

# DUNPENDER NEWS



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



Bridge over the River Tyne on the A198

## Surfing for All

East Linton Library is taking part in the BBC national campaign to encourage people to get on-line. The scheme provides Beginners' Computer Courses for free. You do not need any experience to take part.

Avid listeners of Radio 4's, The Archers, will have heard Peggy Archer having Computer lessons and the opportunity is available to everyone in East Linton as well.

To get further information pop into the Library or telephone 01620 860015.

## NEW BRIDGE SIGNAGE IMPROVES ROAD SAFETY

For several years Dunpender Community Council has been concerned about the bridge crossing at Tynninghame on the A198. The national speed limit applies—60mph on this stretch. It is a particular problem in the Summer with drivers travelling into Tynninghame failing to give way to oncoming traffic. Following an accident in 2009 the community council raised the issue once again citing concerns from many local residents. Finally East Lothian Council acknowledged that this stretch of road was causing concern and last Summer new signage and new road markings were added.

I think there is now almost universal agreement that the changes have made a significant difference to the traffic. In particular, the white road markings narrowing the bridge have had a very positive impact.

If there are any other areas of road safety concern in the Dunpender area then please make one of your community councillors aware of the issues. We will do our best to assist.



## Christmas Walking

If you find yourself rather bloated after the excesses of the Christmas festival then don't forget our walking leaflet, Walks Around East Linton. It covers a range of local walks and takes you to beautiful, picturesque and peaceful parts of the area. Copies can be downloaded from the website or picked up around the area including the Library or in Tynninghame Coffee Shop.

## A Tribute to Hugh Munro

The Senior Citizens' Club has published a tribute to local resident and poet, Hugh Munro. With the kind permission of Hugh's family, the book features his poems about local people and places. He was often called upon to recite poems at village events and it is wonderful that the poems will now be available for everyone to read. The book can be purchased for £4 at The post Office, Votadini's and in The Bowling Club. All proceeds will be going to The East Linton Senior Citizens' Club.



## Dunpender Community Council

### East Linton

Judith Priest (Chair)  
83 High Street, East Linton  
EH40 3BQ Tel 860380

### Tynningham 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

Allison 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

### Tynningham and Whitekirk

Liz Kilpatrick  
White Cottage, Newbyth  
EH40 3DU

### Whittingehame

Kate Moulin  
Modwena Cottage  
Whittingehame  
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

## Local Priorities

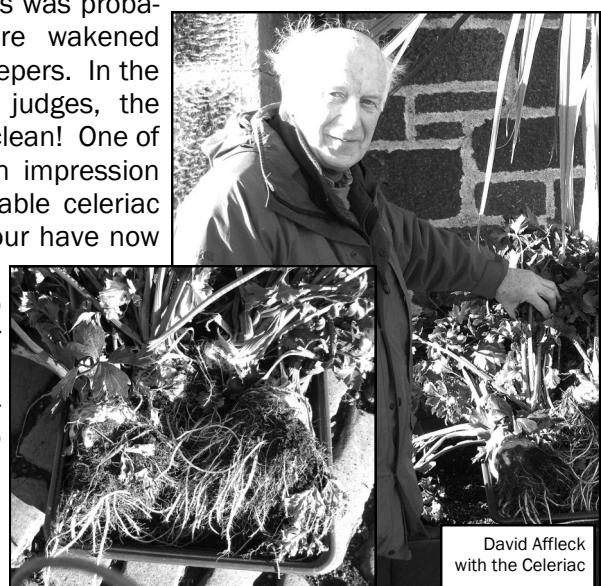
This has been a year of small projects and donations as we do some research on future possibilities mindful of frozen ( or worse) budgets. We are printing more postcards in response to demand and looking to publish some more. We gave help to another successful Summer Skatepark at Phantassie Barn which is now moving to a permanent home. All our Christmas Lights happily require no expensive certification which allows us to stay in budget and illuminate East Linton, Tynningham and Whitekirk.

