



Linlithgow FLORAL TRAILS

Volunteers taking pride in our town



Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow

About the Floral Trails ...

These Floral Trails are an initiative by Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow which aims to publicise its work and to complement the other Linlithgow trails and walks, namely the Linlithgow Heritage Trail, the Linlithgow Ale Trail, the Perambulation of Linlithgow's Marches and the Battlefield Trail.

The Floral Trails consist of three routes with numbered or lettered points of interest. One is a walking route round the town centre (with the numbers) and the other two are routes suitable for driving or walking which pass, or lead to, the main floral features elsewhere in the town.

The circular 'Central Area Floral Trail' (pages 3 to 8) starts at the Union Canal Basin and extends to around 2 miles/3 km; the points of interest are numbered according to the [route map on page 7 \(the right-hand centre page\)](#).

The 'Outer Linlithgow Floral Trails' (pages 8 to 10) provide circular routes round both Springfield at the east end of the town (about 2 miles/3 km) and the Braehead to Linlithgow Bridge areas to the south and west (almost 3 miles/5 km). Their routes are shown on smaller maps on pages 8 and 9.

Unlike the Ale Trail, there is not a free T-shirt on offer for those who complete the Central Area walk, but it is hoped that, on any of the three routes, participants get equal pleasure from admiring the results of the hard work of Burgh Beautiful's volunteers and partners, facilitated by the extremely welcome financial support freely given by the town's residents, groups, organisations and businesses.

All items marked with an asterisk () are entirely the responsibility of the volunteers of Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow or their community gardening partners.*

Visit us All Year Round ...

This booklet gives a guide to floral displays in the summer of 2017. However, we take our gardening and environmental work seriously throughout the year –nearly all our hanging baskets, planters and flower beds provide a show of colour throughout the winter and especially in the spring when, in addition, swathes of spring bulbs enhance grass areas throughout the town, most notably along Blackness Road.

Go round the Floral Trails at any time of year and you are guaranteed not to be disappointed! Flowers such as polyanthus, pansies, bellis and wallflower are prominent over the winter, joined by hosts of daffodils, crocuses and tulips in the spring. If the weather is cold, we have plenty of cafes and pubs to warm you up on a chilly day, providing drinks, snacks and hearty meals!

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CENTRAL AREA FLORAL TRAIL

1. Canal Basin – Start your tour at the Linlithgow Canal Basin where you can view the variety of planting by the Linlithgow Union Canal Society – including barrels, beds and hanging baskets.



Colourful bedding at the Canal Basin.

2. Learmonth Gardens* – On the opposite side of the street to the north is Learmonth Gardens which contains eight flowerbeds, the most prominent of which mirror the type of planting in the canal-side bed while the others contain a mix of herbaceous and annual planting in coordinated colours and forms, including bee-friendly species. The entrance is flanked by tulip trees and recent additions include flowering cherries and an information board relating to the Ross Doocot.



Mixed planting and the Ross Doocot in Learmonth Gardens.

4. Linlithgow Railway Station* – Proceed eastwards, then down the hill to the station which features several floral barrels and railing containers, mostly with high-impact annual planting. In the waiting room in the eastbound platform are three banners created by the Linlithgow Embroiderers Guild, an extensive display of floral tiles by local schoolchildren and a mural depicting Linlithgow's Riding of the Marches.



Some of the floral displays at the Star & Garter Hotel.

5. Star & Garter Hotel – Continue down the hill to the High Street, turn right and see several barrels* and two planters further east*, providing a setting for the hotel which itself boasts notable floral displays.

6. Hanging Baskets* – Also worth noting are the 120 hanging baskets which adorn poles and lampposts throughout the town centre, as shown on the front cover. For summer, these contain a mix of trailing petunias and trailing begonias with nepeta, white bacopa and big central begonias, planted in peat-free compost.

7. High Port – A little beyond the hotel on the right, on the banking, is an attractive mixed bed, maintained by Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council.

8. Regent Centre* – Cross the road at the traffic island. Continuing ahead to the corner with Blackness Road, note the beds of shrubs and herbaceous plants in front of the office building on the right, one of Burgh Beautiful's first displays. The tree is a Himalayan Birch.

9. Provost Road Beds* – Along Blackness Road, on either side of the junction with Provost Road, are two contrasting beds – one with mainly bedding to provide impact for those entering the town and the other a bed of mixed heathers.

10. Low Port Beds* – Retrace your steps to the pelican crossing and cross to see the Low Port flower beds. Those in front of the entrance to Low Port Primary School provide an attractive mix of permanent and annual planting in a newly paved setting. The bed to the left, at the entrance to the Low Port Centre contains an unusual mix of annuals with contrasts in flower types and foliage colours. All these beds are sponsored by the Rotary Club of Linlithgow & Bo'ness. Completing the scene are two birch trees, three tubs containing seasonal planting and permanent borders.



Flower beds in front of Low Port Primary School (left) and the Low Port Centre (right).

