



# the **BLACK** *bitch*

60P ISSUE 24 MARCH 2014

Linlithgow's news by Linlithgow people



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We're Linlithgow's  
Community Magazine -  
your local magazine with  
local news & events.

*"It was quite humbling to be recognised for doing something you love."* Billy McAdam -  
Linlithgow Rose Community Football Club.



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Next copy  
deadline  
8th April.

*"A Scottish phenomenon... his songs conjure up remarkably vivid imagery of our world."*  
Dougie MacLean to perform  
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## A big thank you to the team and volunteers...

The Black Bitch is brought to you by a dedicated regular team of David Tait, Chris Hamilton at [cghcreative.co.uk](http://cghcreative.co.uk), Murdoch Kennedy, Dougal Philip, Tony Oxbrow, Catriona Addy, Lesley Watson, Ron Smith, Gillian Arthur, Donna White, Melanie Oxbrow, Alison Train, Rebecca Bell, Marjory Boyle Crooks and Edinburgh College HND2 Photography students.

**Guests:** Clive Dyson, John Kelly, Peter Wright, Emma Smart, Sophie Irving, Margaret Lumsdaine, Grace MacDonald. **Volunteer appeal:** Do you have an hour or so to spare every six weeks? If you'd like to help deliver the Black Bitch in your area then get in touch to join the team. We are always looking for more volunteers to share the load. Contact us on: [on.a.lead@gmail.com](mailto:on.a.lead@gmail.com).

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# Folk Fae Lithgae

**BILLY McADAM**

**I**t was quite humbling to be recognised for doing something that you love. That's how local football coach, Billy McAdam felt when he was named as winner of the prestigious Best Coach of the Year award at the SFA Grassroots Awards at Hampden last September.

**"Although it was a Coach of the Year award", he said, "I didn't really see it as an award for me... I saw it as an award for the club and everyone involved."**

As President of the Linlithgow Rose Community Football Club, Billy McAdam is at the helm of a great local success story.

The club was formed in 2011, when the organisation known as **BFC Linlithgow** (formerly Bailielands Boys Club) teamed up with Linlithgow Rose F.C. to improve all things concerning football within the local area. The following year, their commitment to better quality coaching led to the award of Community Level status in both the SFA Quality Mark and West Lothian Council's club accreditation scheme.

Progress has continued since then, with 540 individuals now involved in over twenty five teams, which include girls, soccer 4s, soccer 7s, 11-a-side, amateur and, most recently, over 35s. There is also a dedicated goalkeeping school, a young coaches initiative and a refereeing programme, with the club being totally focused on delivering a pathway to involvement in all levels of football at all ages and abilities.

Billy is justifiably very proud: **"What the two parties - the Rose FC and the Community Club - have achieved in the last two years has been phenomenal. We're right up there, held in the very top regard by the governing bodies, the SFA and the SYFA, and considered as a benchmark to where clubs should be aiming."**

As well as being President, Billy also coaches the under 13s

and helps run the dedicated goalkeeping school, passing on the skills he himself developed playing in goal at Junior and Senior level. He organises a programme for young coaches, involving current and former players who want to coach. The club has a flourishing one hundred-strong girls' section and Billy is part of the international set up for women's football in Scotland, in which local girls are already involved. A vital link with Linlithgow Rose FC has been established through Billy's role as the club's goalkeeping coach.

Billy received his Best Coach prize from his boyhood hero, Kenny Dalglish, who said: **"If it wasn't for the army of volunteers up and down the country like Billy, who dedicate their free time to football, then the game simply wouldn't exist."**

**"He is a brilliant example of the remarkable individuals that give up hundreds of hours a year to ensure that kids from local areas like Linlithgow can enjoy playing football on a weekly basis."**

For Billy McAdam, enjoyment is the key thing. He says:

**"I have always said to the kids that if you don't love doing something, don't do it... kids should only come if they love it, if they want to come. As a coach, it's your job to create the environment where they are keen to come along, they enjoy it and they are bouncing when they come in and they bounce when they go back out."**

The most important word in the club's name is "community", according to Billy. **"We're not just a football club, we're a community club. I take a lot of pride in what we've done on the pitch, but I take every bit as much, if not more, in the stuff we've done off it."**

**Murdoch Kennedy**



# VICTORIA HALL...

**T**he drive to raise funds for the Victoria Hall Feasibility Report received a welcome boost from Linlithgow Grange Rotary on Saturday 22nd February while on Saturday 1st March at a fundraising event at the Star & Garter Hotel a packed house heard an inspiring presentation by well-known community campaigner Lesley Riddoch.

Drawing on examples from her recent book, Blossom, Lesley clearly demonstrated what has been achieved by some of our nearest European neighbours where democracy and deployment of resources reaches much deeper in their communities than is the case in Scotland. When such trust is placed in people to use common sense and superior local knowledge to solve local problems so much more can be achieved both in the short term and especially in the long-term.

So, buoyed up by a rousing call to arms and successful fundraising the Trust is now finalising the feasibility brief and by the time the magazine is published expect to have commissioned the work.

We thank Lesley and our hosts, The Star & Garter Hotel, and all contributors for generously assisting our fund raising efforts.



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## ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION

The most ambitious of the options being explored by Linlithgow Victoria Hall Trust is to create a new building on the site specifically designed around a permanent display of the magnificent Great Tapestry of Scotland, now embarking on what will probably be a multi-year international tour.

Our initial approach stimulated warm interest from the Tapestry Trust, and the founder of the Tapestry, the well-known author Sandy McCall Smith, was given a tour of the site and environs on a recent visit to Linlithgow.

Naturally, there is wide interest in providing the permanent home for a cultural magnet and tourist attraction, but we are confident our location in the heart of Scotland, and our new-build site, puts Linlithgow amongst the favourites.

We have therefore initiated an informal architectural competition aimed at finding concepts and ideas for the site combining a home for the tapestry with a theatre/cinema and other community uses to create a public and community asset worthy of Linlithgow and Scotland.

Professor Branka Dimitrijevic, of Glasgow Caledonian University's Mainstreaming Innovation network is writing the brief, and liaising with Scotland's architectural schools to enlist their finest young talents. Meanwhile one of Norway's premier environmental architectural specialists has agreed to act as a judge and others are being approached.

