TREAT yourself to some festive fun at The Brunton with traditional pantomime Cinderella. Writer and Director John Binnie returns and has created this new panto especially for East Lothian audiences. East Lothian Council’s Dance Artist Rhian Monro, joins the creative team as choreographer and costume designer Robin Mitchell is working with students studying for their BA (Hons) Costume Design and Construction at Queen Margaret University, in making the costumes.

Graham Crammond returns to the cast in the role of one of the Ugly Sisters. Graham was a familiar face in The Brunton panto in the early 2000s and is much loved for his superb comic timing.

Welcome back also to Eilidh Weir as Cinderella, Ross Donnachie as Buttons and Wendy Seager as the Wicked Stepmother.

Twenty four young performers from East Lothian join the professional cast as the very talented chorus.

Cinderella runs from 26 November to 4 January, various dates and times. Visit thebrunton.co.uk for more information.

The Brunton is the place to be on Tuesday 31 December for a fun packed Family Hogmanay In The Honest Toun, part of Scotland’s Winter Festivals 2019-2020. The day-long event includes performances, workshops and events booked for in advance, including two daytime ceilidhs, lantern making, drumming workshops, storytelling and puppetry with It’s In The Bag and Clydebuilt Puppets. The lantern-making slots are always hugely popular and additional art and craft activities are included in the lantern making price. Face painting can be paid for on the day. The day culminates in a family friendly lantern parade and free firework display lighting up the sky along the Musselburgh coastline. Then for those wishing to see in 2020, The Brunton hosts Hogmania! a family friendly party with live band, piper, Hogmanay snacks and more. Tune in via a live link to Edinburgh’s Hogmanay at the bells and make it a night to remember with our fun photo booth!

Ticketed activities and events run from 11am – 6.30pm. The free evening event starts at 6.30pm as people gather at The Brunton for the lantern parade which sets off at 7pm led by the Edinburgh Samba Band and magical illuminated walkabout characters. This leads to Fisherrow Links for a spectacular Scottish fireworks display from 7.30pm to 8pm.

● Here’s some audience feedback from previous years: “As always it’s brilliant and we love this being on our doorstep! Thanks!” “Just to say thank you to all who organise this wonderful event for families. We love it and the atmosphere is always so nice. Will definitely be back.” “Fantastic event. Amazing fireworks display.”

For the full Family Hogmanay programme please visit thebrunton.co.uk
Families across the county are benefitting from an increase in funded early years provision from 600 to 1140 hours. A number of 1140 trials have been held ahead of full introduction from August 2020. From August, the extended hours will apply to all three to four-year-olds, and some two-year-olds.

Research shows high quality early learning and childcare supports children’s development and can help parents or carers to access employment or education.

Innerwick Early Years Setting began to offer one of the extended hours trial models in January 2019, so some of its new Primary 1 intake had been benefiting from the new arrangements for six months.

Headteacher Ronnie Taylor explains that, while it’s still early days, there is already evidence that children’s social and emotional skills have improved as a result of additional nursery hours.

“They share the lunch experience with the other children and they’re more likely to engage in whole school activities like assemblies,” he says. “They’re more advanced in knowing letters and sounds – number familiarisation, fine motor skills and improved mark making.”

Accessing increased hours is a personal choice for each family, but Ronnie says most parents signed up for the new arrangements. “We were really pleased with how smoothly it went,” he comments.

A parent’s perspective

As a parent to two boys and combining family life with study for an Open University Maths degree, Megan Dunlop has noticed benefits for her and her sons. Her oldest son, William, started P1 in August and Megan says: “It was really reassuring. I was worried about him going to school, but he loved it. He coped with the longer days and he got to do lunch.”

The extended hours offer a chance to focus on her studies and ambition to move into secondary school teaching.

A practitioner’s perspective

Having started her career as a primary school teacher before taking a break to raise her family, Fiona Nightingale joined Innerwick as a direct result of the extended hours.

“My job was created in response to the need for additional staffing to support the roll-out of 1140 hours. For anybody who has been thinking of making a career change into the early years sector, this is an exciting opportunity,” she says.

Fiona also believes that having more time with the children has offered more time for quality play-based learning, something which Innerwick is passionate about, saying: “The extra hours give us time to let the children really immerse themselves in their play.”

Find out more about 1140 hours at www.eastlothian.gov.uk/1140

Work on school projects

The council has secured funding from the Scottish Government’s £1 billion Learning Estate Investment Programme to support ongoing lifecycle costs for a new primary school for Whitestraig and a new secondary school and community learning facility at Wallyford.

Both new schools, which will include community facilities, are key components of our work to meet the needs of growing communities as set out in the approved East Lothian Local Development Plan, as well as improving life chances and creating new pathways into employment.

New community learning facilities within the secondary school building at Wallyford will include new adult and youth training facilities alongside social care facilities. This will complement pathways offered to senior phase pupils across East Lothian’s secondary schools and by college partners, helping to broaden learning opportunities for young people from around East Lothian.

Meanwhile work is currently ongoing at the new Letham Mains Primary School, with expansion projects planned for Guilane, Aberlady, Pinkie St Peter’s, St. Gabriel’s RC and West Barns Primary Schools. In addition, proposals to extend North Berwick High School have been granted planning permission. A classroom extension to be built on the south west elevation of the school’s home economics department, social subjects and languages departments as well as social and exhibition spaces.

The projects are part of the council’s multi-million pound capital investment programme to create a modern education estate fit for learners and communities.
Macmillan gets East Lothian moving

An exciting new physical activity programme set up to help people living with cancer get and stay active is now under way in East Lothian.

Move More East Lothian is a physical activity programme in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, enjoyleisure and East Lothian Council, offering a range of activities specifically designed for people living with and beyond cancer, including gardening, health and wellbeing walks, circuit-based activities and Gentle Movement classes.

Although research and evidence shows that being active during and after treatment can benefit physical function, improve mental health and help minimise side effects of treatment, the social aspect of the programme is also crucial, where participants meet others with experience of cancer, helping to reduce the loneliness and isolation many people feel.

People living with cancer may also feel nervous about building up their activity levels, particularly if they haven’t been very active for a while, which is why Macmillan has partnered with enjoyleisure to provide trained and specialist support, specifically for local people affected by cancer.

Since the programme began taking referrals in May, the positive benefits for those taking part are already visible and the programme hopes to reach as many cancer patients in East Lothian as possible.

Mrs A, a current Move More participant, commented, “Following my cancer diagnosis, I went through a period of feeling quite low and anxious, but coming along to the Gentle Movement class each week has given me something to look forward and take my mind off everything. And having a cuppa and a chat with the others at the end of the class is a lovely addition.”

If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more, go to www.activemoreeastlothian.co.uk, call 0131 653 5264 or email movemore@enjoyleisure.com.

OVER 50? GET FIT!
No excuses - it’s never too late!

EXCLUSIVE ACTIVITIES FOR YOU
As we age we all want to be as fit and healthy as possible, able to get out and about and socialise with our friends.

The Ageing Well project has been set up to help older adults in East Lothian be as active as possible whilst having a laugh with friends and sometimes even learning something new.

Whether you would like to be outside in the fresh air on a walk, shimmying on the dance floor or chatting over sporting memories there is something for everyone to try.

Being more physically active helps to keeps your heart, lungs, bones and brain healthy. This makes everyday tasks a little easier, improves your mood and helps reduce stress. While being active you can meet new friends and stay connected to your local community, maintaining your mobility and independence.

