

LIVING IN AND AROUND CARLOPS

*A small community
with a big heart*

A collaborative production by
Carlops Church, Carlops Community
Council and Carlops Village Centre

*Carlops – ten miles south-west of Edinburgh – on the road to Biggar
and the M74 – tiny place strung along the A702 trunk road –
blink and you might miss it. But what’s it really like?*

*Traffic on the A702 – peaceful away from it – huddled cottages –
Pentland Hills – the Rock – the Rock Field with its playground – the well –
the burn – Carlops Hill – Deepsyke – Harbour Craig – Jenny Barrie’s cave –
Kitleyknowe – Newhall and its Glen – Ninemileburn and “the top road” –
North Esk reservoir, stream and waterfall – Patie’s Hill – Windy Gowl. And more ...*

*Allan Ramsay Hotel – Church – Community Council – Hall – market –
iffy mobile reception – so-so broadband speed. And more ...*

*Meadows – trees – wildflowers – birds of garden, field, forest and moor –
animals domestic, farm and wild. And more ...*

*Rain – rainbows – clouds – wind – frosts – snow – sun –
little light pollution – brilliant starry nights. And more ...*

*People – long-established – recently arrived – stay-in-the-villagers –
commuters – young – old(-er!) – families – friends – neighbours – walkers –
cyclists – helpers – makers-happen – joiners-in – stayers-out. And more ...*

*Chat – warmth – the occasional edge – generosity – charities – good causes –
now busy – now quiet – local talent, including your own. And more ...*

*Art – Burns supper – ceilidhs – choir – Christmas carols – coffee mornings –
concerts – exhibitions – films – Hogmanay fireworks – jazz band – market –
orchestra – recitals – rural products show – soup lunches – talks – theatre –
workshops. And more ...*

**A wee place – but lots to do –
lots to enjoy – take your pick.
Now read on ...**

2	Welcome to Carlops
4	A brief history of Carlops
6	Four Carlops institutions The Allan Ramsay Hotel Carlops Church Carlops Village Centre Carlops Community Council
12	Our Carlops traditions
14	Creative arts Music Theatre Film Writing Craft
22	Support for charities
26	Outdoor facilities
30	Sports and activities
32	Public transport
34	Businesses, services and practicalities



Carlops is a small village with a lot happening. That's easy to say, but we believe we can prove it. This booklet has been produced as a whole-community project on behalf of Carlops Church, Carlops Community Council and Carlops Village Centre; it describes what goes on in and around Carlops.

Throughout, we write "Carlops" for convenience, but this refers not merely to Carlops village as defined by the speed limitation signs on the A702, but to the district of Carlops, which stretches from Silverburn in the north-east to West Linton in the south-west, and includes locations like Ninemileburn and Kitleyknowe, amongst others. People from these places look to Carlops as a social and cultural centre and, by contributing to activities hosted there, help to make Carlops the lively and enjoyable place it is. Carlops' cultural and social life also attracts visitors from West Linton, Penicuik, Edinburgh and further afield; they too help to make the place what it is and they are welcomed for it.

The booklet aims to give people recently arrived in Carlops the same framework of knowledge about activities and services which established residents enjoy. It should also serve as a reference source for those established residents who may just have forgotten something! How do I find out about things? What's on? Where? When? Who runs it? How can I get involved?

Those words "get involved" are important; if Carlops is a thriving community and enjoyable to live in, it is because people get involved and make a contribution. Just by turning up to something, you make a contribution, because your presence helps to make the event a success and encourages its organisers to keep going.

So, as well as providing information, this booklet carries a sincere invitation to get involved. You don't have to be in with the bricks; new ideas and an extra pair of hands are always welcome. You needn't wait to be asked. Make suggestions, or offer to help. You won't be thought pushy, just neighbourly. But, by the same token, don't feel pressured into attending everything, especially if you commute and are only in Carlops in the evenings and at weekends. Just support what appeals to you and suits your pattern of life.

There are many information sources, but two websites cover most Carlops activities. www.carlops.net provides information about activities and events in Carlops Village Centre

(the Hall). Les Morss, its webmaster (01968 660 388, email lesmorss@carlops.net), maintains an emailing list which you can join to receive regular updates. www.carlopschurch.org records the wide range of services, cultural and social events arranged by Carlops Church. Contacts listed in this booklet will change from time to time, but the websites should provide up-to-date information.

We cast our net widely in researching what to include and we thank everyone who provided information. We checked facts wherever possible, but regarded what people and organisations published in advertisements and on websites as accurate. We are grateful to several Carlops folk who commented upon the booklet in draft, to Jeff Jeffrey and Kate Ainsworth, who proof-read the whole, to Jim Eccleston and Kat Raspin for design, and Rosemary Brown for arranging printing. Errors and omissions that remain are our responsibility; we apologise for them and hope they do not compromise the booklet's usefulness to you.

We hope you enjoy Carlops. Contact any of us if you have questions.

The Editors



Murray Campbell
01968 660 530
d.m.campbell@ed.ac.uk

Jason Hubert
01968 660 079
jason.hubert@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

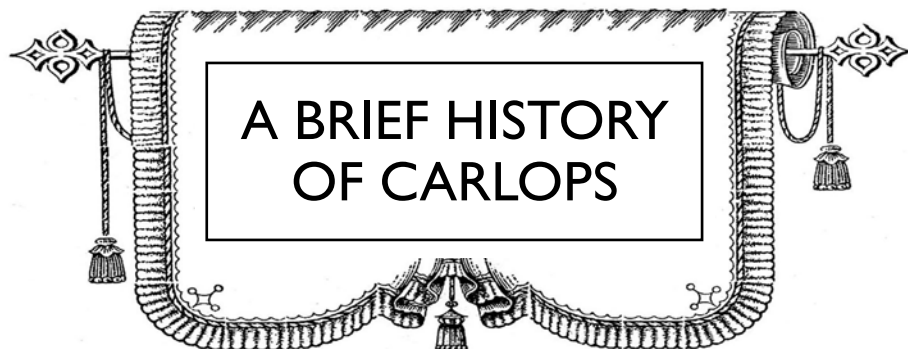
Mary McElroy
01968 661 042
mary.mcelroy2@btinternet.com

Rennie McElroy
01968 661 042
rennie.mcelroy@btinternet.com

Peter Raine
01968 660 686
rainewest@btinternet.com

Guy Walters
01968 660 470
guy@sterry-walters.com

Hannah Walters
01968 660 470
hannahwalterslangskai11@yahoo.co.uk



A BRIEF HISTORY OF CARLOPS

Carlops stands at the crossing of the Edinburgh – Carlisle road (A702) and the River North Esk. The traditional derivation of the name is “the carlin’s loup” (the witch’s leaps), a reference to two prominent rock outcrops that straddled the road near the village centre (only one survives, glowering over the car park). An alternative derivation is “caer-luib” (the fort of the winding hill). The witch and the fort remain elusive, but the road has certainly been there since Roman times, while the river has been an important administrative boundary for almost as long, even forming part of the Anglo-Scottish border for a short time in the 14th century.

