

# Peeptoon Post October 2023

## Welcome

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Hello to you Peeps! Welcome to the October edition of your newsletter as we enter the realms of whatever is meant to be for us.

The weather for this time of the year has been favourable, overall, but is turning more autumnal now. We hope this finds you well and keeping warm.

Want to see what's been happening over the past month? Let's go then!

## ECA Business

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ECA has been quiet after the frenzy of making sure things were right for the fair. We can now put that on the back burner till the turn of the year when it will be all go with the preparations for the next one.



**The Litter pickers** carry on doing great work every month when they go out and about clearing up rubbish from our streets. We meet on the **first Saturday of every month** (weather permitting) at **10 o'clock** and we are

usually only out for about an hour. If you fancy coming out to help, you would be made most welcome.

## Our Wee Shop

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*Pamela reports as follows:*

As we head to colder weather, we have a few more services to offer.

**Monday** – Refreshments in the summerhouse between **11<sup>00</sup> and 12<sup>00</sup>**.

**Tuesday** – **Bite and a Blether** with a game of bingo added on **11<sup>45</sup> - 13<sup>45</sup>**. **This group is currently full.**

**Wednesday** – Refreshments from **10<sup>00</sup> – 12<sup>00</sup>**.  
Jigsaw and book swap.

Free Fareshare food from Tesco is available outside the shop (weather permitting). Help yourself to a maximum of 5 items and leave some for others.

Every other Wednesday our **walking group** leaves the shop at **09.30** and you are very welcome to join them on their travels.

**Thursday** – Refreshments **1000 – 1200**.

**Friday** – **Meet and Eat** - this is a new group for **men only** and offering a light lunch to all who come along. It would be great if you would come and try it out. We promise not to tell the ladies if you gossip more than they do!

A pantry of free food is always in the shop for those in need. Our pet food bank comes in the first week of the month – also for those in need.

If you need anything from the local foodbank, please speak to Pamela in confidence or message the Roots and Fruits Facebook page. Should you need anything else, Pamela is there for you, so please get in touch.

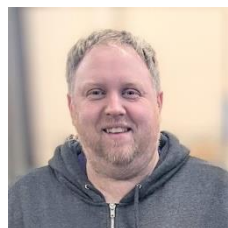
Our summerhouse is due to be insulated and a new heater fitted for winter this month. We are also hoping to finish the garden this month so watch this space.

As always, we appreciate all the support we get from various avenues and never take this for granted. Thank you!

### **Our Garage**



Well, the lads at our garage are as busy as usual with everything that a working garage takes on. ECA would like to give them a very big 'Thank You' for their support with raffle prizes over the past while. I feel as if we've been at their door every two minutes with our hands out.



Martin is still there but not for much longer he tells me. I feel as if I've heard this before, but brother Kevin does assure me that his move from Peepton is imminent. Martin is looking forward to the move but will be sorry to leave the friendly Peeps behind. Perhaps he could arrange a wee location swap occasionally to keep up to scratch with what's happening at this end of the county. We wish him well, anyway, it was lovely to meet you.

Young Charlie is busy with trying to learn how to drive. I'm sure Kevin said that he has a theory test coming up soon so let's hope that all goes well with that, and he can move onto the practical. Then the fun can begin. I just don't



know which car I'll get him to take me out in first – I'll see if they have any nice red ones in as soon as Charlie gets that far!



Ian and Kevin are keeping well and wish us all the very best till the next newsletter.

### **Elphinstone Miners' Welfare and Social Club**



So, two Americans walk into a club. Not just any club, but Elphinstone Miners' Welfare and Social Club. Amy and Matt were from Los Angeles and had flown up from London to Edinburgh earlier in the day. They were booked into Fa'sdie Castle for the night and came down to the village for a drink and something to eat. They got more than they bargained for!

I can't remember what Amy did but Matt is a pilot. He treated everyone in the lounge to a drink and thoroughly enjoyed playing pool with the guys who were in on the night.

The two of them got a wee tour of the club and Matt ended up out on the bowling green, in semi-darkness, having a lesson on how to play lawn bowls. I can't remember how well Matt did but he came in gushing to Amy about how great the 'pitch' was!!! The bowlers put him right straight away of course by letting them know they definitely did NOT play on a pitch.