|   |   |      |
|---|---|------|
| * | Printing and Distribution of Dunpender News   | £850 |
| * | East Linton Day Centre Donation   | £300 |
| * | Day Centre road Markings  | £100 |
| * | Continuation of permanent Christmas Lights Installation in East Linton( and erection) | £350 |
| * | Scotland in Bloom Planting  | £600 |
| * | Memorial Park Gala Shed   | £100 |
| * | East Linton Tennis Club   | £150 |
| * | Primary 7 Yearbook contribution   | £125 |
| * | Girl Guide Centenary Donation   | £100 |
| * | New Notice Board in Whitekirk   | £400 |
| * | Postcard Printing   | £145 |
| * | Mirror at entrance to Smeaton   | £200 |
| * | Phantassie Sound summer project   | £125 |
| * | New Tyne depth Guage at the White Bridge  | £100 |

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.eastlinton.uk.com](http://www.eastlinton.uk.com).

## Silver Gilt once again for East Linton

Preparing for East Linton's entry in Beautiful Scotland this year had its challenges, but thanks to the offers to help the organisers switch from hanging baskets to window boxes, and the team of litter pickers the night before the judging, we managed to improve on our points and retain the silver gilt award. This year the judges stayed overnight at the Crown and were spotted inspecting The Square at 7.20 am, long before the appointed time! This was probably because they were wakened early with the road sweepers. In the words of one of the judges, the streets were definitely clean! One of our efforts to make an impression was to grow the vegetable celeriac in a floral container. Four have now been harvested and were handed over to the Day Centre for members to enjoy. Thanks also to the watering volunteers who helped the flowers and celeriac flourish



David Affleck  
with the Celeriac

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Judith  
Priest

2010 has seen some interesting new developments which you can read about in this issue. We have also been working on many of the usual projects such as keeping our paths in a reasonable state of repair but a lot of our work is less visible.

Your Community Councillors represent this area on a number of other committees and by doing this we keep our small community right in East Lothian Council's face when we might otherwise be rather forgotten. Many of us have been members of DCC for a long time and received long-service and volunteering awards this year. This adds up to a lot of experience and some very capable people working on your behalf.

We are actively involved in the Association of East Lothian Community Councils, of which our member Allison Cosgrove is secretary and she has been the driving force behind the small grants scheme from Leader which has now given tens of thousands of pounds to many small groups and projects in the

county. Jan Ferguson represents Community Councils on the Access Forum, looking at countryside access; other places we pop up are in RAGES [a new Scotrail service to Dunbar bringing East Linton station a bit closer], the John Muir CP Advisory Group (see page 7), the Community Hall committee and the Community and Police Partnership, plus we attend many other consultations throughout the year.

Our congratulations go to Jean Fulton of Walker Terrace who won Dunpender Community Council's Plate for Floral Art at the East Linton Arts, Crafts and Flower Show.

You can find out what we are doing as well as everything else which goes on in Dunpender from our website [www.eastlinton.uk.com](http://www.eastlinton.uk.com), for which we are immensely grateful to Alastair (see below), another willing volunteer. Minutes are also available in the Library.

Good wishes for Christmas and 2011.

Judith Priest

## Website News

Have you looked at the Website recently? It is a great local resource full of pictures and information.

The site contains all the news from the Community Council including our minutes and back copies of the Dunpender News.

There are also details of our walks leaflet which you can download and cycle routes in the area.

There is also a section about how to apply for community grants so if you need funding for a local project look at the site for advice and information.

It has over 1,000 pages and over 2,000 images. The pictures are particularly impressive and are well worth a look; a great reminder of what a beautiful place we live in.

It is visited by up to 30 people a day, from over 35 countries around the world. Adverts for local businesses (which appear

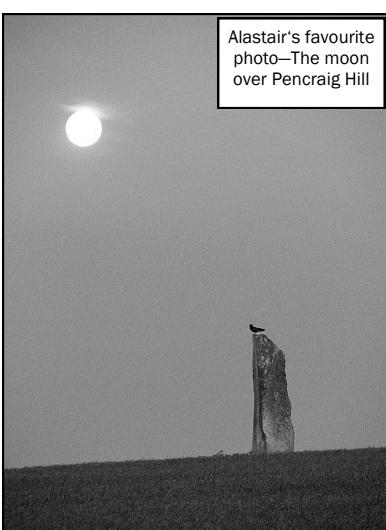
under the Living Section) and events (which appear on the front page and the News section) are free. If anyone wants to let folk know of an event coming up then try to get in touch at least 2 weeks before if possible.

