



SUMMER NEWSLETTER AND EVENTS LIST 2025

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON DUNBAR HIGH STREET?

BUILDING REPAIRS UPDATE

2025 has been a busy year so far as we have seen several key building repair projects start on site. Our first priority building repair project at 76 High Street is very nearly complete and has seen some major structural repairs happen to the rear of the building as well as considerable roof repairs. The front façade has been refreshed with a new lime render product applied followed by a Keim paint system.

Next door, at 72-74 (Bear and Bull) High Street, a similar sized repair project is being undertaken which is addressing serious structural issues and major roof defects.

Over the road at 61-65 (Graze Chocolate and Coffee House and Sue Ryder Care Charity Shop) High Street, roof repairs are now complete which will stop long-term water ingress to the properties within the building. Additionally, the inappropriate cement render at the front of the property has been removed and replaced with a much more suitable self-coloured lime render, which will provide both a visual enhancement to the conservation area and, more importantly, help protect the properties from potentially damaging water penetration.

The first phase of stone repair works to 9 High Street are now complete. Have a look at the improved facade when you are next walking past.

Other, more minor but no less important repairs have been happening across the CARS area including small roof repairs, works to cast iron downpipes and gutters, and refurbishment of traditional sash and case windows.

The recent repair grant application deadline has passed, again with significant interest from property owners seeking funding. The second half of the year should see some more key building repair projects progressing.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

We have lots of exciting town centre themed activities coming up in the coming months.

1st August – 30th September we will be putting on a Scottish shop front themed exhibition at Dunbar Town House and Museum & Gallery (Wed to Sun 1.00pm - to 5.00pm) along with a variety of interesting activities to compliment the display.

The East Lothian Archaeology & Heritage Fortnight is back in September and we will be hosting a Mini Skills Festival on Saturday 6th September at the Dunbar Town House Museum & Gallery. In the days leading up to the event, Choose Play, a local children's play organisation, will be running three days of unboxed cardboard construction activities with a shop theme at the Town House. Our first round of Community Heritage Grant awards have been issued and you will be able to find out more about the successful projects in the coming months.

For more information on the above events see overleaf and get in touch if you want to participate.

JOIN IN WITH OUR EVENTS

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS FOR OUR SKILLS FESTIVAL 6th SEPTEMBER

We are looking for participants for the forthcoming Mini Skills Festival to be held on Saturday 6th September. If you are a business, community group, or individual who would like to have a stall or deliver an event or activity with a traditional skills theme then please get in touch to discuss with the CARS team by emailing regeneration@eastlothian.gov.uk

Full Program of SUMMER 2025 activities and booking details overleaf



DUNBAR CONSERVATION AREA REGENERATION SCHEME

SUMMER 2025 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

FRIDAY 1st AUGUST – SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2025

Scottish Shopfronts and Dunbar Shops Exhibition

Dunbar Town House and Museum & Gallery (Wed to Sun 1.00pm to 5.00pm every week)

Come and view the fantastic exhibition on the development of Scottish Shopfronts by Lindsay Lennie. There will also be a History of Dunbar High Street Shops theme, and we will be encouraging you to bring in stories and information about some of the old High Street shops.

We will also run a series of walks and talks, and activities every Wednesday afternoon during the exhibition. Check out the noticeboard in the Town House window for updates about What's On.

THURSDAY 4th to SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2025

Unboxed Cardboard Construction Workshops with a Shop theme

Dunbar Town House and Museum & Gallery (10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm daily)

Unboxed Cardboard Construction is a simple idea inspired by the play value of cardboard boxes. Children's imagination, creativity and construction skills are put to use with an abundance of cardboard resources and simple making tools. The activity is delivered by Choose Play, a local children's play organisation and will have a Shop theme.

Booking is required for this activity.

SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2025

Dunbar CARS Mini Traditional Skill Festival (Part of the East Lothian Archaeology & Heritage Fortnight)

Dunbar Town House and Museum & Gallery (10.30am to 4.00pm)

Join us at the Dunbar Town House for walks, talks and all day demonstrations of traditional skills. The programme will include:

Metalworking Repair Demonstrations (Forge and Equip) - All Day / Drop In

Live Signwriting Making 'A boards' (Thomas Paints) - All Day / Drop In

Fresco Painting Workshop (The Ridge) - 10.30am to 12.30 pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm / Booking Required

Project Pearl Boat Refurbishment Demonstrations and Talk (Dunbar Harbour Trust) - All day / Drop In

DIY Building Survey Workshop (High Street Residents) - 11.00am / Booking Required

All of the above events and activities are FREE to attend although some may require advanced booking. See QR Code below

For more information about the events or to book any of the activities check out the East Lothian Archaeology & Heritage Fortnight

<https://www.johngraycentre.org/about/archaeology/archaeology-events/east-lothian-archaeology-heritage-fortnight/>

OPPORTUNITIES

SKILL TRAINING BURSARY

Would you like to improve your knowledge of a traditional skill? We are accepting applications to our Traditional Skills Bursary fund. This small fund is available for people in Dunbar and East Linton to attend recognised traditional skills training. Applicants can be from building contractors or professionals who want to upskill in conservation skills or simply from interested property owners who may be looking to learn more about a particular skill. Applications can be made at any time for up to £2,000 of funding per person. Funding can cover training costs, including course fees, transport and accommodation where necessary.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE FUND

The next round of funding for the grants from the Community Heritage Fund will open in January 2026. Get in touch if you have an idea for a community heritage project focusing on the history of Dunbar and want to find out more about how to apply.

SHOPFRONT IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEME

The Dunbar Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme launched in June, offering support of up to £3,000 (at 75% of eligible costs) towards shopfront repairs or improvement works.

The scheme will complement the Dunbar CARS building repair works with all retail frontages within the CARS area eligible to apply for funding support. The works can be as simple as a fresh coat of paint or a new sign, or be linked to more traditional repairs being carried out through the CARS initiative. To find out more why not attend our next drop in session from 4pm to 6pm on Wednesday 6th August at Be Green, 55 High Street, Dunbar or email us at regeneration@eastlothian.gov.uk

The next application submission deadline is on Friday 15th August.



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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DUNBAR
CONSERVATION
AREA
REGENERATION
SCHEME