

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade News



*The community newsletter of Bonnyrigg & Lasswade
Community Council*

Delivered to over 4,500 households

Community Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2010

Cleaning up our town



A job well done!

Litter is a popular subject for discussion at community council meetings. Whether it's overspill from bins in the town centre or rubbish allowed to accumulate along fences elsewhere, everyone is certainly aware of the problem.

So that's why we decided to do something about it and last year we held our first annual clean-up in St Cyr Park. For this year's clean-up we chose the area at the bottom end of Cockpen Road, from Laird Terrace down to, and including, Cockpen cemetery.

We were also lucky with the weather. On a warm spring morning on Saturday 10th April, we collected 18 bags of cans, bottles, plastics and general rubbish which were lifted and taken away by Midlothian Council.

Once a year is a start, but given the amount we managed to collect in 2 hours in a small area, is it enough? Now we know how to go about it, we'd be more than happy to help any local groups or residents willing to organise their own clean-up. All it takes is a few people to drop a leaflet round to their neighbours, set a date and publicise the event. Contact us and we'll help in any way we can ... we'll even turn up and help on the day!

Supporting Social Enterprises

Social Enterprise activity in Midlothian is hotting up with a number of new projects in the pipeline.

Cherry Road, a Bonnyrigg based adult training and resource centre for people with disabilities, has begun work on piloting a new social enterprise muesli bar. The bar is healthy, nutritious and is made by service users at the centre. Coming to a store near you soon!

One of the most exciting new social enterprises within Midlothian, Cherry Road is off to a great start. It has been great to see the service users getting so much enjoyment out of making the bars, and they taste fantastic! The profits from the bars will be used to support the work of the Cherry Road Resource Centre. I'm really impressed with what they have achieved so far.

Bonnyrigg After School Club is leading 9 after school clubs throughout Midlothian, all social enterprises, in a motion to improve their sustainability by cutting costs through collaborative working, improving their business planning, and developing marketing strategies. The after school clubs have been awarded funding from The Scottish Government, and received support from SEAM (Social Enterprise Alliance Midlothian) and MVA (Midlothian Voluntary Action) to achieve this.

*Shona Maguire, Development Officer
Social Enterprise Alliance for Midlothian (SEAM)
www.seamidlothian.co.uk*

Lasswade High School

The project to rebuild Lasswade High School is progressing according to the following timetable -

Exemplar designs – May 2010 – October 2010
Contractor appointment – May 2011
Design development and planning permissions – May 2011-
February 2012
Site mobilisation and construction – February 2012
School decant – August 2013

As we go to press, 'design workshops' involving anyone who has an interest in the proposals, are planned for early summer with details advertised widely by the project team.

Community Council AGM

The following office bearers were elected at the AGM, held in March -

Chair - Ian Baxter
Vice-Chair - Dorothy Innes
Secretary - Stewart Renwick
Treasurer - Elaine Ferguson
Planning Officer - Brian Scott
Midlothian Federation of CCs Reps - Gilbert and Ruth Scott
Other members - Cam Scott, Eddie Ramsay

We currently have a number of vacancies for members.

Report on last year's activities

Since taking on the role of Chair last year, my focus has been on raising the profile of the community council in the wider community. This is partly to attract new members but also to raise awareness within the community of who we are and what we do.

In April last year for the first time we took part in Keep Scotland Beautiful's Spring Clean-up event, where we tackled the long-standing litter problem in St Cyr Park. About a dozen people came along and helped us clear around 7 bags of rubbish plus glass and plastic for recycling. We hope to make this an annual event.

In March this year we invited expert composters from Changeworks to deliver a talk on home composting, which was very well received. Both events were publicised locally in shops, by leaflets distributed to the library and health centre, and in the Midlothian Advertiser and on Black Diamond, Midlothian's community radio station.

This year we also extended our popular newsletter to six-monthly. Although the task of delivering to around 4,500 homes remains a challenge, it is the most effective way of connecting with all local residents in the area. Support from local shops and businesses in the form of sponsorship and advertising has been astounding, and income from this now covers the full cost of what has been described by many as an attractive and professional publication.

