

HADDINGTON FORUM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HADDINGTON CENTRAL TENANTS & RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION

Haddington Central Tenants & Residents Association (HCTRA)

Issue 2 / WINTER 2020

How to Contact HCTRA;

Twitter: @haddcentraltra

Facebook: @haddcentraltra

Email: haddingtoncentraltra@gmail.com

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You can write also:

HCTRA c/o ELTRAP, 47 Bridge Street,
Musselburgh, EH21 6AA.

Please also check our website;

www.eltrp.co.uk/haddington-central-tra.html



How to Contact East Lothian Council

Email: contactcentre@eastlothian.gov.uk

General Contact: 01620 827827

Adult Social Care: 01875 824309

Children Social Care: 01875 824309

Welcome to our newsletter. We are the official Tenants & Residents Association for Haddington Central and as such we are a Recognized Tenants Organization (RTO) with East Lothian Council, ELHA, Homes for Life as well as the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organizations (SCVO). We also work closely with the East Lothian Tenants & Residents Panel (ELTRP).

Our aim is to facilitate positive change within the town and to foster an inclusive community spirit. We hope to further engage the community with social outreach projects such as with this newsletter, so we hope you find it useful. As a Tenants and Residents Association, we also aim to raise awareness of your concerns within the community and with local government.

Haddington Central Tenants and Residents Association are a volunteer group of people who live and work in Haddington and who seek to represent the views of all tenants, businesses and home owners in the area to help make the neighbourhood a better place to live, work and visit. At previous public meetings we have highlighted persistent and pernicious anti-social behaviour; lobbied to get streetlights fixed as well as raising concerns about planned changes to parking and town centre development.

To find out more you can visit our website where our latest newsletter and business minutes are available. We also have a constitution which outlines that we are democratic, responsible and accountable and seek to represent the whole community.

To represent the community, we actively encourage people to get involved- it is your town so you should be able to have your say in what happens here.

Please check the website for further information and to find out how you too can help your community. Also if you would like to learn more about how you can participate or join us.

Normally we had public meetings at the town house where we could meet with Councillors, invite guest speakers and where the community could air their views and concerns. Unfortunately, with the current restrictions we haven't been able to do this for some time. So here is an update from Moira Scott, a committee member of our Association.

"We have experienced over the past few months extraordinary times.

HCTRA has had to operate like many others using ZOOM, e-mails and phone calls instead of face to face meetings. We have had to adapt like many others.

We have missed the inter-action from our public meetings, from hearing concerns and having face to face conversations with those with problems.

Learning to adapt and deal with issues now takes a different path.

With many working from home or being furloughed over the past few months, Haddington Central Area has become a completely different entity.

With the anti – social problems we experienced prior to lockdown in the town center area, from a personal perspective during the lockdown even with the younger element not going to school, things certainly appeared quieter.

However, whilst walking my 2 dogs at the Neilson Park a couple of weeks ago, I was disappointed to see Phase 3 brought out the party people as there was a circle of empty alcohol bottles. I counted 30 plus general rubbish, disappointing!

Hopefully after we get back to the next Phase and start to see a return to normality, we see an upturn in people returning to our beautiful town center and supporting our local businesses, we need to see more people who are moving into Haddington, use our pubs, restaurants, hotels, cafes and keep our High Street vibrant."

Help us tackle anti-social behaviour in Haddington town centre

By Catharine Archibald

Haddington is a great place to live but anti-social behaviour detracts from this, and for some people, makes their lives miserable. We can all do our bit in encouraging good behaviours within our circle of family and friends, but beyond that there are resources available. If it is not reported, it is not recognised as a problem by the police. Police resources are stretched so focus will be given to where the reported problems are, so if you are having persistent anti-social behaviour affecting you, report it, report it, report it.....and get a police incident number if it is the police you have called.

Anti-social behaviour includes:

- **Constant loud noise or disturbance**
- **Drunken disorder**
- **Intimidating or threatening behaviour**
- **Violence**
- **Vandalism and graffiti**

Note that there is a permanent 24-hour ban on drinking alcohol in all public places in Haddington (licensed premises excluded), including the parks and playing fields

Useful Numbers:

101 – Police – for all anti-social behaviour problems.

East Lothian Council **Anti-Social Behaviour hotline: 01875 824 307** (If no answer, leave a message)

You can also report online to both the police and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team – all calls/reports are in confidence.

Most dog owners in Haddington are responsible and lift their dog’s poo. However, there are a few irresponsible owners who leave the mess for others to step in. Problem areas reported to us are The Butts, Neilson Park Road and the River Walkway in particular.

Contact the **Council Dog Warden (01875 824 305)** or www.eastlothian.gov.uk/dogwatch and help them investigate and target warden patrols by providing the following information:

- Where and when fouling is happening
- the dog owner’s name and address if you know it
- what the dog looks like, including breed and colour
- your contact details

All details are treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party.



WHAT IS ZOOM

By Stuart Pe-Win

With the lockdown I found that there has been a lot of interest in using video conference software but also a lot of confusion. Although I used a lot of collaboration and video conferencing software at work, initially I found getting to grips with Zoom, perhaps the most popular at the moment, quite difficult. So here is a brief outline which you might find useful. I would add that this isn't an endorsement but what I am currently using to keep in touch with people.

What is Zoom?

