hotels, hedgehog houses...and more.

As part of this, garden open days were arranged over the summer; free rowan and elder trees provided (kindly donated by Caledonian Horticulture); and workshops arranged including how to create a wildflower area; bug hotels; and how to support hedgehogs in our gardens.

A demonstration border is being managed by the team by the playpark in the park.

Visit <https://www.cael.community/wildlife-network> to find out more about the project and to sign up.

Community Phone Box

CAEL through Sustaining Dunbar bought the phone box early in 2021 and a phone box team set to work restoring it to its former glory. Thanks to their hard work and also kind donations from Dunpender Community Council, it is now restored and ready for use by different community groups.

The first use of the phone box was a vintage photo shoot. Julia and Davide set up a "vintage" queue at the box and will be using the photos to advertise the use of the Phone Box for different types of pop up events, anything from art projects to information about COP26 to seed swaps. More information to follow.

COP26

CAEL collated messages to COP26 from the school and members of the community for a display at the phone box; in time to greet the pilgrims walking from Dunbar to Glasgow. Pilgrims were greeted with lunch thanks to the great hospitality provided by Prestonkirk and church members.

A meeting was held with members of the community and MSP Paul McLennan around the phone box to enable direct communication with our local politician. Key messages from the phone box were taken to COP26 in Glasgow on banners by a group from East Linton.

Community Garden at Longstone Avenue playpark

In collaboration with Longstone Avenue Residents Association, CAEL will be helping in the creation of a community garden for the whole community to use and benefit from. A final plan for the garden will be agreed in consultation with residents.

Join in....

If you'd like to find out more about Climate Action East Linton visit the website www.cael.community or email info@cael.community. If you'd like to get involved in any of the projects, or help get something else started: fantastic! The more people involved, the more we can all do.

East Lothian Countryside Volunteers



East Lothian Council has a team tasked with maintaining and improving the whole of East Lothian's countryside. The team includes a small number of full-time rangers who are responsible for various different areas including Dunpender area. Please see the Rangers' article on page 11. They are supported by a large number of part-time volunteers.

A few years ago we volunteers created a charity to help the various groups develop conservation projects, and to secure funding for them. We also aim to publicise the work of volunteers in order to stimulate community interest, and to provide them a collective voice. Because money is a key part of our work, we need to follow all the standard charity procedures, which includes a constitution, trustees (currently 13 of us), AGMs, and committee meetings.

We have a website at www.elcv.org.uk with comprehensive information about all aspects of our work, and a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/elcvposts which anyone can contribute to.

We always work closely with the ELC Countryside team. One major on-going project is the Aberlady Reserve Volunteer Hub, which is a space for volunteers to meet and work on monitoring. Led by the warden John Harrison, several volunteers are part of the working group, which has successfully obtained thousands of pounds of funding, and organized the delivery and installation of the physical hub. Other projects have included buying various tools for path wardens, and removing Giant Hogweed (for which we won an award) and Himalayan balsam from around Preston Mill and the River Tyne. Many people from Dunpender area volunteer alongside others from further afield in various activities.

Roughly half of the 330 council volunteers are members of the charity. Legally this allows them to vote at meetings, but the main benefit is that the more members we have, the more clout we have when seeking funding. It's free to join! – contact Colin Ballantyne at colbal@outlook.com or Jenny Hargreaves at jhargreaves@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Dave Quarendon

East Lothian Countryside Volunteers River Tyne Giant Hogweed Eradication Project

At the end of year 3 of our Tyne River Giant Hogweed Eradication Project we have once more achieved our target of reaching the end of season with no flowering plants remaining on the river. This is thanks to the continued efforts of our landowners to carry out their Giant Hogweed control by spraying or digging out odd plants. This year again some required more reminders than others but overall much better so thanks for that effort.

Our spotters have also been a big contribution to the GPS monitoring programme which has continued to be managed on our online website map by Dave Quarendon.



This photo has been added here to remind us what the river used to look like.

A great deal of thanks to those volunteers who have helped to remove any odd remaining flowering plants found in unexpected or new locations and also those that needed long waders to remove these awkward plants hiding at the far bank of some deep pools of the River Tyne.

Over this year we have seen a modest reduction in number of plants spotted in some areas but where years of neglect had taken place before and the many plants had flowered there are still many seeds remaining in the soil.

I have always said that by year 5 we will see very significant reduction in plant numbers as long as no plant is allowed to flower as the soil seed bank germinates. So not that much longer to see that benefit!

I am delighted with the continued progress that we have all achieved this year and we welcome any reports from any of the public of any Giant Hogweed sightings in East or Mid Lothian as a similar project has been started this year on the lower sections of the River Esk by Inveresk Village Society managed by Kathryn Shanks.

