

Harlawhill Newsletter

Easter 2021 Edition

The lights dimmed in Harlawhill



It is with great sadness that we announce the untimely passing of our beloved Chairperson Jean Thomson BEM on Monday 8th March.

Jean was, and will always be remembered as, the cornerstone of the Harlawhill family, having served on the steering group to create it and then selflessly giving her time freely to the Day Centre for another 30 years as a volunteer and trustee.

Born in Prestonpans in 1940, Jean was a true force of nature who cared deeply for her community as a speech therapist, a keen member of the drama group, the Stroke Club and Prestongrange Church. A great speaker with many stories to tell and a much sought after Burns Supper participant.

(Editor: - Having been coerced into delivering the “Address to the Lassies” at a Burn’s Supper, I asked Jean to look over my speech as she was a world renown expert on all things Burns. All good, I deliver my speech and sat down feeling pleased with myself. Then who stood up but Jean to do her “Reply to the Laddies”. Knowing full well what I had prepared, Jean then proceeded to put me in my place – all with a smile on her face)

Jean will of course be fondly remembered by many for her work with Harlawhill Day Centre where she positively affected the lives of so many people through the charitable contributions of her time, donations, and the determination she showed in making the Day Centre what it is today.

Jean would attend twice a week and spend time working with clients on their life stories. A natural people person who could empathise with everyone she met, putting them at ease in her company. Her life story work, particularly those suffering from Alzheimer’s and Dementia, was so special and of great comfort to both them and their families.

Jean's times in the Day Centre always brought a smile to everyone's face and she brightened up every room she entered. A woman who led by example and an inspiration to all who were lucky enough to be in her company and those privileged enough to call her a friend.

Always one to shun the limelight or recognition, she was awarded the BEM (British Empire Medal) in the Queen's New Year's Honour's last year but sadly, due to Covid, the celebration she deserved could not be organised along with her 80th birthday celebrations. When restrictions permit, we hope to organise a celebration of Jean's life and achievements in recognition of her contributions to Harlawhill and the wider community. Thank you, Jean, for showing us the way, you will be forever in our hearts and we are comforted by sharing so many memories of our times spent together.

Our condolences, love, thoughts, and prayers are with Jean's family at this difficult time.

Jean at "work" in Harlawhill



Day Centre News

As we have already reported, Jean very sadly passed away recently. Jean wanted any donations collected at her funeral to be passed on to Harlawhill Day Centre. Obviously, with Covid restrictions, Jean's funeral was attended by family only, so Fiona has started a collection in Jean's memory. If any member or their family would like to donate in memory of Jean, then speak to any member of staff. We plan on getting 2 lovely new iron benches to sit at the front of the building in her memory.

Once restrictions are eased, we are looking at having a Memorial Day to celebrate Jean's 30 years of service to Harlawhill..... Amazing!!

Members News

Also leaving Harlawhill this month, but in a nice way, are Ellen and Jim Bailie who have now moved to Astley House Nursing Home in North Berwick. They celebrated 65 years of marriage on 23rd March and received a beautiful card from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. A lovely couple who always look out for each other, they enjoyed their time at Harlawhill, we will miss them and wish them many years of happiness in North Berwick.

Donations gratefully received (in £'s – (from 1st February 2021)

John Naismith (Anne's son)	250	Joe and Margaret Scott	200
Jim and Ellen Bailie	100	(in memory of sister Christine)	
Alex and Nora Hogg	600	Richard Scott	250
Nancy Smith	150	(in memory of sister Christine)	
Dorothy Clyde	100	May Quinn	80
Tam Edmond	80	Charlie Watson	70
Dave and Nessie Kyman	50	George Cummings	40
Margaret Rankin	40	Evelyn Bellany	40
James Berg	30	Anne Thomson	10
Willie Myles	10		

A **MASSIVE** thank you to **Rose, Kate** and **Phyllis** who have kept up their monthly payments throughout this past year.

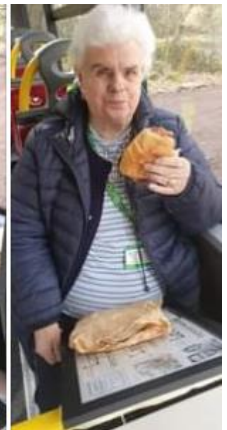
That means that these 3 ladies have contributed almost £1,000 each in the year.

We are incredibly grateful for your generosity.

Some of the donations above have been some members paying their £10 when they are out on the bus. This is not something we ask but it is exceedingly kind that you have chosen to continue to offer the money.

All money that we receive as donations are put in our members account and this is solely used for treats and any provisions we need and in future for entertainment etc.

