



Lasswade District Civic Society

# Newsletter

AUTUMN 2018



*With many thanks to Margaret McLaren for the images of Lasswade*

## Chairman's Report

The main focus of our attention in the coming months is likely to be the impact on traffic and other infrastructure of all the new housing developments emerging and planned within Midlothian. We are endeavouring to find out details of proposals for the Sheriffhall Roundabout, as this is commonly raised with the Committee by members of the Society. This is a Scottish Government matter, rather than a local authority one, but we will continue to impress on our Councillors the huge concerns you have raised with us about increasing traffic pressure.

Over the summer, we had requests from parents in Westmill Road area to see what could be done to facilitate their exit on to the main road when trying to take children to Lasswade High School. The volume of traffic was such that they were having to wait and wait for the chance to turn right to head up the hill to Bonnyrigg. I am delighted to report that, having taken these concerns to the Council, they have now agreed to install a yellow box at the junction and we should see this work done in the next few weeks.

*George Clark  
Chairman*

## Secretary's Report

As the Season mellows into Autumn, this gives you a wonderful opportunity to capture images of Lasswade for our Photographic Competition. The idea came from Howard Taylor, who sent us a slide taken some years ago from the viaduct. It made us realise how quickly views can change as new buildings are erected, trees planted or removed and older buildings altered. The Competition is open to anyone living in Lasswade or Bonnyrigg and the only specification is that the photos are of something in Lasswade. The entries will add to the Historical record of the village.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Members who make regular litter picks. Polton Bank and the road on the other side of the river, leading to Loanhead, Kevock and Broomieknowe have all benefitted from those who regularly commit time to this task. Your efforts make an enormous difference to the appearance of the streets. We are continuing with our Litter initiative, launching a competition in local Schools and remaining in discussion with fast food outlets. There will be further Community Litter Picks. Please contact us with any ideas you may have to reduce the amount of litter mindlessly dropped in Lasswade.

*Rosemary Mackay,  
Secretary*

## New LDCS web-site

We plan to launch a new up-to-date web-site for the society during 2019 and would welcome your thoughts and ideas on how you would like the society's web-site to look and function.

We are extremely grateful to Sam Blyth and her colleagues at Edinburgh College for all their help with this project. Firstly, thanks to Sam for enabling Cheryl Ashworth (and her trainee guide dog puppy, Charlie!) to attend a 9-week course on Web Technologies between April and June this year. The course content was extremely valuable and will hopefully enable her to keep our new web-site up to date and functional. Secondly, an Edinburgh College student may be available to design and program our new web-site, either as part of their course-work or for work experience. Again, we are grateful to Edinburgh College for this opportunity.

So, please think how you would like the web-site to look and function and the content you would like to (easily!) find there.

Suggestions already made include:

- A rolling banner on the home page highlighting current society projects and forthcoming events.

- An up-to-date events page.
- Links to the web-sites of other relevant organisations (we currently have links to Midlothian Council Planning Applications, Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Historic Society, EskValley Trust, Historic Environment Scotland, Scotways and Edinburgh Greenbelt Trust).
- Contemporary and historic photographs of Lasswade, including those submitted for the current competition.
- A Lasswade history page

## Moving to a cashless Society!

Our Treasurer is introducing a Direct Debit facility for the payment of your Subs. Details will be sent out in the New Year.

There is no obligation to take this option and Repls will still be calling your door if you prefer to continue to pay by cash.

A number of Member, old and new, have suggested that we have an alternative to cash, as they now rarely carry money.

## Anti-Litter Initiatives

We have recently formed a LDCS litter sub-group consisting of Rosemary Mackay, Cheryl Ashworth and Lorraine Webster to devise and help implement initiatives to reduce the amount of litter in the Lasswade area. These include:

### Lasswade Community Litter-pick

The weekend of June 23rd and 24th 2018 saw an enthusiastic group of local residents collect litter from the roads, lanes, paths, verges and parks of Lasswade. This was organised by the Society on behalf of the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful Campaign' from whom we receive a substantial grant. The Saturday litter collection focussed on the centre of Lasswade village including the community garden, playing field, river-side, graveyards and adjoining paths. On the Sunday, the focus was on Poulton, but also extended to Mavis Bank, Kevock Road and Wadingburn.