The village itself dates from the 1780s, when it was founded as a cotton-weaving centre by a local laird, Robert Brown of Newhall. In 1800, a woollen mill was erected at the north end of the village, and in the 1840s a reservoir was constructed higher up the Esk to regulate the water supply for mills and factories lower down the valley. The work was carried out by two of the most distinguished civil engineers of the day, David and Thomas Stevenson (father of Robert Louis Stevenson). The exploitation of local mineral resources began much earlier and continues to the present day – a Carlops resident is said to have mined oil shale in his back garden within the last thirty years. Coal was worked in the Kitleyknowe area and limestone quarries with associated kilns can be seen from the Carlops – Macbiehill road. At their peak in the mid-19th century the nearby sandstone quarries at Deepseyhead

employed a large labour force and supplied building stone for the Victorian expansion of Peebles. At this period Carlops comprised 36 households together with a shop, two inns, a school and, by 1850, a church. Most of the working population were weavers, quarriers or miners.

The decline of the textile trade and the coming of the railway (via Macbiehill) in Victorian times saw Carlops assuming a new role as a summer retreat for Edinburgh professionals. As time went on, better roads likewise brought increasing numbers of day visitors to walk the Pentland Hills and explore the scenery associated with Allan Ramsay’s poem *The Gentle Shepherd* (1725). Many local place-names are taken from characters and incidents in the poem, having been selected by Robert Brown in the early 1800s to bolster the Newhall connection. Today the village

houses an amiable and eclectic assortment of (mainly) commuters and the retired with their children and livestock (no llamas at present), while visitors from far and near frequently drop in to renew family ties and friendships and to participate in the maelstrom of village activities.

A collection of images of Carlops in former times may be viewed at <http://bit.do/carlops>

Carlops Archive

The Carlops archive consists of a wide-ranging collection of material relating to Carlops and Carlops Village Centre (the Hall). It is of considerable interest and value to students of local history.

The material largely comprises records of meetings of the Carlops Village Centre Management Committee and accounts of activities held in the Hall, including minute books, and folders, schedules, material from related bodies such as the Scottish Borders Council, and documentation of the funding and building of the present Hall. It includes copies of four deeds relating to the purchase of the land on which the Hall stands, the establishing of the original Carlops Village

Centre and its Trustees, and a few artefacts commemorating the building of the old Hall, with the names of those involved in the project.

Documentation of Carlops Community Council activities was formerly included, but is now stored in boxes kept in Carlops Village Centre.

An important element is the personal archive material donated by members of the Carlops community past and present: manuscript historical notes, former local development plans, newspaper cuttings relating to Carlops people and projects, pamphlets about the area and its inhabitants, photographs, letters and slides.

Over time, some of the archive’s containers became damaged, their contents disarranged and some material slightly compromised. A conservationist volunteered to help and is engaged in sorting and recording the material, digitising it where appropriate and having it housed in new containers. This is a considerable task and remains ongoing.

The archive may be viewed by arrangement with Patsy Campbell (01968 660 530, j.p.campbell@ed.ac.uk).



FOUR CARLOPS INSTITUTIONS

Carlops' community identity is based upon flexible, supportive co-operation between people and clusters around four organisations: in order of their establishment – the Allan Ramsay Hotel, Carlops Church, Carlops Village Centre (the Hall) and Carlops Community Council.

Each organisation has its own natural areas of concern and responsibility, but they are interdependent, sharing the same aspirations for the community's well-being and working quietly together for Carlops' good. Together, they offer a range of community activities and foster a vigorous social life.

The boundaries of the Carlops we describe are elastic, as the geographic areas of responsibility of the Church, the Community Council and Carlops Village Centre are not co-terminous; broadly speaking, they cover the area bordering the A702 road from Silverburn in the north-east to West Linton in the south-west.

THE ALLAN RAMSAY HOTEL

Situated on one of Scotland's oldest roads, it is no surprise to find that Carlops already boasted a "considerable inn" in the early 18th century. No trace of this now survives, however, and its successor, the Allan Ramsay Hotel, established in 1792, today ranks as the oldest institution in Carlops.

Originally an oblong five-bay block, the Hotel was almost doubled in size by the addition of a north wing sometime during the 19th century. Local tradition holds that the building at first served also as a wool store, possibly as a collecting point for woollen goods manufactured at the nearby mill, including felts destined for the paper-making industry in Penicuik.

The Hotel is named after the Scots poet Allan Ramsay (c1684-1758), who set his most famous work, *The Gentle Shepherd*, in the area around Carlops and Newhall, to which house he was a regular visitor as one of a group of Edinburgh literati who gathered round the then laird, John Forbes (died 1735). Published in 1725, the poem is a vivid portrayal of rural life and the scenery of the area, though its publication preceded the founding of Carlops by some fifty years. Allan Ramsay was a forerunner of Robert Burns (dying the year before Burns was born) and several present-day critics believe that his work was fundamental to Burns' own poetic development. Ramsay lived in Edinburgh and his statue stands in Princes Street Gardens.

Today, the Allan Ramsay Hotel plays an important role in village life and aims to make a positive and valued contribution to the community. The hotel has four comfortable ensuite bedrooms, a friendly bar with open fire and a charming restaurant. It is open every day for food, drinks, company, local information and more – it is a village resource that the staff are keen to share with the whole community.

The Allan Ramsay is also used for a range of other events; these have included a family Hallowe'en party, a fireworks display and a whisky tasting evening. There is live music in the pub on the first and last Saturday of every month. Suggestions for events that the Allan Ramsay might host for friends, family or the local community are always welcome.

Further information from the website (www.allanramsayhotel.com) or from Rosemary Brown (01968 660 258).

Or just call in and ask! A warm welcome awaits.

CARLOPS CHURCH

Carlops Church provides a focus for Christian worship and witness in Carlops. Constituted as a Church of Scotland congregation, it welcomes people of all denominations and none. The Church was refurbished in 2009 with new heating, furnishings, decorative window and organ restoration. The building is serene, dignified and comfortable.

There is a service every Sunday at 10am, after which the congregation remains to chat over coffee. Our congregation is small (about 40 active members; average Sunday attendance – 25 people) but friendly; when you come to Carlops Church, people will speak to you and listen to you. Carlops shares its minister with two other churches, so some services are delivered by members of our congregation and visiting ministers; we enjoy the variety that this affords. Children are welcome at all services and events.

We believe that a church should serve its whole community seven days a week, so we exploit the church's flexible design and excellent acoustics to host a range of events to which the whole community is invited: art exhibitions, children's workshops, coffee mornings, concerts, informal lunches, recitals and talks. Many people who choose not to attend worship are regular supporters of the Church's activities and take part in its community work.

The Church supports local, national and international charities. We aim to make fund-raising creative and enjoyable for collectors and donors alike; results suggest we succeed!

