

DUNPENDER NEWS



Merry Christmas
 Carols around the Fountain
 East Linton Square
 24th December,
 7pm
 Everyone Welcome

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIGHTS UP THE CHRISTMAS MARKET!

Last year's Christmas Market was a huge success. The event was a non-profit-making community event which was supported by our local businesses. Many of you turned out to support and a good time was had by all. The success was largely due to the superb efforts of the volunteers who worked hard to get the project up and running.

Now that the Christmas Market is looking like it will become an annual affair, Dunpender Community Council has contributed £600 to provide a power supply in East Linton Square. The electricity will hopefully reduce the reliance on noisy generators to power the decorative lighting.

This year's Fair is on 10th December, between 4 and 8pm, offering the same lively mix of interesting stalls, village life and festive fun. Hot food and drink, including mulled wine, soup and hot chocolate, will be in plentiful supply, while Votadini's,

The Crown and the Linton Hotel will be open for more substantial fare, ensuring that no-one need go hungry. Our resident firefighters will be there, together with carol-singers and pipers; plus, of course, Santa in his grotto (organised by the Primary School). Let's hope for another fine, crisp and clear evening!

East Linton Christmas Market
 Free - Open Air
 Thursday 10 December 2009
 in the Village Square
 4.00 - 9.00 pm

A variety of stalls with festive foods and Christmas gifts:

- *jewellery *cards
- *organic cosmetics *soaps
- *Danish decorations & doughnuts
- *wooden frames & kitchenware
- *chutneys *mulled wine
- *locally crafted bags
- *Christmas wreaths
- *massage vouchers
- *hot chocolate
- *home baking
- *smoked salmon
- *trout and cheeses
- *Festive antiques
- *Swedish sweetmeats
- *Dutch apple cake
- *lucky dip

** Bring the children to meet Santa! **

*carol singers *musicians

Come for your tea at the market: soups, stovies, hot dogs, cakes etc



Spending Cuts



None of us can have failed to realise that cuts in public spending are now inevitable, and East Lothian will be no exception. East Linton will be affected and you only have until 4th December to let East Lothian Council know what services are most precious to you. There is a Council leaflet, called "You Pay - Have Your Say" available from the Library or from www.eastlothian.gov.uk which is very well written and easy to read (well done ELC!). It sets out a list of changes being considered, including:

- Reducing primary school staffing
- Closing East Linton Library
- Discontinuing the home help service
- Reducing support for public transport
- Introducing car park charges for beaches

It would be unrealistic to think that nothing can change - hard choices will have to be made and we urge everyone to express their views; online, by email to: youpayhaveyoursay@eastlothian.gov.uk or by post to: The Head of Finance, Corporate Resources, East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington EH41 3HA. Remember, the **4th December** is the last date for comments.



Inside

* Survey Results * New Whitekirk Minister * SWRI news * Curling * Junior Football

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

Kate Moulin

Modwena Cottage

Whittinghame

EH41 4QA Tel 861442

Beanston & Markle

Jan Ferguson

East Cottage, Markle Mains

EH40 3EB Tel 860786

Meetings

First Thursday of every month—7.30pm

Council Chambers, East Linton.

Everyone Welcome

We welcome individual requests for funding e.g. education visits, community service, and sporting endeavour. Applications are judged on their merits and applicants should speak to their community councillor for advice.

Local Priorities

As the year draws to a close we can report that most of the projects we expected to fund have been completed. We hope to light up another "permanent" Christmas Tree opposite the Community Hall and are looking to install electricity there for future use. Following the success of our first postcard publishing venture we are allocating money to extending the series before next Summer and expect it to become self funding. We are contributing to the fund allowing as many eligible Dunbar Grammar pupils as possible make a trip to the First World War battlefields in France.

