

# DUNPENDER NEWS



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

SEE YOU FOR CAROLS ROUND THE  
FOUNTAIN  
EAST LINTON SQUARE  
24TH DECEMBER, 7PM

## SMEATON Nursery & Gardens

We offer a wide selection of hardy plants for every season. Qualified and friendly service always available.

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Open 7 days a week  
Mon—Sat 9.30—4.30  
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## LET THERE BE LIGHT

East Linton's Football Team is going from strength to strength. However, since last year, Dunpender Community Council has been trying hard to provide floodlighting to allow the team to train in East Linton during the winter evenings. The footballers had been trekking over to Haddington. Well, we managed to get the floodlights installed which you would have thought would be enough, but no! Lights but no power still left the pitches in darkness. Finally, with a little help from our local councillor,



Jacquie Bell, the council have connected everything up and evening training can go ahead locally. This will ensure, we have no doubt, a highly trained team to bring the cup to East Linton at the end of the season! We await the results with anticipation.



## SLOW DOWN

We are continually receiving complaints about the speed of traffic travelling through our villages. Please slow down and proceed with care in built up areas and be particularly careful when you are coming off an "A" road.

## East Linton Christmas Market

Free - Open Air

Thursday 11 December 2008  
in the Village Square  
4.00 - 9.00 pm

A variety of stalls with festive foods and  
Christmas gifts plus entertainment



\*\* Bring the children  
to meet Santa! \*\*



## PROTECT YOUR HOME

East Linton Fire Unit is offering **free** safety checks to every home in the area. A local fire fighter will visit your property and give you advice on how you can make your home a safer place. He will also test your smoke alarms and fit free smoke alarms if you need them. Your exit routes, in the event of fire, will be assessed and help will be given to reduce the risk of fire as much as possible.

To arrange a visit, or to discuss any concerns regarding fire safety, please leave a message on 01620 860379 (East Linton Fire Station) and someone will phone you back.

## Dunpender Community Council East Linton

Judith Priest (Chair)

83 High Street, East Linton  
EH40 3BQ Tel 860380

### Tynninghame and Whitekirk

Janet Pooley (Vice-chair)  
The Tithe Barn, Whitekirk  
EH42 1XS Tel 870344

### Hailes

Bill Alder (Secretary)  
Granary House, Kippielaw,  
Haddington EH41 4PY  
Tel 861171

### East Linton

John Robson (Treasurer)  
9 Drylaw Terrace, East Linton EH40  
3BA Tel 860842

Alison Cosgrove

13 Stories Park, East Linton EH40  
3BN Tel 860812

Barry Craighead  
40 Longstone Avenue,  
East Linton EH40 3BS  
Tel 861765

Robert Russel

17 The Dean, East Linton  
EH40 3ED Tel 860702

Patricia Stephen

Phantassie, East Linton EH40 3DF  
Tel 860285 Fax 861531

### Tynninghame and Whitekirk

Liz Kilpatrick  
White Cottage, Newbyth  
EH40 3DU Tel 870353  
Ted Hill

3 Lochhouses, Whitekirk  
EH42 1XP Tel 870277

### Whittinghame

Linda Shaw Stewart  
Eastfield Steading,  
Whittinghame EH41 4QA  
Tel 01368 850358

### Beanston & Markle

Jan Ferguson  
East Cottage, Markle Mains  
EH40 3EB Tel 860786



### Meetings

First Thursday of every month 7.30pm  
Council Chambers, East Linton



## Local Priorities

Nearly all the projects flagged up in the Summer Dunpender News have been completed we are pleased to say, with work on Christmas Lights for Tynninghame, Whitekirk and East Linton under way as we publish. Our efforts there are targeted at making permanent installations that can be "plugged in" each year, saving costly erection fees of £750.

- Community Hall heating contribution £300
- Cleaning round the War Memorial at Whittinghame £200
- Plants for Scotland in Bloom £500
- Paying for one last "Conservation" Lamppost to finish our long-standing light improvement scheme in East Linton £678
- Assisting ELC to provide CCTV at the Sports Pavilion
- Contribution to and Organising of Floodlights for the Football Pitch in the Memorial Park. £1780
- Publishing, printing and distributing the Dunpender News and Dunpender Tourist leaflet. £1150
- Making a helping hands contribution to the inaugural East Linton Christmas Market, profiled elsewhere in the News £150

Including funds attracted from elsewhere this just about takes care of our £4370 budget for 08-09, and we are already starting to think about next year's potential allocation. This money is derogated from the main ELC budget each year. Using matching funding principles to the full, DCC consistently uses these funds to make local improvements either overlooked by the main Council or outside their remit.