Music is important in Carlops Church. Our organ was built before 1820 by James Bruce, a reputed Edinburgh organ-builder, and fully restored in 2009. We have an able, enthusiastic organist and a congregation that enjoys singing.

Carlops is an eco-congregation and has gained awards for good environmental practice; its particular strengths are outreach and recycling. Our Eco Group organises activities for the whole community and also composes and delivers services on environmental themes.

To learn more, contact the minister, Rev Dr Linda Dunbar, The Manse, West Linton EH46 7EE (07939 496 360, revljd@gmail.com). Alternatively, talk to any member of the congregation, or email info@carlopschurch.org.

Church services and other events are publicised on our website (www.carlopschurch.org), in a free monthly Newsletter and on the notice board outside the Church. Contact Rennie McElroy (01968 661 042, rennie.mcelroy@btinternet.com) if you wish to receive the Newsletter regularly.

In addition to Carlops Church, St Mungo's Episcopal Church is in West Linton (<http://stmungoswestlinton.org.uk>) and the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church is in Penicuik (<http://thesacredheartpenicuik.rcstanded.org.uk>).

CARLOPSVILLAGE CENTRE

Carlops Village Centre, universally known as "the Hall", is owned by the community and held in trust for it by an elected committee – Carlops Village Centre Management Committee (CVCMC). The Deed of Trust dates from 1959 but the history of the community providing entertainment for itself can be traced back to the Carlops Mutual Improvement Society in the late 19th century.

The original Hall was built following the purchase of the land by George Sowersby from the local farmer, Richard Boa. It opened on 28th October 1932. The Sowersby lamp stands outside the Hall as a memorial. Following extensive fund-raising and the acquisition of significant grants from the Lottery Commission and Scottish Borders Council, CVCMC managed the building of the present Hall, which was opened by Judy Steel in August 2004.

Today, the Hall is a major centre in the life of Carlops, with an extensive programme of social and cultural events. The Hall has charitable status and is managed by CVCMC, whose aim is to enhance the life of the community by promoting cultural, educational and social activities open to all. CVCMC plans Hall events and manages hirings and maintenance.

Details of all public events are listed in the Hall programme, known as the "Yellow Card", which is published two or three times per year and distributed free throughout the community; copies can also be collected from the Hall and the Church.

To be eligible to be a voting member of the Hall, you must live within the extended parish boundary, which includes Carlops, Kitleyknowe,

Rutherford Castle, Hazlieburn, Ninemileburn, Walstone and Silverburn. To vote at the Annual General Meeting, you must first be signed in as a member; any existing voting member can do this for you and this initial signing-in remains valid for as long as you live in the community. You do not need to be a voting member to use or hire the Hall.

The Hall building contains a large and a small hall, a well-equipped kitchen (cooker, fridge, dish-steriliser, water heater, cutlery, crockery, etc), lavatories and a shower room. The large hall is equipped with lighting, sound and projection facilities, piano and drum kit, and can be adapted to many layouts, including tiered seating. It can house theatre, talks, concerts, choral events and private parties and can house up to 120 people seated, the actual number being dependent upon the layout chosen.

Further information about the Hall and its events programme is at www.carlops.net. The Hall is available for hire by anyone for receptions, parties, etc, though priority is given to the local community. Requests for information about the Hall and for bookings should be addressed to Patsy Campbell (01968 660 530, j.p.campbell@ed.ac.uk).

CARLOPS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Carlops Community Council (CCC) is non-partisan and non-party political. Its principal role is to provide the community with a formal communication link to the Scottish Borders Council, the contractor who manages the A702 trunk road (currently Amey) and other official bodies, such as Police Scotland and the Scottish Government. CCC meetings are attended by representatives of most of these bodies. Anyone on the ward's electoral roll (Ward 5B of the Tweeddale West area) is eligible to stand for the CCC, which has a maximum of six members. Nominations and elections take place before the AGM in May.

CCC meets in the Hall at 8pm on the last Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November. In addition to business initiated locally and items referred from Scottish Borders Council (including planning applications), it seeks funds from Scottish Borders Council to support projects in the village, eg community broadband, the community orchard, the walkers' notice board in the car park and path maintenance.

CCC's Newsletter is published quarterly and distributed electronically to all notified email addresses within the CCC area. It contains notices of Council meetings and business, articles of local historical, cultural and

natural history interest and a diary of local events. Contact the Editor, Wendy Raine (rainewest@btinternet.com) to register for a copy. A printed copy is available for £5 annually.

For more information, contact the Secretary, Wendy Raine (01968 660 686, rainewest@btinternet.com), or come to a meeting. Everybody is welcome to attend meetings and join in discussion; we want to know what you think so that we can inform Scottish Borders Council.





OUR CARLOPS TRADITIONS

Carlops hosts a plethora of events, some of which have acquired almost iconic status and take place every year. So, roughly in the order in which they occur during the year...



Carlops Produce Market

Held on the last Saturday of every month (third Saturday in December), 9.30am to 12.30pm in the Hall. Fifteen to twenty-five stalls featuring good food, arts and crafts. New stallholders are always welcome. Run by Carlops Village Centre Management Committee, organizer Peter Raine (01968 660 686, rainewest@btinternet.com). An informal, friendly coffee-and-chat shop operates alongside the market.

Burns Supper

A supper, a toast, a recitation (both normally by local speakers) and a ceilidh led by Carlops Ceilidh Band. Informal, idiosyncratic and good fun. Always a full house; don't delay getting tickets. Catered by our neighbours in Silverburn; in a reciprocal arrangement, Carlops folk cater Silverburn's McGonagall Supper.

McGonagall Supper

In the hall at Silverburn – an event which parallels the Carlops Burns Supper and allows Carlops people to repay Silverburners' kindness by managing the catering for them.

Whipman Play

The annual Whipman Play activities are centred on West Linton, but Carlops is firmly within its geographical area and Carlops residents have been elected as Whipman. Held in the first full week of June – a range of events in the Borders' tradition of Riding the Marches.

Rural Products Show

The annual Carlops show in August has categories for flowers, fruit and vegetables, baking, preserves, art, craft and photography. Anyone can enter and children are encouraged to compete in all categories. There are cups and prizes to be won and an auction of produce at the end. Guidance on preparation of entries is circulated in advance.

Children's Halloween Party

In the Hall – traditional games and activities, fancy dress and lantern competitions.

St Andrew's Night Ceilidh

A traditional ceilidh: poetry, song, instrumental performance and dancing to the Carlops Ceilidh Band.

Advent Garden

At dusk on the first Sunday of December we build a garden of moss and natural treasures in the Church. While carols are sung, children light candles held in red apples and plant them in the moss. Then – a special story, by candlelight. Held in the Church, but not a service, this is a moving event. Designed for children, but attended and enjoyed by people of all ages.

Children's Christmas Party

In the Hall – entertainment, a party tea and a visit from Father Christmas.