Ageing Well’s dedicated volunteers and instructors make activities as welcoming and supportive as possible. If you want to know more about what is happening in your area, or if you would like to know more about volunteering opportunities available, contact the Ageing Well Coordinator on 01620 827240 or by email at ageingwell@eastlothian.gov.uk

Health and wellbeing walks

ADULTS OF ALL AGES WELCOME
Get healthy! Make new friends! Come for a walk in East Lothian. Ageing Well is a project funded by East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian. It’s a health initiative that recognises the benefits of walking for wellbeing and social connection. It’s easy to do, doesn’t need special skills or equipment, it can be done anywhere and anytime. Plus, if you walk in a group you meet new people and have a chance for a good ‘blether’, followed by a cuppa and chat at a local café.

To find out where your local walk is or if you have any questions, please contact the Ageing Well Coordinator on 01620 827240 or by email at ageingwell@eastlothian.gov.uk

A PROJECT set up to support families and early years workers in East Lothian is celebrating its 10th birthday. Support from the Start also aims to connect families with early years activities and the wider community.

Public Health practitioner Steven Wray has overseen the project since its introduction as an ‘Equally Well’ pilot in 2009 and believes it has made a real difference to families. “Our programmes address equalities and reduce stress. While being active you can meet new friends and stay connected to your local community, maintaining your mobility and independence.

Ageing Well’s dedicated volunteers and instructors make activities as welcoming and supportive as possible. If you want to know more about what is happening in your area, or if you would like to know more about volunteering opportunities available, contact the Ageing Well Coordinator on 01620 827240 or by email at ageingwell@eastlothian.gov.uk

Support from the Start

My role is parental engagement in the schools to enhance learning. That could be helping children who have difficulties with reading and writing, or speech and learning, or things affecting the home learning environment. I also help parents with issues that might be underlying and help signpost to other services like benefits and housing,” she says.

“The relationships I’ve built with children, parents and community partners is really rewarding,” she adds.

“Family workers like Natalie build relationships with families and work alongside them, and other agencies, in a non-judgemental way,” explains Steven. “It’s an important role.”

Find out more at eastlothian.gov.uk/supportfromthestart
New legislation over fire safety

EARLIER this year the Scottish Government announced new requirements for smoke alarms in all properties in Scotland.

The new standards will require:
- One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes
- One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings
- One heat alarm installed in every kitchen
- All alarms should be ceiling mounted and interlinked. There is also a requirement for carbon monoxide detectors to be fitted where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance such as boilers, fires (including open fires), heaters and stoves) or a flue.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO COMPLY?

The regulations come into force in February 2021, meaning homeowners and landlords have until then to comply. However, installing alarms at the earliest opportunity, will provide improved fire safety in your home.

East Lothian Council has already started upgrading smoke alarms in the 8,500 homes it manages across the county.

Electrical supervisor, Andy McGregor, said: “Although council homes already have smoke alarms installed, we are starting a programme of upgrading to the new national standard required by 2021. As the programme is rolled out tenants will be advised when their property will be visited and the work to be carried out.”

PRIVATE RENTAL landlords and homeowners can find out more about the new legislation at www.gov.scot and anyone can contact Scottish Fire and Rescue Services for advice and to arrange a home visit on fire safety at: www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/hfsv-form.aspx

Housing help for veterans

NEW housing for disabled veterans is being built at Osborne Terrace, Cockenzie.

The site is the former East Lothian Council groundcare depot, where work is taking place on a two-storey flatted block, with six two-bedroom flats including three fully wheelchair-accessible units on the ground floor.

The project is being delivered through a design and build contract with Gordon Guthrie Contracts Ltd.

The total cost is just over £1 million, with £354,000 of that coming from a Scottish Government grant.

The Osborne Terrace development is specifically for disabled veterans, who will be nominated for the housing by the Scottish Veterans Garden City Association (SVGCA), a charity and private landlord specifically for disabled veterans in Scotland. The development builds on the work already been done to support veterans in East Lothian, including a new housing allocations policy which awards points specifically for those leaving a service tenancy.

East Lothian Council has signed an Armed Forces Covenant, which involves a working group bringing together key partners from the council, health, education, service and veterans’ organisations to create policies and practices that will support armed forces personnel (serving and retired) and their families. The key themes that the group is progressing are housing, employment, education and training, health and wellbeing and community.

Douglas Proudfoot, Head of Service (Development), said: “The move from service life to civilian life can present challenges for personnel and their families in a wide range of areas.

This new development is a shining example of working together with partners to provide much-needed housing for veterans with specific needs. I’m sure it will make a difference to those who live here and their families. It also builds on the work we’re already doing to support veterans in general, to whom society as a whole owes a debt, and we are proud to be supporting the Armed Forces Covenant in East Lothian.”

AROUND 1,000 affordable homes in East Lothian

The first phase of housing the Craighall site at Queen Margaret University, with consent for 473 homes including 118 affordable homes, will begin in 2020.

The overall site has planning permission in principle for 1,500 homes, a primary school, business space, community facilities, public parks and playing fields, along with an innovation hub for business and other employment land.

IF YOU need to discuss your social housing options in East Lothian or would like to talk to someone about options for lower-cost home ownership, visit www.eastlothian.gov.uk or call us on 01620 827827.
The East Lothian Charter

**OUR VISION:**
An even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy, that enables our people and communities to flourish.

East Lothian Council is facing twin challenges of ever-growing demand for services from our growing population and financial pressures.

In order to meet these challenges the council is having to transform the way it delivers services. In summary the council needs to ‘do more with less’. As part of this transformation the council needs to become:

- an enabling and empowering authority that works with its citizens and communities, the business and third sectors and other public sector partners to deliver the solutions that work best for East Lothian
- more entrepreneurial, developing new ways of ensuring services are provided in the most effective and efficient way possible
- a ‘digital’ authority, fully embracing and exploiting opportunities to use technology to deliver services.

The council is not ‘abandoning responsibility’ for delivering services but has to focus its resources on areas of greatest need and investing in ‘prevention and early intervention’ – reducing future demand for services by intervening early.

Given the scale of the challenges and issues faced by East Lothian, the council has to look to how it can further harness the power of its citizens and communities. We recognise that the council and the people and communities of East Lothian can best deliver the solutions to these challenges in partnership.

Central to this approach is the council moving away from doing things for, and to, communities and individuals, to the council and the communities and citizens of East Lothian working together to identify and then meet our needs in partnership and co-operation.

The council is going to work with ‘civic society’ in East Lothian, our communities and our citizens to develop a series of Charters setting out what we can do, working together to make the difference to deliver our vision of an even better East Lothian.

We are considering an overarching Charter setting out the council values and goals and then Charters for key issues such as a Climate Change Charter, a Caring Charter for vulnerable people and young people’s Charter, embracing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

These Charters would be informal agreements between the council and the citizens and communities of East Lothian, setting out how we can all do more, working together to make a difference. East Lothian has a long and proud history of communities and individuals involved in ‘Self Help’ and developing community resilience. Our Community Participation Opportunities Guide 2018 provides information on many opportunities that exist for communities and individuals to engage with the council.

But given the scale of the changes we need to make, the council will need to support communities to have the capacity to take up the opportunities arising from this approach, and to help them realise their ambitions.

