

DUNPENDER COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026

Growing Success of Tynninghame Community Farm



In November 2025 Tynninghame Community Farm (TCF) completed its second season producing freshly harvested, sustainably grown vegetables. It has supplied weekly veg boxes to 70 households in the East Linton and Dunbar area and to local shops, primarily the Crunchy Carrot in Dunbar. Three part-time growers are now employed on the south-facing, two acre site just above Tynninghame. Their agro-ecological methods aim for high productivity while maximising soil health and biodiversity. Through generous capital funding, largely through East Lothian Council, the farm now has three polytunnels and a new larch wood packing shed. The polytunnels allow early cropping and high quality tomatoes, cucumbers, chillies, herbs, etc..

An end of year survey of customers found overwhelming satisfaction with the quality of the vegetables, with comments such as: "thank you so much for the beautiful things that you guys put in our veg boxes. They definitely have far more flavour than supermarket veg, keep better, and look beautiful!". The bulk of vegetables are picked the morning they are delivered since freshness is the biggest factor for taste and nutrition. The farm is now exploring how to provide more flexibility and add-ons to boxes.

TCF is run as a not-for-profit 'Community Supported Agriculture' (CSA) scheme. These aim to create a partnership between farmers or growers and their customers, often called 'members'. Members commit to buying local produce for a season and this predictable income mitigates the risks of small-scale sustainable agriculture. In return members get weekly veg boxes (three different sizes) and a direct relationship with the farm, often involving farm visits, volunteering and/or courses. This promotes transparency, trust, and a sense of community as members get to understand where their food comes from and how it's produced.

Crop planning is critical to continuous output. A diversity of crops and crop varieties minimises damage from pests and diseases, ensures variation in boxes and allows experimentation for what suits our microclimate. Most pests gravitate to plants that are sick or damaged so careful propagation of healthy seedlings is key to greater yields without using pesticides. Fertility comes from nurturing biological activity in the soil through minimal disturbance, green manures, composting and spreading as much seaweed as possible.

Critical to success so far has been all the work done by over 50 volunteers at monthly Sunday sessions and the harvesting and packing done by 14 regular volunteers on Thursday mornings. The social engagement makes the varied tasks more enjoyable, enhanced with tea, coffee and cake. And, of course, volunteers help keep costs down and therefore keep prices lower for customers.

Next year the farm will be taking on around 50 new customers to expand to 120 veg boxes, delivery starting in mid May. If interested in signing up for a veg box or volunteering you can register at <https://www.tynninghame.farm/home>.

Longer-term the farm is seeking to lease a further 5 -10 acres, ideally close by to Tynninghame, to allow full year production. It is therefore keen to hear from anyone with suitable land available.

Danny Wight

News from Dunpender Community Council

Community Council elections were held last October; all the members returned unopposed and a new member, Fiona Constable joined. It was very encouraging to see everyone willing to continue to do their best for Dunpender. Eric Martin resigned in March 2025 after 9 years of working hard for Whitekirk and we have so far been unable to replace him with a Whitekirk representative, however Haydn Thomas volunteered to be the new Treasurer. We still have two vacancies and, if you think you'd be interested in helping with local issues, please get in touch; we meet 10 times a year on the first Thursday of the month.



So what has your Community Council been doing apart from liaising with local groups, East Lothian Council and other public bodies?

East Linton: We support discussions on further plans to deal with antisocial behaviour at the Linn Rocks/Bridgend area. We've discussed the replacement of the 'white bridge' over the Tyne with ELC. It seems a wooden bridge is extremely expensive so rather than having no bridge at all so we've agreed to a metal one. We report potholes, broken streetlights, fly-tipping, blocked drains and various other issues reported to us by residents. We often do minor repairs ourselves if it's quicker. We chased repairs to the playpark equipment. We are responsible for the maintenance of our Fountain. We asked for Preston Road and East Linton High Street to be resurfaced. We've requested a new westbound bus stop at Overhailes.

Defibrillators: We funded many of these and now look after the maintenance, new batteries, pads etc.

Tynninghame: We're lobbying for lower speed limits and have possibly succeeded in having the 40mph on A198 extended north to the Lawhead junction. Achieving 20 rather than 30mph in Main Street is proving difficult however.

Markle: DCC secretary Eileen Gill liaised with works on the new bridge and with Scottish Water making sure that everyone was kept informed and gaining the best outcome for the residents. We asked Balfour Beatty to repair Binning Wood car park and improve the path to Markle as Community Benefit projects.

Footpaths: we produced a new Walks leaflet with a grant from the Community Rail Partnership. Two members are active in the Countryside Volunteers keeping paths, beach areas and similar clear of undergrowth, arranging footpath maintenance and rebuilding walls.

We respond to a number of planning/licensing applications and some complicated consultations, many now concerning renewable energy projects. We are active in the group working towards Community Benefits from these projects.

We represent Dunpender on numerous groups such as the Joint Laws Advisory Group, RAGES, Community and Police Partnership, two Area Partnerships (Allison Cosgrove now chairs Dunbar & East Lothian Area Partnership) and the Association of East Lothian Community Councils. If you have a query or a problem for the Council do get in touch with us as we generally know the right person to contact to get things done – if it's at all possible!

This year we'll be working to gain the best outcome for East Linton Library as ELC looks to reduce its expenses. There are some problems with road signs at Markle which we'll sort out.

All our activities, agendas and minutes and how to contact us can be seen on our website, www.eastlinton.uk.com. You'll also find here news of what's on in Dunpender, notifications of roadworks, public information notices and much more. Many thanks as ever to Alastair Seagroatt for running this for us.

We also have a Facebook page – find us at *DunpenderCC*

Judith Priest, Chair

East Linton Community Hall

This year, the Hall continued to thrive as a vital community hub, delivering improvements and hosting over one thousand bookings. Key upgrades included new overhead and side lighting in the main hall, soft seating in the meeting room and enhanced cleaning standards. Unplanned repairs, such as storm damage and boiler fixes, were also addressed.