We welcome all requests and suggestions from residents. A copy of our Policy governing LPS awards is available from any of us or online @ [www.dunpender.net](http://www.dunpender.net)

## Margaret Alder Professional Picture Framer

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## The Stable

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Spacious Mews Style Cottage  
Set in grounds of owners' home in the  
conservation village of East Linton  
Sleeps 3/4—Street Parking  
Minimum let 2/3 nights



Ground Floor: Fully equipped breakfasting kitchen/separate toilet  
1st Floor: Lounge/dining room/2 bedrooms  
Outside patio area with BBQ and garden furniture  
Sorry no pets—no smoking

For further information tel: 01620 861041

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Judith  
Priest



This autumn we have spent a lot of time on Planning issues. We shall support the building of 50 houses at Orchardfield in a mix of sizes including 13 'affordable' houses. However the proposed golf course/hotel/42 houses at Whitekirk is a development we have strongly opposed, but it seems that East Lothian Council's own policies are to be ignored and outline planning permission has been granted.

We have met with the developers of the Phantassie retail development and have encouraged community consultation prior to submitting their application (see page 4). This proposal will be discussed at our December meeting and your views would be greatly welcomed.

Our own efforts to encourage tourism continue with the third edition of our Walks leaflet and plans are underway to sign the footpaths around the Gleghornie and Newmains area. New benches might appear this winter too. The footbridge at the Surgery has been painted and the steps repaired; we are still working on the muddy footpath there.

In spite of the weather this summer East Linton looked very attractive thanks to the efforts of the Beautiful Scotland team and everyone who helped with

their own pots and window boxes. We did very well in winning three awards and look forward to the spring bulb displays which are already being planned.

September saw the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Art Show and Competition in the Community Hall. The special exhibit of items from the last 40 years and indeed the whole show was really enjoyable. A recent very funny Murder Mystery put on in the Hall by the Drama group and the panto 'The Snow Queen' planned for January are another reminder of how lucky we are to have so much enthusiasm and talent here.

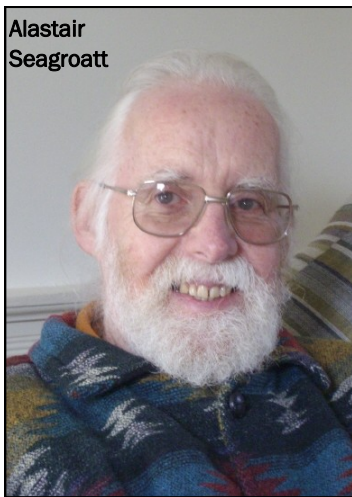
DCC has obtained substantial ELC funding for work at the Hall this year, helping pay for a new cooker, improved heating system, repainting and other repairs.

Our website volunteer Dan has left us and gone to Australia, we wish him luck and are delighted that Alastair Seagroatt has stepped in to continue to keep us online.

I hope you all enjoy Christmas and join in all the many festive entertainments laid on for us locally by all the people who are so active here throughout the year. Thank you all for your support.

Judith Priest

Alastair  
Seagroatt



### East Linton Community Website

Alastair Seagroatt, who lives in the heart of the village, has been quietly working away on the East Linton and community council website. By the time you receive this newsletter, our new website will be live (fingers crossed!) at [www.eastlinton.uk.com](http://www.eastlinton.uk.com), with great photos and lots of information.

Maintaining and updating a website takes a lot of regular input and we are very grateful to Alastair for volunteering to keep our own site current and interesting. (Alastair has also designed The Crown's website so he is really busy!)

Any community website is only as good as the input it gets, so if you are a business or local group and would like your details or news posted on our site, can contact Alastair via [www.eastlinton.uk.com](http://www.eastlinton.uk.com).

### Community Grants

Small local groups are now able to apply for a grant of up to £1,000 from Leader+ funding, via Dunpender Community Council. We have the application forms and can help you make the most of this offer, so do let us know if you would like to make an application.



### To report Road and Lighting faults the new numbers are:

**Roads Helpline**  
01875 824305



**Street Lighting Helpline**  
01875 824310



## Phantassie

The Phantassie estate played an important role in the agricultural revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Andrew Meikle invented the threshing machine here, with George Rennie's encouragement, thereby changing the face of farming forever.

Phantassie Steading was designed to serve a farm of over 700 acres. Now derelict and deteriorating, plans are afoot to repair, restore and develop these buildings, which are of historical interest. The end result aims to be a high quality heritage, leisure and retail attraction, to include exhibition space, childrens' play centre, specialised retailing and places to eat.