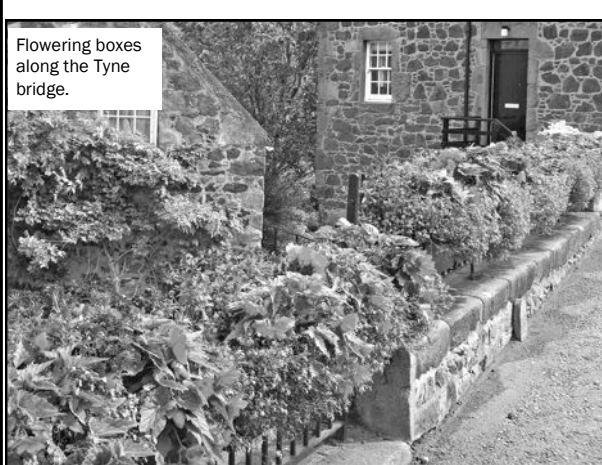
Printing and Distribution of Dunpender News	£850
Community Hall Heating (contribution)	£330
Continuation of permanent Christmas Lights Installation in East Linton(and erection)	£650
Scotland in Bloom Planting	£500
Memorial Park Football Floodlights(contribution)	£240
Planters in Tynninghame	£200
Repairs to John Rennie Memorial and wall opposite Phantassie Cottages (contribution)	£130
Donation to East Linton Senior Citizens Club	£250
Dedicated power socket in EL square	£600
Postcard Publishing	£300
Whittinghame wall repair & Ivy Clearance at Memorial	£200
Phantassie Sound summer project	£200

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.

East Linton and Beautiful Scotland by David Affleck

This year was the eighth time the East Linton Horticultural Society, with your support and help from the Community Council with the cost of plants, has entered this event in its current form. So it was great to learn recently that, despite the problems with empty property and some areas that can still be improved, we got the highest score we have ever had as a community.

On Wednesday 28th October, Gordon Whitelaw our new area landscape supervisor and I attended the annual review of the entries at Motherwell and learnt that we had just missed out on a gold award. The judges specifically mentioned the work done to improve the appearance of the Drovers and we were also pleased to tell the audience about how much we depend on the participation of local businesses and residents. Some communities run their bloom project as a community industry, growing their own plants in grow tunnels, selling them for displays and charging for maintenance and watering. What we were able to show at Motherwell is that there is another way;



one that stresses a partnership. So thanks again to all who throughout the past eight years have helped us get to the silver gilt standard and improved the appearance of East Linton wherever we can make a difference.

And I am delighted to say that our emphasis on sustainable planting in our landscaped areas is now getting more recognition as the way ahead.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Judith Priest



As we are lucky enough to have a regular monthly slot in the *East Linton & District Advertiser* you'll already have read about our activities this year.

I can sum up by saying that we continue with our efforts to make the area more attractive for visitors so that we can keep our shops and businesses going. Our postcard has proved very popular so another is planned. We supported East Linton's entry to Beautiful Scotland and a silver gilt award was won. Our website is buzzing and bang up to date thanks to Alastair Seagroatt's efforts.

Traffic and roads are always hot topics and having installed our speed sign we shall now be working with East Lothian Council to put the emphasis on pedestrians rather than vehicles on East Linton's main streets.

We like to grab any passing money for our community and this year we've obtained over £12,000 in grants for various projects. There is still lots of money in the Association of Community Councils

grant kitty so if your group needs anything, just ask us for help.

We are really lucky here with all our groups and activities which lead to a social life which can be the envy of many City dwellers! Our Community Fair in September showcased about 25 of the different social groups here but if you missed it or have just moved here, you'll find our website or the Library a good place to find out what's on or just take a look at the notice board in the Community Hall.

We shall be attending the new Area Forum in Dunbar whose task is to form a Local Community Plan. Please tell us of any issues you'd like us to bring up under the broad themes of the environment, services and facilities, health and social care, enterprise and skills, housing, community safety, children and young people. We need to hear from you if we are to represent your interests properly!

Good wishes for Christmas and 2010.

Judith Priest



Picture Postcard Village

You may remember the launch of our postcard from the summer edition of *Dunpender News*. We printed 2,000 and are pleased to report that 1,300 of them have already been distributed to our local businesses. We've had lots of positive comments from locals

and visitors and are now thinking about a different postcard for 2010 - any ideas and photos welcomed! In the meantime, if you have a holiday cottage and would like to supply your guests with postcards, please contact Liz Kilpatrick on 01620 870353 and she will happily deliver some. They cost 17p each to buy, and retail at 35p. All proceeds go to the community council funds to support local projects.

Congratulations



Well done to Colin Stewart of Bank Road who won the Dunpender Community Council's prize for Floral Art at the East Linton Arts, Crafts and Flower Show in August.

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.



Homecoming Community Fair

As part of our Homecoming Year, a community fair was held in September which showcased all the different activities that go on in the village. 25 local groups all met at the Community Hall in early September to display and celebrate what they do - from Cubs to the SWRI, the Bowling Club to the Gala Committee. The East Linton Primary School PTA raised funds by offering coffee, home baking and lunch to keep everyone going. It was a great opportunity to see what a diverse and inspiring range of activities is on offer - there was something for everyone.