Digital progress saw our website refurbished and meeting minutes published online, strengthening transparency and accessibility. Fundraising remained strong through eight Antiques Fairs, the 200 Club and Art Exhibition, supplemented by grants like Be Green, A1 Partnerships, Dunbar Rotary Club. Looking ahead to 2025/26, priorities include refurbishing and redeveloping the bar area. A modest 3% price increase in May helped sustain operations after two years without adjustment.

Challenges remain in trustee recruitment and property expertise, with window refurbishment costs estimated at over £10k. Community involvement is key, we've re-introduced group attendance meetings three times a year to strengthen engagement.

Thank you to all volunteers and supporters for making these achievements possible.

Tricia Moscati

East Lothian Community Rail Partnership

East Lothian Community Rail Partnership (CPR) is a network of organisations working to promote rail in East Lothian via independent projects and small grants to groups that encourage rail use. We receive funding from rail companies to enable us to do this.

We are pleased to sponsor the cost of Dunpender News which we recognise as an essential tool for the local Community Council to keep residents informed of ongoing matters in East Linton and district. The reopening of East Linton Station has been welcomed, enabling residents to be connected to the national rail network without using a car. Passenger uptake has exceeded anticipated numbers.



Visit to Edinburgh by train by a group from Lignieres, France

Other examples of projects organised by the CRP have been:-

- Renewal of the Station Murals at Prestonpans, which had become very faded by the sun over the years. These have now been replaced by polyurethane panels showing scenes from the past in Prestonpans, painted by local artists.
- Provision of signposts to the Scottish Flag Centre from Drem Station, and contributing to the cost of a replacement walkway within the churchyard at Athelstaneford to allow users of all abilities to access the Saltire Memorial
- Assisting a group of carers for dementia sufferers in Dunbar to have an afternoon tea at The Balmoral in Edinburgh
- Helping Dunbar Twinning Association with the cost of rail travel to Edinburgh for a large delegation from Lignieres.

We also produce a Line Guide for visitors to the county which is available at all tourism outlets. If you have any ideas for rail-themed projects that we can help with, please get in touch with Allison Cosgrove on allison1314@gmail.com.

East Linton Christmas Lights



The Lights Committee have worked hard during the year, having laughs along the way. Our 2025 switch on was on Sunday 30 November, a very cold day, which did not deter a great crowd coming along to support us and countdown to the switch-on.

Thanks to East Linton Fire Service for putting up and taking down our lights, with assistance from Charlie Hutchison, Elliot Inverarity, Cliff, Freddie, Frank, Barry, June & the late Jim Forson, Murray, Colin, Mirror, the Cubs, Community Choir and also Amy from P5 who won the poster competition and switched on the lights. We raised £1,138.36 on the day.

Also thanks to anyone who donated to help make this event a success - we could not do this without you. All funds raised go straight into the lights fund, this covers insurance, maintenance & purchase of any new lights. We also arrange the popular Santa visit, enjoyed by all and are always on the look-out for new members, if interested please contact sheerinsheena@gmail.com.

East Linton Whisky Society

From Celtic Clashes to Young Upstarts: Last year, we hosted a friendly Scotland versus Ireland showcase, exploring contrasting whisky styles, Irish smoothness and elegance against Scotland's rich, diverse depth, highlighting how both traditions shine through variety and character. Another tasting focused on young distilleries under 20 years old, exploring how experience, emerging styles, and bold peaty profiles shape newer whisky producers, revealing contrasts between seasoned backed projects and enthusiastic newcomers. Our "North by North West" tasting evening celebrated the character and flavour of whiskies inspired by Scotland's northern landscapes. Since June 2019 there have been over 20 events including 3 distillery away days and 6 distillery ambassadors/ independent bottlers visiting ELWS.



Please connect via our Facebook page or our website www.eastlintonwhiskysociety.co.uk for more information and notifications of future events. New faces are always welcome as we cater for all tastes and interest in exploring whisky appreciation.

East Linton Whisky Society Committee

East Linton Art Group

Our group continues to thrive and we welcomed several new members this year and currently have a waiting list.

Our May exhibition was successful and well attended. Sales, raffle and teas were well received. We welcomed a guest artist to give a demonstration. In October we had a lovely afternoon sketching in Haddington by the Nungate Bridge, after which we enjoyed afternoon tea at the Waterside Inn. In December we had our Christmas meal at the Glen Golf Club in North Berwick.

Our AGM was early November where new office bearers were elected.

H. Fleming - retiring chair/new chair - Fiona Lambert

Conservation Grazing at Traprain Law - East Lothian Council Countryside Ranger Service

Traprain Law, one of East Lothian's most distinctive landmarks, brings together rare grassland, rich archaeology and far-reaching vistas. Caring for such a special site requires thoughtful management and for over a decade one of the most effective tools has been conservation grazing using a semi-wild herd of Exmoor ponies.

The ponies were introduced in 2012 to replace sheep and help restore the Law's species-rich grassland. Early monitoring showed definite signs of positive change, with formerly tall grass areas becoming much more closely grazed, reducing the heavy thatch of dead vegetation and even revealing archaeological features. Botanical surveys recorded a marked reduction in both average vegetation height and dead plant material, strong indicators of improving grassland condition.



Independent analysis supports these results. A study by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) found that parts of the summit had changed from tall grassland communities to short communities, concluding that overall botanical interest had increased, even while some slopes remain less grazed. A five-year review by the East Lothian Countryside Ranger Service reached a similar conclusion; the ponies have made this happen across the sites, so they are definitely doing a good job, with Traprain Law assessed as being grazed effectively.