Photos are always welcome and any articles would be gratefully received. If anyone has any ideas to improve the site please contact Alistair via the site. Some things on the site

A Screen Grab from Our Website

have changed as a result of good user feedback. Many thanks as always to our webman, Alistair Seagrott.

[www.eastlinton.uk.com](http://www.eastlinton.uk.com)



Alastair's favourite photo—The moon over Pencraig Hill

# Wind Turbines Divide Views in Dunpender

Wherever we live in the area covered by Dunpender Community Council, we can all see the iconic centre; Traprain Law. We use it to give directions to people coming to see us. It is the essential view that tells us that we are home – this is “our place”.

Traprain Law is much more than a hill that sits near East Linton. Traprain's long story goes back to prehistoric times and the well known and rich history makes it important not just to those of us lucky enough to live here, but to all of Scotland. The story of Traprain helps to make sense of Scottish history, who the Scots are, and how the Scots think of themselves.

From the top of Traprain, we look far beyond the boundaries of Dunpender Community Council. Clearly this is a landscape that has developed over a long time and continues to develop. There is no denying that it is a created landscape. It is the way it is because we and our ancestors have shaped it. Progress is inevitable and can lead to good things that benefit us all. But how do we decide what could be good progress and what should be treated with caution?

We have become familiar with the wind

farms on the top of the Lammermuirs. Now we are seeing planning applications for individual turbines that are not less than 40 meters high. These turbines will generate electricity for the owner to use and also create a significant source of income via electricity that will be sold to the National Grid via Feed In Tariffs.

The wind farms, and now these applications for individual wind turbines raise many and different questions that we all need to think about before deciding the best way forward.

Clearly, we need a secure and effective electricity supply that increasingly comes from renewable and sustainable sources because we can no longer rely on fossil fuels and we all know we need to reduce carbon released into the atmosphere.

The Scottish Government has pledged that by 2020, 80% of our electricity will come from renewable sources, helping us on our way to a low carbon economy. So how do we make sense of how we produce electricity and come to a considered view of the best way forward for East Lothian?

There are some issues that we would

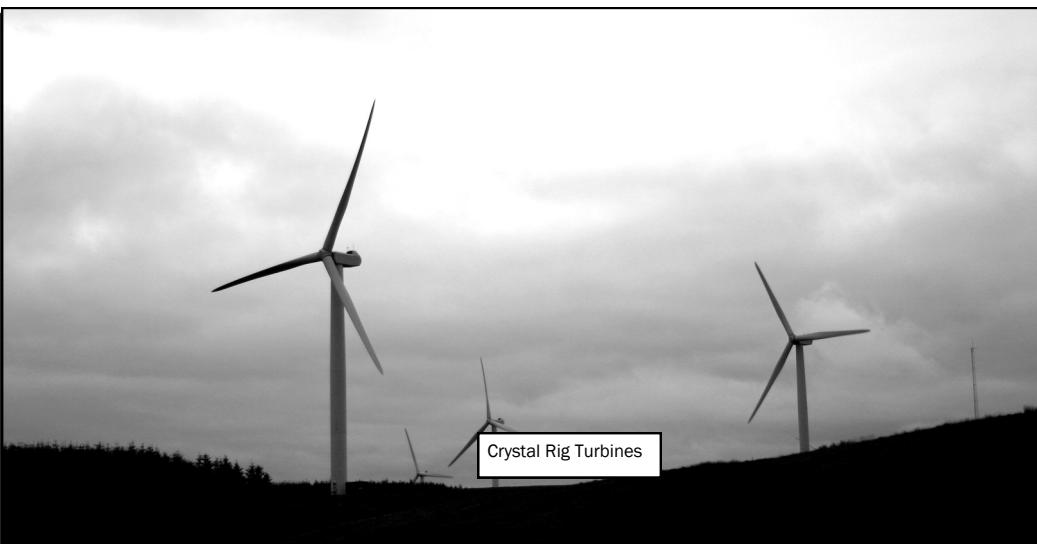
all agree on, such as using electricity, however it is produced, in the best possible way. We all know that having well insulated homes, efficient appliances and careful use will reduce our bills! But, going back to the view from Traprain Law, how can we produce electricity in a way that respects the landscape we have around us? How important is the view from Traprain? How much can standalone turbines contribute?