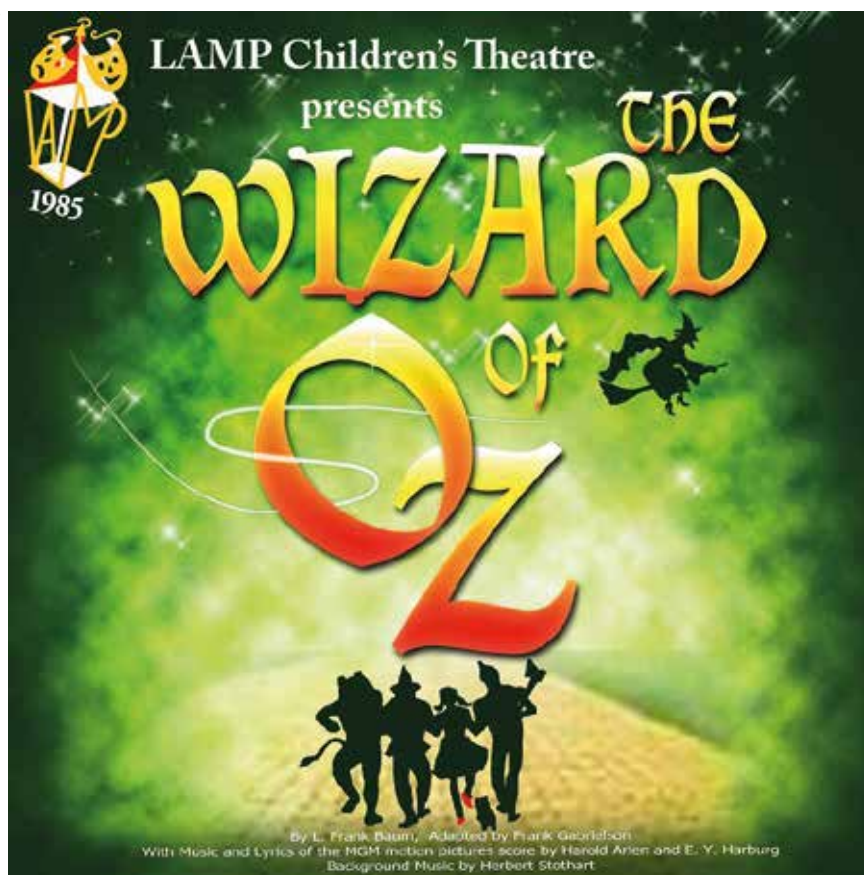
The winning architectural visions and concepts will provide valuable additional input to EK:JN's options appraisal and we are confident that our combination of multi-media context and unmatched central location makes a powerful case for the Hall as a venue for the Tapestry.



David Tait receiving a donation from Ian Adams, President - Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange.

# LAMP – CHILDREN ADRIFT IN THE LAND OF OZ...

**7-12  
APR**



**L**AMP Children’s Theatre’s next show is going to be the classic “The Wizard of Oz.” We’re hoping that the town will follow the yellow brick road along to Linlithgow Academy theatre and join us in the merry old Land of Oz.

This vibrant and fun version of the show follows our heroine Dorothy as she is cast adrift in the Land of Oz after a twister picks up her house. Fans of the movie will know the tale well. Dorothy is honoured by the Munchkins for accidentally squashing the Wicked Witch with her house. She meets the Scarecrow, the Tinman and the Cowardly Lion on her way to see the Wizard, with every move she makes managing to anger the Wicked Witch of the West. So far so good! However, there is also a rocket ship involved in the plot of this show! You will have to come along and see for yourself how that fits in. The well-loved songs from the 1939 movie are all there, being sung beautifully by our talented young cast. In addition, we’ve included the song “Jitterbug” which was cut from the original movie due to time constraints.

Seventeen new children joined this year and there’s a real buzz around the rehearsals. The standard of the auditions for parts in the show was staggeringly good and made it incredibly difficult to restrict the cast to just one person per part. The production team and cast are working really hard to put together the high standard of show that the town has come to expect from this very talented group.

In 2013 we had proof that the hard work pays off when, in October, LAMP Children’s Theatre was awarded the “Utopia Costumes Youth Award”. This award is given to a group that have achieved excellence, contributed to the artistic and/or charitable life of their area, inspired young people to participate in the performing arts and have provided exciting and challenging experiences for young people. We were absolutely delighted to win, even more so because we were put forward anonymously and had no idea that we were even in the running! The award was presented to our President **Jennifer Miller**, Director **Calum Campbell** and a representative group of the children at the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) AGM in Peebles in October. The award is a great acknowledgement of the hard work of so many people who make LAMP Children’s Theatre happen but it also confirms what we’ve always known about our children – they are worthy of national attention.

**So please come along and see our show this year and support these talented young people who are rehearsing like mad right now to make this their best show ever. The Wizard of Oz will be on in Linlithgow Academy Theatre from the 7th-12th April. Curtain up is at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 for adults and £7 for children and concessions, with family tickets available for £30. Tickets can be ordered by calling 07949475932 or by going online at [www.linlithgow-musicals.co.uk](http://www.linlithgow-musicals.co.uk) We’ll see you there!**

**Alison Train**

# YOUR LOCAL SCOUTING GROUP NEEDS YOU!

**L**inlithgow boasts over 140 voluntary groups and for children one of the most popular is Scouting. Scouting Groups rely on an army of volunteers who give up their free time to enable local children to benefit from a Scouting experience. There are three Scouting groups in Linlithgow, the 2nd West Lothian Scout Group is based in Dog Well Wynd. It has grown significantly over the past few years, new sections have been added at all age ranges to respond to the increasing demand. There are two Beaver Colonies (ages 6 – 8), two Cub Packs (ages 8-10), two Scout Troops (ages 10-13) and an attached Explorer Unit (age 14+).

Nick Moody, Group Scout leader told me “The Group is very successful and now has 135 young people but demand is continuing to outstrip supply - we have a waiting list of 50 children who should be in Scouting today, with a further 25 who are currently too young for involvement. We have expanded as much as possible but we need new volunteers to help meet the ever-increasing demand for spaces. The existing leaders and supporters are all volunteers, most with full time jobs and families. They tell me that they find it fun and rewarding but would appreciate some extra help.”

He explained that there are a number of roles with which they require additional help. These include some roles which are regular and others just occasional, ranging from only a single evening a week plus training activities to camps running 6 times per year.

The fact that Nick and his fellow volunteers find the roles rewarding is backed up by a recent survey commissioned by Scouting UK and conducted by an independent research company – Public and Corporate Economic

Consultants (PACEC) in 2011, to carry out an Impact Assessment of The Scout Association. This was to measure the impact and benefits of Scouting on its young people, its volunteers and its wider communities. The research drew on a substantial body of evidence following surveys with over 2,500 people including Scouts, Scout volunteers and former Scouts, young people not involved in Scouting and external organisations including voluntary and neighbourhood groups in the public and private sector.