11. High Street and Cross Planters* –

Continuing westwards along the High Street to The Cross and beyond, note the large number of floral planters, generally containing a central conifer and a profusion of trailing and bushy annuals.

12. Transition Linlithgow Display – Some distance beyond The Cross, you will pass a rectangular bed containing a display with the strong educational theme of peatland conservation. Notice also floral planters and hanging baskets looking northwards to the loch, and planters maintained by St Peter’s Episcopal Church further along, opposite.



Above: Planters and hanging baskets at Linlithgow’s focal point - The Cross.

Left: The ‘Healthy Eating Healthy Planet’ display by Transition Linlithgow at the Vennel, 2016..

Below: The Serpentine Bed in 2016. The graduation in colour represented water purification in the River Avon.



13. Serpentine Bed* – Just before the High Street narrows, turn right to view the ‘serpentine bed’ kindly sponsored for 2017 by Keddie Consulting Ltd. Replacing standard sized and shaped flowerbeds, this spectacular sinuous bed which continues across a path and then jumps a stone retaining wall, is now a popular and distinctive feature of the town. This year, the selected begonias are orange, dark-leaved, combining a strong colour of flower and foliage in contrast to the grass.





Eileen Murray's Community Garden at Water Yett.

14. Water Yett Community Garden* – Turn left along the lochside and shortly you will see on the left the stunning floral displays provided by Eileen Murray and fellow residents of the Water Yett flats. Take time to examine in detail the variety of planting, providing both colour and wildlife habitats and all the examples of public art.



Audrey Simpson's Community Garden at the St Ninian's Road flats.

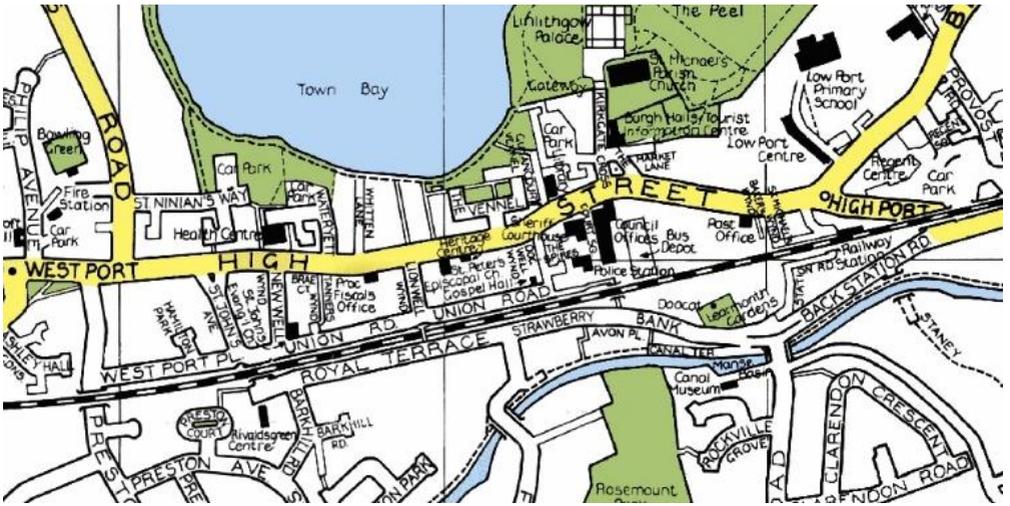
others in the area was formed out of communal grassland once maintained by West Lothian Council. Continue beyond, down the stairs.

15. St Ninian's Way Community Garden* –

Continue westwards beyond the car park and the children's playground and you will find a small garden on the right, maintained by a public-spirited local resident, again an attractive mix of permanent and annual planting.

16. St Ninian's Road Community Garden* –

Turn left into the next lane and feast your eyes on Audrey Simpson's beautiful garden which, like the



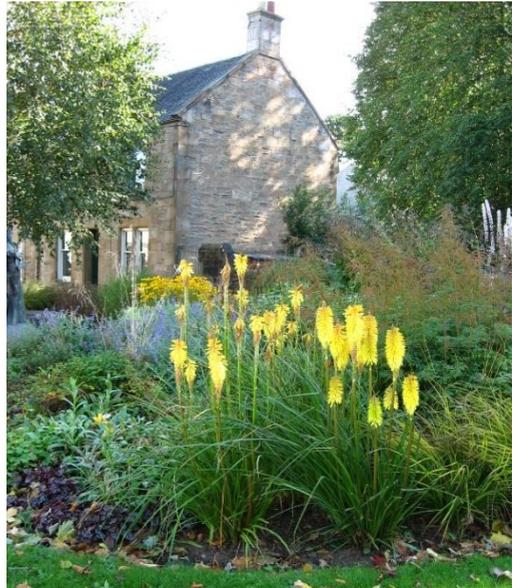
Route of the Central Area Floral Trail.

17. West Port Rotary Bed – Across the road is a circular bed maintained by the Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange – mainly shrubs and a tree in the centre, but adorned with annuals in Rotary colours around the edges.

18. Brownies' Garden – Continue westwards, then turn right into Philip Avenue where, on the left through a gate can be seen a small garden maintained by local Brownies – an unexpected oasis!

