



## Burgh Beautiful

SUPPORTED BY LINLITHGOW CIVIC TRUST

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# ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2011

## Highlights of the Year

2011 was a very successful year for Burgh Beautiful, with two highlights in particular:

- firstly, we were delighted to win the Rosebowl, Beautiful Scotland's premier award for Linlithgow being the best entrant in the annual 'bloom' competition (photograph on right) and
- secondly, with generous grant assistance from West Lothian Council, our group has been able to establish its own base in the grounds of Clarendon House, thanks in particular to the hard work and dedication of Tony Oxbrow.



Of course, the main purpose of our work is to enhance the appearance of the town and it is good to know, from the various comments received from townspeople and visitors, that the achievements of Burgh Beautiful volunteers, of those working in associated groups and of Council staff, are noticed and appreciated.

Also worthy of note is that, over the past year, our own fund-raising efforts have become firmly established as being sufficient to cover all of our horticultural and running costs – this is partly due to the success of our scheme of sponsorship of hanging baskets and planters, but our annual plant sale, Advent Fair raffle and holly ball/wreath sales are also vital components.

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## Floral Displays - Summer and Winter Planting

Burgh Beautiful has direct responsibility for approximately 15 flowerbeds or horticultural displays, 57 barrels and planters and, as from 2010-11, all of the town's 78 hanging baskets. Of these, 68 hang in pairs on lampposts or purpose-made poles at the West Port, St Ninian's Road,

High Street and Blackness Road, six are accommodated in a 'basket tree' at The Vennel and four take the form of lamppost containers at Guyancourt Vennel. 2012 will see four more pairs of hanging baskets and two more planters at the Cross and three barrels at the Mill Road crossroads, Linlithgow Bridge, taking the totals to 86 hanging baskets and 62 barrels and planters.

For 2011, we established the general themes for plant types and colours for summer planting the previous autumn. As before, the plant list was also adopted by West Lothian Council and by some of the other groups and individuals working with Burgh Beautiful. This produced a degree of consistency (but not uniformity) which seemed to find favour with the Beautiful Scotland judges.

The planning of the floral displays is assisted by the production of a 'planting table' which specifies plant types and numbers for each site and who is responsible for maintenance. We also keep a register of all significant planted areas in the town, identifying maintenance responsibility and this has been included as an appendix to the portfolio for the information of the Beautiful Scotland judges.

Burgh Beautiful's 2011 summer plant requirements were supplied by Pentland Plants and the order for 2012 has already been placed. In return for Burgh Beautiful taking responsibility for all of the town's hanging baskets, we gratefully accepted a special one-off offer from the Council to fund all our other summer bedding plants, although this gesture is not expected to be repeated for 2012. As in 2010, Hazel Duguid very kindly made available her garden as a distribution point for the 3,000 bedding plants delivered by Pentland Plants in early June (right).



As mentioned above, 2011 saw Burgh Beautiful taking over responsibility for the planting, installation and watering of all 78 of Linlithgow's floral hanging baskets – the baskets were filled and delivered by Craigmarnoch Nurseries of Kilsyth at a cost of £1,212.12. The empty baskets had been taken there by Jim Hay who also kindly installed the baskets along with his son Calum. We are also extremely grateful to Tom Kerr and his team of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Linlithgow & Bo'ness for keeping the baskets well-watered throughout the summer, this relieving the campaign of the considerable cost for watering that was incurred the previous year and keeping the sponsorship cost reasonably affordable.

We were delighted that, further to an approach from Burgh Beautiful, the New Hopetoun Gardens garden centre (Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson) agreed to take on the planting and

future maintenance of the triangular island bed at the corner of High Street and St John's Avenue (photo on right). The plants used were selected to attract wildlife and provide all-year interest and the site is well-suited to the more permanent planting that we wish to encourage. Most of the planting was done in the early spring and the finishing touch was the interpretation board added in August the day before the Beautiful Scotland judges arrived!



At the same time, we were aware that the Council had already ordered bedding plants for the same triangular bed and we were successful in persuading David Lees and his staff to let us have these plants and prepare three new beds in the Springfield area to accommodate them. Accordingly, we planted the beds with over 2,200 plants to an arrangement designed by Tony Oxbrow, the result of which was very striking, although our plans for 2012 are for a good degree of permanent planting to be introduced. The creation of these beds at Springfield completes the fulfilment of our aspiration that all parts of the town enjoy some form of presence by the Burgh Beautiful campaign.