Christmas Carols

A few days before Christmas, a small group of adults and children, with an instrumental accompaniment, sing Christmas carols outside village houses and round the Christmas tree on the village green near the Allan Ramsay Hotel. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Christmas Eve Carol Service

In the Church at 7pm on 24th December. Always a full house; come early if you want a seat!

Hogmanay

During the evening of 31st December, people gather inside and outside the Allan Ramsay Hotel. Shortly before midnight, a torch-lit procession led by musicians makes its way to the Church to ring in the New Year. After "the bells", there are fireworks, mulled wine and a ceilidh in the Hall.



CREATIVE ARTS

MUSIC

The hills are alive with the sound of music!
Whether you enjoy listening to live music or would like to take part in performing it, there are many opportunities offered by the various music groups in the Carlops community.

The Carlops Ceilidh Band

A group of local musicians formed to provide music for Scottish country dancing at Carlops functions, including the Hogmanay party and the Burns Supper. Contact Les Morss (lesmorss@carlops.net).

The Carlops Jazz Band

An ensemble of local jazz musicians, performing an eclectic repertoire including mainstream jazz, soul and swing music. Contact Colin Hall (colinghall@gmail.com).

The Carlops Orchestra

A group of instrumental performers which meets weekly from October to May on Monday evenings, 8-9.30pm at the Latch, Carlops. Musicians of all ages and standards are welcome; any instrument can be accommodated. Each year in March, the Orchestra gives an informal concert in the Hall, followed by a party. Contact Murray Campbell (d.m.campbell@ed.ac.uk).

The Children's Orchestra

An instrumental group for children of school age which meets monthly on Sunday afternoons, usually in the home of one of the organisers. Children who play any instrument at any standard are welcome. Music is specially arranged and printed to suit each performer. Contact Jane Butler-Cole (c.j@butlercole.plus.com).

The Linton Singers

A mixed choir which rehearses on Sunday evenings from 7-9.30pm in the Hall from September to June. New singers are welcome and there are no auditions. The repertoire includes early music, classic masterpieces such as Mozart's Requiem, traditional folk songs and excerpts from operettas and musicals. The choir gives several concerts each year and occasionally travels abroad. At their Christmas concert, the Linton Singers are often joined by a children's choir. Contact Gillian Gold (gillgold@btinternet.com).

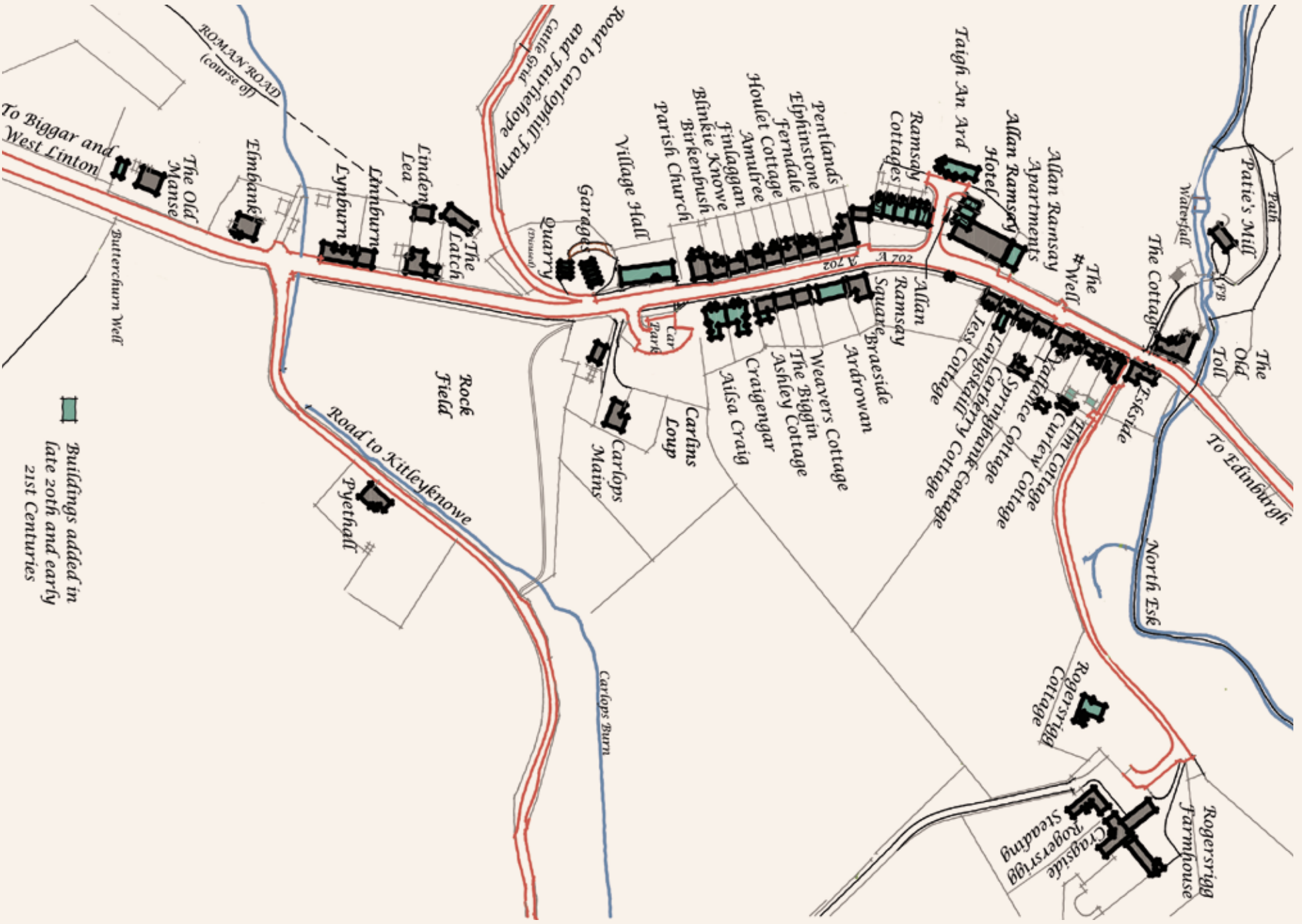
Music at the Allan Ramsay Hotel

The Allan Ramsay Hotel hosts an acoustic music night in the bar most Saturdays from 8.30pm. Local musicians and guest performers offer a lively and varied repertoire of unamplified music. New performers are welcome to come and join in the sessions. Contact Rosemary Brown ([01968 660 258](tel:01968660258)).

Pentland Concerts

Concerts of classical, traditional and other genres of music are organised by the West Linton Music Society and other promoters, usually in the Hall or the Church. Contact Jane Butler-Cole (c.j@butlercole.plus.com).





Buildings added in late 20th and early 21st Centuries

THEATRE

For a wee village, Carlops punches above its weight in theatre and music. We aim to stage a show every month from October to April – everything from children’s shows to challenging new drama. Local theatre regulars include Shakespeare at Traquair, Ideoms and Rowan Tree, with contributions from further afield by Dogstar Theatre, National Theatre of Scotland and regular visitors North Country Theatre.