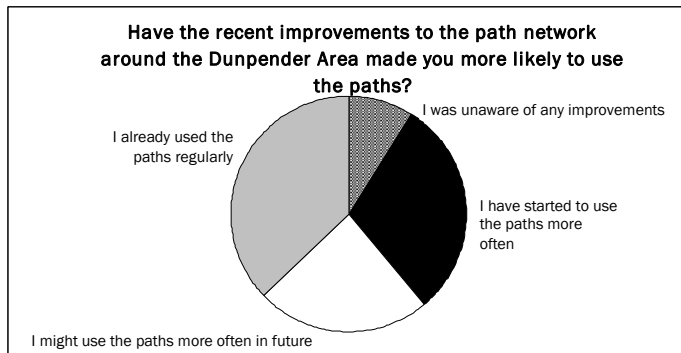
Residents' Survey—What do you think?

We asked you back in 2001 and 2005 for your views on living in the Dunpender area. Since then we have worked on a lot of the ideas you came up with and we wanted to check that we were on the right track. East Linton's Community Fair on 5th September, where 22 local community groups were represented, gave us an opportunity to circulate an updated questionnaire, which was filled in by 71 people. This questionnaire was also on our website. 71 people may not be very many, but they still contributed lots of ideas and had strong views! Thanks to all who took part.

Amongst other things, we learnt that the top three priorities for improvement were:

- More parking spaces
- Facilities for teenagers
- Improved bus services

Most respondents are aware of the improvements to our path



network and over 50% have either started to use them more regularly or are thinking of doing so. The work done to paths seems to have encouraged not only visitors but residents to use and enjoy them regularly.

72% of respondents use the Library regularly. Such a valuable space at the heart of the village is used by all ages, and this needs to be stressed to East Lothian Council as they consider their suggested spending cuts. 89% of respondents read our DCC news item in the East Linton & District Advertiser. It's good to know that this is an effective form of communication. Gratifyingly, 90% of respondents read the Dunpender News!! Thankyou!

www.eastlinton.uk.com

Our residents' survey reported that 20% of respondents visit our website every month, while 18% visit it weekly or even more often. Considering that Alastair Seagroatt is running it entirely voluntarily and has only developed it over the last year, this is a great success and shows that the important rule with a website is that it must be updated frequently to be of real interest. Thanks to Alastair for keeping it so up to date.

Website fascinating fact: eastlinton.uk.com has had visitors from 22 countries so far, including Canada, Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan!

Phantassie Skatepark by Adrian Girling

In summertime 2009, thanks to the talent and determination of a youthful crew and the kind support of Patricia Stephen and Willie Hamilton, Phantassie Skatepark emerged from a dusty barn, and for two months was the place to be for young people from all across the east side of East Lothian. It was a huge success, well supported by the wider community in East Linton and Dunpender Community Council.

In two months we registered 250 members, ran a busy and vibrant facility, put on cracking events and provided a place for a diverse mix of young people to be active, hang out and socialise with their peers. We have had great feedback from loads of people of all ages, and our hard work has now been recognised by a national funding body. We have just received funding for Adrian Girling (worker and co-ordinator) to spend the next 12 months focused on making Phantassie Skatepark 2010 bigger and better.

In time, we are hoping to create a permanent indoor action and learning centre ... but big ideas need small steps and over the last four years, Phantassie Sound and Phantassie Skatepark have taken many small steps, but we have always been driven by a big idea; that young people, when provided with trust, resources, support and encouragement, can create amazing things for themselves, their peers and the community at large. It's easy to see young people as part of the problem, but let me assure you that they are the most significant part of the solution, and they have many answers to questions that we are not even asking them. We asked a question of the young people who were building and running Phantassie Skatepark and they answered with action, confidence and solidarity. Real life, youth driven community action. And that is worth more than adults and "experts" telling young people what to do and how to live. More listening and more supporting is needed.



Kevin, Sam, David, Shaun and Steve—some of the Summer Barn Crew

East Linton Junior Football Team

We understand that there has never been a junior football team in the village (correct us if we are wrong!). There was a Primary School team, a while ago, and that too has been resurrected by Tommy and Maureen Tait, who are the driving force behind the school team and the village team here in East Linton.