Planting of flowerbeds, barrels and planters was completed in mid-June and all the displays (and maintenance of permanent planting) were a credit to the volunteers involved. Fortunately, we avoided the plant theft problems that we experienced the previous year, although there was some damage to the Low Port bed which was easily rectified. For the second year, the opportunity was taken to insert a number of surplus plants into the underused raised beds at the entrance to the Regent Centre car park, in a form of reasonably successful 'guerrilla gardening'. We also planted up the neglected former flower bed at the corner of Falkirk Road and Highfield Avenue. In neither case did the owner

object to our activities! Additionally, we planted old basket containers with surplus cosmos and begonias, plus some bought trailing lobelia, and gave High Street shopkeepers the responsibility of keeping them – this was successful in brightening up the street (photo on left), but a lot of work for us too.

Planting and maintenance of Burgh Beautiful features over the summer was undertaken as follows:

- **Sheila Ashby** – Town entrance barrels at Manse Road.
- **Liz Burrows** – Barrels and border at railway station.
- **John Carswell** – Two planters adjacent to, and sponsored by, Robert Callander, optician.
- **Hazel Duguid** – Six planters at Brae Court; borders at the Regent Centre; heather bed at Blackness Road; small wall garden at Provost Road; herb border and other raised beds at the Health Centre. George Gillon, a Brae Court resident, kindly helped Hazel by watering the planters outside Brae Court throughout the summer, usually at the crack of dawn!

- **Peter and Diane Fairweather** – Barrels at the Star & Garter.
- **Elizabeth Gowenlock** – Barrels at Linlithgow Bridge.
- **Chantal Hamill** – Two shrub borders at Low Port Primary School.
- **Kirsty Leonard** – Vegetable demonstration bed at The Vennel (in conjunction with other members of Transition Linlithgow – photo on right).
- **Kathy Lindsay** – Barrels at The Maltings and bed at Braehead Road/Moray Drive, plus three new barrels at the Mill Road crossroads for 2012 (in conjunction with the 4th West Lothian Scout Group).
- **Jean Long** – Planters at The Cross.
- **Archie McCall** – Bed at the corner of Blackness Road and Provost Road (taken over from Hazel); new entrance beds at Springfield Road (initiated by Tony – photo on right) – it is hoped that new member Catherine Miskin will assist with one or more of these beds in due course.
- **Diane Marchant** – Town entrance barrels at St Ninian’s Road.
- **Tony Oxbrow** - Town entrance barrels at Blackness Road and Lanark Road (the latter now taken over by **Jane Duff**); Battle of Linlithgow Bridge display (now taken over by **Linda Orr**); Fairtrade bed at Kinloch View; raised bed and planters at St Michael’s Hospital; ‘Spar’ bed at Springfield Road.
- **Myra Smith** – Bed at the Low Port Centre.
- **Shirley Smith** – ‘Katie Wearie’ bed at West Port; town entrance barrels at Preston Road.



Currently, we are looking for people to help with the maintenance of:

- barrels and flowerbed at the railway station;
- the (small) raised bed at the corner of Falkirk Road and Highfield Avenue; and
- the Deanburn ‘community bed’ at Preston Road.

Planting of winter bedding and bulbs was undertaken from September to November, to an even greater extent last year, with the Council again planting some bulbs. We planted pansies, ivy and *Leucothoe zebrid* in the most conspicuous locations in the town centre and at the station where pansies in ScotRail colours were put in. The Burgh Beautiful members most involved with this were John Carswell, Hazel Duguid, Peter and Diane Fairweather and Jean Long. At Low Port, Myra Smith replanted primula which had been ‘over-summered’ in her garden,

supplementing this with some wallflower and forget-me-not. Archie McCall planted 300 red tulip bulbs which will make a big impact in Springfield Road this coming spring and Shirley Smith undertook winter/spring planting in the town entrance barrels at Preston Road.

