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Linlithgow's news by Linlithgow's people

LINLITHGOW COMMUNITY MAGAZINE ISSUE 77 OCTOBER 2020

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ONE LINLITHGOW

SCOTLAND LOVES LOCAL

In Linlithgow, it's hard to miss the town's wholehearted involvement with the national Scotland Loves Local campaign! It's a nationwide drive to get the nation supporting its independent businesses... and what better example of local Scottish entrepreneurship than Linlithgow?

Evelyn Noble, One Linlithgow Chair and local business owner, said: *"it's great that the town is coming back to life after lockdown and many businesses have opened their doors. With fewer tourists visiting our town this year, it is even more important to support local businesses. Many are reporting that, unsurprisingly, footfall and revenue are less than they have been in previous years. With that in mind, One Linlithgow, in conjunction with the Scottish Towns Partnership, has launched the Scotland Loves Local / Linlithgow Loves Local campaign, to encourage our residents to support our local businesses."*

To that end, One Linlithgow secured Scottish Government funding to produce a host of promotional material to drive the message home: from lamppost wraps (which also advise social distancing to avoid further temporary business closures), to bunting (both indoor and outdoor), postcards, window clings and posters. We're also applying for yet more funding to bolster it all by producing bespoke content digitally, too, all under the Scotland Loves Local banner for a consistent message.

Evelyn continued: *"Our small businesses are the lifeblood of our town, whether it's a pub, cafe, garage mechanic or hairdresser. Now is the time to support them to get back on their feet; be there for them and think local. It's about supporting the very fabric of our society and community. Whether it's a book, a pint of milk, a coffee, a meal, a gift or a pot of paint, we're asking you to take care and think local first."*



ONE LINLITHGOW UPDATE

To chat to us about anything in these articles, please contact office@onelinlithgow.com. If your business is part of One Linlithgow and you're not yet on the mailing list, please email us to be added, and avoid missing out on grants and other activity that could benefit your business.

Apart from **Scotland Loves Local**, we've been extremely busy with lots of other things too:

PPE SUPPLY AND BUSINESS GRANTS:

We've supplied over £15,000 of PPE and business grants since May, having applied successfully for the funds from **Scottish Government**. Although that funding pot is now empty, we recognise the vital importance of ongoing Covid support, so we are continuing to supply PPE at no charge, to all businesses across Linlithgow. We are also continuing to offer grants (subject to final approval), mitigating the costs associated with keeping your business open safely.



TOWN CENTRE CCTV:

It's no secret that the town centre CCTV system has been a long time coming, but engineers are now calibrating cameras on a live, super-speed broadband connection. Although it will still be a while before all cameras are operational, coverage from West Port to The Cross is scheduled to be fully operational in 2020.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY:

It's always a fine line between mentioning Christmas so early that people roll their eyes... and leaving it too late to get businesses involved! For obvious reasons, there will be no major events in 2020, but we're delighted to report that the perennial favourite formerly known as "festive late shopping night" will be expanded across the entire day of Thursday 26th

November. Since we'll be unable to repeat last year's Mill Road event, we'll be in touch with town centre businesses directly to provide more details. If you're not on the mailing list, please just email us!

FESTIVE LIGHTING:

As ever, One Linlithgow will be subsidising Linlithgow's festive tree lights along the High Street, the Regent Centre icicle lights, and motifs along the High Street, as well as lighting the Burgh Halls for the festive season. This, of course, complements the Christmas tree at The Cross, by West Lothian Council. Credit in particular to the PubWatch group, which is reinvesting proceeds straight back to the community, this year in the form of 24 brand new motif lights to ensure every lamppost sparkles!

DIGITAL EVENTS:

Always trying to bolster budgets with external funding, we have applied – in partnership with West Lothian Council – for funding to host a digital Christmas market in the absence of the 2020 Advent Fayre. This would invite local businesses and producers to list items on the digital marketplace, with special offers for the day. Another aspect of the application is for equipment to produce promotional content for businesses, and capability to stream festive performances. This aspect depends of course on Covid regulations at the time, as well as the funding being approved, but we feel the application is strong and will have lasting benefit to business in Linlithgow.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Halo Beauty

Halo Beauty on Linlithgow High Street is the fulfilment of a long-held dream for beautician Hayley Millar - and it's living up to all her expectations.

