



Newsletter

Spring 2015

Chairman's Report

The New Year brings good news that the Society's campaign for a 20mph speed limit in the Lasswade Village area has been successful.

You may have read in the last Newsletter the heart-felt plea from member Ed Angus for support for action on this. Ed, together with our former Chairman Jan Jerome, were the original petitioners on behalf of the Society before the Council's Petitions Committee.

At a Council meeting just before Christmas, the decision was taken to award a one year pilot 20mph scheme to Lasswade. This was the happy culmination to six months of active campaigning by the Society which included lobbying directly to Councillors, MSPs, our MEP and the Scottish Government.

We prepared a detailed paper for Councillors in advance of the Council meeting, which you can now see on our website, with good input from Ed and Jan. We had the active support throughout of at least 2 of our local Councillors. And we established a regular and informative dialogue with Council officials responsible for proposing and implementing roads policy.

So now we look forward to a pilot scheme commencing in the next few months and running for one year. It's likely to affect the Lasswade Village area including through roads adjoining the A768 and also part of Polton Road. As more details emerge we'll keep members briefed through updates on our website and at our AGM in the Spring.

Given our ongoing relationship with Council officials, there is the opportunity to be involved in the implementation and monitoring of the pilot, so if members have any particular observations at any time please let us know.

I'm very grateful to the whole Committee for their contribution to our campaign, as well as to Ed and Jan for persevering with their ideas long after the Petitions Committee first supported them. And of course we are thankful for the support of our members, which provided the firepower to make a convincing case. Now then... have you heard about the imminent expansion of building development etc in our area, part of the new local development plan? I'm expecting that this will be the next big ongoing issue for us to look at in detail.

Michael Stoneham
LDCS Chairman

Welcome

Welcome to our Spring 2015 Newsletter.

We have been successful in obtaining some Grant funding from the Litter and Fly Tipping Fund. This will allow us to buy equipment for litter picks and develop a strategy for managing the problem of litter in Lasswade. We do however need your help, there will be a series of litter picks over the next few weeks, if you can, please come along and support the initiative.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Party and the Annual General Meeting.

Rosemary Mackay,
Secretary

Planning Matters

Weekly planning applications submitted to Midlothian Council can be viewed on the MC website:

<https://planning-applications.midlothian.gov.uk/OnlinePlanning/search.do?action=weeklyList>

On 24 December 2014 development plans were submitted to Midlothian Council to build five houses with an access road and associated parking area at Springfield, Lasswade. The site lies in an area of Protected Green Belt Land designated in the Midlothian Local Plan 2008 as Protected Countryside, Protected River Valley and an Area of Great Landscape Value, and which abounds the Mavisbank Conservation Area. As such any proposal for change of use of land in such a sensitive location is at risk of contravening the Resource Protection and Detailed Development policies set out in the Midlothian Local Plan, and importantly could set a dangerous precedent. We have written to Midlothian Council about our concerns.

We continue to be extremely concerned about the large number of new houses planned in Midlothian, and their effect on the amenity of Lasswade District both in terms of the increase in traffic on the roads through Lasswade and on the Lasswade Bridge and between Loanhead and the Wadingburn Junction, and the increased pressure on community facilities.

In late November 2014, Midlothian Council Granted with Conditions permission for the erection of 29 dwellinghouses and 6 flatted dwellings, formation of access roads and car parking, and associated works at Kevock Vale Caravan Park, Westmill Road, Lasswade.

Midlothian Council are aware of our concerns. The Council at its meeting on 16 December 2014 approved the Midlothian Local Development Plan Proposed Plan, Revised Environmental Report and draft Action Programme, subject to several modifications. The Proposed Plan and associated documents will be published for the statutory period for representation/ comment, and this is expected to take place from early March 2015. In the meantime Council agreed that the documents considered at its meeting be made publicly available, and these can be viewed at

http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/198/planning_policy/499/midlothian_local_development_plan

Kevock Road Gardens Open Day

Kevock Road Gardens will be open on Sunday 1 March 12:00pm - 3:00pm

<http://www.scotlandsgardens.org/gardens/garden/9f5669c9-b563-41f5-ba67-a3b401894134>

Several gardens including Kevock Garden and Greenfield Lodge will be open, all very different but complementary to each other with a wonderful range of unusual trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and bulbs, snowdrops and spring flowers.

Admission £6 with WOW Wellbeing of Women receiving 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries.

Parking in Drummond Grange Nursing Home and at the Edinburgh & Lasswade Riding Centre at the foot of Kevock Road. Soup and rolls at Greenfield Lodge.

LDCS Area Representatives

The Membership Secretary is delighted to welcome new area representative Dr Kirstine Oswald to the team. Kirstine will collect subs, deliver Newsletters and keep an eye out for new residents in Cuguen Place, Hillhead between Cuguen Place and Broomieknowe and the east end of Broomieknowe.

Thanks are due to Jan Jerome for having helped out covering part of this area whilst the post of rep was vacant, as well as covering her own area around Elm Row.

If you are reading this as a resident of Kevock Road, the post of area rep has just become vacant with George Archibald stepping down due to time pressures with work. He promises to come back to us when work commitments recede – we will hold him to this! In the meantime many thanks to George for his help in the Kevock Road area. We would be very happy to hear from anyone who feels they might be able to assist the Membership Secretary in the Kevock Road area.

EDL – Computer Course

Edinburgh College are prepared to offer (awaiting information on cost of fees) a tutor-led EDL (European Driving Licence in computing skills).

A few members have already expressed an interest in improving their computer skills. We need to find 12 people to make the course viable.

If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Rosemary by phone on 663 6651 or e-mail at dequinceyrose@aol.com

A Big Thank you to Bill Tait

We were delighted Bill gave us his time to share with us some of his knowledge and experience as a gardening expert on 'bulbs and pests' on 10th November. There were over 20 members in attendance.

Whilst he began his horticultural career in Perth, then spent approximately 30 years working in the Botanical Gardens and subsequently as a well-recognised volunteer in Dobbie's Garden Centre.

He provided us with a vividly colourful slide show. Answered questions from the audience and even examined a bulb specimen.



Bill Tait with a few of those who enjoyed his Talk

Dates for the Diary

- 6 March 2015 Annual Party
- To be held at St Leonards Church Hall Dobbies Road from 7.30pm
There will be wine beer soft drinks and canapés. Tickets will be £5.00
Available from your Rep or contact
- Jacquie dunlop.jacquie@gmail.com or call Rosemary on 663 6651
- 29 April 2015 AGM
- To be held at St Leonards Church Hall Dobbies Road from 7.30pm
Speaker to be confirmed.
- 15 February 2015 Clean up to meet conditions for Grant.
- Polton meeting at entrance to Springfield Mill at 2.30 – 4.00 pm. Please bring gloves.
Coffee and cake will be provided!!!
- 8 March 2015 Clean up to meet conditions for Grant.
- Old Church Yard Lasswade at 2.30 – 4.00 pm. Please bring gloves. Coffee and cake will
be provided!!!
- 15 March 2015 Clean up to meet conditions for Grant.
- Community Garden Lasswade at 2.30 – 4.00 pm. Please bring gloves. Coffee and cake
will be provided !!!
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And Finally

Lasswade Litter Pick on Sunday 8th February 2015



John, Joy and Sheena deserved their
Coffee and cake at the Paper Mill!



The power of the litter pick – before



..... and after