The survey concluded from the research that “Scouting provides long-lasting and varied benefits to young people. It is also evident that by becoming an adult volunteer in Scouting and supporting young people to develop their own sense of self and responsibility, adults will also obtain a wide range of skills, useful not only to them, but to their employers and communities.”

Nick is in full agreement with the survey’s findings on the benefits of Scouting to the children involved and those who volunteer their time. He would welcome the opportunity to discuss the roles available with those who are interested in broadening their skills in a fun environment whilst contributing to the local community.

**Please contact Nick at:**  
**[Linlithgowscouts@Hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Linlithgowscouts@Hotmail.co.uk)**  
**for further details.**

**Gillian Arthur**



# MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS STATUE AT LINLITHGOW PALACE

**T**he Marie Stuart Society has launched an appeal to raise funds to erect a statue of Mary, Queen of Scots at her birthplace, Linlithgow Palace, thereby creating a focal destination for all who are interested in the monarch and her incredible story.

The Society had been looking for a site for the statue for some time and was delighted when Historic Scotland proposed that Linlithgow Palace would be the most fitting site for the statue of the Queen.

The design for the statue was commissioned some years ago from the sculptor **Anne Davidson** of Aberdeenshire, who sadly has since died. However, the well-known Scottish sculptor **David Annand** has now been commissioned to scale-up the design to over 7ft and have it cast in bronze. The statue will stand on a 3ft stone plinth and will be sited near to the car park, facing towards the Palace and the room of the Queen's birth.

The quality of the original artwork on the design of the maquette has been recognised by Historic Scotland to be of importance for educational purposes in telling the story of the Queen's life. The hem of her dress incorporates the emblems of Scotland and France and the Queen's own personal logo. She is holding her rosary crucifix and prayer book which are symbols of her faith and her hope to die as a martyr to her faith. The dress has been carefully researched to depict a fashion which would have been popular with great ladies in the 16th century and the neck ruff is fastened with a luckenbooth.



After being gifted the site at Linlithgow, the Society was made aware of the existing statue of the Queen in the garden of Annet House. The Annet House statue depicts another feature in the Queen's life- her interest in falconry. Indeed, the Queen was a very keen sportswoman. Perhaps the two statues, both situated at Linlithgow, will be an encouragement to the many historians and tourists who follow a Marian Trail around Scotland, England and France, to visit Linlithgow and enjoy the history of a town which was associated with monarchs of Scotland and in particular, the Renaissance monarchs. Annet House gives a complete history of the Stewart family influence in Linlithgow and the Palace adds the luxurious renaissance feature.

Obviously a large amount of money is required to have this bronze statue cast and the Society is making an appeal internationally for £75,000 to cover all the costs. If anyone wishes to make a donation towards this appeal, more information can be found on The Marie Stuart Society website [www.mariestuartsociety.org/appeal.php](http://www.mariestuartsociety.org/appeal.php). Payments can be made by PayPal on the website or cheques, made payable to the Marie Stuart Statue Fund, can be sent to the Treasurer, Ian Lumsdaine, 1 Armit Place, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 8RE. The names of generous donors will be entered on a Roll of Honour which will be sited at the entrance to the Palace or in the Palace shop.

**Margaret Lumsdaine**  
President, The Marie Stuart Society

*Marie Stuart Society members at the statue at Annet House; credit Margaret Lumsdaine*

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# High Street Ladies of Fashion

**Y**ou know when you have those conversations with friends over lunch about what your dream job would be?

**The usual pattern is you finish your lunch, go back to work and carry on as normal.**

But for **Vikki** and **Lynne**, who have recently opened Boutique 42 on Linlithgow High Street, they actually turned the dream into reality. Vikki told me: **“The idea came when we were talking about it as a fantasy. Then one day we went out on lunch together, and we saw that this place was open for leasing and thought “will we go and see it?”** When we did, we knew straight away that it was perfect for what we wanted.

And what they wanted was a One Stop shop for women. As Vikki puts it: **“We wanted a place where we could go and get everything done, and buy an outfit at the same time!”**

By everything she means that as well as selling amazing clothes, there is a beauty side of the boutique. Customers can book in for a manicure, a pedicure, HD eyebrows, party lashes and soon a Sienna spray tan. Combine that with finding your perfect outfit, and you're good to go! Vikki says: **“We both really liked the idea of one shop where you can buy clothes, and get your nails done or get a spray tan all under the one roof, because often women are so busy and pushed for time. It was designed for ease – to have the things that women like, all in one shop. It seems like such a basic idea, but we love it, and everyone else has so far.”**

The shop needed a complete refurbishment, as it had been empty for about 6 months, and there was a lot to do construction-wise. But as Lynne's husband owns a construction company, work was completed within a few short weeks with a new chic but accessible layout. The main aim was to be open in time for Christmas, so customers could buy their festive party dresses and presents, and have beauty treatments too.

The girls realise that Linlithgow doesn't have anything like Boutique 42. They stock brands that you would have to go into Edinburgh or Glasgow to get hold of, and they like the

idea of each purchase being special; **“We don't get anything in twice if something sells out. Because we're in a small area, we don't want lots of people having the same thing!”**

The response in Linlithgow has been fantastic so far; **“Our customers have been really excited about it, which makes us feel great; that people do want what we wanted as well!”**

With new stock every week, and shopping events planned, this is a new business that is going to really enhance the High Street.

**Maybe more of us should act on that lunch time dreaming!**

**Boutique 42** is at 42 High Street, Linlithgow.

**T. 01506 848647**



**by Alison Train**

# A New Year at New Hopetoun Gardens

**T**his is about the right time to ask you how you are getting on with your New Year's resolutions! Okay, we're not really going to ask you but, instead, tell you about a couple of our resolutions that we are still acting on... we won't discuss the many that have fallen by the wayside.



We saw this outdoor blackboard when we visited **Snape Maltings** in East Anglia last Autumn and thought what a lovely thing to have in the gardens here for kids to draw on in the summer. We resolved to put one in one of our old **Avant Gardens** and we'll have a couple of benches next to it for grandparents to sit on while the kids get creative. Watching kids unwrapping lovely presents and then wanting to play with the empty box reminds us how much pleasure they get from the simplest things. We think it's good to get them writing and drawing with their own hands and off those electronic ipads and tablets!

We have been saying for the last five years that we must plant some more shrub roses, especially **David Austin's fragrant English roses**, around the gardens. Then the spring comes and goes and we've sold most of them to you, and another year goes by! Resolution number two is to plant half a dozen on the sunny side of our woodland here, a couple up posts for instant height and the others in mixed borders on the edge of the wood.



