



NEWSLETTER AND EVENTS LIST AUTUMN 2025

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON DUNBAR HIGH STREET?



BUILDING REPAIRS UPDATE

Summer 2025 saw a series of large-scale repairs being undertaken along Dunbar High Street funded by Dunbar CARS. Roofs have been replaced, sections of building frontages rebuilt and empty floorspace bought back into use. There will be more repair projects starting in the late Autumn and in the Spring of 2026.

DUNBAR SHOPFRONT IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEME

The Dunbar Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme was launched in the summer to compliment Dunbar CARS focusing on repairing and improving the appearance of shopfronts in the town centre with funding from the UK Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. So far over 20 applications have been received with 11 grants already issued to local businesses and more to follow.

The photo shows Thomas Paints setting out and beginning work on a traditional hand-painted sign at The Found Gallery on the High Street.

Watch out for more shopfront improvements starting on the High Street soon!



Before



After

BUILDING FOCUS

61 - 65 High Street (Graze Coffee & Chocolate House and Sue Ryder Shop) - An 18th Century Tenement Repair Project.

One particular project which has made a transformation on the High Street is the repairs to 61-65 High Street. The property was built during the mid-1700s, making it one of the older properties on Dunbar High Street. It is a good example of traditional Scottish burgh architecture with a turnpike stair - a spiral staircase protruding outwards from the main structure - to the rear and a central wall-head chimney stack to the front. The works, which were carried out by Restorex, and overseen by Halvorsen Architects, originally focussed on repairs to the roof, with the building suffering from water ingress for a number of years due to areas of missing and broken slates and widespread vegetation growth. The roof covering was stripped and reslated using a mix of salvaged slates from the building and suitably matched Welsh slates. Extensive sections of cast iron guttering were also replaced.

The building, like many other properties in Dunbar would have originally been constructed of sandstone covered in a lime harling. At some point however, both the original front façade was rebuilt in brick - which was a surprise to the project team when this was uncovered during the repair work. A cementitious render had been applied to this brickwork. Upon inspection it was decided that the render had to be removed completely as it was causing serious defects to the structure and fabric of the building, letting in moisture, and also becoming a risk to the public as sections were likely to become loose and potentially fall in the near future. The brickwork was consolidated and a new coloured and breathable lime render applied to the front elevation. The render should have a long lifespan and crucially will work with the underlying masonry, allowing any moisture to escape through the porous lime render.

To finish off the wider building works both of the ground floor shops have been awarded funding from the Dunbar Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme and will carry out refurbishment work and redecoration which will include the reintroduction of traditional signage.



DUNBAR CONSERVATION AREA REGENERATION SCHEME

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AUTUMN 2026

DATING BUILDINGS: SPOTTING CLUES TO THE AGE AND DEVELOPMENT OF DUNBAR'S BUILDINGS WITH CONSERVATION ARCHITECT GARETH JONES

FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER 1.30 - 3.30pm (Paxton Room, The Ridge, 1 Black Bull Close, Dunbar High Street)

Have you ever wanted to know how to date your historic building?

Join us for a short talk followed by a walk-and-talk along Dunbar High Street, exploring some of its historic buildings. The session is aimed at property owners keen to undertake repair projects, builders, or anyone with a general interest in discovering the history and architecture of their building. Bring your questions! [Booking Required - Details below](#)

This event is the first in a series of Masterclasses aimed at property owners, construction professionals, and anyone interested in learning more about traditional building skills. Each Masterclass will look at different buildings and closes, as well as the skills and materials used locally in construction projects. Get in touch if you want to find out more or be added to our mailing list for upcoming

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY HERITAGE FUND FINAL DEADLINE AND DECEMBER MEET UP

The Community Heritage Fund was launched in the summer and has so far supported three small community heritage projects from sketching sessions on the High Street to collecting stories from the people and businesses on the street to making an interactive audio trail, or refurbishing a sailing boat.

The next round of 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 or if you want to find out more about how to apply for a grant. We will be having a meet up in the first week of December to hear more about some of the projects so far and to bring together the recipients of the training bursary to hear about their achievements.

[Booking Required - Details below](#)



PROJECT PEARL - DUNBAR HARBOUR TRUST

Find out more about The Project Pearl from Fiona Kibby, the Harbour Master who has been coordinating the volunteer boat restoration project below.

The transformation of the wooden boat 'The Pearl of Dunbar' has been a remarkable achievement for a small community project at Dunbar Harbour. Dunbar Harbour Trust started the small project with the local community to restore a 19ft wooden, clinker-built sailing boat in March 2025. With the help of a group of local volunteers and some funding from Dunbar CARS Community Heritage Fund, the little boats' hull has been sanded, oiled and is now floating in the harbour to soak up the seawater, enabling the wood to swell and become water tight. Dunbar Harbour Master, Fiona Kibby is delighted with the results of this project that gets new people to enjoy the harbour community and keep the harbour at the heart of the town centre and High Street. 'There is plenty more work to do on the mast and rigging over winter' she insists and is keen to speak to anyone who would like to join the volunteers. Contact harbourmaster@dunbarharbourtrust.co.uk to find out more.

SKILL TRAINING BURSARY FINAL ROUND

We are still 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 could be building contractors or professionals who want to upskill in conservation skills or simply 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.

For more information on any of the above or to book an event please email regeneration@eastlothian.gov.uk