Over the coming months the council will have a dialogue with community organisations and the public on what to include in the Charters. So look out for the opportunity to contribute to this dialogue.

**OUR VALUES**
We will be honest, transparent and accountable.

The council has adopted a set of values:

- Enabling, encouraging, and empowering everyone we work with to be able our communities and citizens to achieve their full potential, goals and aspirations
- Leading by example and taking responsibility for improving ourselves and our services and our communities
- Caring for our community, our citizens, and the work that we do.

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**We’re making good progress on improving our services**

In June 2017, the council adopted a new five-year 2017-2022 East Lothian Council Plan that set out how it would strive to achieve the ambitious vision of “An even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy, that enables our people and communities to flourish.”

The 2019 Annual Performance and ‘State of the Council’ Report provides an overview of how we are performing and shows the progress that has been made over the last year in carrying out the commitments made in the 2017-2022 Plan.

The report shows that, based on external auditors’ assessments, the council:

- has clear direction as set out in the Council Plan and other strategies such as the Financial Strategy
- is performing relatively well across the Top 50 Council Plan indicators, although we recognise that performance in some areas needs to improve
- uses its resources effectively in the difficult financial context within which it is operating
- works well with communities and partners as evidenced by the continuing success of the Area Partnerships, Community Councils and the progress being made by the East Lothian Partnership and the Integration Joint Board.
- can demonstrate a commitment to, and firm evidence of, continuous improvement.
- is performing relatively well across the Top 50 Council Plan indicators, although we recognise that performance in some areas needs to improve
- provided almost 22,000 hours of care at home each week to vulnerable adults and older people
- looked after 234 vulnerable children in care homes, foster care and other care settings
- recycled over 53% of domestic waste from the total of over 50,000 tonnes of waste collected from 6.8m bins
- kept open and maintained 139 public toilets and 12 libraries and 276 parks, pitches, play areas and burial grounds.

The 2019 Annual Performance Report shows how the council is striving to achieve the commitments and outcomes set out in the Council Plan. The council adopted a set of 50 high level performance indicators to show how it is performing against the Council Plan. These Top 50 Council Plan Indicators form the basis of the Annual Performance Report.

Analysis of the Top 50 indicators shows that of the 45 indicators for which we have 2018/19 data:

- thirteen (30%) show positive trends from the 2017/18 or 2016/17 baseline and/or are already at their target
- three (7%) have not improved from their baseline and not made progress on meeting their target
- twelve (27%) have declined.

Examples of the positive indicators are:

- nine of the 11 indicators relating to East Lothian’s economy have improved over the last year and only two have declined
- 98% of citizens in the 2019 residents survey said their neighbourhood is a ‘Very Good’ and ‘Good’ place to live
- the percentage of citizens who feel ‘Very Safe’ and ‘Fairly Safe’ walking alone after dark increased from 85% in 2017 to 94% in 2019
- the school exclusion rate for pupils halved from 34% in 2017/18 to 17% in 2018/19.

The following are some of the indicators that showed a decline in performance:

- the town centre vacancy rate increased from 6.1% to 8.4%, although this is still below the Scottish average
- the average time taken to complete non-emergency repairs in council houses increased from 7.2 days to 9 days.

The council recognises that it needs to maintain a focus on trying to improve performance across all its services and will make every effort to improve all its performance indicators over the coming year.
Helping the planet is a top priority

Earlier this year a motion declaring a Climate Emergency was unanimously approved by elected members at a meeting of the full Council.

The motion reads: “There is a global climate emergency. The evidence is irrefutable and the science is clear. Warnings have been issued about the damage human beings are causing to the planet and how that damage has accelerated over the past 50 years. The impacts of climate change are having a serious effect on our communities. We believe that it’s not too late for us to turn things around but to do so requires transformative change and action now.”

East Lothian Council therefore resolves to:

• Declare a Climate Emergency that requires urgent action to make all our Council Services net Zero Carbon as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and to lobby, support and work with all relevant agencies, partners and communities to fulfil this commitment.

• East Lothian Council will also commit to work with our communities and partners towards making East Lothian a carbon neutral county as well as enabling the county to deliver its part of wider national and international commitments.”

Jennifer Lothian, Sustainable Energy & Climate Change Officer, said: “During 2019, the council carried out a full public consultation on its draft Climate Change strategy and received some extremely detailed responses which will help shape and develop the strategy.

In addition, a climate change survey for children and young people attracted considerable interest and response. It was very encouraging to hear from so many young people on what is most important to them in tackling climate change in East Lothian and we want to build upon this further in 2020.”

Just one example of young people getting actively involved in East Lothian are the student members of Knox Academy’s Eco-Committee who engage with environmental issues which have an impact in their local community and wider world.

The Eco-Committee organises environmental initiatives like awareness campaigns, donation drives, and an Eco-Week and share ideas on how to reduce plastic usage within the school.

The council’s Climate Change strategy is currently being finalised and will be published early in the New Year. It will set out how the council will further reduce carbon emissions, and how we will work in partnership with our communities and partners to tackle climate change in East Lothian.

Area Partnerships are making a difference

LED by community volunteers, East Lothian’s six Area Partnerships receive funding from the council to deliver projects which support the Council Plan and East Lothian Plan by implementing local priorities identified in each local Area Plan and help to reduce inequalities.

The Area Partnerships ensure local residents can play a full and active part in making a difference in and around East Lothian’s towns and villages. In this edition, we take a look at a particular focus of the Area Partnerships in recent times – supporting initiatives which help protect and enhance the local environment and contribute to an increasingly sustainable East Lothian.

Beat the street

Supported by the Musselburgh and Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnerships, Beat the Street was a recent initiative which challenged people in local communities to see how far community groups and schools could walk, run or cycle over six weeks.

Almost 6,200 people took part. A total of 71,241 miles was travelled over the course of the challenge, helping participants get active, stay fit and spend time with friends and families while exploring the local area.

Participatory budgeting

The Your Voice Your Choice initiative has given local people the chance to vote for the project they wish to see supported by the Musselburgh Area Partnership. Known as participatory budgeting, this has given community groups the opportunity to put forward ideas for funding that will have a positive impact on reducing inequalities.

Projects supported include the Plastics Police, which enabled a group of Stoneyhill Primary youngsters to purchase promotional material to raise awareness of the risk to people, animals and aquatic life from dumping plastics which end up in the rivers and ocean. They also sell reusable water bottles. For more info see www.theplasticspolice.com

Also supported was the Musselburgh Tool Library, which provides an alternative to purchasing tools that may only be used once or very occasionally. More than 400 tools have already been donated. It costs £7 per year for an individual to join and £30 for an organisation. You can then borrow for free! Tool borrowing sessions are held on Wednesday evenings from 5.30 to 7pm at Fisherrow Centre. For info email info.musstool@gmail.com or visit www.musstool.co.uk

The Tool Library

Beat the street
5 things you can do to make a difference

1. Reduce, reuse and recycle
Help cut the amount of waste produced in East Lothian by recycling as much as possible, reducing the amount of single-use items you buy, and reusing before buying new things. Recycling means the waste from your home can be put to good use – garden waste is turned into compost, food waste is used to produce energy and fertiliser, and paper, plastic, glass and metal are turned into new items.

2. Cut your food waste
Reducing the amount of food you waste in particular can make a big difference. Scottish households throw away 630,000 tonnes of food waste every year according to Zero Waste Scotland. By planning your meals, shopping smartly and reducing your leftovers, you can cut your food waste and could save money too. If you’re planning your menu, think about having a meat-free day once a week, as reducing the amount of meat we eat is another way to help tackle climate change.

