



Very happy meeting with the reindeer after Pinocchio's children switched on the Christmas lights.

Secretary's Report

To shamelessly paraphrase Monty Python, have you ever found yourself asking 'What has the Civic Society ever done for us?' Well, it was set up with the express intention of cleaning up the Esk and preserving the character and beauty of the village and the valley. I think that more than 50 years later it can justifiably be said that it has achieved these aims. It was part of the 20mph through the village campaign and responsible for the Community Garden and bridge over the river to the playing fields and Park. The substantial bus stops in Lasswade and Keock were courtesy of the Society, as is the rather impressive Penfold Post Box. We are thankful for the of highly knowledgeable and skillful Planning Officers who have served on the Committee over the years. They have navigated the Planning Regulations to ensure that members can make informed and thoughtful responses to contentious Planning Applications. It contributed to the development of the Esk Valley Trust.

The Reps are unstinting in their work for the Society and represent the glue of the organization as they connect directly with members. Thank you to all of you for your great service to Lasswade.

The tireless litter picking of a number of our members, you know who you are, to name but a few, John, Vincent and John. They have contributed greatly to our enjoyment of the walking routes and lanes around Lasswade. Which without their efforts, would have been blighted by the altogether staggering number motorists who seem to see no problem in ejecting flotsam and jetson from their cars onto the pavements and pathways.

LDCS has received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Margaret Workman was on the Committee at that time. I am delighted that we were able to extend our congratulations as she celebrated her 101st Birthday in London, where she now lives. Margaret was an Oxbridge Mathematics graduate who served at Bletchley Park during the war. Her intelligence, quick wittedness and kindness contributed much to the work of the Society. King Charles Spaniels remain her great love, and her guide to the breed is considered a classic. Many happy returns Margaret!

Best wishes, Rosemary Mackay, Secretary

Chairman's Report

Since our last Newsletter, we have had what I hope was for everyone a enjoyable Festive Period and thanks are due to the children and staff at Pinocchio's Nursery for switching on the Christmas tree lights and the lights in the Community Garden, where the youngsters were particularly intrigued by the reindeer! Thanks are also due to Wendy and Ian Macmillan, who represented the Society at the Memorial Service in Dalkeith for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

As local residents, you will have noticed that work has finally begun on the former Howden and Welton site. It has been an eyesore for many years and the building will enhance the Village - once we get over the inevitable road closures and traffic restrictions during the construction phase!

Following our representations to the Council on behalf of local residents, I am pleased to report that the yellow box at West Mill is now on the list for repainting.

Can I also take this opportunity to welcome Helen Nelson to our new Committee. She will, I am sure, bring fresh energy to the work we do on your behalf and we are looking forward very much to working with her.

As with any organisation, the Civic Society are always keen to welcome new members. If you know of anyone who has recently moved into the area, please encourage them to consider joining the Society and direct them to our website or to any committee member for details. New members do not have to pay a subscription until the start of the next financial year.

George Clark, Chairman

Below is a screenshot of the OS Map of part of old Lasswade (1888-1913). This can be accessed from the National Library of Scotland website: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/print/#zoom=16.9&lat=55.88156&lon=-3.11976&layers=6&b=1>

The map is usefully scrollable and can be viewed in 3D to show the topography. An interesting way to explore the history of your house and of the village. Many thanks to Cheryl for bringing this to our attention.

Thanks are also due to Cheryl for the extremely good Talk she delivered at our AGM held in November 2022. Cheryl took us through the historical interactive map she has created on the LDCS website. Do take the time to have a look.



Tyre Trouble!

Another thank you to Edinburgh University for removing illegally dumped tyres from the entrance of their land leading to Hewan Bank. This is the second time that more than twenty tyres have been fly-tipped. We are in discussion with the University as to how they may secure the entrance whilst still allowing access for horses and pedestrians.

In the meantime the Polton Bank Ladies Dectective Agency have been investigating ways to recycle and re-purpose used tyres. Here are a couple of their suggestions. When not seeking solutions some of them find inspiration whilst wild swimming. Keep up the good work! We welcome your suggestions.



Defibrillator Training

If you are interested in learning how to deliver effective first aid and use a defibrillator in the event of an emergency.

The two-hour session would be led by qualified instructors and would be delivered in the Polton Bowling Club. The Course would be open to members and their friends and family, with a maximum of 20 participants and three Trainers. If you are interested in taking part please contact Rosemary at dequinceyrose@aol.com

Subscription Preparation for 2023

1. Thank You again! Many of our members have kindly set up Standing Orders for their Annual Subscription. This is our preferred method of receiving your dues but you can still pay by cash, cheque or a one-off annual payment. PLEASE check the date on your Standing Order and alter it, if necessary, to fall within the two and a half month window of January to mid March. Thank you again!

Here are the details:

Name of Account:	Lasswade & District Civic Society	Date to Pay:	15 March latest (January [preferred])
Sort Code:	80-17-42 (Bank of Scotland)	Frequency:	Annually
Account No:	00427753	Reference:	YOUR Surname and Initial(s)
Amount:	£3.00 Single £5.00 Family		

2. If you wish to pay by cheque or cash, you can still do this. Please email Rosemary at dequinceyrose@aol.com for up to date instructions.
3. Cheques should be made out to: Lasswade & District Civic Society.

Winter merging into Spring

The winter is passing and the days are visibly lengthening. Hooray! The time of the singing of the birds is come and signs of new growth are appearing around the garden and in the countryside. I've heard, and seen, the greater spotted woodpecker chipping from the highest branches of the naked lime trees and there are plenty of blackbirds and tits around our garden, together with a noisy little wren and the ubiquitous pigeons. Towards the end of November there were flocks of fieldfares devouring any berries they could spot with much noise and gusto. Redpoles, nuthatches and tree creepers have been seen and the 'waffling' of the rarer green woodpecker has also been heard.

Although we are outside the Edinburgh boundary, you may have been watching Winter Watch where Iolo Williams has been extolling the abundance of wildlife in the green spaces within the city and along the water of Leith. We too have many wonderful wildlife locations with the North Esk passing through Lasswade and the Mavisbank Conservation Area just on our doorstep.



With the very heavy rain which fell on 30 December, there was considerable flooding with the North Esk overflowing her banks and causing havoc on flooding homes and fields. One of our members, Debbie Kong, took this wonderful photo of the river raging past the Papermill. I also took a photo the other day of a large deposit of silt which can be seen under the footbridge down in the village.



Thank you