For the winter 2011-12, 42 of the hanging baskets/lamppost containers were initially planted with pansies, ivy and *Leucothoe zebrid* and, to accompany them, 30 'holly balls' were made by Burgh Beautiful volunteers and other helpers. Unfortunately, the holly balls suffered severe gale damage and, despite replacement of the eight in worst condition, they had to be removed in early January, about a month earlier than last year, being replaced with filled baskets to satisfy our obligations to the sponsors of the relevant locations. As always, we are indebted to Jim, Hazel, Laura and Calum Hay, plus Ross Park, for their help with the creation of holly balls and the installation of these and the hanging baskets.

A small sub-group, consisting of Hazel Duguid, Tony Oxbrow and myself, was set up in September to consider winter and summer planting and make recommendations to the Steering Group, with some of the results mentioned above. Expenditure resulting from these deliberations has been around £1,360 for plants for winter containers and hanging baskets, £516 for materials for holly balls/wreaths and £336 for the whole year's compost and fertiliser supply (including delivery), nearly all from Craigmarloch Nurseries. For the coming summer, we have ordered bedding plants from Pentland Plants to a value of £2,058.

Following the 20 November 2010 tree planting event at Springfield Park, using 210 saplings donated by the Woodlands Trust as part of their 'More Trees, More Good' campaign, we have taken responsibility for grass cutting around the (remaining) trees. John Aitken and Mike Vickers are thanked for assistance with this over the summer. The trees have been augmented by the planting of orchard trees at an event organised by Transition Linlithgow on 27 November 2011.

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## Award for Special Endeavour

Of very great importance, and instrumental to Linlithgow's success in the Beautiful Scotland awards in 2011, are the three truly outstanding examples of residents transforming extensive areas of basic communal landscaping into gems of horticultural excellence – around the town centre flats at Water Yett and West Port. Over the past year, the planting at Water Yett, led by Eileen Murray with assistance from Tommy Peake and Joan Glover, has again gone from strength to strength (photo on right). Eileen and her team have, over the past few years, completely transformed the surroundings of their flats and of the areas of car parking serving the health centre and Linlithgow Loch, creating a colourful and welcoming atmosphere which gives an excellent impression of the town to visitors.





At the West Port flats, residents Audrey Simpson and Peter Common have continued to create and maintain beautiful settings for their homes, more secluded than at Water Yett, but none the less impressive. Over the past year, Audrey has again greatly augmented her displays with new planting, fencing, containers, pebbles and other features (see photo on left).

Audrey, Eileen and Peter once again met the Beautiful Scotland judges on their August tour of the town and their work was highly praised to the extent that their work was recognised by a 'Special Endeavour' award.

Pat Clifford is also active in relation to the containers in front of the flats in High Street near Preston Road and has made good use of plants supplied by Burgh Beautiful for both summer and winter.

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## Sponsorship of Hanging Baskets and Floral Displays

2011 was the first full year of Burgh Beautiful inviting sponsorship of ALL the hanging baskets on lampposts and poles over future winter and summer seasons. As for 2010-11, we have recently received an excellent response to our invitation to sponsor hanging basket/holly ball locations for 2011-12, mainly at a cost of £120. We have also offered sponsorship of planters in the High Street and at The Cross at £75 each. For last year, we received a total of £3,840 from 36 locations. At the time of writing, for the 2011-12 season, we have received £4,135 relating to 33 'basket' locations (mainly pairs of baskets and/or holly balls) and 7 planters. Our grateful thanks are extended to all the public-spirited individuals, businesses and groups, who/which have sponsored us for the coming year:

Jack & Christine Adair, Lyn & John Aitken, Arco Limited, Robert Bennie & Sons (3 locations), Robert Callander Optician (5 locations), Nancy & Tom Conn, Martyn Day, Donaldson's Nursery, George & Hazel Duguid, The Four Marys, Garden Cottage Self Catering, Golden Chip, Gillian & Niven Grant, Tom & Marion Kerr, Kingsfield Golf Centre, Kumon Linlithgow, The Linlithgow Bookshop, Linlithgow Business Association (2 locations), Linlithgow Civic Trust, Linlithgow Heritage Trust, Linlithgow Rugby Club Choir, Jim & Nuala Lonie, Margaret Morrison, Oakwell

Childrens Nursery, Purely Patchwork, R P A Smith Maps, So Strawberry Caffe, Springfords LLP, Alan Steel Asset Management Ltd (2 locations) and Vickers Projects.

