

# Harlawhill Newsletter

## Spring 2022

### **SPRING HAS SPRUNG**

At last, we have managed to shake off the chills and darkness of another winter and we can look forward to longer days, shorter nights and glorious sunny days in Prestonpans (fingers crossed). It's lovely to see the colours of crocus and daffodils on the roadsides and gardens.



Soon be time to get into the garden for a tidy-up and prepare the ground for planting Tatties and Turnip or Strawberries and Rasps or even some lovely plants.

### **Message from “The Boss” (Fiona)**

First of all, I would like to thank you all for the Gift Voucher and Euro's I received for my 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I had just the BEST week ever celebrating with my Harlawhill family. At my birthday party, I had a collection for the Ukraine which, together with the raffle held at Harlawhill where the members contributed £200, enable me to send £1,000 to a lovely friend who lives in the Ukraine. She has assured me that this money will be used for medical supplies and food for those who have been left with nothing. It feels so good to help others during terrible times. Thank you ALL so much.

After 15 years, our driver Joe has taken the step into retirement and is at present in sunny Tenerife. While soaking up the sun's rays, he has asked me to thank you all for his lovely gifts. He received beautiful golfing clothes and a Golf themed gift.

You will all by now have met the new Bus driver Dougie Patterson. Dougie is fitting in well to the job and looking forward to getting to know everyone a bit better.

*(Dougie, that Yvonne yin lets thae auld yins away wi' murder – you put your foot down mate, nae singin', nae laughin', nae carry on.....editor)*

## **Message from “The Boss” (Fiona) continued**

We also have a new carer escort starting in April. Jackie Stevenson has a wealth of experience and was successful in gaining the position from an excellent pool of candidates. We will give Jackie, just as Dougie has had, our usual Harlawhill welcome.

*(As we have just come out of a long, dark winter, we didn't think it was fair to subject you to a photo of our new staff. Meet them first and we'll stick their photo in next time.....editor ha ha!)*

For those of you who remember Trisha (NO, definitely no photo), she has now had her replacement knee operation and is recovering well at home. It has been a long 2 years for Trisha with her mobility issues as well as catching C.....(you know what) and I am keeping in touch and offering her support. Trisha sends her love to everyone.

And finally from me. We very sadly had to say goodbye to Charlie Watson. Charlie was our longest serving member when he passed away. His family had a collection for Harlawhill and we used some of this to treat his pals to his favourite thing “a Fish Supper”. It was braw. Charlie was certainly our darling, your darling and everyone's darling.



## **Date for your Diary**

Harlawhill Day Care Centre has now been at the heart of the Prestonpans community for 30 years. Yes, it's really 30 years ago that the project for a day centre, driven by Dr Gracie and our beloved Jean Thomson, finally came into being and we look forward to the next 30 years of caring for the elderly of Prestonpans,

In the meantime, our 30<sup>th</sup> celebratory party will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club. Timings to be confirmed but probably 12:30 to 5:00.

Plenty food, chat and entertainment will be on offer.

All members will be invited; however, we will not be able to provide transport. As we have at present 38 members and 7 staff, we cannot accommodate everyone.

So, we are hoping that your families will be able to drop you off and return to pick you up. If anyone is on their own or does not have family to assist, speak to Fiona or one of the staff and we can look at alternative methods. Maybe booking a taxi or sharing a taxi with another member.

It's going to be a great day.



Birthdays, Cake, Retirement, Cake, St Patricks Day, Cake, Burns  
Celebrations, Arts and Crafts  
(did I mention cake?)





And more Shenanigans (with cake)



## **Day Centre News**

East Lothian Council own the building where our Day Centre is but we are responsible for the upkeep and any improvements we need to make for the benefit of our members. We can only do this by funding and as a Charity, this is the way ahead for us.

Our trustees Fiona Stewart, Morag Dickson and Ewan McMillan work their socks off behind the scenes in applying for extra funding to improve our centre and purchase new equipment. We are very grateful for all their work as our budget would never be able to fund these projects.

## **Ongoing Projects**

We are getting a new kitchen (hurrah). This will be getting started on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April when we close that day and is being installed by a local firm.

This work will take one week and we will be closed during this time.

However, we will be continuing to look after our members as usual. You will get picked up and returned home at your normal time and day of the week. We will NOT be going to the day centre but to somewhere else that is a secret and I cannot tell you.

What I can say is that you will love it with all your usual carers, mealtimes and of course, lots of fun and laughter as always.

We will be looking to reopen the day centre on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

This kitchen has been funded by a Government Scheme called Adapt and Thrive.