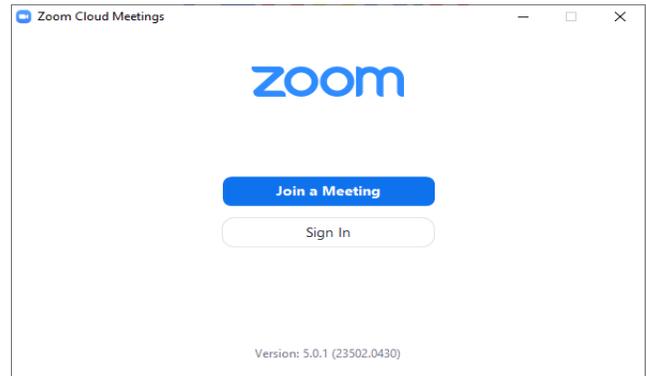
Please note that I currently use the free version of this software which currently allows me to have free one to one meetings or calls with people although it caps group chats to 40 mins.

There has been concerns about security as users can sometimes see your desktop and you should be careful with whom you share your invites. There are other packages out there such as Skype which I have used for family in the past.

How to get Zoom?

You can sign up to Zoom and it is free. I always get a bit hesitant about websites that like you to register a payment type with them and thankfully Zoom only asks for a valid email address and that you accept their privacy policy and their terms and conditions. It's always a good idea to read this before agreeing.

After you have registered with them you can download the app or just sign in via their website and then you are good to go!



How to do a “Zoom” meeting

There is a lot of “how to” videos and ZOOM has its own wee tutorial so have a look at that.

Once you have the app or have signed in via their website you are then able to HOST your own meeting. You click the “host a video meeting” and share the link with those you want to attend the meeting. A good rule of thumb is not to share this link publicly but only with those you want to attend and feel happy talking with.

If you receive a link to a meeting, with whom you know and trust, you can click the link and join them. To attend you will similarly need to have an account.

I am still getting used to this with friends and colleagues and thus far have not encountered any problems. Maybe in some future time we may be able to host “town hall / church hall” meetings and community events? In the meantime, I think this is a great way of keeping in touch with friends and colleagues.

Hopefully in our next newsletter, we can have an outline of how to get started on SKYPE but if you have your own preferred software package then please tell us.

WITH THE HIGH STREET OPENING UP WE HOPE TO HIGHLIGHT LOCAL SHOPS HERE. WE ASKED SOME OF THE SHOPS TO GIVE US THEIR DETAILS AND TO TELL US MORE ABOUT THEMSELVES. HERE IS JUST A COUPLE.

IF YOU HAVE A BUSINESS OR A FAVORATE SHOP, PLEASE TELL US ABOUT IT.

Dinos, located at 13 loved takeaway and has so please check them so. They have asked social distance asked that if anyone has then they are happy to



High Street, is a much now opened for business out if you still haven't done patrons to conform to the guidelines. They have any questions about this answer them.

Email: Info@dinoshaddington.co.uk Tel: 01620824089 Web: www.dinoshaddington.co.uk

THE READING ROOM

On 82 High Street

By Mike O'Brien (proprietor)



Some shops are just too nice to leave languishing empty and without purpose. So when I spotted that an old apothecary once known as The Laboratory in Haddington (latterly Haddington Herbals) was looking for an owner I knew we had to breathe new life into it.

The shop opened in March - for a fortnight - but had to promptly close temporarily when the Covid-19 lockdown came along. Our unplanned closure has given us time to expand our sections so that the shop was already for phase two.

The shop is selling pre-loved and antiquarian books, fine quality stationery and cards, pens, gifts, antiques, paintings and, for a sugary twist, some fine Scottish sweeties and chocolates in our "Readers' Choice" range.

On the literary front, pop in to discover:



- A great range of Penguin classics, with authors ranging from Kingsley Amis to John Wyndham.
- A lovely range of children's classics such as Enid Blyton to the Beano.
- Scottish and military history sections, classic literature, biography, poetry, drama, gardening, cooking and country pursuits.



- A lovely range of gift books and an expanded section containing good condition Folio Society volumes.
- A well priced section of easy-read fiction.

In addition to a wide selection of pre-loved books, catering for all interests and ages, our business is pleased to be stocking:

- Fine Scottish Sweeties from Gordon and Durward of Crieff.
- Hand made chocolate from James of Arran.
- Stationery and greetings cards from Bohemia Hand Made Paper in Prague.
- A beautiful range of Oriental inspired interior pieces classed as The Mandarin Collection.
- Pens by Waterman and Parker and our very own special range of customized luxury letterhead.
- Antique silver, paintings and curios to suit all tastes and pockets.
- Gifts for special and everyday occasions.

In the window you'll also discover Old Ted, fast becoming a legendary figure on Haddington High Street.

Old Ted will keep a watchful eye on the comings and goings in the shop and the High Street.

Stay tuned for more on evening events, talks and book readings – when social distancing allows.

We're going to be so much more than just a small bookshop!

Mark and the team look forward to meeting new customers who'll no doubt become firm friends of The Reading Room.

The Reading Room is at 92 High Street Haddington (next to Falko's) and is open Wednesday to Sunday. Find out more at www.facebook.com/readingroomhaddington or contact Mark at readingroomhaddington@outlook.com

Disclaimer

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Contributions by other authors, commentators and photographers are eagerly sought so please contact me with your ideas or contributions. So please get in touch via HCTRAnewsletter@gmail.com

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