This rose is a hybrid musk called **Penelope** and, although it's not a result of **David Austin's** breeding programme it has many of the same attributes: perfumed, repeat flowering, old fashioned clusters of many heads and easy to grow. In this picture it is next to two evergreen shrubs, on the

left **Pittosporum Silver Queen** and on the right **Escallonia Donard Seedling** from Ireland.

Finally the most serious resolution, and one from which there is no escaping, was the decision last autumn, as the **Wisteria** on our patio was beginning to turn yellow, to open our own garden for charity again after three years! Our chosen charity is celebrating its 175th year and also **Dougal** is taking over as chairman this year, having been a trustee for

the last 8 years: **Perennial** (Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society). They look after those who look after our green spaces when they get into times of difficulties and we have caseworkers and clients across the whole of the UK. Last year our client numbers increased by 15% and it won't surprise you to learn that the biggest growth area is in debt advice and the cases are getting more complex all the time. For the open day, we can only accommodate 30 folk for a morning talk, lunch and time in our ¼ acre garden, but the garden still has to be just right no matter how many guests you are expecting... we're off to garden now!

**Lesley Watson and Dougal Philip**  
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## Linlithgow Planning Forum Whose Town Is It Anyway?

**L**inlithgow is a town under siege by developers. A recent “call for sites” by West Lothian Council, produced responses from the owners of land with capacity to build 4,500 new houses in and around Linlithgow. To put that in context there are at present approximately 5,500 houses in the town.

While it is extremely unlikely that many of those offers of land will be taken up, and the owners know it, you may wonder why they bother registering interest. The answer of course is the life-changing (for the landowner) increase in the value of land when planning permission for residential development is granted.

A hectare of farmland with capacity for 25 houses, without planning permission, is valued at somewhere around £10,000 in Scotland. With planning permission that same piece of land can increase in value to around £1,000,000 or £40,000 per house plot.

On this basis, in the extremely unlikely event that permission were to be granted for those additional 4,500 houses the value of the potential development land reaches a staggering sum in excess of £400,000,000. Not ever likely to happen but nonetheless gives an idea of what is at stake.

So in the eyes of a developer Linlithgow is not a community but a gold mine waiting to be exploited, hence the siege. The members of Linlithgow Planning Forum share the view that Linlithgow’s position in the centre of Scotland and as one of Scotland’s most desirable places to live mean that it is always going to be a prime target for residential development.

They also share the view that if there has to be further development then there ought to be certain conditions attached in order to protect the long-term interests of the town and all those who choose to make it their home. A good proportion of any development land value could legitimately be diverted to meet the town’s present and future needs.

The Forum has therefore set out some founding principles for guidelines for a “Linlithgow Plan”:

1. “Linlithgow supports development that enhances the heritage and character of the town, increasing its attractiveness both to visitors and as a place to live and work.”
2. “Linlithgow supports controlled expansion of housing and other development within the town whilst retaining the character of the town.”
3. “Any development must provide the means to ensure that the additional services and facilities required by the increase in population are provided. No development should proceed without the funding for additional infrastructure, services and facilities being guaranteed.”

The full document “Linlithgow Planning Forum – Guidelines for a Linlithgow Plan” can be viewed on the Community Council website at: <http://lbcc.org.uk>.

Linlithgow Planning Forum is also keen to hear community views on the subject. Should there be any more development at all? If yes, how

much should there be? Where should it be? Can some of Linlithgow’s well known problems – congestion on the High Street, lack of parking facilities – be cured as part of a coherent plan? Can Linlithgow become a vibrant centre for commerce and tourism? Should it be left in peace to be a commuter town, development left to the whim of developers?

Who knows best?

**So, to the second line of our heading – “Whose Town Is It Anyway?”**

Do you support the line taken by the Planning Forum? Should the people of the town have a say in the shape of future developments? Or should it be left to our three Linlithgow councillors sitting with 30 others from West Lothian to decide what is best?

**Whose Town Is It Anyway? Your views are actively sought.**

**Contact: John Kelly, Chair, Linlithgow Planning Forum; email: [planning@linlithgow.com](mailto:planning@linlithgow.com)**

**Linlithgow Planning Forum is an open membership group comprising at present members of Linlithgow Community Council, Linlithgow Civic Trust, Linlithgow Business Association, Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow and Transition Linlithgow.**

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# DOUBLE DELIGHT AS KINGSFIELD AND GALLACHER GET IN THE SWING...

**T**here is a buzz about the place. Young and old, individuals and families, they come and go. Golfers, teaching professionals, sports personalities, school groups, coffee shop goers. The list goes on and on. From birdies and the odd bogey to buns and butties, there is collective enjoyment. It's the modern golf club model, a departure from the traditional which is landing many clubs in the rough.

Located just off the M9 near Linlithgow, **Kingsfield Golf Centre** has just about everything for golfers of all ages, abilities and genders... and more. Kingsfield Events organise and run activities such as laser clay shooting, archery and mountain biking at the facility, or at your preferred site in Scotland or northern England.

It's no surprise **Robert Arkley**, the owner of Kingsfield, regularly offers a smile. Boy, he puts in the working hours but the endeavours of himself and his committed team continue to pay off. "So many people have preconceived notions about golf clubs and what they represent, we need to make it clear we are a 'non-traditional' facility and things are going well."

Kingsfield's profile in recent years, with the fine 9-hole USGA specification course being opened in May 2009

when Arkley, a farmer by trade, decided to build on the land and add to the existing driving range facility, has also been boosted by the exploits of a local lad, a European Tour professional who is attached to the centre.

Raised in Bathgate and living just outside Linlithgow, Stephen Gallacher is currently riding high in the golfing charts. At the start of February, the 39-year-old retained the Dubai Desert Classic, claiming his third career title on The European Tour and kick-starting his Ryder Cup hopes to boot. The nephew of former Ryder Cup captain Bernard, Stephen has rocketed into the world's top 50 and now has a fighting chance of making Paul McGinley's European team just up the road at Gleneagles. It's been a lifetime dream, one he is now battling to fulfil.

"It's the pinnacle of a golfing career to play in it," admits Stephen, who visited his favourite watering hole at Platform 3 to meet pub regulars with the iconic Dubai trophy in the days after his latest triumph. "My uncle was Captain three times and played in it eight times, so it would mean a lot to the family. I think it would give the country a boost if there was a Scot in the team and we are all trying hard to get there. Paul Lawrie played last time (at Medinah) and listening to his stories gets the hairs on the back of your neck standing up. It's a good start, but the Ryder Cup is not until September, so I need to back it up now and play well in the big events."