Takeaway food advice was dished out to the pair of them as our kitchen was devoid of anything that could be cooked for them - pizza recommendations, the best Chinese in town, chippies and you can imagine the debate that ensued!

Amy was all for walking back up the road to their place for the night but Matt was too scared so they were fixed up with a taxi for their romantic night in with a carry out of their choice.

The clubbers that evening did everyone proud and the Americans had a fabulous time. When asked how they were coping with the Scottish accent, they replied that they had watched a fair few episodes of Outlander to help them out!

The club, at the moment, is still doing alright. We would like to thank our lovely regulars who are the mainstay of the place and without them we would be totally in a pickle. Thank you guys – you know who you are.

The club has also hosted a few functions like engagement and birthday parties and they make things very easy for us. There is no setting up for us to do, no outlay apart from getting in stock that we hope to sell off again and a tidy up in the morning after the event. So, if you have a celebration coming up, please consider having it in the club.



We did host our own special event last month, though, and that was a huge success.

Can you believe that the club has managed to keep going for all that time? It started off as the Institute, which was a common thing in the mining communities throughout Scotland. Miners from all over Scotland opened Institutes for their, and their families', recreation. The village Institute opened in 1923. Over the years it has been extended and modernised and a thriving bowling adjoins the club. The Institute created a space where people of all ages could go to play darts, dominoes, billiards and snooker.

Our celebration was a fantastic night with lots of locals turning up to make the night special. Former Peeps and friends of the village were

sad that they couldn't make it but wished us all the best.

The night took us back to the club's glory days where people used to come in early to get a seat, buy their bingo books and buckle down to enjoy the night.



Faces from the past included Adam, Jimmy and Vina McGimpsey who came especially for the do and there was not a dry eye in the room when they appeared. Adam

came in accompanied by two grandsons and daughter, Alison, accompanied Jimmy and



Vina. They were all looking amazingly fit and well, despite their age, and were blissfully happy to be a part of the celebrations. There are a few photos on the last page for you

to enjoy.



The Last Resort saw to the entertaining of the troops and did an amazing job. It was great to see the dance floor being put through its paces. This was

especially the case when a Gay Gordons was announced.



Adam, Jimmy, Peter Fairgreive and Duncan Fleming were all presented with a bottle of malt whisky and Vina, Greta Clelland and



Betty Libberton were given an amazing bunch of flowers each.

These were made up and donated to us by Janie, who gives us flowers all over the summer to hand out

to people who might just need a wee boost in their day.



Thank you so much, Janie, they were loved by all our ladies.

### **Kids' Korner**

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**Q.** Why didn't anyone want to go guising with Dracula?

**A.** Because he is a pain in the neck.

**Q.** How did the zombie become great at guising?

**A.** Dead-ication.

### **A Lighter Moment**

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A woman went to the doctor's and was seen by one of the new, young doctors.

After about four minutes in the examination room, she started screaming and ran down the hall.

An older doctor stopped her, asked what her problem was, and she told him her story. After listening, he told her to sit down and relax in another room.

The older doctor marched down the hallway back to where the first doctor was and demanded, "What's the matter with you? Mrs Terry is 63 years old, she has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?"

The new doctor continued to write on his clipboard and, without looking up, said, "Yes, yes. But does she still have the hiccups?"

### **Belated Birthday Greetings**

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Many Happy Returns for the month of September go to **Craig Scott, Lana Taylor, Karen Riley, Karen Elliot, Helen Spencer, Audrey McLaren, TC** (anonymity preferred), **Megan Houchin** and **Lorraine Bowd**.

We hope your special day was memorable and that the year ahead will be good for you all.

**Craig Scott** was mentioned in last month's newsletter as mum, Linda, gave prior notice of his upcoming birthday. She thought he might be celebrating by going out for a meal with Karen and Ryan but swanned off to Blackpool instead – nice one, Craig!

We have notice of a birthday this month for **Jane Clark** whose birthday is on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Jane was always famous for hosting Halloween parties for her birthdays. I don't know if she will be doing that this year or going to the club to share her birthday with our Halloween disco.