Crystal Rig Turbines

## Interesting Facts about Power Generation

- \* Across the UK, wind turbines contribute 5 gigawatts of electricity, which is enough to supply close to 3 million homes.
- \* Crystal Rig has a generating capacity of 200 megawatts
- \* Wind turbines usually only work to between 20-40% capacity.
- \* Analysis commissioned by Scottish Renewables suggested that within a decade the country could have 81% renewable electricity and, with more ambitious assumptions, renewables could provide 123% of Scotland's power needs. These figures would depend on very significant infrastructure improvements to the national grid and building large scale offshore wind, wave and tidal farms
- \* A recent poll, commissioned by Scottish Renewables, suggests that people are becoming increasingly keen on wind farms, with 78% of those polled agreeing that wind farms are “necessary so we can produce renewable energy” and more than half those polled rejecting the statement that wind power is “ugly and a blot on the landscape”.
- \* At Crystal Rig, the most recently built turbines each produce 2.3 megawatts. Current applications in the Dunpender area are for turbines producing 100 kilowatts, each of which is equivalent to 4.3% of the output from one Crystal Rig turbine. 23 of these standalone turbines would be needed to match the output from one Crystal Rig turbine. Does this output justify the impact of 40 meter turbines on the lowland landscape and contribute sufficiently to our power needs?
- \* Torness power station, in 2009, provided enough power for 86% of all Scottish households. This production avoided the emission of 5.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.



This information isn't exhaustive, but begins to provide a backdrop to the discussions. These are some of the questions that need to be addressed:-

- \* Are we doing all we can to use electricity wisely and well?
- \* East Lothian already has major wind farm developments - how should these develop?  
Are wind turbines the best and most efficient way of providing renewable electricity?  
Can we be sure that every application for a wind turbine will provide effective and efficient renewable energy production? Production efficiency is not considered as part of planning applications. Should it be?
- \* Is the view more important than the renewable energy provided by standalone turbines?  
Should the Council continue to deal with planning applications for standalone wind turbines one by one, or should a policy be developed looks at a structured approach?  
What is the balance between a planned way forward and the opportunity that standalone turbines provide as an income source?  
Wouldn't an additional income source benefit communities as a whole?  
Feed in Tariffs generate income, with implications for individuals and communities. Could this opportunity be developed in another way?

#### **What else could be done?**

- \* There are as many questions as

proposals in areas that are sensitive because of nature conservation; SSSI's; listed buildings; conservation areas; historic and designed landscapes and ancient monuments.

\* You can respond to this draft document. Watch the Community Council website for the consultation deadline.