You can see from the photo the enormous benefits from removing these very invasive and dominating plants from the riverside.



*James Wyllie, Co-ordinator
ELCV River Tyne Giant Hogweed Eradication Project*

East Lothian Countryside Rangers

It will come as no surprise to hear that 2021 has been another busy year for the East Lothian Countryside Rangers! Travel restrictions once again kept people closer to home leading to a further boom in 'staycations' and a sharp increase of visitors to our coast and countryside sites. In response to this increased pressure Nature Scot launched the 'Better Places Green Recovery Fund' which allowed ELC to fund seasonal rangers. Thanks to this fund we've been bolstered by a team of eight seasonal Rangers which has been a fantastic asset. These extra boots on the ground have helped us balance the workload of visitor management alongside species monitoring and site maintenance...and reduce the risk of Ranger burn out! The Ranger Service has also been able to tap into the Scottish Government Kickstart scheme enabling us to take on 3 young employees who are developing their skills and experience, whilst supporting us with many of our site management jobs such as surveying and maintenance. We also continue to be supported by our fantastic network of East Lothian Countryside Volunteers (see page 10) who have tirelessly continued to help us survey, maintain paths, manage vegetation, remove invasive plants...the list goes on!

Some of our summer highlights have included the volunteer team tasks, monitoring butterfly and plant populations and engaging and educating the many visitors to our sites. The Dunbar Conservation Volunteers have been busy with a number of tasks including teaming up with Dunbar Golf Club to carry out a litter pick along the coastline from Dunbar to Whitesands.

Our seasonal ranger Sandra and local volunteers donned their wellies and waders to tackle the invasive plant Himalayan balsam on the River Tyne in East Linton. Our Kickstart recruits (Adam, Craig and Peter) have become very familiar with scything whilst managing our many wildflower rich grassland sites along the coast.

This year has been a bit of a mixed bag weather wise but the hot sunny days we did get were welcomed for butterfly surveying. The beautiful Wall Brown butterfly has been turning up in good numbers, which is interesting as this was once a rare sight here.

With all the upheaval over the past couple years it is nice to see the familiar signs of autumn returning like clockwork. Skeins of geese are appearing back in our skies and roosting along the coast in good numbers. The rowan berries, rose hips and buckthorn berries are in plentiful supply and ready to keep birds and other wildlife well fed for the winter ahead!

If you are interested in volunteering in East Lothian with the Ranger Service please get in touch. No experience is required and training and support are provided. It is a great way to get active, meet new people and give something back to your community. For more details phone 01620 827279, email ranger@eastlothian.gov.uk or visit www.elcv.org.uk.

*Meryl Norris,
Countryside Ranger*



Volunteering at Gilmerton House Kitchen Garden

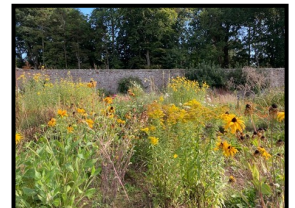
I saw a piece recently on Channel 4 News about the tension between pressure to build housing developments on so called "waste ground", and preserving those spaces because of their rich biodiversity. The point was made that it takes time for biodiversity to build up within an area of ground, and bulldozing habitats for housing cannot be justified because the developers intend to artificially recreate "biodiversity" elsewhere. This piece was about England, but it will apply in Scotland too. For example, where the new town is being built on the old open cast mine at Blindwells near Tranent, bee orchids had to be lifted to be installed elsewhere (secret location), seven spot burnet moths will probably no longer breed there in long grass, and the migrating birds that visited the lake will have to orient to a whole new landscape. The roads will be tarmac, parking places mono-blocked, and gardens laid to decking and grass over compacted soil and builders' rubble. Landscaping may be token, possibly involving ornamental trees and shrubs, although I hope for more and better than that.

I am so proud to be associated with the Growing Matters project at the Walled Garden and every time I arrive there I enjoy seeing and hearing the increasing evidence of a network of creatures and organisms working together, interacting and sharing the space...and that's not just us volunteers!

The other day we sat outside the volunteer hut and chatted; then fell silent, and listened to bird song. As we let thistles and teasels go to seed, the goldfinches and small mammals arrive, and occasionally there is a grasshopper. Wrens work the ancient wall, finding spiders in the crevices. Blackbirds plunder the damsons, plums and brambles along the edges that we cannot mow. Solitary bees investigate the old nail holes in the doors, installing their next generation. The other day Jerry and I saw an enthusiastic squirrel leaping away in front of Dunbar Removals with what appeared to be a tennis ball in its mouth (perhaps an apple). The last time I saw a hedgehog down there it was trundling along, making towards a space under a shipping container over what seemed to be its well-worn path.