Wildlife has benefited as well. Early bumblebee monitoring recorded a six-fold increase in bumblebee numbers from 2013 to 2014, linked to improved foraging conditions and favourable weather. These insect surveys continue today alongside regular plant monitoring. A crucial part of the grazing programme is that the ponies are left to behave naturally. The Ranger Service emphasise that they are semi-wild working animals, not pets. As stated publicly:

These ponies ... are wild and have plenty of lovely grasses and plants to choose from. It is therefore essential that the public do not feed the ponies as we need them to graze the Law and improve the areas for biodiversity and reduce fire risk.
Edinburgh Evening News, 2023

Botanical and bumblebee surveys at Traprain Law are carried out by trained volunteers from the East Lothian Countryside Volunteers (ELCV), working in partnership with the East Lothian Council Countryside Ranger Service. Volunteers use fixed quadrats and repeat transects to monitor vegetation structure, species diversity and pollinator activity each year, providing long-term data on how the grazing continues to shape the landscape.

In winter, conservation grazing remains essential: shorter vegetation reduces wildfire fuel load, prepares the hill for next spring's wildflowers, and helps protect the site's archaeological features. Traprain Law's grazing programme has become a quiet local success - a blend of heritage land care, biodiversity restoration and community involvement. Visitors are warmly encouraged to enjoy the ponies from a distance, keep dogs under close control, and remember the most important rule: please do not feed them. For more information or to report issues at Traprain Law, contact the Ranger Service ranger@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Lynton Day Centre



Lynton Day Centre welcomes older residents from the town and surrounding areas who are keen to remain active in the community and live well at home for longer. Our centre-based services give family carers a break and time for themselves, and we also offer a Community Outreach Service. This includes delivery of a three-course meal as well as a sitter service providing company and carer respite. There is the option to combine centre-based activities with the Outreach Service as our services are flexible.

Clients enjoy a three-course meal, cooked in our own kitchen from fresh ingredients, followed by a variety of activities, including musical entertainment, games, celebrations, and outings. Some clients come every day, others once or twice a week. Our minibus can pick you up and drop you off or you are welcome to make your own way to us.

This year our clients have enjoyed growing their own vegetables in our courtyard garden - sowing the seeds, watering the raised beds and enjoying the results at lunchtime. On Wednesday mornings we host a Dementia Friendly group between 10am-12noon offering tea, coffee and a scone in a relaxed and supportive environment. If you are living with For supporting an older person with dementia, you are both welcome to come along.

We're delighted that we've again been chosen to be part of the Co-op UK Local Community Fund. If you're a Co-op member, please choose Lynton Day Centre as your cause so that we can receive a share of the community funding.

We have a great team of volunteers and depend on them to help our staff with the daily activities of the Centre. We are also looking for Trustees to join our small management committee which meets on a six-weekly basis. So if you'd like to help us out in any way, please come along to the Day Centre or call us to find out more about supporting your local Day Centre. You'll find us next door to the library and we are open between 10am-4pm, Monday to Friday. Contact us on 01620 861807, email lyntoncentre@btconnect.com or visit our website www.lyntondaycentre.com.

Girlguiding in East Linton

As always, Rainbows have been keeping busy with games, crafts and loads of fun. We have been working hard on our 'Camp' and 'Nature' badges and even learned some new campfire songs. We all enjoyed our recent Pyjama Party raising money for Children in Need.



Brownies have been out and about enjoying East Lothian this year, with a fun pet workshop at Pets at Home, Girlguiding-only cinema screening of Moana2 at The Fort, another brilliant day at Girlguiding East Lothian's Festival in a Field, and adrenaline-fuelled fun on the ringos at Foxlake (see photo) followed by an overnight camp at Allison Cargill House. As is now traditional, we met outside on the glebe at Prestonkirk for the whole summer term, as well as enjoying the woods and beach.

Guides have had another fantastic and busy year! A few favourite activities included our inaugural, hugely popular Human Hungry Hippos night, learning to put up camp hammocks, and cooking bread and toffee apples over the fire, plus toasting and eating far too many marshmallows. We loved our time at Festival in a Field with its end-of-night Silent Disco and sleeping under canvas. Guides successfully explored a wide range of interests, completing exciting badges such as Codebreaking, Upcycling, Mixology, Vlogging and Guiding History.

We are incredibly proud that several girls have received their Gold Award this year, and we'd like to congratulate Anna, Jessica, Rosa and Sadie (Rainbows), Celia, Nora and Éowyn (Brownies), Elsie and Erinn (Guides).

Finally – a 'save the date'. East Linton Brownies group turns 100 years old in 2026 and we are celebrating with Afternoon Tea in the Community Hall on Saturday 28 February. We would love you to join us - look out for more information soon!

East Linton Scout Group

1st East Linton Scout Group offers Scouting for boys and girls aged 6 to 18. As part of the worldwide Scout movement the group aims to provide young people opportunities to reach their full potential. Learning is through self-education, active participation, teamwork, and outdoor adventures.

There are 4 sections - Beavers (6-8), Cubs (8-10.5), Scouts (10.5-14) and Explorers (14-18). We currently have a waiting list for Beavers and Cubs, but have places for anyone who wishes to join Scouts or Explorers.

2025 was a successful year, with the Scouts section restarting with a new, enthusiastic team of leaders. The varied programme of activities across the group last year included bushcraft at Binning Woods, open fire cooking on Tynninghame beach, several camps, day and night hikes, trips to Torness power station and St Giles Cathedral, sailing on Whiteadder reservoir, geocaching, cooking, crafting, apple pressing and rope making. We have also been involved in community and cultural events such as the Gala Day, Diwali and Remembrance Sunday.

All sections are led by adult volunteers, and, like most voluntary organisations, we are always looking for people to help run the group. A benefit is that children of volunteers are considered first in the waiting list.

For more information or to enquire about joining, please send an email to firtheastlinton.scouting@gmail.com.