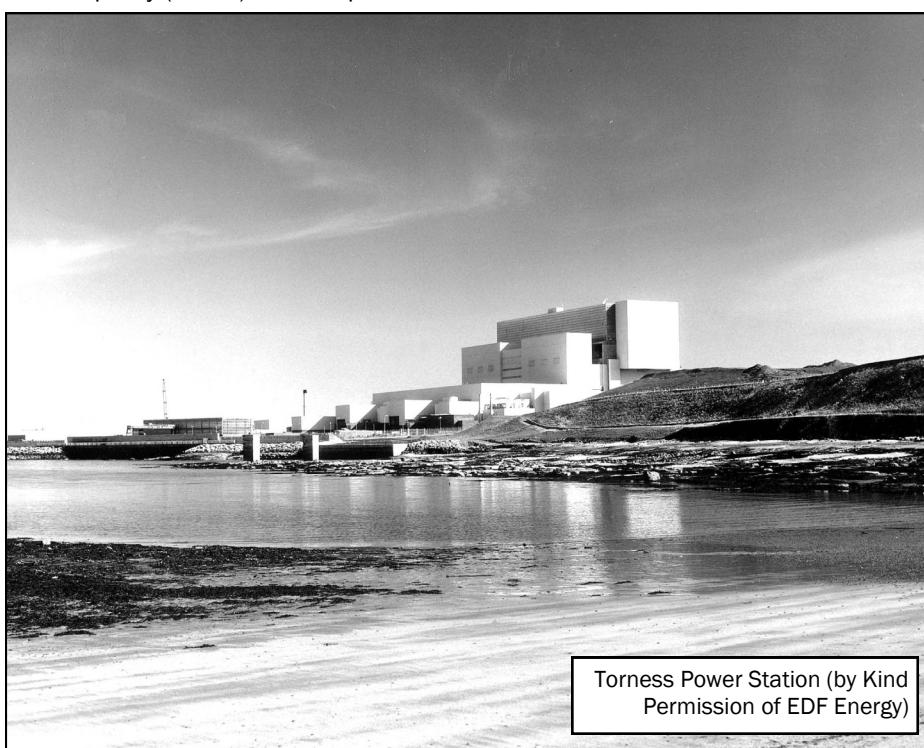
\* The Community Council will be holding a public meeting to discuss the issues raised in this article, with speakers representing different aspects of these issues.

This event is planned to be informative. Watch the Community Council website for more information.

- \* Talk to your Councillors
- \* Talk to your Community Councillors

Doing nothing and complaining afterwards that you don't like what you see from the top of Traprain Law achieves nothing. Instead, you can try and make a difference by thinking about the issues and getting involved. So – make your views known and contribute to decision making. Afterwards is too late!

Kate Moulin, Community Councillor



## NEW TRAIN SERVICES

There are currently two studies into local rail options being carried out: one by First ScotRail investigating the possibility of providing an hourly service between Edinburgh and Dunbar in the short term and the other instigated by Transport Scotland to look at the longer term options.

MVA Consultancy has been appointed by Transport Scotland to undertake the Feasibility Study for Enhanced Rail Services between Edinburgh and Newcastle. This follows on from recent studies into local rail done in 1999, 2004 and 2005. These all put forward the need and probable viability of a local service between Edinburgh and Berwick with re-opened stations at East Linton and

Reston.

MVA Consultancy asked if RAGES could be involved in gauging local opinion about its study. To this end, East Lothian Council, along with Sustaining Dunbar and RAGES, organised two public meetings during October in Dunbar and East Linton.

The meeting at East Linton was held on 20th October when 18 members of the public were present.

Tom Thorburn, RAGES Chairman, gave a presentation on the issues and the group discussed both the service which a re-opened station needs to provide and also

what connecting services should be provided from East Linton Station.

There was good discussion and points raised for each question. Cllr McLennan prepared a compilation for the consultants, whose report was expected in late November 2010. Recommendations arising from this study would be fed into the ScotRail franchise renewal of 2014.



A Scotrail Train

## KNOWES SCOOPS THE OSCAR

Being named "UK Local Food Farmer of the Year" at the "Farming Oscars" recently is the latest in a very long line of awards garnered by Hilary and Peter Cochran and their team at The Knowes, Dunpender's local Farm-Shop. The set of Farming

Hilary and Peter Cochrane



awards, judged by their peers, is run by The Farmers' Weekly. One reason for the award was "the demonstrable sense of community attached to the shop"

This award happily coincided with the Farmshop's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday and prompted the Cochranes to think of ways of giving back to the community of customers who have supported them over three decades.

Thus was hatched the Community NestEgg where all egg sales both in the shop and to local caterers carry a 2p a box tag matched by Knowes to be donated to East Linton Day Centre. The Centre is very keen to raise



extra funds as Local Authority funding gets scarcer. At hundreds of dozen a week this will soon mount up and joins another egggy fundraising effort at Dunbar Day Centre where helpers sell Knowes eggs to friends and the profit goes in the kitty.

So "Shop Local" till the end of the year and support the virtuous circle of local business in a local community.

Hilary and Peter would also like to borrow this page to say thank you to all who have sent cards and emails of congratulation.