3. Shop locally for in-season food
Eating local, in-season food reduces the amount of food needing to be brought in from further afield. Food which hasn’t had to travel far will have a lower carbon footprint, and you’ll also be supporting local businesses and employment. Luckily East Lothian has lots of great local food businesses – you’ll be spoiled for choice!

4. Make greener travel choices
Sometimes it seems easy to just jump in the car but if you’re not going far, try walking or cycling instead. If it’s a longer journey, try the bus or train. And if it’s time to get a new car, switching to an electric vehicle will have a big impact on your carbon footprint. East Lothian’s growing network of publicly available chargepoints means it’s easier to top up when you’re out and about.

5. Be energy savvy at home
Being careful not to waste energy at home can also save you money on your bills. Energy Saving Trust say turning your thermostat down by just one degree could save you £80 a year. You could also make savings by turning your appliances off instead of leaving them on standby, hanging clothes outside to dry instead of using the tumble dryer, and only filling your kettle with as much water as you need.

WALKING AND CYCLING
To promote sustainable travel, the Preston Seton Gosford, Musselburgh, Haddington and Lammermuir and FasSide Area Partnerships have produced a walking/cycling map of their areas and North Berwick Coastal is developing a similar leaflet in partnership with the Countryside Ranger Service. A play map was also created to introduce families to easily accessed local walks in and around Haddington.

Bikeability training has also been provided, helping children gain practical skills and build confidence for cycling. Free bike maintenance checks have been provided in the Tranent area.

New paths and cycleways have been created in Whitecraig and Musselburgh, while repairs have been carried out to existing footways and cycle paths in and around the Honest Toun, including at Mall Avenue and the River Esk path. Upgrades to footpaths have also been carried out around Tranent and Pencaitland and in Prestonpans between North Grange Avenue and Rope Walk, as well as in Longniddry at the Bowling Club and Community Centre. New paths for local residents have been created in Gifford and Whitekirk, as well as a new pavement on East Road connecting with Recreation Park, North Berwick, providing a safer link for children.

TREE PLANTING
Funding has been secured by the FasSide Area Partnership for the planting of trees in Macmerry. New paths and cycleways have been created in Whitecraig and Musselburgh, while repairs have been carried out to existing footways and cycle paths in and around the Honest Toun, including at Mall Avenue and the River Esk path. Upgrades to footpaths have also been carried out around Tranent and Pencaitland and in Prestonpans between North Grange Avenue and Rope Walk, as well as in Longniddry at the Bowling Club and Community Centre. New paths for local residents have been created in Gifford and Whitekirk, as well as a new pavement on East Road connecting with Recreation Park, North Berwick, providing a safer link for children.

OTHER PROJECTS
The Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership is pleased to have supported the creation of the new Belhaven Surf Centre, which provides a base for coastal watersport of all abilities, surf lifesaving and East Lothian Council’s Countryside Ranger Service. In Haddington and Lammermuir, the Area Partnership is supporting the Loose Parts Play Project, which helps create richer environments for children to play, giving them resources for open ended play.

This has included recycling items to be used for play, including wooden chunks of trees, plastic pipes and tarpaulins.

FOR MORE information on Area Partnerships and Community Learning and Development visit www.eastlothian.gov.uk/yourcommunity

Ruth Davie, Sandra King and Stuart Thomson of PSG Area Partnership

Pupils at Knox Academy are taking a stand against climate change

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Ruth Davie, Sandra King and Stuart Thomson of PSG Area Partnership

Pupils at Knox Academy are taking a stand against climate change

Pupils at Knox Academy are taking a stand against climate change
Get ready for winter

Don’t get caught out this winter. If severe weather strikes, make sure you’re prepared with our handy tips and telephone numbers.

IN YOUR HOME

Do you live in a flood area? Register with Floodline for early warnings on 0345 988 1188.

Stock up on essentials for your home or your car such as an ice scraper and de-icer, a torch and spare batteries, a snow shovel, warm clothes, boots and a blanket. If it’s a long journey, consider snacks and a hot drink.

Make sure your gutters and drains are clear of leaves and debris and insulate outdoor taps to avoid damage caused by freezing water. Keeping your heating on a low setting can help to avoid burst pipes in your home.

If heating your home is a concern speak to Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.

To report a power cut in your area, or check on the status of your supply, call 105 regardless of who you get your energy from. You may also want to keep a plug-in phone spare in your house in case of such emergencies.

If you’re in a rural community not served by mains gas, make sure you keep an eye on your fuel levels. Deliveries can struggle to access remote locations in heavy snow.

Take care driving in icy or snowy conditions. Clear your car before you leave, allow extra time, use dipped headlights in poor visibility and drive in the highest gear possible avoiding harsh braking and acceleration.

For more tips visit: rac.co.uk/drive/advice/winter-driving/

Keep up to date with Met Office weather warnings when planning your journeys using @metoffice on Twitter and Facebook or using their app. Find out more about weather warnings and what they mean at metoffice.gov.uk/weatherguides/warnings

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Find out about resilience work ongoing in your community and get involved.

Many of our community councils are leading the way on developing plans for use in emergency situations. Plans are specific to the area and take account of the local challenges. See the story alongside for more details.

Gather telephone numbers for friends and neighbours who might be vulnerable in prolonged poor weather. We’ve seen great examples of communities working together in emergencies to support people in their midst.

ON THE ROADS

In severe weather our priority is to keep the roads network moving starting with main/primary routes. Grit bins are provided on sites with difficult conditions and residents can use the grit to help keep public footpaths and footways clear until services can return to normal.

KEY NUMBERS:
- Police (non-emergency): 101
- NHS 24 (non-emergency): 111
- Power cuts: 105
- Council emergency repairs (council tenants only): 01875 612818

H ow would your community cope if there was a critical situation and the emergency services weren’t able to reach you? Examples could include a prolonged power failure, widespread flooding or a major snow event.

In 2017 the ‘Beast from the East’ provided an insight into how communities can become isolated by several feet of snow and how neighbours could work together to support those needing help.

As a result we began working with each of the county’s 20 community councils to establish formal resilient community groups with the aim of developing systems of communication. The first is between local residents who need to know how to contact each other during an emergency, where to meet and how to get organised. The second is to understand how to make contact, if you can, on behalf of your community, with Police, Fire, Ambulance and our teams. This is particularly relevant during a power cut when there is no mobile phone or internet access.

So how can your community work together effectively to ensure that everyone in your area is safe and well? By establishing a resilient community group. Seven community councils in East Lothian have already formed resilient community groups. Each has a volunteer list, some equipment, a community rendezvous point and an understanding of how to communicate directly with our Emergency Coordination Centre, should it be activated. In addition, another 11 community councils are working with our Emergency Planning team to establish their resilient community groups.

Gullane is one example. The village has an extensive resilience plan with volunteers Gordon McLelland and Lorna Scott leading on its development. Previous experiences during the Beast from the East helped to inform this process. Like many other communities, Gullane was cut off due to heavy snow with issues surrounding medicines and food supplies to the pharmacy and Co-op.

Gullane Area Community Council member, Gordon McLelland, explains: “Our priority was to identify the most credible risks. We can’t manage all situations and control them so we have focused on severe weather events and utility failure as the most likely impacts on our area. Community resilience is to fill the holes that the local authorities and emergency services can’t fill for a period. We’re not undertaking the role of Emergency Services.”