Nobody would be prouder than Bernard if he can do it. **“If he can make a big effort, then there’s no reason why he can’t get in the team,”** said Bernard in an interview with The Scotsman recently. **“It would mean a lot to Stephen if that happened in Scotland. It would also mean a lot to a whole host of people in the Lothians, where he’s doing some excellent work these days with his foundation.”**

Bernard continued **“He’s lucky that he has the facilities at Kingsfield, where they have the driving range to teach young kids in the first place, then a nice nine-hole course for them to play. What fell into place was Robert Arkley letting Stephen have it as a base for his Foundation. That’s what really allowed it to get off the ground.”**

**The Stephen Gallacher Foundation**, launched in 2011, is thriving in the Lothians, the little swingers seeking to emulate their role model. Kingsfield has undoubtedly helped its cause, with 20 practice bays on site, a fun, challenging putting green and a short game area boasting bunkers alongside pitching and chipping greens, kids simply love it.

Kingsfield is also a **TaylorMade Performance Centre**, offering a tailored custom fit experience. For example, on the course, the technology continues to evolve – to help the pace of play and safety on the first hole, a traffic light system was introduced, thanks to the innovative work of a member,

Stephen Gillespie. The desire to improve the course continues, with a new medal tee built at the 1st and the plan for different tees at every hole so that a ‘new’ challenge can be enjoyed. Gallacher is also seeking to build a 9-hole short course dedicated to help children into the game and allow them to hone their skills. At this rate, the buzz about the place will only become louder.

Arkley added: **“It’s so nice to have backing from local sponsors, including Alan Steel Asset Management, FPG Group, Macdonald Hotels and Edinburgh Mercedes, to help us here. We look forward to another successful year.”**

.....

**Linlithgow resident Ed Hodge, a Kingsfield member, is the author of a new book: Jewel in the Glen: Gleneagles, Golf and The Ryder Cup.**

Produced in association with The Gleneagles Hotel, the publication provides a celebration of golf at the resort ahead of the Ryder Cup. Featuring wonderful photography and exclusive interviews with sports stars like Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, Gary Player, Colin Montgomerie, Andy Murray, Kenny Dalglish and Stephen Hendry, it can be purchased online and from all good bookshops priced £25. A Kindle version is also available.

**Ed Hodge**

## Scotland's Book for the John Muir Centenary – Nature's Peace

“When I was a boy in Scotland, I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I have been growing fonder and fonder of wild places and wild creatures.” *John Muir*

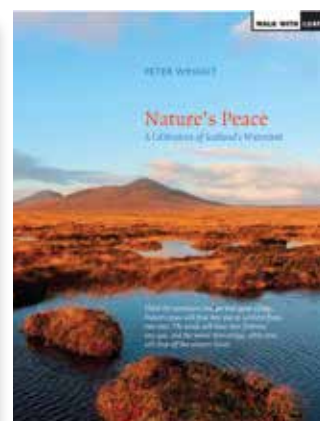
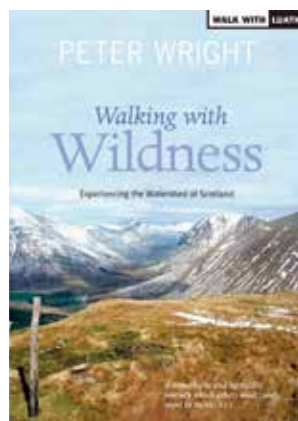
**L**inlithgow based author Peter Wright, invites readers of his latest book *Nature's Peace a Celebration of Scotland's Watershed*, to discover a spectacular geographical feature in our landscapes that is quite literally as old as the hills, but has only recently been fully defined. To help him in this quest, he attracted much enthusiastic support by recruiting over 50 like-minded and talented photographers from all over Scotland: result, a highly fitting book to help Scotland to mark the John Muir Centenary.

Through the large number of evocative images he takes the reader on an immense visual journey from one end of Scotland to the other, upon the very spine, the Watershed of the country. To introduce this hitherto largely unknown concept, he suggests: “imagine you are a raindrop about to land on Scotland”... and so, all becomes clearer.

Having walked the entire 650 mile route; over bog, rock, mountain, moor and forest, a few years ago, Peter was captivated by the continuous wildness he experienced. In researching and writing his first book, *Ribbon of Wildness: Discovering the Watershed of Scotland*, he gathered a wide range of evidence to support this notion. He then went on to *Walking with Wildness: Experiencing the Watershed*, before embarking on the big John Muir Centenary publication, which is now attracting widespread interest and acclaim.

With the birthday of this Scots' born environmental hero coming up on 20th April, and centenary of his death in December, the Scottish Government will open the coast-to-coast John Muir Trail for both walkers and cyclists. This has an interface with Linlithgow, and the associated John Muir Festival will include events here in the Burgh: [www.johnmuirfestival.com](http://www.johnmuirfestival.com).

During his 64 days of largely off-track solo walking he both experienced and enjoyed on his epic of 2005, which involved a total ascent equivalent to 3.5 Everests, Wright felt a constant interaction with all that Nature both gave and expected. The vagaries of the



weather were ever in harmony with the diversity of both landscape and terrain. Wide panoramas occasionally obscured by mist, then re-emerged as with a curtain lifting. All his skills in mountain-craft and self-reliance were mustered to meet the one constant: the unpredictable. The joys of camping high and almost touching the stars, gave a true feeling of that rich eternal creativity that many covet and aspire to. Whilst there were many days on his wild route in which he met few if any, fellow walkers, he was never lonely: the richness of Nature and the sound of the skylark were his constant companions. He says that he now feels immensely privileged to have been able to undertake such a big venture, sharing the experience through his Trilogy of books and ever expanding programme of talks.

With a passion that belies his years, Wright enthusiastically asserts there can be no more fitting means of celebrating the legacy of John Muir, which is increasingly being appreciated for its compelling relevance for Scotland today, than in a book that all can hold, read and enjoy. To discover and explore something new in our landscapes, which Nature alone created, is he says, to connect us with “a wellspring of natural goodness that can ever flow outwards to replenish and renew.”

[www.ribbonofwildness.com](http://www.ribbonofwildness.com)

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Author, Peter Wright



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# I LOVE SCOTLAND - AND SCOTLAND LOVES ME!



**W**ith Scotland's "Year of Homecoming" now in full swing, one American visitor has already spent seven weeks in the place she lovingly describes as "the promised land" and is planning at least one return trip later in the year.

Marilyn Kourinos from Falmouth, Maine, in the north-eastern United States, has a great passion for Scotland. She came as a twenty year old in 1966 and liked it so much, she stayed for a year.