We would like to thank Midlothian Council for providing the litter pickers and bags and to Lorraine and Sheena for excellent post-collection refreshments. Thanks are also due to all our 'local litter heroes' who regularly collect litter from the Lasswade area. These include (but are not limited to): Vincent Contini, John Dryden, John Oldham and Ian & Ellen McCallman).

Keep a look-out for dates of future litter picks near you!

### Nursery and infant school anti-litter poster competition

Once the new school term is fully underway we plan



Some of the Volunteers enjoying a well earned rest during a recent litter pick

to launch a competition for local children to design an anti-litter poster. Prizes will be awarded for the best entries which will be displayed in McDonalds at Straiton.

### Reducing waste

We have had very encouraging discussions with the manager of McDonalds at Straiton regarding opportunities to reduce the amount of packaging associated with fast food including, for example, by offering re-fillable drinks cups.

### Fly-tipping

This remains a major concern in several areas of Lasswade. However, we would like to thank Penicuik Estates for removing over 50 vehicle tyres from Haverall Wood at Wadingburn.

## Local History Project

Do you have memories, photographs or other memorabilia from Lasswade in days gone by? If so, the Civic Society would love to hear from you! As a joint project with the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade History Society, we are putting together a Local History page on the new LDCS website which will include scanned photographs and other documents (for example, Lasswade school magazines, publicity from Lasswade businesses, pages from the County of Midlothian Official Handbook etc. etc) together with oral histories from residents and former employees from the Lasswade area.

To start this project off; back in July Rosemary McKay, Wendy Macmillan and Cheryl Ashworth were privileged to meet local residents Betty ? and Margaret ? for an afternoon of tea and reminiscences. Betty lived in Lasswade as a child and attended Lasswade School in the 1940s, while Margaret worked in the cutting room at Todd's Paper Mill (now the Paper Mill restaurant). Both had fascinating stories to tell and between them, painted a vivid picture of life in Lasswade in the 1940s and 1950s. We plan to include their stories on our new web-site, but until then, some of their highlights are worth relating. These include:

- The excitement of catching a train from Lasswade to Portobello
- Memories of the many shops in Lasswade, including Mr Kirk's the butcher and Mrs Kirk's which was one of the 3 sweet shops in Lasswade. There was also a fish shop, chemist, post office, grocers and the bank, among others.
- At New Year there were sing-songs in the pub which is now the Laird and Dog when Betty's father played the piano.
- The Home Guard marching up and down School Green practising with broom handles.
- Todd's Paper Mill was much larger than the current restaurant building and operated round the clock when there were big orders. There was a great camaraderie among the staff.

Hopefully these snippets will give an idea of the sort of reminiscences and information that we are looking for. We are always keen to meet people with first-hand memories of Lasswade and to receive electronic or paper versions of old documents and memorabilia. Paper documents will be scanned and returned if required.

## Planning matters

I would like to introduce myself as the new member of the committee with the responsibility of monitoring planning applications relevant to Lasswade. I am Keith Chapman and live in Lasswade itself. I am a retired doctor having spent the majority of my working life as a GP in Dalkeith.

I now spend my time between voluntary work and both old and new hobbies. As a volunteer I am a supporter and trustee of Alzheimer Scotland and the user member of Midlothian Joint integration Board for Health and Social Care.

As for hobbies, my old one is cycling, to try and stave off middle-aged spread, and my new one is learning the piano albeit on background of a long standing love of music. I am about to combine hobbies and volunteering by cycling Pedal for Scotland in support of Alzheimer Scotland.