The group worked with the council to map out the locations of grit bins in the village and arrange new bins in key locations. They received high-vis vests, shovels and scoops and arranged a central storage point. The members have also worked with the local pharmacy and GP surgeries to distribute information, and has identified households and facilities that would be vulnerable in the event of an emergency.

Gordon feels that developing resilience has had many benefits, not least in raising awareness. “It was a lot of work initially to get it off the ground and keep the momentum going, however we now have something in place that will help our community.”

FIND YOUR local community council online eastlothian.gov.uk/communitycouncils or email our Emergency Planning team for more information emergencyplanning@eastlothian.gov.uk
**2019/20 Seasonal Waste & Recycling**

**FOOD WASTE, RECYCLING & NON-RECYCLABLE WASTE COLLECTIONS**
- Wednesday 25th December collections will take place on Saturday 28th December.
- Thursday 26th December collections will take place on Sunday 29th December.
- Wednesday 1st January collections will take place on Saturday 4th January.
- Thursday 2nd January collections will take place on Sunday 5th January.

Collections on Monday, Tuesday and Friday will remain on those days.

Please remember, we only collect material presented in the recycling and waste containers provided by East Lothian Council.

**GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS**
There will be no garden waste collections between 23rd December and 5th January inclusive.

Please check your collection calendar for your next collection date in January. You can check all your collection dates at: www.collectiondates.eastlothian.gov.uk

**RECYCLING CENTRES**
Our Recycling Centres are usually open seven days a week, from 08:30 to 16:15, over the winter months. However, they will not be open on 25th & 26th December and 1st & 2nd January, and will close at the earlier time of 14:00 on Christmas Eve and Hogmanay.

**SEVERE WEATHER**
Should we have to suspend services due to severe weather you can check our daily updates at: www.eastlothian.gov.uk

Please remember to present all containers at the kerbside by 07:00 on the day of collection.

- Visit: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/wasteservices
- Call our contact centre on: 01875 824 305
- Email us: wasteservices@eastlothian.gov.uk
- Food Caddies & Recycling Boxes (Biffa): 0131 665 3874

**CHRISTMAS TREES**
Real Christmas trees can be composted by taking them to a Recycling Centre or presenting them beside your brown bin on garden waste collection dates in January.

**RECYCLING CENTRES**
You can check all your collection dates in January.

**Road verge grass cutting**

**Grit bins**

**Bus shelters**

**Drainage**

**Street lighting faults**

**Traffic signals faults**

**Issues with footpaths**

**Issues with roads (potholes)**

**Traffic signs**

**Road signs**

**Road drainage**

**Bus shelters**

**Grit bins**

**Road markings**

**Road verge grass cutting**

Spotted a road problem?

The preferred method for reporting road related defects within East Lothian Council is to use the reporting system on our website. The link to this is: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/reportit

You can also use this system to obtain an update on a reported defect, however, if detailed feedback is required, please make sure you add your contact information in the relevant boxes and request feedback within the additional information box.

By using this system all defects are recorded, giving a more accurate picture when assessing the condition of the road network for future planned works.

The following is not an exhaustive list, but, gives an indication of the road related issues that can be reported:

- Issues with roads (potholes)
- Issues with footpaths
- Street lighting faults
- Traffic signals faults (traffic lights, pedestrian crossing)
- Road signs
- Road drainage
- Bus shelters
- Grit bins
- Road markings
- Road verge grass cutting

If you are unable to report using the above option and it is not an emergency, you can also make contact via the following e-mail: roadservices@eastlothian.gov.uk with your road related issue. Your email will then be directed to the relevant officer within the service.

If you have no access to a computer or smart device then the alternative option is to call East Lothian Council directly on 01875 824 305 during working hours.

Should the issue cause a serious threat to life, property or safety, please telephone us directly on 01875 824 305 during working hours or 01875 612 818 outwith working hours.
Opening up adventures

For families of children with additional support needs, there are many barriers to accessing activities that could be of a huge benefit to their child. These barriers can be cost, feelings of not being accepted and of being judged, waiting lists for stretched services or mainstream activity providers not understanding their needs.

East Lothian Council has supported Venturing Out CIC to run an Adventurous Activities Provision for children with ASN, and their families. These sessions offer the opportunity for the whole family (including siblings) to experience activities such as bushcraft and coasteering in a safe and supported environment. Often these families never imagined that they would be able to participate in these kinds of activities, which can be perceived as being risky and inaccessible. Through these activities, we see a positive impact on the self-esteem, resilience and confidence of not only the child with additional support needs but also the whole family.

Claire Mackenzie, of Venturing Out, said: “We believe that additional needs of any form should not be a barrier to accessing, and feeling the benefits of, outdoor activities. These children and their families can be socially isolated and can be on the outside of mainstream education settings, opportunities to meet and play with others are not regularly available.”

The health and wellbeing benefits of being outdoors and participating in outdoor activities are well documented. This provision encourages families to get outdoors and be active, which, in turn can have a positive impact on the mental health and resilience of the whole family.

Family participation also creates an environment where parents can often see that their child is capable of far more than they think and this in turn can challenge their perception of barriers that they believe stand in their way of taking part in activities.

The family element also encourages social interaction between children with an ASN, siblings and parents – connections are made at all levels and the environment is a very supportive one.

The partnership with East Lothian Council’s Outdoor Learning Service and Venturing Out is an innovative model of sharing of resources and volunteers to support the objectives of each organisation. As well as this, grant funding from the council has now enabled the expansion of the ASN Adventurous Activities Provision and the investment in equipment to support this. The funding has seen the provision expand from delivery of ten sessions in 2018 to the current programme which will deliver more than 1000 places for children with ASN, parents and siblings over 60 sessions in 2019/20.
Christmas shopping made easy

THE East Lothian Gift Card is a one-stop money card that is accepted in more than 130 participating outlets from restaurants and shops to hairdressers and beauty salons. It provides a simple easy way for local people to buy a gift for friends, family and work colleagues while supporting local businesses and the High Street. There has been a very positive response to the East Lothian Gift Card since its launch last year. It’s the ideal Christmas present and a great way of supporting local retailers. It can be used by recipients to purchase items in shops and businesses and is beneficial for the retailer as no paperwork is involved with the transaction. They can sign up as long as they have the facility to take card payments.

The East Lothian Gift Card is the perfect present for friends and family. It is available to purchase at www.eastlothiangiftcard.com

Don’t miss out on benefits – meet the Money Talk Team

THE welfare benefits system is to help people who are struggling to make ends meet. But it doesn’t always work out the way it should. Around half a million Scots are not claiming all the support they are entitled to. Twenty per cent of children in Scotland are in families who don’t have enough money to afford what many others take for granted.

Universal Credit replaced many previous benefits like housing benefit and tax credits. Some people find it straightforward to claim. But for others the online process and bureaucracy involved are big barriers. Most people of working age who are entitled to welfare benefits now have to claim Universal Credit. And the UK Government wants a lot more people already on predecessor benefits to move to the system eventually, though the timing of this is uncertain. The Citizens Advice Service in Scotland wants to help stop people missing out. Two services they offer are:

THE MONEY TALK TEAM

If you are on a low income with children it’s a good idea to check that you’re not missing out on benefits or overpaying for basic services like gas and electricity. The Money Talk team offers free impartial advice to suit your personal circumstances and it doesn’t matter if you’re in work or out of work. They’ll do a thorough check of what benefits and other support may be available (especially for parents). They can help check you are not overpaying on bills or council tax.