"I had been here once briefly before that", she explained" and I knew I loved it and wanted to come back. I talked my best friend into coming over. I turned 21 over here. I always say 'I didn't go to college, I went to Scotland."

During that visit, Marilyn got to know some people in Linlithgow and she kept in touch with them over the years. The town has featured prominently in her countless trips to Scotland and she has visited at various times of the year, including twice at the Marches.

Marilyn often spends three or four months in Scotland and feels completely at home. "Everything good happens when I'm here", she says. "It's really magic...I feel like a different person and I just love to be surrounded with it...it's almost like I get off the aeroplane and a nice tartan blanket wraps around me...I feel very safe and I hope I can continue to come here and see things I want to see."

This year, she experienced a Linlithgow Hogmanay for the first time, gathering with friends old and new in "Platform Three", which she described as "very cosy, like being in somebody's house." A few days later, she was joined by her son and family, who were making their debut visit to Scotland.

"My son thinks it's great Now that he's been here, he can picture what it's all about and he told me to keep coming back He saw me in a different light."

Marilyn travels round the country and gets involved in all kinds of new experiences, such as hostelling, that she would never dream of doing at home. On recent trips, she has spent time in the Borders, due to her friendship with a group of Folk musicians. She explained:

"Several years ago, I went to New York City for Tartan Week and became very fond of a band from Hawick, called "Scocha"... I've come back just to see them and hear them and that's another whole area, down in the Borders. It's just beautiful."

When asked why she comes so regularly to Scotland, Marilyn says simply: "I just love it...I feel invigorated and I feel alive. It's the people and the music and the atmosphere. It makes me feel good and you like to be where you feel good. I'm going to write a book someday called 'I love Scotland and Scotland loves me.'"

Marilyn has been humbled by the kindness people have shown towards her, especially Anne and Ian Gibson and other friends in "Platform Three".

"Somebody told me years ago that 'St Michael is kind to strangers', but a friend in the pub said 'you're not a stranger any more.'"

Marilyn is planning her next trip for August and September and is looking forward to seeing Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham at the Linlithgow Folk Festival. She will also be a very interested observer of Scotland's referendum on independence.

Murdoch Kennedy

Want to comment? Get in touch at: [on.a.lead@gmail.com](mailto:on.a.lead@gmail.com)

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# MARY'S MEANDERS

**Y**ou may have noticed some tour guides in red jackets wandering the streets of our fair town in the last few months. They are the staff of Mary's Meanders – a new business started by Emma Chalmers. We caught up with this local businesswoman to find out a little bit more...

## What is Mary's Meanders?

It's a new business in Linlithgow, offering private 90-minute guided tours of the town and photography walks. We currently run tours on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10.30am. Between April 7 and October 1 we'll be running tours every day at 11.30am and 2pm.

## What gave you the idea for the business?

I used to see the buses dropping tourists off at The Cross - they would march up to see the Palace and the Peel, and then get back on the bus and drive away. I thought it was a shame they weren't getting to see more of the town and hear about its history and what it has to offer.

## Who makes up your team (and tell us a little about them)?

There's me, **Emma Chalmers**. I'm a mum-of-three, originally from Dublin but I married a Scot and have lived in Scotland since 2003. I set up my own children's party business Rocking Rascals in 2004. But that's now taking a back seat to this new venture.

There's **Ross Hyslop**, a 24-year-old former Linlithgow Academy pupil and graduate of Stirling University. He was born to be a tour guide, with a passion for history. He believes that "by knowing the past we can gain a better understanding of the present".

**Anne Daly** has lived in the area for 20 years and been an active member of the local community, serving on the gala committee, and now on the board of the Linlithgow Community Development Trust. She has a wealth of knowledge about Linlithgow and has acted as an unofficial tour guide to many visitors, including Norwegian exchange students who stay with her.

And our photographer is **Ian Young**, who is from Stirling and enjoys urban and street photography. He has more than 40 years' experience of seeing life through a lens and leads our photography walks.



## What will you offer to Linlithgow visitors?

A warm and friendly welcome based on the town's motto: *St Michael is kind to strangers*. And the chance to see a town full of history and heritage.

## Who will enjoy your guided walks?

Linlithgow locals who want to get to know their town, as well as visitors. Because our tours last 90 minutes, I'd say it's not for children under the age of 10 – but it all depends on the child. We can also do tailor made tours for school visits or community groups – Linlithgow Ladies Circle have been on one of our walks.

## How many people are you hoping will join your tours?

We can take a maximum of 15 on our tours, and 12 on our photography walks. Which is why you really need to book through our website.

## What kind of stories/history will you be sharing with them?

We'll be talking about the architecture – both what you can see now and what landmarks are no longer here. We use the Heritage Trail and bring that to life. But there are also some characters we talk about – like the poor girl who was pulled out of the Four Mary's and accused of witchcraft!

## How has your experience running a children's party business prepared you for this?

Once you've entertained a room full of over-excited kids, you can handle anything. In the same way I wanted the kids to go away feeling like they'd had the best birthday party ever, I want people to go away after our tours feeling like they've had a really enjoyable 90 minutes – and if they're on holiday, like they've just experienced a highlight of their visit to Scotland.

## How has the business been received so far?

Everyone has been so kind and helpful, and we've had amazing feedback from local tourism officials, including the staff at Annet House and the town's B&B owners who have told us what their visitors want. I hope we can complement each other. When people come on our tours, we can recommend places for lunch, places to stay and other attractions worth visiting – encouraging them to linger longer in Lithgae!

## What are your hopes for Mary's Meanders, looking into the future?

I want a busy first Summer season, to develop relationships with other tour operators and build up to running tours in foreign languages. We'll also be running ghost tours, as we've been told there's a demand for this sort of thing. The sky's the limit – but... **I don't want to run before I can walk (no pun intended!).**

**Check out [www.marysmeanders.co.uk](http://www.marysmeanders.co.uk) for more information and to book tickets. Donna White**

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**H**ard to believe it is 35 years since Linlithgow Link was set up back in 1979. The aim of this, the first voluntary group of its kind in West Lothian, was and still is to provide a voluntary service promoting the concept of a more caring community within Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge. We can provide support through social and community activity to those who are isolated by illness, age, or infirmity.

Linlithgow Link is a registered charity (SCO No: 13502), part-funded by West Lothian Council. In line with legal requirements, all volunteers are fully insured and security checked as members of the PVG Scheme. Volunteers enjoy being involved in a variety of rewarding activities and whilst giving their time freely are not expected to be 'out of pocket' in any way. New people are always welcome; membership is free...so if you, or someone you know, would like to join us, please get in touch. Keeping us organised are two cheerful and competent staff members, working part-time hours with a full-time commitment, to coordinate the requests and activities for our 50 local volunteers.