The Hall also hosts an annual, eclectic cabaret from “a couple of local idiots” (their own description), The Two Moronnies.

For many years, Carlops youngsters used the week between Christmas and Hogmanay to put together a local pantomime. A gap of a few years was filled recently with an epic from one of our local authors and rumours abound that a couple more scribes may find inspiration over a libation

or several, to put life back into what was always a lively and fun start to the New Year. Watch this space, or rather – watch the Hall notice board and www.carlops.net.

There is scope for more – if you have ideas, contacts or things you’d like to stage, please get in touch. Information and enquiries about theatre to Tim Wilcock (tdjwilcock@gmail.com).

FILM

The Carlops-based Pentland Film Society provides a diverse programme of films from different genres, countries and directors, which we hope will interest and stimulate viewers. The programme runs from October through April, films being screened in the Hall on the third Friday of each month (second Friday in December); refreshments are available from 7.30pm and the films start at 8pm.

We welcome members and guests to participate in this friendly opportunity to see films locally. Membership is open to anyone over 16 years and currently costs £25 if you join before the end of September (£30 thereafter). We have excellent sound and projection equipment, and tiered seating. Membership gives entry to all seven films and helps to support the Society; it also means you see each film on a large screen for just £3.60! Guest tickets are £5.50 per film.

Details of each year’s programme are published in a printed leaflet and on the Carlops website www.carlops.net. You can obtain regular information by joining Patricia Whitcombe’s email list.

To find out more about the Pentland Film Society or to become a member, purchase your membership at the August or September Carlops Market, or contact Patricia Whitcombe (patricia.whitcombe@btinternet.com) or Kate Morss (01968 660 388).

WRITING

“There are about ten of us usually. An odd assortment, in looks as well as interests. We set off into the dark of winter’s evenings, turning our backs on hurried dinners and blazing fires, clutching our bundles, gathering in the unlit car park and proceeding on in twos and threes ...”

So wrote Stuart Delves, the founder and, at that time, Convenor of Pentland Writers when the group was first set up in 2000. 14 years later and the group has achieved much, including writing and staging the well-loved community play, *Pentlands at War*, based on the experiences of local people during the Second World War.

We hold occasional public readings and workshops, publish collections of our work, host writing competitions and liaise regularly with other local writing groups and creative organisations. Since our beginnings we have welcomed more than ten visiting authors to the area (Julia Donaldson, Alan Spence, Bernard O’Donoghue, to mention just a few!) and have helped to develop the work of more than thirty

local writers, many of whom have gone on to be published. Some people use the group as a sounding board for specific projects, others are regular attenders. Two of the current members have been with the group from the very start.

We aim to read, write, inspire, and to give and receive feedback on each other’s writing. We meet at 8pm fortnightly in one of our member’s houses. New members are always welcome.

Visit our web-site at <http://www.westlinton.org.uk/writers> for more information and regular monthly poems, or contact Anita John (01968 660 337, johnanita9@gmail.com) or Mick Armstrong (01968 661 474, michaelarmstrong@yahoo.com).

CRAFT

From time to time classes and workshops in activities such as sewing, felting, painting and other craft-works are organised in the Church or the Hall. If you are interested, keep an ear to the ground and an eye on the noticeboards and the websites. Please contact Kat Raspin (0772 800 1969, katraspin@gmail.com) if there is an activity you’d like to pursue or a skill you could promote.

SUPPORT FOR CHARITIES

Carlops people are warm-hearted and generous and while everyone naturally likes to choose where they focus their own charitable support, it has not been difficult to engage the whole community in fund-raising for some particular charity which has caught the collective imagination. Local, national and international charities are supported. For example...

Church and Hall events

Many events in the Hall and the Church support charities, identified by the community at large, or chosen by the performers and speakers themselves. The Carlops Jazz Band, the Carlops Orchestra, the Linton Singers, the Two Moronnies (our local revue artistes) and others all support charities by their efforts to entertain the Carlops community.

Coffee Drop-in

An integral part of Carlops Market, this informal coffee shop provides opportunity for people to meet and chat. The Church's Eco Group organises it and it is usually held in the Church, next door to the Hall, which houses the market. There is no charge for coffee, home-baking, etc, but customers are invited to make a donation to a charity chosen by the volunteer coffee servers. Since 2005, some £6,000 has been donated to various charities by this means – a substantial community enterprise. And attending Coffee drop-in is essential for anyone who wants to know what's going on in and around Carlops!

Fresh Start

Gill Gold (gillgold@btinternet.com) is our link with the charity Fresh Start, which aims to provide homeless people with the items necessary to set up a new home when accommodation becomes available (www.freshstart.org.uk). She provides information about which goods are most needed at any given time; people then identify what goods they can recycle and donate these; Gill normally collects the goods from their donors and delivers them to the charity's base in Edinburgh.

Reports of the work of Fresh Start and information about which goods are particularly needed at any time are published regularly in the Church Newsletter and posted on the notice board in the Church.

Raven Trust

Carlops supports the Raven Trust (www.theraventrust.org) with the wide range of goods needed for their support packages for people in Malawi: to support new mothers and their babies; to help young people, often orphans, as they set up their first home; toiletries and clothing to lend dignity and comfort to people in hospital. About 150 packages of goods (a "package" is a banana-box-full) are sent every year from Carlops to the Raven Trust in Malawi. Some 67% of the goods are recycled; this is a major "green living" effort.

Reports of the work of the Raven Trust and information about which goods are particularly needed at any time are published regularly in the Church Newsletter and posted on the notice board in the Church.

More information about the Raven Trust and offers of goods and other help to Marjorie Clarke ([01968 661 281](tel:01968661281), marjorieclarke@gmail.com).

Scottish Women's Aid

Patsy Campbell ([01968 660 530](tel:01968660530), j.p.campbell@ed.ac.uk) is our link with the charity Scottish Women's Aid, which provides refuge and secure accommodation for women and children who have suffered abuse (www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk). She collects goods donated by members of the community and delivers them to the charity's headquarters. Each December, the Church holds a gift service, and gifts for children donated at the service go to this charity.

Soup lunches

Held in the Church, 12noon to 1.30pm, every month from September to April (except December), usually on the Wednesday preceding the Carlops market, which is itself held on the last Saturday of the month. Choice of three or four home-made soups (seconds permitted!), a roll, tea or coffee and a sweet bite – and lots of chat! These are popular events and are advertised

on the notice board outside the Church and at www.carlopschurch.org. Volunteers to make soup, serve, clear up and join in the chat are always welcome; contact Mary McElroy (01968 661 042, mary.mcelroy2@btinternet.com) if you would like to join in.

Refurbishing the Church, 2008-09

From time to time, there is a Carlops community supper to raise funds for a charity that affects the whole community or has caught everyone's fancy.