Originally from Nairn, Hayley worked in the business for eight years in Aberdeen before she and her husband Paul decided on a

move to the Central Belt with their three-year-old son, Harry. *“Paul was working in Edinburgh – Health and Safety for the offshore wind industry – and commuting was becoming a bit too much. After we looked around, we decided Linlithgow was very much the place for us. For several years, I’ve had an ambition to open my own beauty business, and when I saw the buzz around Linlithgow High Street I started looking for premises.”*

Hayley heard that M74, the high-quality bespoke wooden furniture maker, was concentrating business at its studio at Beecraigs country park, she agreed a deal to take over.

“The place was beautiful, and the owners Marisa and Callum were very welcoming and encouraging. My new neighbours on the High Street have been the same.”

Hayley said that she had been “pleasantly surprised” that business was so steady in the few weeks since she opened.

“My clients are women of all ages. I think many have wanted the lift that beauty treatment gives after such a long period of not being able to have it done. I’m working on my own by appointment, so there are no issues with social distancing, and I’m adhering closely to all the guidelines for my industry. I’m doing the whole range of hand and foot treatments, and waxing. I’ll be carrying out facials and massage when the restrictions allow.”

Added Hayley, *“What is proving very popular are lash lifts, which create masses of length, volume and lift with your own lashes. In these days of face masks, women want to enhance the one part of their face that is visible!”*

As we do with all new businesses, we visited Hayley for an interview to promote Halo Beauty, and she was pleased to receive the **One Linlithgow welcome pack**. It contains lots of business essentials at no charge, and includes:

- >> Bottomless supply of hand sanitiser gel and spray
- >> Disposable masks >> Distancing posters
- >> Indoor/outdoor “please keep your distance” ground stickers
- >> “DNA” marking theft deterrent and “thieves beware” stickers

>> UV fake note detector lamp and “we scan bank notes” stickers

>> One Linlithgow Business Plan (and of course latest copy of the Black Bitch magazine).

>> Information about current One Linlithgow projects/grants, as well as local maps and guides

Whether you’re established or new to Linlithgow, your One Linlithgow member business should be fully stocked with all of these items and there’s no charge... please let us know if you need anything!

The Granary

Why change a winning formula? As an experienced businessman, David Stein wasn’t going to make the mistake made by so many of disregarding that philosophy.

When the **Granary** café next door to his successful Cafébar 1807 cocktail bar and café at Linlithgow Cross became available, it was a no-brainer for David, and he has now acquired what he describes as “my favourite café in Linlithgow - with due apologies to my staff at 1807!”

“Gillian and her staff created something wonderful, and were always fantastic neighbours. It was a perfect foil for the 1807, and between us we provided a cosmopolitan feel for both locals and visitors alike.”

David said that while he had hoped to help Gillian keep going until she gave birth to her second child, ******* Stop Press!! “Sebastian Andrew was born just before the magazine went to press”******* he completely understood her reasons for giving it up. He and his manager **Kieran Conner**, who would be running the Granary, were grateful for the chance to keep it going.

“Nothing is changing”, he pledged, “we will still have the same Glen Lyon coffee, the famous Buddha bowls, and of course the baked eggs and homemade cakes. Our enhanced takeaway offering is already doing well.”

David praised **Kieran, Melanie**, and “Portuguese kitchen goddess” **Lia** for all their hard work to get the Granary back up and running, and they all looked forward to welcoming Gillian’s old customers back.

Kieran said that he had been a customer of the Granary since it opened, and “loved its vibes and what it was about”.

Added Kieran, *“Its values were very similar to 1807 - we both believed in good wholesome food cooked well, outstanding drinks, and great customer service. It adds to Linlithgow’s beautiful High Street, and we are proud to be part of the community and create that city café right here.”*

Gillian said that she wanted to thank her customers for their support over the last three years, and her incredibly hard-working and loyal team. It had been with “great sadness” that she had decided to sell the Granary.

“I am delighted that David has bought the Granary to add to his portfolio of businesses. I know he and his team will take this already very successful business to the next level. I look forward to being a customer!” Since our interview, Gillian gave birth to her bouncing baby boy – congratulations to the whole family!