Some Bus "Hurl's"



Building News

Sadly, for us to reopen safely, our risk assessments have flagged up a ventilation issue. This means that we need windows that can open to keep the Day Centre well ventilated as none of our present windows open. After long discussions with East Lothian Council, as always money was the issue. Fiona O'Donnell, our local councillor has managed to secure us £5,000 to replace the windows in the main lounge area. We still needed £10,000 to fund the other windows at the front of the building.

A great supporter of our Day Centre, the lovely Tom Jardine (90 years young) was most upset upon hearing that our Day Centre could not open due to the window problems. When Tom told his son of the ongoing issues at Harlawhill, he used his contacts in the wider community to see what could be done. The result of which is that we have managed to secure the funding of the full amount needed from the "Walk with Scott Foundation". The late Scott Glynn was another great support of our Day Centre and he would be so proud to hear his charity is helping our Day Centre get reopened. Tom Jardine himself also donated £1,000 to our Day Centre to help with these costs and in the memory of Jean Thomson so a MASSIVE thank you to Tom Jardine and the "Walk with Scott Foundation"what a great community we live in.

Trustees

We welcome Ewan McMillan on board as a new trustee. Ewan is well known in our Day Centre having been a volunteer these past 3-4 years. Ewan has great energy and good ideas (he has recently set up our amazing new website) so he will help us strive to keep the excellent Day Centre we have.

Another two trustees, Fiona Stewart, and Morag Dickson both works hard behind the scenes in applying and securing funding for our centre. They have recently secured funding from the Lottery Scheme to allow us to purchase a new electronic front door (keeping everyone safe) and continuing funding for all the equipment required to allow us to open.

We recently received just over £1,000 from the Co-op as a chosen charity for the Blue Card Cash Back Scheme so that is another great donation. We will be looking at using this to get new window blinds to go with our new windows.....yippee!!

Easter

Is just around the corner and we will have a lovely treat for all our clients in the form of afternoon tea, all made possible with the generous contributions from this wonderful community we live in. And, thanks to Mekala (Yvonne's daughter) and her hockey friends, the Easter Bunny has also supplied an Easter Egg for each of all our members.



"Does it get any better"



Other News

We are now waiting on a time and date when we can once again get our Day Centre open. Looks like maybe 6-8 weeks for our new windows to be built, delivered, and fitted.

When we do manage to reopen, we will only be able to have 5 or 6 members each day to begin with. Until such times when we can return to what it was like before, we will ensure that everybody will be able to come to the centre at least once a week.

Cannot wait to be getting that opening date and able to welcome everyone back through our fancy new door and look out our posh new windows (nae sticking your nose up against the windows mind!) And of course, remember your thermal drawers as we need to keep the windows open for fresh air - Ha! Ha!

We will have strict guidelines to follow but we will make sure you are safe and still manage to enjoy your day with a nice meal, guid company and we will still find ways for fun and laughter.

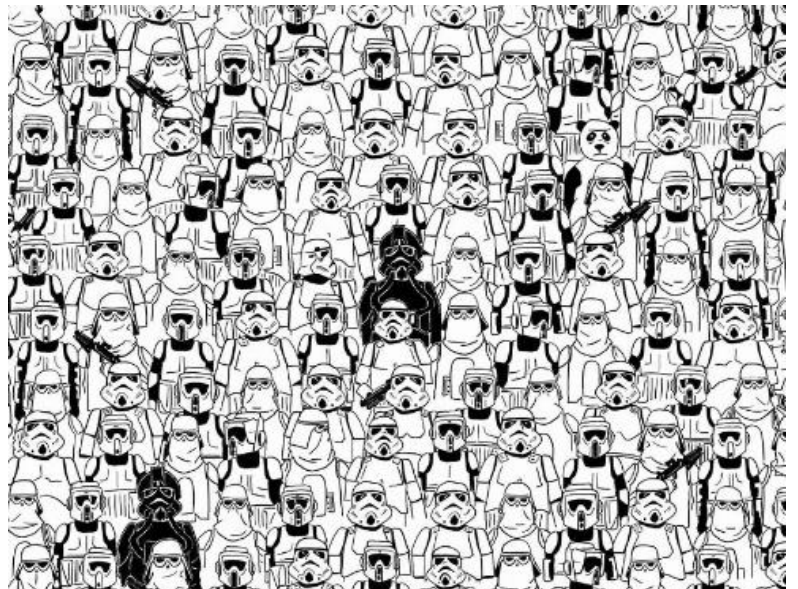
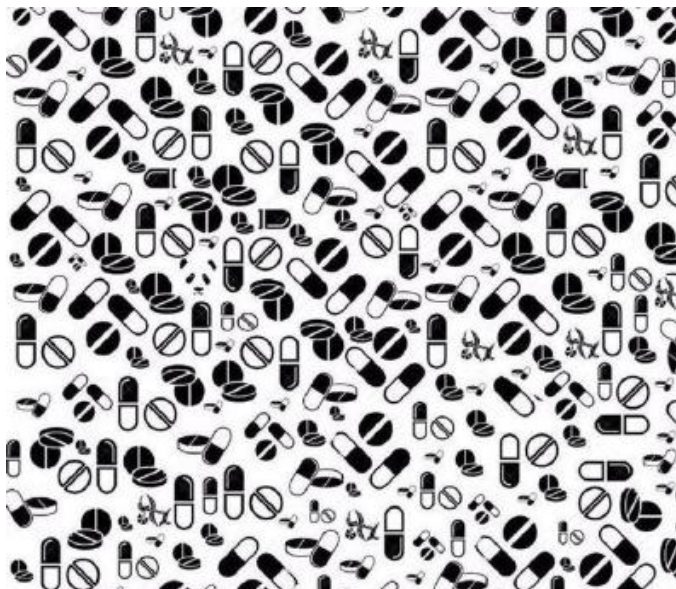
We know this has been a hard year and we have been fortunate that none of our members have been struck down with Covid which is great news. We know how lonely it can be and we have tried our best to keep in touch with everyone as you all mean the world to us. Our Harlawhill family will soon be back home in Harlawhill.

