

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade News



The community newsletter of Bonnyrigg & Lasswade

Community Council

Delivered to over 4,000 households

Community Newsletter

Spring 2009



Hope for the future - and a link with the past

discuss how Midlothian Council and Midlothian Twinning Committee can help develop the link, the visitors were shown around the town, including the Twinning Garden in the town centre. Visits also included Bonnyrigg Rose and Lasswade Rugby Club's new facilities. A very useful meeting was held on the Saturday morning with Albert Jaster, head of Lasswade High School, to discuss links between LHS and Jean Racine College.

M Moallic explained that little had been happening on the French side for some time due to many changes within the council and it is only now that things have started settling down and they are very keen to get back to the level of activity enjoyed previously. Whilst Lasswade Rugby Club and Bonnyrigg Ex-Servicemen's Club have kept up a very long and successful relationship with their French counterparts, groups such as the Scouts, Bonnyrigg Judo Club, the Over-50s club and others were involved closely with the twinning for a time and many new friendships were made.

Later this year it will be 45 years since our towns twinned. In June, we will celebrate that link in St Cyr, joined we hope by some of the next generation of people who will carry the link forward.

The visitors are pictured above at Cuguen Place, named after Jean Cuguen, a former mayor of St Cyr.

Twinning - a new start

After a long break with little happening on the Twinning front, things have started moving again. During a weekend at the end of February, we were delighted to welcome three representatives from St Cyr L'Ecole.

François Moallic, the chairman of St Cyr L'École's twinning committee, was accompanied by Daniella Trochu, a local councillor and representing the Mayor of St Cyr, and Brigitte Bellengier, the head teacher at the Jean Racine college - their equivalent of Lasswade High School.

As well as meeting with Midlothian's Provost, Adam Montgomery and Midlothian Twinning Secretary Bob Atack, to

Spring clean-up

A warm and sunny spring morning greeted local residents who came along on Saturday 25th April to our first 'spring clean-up', organised as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful's national campaign held throughout April each year.

The group, pictured right, helped clear about six bags of rubbish in St Cyr Park, the old railway station situated between Dundas Street and Campview Road. The rubbish was sorted into recyclable and general waste and collected by Midlothian Council, who also provided 'pickers', bags and wheelie bins on the day.

As this was the first time the community council has been involved, we chose a location which was fairly central in the town and easy to locate and park near. We hope to make this an annual event, and with litter being a popular subject for discussion at our meetings, we're sure there are plenty of places to choose from for next year's event!



Local residents help with Spring clean-up

Our newsletter

Welcome to the Spring 2009 newsletter from **Bonnyrigg & Lasswade Community Council**.

Our previous newsletters have been very well received and we're grateful for the very positive feedback we have received on both the content and layout.

We would like to say thanks once again to the local shops and businesses who sponsor us (full list on the back page) - without their help, this newsletter would not be possible.

Our aim is to bring you the news and views at a local level. Our news is your news, so please let us know if there is anything you want us to include, whether it's something happening in your neighbourhood or a group you want to publicise. In future issues we would like to focus on a local group or sports club, so if you want to feature please get in touch.

There is so much happening locally that our biggest problem is fitting it all in so we are looking into producing the newsletter twice a year instead of annually, probably in the spring and autumn.

If you want to find out more behind the stories and keep fully up to date, why not come along to our community council meetings? These are open to all residents in the area to sit in and observe, and we do have a few vacancies if you want to take a more active role.

Bonnyrigg & Lasswade Community Council meets on the third Thursday of each month (except July, August and December) at 7.30 pm in the pavilion, King George V Park. Details are available on the web site www.bonnyriggandlasswade.com or by calling me on 663-4294.

Best regards,

Ian Baxter
Chairman
Bonnyrigg & Lasswade
Community Council



N&S Construction Ltd

Neil Milliken, Director Steven Melrose, Director
Tel: 0131 663 2758 Mob: 07973144854
Mob: 07973278897

25 Lothian Street, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, EH19 3AE

Extensions, renovations and conversions



Neil Stewart

At our March meeting of the Community Council, we said farewell to Neil Stewart, a member for over 20 years and its chairman for the the last decade. Neil leaves with our grateful thanks for all the work he has put in over that time.

We're also grateful that Neil has kindly offered to continue to support our efforts on the twinning front, and he is currently helping to organise our involvement in the 45th anniversary as well as contacting local organisations to get new links started.



On the agenda

At our next community council meeting in June (see 'Dates for your diary'), we will welcome Jackie Conway, the Deputy Commander of E Division (Lothian and Borders Police) to our meeting. Jackie is in charge of the Midlothian area and has been in position since January. As well as an update on police activity locally, Jackie will be available to answer any of your questions.

Bus changes

April saw some major changes to local bus services. Following a review of all its operations in the south-east of Scotland, First withdrew its 78 and X78 services as well as removing the link between Rosewell and Polton Mill on the 140 route.

We are pleased to report, however, that Lothian Buses acted swiftly to take up some of the slack by improving services between Bonnyrigg and Rosewell on its 31 route. Indeed, the extension to the 31 service was implemented the day after the First services were withdrawn, a welcome move for Rosewell bus users who would otherwise have been left with a very poor service.

Up until the change, Lothian extended three 31s in the morning and three in the evening between Polton Mill and Rosewell on weekdays. This is now improved to nine in the morning and nine in the evening every day except Sunday.

An important change is that the route the 31s follow between Bonnyrigg and Rosewell is an extension from Hopefield rather than from Polton Mill.