Even with both parents working you still might qualify for benefits, including help with childcare costs, so why not try the service?

UNIVERSAL CREDIT HELP TO CLAIM SERVICE

The Help To Claim Service offers tailored practical support to help anyone start a Universal Credit claim and get their first payment on time. If you have to claim Universal Credit and are struggling with it – or just not sure what help you need – get in touch with the service.

HOW TO USE THESE SERVICES:

Both services are free, confidential and quality assured. Call the following freephone numbers and they will work out the best way to support you.

● Money Talk Team 0800 085 7145
● Universal Credit Help To Claim 0800 023 2581

Both services can help you over the phone. Or if you prefer you can arrange a face-to-face appointment with an adviser in either Musselburgh or Haddington Citizens Advice bureau. Just ask for this when you call either number above.

The Help To Claim service also provides help online by web chat. Visit www.cas.org.uk/helptoclaim

New service will deliver benefits boost

SOCIAL Security Scotland is a new public service that has been created by the Scottish Government to deliver a number of benefits.

The benefits are being introduced on a staged basis over the next four years. At the end of this process, Social Security Scotland will be delivering benefits for people on low incomes, disabled people, carers, young people entering the workplace and to help people heat their homes.

East Lothian Council wants to make sure that all local residents claim what they are entitled to, so is keen to raise awareness of these new benefits. Find out more about the new benefits Social Security Scotland has introduced so far to see if you are eligible for financial help.

BEST START GRANT

Low income families on certain benefits or tax credits can benefit from a package of three payments designed to offer support during the early years of a child’s life. Best Start Pregnancy & Baby Payment – £600 for your first child and £300 for subsequent children to help with expenses in pregnancy or having a new child.

Best Start Early Learning Payment – a £250 payment for children aged two to three and half to help with the costs of early learning around the time your child might start nursery.

Best Start School Age Payment – a £250 payment is made around the time a child normally starts Primary 1 to help with the costs of a child starting school.

BEST START FOODS

Social Security Scotland has introduced Best Start Foods to provide a more convenient and flexible way to buy healthy foods. You will receive a payment card which can be used in most shops selling food that take card payments. For low income families on certain benefits, you will receive £17 every four weeks during pregnancy and for every child under three. The payment increases to £34 for children under one.

FUNERAL SUPPORT PAYMENT

Is available to people in Scotland, who are on certain benefits or tax credits, and need support to meet the costs of a funeral. This is a part-payment and will cover some, but likely not all, of the funeral costs. This is dependent on individual preference of funeral choices and varying fees for services across Scotland.

CARER’S ALLOWANCE SUPPLEMENT

Carer’s Allowance Supplement is an extra payment to help carers in Scotland who are receiving a full or partial Carer’s Allowance payment from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). It will be paid by Social Security Scotland every six months, usually in June and December.

Each six-monthly payment will be £26.20. Payments will be uprated annually with inflation.

YOUNG CARERS GRANT

This is a yearly payment of £300 for young carers in Scotland aged between 16 and 18 who have been providing care for at least 16 hours a week for the last three months for someone on a qualifying disability benefit.

It will help to improve young carers’ quality of life, helping them take part in employment, social or leisure opportunities. The payment is a cash benefit for young carers to spend as they choose. They can apply if they are at school, in further education, employed or unemployed.

This is just a summary of the new benefits introduced by Social Security Scotland. Any award will be subject to application and you will need to meet the full eligibility criteria. To find out more or to apply visit www.mygov.scot or phone Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.
The new hub of Whitecraig

East Lothian’s newest community centre has opened in the centre of Whitecraig. The new Village Hub has been developed on the site of the Deantown Bowling Club’s former clubhouse, which was demolished in 2013 leaving a gap on Whitecraig Avenue. The finished centre was designed in consultation with the bowling club, community and other users to provide an accessible, flexible and welcoming space that can be used by a wide range of groups.

It includes particular provision for the bowling community.

There is a large, bright space that can be used for up to 100 people available for community and private functions, a sports hall with a full-size badminton court, a kitchen suitable for functions and teaching for groups including the Whitecraig Lunch Club and two multi-purpose rooms.

Hadden Construction was awarded the £1.4m contract and work began in October 2018, lasting 12 months.

Following a recent council decision the new facility will be used as a Polling Place at the forthcoming General Election. Community Learning and Development Officer, Jane Cummings, said: “It’s a brilliant space and offers us opportunities to grow.”

East Lothian Community Hospital

OUR new East Lothian Community Hospital (ELCH) will allow NHS Lothian to deliver services in a new modern hospital on the existing Roodlands site in Haddington.

The new hospital will provide a wide range of services in a purpose-built facility, which meets the required standards and regulations. It will improve the environment needed to care for our East Lothian community.

The East Lothian Community Hospital will include all services provided from Roodlands Hospital and Herdmanflat Hospital. The new build will also be able to support our patients currently in Haddington Care Home, Crookston Care Home, and Midlothian Community Hospital.

Some types of services, known as sub-acute services, will also be moving from the city hospitals to the new hospital. This will bring more services closer to the community and help to ease the pressure on the other sites.

Alison Macdonald, Chief Officer East Lothian Integration Joint Board, says: “This hospital has been long awaited and will bring huge benefits for patients and carers in East Lothian.

“In particular, it will enable people to have a range of procedures in a brand new, purpose-built hospital for which they previously had to travel to Edinburgh or further afield. Services that have already been repatriated from Edinburgh include Urology, Orthopaedics (musculo-skeletal), Rheumatology, Gynaecology, Adult ENT and Audiology.

“We will also be hosting services new to East Lothian, for example, Plastic Surgery for hands, Adult Psychiatry, Ante-natal services, Dietetics and Palliative Care.”

This project is being delivered through NHS Lothian’s development partner, Hub South East Scotland Ltd, with Morrison Construction as the main building contractor.

WHAT ARE THE PARTNERSHIPS PRIORITIES?

● Early Intervention and Prevention – no one wants young people to start a life of crime so this work focuses on making sure the right services are in place to prevent this. The council’s Youth Justice service and Safer Communities team work closely with STRIVE and other partners to make sure children and young people get the targeted support they need.

● Community Engagement – the purpose of this work is to share positive messages with people in the wider community about people with experience of the community justice system. Everyone deserves a second chance and we know that our local communities are the key to helping people reintegrate positively back into civic life.

● Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending – this work focuses on making sure people who have been convicted of committing a crime get access to the support they need while in prison or out in the community. One of the biggest issues for people in the criminal justice system is getting accessing to health, housing and support services at the right time to help prevent them from reoffending.

HOW CAN I BECOME INVOLVED?

interested in hearing more about community justice and being involved with an advisory panel? Email: communityjustice@eastlothian.gov.uk

Community Justice Partnership

EAST Lothian’s Community Justice Partnership is made up of a range of members, including the Police, pictured, the Prison Service, the Fire & Rescue service, NHS Lothian, Skills Development Scotland, Strive, Criminal Justice and other council services. The Partnership is Chaired by Neil Mitchell (Area Commander, East Lothian), pictured above, who has a clear vision for what community justice in East Lothian will look like.

He says: “As a partnership we are working together to ensure that everyone has the chance to change their life and get the justice that they deserve.