East Linton Tennis Club

This year has been a positive one for East Linton Tennis Club, with steady engagement from members and plenty of activity on court. Coaching sessions for adults and juniors continued to run well, with many players making good progress.

A major success was the introduction of the Sunday open social session, which brought a number of new people along to try tennis and get involved with the club community.

The club also made a small but welcome improvement to facilities with the installation of a new net, and purchase of a court sweeper.

Overall, it's been an encouraging year, and the club looks forward to building on this momentum in the season ahead.

eastlintontennisclub@gmail.com

Climate Action East Linton (CAEL)



Hedgerow Magic

The biodiversity group at Climate Action East Linton has been on a sharp but enthralling learning curve over the last year... and it's all to do with hedgerows. Hedgerows are definitely in the category of 'win-win' in the rural landscape; great for wildlife, good for farmers, and they work hard for the environment. Often these overlooked little gems punch way above their weight, especially the ones that have a long history in the landscape. Unfortunately, many hedgerows across Scotland and the rest of the UK have been lost or are in sharp decline, so the only way to restore them is through rejuvenation (coppicing, laying and/or planting). Reducing hedgerow trimming cycles - both the frequency (every 3-4 years) and the amount trimmed off - will also enable them to reach their prime.

A new county-wide project was set up under the banner of the East Lothian Climate Hub to restore hedgerows. After a series of training sessions, including one from a UK specialist (Megan Gimber), volunteers performed the first pilot hedgerow survey for Drylawhill Farm. This culminated in a 10-year management plan including new hedgerows, coppicing/laying, and gapping up. This is now being implemented with support from the newly-formed East Lothian Hedgerow Restoration Group. Three further farms are being surveyed over the 2025/26 Winter season.

If you'd like to get involved in this very exciting and rewarding project, and learn some amazing new outdoor or desk-based skills (including hedgerow surveying, planting, gapping up, dead hedging or planning, analysis and reporting), please get in touch with jo@eastlothianclimatehub.org. There are great opportunities in the East Linton area to get involved in, with training provided.

Twa Burns Scrub Woodland

A great team effort went into the general maintenance and surveying of the 'new planting' at Twa during the 2024/25 Winter season. Volunteers were treated to beautiful peaceful and sunny mornings, even if they went home with slightly damp feet. Amongst the highlights were seeing the barn owls, lapwing, and reed bunting, as well as our regulars; yellowhammer, linnet, sedge warblers and other 'red/amber list' birds. Some of the work included putting stronger 6-foot cages around the taller trees. This was just as well, given that a 15-strong herd of fallow deer were seen passing through the area, in addition to the oft-spotted roe deer. The news from the tree survey as of February 2025 was:

- There were 249 pre-existing trees before the new planting in 2021
- 92% of these were hawthorn, with 4 other species (ash, holly, dog rose, willow)
- Twa now has around 530 trees and 15 species, of which hawthorn is now 63%
- The tallest (new) tree at the last count was just under 3m, and 39 trees were more than 1.5m
- The scrub offers greater variety and opportunity for different types of wildlife.

If you'd like to get involved in this low-commitment project, please get in touch with info@cael.community.

CAEL Events

The CAEL events team organises monthly meet-ups, usually in the pub, on different topics. These are very social, and a chance to connect, learn from one another, and share ideas in an informal setting. This last year has seen topics including slow travel, the East Lothian Countryside Rangers, meeting local Councillor Lyn Jardine to understand the workings of East Lothian Council and more. If you'd like to be added to the CAEL mailing list to keep updated on events, please email jo.gibb@cael.community.

Upcoming events; East Linton Adapts – becoming Climate Ready

Join gatherings in the New Year about adapting to our changing world, connecting with others and bringing ideas to life.

"The future is unwritten" - Joe Strummer

We can't fully predict the future, the changes in climate, or how they might impact East Linton and the surrounding area. But we can use the skills, expertise and ideas within our community to create practical and effective solutions, using local knowledge and bringing together as many of us as possible. What can we do now? In 5 years? In 20 years and beyond?

Join two gatherings in the New Year at East Linton Community Hall to learn about some practical solutions already underway, share ideas and help to identify what gaps there may be, more information to follow.

East Linton Community Phone Box

The phone box on the High Street is available for community use. In the past, it has been used for seed swaps, information on helping birds in winter, book swaps, celebrating East Linton's stories and history and more. Anyone in the community can use the phone box for temporary projects/activities if they are for community benefit. The team is available to book slots and is always open to suggestions. If you have an idea for using the phone box, please contact info@cael.community.

Janette Edmonds, Jo Gibb and Julia Edmonds

East Linton Community Choir

The choir had a brilliant weekend of 3 sellout concerts in March 2025 with a programme featuring songs from the 1970's. The choir sang songs by Abba, The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, Bette Midler and many more. We also had fantastic soloists including Karen Crosbie, Joann Russell, Dianne Swift, Claire Du Preez, Grace Waugh and Brian Munday.

As you can see, the choir enhanced the whole 1970's atmosphere with their colourful costumes.

We are progressing well towards our next weekend of concerts at East Linton Community Hall on 20 & 21 March 2026 when the theme will be Hits from the 1950s which will include great rock and roll hits, movie hits and many other styles.



Lorraine Cormack, Musical Director

No Mow May/Wildlife Gardening Competition

We're delighted to share some exciting news: Plantlife, the UK's leading organization for wild plants and fungi, has chosen East Linton as the site of its second annual No Mow May/Wildlife Gardening Competition. Last year's pilot was held in Drayton, a small village in Somerset, where about 15 households took part and the results were so inspiring that Plantlife is expanding the project to new communities. East Linton will be one of only a handful of places in Britain to host the 2026 competition.