We are very pleased that Lothian Buses has put a good deal of investment in its 31 service (branded 'Ace of Spades'), and we are conscious that, as with all public service operators, they are running a commercial service. The message therefore is 'use it or lose it'. Fortunately, the 31 and X31 services do seem to be well used and we certainly hope Lothian's confidence is repaid in spades!



Fair Trade

Most people are now familiar with the Fair Trade campaign, aimed at ensuring producers of the goods we buy in shops receive a fair price for their produce with a guarantee of a living wage, safe working conditions and no child labour.



Scotland aims to become a 'Fair Trade Nation', an initiative being led by the Scottish Fair Trade Forum. Midlothian Council is currently working towards achieving Fair Trade Zone status for the county, as administered by the Fairtrade foundation.

We in Bonnyrigg and Lasswade also want to play our part and so we have recently become the first community council to join the steering committee of Fair Trade Midlothian. If we can persuade as many shops in the town to offer Fair Trade products, as well as local churches and other groups, then we can hopefully become a 'fair trade town'. Help us to help others by supporting this worthy cause, either by buying fair trade products where you see them, or by asking for them where you don't!

Police Report

From Inspector Neil Simpson

I am very grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this publication and give you a brief report on Community Policing in Bonnyrigg. Having been involved in the establishment of Antisocial Behaviour Strategies in Midlothian I am very aware of the need to work as a community to resolve problems and crime trends.

Your Community Officer for Bonnyrigg, Lasswade, Poltonhall, Rosewell is Constable Roderick Stewart. His role is to participate with community Groups, residents, schools and the Elected Members and staff of Midlothian Council. I hope to add another Community Officer Constable Lucy Rorison to work with him in May.

I believe policing is a community role and not one that we the police can do unaided and it is fortunate that in Bonnyrigg we have the two Community Councils with whom we work closely. Each meeting is attended by the Community Officer and where he is unavailable Sergeant Peter Jones or myself attend.

Bonnyrigg is a vibrant community with a lot of community groups, schools, businesses and activities going on. It also has problems and like other towns these can affect the quality of life of some of the residents. Vandalism makes up the bulk of reported crime and needs to be investigated promptly to ensure that the culprits are not allowed to continue unabated. To this end two Community Officers carried out an initiative recently in the Bonnyrigg, Penicuik and Loanhead areas to intensively investigate Vandalism and

Antisocial Behaviour and Crime. Over 90 crimes were solved. Sadly vandalism continue and this is an area where you the Community can work with us to help stop this problem. Much of the vandalism reported is apparently stand alone and very difficult to solve and you can help by reporting either to us or to CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111 who is responsible. Help us prevent vandalism or other crimes by being aware of what is going on in your neighbourhood and contacting us. We will get there as soon as possible.

A very good example of Communities helping is the School Sentries initiative where we delivered letters to all houses overlooking schools asking them to keep an eye on their local schools. They did just that! By reporting youths causing damage or on roofs they helped us reduce vandalism to schools in Bonnyrigg significantly.

Alcohol plays a major part in Antisocial Behaviour - we carried out several initiatives. Operation Epsilon addressed underage purchases resulting in proceedings against two shops in the town, Operation Esplanade a joint initiative with Midlothian Young Peoples Advice Service addressed young people found with alcohol or under the influence resulting in parents attending at the Police Station and Counselling and the offer of further help for alcohol misuse. Ongoing weekend attention to youth calls and seizure of alcohol by Midlothian Community Action Teams has seen the volume of alcohol seized rise rapidly and the consequential reduction in calls later on. PC Stewart organised an impressive Diversionary Road-show at Lasswade High last year designed to introduce young people to new activities over 1200 pupils attended displays from 32 organisations and an impressive number have taken these up. Another event is planned this year.

We are fortunate to have two teams of 6 officers and a Sergeant who are additional officers funded by Midlothian Council. One of these Teams is based at Bonnyrigg Police Station and their sole un-abstracted remit is to tackle Anti-social Behaviour, Youth calls and the type of crimes that affect your day to day enjoyment of life. Their affect has been wide and noticeable.

It is important that we work closely with Midlothian Council and this is done with Councillors who have been a great support and also the Councils Antisocial Behaviour Unit currently run by a serving police officer and which has been recognised nationally as a very effective unit.

I am fast running out of space so just one last topic and one which we keep on about time after time, please ensure you lock your garages, sheds, windows, doors, cars and be aware of crime. I know this sounds basic but we now have more thefts by entering unlocked house doors than we do break ins! An initiative is being planned to highlight this problem in Bonnyrigg in the next couple of months.

Inspector Neil Simpson

Lothian & Borders Police

Dates for your diary . . .

When?	What?	Where?
Thursday 18th June at 7.30 pm	Community Council meeting	Pavilion, KGV Park, Bonnyrigg
Thursday 17th September at 7.30 pm	Community Council meeting	Pavilion, KGV Park, Bonnyrigg
Thursday 15th October at 7.30 pm	Community Council meeting	Pavilion, KGV Park, Bonnyrigg

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

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
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0131 654 2378

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card specialists
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The Mortgage and Finance Co

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Rainbow Roses Childminding

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Local Businesses!

Get noticed in every household
in Bonnyrigg and Lasswade!

Bonnyrigg Electrical Services

Domestic and Commercial
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Unit 1, 101 High Street,
Bonnyrigg

Advertise in future issues or sponsor us (min £10 donation)

Contact us for details - Telephone 663 4294

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