



Lasswade District Civic Society

# Newsletter

AUTUMN 2019

## Chairman's Report

For a number of years, the Christmas Lights Committee in Bonnyrigg have generously provided part of Lasswade's funding of the tree and lights that enhance the village and give it a real Christmas feel, but with the withdrawal of all Council funding for their work, the Committee have, quite understandably, had to concentrate their resources this year on the tree and decorations in Bonnyrigg town centre. The Society has, therefore, set about trying to raise the money required and has also secured a very generous donation by local farmer Ian Barr of a tree. We have asked all our local businesses to help us and, as a result, you will see collection boxes in a number of places, including The Laird and Dog, The Paper Mill and The Polton Inn. Please give generously when you see the boxes, as we need to raise £500 for the tree lights alone and adding street decorations along the line of previous years would increase the cost to about £2,500. Pinocchio's Nursery are also holding a cake sale to raise money for this project and we are very grateful to them and to the other local businesses who are doing their bit to publicise our efforts. We will also be raising funds at our autumn talk on Friday 25 October, so that is an additional reason to come along! With your help we can ensure that our lovely village looks at its best over the festive period.

In this Issue of the Newsletter, we feature some of the best entries in our photographic competition. Many thanks to everyone who took part and keep snapping, as we are happy to put photographs on our website as well.

*George Clark  
Chairman*



## Secretary's Report

It was a delight to receive so many excellent entries to our recent Photographic Competition. You interpreted the brief 'Images of Lasswade' (and surrounding areas), as we had hoped, very broadly. The images reflecting not only the natural beauty of Lasswade but also the imagination and humour of those taking part.

The 3 winning entries are reproduced here in the Newsletter and those, alongside the other entries will be displayed on our soon to be re-launched website and Facebook page. Look out for them and please keep sending us your photos of Lasswade!

Dr Keith Chapman has kindly agreed to deliver a Talk, entitled 'Dementia: How to reduce your risk on Wednesday 23rd October in St Leonard's Church Hall at 7.30pm. Do join us there.

If you have heard of a Speaker or a topic that you think would be of interest to other Members, please contact me

at [dequinceyrose@aol.com](mailto:dequinceyrose@aol.com) with your ideas.

I was very interested to learn that motorists in Edinburgh now experience the worst traffic congestion in the whole of the UK. Much of that traffic is generated by Midlothian residents and thousands of vehicles pass through Lasswade each day. Please find the results of the Air Pollution Survey carried out in Lasswade throughout 2017 in this Newsletter.

We regularly raise the issue of traffic management with Midlothian Council on your behalf. The congestion research from the Sat Nav manufacturer Tom Tom, will only strengthen our case for improvements to public transport, park and ride facilities, reductions in and the monitoring speed limits and the long awaited re-development of Sheriff Hall roundabout.

*Rosemary Mackay,  
Secretary*

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS APPEAL 2019 – Lasswade Village

This year we have been informed by Midlothian Council that it will be unable to fund any form of Christmas lighting in the village of Lasswade. When the dark nights of Winter are upon us and in December there are no twinkling lights on lamp posts and no well decorated Christmas tree standing proud on the bend, we are sure miss them!

To this end the Committee has been out attempting to raise some funding from local establishments in the village. It is early days but we have had positive feedback from Pinocchio's Nursery, The Laird and Dog, Luci's, The Papermill, (the camera shop?) and, a little further afield, the Melville Inn and an offer of a raffle prize from Table Table and Dobbies. We are hoping most will take a collection box on the counter (please give generously if you spot one at the bar) and one or two eateries have suggested a discretionary addition to bills. We are grateful to each participant and we trust you, our members, will be able to support these outfits when you can.

We received a breakdown of the estimated costs from the Council which are as follows:

Supply and transport large Christmas tree	£700
Erection, dismantling, checking electrics and tree disposal	£400
Christmas Lighting in Lasswade	£1,500

Already, the Committee has been able to secure a tree and its transportation from a local farmer.