Whatever, she's doing, we wish Jane all the very best for the day and for the future!

### **Tranent Parish Church**

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Remember that the church runs an open house **every Tuesday** morning **between 10 and 12 o'clock** in the church hall on Church Street.

So, if you're in Tranent with time to spare, feel free to drop in and be in a warm, dry place and enjoy a cup o' tea and a biscuit before heading back home. You would be made very welcome indeed.

### **Bonus Ball Winners**

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Bonus ball winners for September were **June Windsor, Aylar** and **Sienna McKinlay, Greta Clelland** and **Alex Young**. Well done everybody and thank you for playing and helping to grow our funds.

### **In Memoriam**

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*Still loved, still missed, always in our hearts, never forgotten.*

Well, it's hard to believe that it will be a year on the 28<sup>th</sup> October already since **Billy Scott** died suddenly in his home, isn't it? Death is never welcome, no matter how it comes upon us, but it is the only sure thing we have in life that come it will.

The devastation a death leaves in its wake is indescribably brutal and everyone left behind must deal with it in their own way and in their own time.

Memories of good times, of course, are a source of strength and comfort for a while but

readjusting to new dynamics in everything you do on a daily basis is huge and overwhelming.

Our thoughts go to Linda and her family as they remember Billy on the anniversary of his death. They are sons, **Billy** and **Craig**, and daughter, **Lynne**. Billy and Linda were also blessed with grandchildren **Steven, Stephanie, Sean, Chloe, Jenna, Aaron, Sophie, Louise** and **Ryan**. Also great-grandchildren **Isla, Evie** and **Maeva** – a great legacy to leave behind and for them all to go forward with Billy in mind.

*Feel no guilt in laughter,  
he'd know how much you care.  
Feel no sorrow in a smile  
that he is not here to share.  
You cannot grieve forever;  
he would not want you to.  
He'd hope that you could carry on  
the way you always do.  
So, talk about the good times  
and the way you showed you cared,  
The days you spent together,  
all the happiness you shared.  
Let memories surround you,  
a word someone may say  
Will suddenly recapture a time, an hour, a day,  
That brings him back as clearly  
as though he were still here,  
And fills you with the feeling  
that he is always near.  
For if you keep those moments,  
you will never be apart  
And he will live forever  
locked safely within your heart.*



### **Special Shout Out**

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To **Joan Smith** from North Elphinstone Cottages. Joan very kindly keeps our bowling green garden in excellent condition. She sees to the good health of the shrubs, cutting things back when needed, taking plants out, putting plants in, wrestling with weeds (and there's plenty of them) and does an all-round amazing job. I believe she has a thankless task as not many of us really pay attention to the bowling side of the

club. However, Joan herself knows that she's doing something worthwhile, and people will appreciate her hard work in the summertime when we are sitting outside sipping on something nice and watching the bowlers annihilate their opponents!

Thank you, Joan, – you are appreciated!

A thank you too to **Kenny Macdonald** who compliments Joan's work at the green by keeping the front lawns short and tidy. This is a huge area to cut and, again, not many people notice unless it turns into a jungle. It's a shame Chickie Watt's donkey isn't still around to do the business for us.

Thank you, Kenny, – you are appreciated!

A shout out to **Angus Macdonald** and **John Gourley** who both had stints in the hospital recently. Poor Angus was gutted that he had to be in while we were celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the club without him. Not sure if he'll be around for the next one but might be worthwhile hanging onto his ticket just in case. Very best wishes to you both and we hope that good health will be with you for a good while.

### **Knitted Poppy Appeal**

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Knitted or crocheted poppies are being put together by ECA Secretary, **Jo Barron**, for our upcoming **Remembrance Day** parade on the **12<sup>th</sup> November** at **2 o'clock**.

If you have been busy crafting poppies throughout the year, they can be handed into Jo directly. Or pick a name from the back page and give them a call to come and collect them. Jo's display is getting bigger and better every year and makes a huge emotional difference to the backdrop for the service. Thank you, Jo.

### **Can You Believe It?**

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So, two Americans walk into a shop – not just any shop but our village shop. This was a week after two Americans walked into our club!