Our involvement in town twinning has been revived, thanks largely to the continuing efforts of the previous Chair, Neil Stewart, who organised two visits from representatives of St Cyr, arranging meetings with Lasswade High School and Bonnyrigg Rose Youth Academy amongst others, and a delegation from Bonnyrigg & Lasswade visited St Cyr in June. The events culminated in a re-dedication of the link in Bonnyrigg on 18th October, the 45th anniversary of the link.

This year we made a commitment to working with Midlothian Council in its application to achieve Fair Trade zone status for the county, whilst starting the move to achieve Fair Trade Town status for our own community.

We continue to liaise with other community councils through the Federation of Midlothian Community Councils and have been active in attending a number of seminars run by Midlothian Council, particularly in planning matters, relating to changes in regulations and how applications are publicised.

Best regards,

Ian Baxter
Chairman
Bonnyrigg & Lasswade
Community Council



Police Report

Over the last year there were 575 crimes committed in Bonnyrigg with 263 solved giving us a 45.7% solvency which is much better than most areas. This is 11% less recorded crime than in the previous year. Youth calls are also down which is a direct reflection of the work of the additional funded officers provided by Midlothian Council. Two Sergeants and 12 Constables. These two Teams are located at Bonnyrigg Police Station and cover across Midlothian. Their role is to provide high profile police patrols on the streets and deter Antisocial Behaviour, Youth disorder and public drinking. They have had a great effect on these sort of issues and each weekend seize significant quantities of alcohol from youths. They are trained in a variety of Special skills and are also authorised pedal cyclists and some Quad Bike trained.

Vandalism is one of our biggest problems and often hard to solve, however with the return of our Vandalism Reduction Officers who are dedicated to making enquiry into these crimes the solvency has gone up 5% and the number committed has dropped by 20%. Our aim is to reduce this further and would urge everyone to work with us to eradicate this problem.

Other crime issues are thefts from vehicles and houses. Too many involve property being on display in cars and house doors and windows being left open.

The Midlothian Council Funded Quad bike project has returned great results in assisting officers from the Community Beat Unit to patrol the vast network of railway lines and paths seizing off road bikes and alcohol from youths. The bikes allow us to patrol much greater areas more frequently.

Some advice on Crime Prevention

Wireless Internet systems – A walk round one of the streets in Bonnyrigg today confirmed that still too many people are using the Internet without securing by password their Internet access. I detected three in one street. This basically means that anyone can use your service to access the Internet and do whatever they want with you being left as the source. Secure your network and also be aware of anyone sitting in a car using a laptop.

Lock Doors and Windows – I know this seems obvious but we are still getting too many thefts this way.

New TV / Computer? – Don't put the packaging out for refuse collection in an easy to see form. To be really safe take it to your local amenity site.

Thank you for reading and if anyone has anything they want to discuss with us remember that your Community Beat Officers are PC Stewart Morrison and Lucy Kennedy both of whom will be pleased to speak with you

Inspector Neil Simpson
Lothian and Borders Police E Division

Hopefield housing

Housebuilders Taylor Wimpey is preparing to progress development of 140 2, 3, and 4-bedroom houses in Plots F and G of the new Hopefield development site.

The plots received outline planning permission in 2003 and extensive consultation was conducted over the last few months with a view to submitting planning applications in June.

Additional benefits which will accrue to our community include a new Hopefield Farm primary school which is expected to be completed in the next 18 to 24 months.



Fair Trade Town



We are pleased that two local primary schools, Lasswade and Bonnyrigg, have now joined us (along with Lasswade High School) in our quest to help achieve Fair Trade Town status. Bonnyrigg resident and chair of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, Martin Meteyard (pictured right) helped present Fair Trade footballs to Lasswade Primary school, and assemblies at both schools listened to a talk on Fair Trade. Meanwhile, it's great to see so much Fair Trade produce available at the Co-operative store (formerly Somerfield).

In the autumn we intend to set up a steering group to move towards achieving all the steps needed to become a Fair Trade town. Please get in touch if you want to take part.

Focus on ...

... Broomieknowe Golf Club



Described in one golf book as 'a hidden gem' Broomieknowe Golf Club began life in the Edwardian age without either a course or a clubhouse, although both soon followed. Today the course enjoys a reputation for excellence throughout the Lothians and more widely.