Dunpender Community Council has donated £150 towards junior-sized goalposts, which will be purchased as soon as grant funding from East Lothian Council comes through. Meanwhile, a successful P7 team of 11/12yr olds has already played 8 games in the East Lothian Soccer League, losing just once, which is a fantastic start. Maureen is hoping to run three more teams, for P4, P5 and P6 age groups, and there has been lots of enthusiasm shown at the Primary School



from boys and girls. However, more willing coaches are required for this number of children, so please contact Maureen on 077632 94028 if you can help. Boys and girls are welcome to turn up at the Park for the practice sessions on Wednesday evenings between 6 and 7pm.

The Taites would like to thank everyone who has helped them so far, and those who have donated money to get the teams started – Dunpender Community Council, Knowes Farm, Phantassie, Torness Motors, Traprain Consultants, Mr & Mrs Luke and Mr & Mrs Thomson, and Markle Fishery.

New Minister for Whitekirk

Joanne Evans-Boiten speaks several languages and has lived in places such as Rotterdam, Strasbourg, Russia and the then Yugoslavia. But Scotland has been the place she has always returned to and where her five children think of as home. Now the new Minister for Athelstaneford and Whitekirk, Joanne is busy getting to know the community and wants everybody, whether or not they go to church, to feel that Whitekirk is **their** church. She is particularly interested in Whitekirk's history as a place of pilgrimage, stretching back to the 12th Century when the church's well, now lost, attracted thousands of pilgrims each year. Pilgrims continued to visit both St Mary's Haddington and St Mary's Whitekirk until very recently, although, latterly, they seemed to have travelled by coach rather than on foot! Joanne is talking with the Haddington church to see if a new version of the pilgrimage can spring up; perhaps people who feel that traditional church services have little to offer would find such a journey a good opportunity to

think about their spirituality and their Creator.

There is a Sunday Whitekirk service at 11.30am each

week, and Joanne is also available every Wednesday evening at the Church between 7pm and 9pm to talk about weddings, baptisms or any other matter she might be able to help with.



Rev Joanne Evans-Boiten



St Andrew's Day

Joint Service for the
Athelstaneford and Whitekirk Parishes

10am—Sunday 29th November

St Andrew's Day and the Saltire Homecoming
Celebrations.

The Saltire will be parachuted in and, after a service of blessing, will travel to St Mary's Haddington on horseback.

Christmas Church Services—see back cover



1860 on Smeaton Lake courtesy of David E Smith

East Linton Curling Club

The East Linton Curling Club has a long and illustrious history. Founded in 1837 the club was one of the original and only East Lothian club in the 36 Scottish clubs that formed the Grand Caledonian Curling Club in 1838. In 1842 during a visit to Scone Palace by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort the Earl of Mansfield gave a demonstration of curling to his royal guests on the polished floor of the ballroom. The following year the Queen granted the club the title Royal Caledonian Curling Club. An early photograph c1860 shows play in progress on Smeaton Lake. In those early days

curling was played on outdoor ponds both natural and man-made and flourished not only in Scotland but in mainland Europe and North America. For a time there were two curling clubs in the village, East Linton and Tyneside (founded 1910), these merged in 1931. An artificial pond was constructed on the banks of the River Tyne near Lauder Place and until very recently you could still see traces of the concrete base onto

which water was poured in the hope it would freeze.

The construction of indoor ice rinks after the second world war led to a major advancement of the sport throughout the world. At this time the East Linton club began playing their games in Edinburgh first at Haymarket and now at Murrayfield.

The club welcomes members of all ages and abilities and in addition to coaching classes some "come and try" sessions are held at Murrayfield. Curling is still widely recognised as a social sport and the club members do compete in competitions within the club as well as against other local clubs and in national competitions. New members are always welcome, so do contact Gael Pollitt, Secretary, on 01620 860087 or email gael.pollitt@btinternet.com.



Tyneside Curling Pond at Lauder Place



Theatre Group

There are other theatre clubs in East Lothian but East Linton's was the first! There is a varied programme of 12 events throughout the year, which are usually matinee performances to keep prices reasonable. Transport is provided by a 33 seater coach, so there is no hassle over parking and an interval glass of wine can be enjoyed with a

clear conscience. It's a very friendly club and members can pick and choose which events they would like to attend. This Dunpender News should reach you with enough time left to book tickets for the Christmas trip, which is to The Corstorphine Road Nativity at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre on 19th December, leaving East Linton at 1.20pm. If you are interested in joining the Theatre Club, contact Una Starkey on 01620 860339.