We are also renovating our old Hairdressers room and converting it into a beautiful old fashioned sitting room. We will be using this room to have carers meetings, afternoon one to one life story work and it will be well used. This project has been funded by The Heritage Fund and we thank Ewan for coordinating this transformation, its looking great. Watch for the grand opening of our Kitchen and Sitting Room.

Also, watch this space for "An Interactive Touch Table". With thanks to Fiona and Morag for securing funding for this equipment, we are sure every member will benefit from using this in a one to one situation or even in a group session. It will help so much in keeping our memories alert and using technology on a basic level.

## **Carers Fund Act Money**

This is additional money from the Scottish Government to support unpaid carers and the person they care for. We are at present looking at ways to offer support, possibly weekend one on one outings and also how we can support the carers.

If you are a carer and have any ideas on how to support than let us know and we can arrange meetings and keep you informed as we go forward.

Any of our staff will be willing to discuss further and supply information on what we are doing.

## Donations

As always, the generosity of our community leaves me breathless. People of Prestonpans may need Harlawhill Day Centre but rest assured, we need the people of Prestonpans every bit as much. Many times, different sectors of the community step up when we need them and at other times, donations appear from the most unlikely places. We are truly grateful to each and every one of you.

Donations received since the beginning of the year are :-

East Lothian Lottery	£120
Calendar sales	£241
Charlie Watson funeral collection	£580
Prestonpans Legion raffle	£335
Dorothy Clyde	£100
Invest in my Community	£100
East Lothian Access Team (tuck shop)	£ 50
Duncan Smith	£ 40
Bunty and Andrew Mack	£ 50
Cecilia Brydon (gold sale)	£ 30
Alison Patterson	£ 50

## Important Information – Daily Payment

It is important we keep you informed and updated of any forthcoming changes. We are sure that everyone is aware of the current financial situation in the country in regard to the cost of living increases.

This situation will, and has already started, to affect our centre.

A few instances of how this is impacting us is :-

Minimum wage has increased from April 1<sup>st</sup> which will increase the salaries of the drivers, cleaner etc.

The cost of Gas and Electric is going to massively jump and that will take a huge chunk out of our budget.

The cost of fuel and maintenance of our bus has risen sharply and shows no sign of abating.

Our grant funding from East Lothian Council has not changed and your daily payment has remained at £10 for nearly 10 years although our expenditure has periodically increased throughout this time.

**We need to prepare you that this daily cost will need to increase at some point later in the year**

At present, rather than increase your daily payment, we plan on using some money from the members fund to cover the deficit.

We look at letting you know in advance when and how much your daily payment will increase.

It important to keep you informed, please do not worry about this.

## Daily Payment

Regarding the Daily payment, we hope to get back to having our members paying on a 4 weekly basis as we did before we were hit by C.....

This makes everyone the same and your place is held if you are off sick or in hospital as we have the same expenditure.

A lot of members pay with Direct Debit thru' the bank and if this is something you feel will suit you and make it more understandable, then speak to any member of staff who will explain the procedure to you

## Word Search

Find these East Lothian place names and enter a draw for a **HUGE** easter egg. Yum yum.

I am very sorry but **NO** members of staff may enter this draw – **Ha Ha!!**

ELPHINSTONE  
LONGNIDDRY  
PENCAITLAND  
ORMISTON  
COCKENZIE

GIFFORD  
GULLANE  
DIRLETON  
ABERLADY  
DREM

Y	D	A	L	R	E	B	A	C	E	G	B	F	D
F	L	N	E	T	M	O	A	P	M	M	Z	I	C
B	N	F	S	B	G	K	W	I	R	E	A	O	H
H	C	O	E	R	G	I	F	F	O	R	D	L	E
I	K	A	P	H	E	C	S	M	G	D	K	B	N
C	T	O	R	M	I	S	T	O	N	F	S	D	O
G	W	E	D	T	G	I	N	A	I	E	P	J	T
F	E	D	R	D	I	R	L	E	T	O	N	R	S
A	L	Z	G	F	A	T	Y	E	T	B	C	H	N
L	O	N	G	N	I	D	D	R	Y	L	D	N	I
J	Y	C	P	A	S	B	P	C	R	E	D	Y	H
B	E	I	C	M	L	G	F	K	H	M	A	J	P
S	E	N	A	L	L	U	G	I	D	P	L	H	L
G	E	R	H	O	A	W	S	O	Z	G	B	F	E
P	C	M	E	I	Z	N	E	K	C	O	C	N	J

Find the names either VERTICALLY, HORIZONTALLY or DIAGONALLY.

Entries to any member of staff by Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April – draw that day.



Can you spot the odd one out in every picture?