In addition, at our Autumn Talk on Dementia by Keith Chapman we shall be running a small fundraiser. We hope as many of you as possible will come and support Keith on the evening of 23 October and participate in the money raising!

We trust through all the above we shall be able to raise at least £400 to cover extras in connection with the tree. It would be wonderful if we were able to raise the extra £1,500 to cover the other lights as well. Please give generously when you can. Thank you! Any excess funds will be ring-fenced for next year.



We would like to thank the staff, parents and especially the children from Pinocchio's Nursery in Lasswade, for baking and donating the proceeds from their subsequent cake sale to the Lasswade Christmas Tree Lights Appeal.

*The photos show some of the young cake makers in action!*

### Bees and Bumblebees

We would like to thank you David Hennessey, Chairman of Newbattle Beekeepers for delivering such an interesting Talk on Bees and Bumblebees at our recent AGM.

David suggested that he might organise a visit to the Newbattle Apiary for interested Members in the Spring of 2020. Look out for details in our next Newsletter.



The Newbattle Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 23rd November from 11-4pm. There will be local honey for sale and much more in the Bee Academy within the grounds of Newbattle Abbey College.

## Results of the Air Pollution Survey in Lasswade 2017

LDCS campaigned for a survey of Nitrogen Oxide levels in Lasswade Village, to be carried out by Midlothian Council's Environmental Health Department, following concerns raised by a number of our Members. This was done throughout 2017 and a Report was submitted to Scottish Government in 2018, we were advised of the results of the Survey in June of this year.

Whilst Lasswade's Nitrogen Oxide are towards the upper end of values found in Midlothian, they remain well below the standard set by WHO (World Health Organisation) of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and subsequently lowered by the EU to 4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2010.

The Annual Mean Concentration levels, adjusted for bias, were 24.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

The highest levels of pollution in Midlothian were found in two areas of central Dalkeith, measuring 25 and 25.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  respectively.

Here is a graph showing the position of Lasswade in relation to other sites and the general trend in levels throughout Midlothian. As only one year's reading exist for Lasswade, they are highlighted as the yellow and red squares at the right-hand end of the graph.

To put these figures into a national context, Earls Court Station recorded an annual level of NO<sub>2</sub> at 129.5 as opposed to the Lasswade level of 24.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . As our levels are amongst the highest in Midlothian, they will continue to be monitored.

## Photographic Competition

We would like to thank everyone who entered the Photographic Competition.

Our website is visited by people from all over the World, many of whom have previously lived or had family living in Lasswade. They visit the site to discover more about the area and they have told us that they are keen to see both historical and contemporary images of Lasswade, in particular photos that reflect the ways that people interact with their environment.

Your entries will form part of our archive of photographs, which we hope you will continue to expand, recording not only the bio-diversity and architecture of the village but a social history of this beautiful area in which we live.

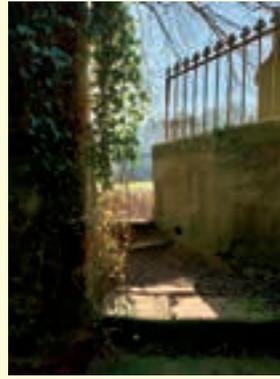
### Winning Entries

Winner - Joy Moore

#### *Photograph on the cover of the Newsletter*

Our judge Iona Roberts, said that she choose this photo because 'the juxtaposition of the rural and built environment, reflected the essence of Lasswade'. An image that represented Lasswade as a linear village, so very close to the Capital, yet surrounded by beautiful countryside.

Runner-up - Shona Adam



Iona Roberts found this to be a pleasing composition, with the mellow, honeyed lighting of the stone, referencing Lasswade's long cultural history. Lasswade old Parish Church is a scheduled monument, dating from the 13th Century and was originally dedicated to St Edwin.

Runner-up - John Dryden



Iona found this snowy scene very pleasing.

