



Newsletter

Spring 2025

Chairman's Note



Lighting the Christmas tree with some of the children from Pinocchio's Nursery

I must start by wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year. 2025 is likely to bring great changes to the world, not all welcome. It is hard to recall a time of greater geo-political uncertainty, and we can only hope that common sense and a healthy dose of pragmatism combine to keep our world safe.

Closer to home, of course, we have our own local uncertainties which, whilst they may pale in the face of global matters, still impact on our daily lives

and our ability to enjoy the wonderful area in which we live. Please see page 4 below for an update on Mavisbank. There have recently been calls from some transport campaigners to scrap the upgrade of Sheriffhall Roundabout, the flagship project of the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland Regional Deal. Continuing delays in taking this forward only make the situation faced by commuters and other local residents trying to get around worse with every passing day and we are at risk of inertia threatening the project altogether. We also do not know the future of the only remaining church in the Village, which appears still to be on the market.

On the bright side, it was very good to see the repairs to the Bridge completed and my thanks go to a number of groups and individuals involved in its overhaul. Posts have also been placed on the grass on the edge of the car parking spaces in the Park, successfully preventing people from parking there and causing irreparable damage to the grassed area. The Society has played its part in these two campaigns, as it will on all fronts to preserve the beauty of the Village and its surroundings. How much might our traffic volume issues be reduced if the promised Sheriffhall flyover was built!

You will see in this Newsletter that we have a number of events coming up, including the AGM in April and I would encourage you to put these dates in your diary and participate wherever you can. In the meantime, my thanks go to all our

committee members, area representatives and volunteers for the unstinting work they do on behalf of all of us.

George Clark

The Community Garden 2021-2025

I was looking through photos taken since we decided to give the Community Garden a thorough “make over” back in the Spring of 2021. The garden was hugely overgrown on every side, especially the bed adjacent to the bus stop. We set to cutting, chopping and chain sawing. We had piles and piles of “brush” which the Council kindly helped us to dispose of. We dug out roots, particularly those of the invasive snowberry, and dug over the plot moving a few of the remaining shrubs to preferred locations within the bed. Now we had a clear bed of wonderful soil, we started planting up various herbaceous plants supplied from our own gardens. Everything has thrived!



On the opposite side of the Garden we also did a great deal of pruning and the golden daffodils and the beautiful blossom of both the forsythia and the flowering cherry were, and still are, a delight each Spring.



Nearly four years on, the bus stop bed is completely full and may need some renovation this Spring. If any one of you is interested in spending a little time in the Garden keeping it in good shape, please do be in touch. On a slightly different note, we decided to install a cigarette butt container in the bus shelter to try and decrease the amount of debris that gathers there.



It was not very long before the box was completely vandalised and, sadly, we had to throw it, and the idea, out!

Something to Celebrate!



Polton Bowling Club celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2025, with a number of events on and off the bowling Green. These events will be promoted via the Polton Bowling Club Facebook page.

It would be wonderful to have as many people as possible from the Lasswade community involved in the celebrations to mark this momentous occasion. Polton is one of the oldest Bowling Clubs in Midlothian and was built as a leisure facility for the communities of the Polton and Springfield, housing workers for the Paper Mills, and opened in 1875. In 2014 there was a membership of eighty-nine and the greens were often full. These days we have thirty-one full members who remain as enthusiastic as ever.



Not too sure where all the vandals come from in our little village!

The Club House is a facility open for all to enjoy. As a social member or full Bowling member. It is a relaxed, friendly club and Monday evenings from April to September are open to anyone who wants to try 'their hand' at bowls. The Bowling Committee are keen for the Club House to be utilised as a community hub so if anyone has any suggestions please do contact Sheena by email: killy3637@gmail.com



Lasswade & District Civic Society Standing Order Form

If you would like to pay your Annual Subscription by Standing Order, the details you require are as below. You can set this up yourself on-line or go into your Bank and ask them to do it for you.

Name of Account: Lasswade & District Civic Society

Sort Code: 80-17-42 (Bank of Scotland, Loanhead Branch)

Account No: 00427753

Amount: £3.00 Single £5.00 Joint

Date to Pay: 15 February

Frequency: Annually

***Reference:** YOUR SURNAME AND INITIAL(S)*

*PLEASE be sure to put your Reference in otherwise we shall be unable to link your payment to yourself.

Mavisbank update



Thanks to the National Heritage Memorial Fund's grant of £5.3m, the Landmark Trust are pleased to report that their plan to conserve Mavisbank

House has taken a step further forward with the appointment of key members of the Team who will lead on restoring this architecturally significant building. Together with the Landmark Trust the professional associates, will undertake

the repair of the standing masonry, the creation of an access drive to the house and ensure the building is safe to visit.

The Trust has reported that they are at the beginning of a long journey to enable any work to be undertaken on the Mavisbank site.

2025 Phase - A complex land acquisition process requires to be completed for the ownership the ruins of Mavisbank House to be transferred. This work will be led by Midlothian Council.

2025-26 Phase - The Landmark Trust will, it is proposed, take ownership of the House. Work will start on repairing the standing masonry liaising with Historic Environment Scotland (in whose care the policies sit) to create the access route to the, currently, marooned site. The aim being to make the building safe.

2029 Phase - If sufficient funds can be raised, the House will be re-roofed and restored. It is hoped that this will give opportunities for people to learn traditional skills and follow the progress of the works.

Fundraising

The National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) is the major source of Grant Funding, giving in total a £7.8m funding package of which 85% is secured. A further £1.102m requires to be raised. The Landmark Trust is grateful for every single pound donated. Those pledging £10,000 or more to the first phase will be honoured as Rescue Guardians of Mavisbank.

There are currently no plans available outlining the proposed access road. Markers have been placed, inside the Kevock Road entrance. The Society will endeavour to determine the route of any permanent access road and the purpose of the markers. It may be that this route

will be a temporary access pathway for traffic during the reconstruction phase of this project.

Concerns have been raised by members over the lack of readily available information. This may well be remedied now that the professional Team have been appointed. Members have also expressed concerns over the future accessibility of the grounds. We intend to make members aware on any new developments.

If you have any questions or comments please contact us at ldcs72lass@gmail.com

Midlothian Council - Active Travel Plan Lasswade

MC have recently approved a 10year Active Travel Plan which includes Lasswade. Three priorities affecting Lasswade have been identified.

1. Melville Dykes Road to Loanhead - Cycle Path (high priority)
2. Wadingburn to Bonnyrigg via Kevock Road and Lasswade Viaduct - mix of off-road shared use paths and segregated active travel provision. (high priority)
3. Wadingburn to Loanhead - Improved walking path and desire to include a cycle path. (medium priority)

These are potentially exciting and welcome plans, but substantial investment would be required to realise the proposals. Should you wish to know more about the implications of these plans please visit the Midlothian Council Travel site.

Dates for the Diary:

This year the Reps Party will be held on Sunday 23rd February 2025 from 2-4pm.



The Reps enjoying a well-deserved Afternoon Tea in Wendy's beautiful garden (2024)

A Litter Pick will take place on Sunday 23rd March 2025 from 2.30-4pm



Please meet with us in the Community Garden, Lasswade. Please bring gloves. We do hope you can come along.

Summer Event – Open Garden Day with teas and Plant Sale on Saturday 14th June 2025 from 2-4pm.

Reminder Alerts will be sent out.

Our website is currently under reconstruction.

Please contact us by e-mail ldcs72lass@gmail.com with any queries or comments.