Anyway, a conversation was started, and they were invited into the summerhouse for a cuppa and a biscuit or two. This is where I met them after getting a phone call asking me to go up and speak to them.



They were a father and son duo, and their names were **Kenneth** and **Ian Elphinstone** – I know, can you believe it? They had flown into Edinburgh from London days before and came out to the village to see what it was like since they shared the same name.

They were lovely guys who came from Detroit, Michigan, and they were travelling for a few weeks. They were heading off to Berlin in Germany to see a grandmother who lives there. Ian studied the language in school and university and had previously spent a couple of years there, so they had no fear of not being understood. They reckoned German was probably easier to understand than the Scottish language with all the different accents and dialects. This pair hadn't watched Outlander!

Anyway, they had heard about Elphinstone Tower and wondered if it was close by. They were told that it was and that they could be taken there for a look if Sally in the big house at the Tower Farm was agreeable.

So, I took them down the road to collect the car, bundled them in and drove to the farm. There were people working around the tower when we got there, and I asked if it was be okay to show the guys the site. Not only did we get a 'Yes, of course', we were given a tour of the

whole of the grounds by Gavin who now owns the big house. Sally had mentioned months before that she was leaving for pastures new, but I hadn't realised that she had gone!

The tower had been cleared of all the ivy, trees and weeds that were hiding its beauty and was looking amazing. Gavin told us about all the plans he had for the big house and the grounds and that he would love to be more involved with the community.

The plan is to turn the big house into a high-end place to stay – Fa'side Castle look out for the competition. With the views looking down to the Borders and over the water to Fife on the other side, the site is perfect. I know Elphinstone is remote, but this just makes it even more appealing for a quiet break in a place of such natural beauty.

We were taken into the house and shown around there as well. We met his lovely wife, Jackie, and a son who was at home. Ian was busy taking pictures of everything. Unfortunately, I had left my phone at home so couldn't take any. I must go up again and get pictures of the lovely, welcoming people we met. Thank you, Gavin and Jackie x



From the Tower Farm, we went to Mary's Mount which Kenneth and Ian both found fascinating. Again, Ian was clicking away with his camera.

Mary Queen of Scots, surrendered at this spot when faced with an army that had been assembled by a confederation of her lords. She was taken away and imprisoned before her execution.



Next, we went to Carberry Tower and asked if we could be nosey down there. We got all clear and upstairs found 'The

Elphinstone Room' – a music room and library. Can you believe it? Click, click, click went Ian's camera with ooh's and aah's from Ken on seeing extremely old books about Scotland.

Keneth and Ian both loved the gardens outside and were thrilled to hear about Elphinstone's marriage into royalty – well, kind of. The late Queen Mother's sister married Lord Elphinstone of the time. The Queen Mother was a regular visitor to Carberry Tower, as was a very young Princess Elizabeth.

We left Carberry and drove through Inveresk Village which, of course, was built on the back of the slave trade so, we had a good discussion about that. The Elphinstone's have a tomb in the grounds of St Michael's Church in Inveresk where the above Lord Elphinstone and the one before him are both buried.

We then drove into Musselburgh, where Kenneth and Ian were going to catch a bus back into Edinburgh. Not a bad day's sightseeing though, I'm sure you'll agree.

### **Monthly Muse**

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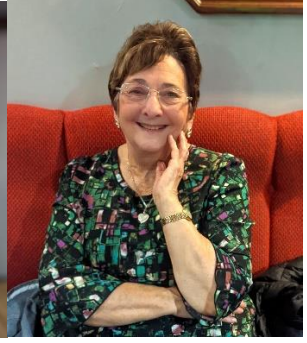
You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you. — **John Bunyan**

*If you'd like to give someone a mention of any kind, give us a call or send us an email. Contact information below and we would love to hear from you - it's good to share!*

### **Contact Numbers**

Amanda Clelland	07593 845815
Megan Houchin	07971 912886
Stuart Mackenzie	07745 310705
Margo Macdonald	01875 612914 or 07846 231192

[elphinstonecommunity@outlook.com](mailto:elphinstonecommunity@outlook.com)





Elphinstone Community Association  
invite you to their family

# Halloween Party

Saturday 28th October

at 7pm

Elphinstone Miners' Welfare  
and Social Club