To report Road and Lighting faults the new numbers are:

Roads Helpline
01875 824305

Street Lighting Helpline
01875
824310



SUSTAINING DUNBAR REACHES OUT TO EAST LINTON



BeGreen?

Drop-in Home Energy Advice Shop

- Free advice and information on cutting your household fuel bills
- Free Home Energy Audit from one of our expert advisors
- Free information and advice on renewable energy
- Assistance applying for government grants and loans
- Our own top-up grants and loans

Get in touch today

16 Westport, Dunbar

Wednesday/Thursday/Friday mornings
Thursday afternoon or by arrangement

01368 863720

begreendunbar@btconnect.com
<http://www.sustainingdunbar.org/begreen/>

Please note the grants and loans are only available to those living in the Dunbar and East Linton Ward

What will the Dunbar and East Linton area look like in 2025? Where will we work, how will we travel, how will we get our food, how will we heat our homes? We met with Phil Revell from Sustaining Dunbar, who was very keen to point out that this bottom-up, visionary group is already working with East Linton Primary School and would like to involve many more people from the East Linton area. Sustaining Dunbar started a couple of years ago as a voluntary organisation concerned about climate change and resource depletion. Now supported by the Scottish Climate Challenge Fund and with links to other similar groups in Haddington and North Berwick, Sustaining Dunbar has received funding to carry out a two year programme of community engagement with the aim of producing a local vision for 2025. Phil and

others at Sustaining Dunbar want to turn environmental challenges into opportunities. By gathering information from local people and groups about how they source food, travel, work and use energy, the group aims to come up with a shared vision for a low-carbon local society.

How can you get involved? Visit their website at www.sustainingdunbar.org, which is very readable and has lots of information on the group's various projects. Use the BeGreen energy advice project. Sustaining Dunbar is a partner in the BeGreen project, which has three trained energy auditors, any of whom can come to your home and give you free advice on how to cut your fuel bills and assess the potential for micro-

renewables. You may be eligible for free or reduced price cavity wall and loft insulation, and they can help you obtain grants from the Scottish Government or from BeGreen itself.

Green Energy



SCOTTISH WOMENS RURAL INSTITUTE BRANCH CELEBRATES 90 YEARS!

2009 sees the 90th birthday of the East Linton Branch of the SWRI. The branch is still going strong with 35 members. They meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Community Hall. There is always a speaker and/or a demonstration and, often, a members' competition.

If you go along on 21st January 2010, for instance, the talk on "Canine Partners" will be accompanied by a competition of dog pictures!

You may have missed the 90th birthday celebrations this year, but new members are always welcome. The East Lothian Federation of SWRI groups has a show every couple of years, which usually takes place in Haddington. In 2010 the Federation Show comes to East Linton's Community Hall for the first time and it is bound to be a very impressive display of home baking, handicrafts and flower arrangements. All are welcome so put the date in your diary, Saturday 15th May, 2010, from 2pm to 5pm.

Phone Mrs Margaret Hunter on 860040 for more information.



The Knitters of the SWRI in Action!

What's On this Winter

East Linton Antiques & Bric-a-Brac Fair

Community Hall, East Linton

29th November 28th February
 28th March 25th April
 30th May

To book a table please contact Liz Dorian 861991



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



East Linton Library



Enjoy a moment of calm festivity at East Linton Library

23rd December,

From 2pm—8pm

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

Merry Christmas!



St Andrews

Family Ceilidh

Friday, 27th November 6.30 for 7.00

Raising Funds for East Linton Gala Week

Licensed * Supper

Adults £5

Child £2.50

Tickets from Andersons Butcher and East Linton Post Office



Walkin' East Lothian

Next Steps Health Walks in the East Lothian Countryside

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10am

Walks are free and everyone is welcome

For further info contact: Anne Adams, Health Walk Co-ordinator at ELC, on 01620 827608

Christmas Services

Prestonkirk

Sunday, 20th December—11am Family Service
 Friday, 25th December—10am Christmas Service

Whittingehame

Thursday, 24th December—11.30pm Watchnight Service

Whitekirk

Thursday, 24th December—a service of readings and carols 11pm

Friday, 25th December—Christmas Day service 11am

Dates for your Diary 2010

* 4th/5th/6th February 2010

East Linton Drama Group presents two one-act plays plus musical chorus—(children P5 and upwards).

* Saturday 20th February 2010

East Linton Pipe Band Fundraising Ceilidh at the Community Hall.

Look out for details nearer the time

Refuse and Recycling

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



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