Such a supper was held to launch an appeal for funds to refurbish Carlops Church in 2008. Exhibition of plans, a meal, a glass of wine, lots of talk and laughter, then a straight pitch for donations. No charge for the meal, but there's no such thing as a free lunch! The Carlops community's response was generous and immediate – the £25,000 target was exceeded within four weeks, with over 65% of that sum being donated by people outwith the Church's core congregation, but who wished to help a village institution. The Church is delighted to thank everyone once again.

Carlops Kitchen, 2011-12 and still going

A second community supper launched Carlops' project to build a school kitchen in Malawi for the charity Mary's Meals (www.marysmeals.org.uk). Mary's Meals feed children in school in the world's poorest countries; their idea is that a regular meal encourages attendance at school, improves health, enhances academic performance and gives children a better start in life. Mary's Meals have been working in Malawi since 2002 and they now feed 740,700 children in 570 schools in Malawi, plus 240,000 children in other countries.

The Carlops Kitchen project was launched in May 2011; the target was £7,000, to build and equip a kitchen in a Malawian school that lacked such a facility. By August, we had received £12,000, so we continued and reached £14,000 by the end of 2011, thus funding kitchens in two schools! Carlops Kitchens were built in 2012 at Matiti, in Zomba district, and Mtenje in the district of Dowa, Malawi. We have regular reports and photographs from these schools, so we know what our efforts support. 440 children are fed every day at Matiti and 1,900 at Mtenje. Since the kitchens were built, the Carlops community has contributed a further £6,000 towards the cost of feeding children in school in Malawi.

We are happy to keep this project alive, so donations are still welcome; contact Mary McElroy (01968 661 042, mary.mcelroy2@btinternet.com). In the Malawian economy, £9.50 feeds one child for a whole school year in the Mary's Meals scheme. What seems very little in our wealthy society can make a huge difference when applied elsewhere.

What next? ...

Every time Carlops has hosted one of these community suppers and provided major support for a chosen charity, people have said "That was fun. When's the next one?" People in Carlops are happy to work on the next supper, the next deserving cause. If you have an idea, put it forward. Talk to anyone named in this booklet; they'll be glad to hear from you; they'll listen carefully; and they'll introduce you to the people best placed to work with you and help you bring your idea to fruition.





OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Gardening

An informal gardening circle meets to visit members' gardens and exchange experience and planting ideas. Contact Wendy Raine (01968 660 686, rainewest@btinternet.com).

Kitleyknowe Road

Many Carlops residents have walked babies and dogs, and taught children to ride their bikes along the single-track Kitleyknowe road. It carries more traffic than it used to – more residents at Kitleyknowe, farm and delivery vehicles – and that traffic is sometimes heavy and in a hurry – but with sensible care taken, the road still offers pleasant walking, with options to explore Habbie's Howe or cut through to Amazondean or the Lamancha Road. Consult the map of local pathways on the board in Carlops car park.

Newhall and the Glen

Newhall House and its Glen (a gorge section of the River North Esk) are one mile along the A702 road from Carlops in the direction of Edinburgh, though the Glen can also be accessed by footpath from the village and the Kitleyknowe road. The landscape of the Glen was set out in the early 1800s and offers several pleasant walks through mature woodland.

Walkers are welcome in the Glen, but please respect the privacy of the house. Information from Tricia Kennedy (01968 660 206, tricia.kennedy@newhalls.co.uk). There are some steep paths and narrow bridges; wear stout footwear and take care.

Newhall estate dates from at least the 16th century and the house was a centre of much artistic and intellectual activity during the 18th century Enlightenment (see The Allan

Ramsay Hotel, on page 7). Newhall also boasts a walled garden dating from about 1790 which has received much well-informed tlc from the house's present occupants. In addition to interesting and thriving planting, the walled garden retains several features from its earliest years, including the original layout and a heated melon pit. The walled garden is open every other year, usually in July, under the Scotland's Gardens (gardens open for charity) scheme.

Orchard Field

The orchard field is opposite the Allan Ramsay Hotel. The Community Council obtained agreement from the owners to plant a community orchard. Eight fruit trees (five apple and three damson/plum) and some soft fruit bushes (blackcurrant, redcurrant and blueberry) were planted in March 2014. The fruit trees are on semi-dwarfing root-stocks so should grow vigorously, and have been chosen in the hope that they will withstand our climate. They are all Scottish and/or common native varieties. The hope is that, in a few years, people will be able to pick an apple or a plum while passing or waiting for a bus. It might even encourage children to eat more fruit. There are plans to plant a hedge at the top of the field. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Jason Hubert (01968 660 079).

Paths and rights of way

A vital local tool is Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale map Explorer 344 (Pentland Hills). In the Landranger, 1:50,000 scale range of OS maps, Carlops is one of these communities sitting frustratingly on the edge of two sheets, numbers 65 and 66 (Edinburgh). Harveys publish a map covering the whole Pentland range in their Superwalker 1:25,000 series.

A walkers' board in Carlops car park has information on local paths, rights of way and core paths, and links with Pentland footpaths and the North Esk Way.

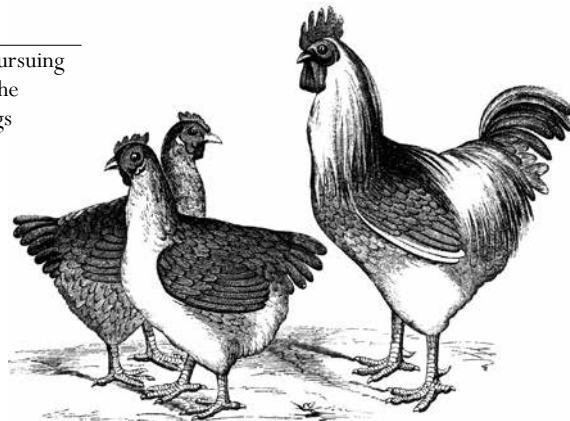
Rock Field

The Rock Field between the car park and the Kitleyknowe Road is owned by the occupants of the Rock House (Carlops Mains), who are happy to share it and its private children's playground with neighbours and for the location to be used for community events. The frequency of the latter has declined somewhat, but the field has been used for barbecues, football, rounders and other sports, summer band nights, treasure hunts, bonfires and fireworks parties.

The path and footbridge that provide a short-cut across the field from Carlops to the Kitleyknowe road was completed in 2005. Organised by North Tweeddale Paths, the work was carried out by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, assisted by the Paths group and West Linton and area Rotary, which also funded the project, along with the Heritage Lottery Fund. Ditching and a pond were dug to create a wetland for wildlife and a grant from Scottish Borders Council enabled trees to be planted. A planting weekend was well supported by volunteers and received enthusiastic help from the local Brownies.

Space between Church and Hall

The Church and the Hall are currently pursuing a whole-community project to develop the ground between their respective buildings and create an enhanced, integrated space for use by the whole community.