No Mow May encourages households to let lawns and green spaces grow throughout May and beyond, allowing wildflowers to bloom and providing crucial food and habitat for pollinators. With over 20 million gardens in the UK, even small changes can make a big difference. The campaign aims to shift attitudes and inspire people to rediscover the natural beauty - and biodiversity - that appears when we put the mower away for a month. This initiative is part of a wider national movement toward wildlife-friendly gardening. East Linton's participation places our village at the forefront of a growing nationwide effort to let nature flourish.

Plantlife will visit East Linton in early spring to launch the competition and offer a public talk with one of their botanists. They will then return in June 2026 to tour participating gardens and public spaces. Judging criteria include the diversity of plant species, creative garden design, notable or rare wild plants, and the effort taken to introduce native species. Bonus points are awarded for features like varied lawn heights, locally sourced plantings, and the successful establishment of Yellow Rattle — the “meadow maker” that helps wildflowers thrive.

Many of us have already noticed the quiet shift happening in our village: more residents allowing gardens to grow freely, more flowering “weeds,” more bees and birds. Across Britain, this relaxed, wildlife-friendly style of gardening is becoming increasingly popular, a gentle move away from highly manicured lawns toward something richer, wilder and more alive. East Linton, with its enthusiastic community and growing interest in ecological gardening, is an ideal place for Plantlife to continue this work. As one Somerset gardener put it during last year's competition, wildlife gardening isn't about expertise, it's about curiosity, enjoyment and a willingness to be surprised by what appears.

Participation is entirely voluntary and open to anyone with any size lawn or green space, from large gardens to tiny verges to pots and planters. East Linton Primary School has already expressed enthusiasm and hopes to involve pupils through in-class talks and hands-on wildlife gardening projects. If you'd like to enter your garden, help spread the word, offer ideas, volunteer with organising, or simply learn more about wildlife-friendly gardening, then please get in touch with local community members at eastlintonNMM@gmail.com. We'll share more details soon.

Ken Ilgunas

East Linton Horticultural Society

Last year I reported on the 20th anniversary of the Heritage Orchard. It is still a good news story and the quality of this year's crop has been excellent for the later varieties, however the quality of the early cooking apples was poor in contrast to the mid-season apples. In contrast, conditions have been ideal for pears and the day centre was able to enjoy a special clone of Conference pear from my garden. One single stemmed cordon tree produced at least thirty quality pears.

When the selection of the apples for the orchard was made over twenty years ago we opted for trees from a nursery in the Isle of Wight as they had a collection of old varieties from Scotland. One was a variety with the name of Reverend Greaves. Apple Congresses had been held in 1883 and 1885 to ensure that apples grown throughout the UK were properly identified and did not have the wrong name. So it was a surprise therefore to be contacted by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh to ask if we could supply samples of the Reverend Greaves apple. The Botanics staff were updating their selection of apples with a link to Scotland and this variety was missing. They wish to do a DNA test and take some grafts in February. This test will reveal if it is the lost variety or was misnamed; it is an excellent late season cooking apple and popular with the day centre. I can vouch for the quality of the Reverend Greaves when used as a baked apple. I suspect it is misnamed and that it is the variety Lord Derby. The most productive apple at the orchard this year was Catshead which is ideal when pureed.

Volunteers to help to manage the orchard would be most welcome and will help keep the day centre supplied with quality fruit. Membership of the society costs £5 per annum and includes a regular newsletter with gardening tips and occasional meetings.

David Affleck, 01620 860694

East Linton Flower Show

East Linton Arts, Crafts and Flower Show has been a main event in East Linton's calendar for many years. We are an 'open' show which means that people from East Linton and beyond can bring exhibits and become members. We have a wide variety of categories and classes, from home baking, handcraft and photography to showing off your very best carrots and pot plants, there really is something for everyone to have a go. The show is run by a small group of volunteers and will be delighted if anyone would like to join us. It is key that we have new volunteers this year to allow the show to continue to run. The date of the next show is Saturday 29 August 2026. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more by either on our Facebook page or by emailing us at eastlintonflowershow@gmail.com.

Get a head start with the Photography class for this year, categories are:- A farm animal(s), A garden, Flowing water, Spring flowers, Harbour life, A sporting scene and 'Down memory lane'.

East Lothian Countryside Volunteers

We are a group of countryside volunteers overseen by East Lothian Council Countryside Rangers service with eight volunteer groups throughout the county helping to maintain the coastline and countryside.

Our recent activities include:-

- securing Area Partnership funding for the final landscaping of stonework adjacent to the new footpath and fencing from East Linton railway station towards Pencraig Hill
- the ongoing maintenance of the Tyne path from Haddington to East Linton
- securing a grant from BeGreen Community Windpower Fund for the building of a ramp for less able beach access at Whitesands Bay
- the maintenance of the access path walkway to Saint Baldred's Cradle at the Tynninghame estuary
- footpath and bridge repairs, litter clearing and wildflower habitat creation at the Linkfield car park Belhaven Bay
- the consolidation of the core path northwards from Whitekirk along Becky's strip towards North Berwick
- ongoing tree sapling planting and care at West Barns John Muir Country Park as part of the community project (see photo).



And our path wardens regularly report on the condition of the core paths within East Lothian.

We always welcome new volunteers. Please see our website <https://www.elcv.org.uk> or email us contact@elcv.co.uk or ranger@eastlothian.gov.uk or talk to the local ranger in the green or white van!

John Hardy, Chair

Giant Hogweed Eradication Project report

Believe it or not this year is Year 7 of our ELCV River Tyne Giant Hogweed Eradication. We always said this was a 10 year commitment for all the landowners to exhaust the residual seeds lying dormant in the soil. We are now seeing that goal in sight so well done to everyone.



The mantra for this project is "no plant must flower". As long as we manage that then we will succeed in our mission by not putting any more seeds into the soil seed bank. I am pleased to report that at the end of year 7, in August 2025, we have achieved that for all the sightings we had for the entire River Tyne's 40 miles. You can see all the green ticks on this map.