Property developers Phantassie Heritage LLP have presented their ideas to the Community Council and on November 10<sup>th</sup> they held an open exhibition at East Linton Community Hall. The developers hope to submit detailed plans for full planning consent and listed building consent (from Historic Scotland) before Christmas, when the plans will become public.

Phantassie Heritage told us that the exhibition at the Community Hall was an important part of the consultation process and well attended, with over 100 visitors taking the trouble to comment in writing. Overall, they said that the response was very favourable and enthusiastic. If the planning and construction process goes smoothly, the hope is that the development could be completed and fully let by summer 2011.

Proposed Phantassie Development



This planning proposal will be discussed on **4<sup>th</sup> December** at the Community Council meeting if you would like to attend. We are keen to hear your views so do contact any community councillor.

Allison Cosgrove, Stewart Stevenson, Paul McLennan, Iain Gray, Norman Hampshire and Tom Thorburn (Rages Chairman)



### Scottish Minister visits East Linton Station

On Tuesday 5 August, Stewart Stevenson, MSP and Minister for Transport, visited East Lothian at the invitation of RAGES (Rail Action Group, East of Scotland). The Minister's first call was at East Linton to see the site of the proposed station. Dunpender Community Councillor Allison Cosgrove, RAGES Secretary and East Linton Representative, showed the party around the site. Also on the visit were Iain Gray, MSP for East Lothian, local councillors Paul McLennan and Norman Hampshire and a representative from South East of Scotland Transport Partnership.

Rages Chair, Tom Thorburn was delighted with the visit. "The Minister showed great interest in what we wish to achieve in our quest to have a local service to Dunbar and Berwick and have East Linton and Reston stations re-opened. Coming from the most rural part of Scotland, Stewart fully appreciated our needs for better transport links," said Mr Thorburn. Let's hope this signals a station reopening in East Linton in the not too distant future.

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(Props. T & I Hunter)

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## WRAP UP WARM FOR EAST LINTON'S FIRST CHRISTMAS MARKET!

Hopefully you will already have heard the buzz about the first Christmas Market, organised by, and for, the local community. Helen Patterson brought the idea back from her travels in Eastern Europe, where it is part of tradition that villages come together at Christmas time to showcase their local crafts and hospitality. She thought that such a pretty village as East Linton, with its talented and enthusiastic community, would surely be the ideal place for such a market.

Organisation only got underway in September but along with Anna Davidson and a team of at least 25 volunteers they have managed to bring the Christmas Market to fruition this year. It has been a real feat of energy and initiative to get all the key elements in place for December 11<sup>th</sup>, when a festive treat is in store.

From 4pm – 9pm, lots of lighted stalls will be ranged around the village square, with carol singers from East Linton Primary School, mulled wine, hot chocolate and local craftspeople selling everything from soaps to Christmas decorations. Santa will be there for the children (and a fire engine!), as this is a real family event, with everyone welcome.

Dunpender Community Council is donating £150 towards essential costs, with other local wellwishers also pledging donations. Helen and Anna would like to thank all their many helpers and supporters.

This is a non-profit making event that really is all about the energy and enthusiasm of East Linton residents. We hope that lots and lots of people enjoy it on the night – whatever the weather, it will be going ahead!

Anna Davidson and Helen Patterson



### MEET A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR BARRY CRAIGHEAD



How many people do you know who have celebrated 50 years of voluntary service for a cause that they are still enthusiastic about and actively involved in? Barry hasn't clocked up that long (yet) on our Community Council, but he is about to be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Scottish Amateur Athletics Association.

Brought up in Musselburgh, Barry took up cycling after he left school and was soon the Lothian Road Race Champion. Having also excelled at cross country running during his National Service, Barry was asked to take on organisational roles in the Scottish Amateur Athletics Association and he also became a Starter. Barry was made Scotland's Chief Starter in 1971, which

means that he has fired the gun which has witnessed many famous names "take off", including officiating at the Barcelona Olympics. This year alone, Barry has wielded the starting pistol at 50 athletics meetings. But what Barry has enjoyed more than anything is encouraging young sporting talent, an enthusiasm that spills over into his role as a Community Councillor (his support of East Linton's football team has been much appreciated). Barry joined the Community Council soon after moving to East Linton from Portobello and his first "job" was overseeing the installation of the Park's playground equipment. Being a fully trained joiner, Barry gets called upon to help with benches and, in a recent case, freeing youngsters who had inadvertently locked themselves into the public toilets!