Also to be thanked is the Rotary Club of Linlithgow & Bo'ness which provides sponsorship 'in kind' by watering the hanging baskets over the summer months, using a water bowser financed by the Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group. All the sponsored locations are marked by plaques, installed and maintained with the assistance of David Tait, Chairman of the Linlithgow Business Association.

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## Events over the Year

2011 saw a good variety of planting, fundraising, environmental and community events:

- **Holly Ball Recycling Event, 19 February 2011** – This event, well organised by Rose Hill of Transition Linlithgow, involved the dismantling of the holly balls, saving of the plastic flowers, ribbons, etc (value approximately £55) for future use, recycling of holly and wire, leaving little more than the oasis spheres to go to landfill.
- **Early Spring Tree Planting, 19 March 2011** – Further to the previous November's tree planting event at Springfield, 105 more saplings donated by the Woodlands Trust were planted in the open space between Braehead and Kettilstoun Mains (photo on right). The species of wildlife-friendly trees included birch, blackthorn, rowan, oak and hazel. The event was organised by Tony Oxbrow and Chantal Hamill in association with the Kettilstoun Residents Association, the landowners. There was a good attendance including around a dozen Burgh Beautiful members. Wild flower seeds were scattered by some of the children who attended. Unfortunately, the canes supporting the trees/guards were stolen and had to be replaced.
- **Linlithgow Spring Clean and Litter Pick, 16 April 2011** – This was co-ordinated once again by Chris Long and was well publicised by the *Linlithgow Gazette*. 42 volunteers, including several children, members of the community council, the Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange and Transition Linlithgow, together with Councillors Tom Conn and Martyn Day, worked from six advertised locations, followed by a photo-shoot at the Regent Centre where Greggs the bakers provided juice and millionaire's shortbread as a reward for the hard work of the volunteers who included. 74 bags of rubbish were collected and special thanks are due to West Lothian Council which supplied the litter-picking materials and promptly uplifted the bags after the event.



- **Membership Drive, April/May 2011** (as part of the Civic Trust's initiative) – Burgh Beautiful members made up a large part of the 25 volunteers who participated in a whole-town leaflet drop aimed at attracting new members. 5,000 leaflets were distributed and around 16 new people signed up. Happily, a good number are already actively involved in Burgh Beautiful activities. Unfortunately, a few have not responded to any of a large number of opportunities for involvement which is something of a disappointment.

- **Hanging Basket Salvage of Plants, 7 May 2011** – Around 12 members emptied the baskets of compost and winter plants, saved any plants worthy of retention, cleaned the containers ready for re-use and installed new capillary matting and wicks. Particular thanks go to Hazel (and George) Duguid for all the hard work in preparing the matting for the baskets, for the catering and for allowing to us have the use of their garage/garden/house for the event.



- **Plant Sale, 28 May 2011** – Burgh Beautiful's annual plant sale, efficiently organised by Chantal Hamill and located in the car park of the former Sheriff Court (thanks to Jim Hay), not far from its usual prime position at The Cross, was again successful in raising funds and raising the profile of Burgh Beautiful. Most of the plants on sale were either provided from the gardens of campaign supporters, or bedding or wildflower plants grown from plugs by Burgh Beautiful members. A worthwhile net sum of £524.50 was realised, of which a small raffle contributed £160. The Plant Sale featured a separate stall selling wildflowers and the distribution of free wildflower seeds (corn marigold, corn poppy, meadow buttercup, ox-eye daisy, St John's Wort, yarrow to encourage bees, etc), in celebration of Scottish Biodiversity Week (21-29 May).



- **Community Planting Event, Springfield, 25 June 2011** – Further to the Council kindly de-turfing the sites for three beds at Springfield Road and some pre-planting by Tony Oxbrow and myself, eight volunteers planted over 2,200 plants, mainly non-stop begonias, to create striking floral features at the entrance to the Springfield housing estate and near the central Spar shop. Thanks are also due to the Council staff who determined where we could plant, prepared the sites, contributed the majority of the plants and delivered them from Bathgate. Tony subsequently received many very positive comments from local Springfield residents and visitors.