Once more I would like to thank Bayer UK for their generous donation of some Roundup for our farmers. Thanks also to all the spotters and landowners who are all volunteers and carry forward this unique project. Finally a great thanks to Dave Quarendon who developed and manages the unique mapping system.

James Wyllie, Coordinator, ELCV River Tyne Giant Hogweed Eradication Project

East Linton Bowling Club



East Linton Bowling Club was founded in 1862, many of the original members had been members of the nearby Traprain Club. The original green, which was on the south bank of the Tyne at Lauder Place, was opened in June 1863. The expanding club moved to its existing site in June 1881 on land initially leased, then purchased, from the Trustees of Phantassie Estate. Electricity was installed in 1930, the green was radically altered in 1952, and a new clubhouse extension opened in 1974. The clubhouse was further extended to its current footprint in 1990.

In 1883 the Club was a founder member of the East Lothian Bowling Association (ELBA). In 1893 the club joined the Scottish Bowling Association now 'Bowls Scotland', and in the same year reached the last sixteen of the national fours competition. Club honours at county level include 21 successes in the ELBA's Jubilee Cup and 24 in the County Cup.

The Club's focus throughout the summer is the bowling green, competing in six different leagues and in county and club competitions. The clubhouse is used for a wide range of activities throughout the year among them charity events, "Over 50s" social afternoons, live music nights, Bingo, Quiz nights and a Thursday pool league.

The Club has a membership of around 70 bowling members and 40 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.

Contact the Club on our Facebook page or by email elbc1862@gmail.com.

East Linton Curling Club

Question: Name the British team that is currently the most successful in world sport?

Answer: The Scottish Mens Curling Rink skipped by Bruce Mouat.

World Champions, European Silver Medallists and curling like many sports ie tennis has five 'Grand Slam' events and this rink in 2025 became the first rink in history to hold four of the five championship titles in the same season. Italy hosts the Winter Olympics in February and all the Great British rinks men, women & mixed are Scots. The women previously skipped by Eve Muirhead are of course the Gold medal winners from Beijing in 2022.



East Linton Curling Club is a mixed Club formed in 1837 and the following year became a founding member of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, the 'Mother Club' of the sport worldwide. The sport is now played in 74 countries and in each of the five main continents. Now we play all our games at the Edinburgh Curling Rink, Murrayfield. Our games are always competitive but friendly and include players of all standards. This season we have four rinks and we have split these into geographic areas to encourage rinks to travel together to and from games. The rink split is roughly East Linton/Haddington, Dunbar, North Berwick and Edinburgh. Our matches are played on different days of the week including weekends and at varying times so all players have the opportunity to participate.

Worried about slipping on the ice?

Most players wear non-slip soles or 'kippers' as they are called on their shoes and a few years back a 'Cue' was introduced. This has had a huge effect on club curling. With the cue the player walks down the ice to deliver their stones rather than slide. Many new players have been introduced to the sport by using this method of delivery and it has also allowed older curlers to continue playing well into their 80s.

Never curled before?

There are regular 'Come & Try' sessions staged by Edinburgh Curling and our club can also help and advise on 'Getting into Curling'. If you would like to give curling a try, perhaps inspired by the Winter Olympics, you are welcome to contact our Club Secretary by email robertbmcgee@btinternet.com. Good luck & keen ice.

East Linton Golf Club



East Linton Golf Club was formed 129 years ago in 1896; they played at 2 courses, one at Markle and the other at Hedderwick Hill. The owner of Hedderwick Hill decided to close the course in 1946 so East Linton Golf Club decamped and joined Dunbar Golf Club the same year.

Members meet in the summer months for social golf, from May to September for medals and various knock-out competitions. The oldest club medal is the Lumsden medal, dated 1903, donated by John Lumsden, at that time headmaster of East Linton Primary School.

Membership of East Linton Golf Club is open to any member of Dunbar Golf Club that were either born, live, have lived, worked or attended school in East Linton or live in the surrounding area. Please contact John Travers on 07721 470810 for more information if you wish to join our club.

John Travers, Captain & Secretary

Tynninghame Village Hall

This has been a lively and productive year for Tynninghame Village Hall, with a strong programme of regular activities that kept the space busy and welcoming. Regular Pilates, yoga, and 5Rhythms dance sessions continued to draw consistent attendance, offering residents a range of wellbeing and movement options close to home.

The monthly Wee Fair once again showcased the hall as a vibrant village hub, and we also enjoyed a series of well-attended bridge lunches, which brought people together for food, conversation, and friendly competition. Alongside these, the hall supported a mix of classes, talks and private bookings, ensuring it remained a well-used and valued venue throughout the year.



We were especially proud this year that one of our volunteers was nominated for the East Lothian Courier's Community Champion of the Year 2025, recognising their commitment and the vital role volunteers play in the life of the hall.

We also made several practical improvements, including the renewal of our website, the purchase of grass protection mats, a fully updated hall handbook, new wine glasses, and an upgraded internet connection to support modern use of the space.

Overall, it has been a positive year marked by community spirit, steady activity, and meaningful improvements to the hall and its facilities.

tynninghamevillagehall@gmail.com

Fixing for a Future

It's been another busy year for Fixing for a Future! We've delivered 6 Repair Cafes at East Linton Community Hall, with the popularity of this event growing each time. We've had lots of wonderful feedback on skills learned and friendships made and have fixed over 350 household items. Alongside the Repair Café, we've also collaborated with Cycling UK to run free bike repair and maintenance masterclasses for 24 people.

As part of our campaign 'Against Fast Fashion!', we've run weekly workshops for over 50 pupils at Meadow Park, Knox Academy and Preston Lodge, as well as for Tranent Library Youth Club, young people supported by East Lothian Works at Musselburgh East and intergenerational sewing classes for Klub Krakowiak in Tranent. We're looking forward to starting weekly sewing skills workshops for pupils at Dunbar Grammar School in the spring of 2026.