A volunteer by nature, Barry is also Chairman of Longstone Avenue Tenants and Residents Association, so is fully involved in village life. Looking to the future, his main concern for East Linton is the management of ever-increasing traffic and the constant speeding which is making our streets more dangerous.

Although still heavily involved in voluntary activities, Barry has at least retired from the career which he fitted in alongside his outside interests. He spent 25 years as Clerk of Works for the Northern Lighthouse Board, travelling by road, sea and helicopter overseeing the maintenance of all our lighthouses. Barry, we think you should write your memoirs!



## Wildlife Garden Beds In

It was a crisp, bright morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, when pupils of East Linton Primary and many local people gathered at the school to mark the official opening of the Wildlife Garden. After long months of hard work and with so many helpers to thank, this was a real celebration of all that had been achieved. All the children wore their own, individually designed "garden headgear", while ribbon had been knotted together at the garden's entrance ready to be snipped.

A table of strawberries, snacks and treats had been laid outside and coloured chalks were wielded as the children used yet more creativity to draw on the playground.

Do go and see the garden if you are passing at a quiet moment – there are all sorts of details to gaze upon and absorb.



*The Primary School pupils are obviously enjoying the garden!*

*Paris P1 - "The garden is peaceful and quiet"*

*Connor P1 - "I like the bridge because it makes the garden look cool!"*

*Ellen P2 - "It's fun to play in and explore"*

*Rhona P4 - "The bird watch is a shady place to sit or chat with my friends"*

*Coll P6 - "It is very special because not many schools have it"*

*Megan P7 - "A lot of work has gone into making our garden look so good"*



## LETTING NEW TREES GROW

Beautiful though they may be, the deer in the Dunpender area can cause a lot of damage by browsing on hardwood trees. That's why, if you go walking in Newbyth Wood, opposite Binning Wood, you cannot have failed to notice the high deer fences now enclosing the area. This fencing will be in place for 10-15 years and is essential as part of a long term plan designed to convert most of the remaining conifers to broadleaf woodland of oak, ash and sycamore.

Ultimately the woods will be managed on a "continuous cover" basis to produce uneven aged woods of mixed species. With this system, clearfelling will be avoided in the future; the woods will instead be perpetuated by felling very small areas and either replanting them or allowing them to regenerate naturally. This will create very attractive woodlands of high biodiversity value but in addition they will also yield very valuable hardwood timber for which there is

high demand.

Dunpender Community Council has contributed towards the cost of one of the super gates which are designed to ensure easy access not only for walkers but for horseriders too. Walkers are very welcome but are reminded to keep their dogs on the lead to protect ground nesting birds.

In 2007 the management of Newbyth was awarded The Hunter Blair Trophy for silviculture excellence. It was presented by Environment Minister Michael Russell at the Highland Show.



### East Lothian Walking Festival



24th—26th April 2009  
[www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk)

### Fountainvale Electrical

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## Congratulations

Well done to Christina Black of McCall Gardens, East Linton who won the Dunsperder

Community Council's prize for Floral Art at the East Linton Arts, Crafts and Flower Show in August.

## James Sandie & Son

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## Beautiful East Linton—Award Winning Village!

This year's competition saw East Linton collecting three awards, two of them in the special award class. To win the award for the most improved village (population under 2500) for the second time in seven years was an acknowledgment of how far the appearance of East Linton has changed through seasonal floral displays. The additional award of the David Welch trophy for Something Special, given in recognition for our work with children, was another bonus and special credit is due to the John Muir Group linked to the Primary school.

The judges appreciated the displays provided by residents and traders in The Square and High Street and would welcome extension of the window box displays in keeping with the conservation area. They were highly appreciative of the sustainable plant-

ing at the Fountain and acknowledged the difficulties in the Drovers and former Ark House area where there is an absence of a significant floral impact.

Once again, we lost points for dog fouling in the Park despite the special litter and dog fouling clean up by the Beavers and other helpers the night before the judging. Efforts to inform dog owners of the health hazard dog excrement can cause to humans are clearly not working and we understand East Lothian Council are considering what legal action they can take to provide a cleaner environment for us all. Work has now started to consider special projects for next year and a possible link with the Year of Homecoming initiative. Meanwhile, a sincere thanks is due to all who helped us achieve success in 2008.