Useful websites include:

Friends of the Pentlands
www.pentlandfriends.plus.com

North Esk Valley
www.eskvalleytrust.org

Pentland Hills Regional Park
www.pentlandhills.org

Tweed Trails (North Tweeddale area)
www.southofscotlandcountrysidetrails.co.uk

West Linton and area
www.westlinton.org.uk



SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

We have tried to list the venue nearest Carlops for each entry. Some of these activities are seasonal, typically September/October to May/June. For more information and additional activities, visit www.westlinton.org.uk/activities and www.penicuikwhatson.co.uk

Archery

Playing fields beside Carlops Road, Penicuik
www.penicuikarchers.co.uk

Beavers

See Scouts below

Boys' Brigade

1st West Linton Boys' Brigade runs sections for all ages:

Anchor Boys:

Primaries 2 and 3; Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm

Junior Section:

Primaries 4, 5 and 6; Tuesdays 6.30-8pm

Company Section:

Primary 7 to age 19, Fridays, 7.30-10pm

All groups meet in the New Church Hall, West Linton.

Contact Neil Wolfenden (01968 682 607, wolfendenhome@gmail.com) and <http://scotland.boys-brigade.org.uk>

Bowls (carpet)

Carlops Hall, Mondays 7pm, October to April
George Anderson (01968 676 431)

Bowls (lawn)

West Linton Bowling Club Clubhouse,
West Linton EH46 7EP 01968 660 955
Secretary, Elizabeth Jent (elizajent@hotmail.com)

Brownies

See Guides below

Cubs

See Scouts below

Curling

www.westlinton.org.uk/activities
Secretary, Mairi McDonald (01968 660 454)

Fishing

West Linton Angling Club
Bill Clapperton (bclapperton@googlemail.com)

Football (adult and youth)

West Linton Hotspur FC
www.lintonhotspurfc.co.uk

Penicuik Athletic FC
www.penicuikathletic.com

Guides

All age groups of the Guide movement meet in West Linton.

Rainbows:

ages 5-6, (3 units) Tuesdays or Thursdays

Brownies:

ages 7-10, (3 units) Tuesdays or Thursdays

Guides:

ages 10-14, (3 units) Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays

Senior Section:

age 14+, fortnightly on Mondays

Contact Anna Woolverton
(01968 660 382, annapye@btinternet.com)
and www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk

Golf

West Linton Golf Club
Medwyn Road, West Linton
01968 660 256, www.wlgc.co.uk

Gym

Penicuik Centre, Carlops Road, Penicuik
01968 664 066, www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200247/penicuik_leisure_centre

Horse riding and livery services

Pentland Hills Icelandics,
Windy Gowl Farm, Carlops EH26 9NL
01968 661 095, www.phicelandics.co.uk

See also West Linton and area Telephone Directory www.westlinton.org.uk/activities

Rainbows

See Guides above

Running

West Linton Running Club
Helen Riddall (07717 522 002)

Scouts

All age groups of the Scout movement, except Explorer Scouts, meet in West Linton Primary School, Deanfoot Road, West Linton.

Beavers:

age 6-8, Wednesdays, 5.30-6.30pm

Cubs:

age 8-10.5, Wednesdays 6.30-8pm

Scouts:

age 10.5-14, Mondays 7-9pm

Contact Linda Gray (01968 660 914, lindawestgarth@aol.com)

Swimming

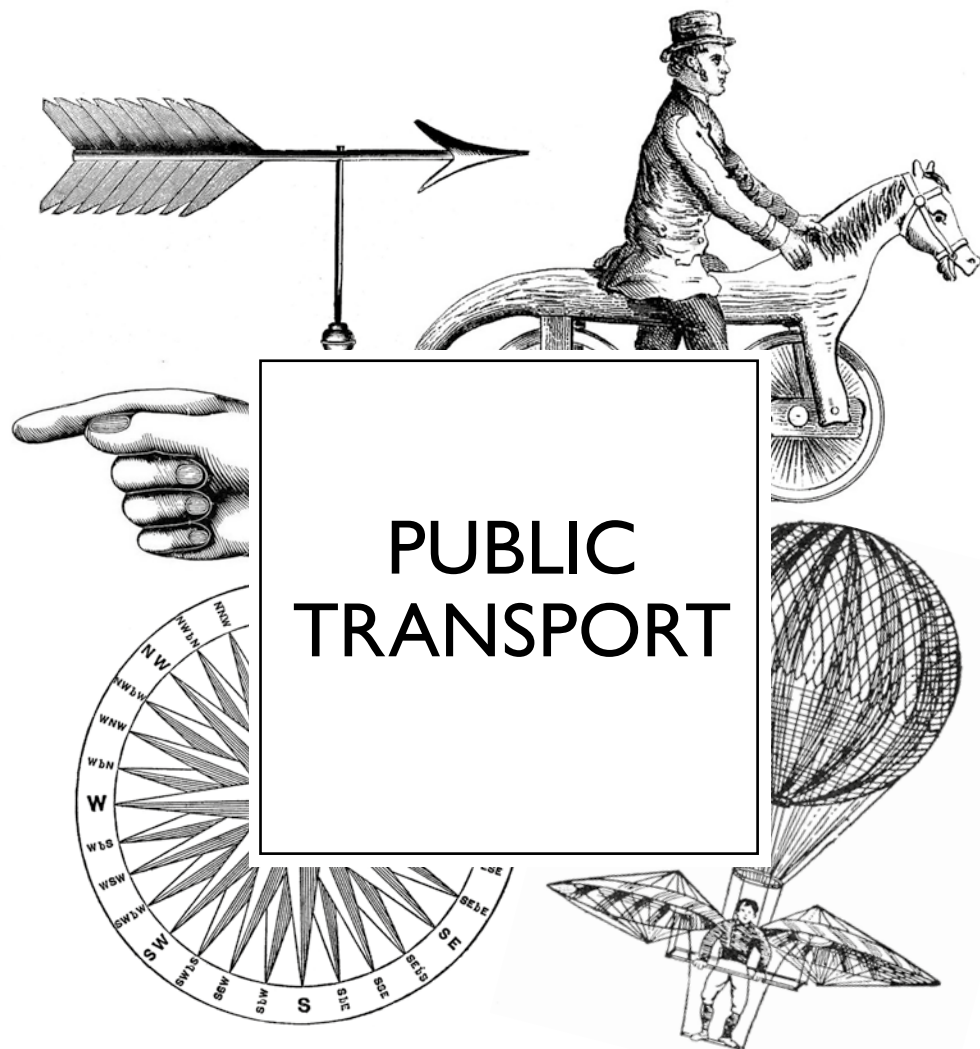
Penicuik Centre, Carlops Road, Penicuik
01968 664 066
www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200247/penicuik_leisure_centre

Table tennis

The Hall has a competition standard table.
Patsy Campbell (01968 660 530, j.p.campbell@ed.ac.uk)

Tennis

www.westlinton.org.uk/activities or
www.sites.google.com/site/westlintontennisclub
Secretary, Christine Blundell (01968 661 685, christineblundell@mac.com)



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Getting to and from Carlops can be a challenge. The benefits of living in such an idyllic location are somewhat offset by limited public transport links to the rest of the country!