“We are committed to ensuring that people in the justice system can access the right services, at the right time.” The East Lothian Community Justice Partnership meets quarterly and covers a range of business including reports from three working groups to take forward work on key priorities for the area: these priorities are on Early Intervention and Prevention, Community Engagement and Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending.

The Partnership is developing the next version of the Community Justice Local Outcome Improvement Plan which set out how the Partnership will work and evolve over the next three to five years. Crime is relatively low in East Lothian however, the impacts can be significant on people and communities and the plan will reflect this.

The new hub of Whitecraig
Feeling down? There are many ways to get some help

WITH the onset of winter, many people can feel a bit down. Sometimes this is something you can manage for yourself through a little extra exercise, meditation, talking about how you feel to a friend or partner, or with the help of mindfulness sessions or apps.

However, for some people the pressure and anxiety that often builds during the festive season can just seem too much and they feel at crisis point.

If you feel like this, you can get help. One of the first places to turn is Eastspace – eastspace.org.uk. Eastspace is East Lothian’s online source of mental health and wellbeing information. It covers local services, self-help materials, factsheets, and local news and events. It will also help you to find help in a crisis. If you don’t have access to a computer, tablet or phone, remember you can always get online at your local library or council office. The library staff will be happy to help you if you don’t really like computers.

There are also 1st Response sessions around East Lothian every week – you can find out more about these by going online at www.eastlothian.gov.uk/1stresponse to see when the next session is or when there’s a session near you.

You can also get this information by phoning 07966 526 452 and you can also book an appointment at the same time. 1st Response provides sensitive and non-judgmental support based on your needs, and helps you to access other services. There are also people you can speak to right away, if you need to, for example:

- Breathing Space – 0800 83 85 87
- Samaritans – 116 123 (free)

You are not alone so please talk to someone – there are lots of people who want to listen to you and support you.

The tapestry of life

PART-TIME customer services assistant, Gillian Curtis, spends part of her working week between Haddington and Port Seton libraries, the rest of her time is dedicated to community art projects.

Having co-ordinated the Battle of Prestonpans tapestry, Great Scottish Tapestry and the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry, her latest project is all about recovering from cancer. The idea for this tapestry came when East Lothian artist, Andrew Crummy, was diagnosed with throat cancer, and the aim is to get as many people as possible to stitch, and Gillian had a panel designed by East Lothian Library users. Anyone interested in taking part in this project should email Gillian at cancertapestry@gmail.com

Free sanitary products on offer

WE’RE offering free sanitary products to support people who struggle to afford costs associated with their monthly period.

Using money from the Scottish Government, we’re working with local social enterprise Hey Girls! to supply schools, GP surgeries, community centres with high-quality tampons and towels. A number of organisations working with vulnerable groups have also received funding to buy products directly for their clients.

The move is part of our commitment to addressing poverty and inequalities across East Lothian. Research suggests that more than 137,000 children in the UK have missed school because of period poverty, while one in 10 girls can’t afford to buy what they need.

The financial impact in households where more than one person needs sanitary products is higher. We don’t think this is fair.

You can help yourself to products to last your period either for your own use or for someone you know who needs them – a friend, relative, partner or someone you care for. Supplies will be restocked regularly in line with demand.

LOOK OUT for posters and stickers to find other places where you can stock up, or visit www.eastlothian.gov.uk/freeperiod
**UK General Election**

**Thursday 12 December**

DEADLINE for Registering to Vote and new Postal Vote applications is 26 November. Any queries to enquiries@lothian-vjb.gov.uk

There are some changes to Polling Places for this election. If you usually vote at:
- Stoneyhill Community Centre – your Polling Place will be at Musselburgh Rugby Club, 3A Stoneyhill Farm Road, Musselburgh, EH21 6RN
- Whitecraig Community Centre – your Polling Place will be The Village Hub, 72 Whitecraig Avenue, Whitecraig, EH21 8PB
- Guilane Village Hall – your Polling Place will be Guilane Bowling Club, 14A Hall Crescent, Guilane, EH31 2HA

**FOR LATEST information on voting in the UK General Election, visit** www.eastlothian.gov.uk/elections

Telephone helpline: 01875 824300.

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**Recording our local history**

A **MAJOR research project is under way to record everyday life in East Lothian.** The project, which is led by Edinburgh University’s European Ethnological Research Centre, is supported by staff at the East Lothian Archive and Local History Centre (John Gray Centre) in Haddington. With the help of volunteer field workers the team are recording interviews and transcribing documents made by the people of East Lothian to add to what we know about living and working in the region.

The East Lothian study has been underway for about 18 months now. In that time, 24 people have become fieldworkers and over 70 interviews have been recorded. The interviews have taken place in communities throughout the county including Ballencrief, Cockenzie & Prestongrans, Dunbar, East Linton, Garvald, Guilane, Haddington, Musselburgh, North Berwick and Pencaitland.

The interviews conducted so far cover myriad subjects including, amongst others, schooling, farming, the Second World War, shops and shopping, monastic life, town and village life, game-keeping, police work, food etc.

During this period, we have also worked with Musselburgh Museum to digitise a collection of reel-to-reel tapes with interviews of folk from Fisherrrow, Musselburgh and Wallyford which were made in the 1970s and 1980s.

This series has added a further 70 recordings to our collection. Our work in East Lothian continues and there is still plenty of time to get involved, either as fieldworkers or interviewees, or both!

Fieldwork is an enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone involved. Of our East Lothian volunteers few had any experience of this kind of work before they got involved.

The equipment is easy to use and full training is provided in sessions lasting two to three hours.

Our volunteer fieldworkers and interviewees find the process rewarding and valuable. In the words of one of our volunteer fieldworkers talking about the value of making oral history recordings, “it's like a rich tapestry, it's like a tartan rather than a plain cloth.” Over the coming months, we will be travelling around the county to let people know directly about the project by mounting an exhibition of photographs and being on-hand to talk about the project.

All will be welcome to come along to hear more about the opportunities for getting involved. Notice of these events will be available via the John Gray Centre.

You can also get in touch to ask any questions or register interest in coming along to a training session or open event by going to the website and following the links www.regionalethnologyscotland.ltc.ed.ac.uk/

You can also contact staff at the John Gray Centre by telephone 01620 820695 or email history@eastlothian.gov.uk

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**Learn a trade with the council**

As part of the council’s commitment to youth employment we aim to provide quality learning and training opportunities through apprenticeships.

Our trade apprenticeships include opportunities to train as a plasterer, joiner, roofer, electrician, painter or plumber and the benefits include:

- On-the-job training with pay
- 4 year apprenticeship
- Time spent at college
- Complete an apprenticeship as a skilled craftsperson in a recognised trade.

**New apprenticeships with East Lothian Council will be advertised in Spring 2020 and will include:**

- 2 x apprentice joiner
- 2 x apprentice electrician
- 2 x apprentice painter
- 2 x apprentice plumber

These will be advertised via social media Twitter @ELCouncil, Facebook and on www.myjobscotland.gov.uk where you can register for job updates.

All apprenticeship applicants must live within East Lothian.
Help name East Lothian’s new town

E’RE looking for your help in choosing a name for East Lothian’s new town.

It will be located on a site near Tranent, Macmerry, Prestonpans and Longniddry, close to the A1. The town will include new housing, a school, business space, shops, sports facilities and parks. The approved Local Development Plan also safeguarded land for a more significant potential expansion of the new settlement in due course.