- **Garden Party, 21 August 2011** – John and Janet Carswell very kindly made available their garden for an event held mainly to welcome new members. There was a good turnout of over 20 people who enjoyed the fine weather, fantastic home-baking brought by a number of the guests and garden tours conducted by the owners.

- **Clarendon Outbuildings Clear-Out, 17 and 23 September 2011** – A group of members and relatives assisted Tony Oxbrow to make a start on clearing out the Clarendon outbuildings of ivy and accumulated rubbish and debris.



- **Emptying and Replanting of Hanging Baskets, 22 October 2011** - 38 standard hanging baskets, plus eight half-baskets, were planted up in record time at Clarendon by around 13 members. Previous to this, the contents of the summer baskets had been deposited into the composters, further to Jim and Calum Hay's valiant efforts to retrieve the baskets from the lampposts the previous Sunday.

- **Making of Street Holly Balls, 19 November 2011** – Around 20 Linlithgow residents (a disappointing turnout, half that of the previous year) did their best to make 30 holly balls for display in the town in the High Street, West Port, St Ninian's Road, Guyancourt Vennel, Low Port and Blackness Road. Unfortunately, the dark and the cold caught up with us and one or two holly balls had to be finished the next day, in time for Calum Hay and Ross Park to put them up, along with the baskets planted a month previously.

- **Advent Fair Fund Raising, 26 November 2011** – Members of Burgh Beautiful/Linlithgow Civic Trust sold raffle tickets and took orders for holly balls (£25 each) and wreaths (£20 each) at two stalls in aid of the next year's floral displays. Although provisions were ideal for the Civic Trust stall within the Burgh Halls, the High Street stall was buffeted by wind and rain - conditions not particularly conducive to the sale of raffle tickets or noting down orders for holly items! However, the proceeds (less materials costs) were £740 from the wreaths and



and holly balls (up on last year) and £439 from the raffle and other items. The total raised, £1,179, was less than last year's record-breaking sum of £1,364. Thanks are also due to John Carswell, Valerie Dillon, Peter Fairweather, Liz Gowenlock, Chantal Hamill, Kirsty Leonard, Kathy Lindsay, Jean Long, Chris Long, Archie McCall, Tony Oxbrow, Myra Smith, Shirley Smith, Dian Gorrie and John Aitken for all their help on the day.

- **Orchard Tree Planting, 27 November 2011** – Burgh Beautiful was represented at two fruit tree planting events organised by Transition Linlithgow – at Springfield Park and at Beechwood.

- **Making of Fundraising Holly Balls and Wreaths, 3 December 2011** - The orders for holly balls and wreaths received at the Advent Fair (and more, bringing the total to 19 holly balls and 13 wreaths!) were made up at Clarendon. Despite other demands on participants' time, around 20 people (three more than the previous year) took part, in many cases for an extended period. Thanks are extended to all, including once again members of the Hay family.

- ***Making of Replacement Holly Balls, 17 December 2011*** – This event (right) was called at short notice to replace eight street holly balls destroyed or blown away by severe gales. 18 public-spirited members of the local community put their Christmas preparation plans on hold, including Derek Pattle, chairman of the Linlithgow Traders Association. After helping with the assembly, Councillors Tom Conn and Tom Kerr replaced the damaged holly balls with new.
- ***Further Planting of Hanging Baskets and Recycling of Holly Ball Materials, 21 January 2012*** – Given further gale damage to the holly balls, it was decided to replace them all with filled hanging baskets in view of the fact that the relevant locations were sponsored for a display throughout the year. 11 Burgh Beautiful members took a couple of hours to plant up the baskets and sort out the recyclable materials from the 'baldy' holly balls that Jim Hay had removed and delivered back to Clarendon during the previous week.