That said, we have a reliable bus service run by Stagecoach West which connects Carlops to Edinburgh and Penicuik in the north, and West Linton, Biggar and Dumfries in the south – services 101 and 102. Buses run in all conditions and provide a relatively comfortable journey. Not all buses go into Penicuik, but all stop in Carlops. Currently (early 2015), the adult return fare Carlops-Edinburgh is £5.20. The timetable changes periodically; in recent years, about twice each year. These changes are usually minor – minutes either way – not the addition or reduction of services themselves. The latest timetable can be downloaded from http://www.stagecoachbus.com/PdfUploads/Timetable_46525_101-102%20West.pdf

The Stagecoach bus connects with a bus run by BARC from West Linton to Peebles. There are only a few buses each day (Monday – Saturday), but it does mean you can get to Peebles by public transport. Further details and lists of other public bus services throughout the Borders can be downloaded from http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/1526/public_and_community_transport/339/bus_services

One of the biggest challenges with the bus service is late night and Sunday services. That occasional late night in Edinburgh presents a bus travel challenge – the last bus leaves at 9.55pm. On Sundays, there are only four bus services each way.

Several Lothian buses (run by Transport for Edinburgh (TfE)) operate between Edinburgh and Penicuik and will at least get you a bit closer to Carlops. And be aware of the night buses in Edinburgh which run hourly; one of these finishes in Penicuik and runs all night – again, at least getting you that bit closer to Carlops! Senior citizens' bus passes are not accepted on the night buses. Details of TfE bus services are on their website at www.lothianbuses.com

Taxis represent another option, though a black cab from Edinburgh city centre can create rather a large hole in your wallet! Depending on time, fares of £50 one-way are not unusual. It may be better to order a local taxi or private hire car in advance. There are several reliable taxi firms, all of which charge less than a black cab and transport you in greater comfort. Those listed below have been found reliable, though other firms are also available.

- Green Lyne Taxis, West Linton (07771 756 471)
- Penicuik Taxis (01968 679 600)
- J.C. Taxis (01968 676 161)

If you are flying from Edinburgh Airport, taxis like the above generally represent the best value, given the prices charged for car parking.

It is possible to get to Borders General Hospital (BGH) from Carlops by public transport, but it needs a little application! Thus...

1. Service 101, Carlops to Penicuik
2. Service 62, Penicuik to Peebles to Galashiels
3. Shuttle bus, Galashiels to BGH



BUSINESSES, SERVICES AND PRACTICALITIES

The Carlops and West Linton area has a wide range of businesses, trades and professional services. This section identifies the main sources of information, lists contact information for health and local authority services, and provides some practical information that may prove useful.

There are two fairly comprehensive listings of businesses in the Carlops / West Linton area:

- West Linton website
www.westlinton.org.uk/businesses
- West Linton and area Telephone Directory – a sub-set of the main “phone book”, published approximately every two years (current edition, 2014-15) and on sale in local shops; editor (lucydouglas@btinternet.com).

Also useful are the Whipman Play programme, as many local businesses support it with advertising, and *Penicuik Town Crier*, a free monthly magazine – look for it in Penicuik shops.

For additional businesses and services, and for alternative suppliers, look to Penicuik, Edinburgh, Peebles or Biggar.

Address for mail

Use “Carlops, by Penicuik”; not “Carlops” alone, and not “Carlops, West Linton”; otherwise mail is redirected and delays occur.

Penicuik is Carlops’ postal town, hence “Midlothian” in the address, despite Carlops being in Scottish Borders!

Bed and breakfasts

See West Linton and area Telephone Directory, or www.westlinton.org.uk/businesses

Bottle bank

Carlops car park

Broadband community project

Standard broadband speed in Carlops is “unexceptional” (!), but a new-in-2015 community project may help; contact Marty Lee (marty@maui.co.uk).

Buses

See Public transport section above

Domestic fuel

Visit West Linton Facebook to explore possibility of bulk community deliveries at reduced prices.
www.facebook.com/pages/westlinton

Electricity

If (when!) there is a power cut, report it at 0800 092 9290 (from a landline), or 0330 1010 222 (from a mobile). It should also be possible to report to 0845 27 27 999.

Facebook, West Linton

www.facebook.com/pages/westlinton

Fish

Van visits Carlops on Thursdays, about 2pm.

Garages (not fuel)

See West Linton and area Telephone Directory, or www.westlinton.org.uk/businesses

Penicuik has both a Kwikfit and a tyre service depot.

Health Centre

Deanfoot Road, West Linton EH46 7EX
01968 660 808
www.nhs.uk/borders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/gp-services/west-linton-medical-practice/
and/or <http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/wlmc>

Hotels and restaurants

See West Linton and area Telephone Directory, or www.westlinton.org.uk/businesses

Milk delivery

Can be provided by John Dornan,
1 Waverley House, Main Street, West Linton
01968 660 563

Newspapers

Newspapers will be left for you to collect from the bus shelter opposite the Allan Ramsay Hotel if you order them from J&R Bell, Newsagents, Main Street, West Linton 01968 660 407

The weekly *Peeblesshire News* provides the local news and gossip. *Midlothian Advertiser* serves a similar purpose, with a focus northward from Carlops towards Penicuik.

Notice boards in Carlops

Bus shelter (southbound, opposite Allan Ramsay Hotel) Car park (walkers' information board) Church (outside and inside) Hall (outside and inside)

Park and ride (for Edinburgh)

Opposite Straiton Retail Park

Petrol and diesel (nearest)

Tesco filling station, Penicuik

Refuse collections

Fridays, alternating between general waste and recycling (paper, plastic, tins). Refuse should be out by 7am; uplift is around 8.30am and thereafter.

A calendar of collection dates is available from Scottish Borders Council, below.

Roads (A702)

Amey are the current maintenance contractors
www.amey.co.uk

Roads (local); gritting, etc

See Scottish Borders Council, below

Scottish Borders Council

Scottish Borders Council Headquarters
Newton St Boswells
Melrose TD6 0SA
0300 100 1800
www.scotborders.gov.uk

Shops in West Linton

Bank of Scotland, Bookshop (also maps), Co-operative, Delicatessen, Fire Side, Gift shop, Hairdresser(s), Newsagent, Pharmacy, Post Office, Red Cross, Tea room.

Larger stores and other banks, pharmacies, etc are in Penicuik, Edinburgh, Peebles and Biggar.

West Linton and area Telephone Directory and www.westlinton.org.uk/businesses provide comprehensive listings.

Half-day is Thursday, but not all shops observe it.

Supermarkets

Asda, Loanhead (near Straiton Retail Park)
IKEA, Straiton Retail Park
Lidl, Penicuik
Sainsbury, Straiton Retail Park
Tesco, Penicuik

Taxis

See Public transport section above

Trades and professions

See West Linton and area Telephone Directory, or www.westlinton.org.uk/businesses

Water

Scottish Water emergency
0800 731 0840, www.scottishwater.co.uk