Our free, weekly, volunteer-led sewing classes at Haddington and Tranent libraries have been such a great success that we've now expanded our volunteer team and have started a further weekly group at North Berwick Library. Spring 2026 will see us adding two additional weekly classes to the mix, both at Dunbar Library. Since we started early last year, we've had over 300 people join in classes!

A team of us ran a workshop, "Zero Waste: New Futures for Old Clothes" at East Lothian Climate Action Network's Green Futures Festival at Queen Margaret's University, which was great fun and very well attended by children and adults. The Project Officer also visited Parliament along with representatives of Edinburgh Remakery and Circular Communities Scotland to support the **UK Repair and Reuse Declaration**, a campaign coordinated by The Restart Project, which lobbies for policy changes to make repairing and reusing products easier and more affordable in the UK. In December, we ran our first Big Green Christmas Crafting Extravaganza in East Linton, with our crafty volunteers helping visitors make decorative winter wonders from waste!

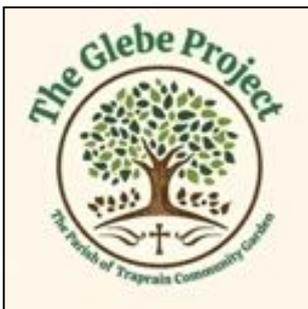
East Linton Tool Library is thriving, thanks to our fabulous volunteer team and loyal members. We currently have 128 members and, since we opened the doors to our 20ft portakabin, have had 3,822 loans! Our inventory has benefited from a number of great additions this year. Go here to browse <https://eastlintonoolibrary.myturn.com/library/inventory/browse> and if you'd like to join the Tool Library and have access to over 300 items for £25 per year, please go here to become a member <https://eastlintonoolibrary.myturn.com/library/>.

Everything we do is completely dependent upon the dedication of our remarkable volunteers and our volunteer team is now made up of over 80 people, bringing a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience and barrels of enthusiasm! If you'd like to find out more or get involved please visit our website www.fixingforafuture.org or email fixingforafuture@gmail.com

Rosie Harrison (Project Officer)



Glebe Project



The Parish of Traprain is excited to share details of our new community garden at the Glebe field on Preston Road. The "Glebe Project" aims to transform an area of the Glebe into an outdoor learning area, social space, and community garden that is intergenerational, accessible, inclusive and biodiverse. The space will be available to the whole community. We hope that over the course of the project, many community groups will be involved in the creation, utilisation, and maintenance of the space.

We have consulted with East Linton Primary School and other groups on what they would like to see in the space. There will be a covered outdoor classroom with a living roof and an extendable tarp to provide shelter for a whole class. The site will also include an outdoor kitchen area with a fire pit and surrounding seating, as well as field-to-fork growing areas in large, accessible raised beds and an edible forest.

There will also be a wildflower meadow and, overlooking the graveyard, a prayer garden for quiet reflection incorporating a gentle water feature. The whole area will be accessible via a new ramp from the car park. It will be open to all during the day, but the gate will be locked at night.

As a Church, we are excited to share this project with the East Linton community. For further information, please see our website <https://www.parihoftraprain.org.uk/the-glebe-project>. You can also make a donation towards our fundraising total at <https://checkout.justgiving.com/c/3857062> or by scanning the QR Code:



'Growing Matters' at Gilmerton House Kitchen Garden

'Growing Matters' is a charity that occupies the old kitchen garden on the Gilmerton Estate, near Athelstaneford. The 4 acre (1.6 hectares) garden was used to provide produce for the nearby Gilmerton House, but following WW2, fell into disrepair and was latterly used for grazing sheep. 'Growing Matters' took over the garden 9 years ago with the aim of creating a community garden where people could enhance their physical and mental wellbeing by engaging in gardening activities. The benefits of gardening for maintaining one's health are well documented, not only the physical activities but the social aspects of meeting fellow gardeners.

All our gardeners are volunteers, and we organise two sessions each week. Creating and maintaining biodiversity within the garden and growing all produce organically are important aspects of our activities. We cultivate flowers, shrubs, trees, vegetables and fruit and some of our volunteers have small plots where they can grow-their-own.



The garden is open to the public during volunteer sessions, or by arrangement, and our annual open day in the summer is well attended and gives visitors the opportunity to purchase produce, view the garden and interact over tea, coffee & home-baking.

Last year we were given £10,100 by the National Lottery Community Fund to create a wildlife pond, fed with water from a nearby garden well. Part of our remit for the project was to interact with the local community in the design of the pond and we were fortunate to receive help from a couple of local pond experts. During the autumn, winter and spring we gradually excavated an area the size of a tennis court, with a maximum depth of 1m tapering to a shallow area at one end. In May we had contractors lay a heavy-duty pond liner with an upper layer of fleece, which will provide an anchorage point for aquatic plants. Once the pond was filled with water, we were able to colonise it with plants, starting with marginal specimens (see photograph). This is a gradual and ongoing process. Almost immediately, swallows appeared in the garden and used mud from the pond to build nests in the garden shelter! There has always been a shallow well in the garden, but it has fallen into disrepair, and nobody can recall it being used. One of our volunteers is a professional hydrologist, who organised the excavation of the well and then established that it is still supplied with ground water. We have recently had the well rebuilt into a stable structure and can pump water into the pond to maintain the water level.

2026 will mark our 10th anniversary and we have achieved a lot since taking over the garden, but future progress is very much dependent on recruiting more volunteers. If interested please come along to a taster session - www.growingmatters.org.uk.