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## Beautiful Scotland Judging and Awards

***Beautiful Scotland Judging and Awards*** – The town was assessed on Wednesday, 10 August by judges, Colin Ainsworth, Gregor McGillivray and Sandy Scott. The judges were shown as many of the towns floral displays, parks, landscape, gardening and other relevant features as possible, emphasising wider community involvement and environmental responsibility. Particular thanks are due to Alan Agnew (West Lothian Council) and Tony Oxbrow for accompanying the judges along with myself, also to Liz Burrows, Hazel Duguid, Kirsty Leonard, Chris and Jean Long (Burgh Beautiful), Kirsty Marchant (First ScotRail), Sadie Flanagan (Transition Linlithgow), John Aitken (LUCS and Linlithgow Civic Trust), Anne Corr and pupils (Linlithgow Bridge Primary School Eco Committee), Susan Erskine (Brownies), Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson (New Hopetoun Gardens), Ian Lewis (Historic Scotland), Peter Common, Audrey Simpson, Eileen Murray, Tommy Peake and Joan Glover for helping with the tour.

The judges must have liked what they saw because, when the results were announced on 12 September, we were delighted to have won:

- a gold medal (an improvement on last year's silver gilt),
- the award for being the Best Medium-sized town in Scotland,
- an award for Special Endeavour and, best of all,
- the coveted silver Rosebowl, Beautiful Scotland's premier award for being the overall winner.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to receive the accolades in person at the awards ceremony in Rothesay owing to travel disruption caused by the high winds. The cancellation of the ferries from the mainland stopped Burgh Beautiful representatives Hazel Duguid and Shirley Smith

from attending, but the Rosebowl and four certificates were finally officially presented to us at a ceremony in Stirling on 1 November (photo on right).



The Special Endeavour Award related specifically to the excellent community gardening activities undertaken by Eileen Murray and helpers at Water Yett and by Audrey Simpson and Peter Common at the West Port flats. The judges praised “the best mixed borders seen in a long time”, the attraction of wildlife and the element of public art. We presented copies of this award to Eileen, Audrey and Peter with a congratulatory covering letter.

The judges also nominated West Lothian Council for the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Trophy (albeit, the trophy was eventually won by Aberdeen City Council), stating that parks maintenance was carried out to a very high standard in Linlithgow. “There was not a weed to be seen, all the edges around beds and grass areas were immaculate and the bedding schemes done in consultation with Burgh Beautiful were well grown, covering the ground and pleasing to the eye.”

The main highlights from the judges’ mark sheets were:

- 94 marks out of 100 for **horticultural achievement**, including 20 out of 20 (can’t get better than that!) for both residential/community gardening and the quality of the town’s green spaces. Liaison between Burgh Beautiful and the Council on themed bedding was praised and the community gardens as above were described as ‘outstanding’. Special mention was made of the herb borders in front of the Health Centre (Hazel Duguid) and the vegetable bed at the Vennel (Kirsty Leonard/LinlithGROW). Recommended Areas for Improvement: “Not a lot! Keep up the work and keep pushing the boundaries!”
- 42 marks out of 50 for **environmental responsibility**, with 9 out of 10 for three of the five sub-categories. The heritage trail markers and public art were given special mention as areas of achievement, but our lowest mark of 7 out of 10 for recycling was (again!) identified as an area for improvement.
- 43 marks out of 50 for **community participation**, with again 9 out of 10 for three of the five sub-categories. Here, the local sponsorship of the hanging baskets was seen as impressive and the Eco Garden of Linlithgow Bridge Primary School “was a good stop and was enhanced by the enthusiastic schoolchildren who acted as great tour guides”. Linkages with Community Service Order teams and more youth involvement were recommended.
- Overall, 179 marks out of 200, compared to 155 last year and 133 the year before.

**Britain in Bloom 2012** – Further to our success, we have accepted a nomination to compete in the Britain in Bloom UK finals as Scotland’s representative in the ‘town’ category. The likely publicity will put us in the UK national spotlight, hopefully attracting more visitors and tourists. I’m sure that we will rise to the challenge over the coming year!

## Our New Base at Clarendon

In the first half of 2012, we investigated various sites in Linlithgow which might fulfil our aspiration to form a working base for Burgh Beautiful, having seen examples in places like Falkland. We looked at land by the Union Canal (subsequently fully used by LinlithGROW for their demonstration vegetable plot) and at Council-suggested sites at Linlithgow Cemetery and Doodsdale, neither of which was considered suitable. However, after some initial resistance which was overcome with



the help of our three local councillors, West Lothian Council agreed to make available 553 square metres in the grounds of Clarendon House, a sheltered site which is ideal for our purposes (photo above right taken in April). In August, a lease was agreed via the Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group and planning permission was granted in September, subject to a three-year expiry and a requirement to paint the shed olive green.