In the awkward spaces between human interventions, other creatures make the most of their opportunities. Let's preserve these precious spaces for as long as we can, and resist the urge to tidy and sanitise them over much.

Di Simcock



Dunpender Community Council

East Linton

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Tel 01620 860812

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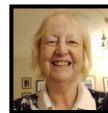
Meetings are on the first Thursday
of every month (except July
and August) at 7.30pm,
in Prestonkirk Stables, East Linton

Dunpender Community Council Members



Judith Priest I've lived in East Linton since 1976, joined the Community Council in 1993 and became chairman in 2001. I've been involved in the Playgroup, Youth Club, Parent Council, After School Club, the renovation of the Community Hall in 2000 and helped set up the Lynton Centre. Dunpender has changed a great deal in the last 45 years and I've had lots of experience of working with East Lothian Council. One thing I've learned: pick your battles!

Allison Cosgrove I am currently Vice Chair of the Community Council and my principal role is on public transport issues which affect our area: our bus services and the re-opening of our local railway station. I also represent DCC on the Area Partnership, the A1 Action Group, RELBUS and the Viridor Local Forum.



Jon Swift I have been on Dunpender CC for over 12 years and I am the current Secretary. My duties include liaison on a wide range of community matters but particularly making formal representations on planning issues. I am the current Chair for the Local Access Forum. I was brought up in East Lothian and have lived and worked in the East Linton area for the past 25 years.

Robert Russel I moved to East Linton over 20 years ago, having lived in Edinburgh where I taught biology. I have always had a keen interest in the outdoors and have been a member of DCC since 2004. Since then I have completed planning applications for notice and information boards, helped install and paint seats and benches, and together with Anne Pearson produced a new tourist leaflet and the annual DCC Newsletter. I am an area organiser for Poppy Scotland, chair the Dean Residents' Association, and am a member of ELCV.



Barry Craighead I have been a member of Dunpender Community Council for 17 years and have represented DCC on various committees, the first being the Community Hall Committee where I also looked after hall maintenance. Over the last three years I have been on the Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership and am now Vice Chairman, looking after the interest of our burgh. Since joining the Area Partnership I have undertaken the making and installation of benches and seats in the Dunbar and East Linton areas - the total so far is 28. I have also repaired some East Lothian Council benches in Dunbar/West Barns and East Linton. Over the last 18 months my main project was the repair and painting of the fountain at East Linton. Although this produced many difficulties, it is anticipated that it will soon be in full working order. Finally I am also chair of the Longstone Avenue Tenants and Residents' Association.

Vera Hoban I was born and brought up in East Linton and went to the local primary school along with my 2 brothers. My children followed suit with my daughter being crowned a Gala Queen. I've lived here most of my life and have taught in East Lothian for more years than I care to remember. I consider myself very lucky to live here and hope I can make a positive contribution to the community.



Anne Pearson I have lived at Sunnyside Cottages since 1993, but spent much of this time working overseas as a scientist in tropical livestock production. I am now retired and so have more time available for local issues and fund raising/ grant applications. I am also Secretary of the East Lothian Countryside Volunteers, assisting the ELC Countryside Officers with surveys, invasive plant clearance and path maintenance along the Tyne and in the local country parks and path networks.

Danny Wight I have lived in Tynninghame for 7 years and have represented the village on the Community Council since 2018 and on the Dunbar and East Lothian Area Partnership since 2020. Activities include working with others to get speed restrictions and other traffic calming in Tynninghame, establishing pop-up pub nights in the Village Hall, re-establishing the core path to Binning Wood, and consulting on managing extra visitors at Tynninghame Links. More broadly I am an active member of Climate Action East Linton, Sustaining Dunbar, and the East Lothian Green Party. Outside of community activities I manage a small holding (primarily an orchard) and work three days a week as a social science public health researcher for Glasgow University.



Eric Martin I have represented Whitekirk on DCC for the last 5 years and am pleased to represent this community. I also represent DCC and Whitekirk on the Area Partnership and it's through them that we have been fortunate to get funding for our speed camera to be installed shortly also thanks to the "On the move group", hopefully this reminds people that they should be driving less than 20mph. I am interested in anything that promotes community life and green based travel, we are lucky to live in such a nice area.

Linda Shaw-Stewart I joined DCC in 1994, living at Hailes and moved to represent Whittingehame in 2002. As a gardener, I'm passionate about the East Lothian countryside and my interest is in Planning, trying to make sure that decisions don't go through unopposed that are unsuitable for the location or will mar the landscape, including leaving it bare of trees. I've worked on community projects in Whittingehame such as our noticeboard and the map showing all our addresses. I organised the Christmas lights in all the villages until recently. My legacy to East Linton is the design and funding of the remodelling of the Square, with new benches and a stone walled flowerbed to hide the ugly brick wall.