With reference to planning, I use the Midlothian Council online planning portal to keep up to date with current applications. The committee has commented on a number of applications over the last 6 months during my tenure. Comments have been noted and led to changes in applications, with the current development of the land behind the Laird and Dog perhaps being most notable.

With Midlothian being the fastest growing population in Scotland, there are increasing pressures

to build more housing. Within Lasswade we have seen the granting of planning applications in the Green Belt which defines the settlement. Outwith Lasswade, the continuing expansion housing estates causes ever increasing traffic through the village. Unfortunately we have not seen the promised improvements in Sherrifhall junction that might relieve some of this larger flow of vehicles.

As my experience of planning matters is not enormous, I am grateful of the help I receive from other members of the committee. I am also very happy to be contacted by anyone who wishes to draw the committee's attention to any particular planning issue.



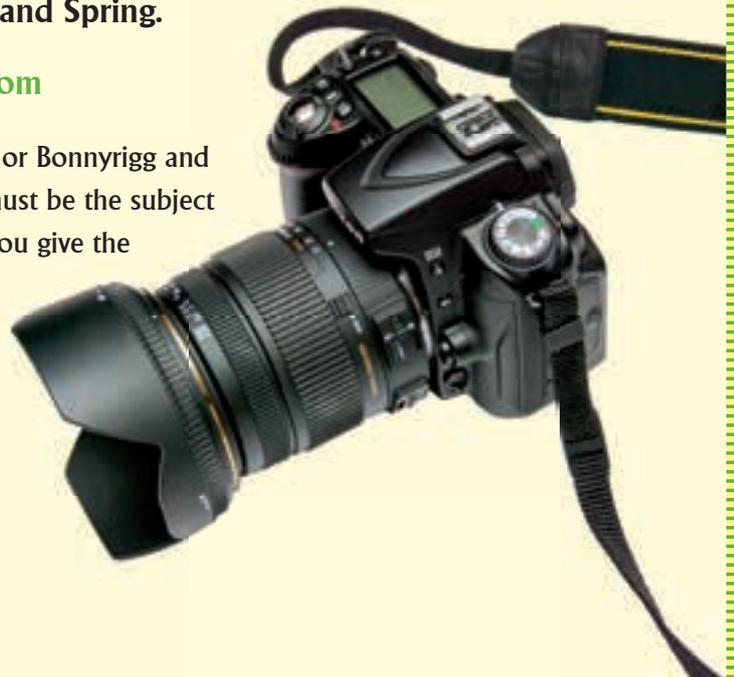
# Photographic Competition

The closing date for the Competition has been extended to 31st March 2019. This allows you to include images of the forthcoming Winter and Spring.

Please e-mail entries to [dequinceyrose@aol.com](mailto:dequinceyrose@aol.com)

The Competition is open to anyone living in Lasswade or Bonnyrigg and there is no limit on the number of entries. Lasswade must be the subject of the photographs and by entering the Competition you give the Society the right to reproduce your images.

There will be a First Prize of £100 with a second prize of £25 and a third prize of £10.



*We look forward to receiving your entries!*

## Dates for your Diary

Sunday 7th October	Community Garden Clean-up. Meet 2-4pm, bring tools and gloves. There will be coffee and cake to follow
Tuesday 6th November	Autumn Talk St Leonard's Church Hall, 7.30pm for drinks
Date to be confirmed	Reps Party
Friday 1st March 2019	Annual Party St Leonard's Church Hall 7.30pm

## Autumn Talk

Prof James Murray will present

**A Fascinating History of Education in Lasswade**  
*Lasswade, a centre of excellence in Education through the Centuries*

**Tuesday 6th November 2018 from 7.30pm**

**Drinks will be served**

**Contact details:** Through the contact section of our Website [www.lasswadedistrictcivicsociety.com](http://www.lasswadedistrictcivicsociety.com)  
Or to Rosemary Mackay (Secretary LDCS) @ [dequinceyrose@aol.com](mailto:dequinceyrose@aol.com)