#### These activities include:

- > driving of their own cars to take people to hospital or health related appointments when a person has difficulty in using public transport
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- > assisting in running the local monthly Caring Café for those affected by Dementia



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- > support to those attending our 'out of town' excursions (using an accessible bus) or the traditional Burns lunch get-together
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- > maintenance of the close links formed with local primary schools and regular attendance with our members to their seasonal concerts.

We are open to requests for help in the majority of tasks, invariably finding a volunteer to take any reasonable assignment. Requests can be made by social workers, GPs and other health professionals but also by direct contact from individuals themselves or a family member. We provide the service for all local residents.

It can sometimes be difficult to reach new people who may be interested in, or benefit from, our services and activities, so if you want to join us please get in touch, by using the contact details below. We want to nurture the positive community spirit that Linlithgow is deservedly proud of, so will be delighted to welcome new people on board, either as 'clients' or 'volunteers'...

You can also find out, quickly and easily, what we are up to through our twice yearly Newsletter. This can be delivered to you, free of charge, either through your letterbox or by email.

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# Design at Linlithgow Academy



**O**ver the last 25 years, the Craft and Design Technology department at Linlithgow Academy has continually changed. It has expanded in size and evolved to reflect current and modern trends in design.

At first, the subject was very much male dominated, perhaps following an old stigma that old school Craft & Design was only seen as a male subject to train tradesmen.

However, over the years this has changed dramatically, going from a full male staff to having female teachers currently outnumbering their male counterparts. **In fact, Linlithgow Academy had the first female Design Technology teacher in the whole of Scotland (see picture above).**

The Design & Technology course is split into two phases. The Lower Phase is aimed at younger students from First to Third year providing young people with a Broad General Education. This course provides a general introduction to Design & Technology allowing students to experience, at first hand, many aspects which they may decide to focus on at a later stage of their academic career. The Senior Phase is aimed at young adults from Fourth to Sixth year. Here the course splits into three different subjects; Design Manufacture, Graphic Communication and Practical Craft Skills, where the students can decide themselves which of the subjects they would like to study and learn about in more detail.

Continuous change in technology has had a major impact on the department. New technology such as a Laser Cutter, 3d Printer and CAD/CAM machine are now available for the students to use. Embracing this technology allows the department to imitate the current work in industry and provides interdisciplinary projects and links with the local community. Projects have included Chanel, Truly Scrumptious and S2 Construction Challenge.

As a current sixth year student, doing both Graphic Communication and Product Design, I have seen the department change over my time here at the Academy. In recent years, the department has increased significantly in size.

During this time a new £1.5 million development has been added to create one new workshop, design bay and renovate two workshops providing cutting-edge machinery to all students. Technology continues to develop at an increasing pace therefore, so does the need to recruit budding young designers. The introduction and implementation of this new technology has encouraged more students to become involved within Design & Technology to learn more about it as a subject.

Over the last six years I have definitely noticed the changes in Design staff from once being entirely male to now almost entirely female (see pictures above). Although there is a greater female uptake of Design in the younger years, I find myself in Advanced Graphic Communication as the only female student! The courses themselves I find very interesting, although I believe with the new curriculum being introduced there may be slight changes to the new courses. However, from my experience, there is a lot of free reign where we are encouraged to design our own products and create our own models, and are given the opportunity to work on something we find interesting.

Whatever the next 25 years will hold for the department, I am sure that there will be even more changes, but continuing the way it is now will ensure even more long term success.

By Emma Smart (S6)  
and Sophie Irving (S5)

# DOUGIE MacLEAN BOOKED FOR MARCHES MARQUEE!

**A** living legend of the Folk scene will be taking to the stage in Linlithgow on Saturday June 14th, as part of this year's pre-Marches Civic Festival.

Dougie MacLean has built an international reputation as a songwriter, composer and extraordinary performer, with a talent that has taken his performance to concerts and festivals all over the world and to the stages of the Carnegie Hall in New York, London's Festival theatre and the Sydney Opera House. Now, he will be appearing in Linlithgow in the Marquee at the Rugby Club.

**His anthem Caledonia has topped the Scottish charts and become one of Scotland's most popular contemporary songs.** His music has been used in Hollywood films (eg Last of the Mohicans), TV drama (eg BBC's A Mug's Game) and he has been the subject of three BBC TV specials - The Land - Songs of Dougie MacLean, Songroads and Clann na Mara - Children of the Sea.

His songs have been covered by hosts of artists, including Scottish stars Paolo Nutini and Amy MacDonald, Irish greats Ronan Keating, Mary & Frances Black, Dolores Keane, Deanta and Cara Dillon and Grammy award-winning US Country singer, Kathy Mattea.



Dougie MacLean has been described as "a Scottish phenomenon... with his exquisite guitar style, expressive voice and honest performance, his songs conjure up remarkably vivid imagery of our world" (The Performing Songwriter, USA)

**Linlithgow Folk Festival Association are organising the concert on Saturday June 14th in the Marquee at the Rugby Club in Mains Road. Tickets are on sale now from the Box Office at the Burgh Hall, priced £18. Further details are available from the website [www.linlithgowfolk.com](http://www.linlithgowfolk.com)**

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# PLEASE SUPPORT TEAM HONK SCOTLAND

**S**port Relief brings together the entire nation to get active, raise cash and change lives. And I will be doing my part on Saturday March 22 by getting a good soaking in the River Tay, on a whitewater rafting journey as part of Team Honk Scotland.

## What is Team Honk?

Team Honk is a bloggers' relay from Lands End to John O'Groats. Since January 12, a baton has been passed through England, with various teams taking part in sporting challenges to move it further north.

By far the biggest member of Team Honk has been Damini the elephant, from Woburn Safari Park, who helped the Milton Keynes team in their leg of the journey.

The baton crosses the border into Scotland on Thursday March 20 when it is collected from Alnwick and cycled back to the Scottish Borders.

Over Sport Relief weekend, the baton will be taken on a cycle ride from Peebles to Edinburgh, a walk across the Forth Road Bridge, a whitewater rafting journey along the River Tay, a skiing trip down the Cairngorms, and a Munro climb up Ben Wyvis (with a little driving in between, otherwise the journey would never be completed in time).

It will finally make it to John O'Groats on the afternoon of Sunday, March 23, having journeyed for 6 weeks.