David Afleck

## STEWART STENHOUSE PLANTS



Old Sale Ground,  
Haddington Road,  
East Linton

### Christmas Trees and Holly Wreaths

Stockist of Stantonby Stoneware

Mon-Fri 9am—4.00pm  
Saturday 10am—4.00pm  
Sunday 11am—4.00pm

National Garden Gift  
Vouchers Available

## Rev Kenneth Walker — A Calling to Serve

Next weekend will see Rev Kenneth Walker hang up his robes for the final time. His ministry in the Whitekirk and Tynninghame, and Athelstaneford parishes will come to an end after 32 years. He's planning a quiet and relaxing retirement in the Borders where he plans to walk and garden.

Born in Argyll, a son of the manse, he grew up in Ayreshire and initially went into banking before deciding that the world of finance was not for him. His ordination in Athelstaneford back in 1976 has seen his entire ministry spent here in East Lothian.

Kenneth and his wife Veronica spent their first year living in Tynninghame and then, once the manse was completed in Athelstaneford, they moved with their baby daughter. Four more children followed and his family have thrived in this beautiful area.

Outwardly the life of a rural Minister may seem unchanged over the decades but Rev Walker has had to adapt over the years like the rest of us. Increases in beaurocracy, a changing parish demographic and a more materialistic society have seen numbers in the pews fall throughout the Church of Scotland. However, Kenneth puts a

positive spin on this change; "People were under an obligation to attend in the past," he comments, "but that has changed. I think they attend now because they want to come."

32 years ago the estates were still dominant in this area. The farming families employed large workforces on the land and the Church was the focal point in the village. The Parish Minister was automatically a much respected member of society. There was still the dairy at Auldham, Tynninghame was still an estate village and Whitekirk Mains was a thriving farm.

Kenneth feels strongly that his role has been to serve; to help his parishioners on their journeys through life. "Many people give huge amounts of time and effort to the life of the church and we are blessed with so many talented volunteers," he concludes. He is very grateful for their contribution, not least in the major restoration projects of both rural churches.

We wish Kenneth Walker a long and happy retirement and wait to see what the future holds for the Whitekirk and Tynninghame Parish.

## ★ ★ ★ votadini

9 High Street, East Linton  
01620 860082

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COFFEE SHOP

Book now for Traditional  
Christmas Lunch

On 11th and 13th December



Home baking—scones and cakes  
Room available for private functions

Opening hours: Tues-Sat 10-5

Closed Mondays

Free Local Delivery

## What's On this Winter

### Refuse and Recycling

No kerbside collections on 25th and 26th December or 1st and 2nd January.



### Christmas Tree Recycling

Leave it beside your brown bin on your next garden waste collection date in January.

\*\*\*\*\*

Alternatively call the Recycling Helpline (01620 827215) or take it directly to the recycling centre.

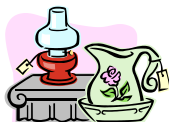


### East Linton Antiques & Bric-a-Brac Fair

Community Hall, East Linton

30th November	22nd February
29th March	26th April
31st May	28th June

To book a table contact Jill McPherson on 860592



### East Linton Library

Enjoy a moment of calm festivity at East Linton Library

On Christmas Eve

From 2pm

Choose your holiday reading while you savour mulled wine and mince pies!

Merry Christmas!



### OH CHRISTMAS TREE, OH CHRISTMAS TREE

Whatever internet shopping you do this season, make sure you shop local for your Christmas tree.

Smeaton Nursery and Tearoom (entrance 200yds from Preston Mill), East Linton

Tel: 01620 860501

Stewart Stenhouse Plants, Haddington Road, East Linton

Tel: 01620 860051

Beanston Farm, Haddington (signposted from A199 approaching East Linton)

01620 880216. Choose your tree and it will be freshly cut for you



### Walking with Birds

The Seabird Centre with Edinburgh RSPB  
John Muir Country Park

Saturday, 13th  
December



Please telephone Eppie Sweeney on

0131 445 4379

### Christmas Services

#### Prestonkirk

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - East Linton School service  
(check notice board for time)

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December - 11am Family service.

Thursday, 25 December - 10am Christmas Day service  
to celebrate the coming of Christ.

#### Whittingehame

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December.

Watchnight service at 11.30pm



### Walks Around East Linton

Our leaflet has been so successful that it has been flying off the shelves. The next production run has just been printed and was funded for us by East Lothian Council.

### HADLEY COURT SINGERS

#### "O' CLAP YOUR HANDS"

A celebration of the music of R Vaughan

Williams with seasonal carols

Dirleton Kirk

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at 8pm

St Mary's Parish Church, Haddington

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7.30pm

Tickets £10, concessions £8,  
under 16 Free

Tickets from choir members, at the door  
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