East Linton Men's Shed



The East Linton Men's Shed is a part of the Men's Shed Movement in Scotland. Based at the East Linton Mart site, we undertake woodworking, repair and gardening activities for the community. We welcome and encourage men and women from in and around East Linton to participate in our activities or just to socialise over a cup of tea. The Shed's workshop is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am-1pm or join the gardening group on any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm to grow plants and vegetables in the Mart polytunnel or to help maintain the borders and planters in this shared community area.

Thanks to the site owners, and particularly to its Managing Director Tommy Dale, in March 2025 we were provided with a superb new workshop. It is much larger than our previous one and gives us lots more room to accommodate our comprehensive collection of woodworking machinery as well as providing a seated area where we socialise. This new accommodation should enable us to expand our support of the activities of other local community groups and charities.

Since moving we have been busy refurbishing benches, repairing tools, making bird and bat boxes, and providing the many other varied items and services that Men's Sheds offer to a community. The wide variety of voluntary work undertaken in and around the village this year has included repairing a memorial seat outside Prestonkirk Church, upgrading bookshelves at the East Linton Primary School, repairing seating and upgrading planters in the garden at the Lynton Day Centre, constructing a Santa Claus and a reindeer for the Christmas Lights Committee and making a bench for the Tynninghame park. Recently we also donated a refurbished garden bench and bird boxes for a charity auction in support of the respite care home at nearby Leuchie House and the locally based Balanced Horizons environmental initiative and recently crafted small Christmas reindeer decorations to raise funds to support the Lynton Day Centre.

During the summer it was particularly challenging keeping our polytunnel and raised beds adequately watered but with a grant from the Area Partnership we upgraded our polytunnel drip watering system with a timer unit and were greatly helped by the donation of a trolley to move water around the site. Produce flourished, and 'heat casualties' were kept to a minimum.

At the end of May we held a successful open day providing visitors with both bedding and vegetable plants. Later in the summer our tomatoes, courgettes and cucumbers proved to be very popular with cropping lasting right up to the end of October. Donations from these help to cover our unavoidable overheads, mainly insurance. In August we were very pleased to win the cup for best tomatoes in show at the East Linton Flower Show, while in October we donated some 40 succulent and outdoor plants to the charity auction.

During 2025 the gardening group has grown to four regular volunteers which has made quite a difference to what we have been able to achieve while the workshop support us by keeping our tools sharp and undertaking repairs to the polytunnel and the other areas of the site where the gardening group operates.

Joan Bell, klesiella32@gmail.com

Dunpender Community Council

East Linton

Judith Priest (Chair)
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01620 860380

Allison Cosgrove (Vice-Chair)
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EH40 3BN
01620 860812

Robert Russel
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EH40 3ED
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Haydn Thomas (Treasurer)
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Fiona Constable
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Hailes

Anne Pearson
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01620 860093

Martin Askey
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01620 860876

Markle

Eileen Gill (Secretary)
Markle Cottage, Markle,
East Linton, EH40 3EB
07702 811305

Tynninghame and Whitekirk

Danny Wight
St Baldreds, Tynninghame
EH42 1XN
07845 222774

Position vacant

Position vacant

Whittingehame

Linda Shaw-Stewart
Eastfield Steading, Whittingehame
EH42 4QA
01368 850358

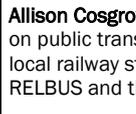
Meetings are on the first Thursday
of every month (except July
and August) at 7.30pm,
in Prestonkirk Stables, East Linton



Dunpender Community Council Members



Judith Priest I've lived in East Linton since 1976, joined the Community Council in 1993 and became Chairperson 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 50 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.



Robert Russel I moved to East Linton 25 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 two new tourist leaflets and the annual DCC Newsletter. I am an area organiser for Poppy Scotland and am a member of East Lothian Countryside Volunteers.



Haydn Thomas I moved to East Linton in 2023 and have been on the Community Council since 2024. I currently work on circular economy policy and have previous experience of forestry, ecology and land use, and renewable energy. I am treasurer for the East Linton Gala Day Committee and represent Climate Action East Linton on the Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership. In my spare time you can find me on the trails of East Lothian or halfway up a hill.



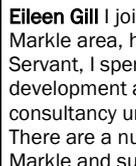
Fiona Constable I've loved East Lothian since my first visit in the 1990s and I live in Papple, Whittingehame. My love of nature and the landscape steered me to study Geography at Glasgow University and to teach it alongside Additional Support Needs for more than 30 years. I'm now grateful to be in a position to dedicate more of my time and energy to the local community and to play my part in protecting and regenerating the rich natural capital of the county. Dunpender Community Council plays a key role in building and maintaining strong local community links and I am proud to be a part of it.



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 fundraising/grant applications. I also assist the East Lothian Countryside Volunteers, working with the ELC Countryside Officers on surveys, invasive plant clearance and path maintenance along the Tyne and in the local country parks and path networks. I've also been responsible for locating benches, built by Barry Craighead, previously a DCC Member, in the local area.



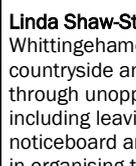
Martin Askey I moved to East Lothian in 2006. I recently retired from Napier University where I taught engineering and developed partnerships with local businesses. My main interests are mountaineering, sailing, skiing and tandem cycle touring. I volunteer at the East Linton Repair Café and hope to contribute to the community council through my knowledge of environmental issues, engineering, education and practical problem solving.



Eileen Gill I joined Dunpender Community Council in Spring 2024 as the representative for Markle area, having lived at Markle for 33 years. A former Scottish Government Civil Servant, I spent a significant part of my career in education as well as organisational development and change management. I established my own business management consultancy undertaking a number of projects for various public sector organisations. There are a number of things going on at present that directly affect the residents of Markle and surrounding area, please contact me to be included in a monthly email update.



Danny Wight I have lived in Tynninghame for a number of years and have represented the village on the Community Council since 2018. 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. 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.



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 projects in Whittingehame including our noticeboard and a map showing all our addresses. I have also previously been involved in organising the Christmas lights in all the villages. 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.