The origin of the Club can be traced back to 1905 when the Lasswade and Bonnyrigg Merchants Association wanted a golf club in the area. The idea soon gained the support of Bonnyrigg Town Council and some 75 gentlemen, led by the then Provost and other town worthies including local lawyers, architects, ministers of the church, bank managers and landowners agreed to seek the advice of a local expert golfer, Ben Sayers of North Berwick. He thought that the land over Viewfield was admirably suited to golf and that a good course could be constructed for about £140!! Great value by today's standards.

The first 50 years of the Club's existence were undoubtedly an uphill struggle. In 1917 came the devastating news that part of the course was to be ploughed to produce food to aid the war effort. Years of austerity and hardship were experienced in the 1920's and 1930's when the Club experienced real financial difficulties, and there was to be no respite with the outbreak of the Second World War when large numbers of members went into uniform and part of the course again used for crops.

The second fifty years of life at Broomieknowe has been a period of sustained distinction. During that time the course and clubhouse has seen many improvements. Membership has been built up and now boasts over 1000 playing and social members. The golfing achievements of its members have not only been at club, county and national level but also international level with the selection of one of its members, Sandy Stephen for the 1985 Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup team.

Golfers have enjoyed the course for over 100 years and succeeding generations of members continue to make improvements and leave the course and clubhouse much better for their successors. Visit the website at www.broomieknowe.com and see for yourself what they can offer you as a member of the Club or call the administrator on 0131 663 9317 and find out how to become a playing or social member. There are a few vacancies for playing membership immediately, once these places have been filled it will be possible to join their waiting list. Junior, lady and social members can obtain immediate entry.

O u r s p o n s o r s

We would like to thank the following local shops and businesses for their support

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| Lenaghan Roofing Services Ltd 101 High St, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 8480/7670 | Sunsational Nails Tanning Salon 6 Lothian Street Bonnyrigg 0131 660 0222 | Gordon Veterinary Group 8 High St, Bonnyrigg 0131 660 3370 (24 hours) | Baxter Travel 4 High Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 1389 |
| Bonnyrigg News Dundas Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 9152 Home News deliveries mornings and evenings | Macbeth Currie Solicitors - Estate Agents - Financial Advisers 72 High St, Bonnyrigg 0131 654 9995 | Hair For You 14/16 Dundas Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 454 0240 | Hair SK 18 High Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 3883 |
| Crawford Drycleaning Service Drycleaning & Laundry 2 High Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 654 2378 | Donny's Private Taxi 6 passengers Airport transfers/shopping/ outings 0131 660 4401/07916116992 | The Mortgage and Finance Co 52 High Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 654 9941 | Aytoun Fine Meats 36/40 High Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 0221 |
| Andrew Knowles & Son Ltd Painters, decorators & suppliers of wallcoverings 70 High Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 7910 | Marshall's The Jewellers Retail & Repairs 11 High St, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 7787 | Pentland Locksmiths All types of Lock and Doors Repaired 0131 663 8003 pentlandlocksmiths.co.uk | W Byers For all your hardware needs 18 Dundas Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 8686 |
| Bonnyrigg Flowers *Under New Management* 4 Campview Road Bonnyrigg 0131 654 9268 | Photogenix Digital Photo Centre 47 High St, Bonnyrigg 0131 660 2936 | Stuart & Stuart WS 7 High St, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 7135 Full range of estate agency legal services available | Baguette Express 22 Dundas Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 660 9240 Phone orders taken Outside catering available |
| Plan It and Prosper Independent Financial Advisers 2 Campview Road, Bonnyrigg 0131 654 1983 | Cheque Centre Cheque cashing, foreign currency and pay day loans 25A High St, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 1962 | Laura's New Image Hairdresser/Barber 10 Lothian St, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 9231 | Bonnyrigg Electrical Services Domestic and Commercial Installations Unit 1, 101 High Street, Bonnyrigg 0131 660 3342 |
| Top Dog Grooming Professional dog groomer 2A Lothian St, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 4247 | La Beau Boutique Unique Ladies' Accessories & Baby Gifts 39 High St, Bonnyrigg 0131 663 4826 labeaushoponline.com | To advertise in future issues or sponsor us (min £10 donation) Contact us for details - Telephone 663 4294 or email bonnyriggandlasswade@mac.com | |

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