## Lasswade supports Guide Dogs

Many of you may have seen me walking puppies around the paths and lanes of Lasswade: firstly Charlie, a male black Labrador x Retriever and now Tommy, a male purebred golden Labrador. This is because in January 2018 I became a voluntary puppy walker for Guide Dogs Scotland. This delightful role involves looking after a puppy in our own home from about 2 months of age until they are about 16 months of age, when they go to 'big school' the Guide Dog training school in Forfar. My role includes basic obedience training, recall (really important when the dogs are working with visually impaired people) and socialising the puppy, i.e.



getting it used to public transport, supermarkets, cafes, hairdressers etc.; really any-where a visually impaired person may need to go with their guide dog. A great excuse for a day out and a coffee!

Earlier this year I was privileged to be invited to visit Lasswade Primary School with Charlie to speak about Guide Dogs and the roles of a puppy walker. Lasswade

Primary School nominated Guide Dogs as their charity of the year and the P4 and P7 classes devised all sorts of interesting fund-raising schemes, including a book exchange and making and selling door hangings at Christmas. It was a real honour for Charlie and I to receive a cheque from these fundraising activities on behalf of Guide Dogs Scotland.



Such funds really help towards the costs of rearing and training guide dogs - dogs that go on to become highly valued life changers!

Thank you to every-one in Lasswade who supports Guide Dogs Scotland and especially the wonderful pupils of Lasswade Primary School!

*Cheryl Ashworth*

## Dates for your Diary

- Wed. 23rd October** Autumn Talk by Dr Keith Chapman - *'Dementia and recent research on ways to reduce your chances of contracting this condition'*  
St Leonard's Church Hall - drinks will be served from 7.30pm  
There will be an opportunity to buy some homemade Marmalade and enter a wine or water lucky dip. All proceeds to the Christmas Tree Lights Fund.
- Sun. 27th October** Litter Pick and Garden Clean-up from 2.30-4pm - Meeting at the Community Garden. Please bring gloves and tools if you wish to Garden. There will be coffee and cake.
- February 2020** Reps Tea Party - *Date to be confirmed*
- March 2020** Annual Party - *Date to be confirmed*
- 

## Autumn Talk with Dr Keith Chapman

### *Dementia and how to reduce your risk*

This Talk will be held on Wednesday 23rd October 2019 in St Leonard's Church Hall, where drinks will be served from 7.30pm.

Dr Keith Chapman, a Trustee of Alzheimer Scotland, will be informing us about some of the latest developments in the understanding of the brain diseases that lead to dementia. He will also discuss emerging evidence of how

to reduce your chances of developing dementia following the recent publication of the World Health Organisation guidelines. Scotland is leading the way in prevention with the foundation of the Scottish Brain Health Centre.

You can take part in our water or wine lucky dip or buy some delicious home-made Marmalade, all in aid of The Lasswade Christmas Tree Lights Fund.

*We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd!*

## New website for LDCS

We are delighted to announce that the new Lasswade and Distrit Civc Society website will be coming to a screen near you this Autumn! The new website has a more contemporary feel, a dedicated members area (which you can access using a password of your choice!), and easier navigation; for example! forthcoming LDCS activities and the society's responses to planning applications will be easy to find and will no longer require many 'clicks'. One of the new features of the website

will be an area devoted to Lasswade local history. We have already amassed several photographs, texts and oral histories depicting old Lasswade which will be included on the website, but would be delighted to receive more contributions. Please don't be shy!

*The society wishes to express its thanks to Paul Savage and Sam Blyth, both of Edinburgh College, for developing our new website.*

## Subscriptions and Standing Orders

Thank you to those who have already set up a Standing Order for your Subscription to LDCS. It may seem a little early but, for those of you who may still wish to opt for this method of payment, please would you kindly set it up to come in by the end of January. This slightly earlier date than previously requested is in order to be able to pass the information on to your Rep in good time for them not to be asking you for a cash payment when next they call. Of course, if you still prefer to pay by cash on the doorstep, there is no problem.

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. Thank 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: 31 January  
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.*

**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)