*"Nestegg Project" to support the East Linton Day Centre*

## PILGRIMS RETURN TO WHITEKIRK

At 10 am on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May a small group of people joined for a short service of worship in St Mary's Haddington. However, those gathered together on that sunny day were not your usual congregation. They were dressed for the outdoors with sturdy walking boots and comfortable clothes. And outside several dogs were waiting to join them on their journey to St Mary's Whitekirk. The journey took us first to the ruins of St Martin's church, then to the abbey bridge and from there, via a section of the old Iona to Lindisfarne pilgrims

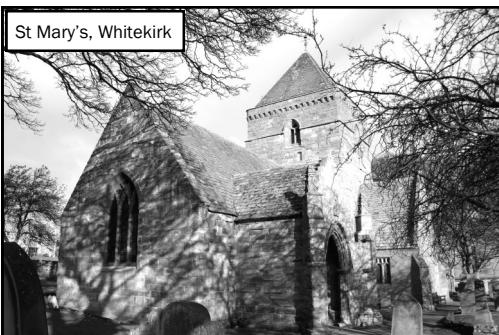
route, to Barney Mains and the Vaults. In Athelstaneford we stopped for coffee and refreshments in the village hall. Strengthened and encouraged we walked on towards Big Wood, Crauchie and north of East Linton we picked up the John Muir Way over Drylaw Hill where we stopped for our picnic. The John Muir Way took us over to Kamehill where we could see the beautiful church of St Mary's Whitekirk ahead of us, with the sea in the background. By now some of us were getting a bit tired but

seeing the church gave us new courage and on we walked through Angus Wood and then down the road to Whitekirk where we finished our journey with a short

evening service and well deserved refreshments prepared for us in the Church. Walking together on a journey along old historic and religious places was a great experience. It linked us with people from long ago, but also with each other, people from different backgrounds and different places. And all the while we enjoyed the great outdoors: hills, the woods, the burns, the birds....

Whitekirk always was a place of pilgrimage. It is hoped that this pilgrimage will be a regular event and that it will attract people from all ages and walks of life. People who love to walk, and people who are looking for a spiritual experience alike.

Rev Joanne Evans-Boiten



*"The John Muir Way took us over Kamehill where we could see the beautiful church of St Mary's Whitekirk"*

## JOHN MUIR COUNTRY PARK REPORT

The John Muir Country Park is 713 hectares in size, and extends along nearly 8 miles of coastline from Peffer Sands to Dunbar Castle, varying from beaches backed by sand dunes to rocky cliffs, mudflats and saltmarsh. Inland are wooded areas and heath. This area of habitat diversity is home to many animals and plants, including roe deer, badgers, red squirrels, foxes and otters, 25 wildfowl and wader species, other birds local to the area such as sand martins and terns, as well as butterflies and moths, and more than 15 unusual plant species such as bog pimpernel and scots lovage. The John Muir Way traverses the southern edge of the Park from west to east and is frequently used by walkers. The park receives in excess of 400,000 visitors

each year.

Its recreational value is well-recognised, and as well as 'traditional' activities such as walking, picnicking, wildfowling, horse-riding and bird-watching new ones have developed such as kayaking, surfing, para-kiting and educational visits. With all these visitors, some management has always been necessary, such as signage, litter bins and provision of paths and bridges to protect the sometimes fragile environments such as the salt-marsh. This work is done by ELC's Countryside Ranger Service. Unwelcome natural visitors include giant hogweed, pirri pirri burr, Japanese knotweed and sea buckthorn, all of which are invasive and are controlled or eliminated when possible. Unfortunately there are also some humans

whose activities cause problems: dog-walkers who do not clear up after their dogs, or do and then throw the bags into the bushes, barbecue users who cause scorch marks on grass or fail to extinguish them adequately causing small or larger fires (an increasing problem in recent years) and litter, especially broken glass which causes injuries to wildlife and dogs. For the vast majority of visitors though, time spent at the JMC is an enjoyable experience. For more detailed information including the reports from which the above information is taken, visit [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/countryside)

Our Community Council is represented on the Advisory Group for The John Muir Country Park by Robert Russel.

**Pilgrimage 2011  
May 7th**