Tony Oxbrow, who brought the project to fruition, had already successfully applied on the campaign's behalf for funding from two Council sources, the Community Chest and the Voluntary Sector Development Fund, the availability of both opportunities being excellently timed for us. We were delighted to receive £2,250 from the former and £14,000 from the latter. We gratefully acknowledge the Council's generosity without which the project would have been well outwith our financial reach.



We are pleased to report that the Burgh Beautiful Base is nearing completion. In the four months since planning permission was granted, the area in and around the previously disused and neglected outbuildings has been completely transformed, primarily through Tony's hard work and commitment, but with considerable practical help from Tom Kerr and other members/relatives. The first problems to be tackled were to tame the long grass across the site and to remove the huge amount of ivy overgrowth from the interior and exterior of the building (the latter done by a

contractor). Contractors were also brought in to erect a polytunnel and a shed and to install a water supply, piped from elsewhere within the Clarendon grounds. Tony created a composting area and, over the past six months, he has gradually converted the four 'rooms' in the outbuildings into functional space, using his DIY skills and recycling ingenuity to great effect. The shed was covered in the necessary three coats of paint, mainly by Chantal Hamill and Kathy Lindsay (photo above left).

More recently, the path into the site, and the paths linking the various buildings, have been paved, or the original Victorian brick paving unearthed. Recycled wood has been widely used to edge paths and raised beds. At the time of writing, the eastern boundary fence has just been completed, enclosing the site for the first time, although problems with vandalism of gate padlocks have yet to be resolved – we are on our sixth, the first five having been superglued inoperable by a person or persons unknown. Although full restoration of the brick outbuildings is outside the remit of our current Community Chest and Voluntary Sector Development Fund grants from West Lothian Council, most of the remaining funds will be devoted to making the roof as wind and watertight as possible, thus ensuring that yet another historic Linlithgow building and its setting is returned to its original purpose.



Starting on 22 October, there have now been five scheduled Burgh Beautiful events at Clarendon, attended by many members and non-members alike, very much proving the worth of the facility as a venue and the value of Tony's hard work.



*Our Clarendon base and its setting, 28 January 2012, taken by Jean Bruce.*

## Budget for 2012

### ACTUAL/EXPECTED INCOME

Sponsorship (expected total)	£4,400
Advent Fair raffle etc	£ 740
Sale of holly balls/wreaths	£ 439
Plant sale 2012 (estimate)	£ 500
Donations (estimate)	£ 50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,129</b>

### ACTUAL/EXPECTED EXPENDITURE

Winter plants	£1,408
Holly ball materials	£ 516
Sponsorship plaques	£ 148
Summer plants	£2,058
Compost, fertiliser (bulk supply)	£ 336
Extra planting allowance	£ 663
General expenses/costs allowance	£1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,129</b>

These figures exclude income/expenditure relating to the establishment of our new base at Clarendon. It should be noted that there is funding available for the purchase of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants to a value of approximately £663.

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## Plans for the Future

We are pursuing the following projects for the coming year:

- Bringing more colour to The Cross through the installation of more planters and hanging baskets, in response to a feeling that the town's main focal point should have more attention devoted to it. There will be a planter installed on each side at the foot of the Burgh Hall steps and four pairs of hanging baskets, two on poles on either side of The Cross, all to be financed by the Town Management Group;
- Extending community involvement by involving the Scouts in providing and planting new floral barrels at the Linlithgow Bridge cross roads and by involving members of St Peter's Episcopal Church in the planting and maintenance of new planters at the church entrance;
- Working with the Council to upgrade the design of the flowerbeds near the 'Keep Linlithgow Tidy' sign;
- Possibly creating an Olympic-themed display on the grass slope at Baronshill Avenue;
- Organising further bulb and tree planting events; and
- Organising a photographic competition.

Events already planned for next year include the usual spring clean-up, a wildflower planting/Britain in Bloom launch on 14 April, summer hanging basket planting at Clarendon (12 May), the annual plant sale (19 May) and entry to the Britain in Bloom competition.

## Liz Burrows



The Burgh Beautiful membership and many others in Linlithgow were saddened by the death of Liz Burrows at 9.25pm on 9 January 2012, after a long illness bravely fought with willpower and determination.