In the meantime, we will continue with our wee jaunts in the bus (small numbers and social distancing) and watch this space..... Fee's Bistro will open soon to keep our spirits up until the centre reopens.

Take care everyone, and remember, if you have any questions or queries, we are always at the end of the phone to support however we can.

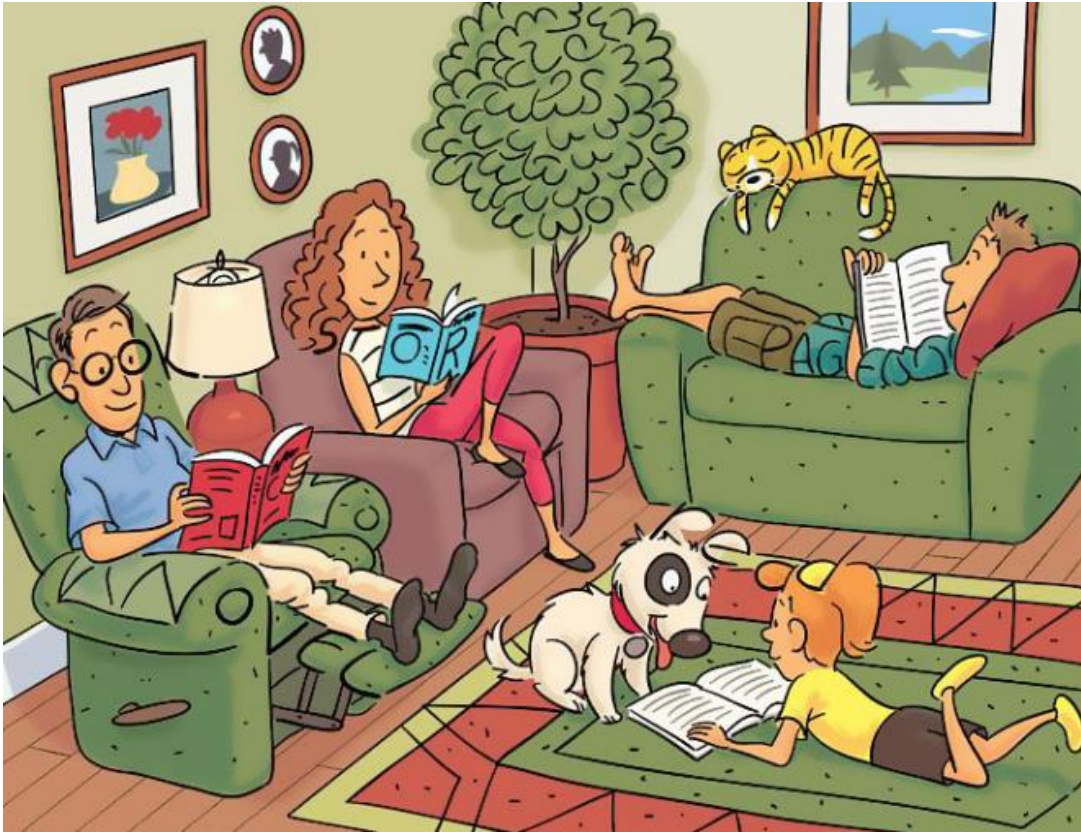
To close

For those who like puzzles: - There's a PANDA hiding in each of these pictures



Find these 6 words in each of these pictures

Book, Words, Story, Pages, Read, Novel



Straw, Mirror, Tiles, Couch, Cat, Cord