The council’s vision is to see the new settlement develop into an exemplary community in which to live, work and play with mixed-tenure housing including affordable homes, first-class facilities and amenities, local employment opportunities, combined with a vibrant landscape. It presents opportunities for inward investment and job creation. It should be a zero emissions community embracing climate change objectives pushing construction and technology innovation and embracing blue green infrastructure and biodiversity. There is expected to be significant wider improvements to local infrastructure, which includes providing more choices for walking, cycling and travelling by public transport.

School pupils from around East Lothian were asked to compile a shortlist of names – either chosen from a long list based around themes including local farms, landscape features, people, events and waterbodies, or to put forward their own suggestions. The name should have a local connection and convey a sense of place and optimism for the future.

A judging panel met to consider school responses submitted by 28 schools. The panel determined that the most popular and suitable names were Charlestoun, Hattonfield, Hopetoun, Muirdale and Nethermuir.

The panel also decided that the name Blindwells should be included on the shortlist of potential names for public consultation.

Douglas Proudfoot, Head of Service (Development), said: “This is a truly exciting opportunity to come up with a name for this town.

“We wanted all school pupils in East Lothian to be involved as they are the generation who will be most likely to be living and working in this new settlement. We are very grateful to our schools for their deliberations and responses. As there has been a lot of public interest in what the new town will be called, we wanted to give the public the chance to vote on the final shortlist.”

You can express your preference by visiting our Consultation Hub at: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/namingnewtown

Alternatively, complete and cut out the above slip. Only original slip returns will be counted.

The panel will then meet to consider the results before a report is submitted to a meeting in December when council members will be asked to make a final decision in the new name.

It’s time to choose your favourite
Please tick the box alongside your preferred name:

- Blindwells
- Charlestoun
- Hattonfield
- Hopetoun
- Muirdale
- Nethermuir

This form can be handed in at your local library or posted to East Lothian Council Communications Team, John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA.

Submissions must be received by noon on Thursday, 5 December.

The potential for community groups to challenge behaviours cannot be underestimated. That’s where the real changes begin. Something as simple as community groups tweeting or sharing supportive messages on their social media can be really effective. You can also share posts and tweets from other organisations like the Police or the White Ribbon campaign, which encourages men to pledge their support for an end of violence against women. Please do what you can – you can make a big difference.

If you belong to a community group and you want to play a part in the 16 Days of Activism, you can find a resource toolkit at bit.ly/2NpyBXG

You can find out more about the White Ribbon campaign at www.whiteribbon.org.uk

CONTACT: East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office, Brunton Hall Musselburgh Tel: 01620 827475

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This form can be handed in at your local library or posted to East Lothian Council Communications Team, John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA.

Submissions must be received by noon on Thursday, 5 December.

The potential for community groups to challenge behaviours cannot be underestimated. That’s where the real changes begin. Something as simple as community groups tweeting or sharing supportive messages on their social media can be really effective. You can also share posts and tweets from other organisations like the Police or the White Ribbon campaign, which encourages men to pledge their support for an end of violence against women. Please do what you can – you can make a big difference.

If you belong to a community group and you want to play a part in the 16 Days of Activism, you can find a resource toolkit at bit.ly/2NpyBXG

You can find out more about the White Ribbon campaign at www.whiteribbon.org.uk

CONTACT: East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office, Brunton Hall Musselburgh Tel: 01620 827475
BUSINESS Gateway is a national organisation in Scotland, delivered by individual local authorities to meet the needs of local areas. Business Gateway offers free, impartial advice through one-to-one meetings – covering anything from which legal status would be best for you, how to set up a website, how to market yourself and finding business premises – networking events and workshops by dedicated professionals.

As well as one-to-one meetings with their clients, the team regularly deliver talks and workshops to classes at Queen Margaret University and local schools and networking events which are free to attend, as well as engaging with local business groups and chambers of commerce.

The Business Gateway team are all experienced in enterprise – each have been self-employed in one way or another and have all worked in and helped small businesses across a range of sectors, so if they don’t know the answer, they know where to find it! It’s an exciting time in Scotland for entrepreneurs – there are loads of resources out there and a great community to be part of. East Lothian is an awesome place to work and do business and is busy with lots of our businesses doing all sorts of great things.

The Business Gateway East Lothian team is:
- Richard Baty, Team Manager of Business Development includes managing the Business Gateway provision in East Lothian. He also manages East Lothian Investments Ltd and East Lothian Land Ltd and is a director of East Lothian Food and Drink Ltd. Richard was previously self-employed for 20 years in the hospitality industry.
- Steve Newlin, Business Advisor works mostly with start-up companies, new business creation and small business management. Steve has worked in a variety of sectors, from event management to e-commerce and the whisky industry, from businesses large and small.
- Elaine Jackson, Start-Up Officer, works with growing enterprises. Another part of her job is in the catering and hospitality management industry. Fiona’s background is in the catering and hospitality management industry. Fiona’s speciality area is developing East Lothian food and drink initiatives.

If you have an idea that you’d like to chat through, please get in touch to make an appointment at our Haddington, Dunbar and Musselburgh offices.

Email – economicdevelopment@eastlothian.gov.uk
Phone - 01620 827 870

Meet the needs of businesses

S’Wheat hopes of success

TRANTEN based entrepreneurs Jake Elliott-Hook and Amee Ritchie are aiming for a Green Christmas with the launch of their brand of sustainable water bottles – called S’Wheat.

They created a water bottle that they could clean properly, was plastic-free, reusable and biodegradable.

The couple used the full range of support from Business Gateway, Musselburgh based at Queen Margaret University. Visit www.bgateway.com

Sports and leisure fun for all

SFARTRANTEN based entrepreneurs Jake Elliott-Hook and Amee Ritchie are aiming for a Green Christmas with the launch of their brand of sustainable water bottles – called S’Wheat.

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Did you know that East Lothian has an abundance of sports and leisure facilities, open to the public seven days a week, 361 days of the year? We’ve got everything from A-Z!

- An athletics track, badminton courts, bodyworks gyms, birthday parties, cafes, a climbing wall, dance studios, free-weights gyms, flume, golf courses, gymnastics, Jacuzzis, more than 300 fitness classes, pitches, racket sports, saunas, soft play areas, sports halls, sports clubs, squash courts, steam rooms, swimming pools, swimming lessons, team sports, table-tennis, trampolines, wave machine, yoga and Zumba classes!

You’ll find your local, friendly sports centres located in every major town across the county from East to West: Dunbar, North Berwick, Haddington, Tranent, Prestonpans and Musselburgh.

INTRODUCING THE WEEK’S FITNESS MEMBERSHIP PASS
Have you been thinking about trying the local facilities, but are not quite ready to commit to a monthly membership? We’ve got the solution. Come and try the facilities with our brand new ‘Week’s Fitness Membership Pass’. No commitment, no ties, no joining fees – just a week’s unlimited access to East Lothian’s gyms, swimming pools, steam rooms, saunas, Jacuzzis and wide range of fitness classes for you to come and try at your leisure.

Available for only £16 for adults and £11 for seniors / teens (16-17yrs), it’s a fantastic way to ‘try before you buy’. No one else in the county offers as much choice, variety and flexibility! What are you waiting for?

Enjoy local enjoyleisure in East Lothian! Find out more at enjoyleisure.com or pop into your local sports centre.