The Scottish Team is one of 40 groups of bloggers who have joined Team Honk.

Each team aims to raise £500, to make a total of £20,000.

For my part, I'll be dressing up in a daft costume (any suggestions?) to get a soaking in the River Tay. Check out your next edition of The Black Bitch for photographs and a full report.

## Your challenge?

To help show that Scots are the most generous of all Team Honk's supporters, by donating whatever you can to Team Honk Scotland at <http://my.sportrelief.com/sponsor/scotlandteamhonk>

On behalf of me and all the other Scottish bloggers taking part (who are mostly busy mums) it will mean so much to us.

And so much to the Sport Relief projects, both at home and abroad, which work to help people living in poverty.

Donna White is a Linlithgow mum of two and blogs at [www.mummycentral.com](http://www.mummycentral.com)



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*Congratulations to our winner Irene Moran.*

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**T**he Black Bitch has joined forces with award winning malt whisky Jura to create a competition designed to capture the unique and inspirational stories of Linlithgow, while also helping to raise funds to grow the magazine. Every month we will be giving away a bottle of Jura Origin to the person that submits the best photograph that captures the essence of our wonderful town. The winning photograph will of course be printed in the magazine, but it will also be used in a beautiful calendar produced next year by The Black Bitch team and sold to raise money to help fund the magazine.



*Congratulations to last month's winner Ricky Kerr.*

Written and illustrated by Marjory Boyle Crooks© [www.bonnietheblackbitch.co.uk](http://www.bonnietheblackbitch.co.uk) e: [bonnietheBB@gmail.com](mailto:bonnietheBB@gmail.com)



# Events List

For more details and more events visit the **what's on** page at [www.linlithgow.com](http://www.linlithgow.com)

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Wed 12 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderate walk of 14km (8.5 miles), 9.00am, West Port, Linlithgow</li><li>• Leisurely walk of 10km (6 miles), 10.00am, West Port, Linlithgow</li><li>• Easy walk of 5km (3 miles), 10.30am, West Port, Linlithgow</li><li>• Nikki Monaghan and Scott Taylor, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>  |
| <b>Thu 13 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nikki Monaghan and Scott Taylor, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>   |
| <b>Fri 14 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nikki Monaghan and Scott Taylor, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>   |
| <b>Sat 15 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderate walk of 13km (8 miles), 8.30am, The Cross, Linlithgow</li><li>• Donaldson's School Information Day, 9.30am - 1.30pm, Donaldsons School, Preston Road, Linlithgow</li><li>• Linlithgow Community Dev Trust AGM, 2.00pm, Queen Margaret Hall, Blackness Road</li><li>• The Metier Ensemble (Flute, Piano, Cello), 7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre</li><li>• Nikki Monaghan and Scott Taylor, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul> |
| <b>Sun 16 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderate walk of 13km (8 miles), 9.00am, The Cross, Linlithgow</li><li>• Lower energy costs for Linlithgow, 12.00 noon - 3.00pm, Burgh Halls</li><li>• Folk Session, 2.00pm, Black Bitch Tavern</li><li>• Nikki Monaghan and Scott Taylor, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>   |
| <b>Mon 17 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nikki Monaghan and Scott Taylor, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>   |
| <b>Tue 18 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Linlithgow Speakers Club Meeting, 7.45 - 9.45pm, Low Port Centre, Blackness Road</li><li>• Round Table Tunnocks Teacake Factory Visit, 7.30pm, Uddingston</li><li>• Nikki Monaghan and Scott Taylor, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>   |
| <b>Wed 19 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderate walk of 16km (10 miles), 9.15am, West Port, Linlithgow</li><li>• Leisurely walk of 5.6km (3.5 miles), 10.00am, West Port, Linlithgow</li></ul>   |
| <b>Thu 20 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pub Quiz, 8.00pm, Platform 3 • BBC Flog It!, 9.30am - 4.00pm, Hopetoun House</li></ul>  |
| <b>Sat 22 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strenuous walk of 19.5km (12 miles), 7.30am, The Cross, Linlithgow</li><li>• Leisurely walk of 10km (6 miles), 9.30am, The Cross, Linlithgow</li><li>• Leon and Martin Hill - recent paintings, 1.00 - 4.00pm, The Line Gallery</li><li>• Guild coffee morning, 10.00am - 1.00pm, Longcroft Memorial Hall EH49 7BH</li><li>• Live music - Ross Fairweather, 9.00pm, Platform 3</li></ul>  |
| <b>Sun 23 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderate walk of 14.5km (9 miles), 8.30am, The Cross, Linlithgow</li><li>• Leon and Martin Hill - recent paintings, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>  |
| <b>Mon 24 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "42", 7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy</li><li>• Leon and Martin Hill - recent paintings, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>  |
| <b>Tue 25 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leon and Martin Hill - recent paintings, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>   |
| <b>Wed 26 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strenuous walk of 16.5km (10 miles), 8.30am, West Port, Linlithgow</li><li>• Leisurely walk of 10km (6 miles), 9.30am, West Port, Linlithgow</li><li>• Leon and Martin Hill - recent paintings, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>  |
| <b>Thu 27 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Artist talk &amp; gallery tour, 7.00pm, Linlithgow Burgh Halls</li><li>• Leon and Martin Hill - recent paintings, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>  |
| <b>Fri 28 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talk - Rail and Water, 7.30pm, Canal Basin - Mel Gray Centre</li><li>• Leon and Martin Hill - recent paintings, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>  |
| <b>Sat 29 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderate walk of 11km (7 miles), 9.00am, The Cross, Linlithgow</li><li>• 4th WL Scouts Easter coffee morning, 10.00am - 12.30pm, Cross House, Linlithgow</li><li>• SWRI Annual Show, 2.00 - 5.00pm, Linlithgow Academy</li><li>• Earth Hour, 8.30pm - 9.30pm, Burgh Halls (TBC)</li><li>• Leon and Martin Hill - recent paintings, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>   |
| <b>Sun 30 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderate walk of 13km (8 miles), 9.00am, The Cross, Linlithgow</li><li>• Contemporary Chinese brush painting, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Linlithgow Burgh Halls</li><li>• Linlithgow Reed Band spring concert, 7.00pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre</li><li>• Leon and Martin Hill - recent paintings, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>  |
| <b>Mon 31 Mar</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sightseers, 7.30pm, Linlithgow Academy</li><li>• Round Table debate night with 41 club, 7.30pm, TBC</li><li>• Leon and Martin Hill - recent paintings, see <a href="http://www.thelineonline.co.uk">www.thelineonline.co.uk</a> for details, The Line Gallery</li></ul>   |



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