The following tribute was published in the *Linlithgow Gazette*: "Members of Linlithgow's Burgh Beautiful campaign are mourning the loss of one of its founder members, Liz Burrows, at the age of 71. Liz will have been familiar to users of the railway station, where she was often to be seen tending its floral displays until last year when illness curtailed her activities. Ron Smith, Chairman of Burgh Beautiful, said: "Liz was hugely committed to improving the environment of Linlithgow which she had come to love over the 30 years since she moved from Edinburgh. She was also well-known for her legendary fund-raising efforts, making use of her considerable charm in order to amass large numbers of prizes for the many successful raffles and tombolas that

she organised for the campaign". Fellow member, Tony Oxbrow, said: "We will all remember her as a 'lady', in every sense of that word, for her optimism, enthusiasm and energy".

Liz's funeral was held at Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 18 January. A fuller tribute will be published in the next Newsletter of Linlithgow Civic Trust.

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## Thanks to our Volunteers, the Council and the Media

***Burgh Beautiful Steering Group*** – Ron Smith (Chairman), Chris Long (Secretary), Sheila Ashby (Treasurer until April 2011), Mike Vickers (Treasurer as from April 2011) and the following attended over the past year: Liz Burrows, John Carswell, Hazel Duguid, Chantal Hamill, Tom Kerr, Kirsty Leonard, Kathleen Lindsay, Diana Marchant, Eileen Murray and Tony Oxbrow. Any other members are welcome to attend.

***Planting Group*** – Ron Smith (Chairman) and the following attended over the past year, or are planters of Burgh Beautiful displays and thus entitled to attend: Sheila Ashby, Liz Burrows, John Carswell, Jane Duff, Hazel Duguid, Diane Fairweather, Peter Fairweather, Elizabeth Gowenlock, Chantal Hamill, Kirsty Leonard, Kathleen Lindsay, Kirsty Leonard, Chris Long, Jean Long, Archie McCall, Tony Oxbrow, Myra Smith, Shirley Smith. All planters are strongly encouraged to attend the two annual meetings of the Planting Group, before summer and autumn plantings.

***Other Registered Burgh Beautiful Planters, Volunteers and Members*** – Catriona Addy, John Addy, Leslie Aitken, John Aitken, Peter Common, John Davidson, Niamh Gilmore, Chris Gunstone, Moray Hamilton, David Henderson, Laura Henderson, Dianne Lamont, Hannah Little,

Martin Little, Majorie Lochtie, Clare McLay, Catherine Miskin, Peter Mulcahy, Linda Orr, Bob Ross, Audrey Simpson, Ciaran Toland.

It should be recorded once again that Burgh Beautiful is represented on the Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group and, as a result, we have been influential in such matters as the introduction of 'heritage' lighting, banners and hanging baskets, the selection and location of street furniture including planters, the establishment of the new heritage trail and the upgrading of the public realm with Caithness stone.

West Lothian Council has again greatly assisted our efforts over the past year. David Lees, Michael Lee, George Downey, Alan Agnew and others have been very supportive of our efforts in terms of co-ordinating their planting with ours, giving of advice, co-operating with New Hopetoun Gardens/Dougal Philip, upgrading the design of displays, making available planters, helping with litter picks, stripping turf for new flower beds, etc. Hazel Hay, in her role as Tourism & Town Centres Officer, has helped in many ways relating to such matters as the hanging baskets and the provision of stalls, and many others have helped with improvements to Linlithgow over the past year, not least with regard to the completion of the new paving in the town centre.

Finally, we have to record our appreciation to Jackie Mitchell, Allan Scott and Irene MacKinnon for the excellent coverage in, and publicity from, the *Linlithgow Gazette* over the past year and to David Tait and the team who produce the *Black Bitch* magazine for publishing an article on our activities last June, as well as other references to our work.

Ron Smith  
Chairman, Burgh Beautiful  
28 January 2012

Photo credits: Beautiful Scotland, Jean Bruce, Joyce Faulkner, Chris Long, Hazel Duguid, Chantal Hamill, Kirsty Leonard, Tony Oxbrow, Audrey Simpson, Ron Smith, Shirley Smith.