19. 'Katie Wearie' Displays – On the opposite side of West Port, across the pedestrian crossing, can be seen a mixed herbaceous bed planted by Binny Plants of Ecclesmachan (Billy Carruthers) and maintained with the help of Burgh Beautiful volunteers. This provides a setting for the Katie Wearie sundial sculpture by Tim Chalk. Beyond the large willow tree on the left (known as Katie Wearie's Tree) is another mixed bed maintained by Burgh Beautiful*.

20. West Port Planters* – Continuing eastwards back into the High Street, the 'listed' inter-war council housing on the right has Burgh Beautiful-maintained planters with central holly trees in front.



Binny Plants' display of perennial plants.

21. St John's Avenue Triangle – The large triangular bed further along, once a simple display of seasonal annuals, has been transformed by New Hopetoun Gardens (Dougal Philip's garden centre) into a permanent display of wildlife-friendly shrubs and perennials.

22. Stone Wall Planter* – Further along on the opposite side of the street is an attractive stone wall planter containing vivid begonias dotted with cordylines.

23. Herb Displays* – Just beyond, and immediately in front of the Health Centre, are two beds containing an impressive selection of medicinal plants. There is a key to the beds' content just within the doors of the Health Centre.

This marks the end of the Central Area Floral Trail. If you want to walk back to the starting point, continue along the High Street for a short distance (noting the floral planters on the way), turn right up the steep Lion Well Wynd, continue round the stone walls at the top over the railway, then turn left along Royal Terrace/Strawberry Bank.

OUTER LINLITHGOW FLORAL TRAILS

Springfield Circle

A. Kinloch View Displays* - Start your floral tour of the eastern part of Linlithgow by leaving the town centre via the A803 Blackness Road. Just before the mini-roundabout at Kinloch View are two significant Burgh Beautiful floral displays on the right, firstly the distinctive display of permanent planting containing well-grown spiky shrubs and grasses, designed for impact. The bed beyond that, backed by a beech hedge and a stone wall, contains a mix of permanent and annual planting, again to create impact at this 'town entrance' location.



High-impact permanent planting, Kinloch View.

B. Springfield Road Entrance Beds* - Turn right at the mini-roundabout into Springfield Road. At the brow of the hill, a pair of brightly-coloured floral displays on each side of the road welcomes you to the Springfield suburb of Linlithgow.

C. Dovecot Park Community Garden* – Some distance along Springfield Road, turn left into Dovecot Park at the end of which you will find a raised area of ‘landscaping’ which has very recently been adopted by local residents and planted with a mix of permanent and seasonal planting with the assistance of Burgh Beautiful.

D. ‘Spar Bed’* – Not much further along Springfield Road, just beyond the roundabout is a sizeable mixed floral display in a large triangular flowerbed which gives a tremendous display of colour throughout the year.



The ‘Spar’ Bed at Springfield.

E. Rotary Display and Tree Planting – On the left, at the junction of Springfield Road, is a Rotary-themed display of permanent planting (by the Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange) with, at the back, a small grove of young trees nurtured and planted by Burgh Beautiful volunteers. *Before turning left*, note in the distance on your right one of the groups of new planters provided at the town entrance in 2017 to replace ageing barrels. Where space permits, these can be found at six town entrance points to welcome visitors.

F. Oracle Grounds – On the right, going back along Blackness Road towards the town centre, can be seen the well landscaped and maintained private grounds of the major electronics factory operated by Oracle.

South & South-West Tour

G. Preston Road Town Entrance Planters* – Start at the Preston Road entrance to the town, marked by the town entrance planters under the ‘Welcome to Linlithgow’ sign, planted with colourful annuals all year round.

H. Hydrangea Bed* – Proceeding back down the hill into the town, note the bed of colourful hydrangeas within the area of grass on the left, just before/ opposite the junction with Priory Road. These provide a low-maintenance but effective replacement for the annuals which were once planted there.



I. Braehead Permanent Planting Display* – Turn left into Braehead Road and continue to where the thoroughfare turns right into Moray Drive. At the corner on the right is a large flower bed which is maintained by Burgh Beautiful with mixed herbaceous and other permanent planting.

J. Maltings Barrels* – As you turn left into Mains Road, note the line of six barrels on the left, always containing colourful seasonal planting. The location of the barrels near a former brewery/distillery is particularly appropriate.

K. Lennox Cairn* – On the left, just before the next roundabout, is an impressive display of permanent and seasonal planting which gives an attractive setting for the Lennox Cairn, a memorial related to the Battle of Linlithgow Bridge.



Wild flowers at the ramp up to the Union Canal.

L. Display of Wild Flowers* – Turn left at the roundabout, then first right into McGinley Way and proceed to the far end of the Leisure Centre car park. On the banking, beside the cycle ramp leading up to the Union Canal, is an impressive display of wild flowers maintained by Burgh Beautiful.

M. Mill Road Displays* – Go back to the roundabout and proceed straight across, noting more town entrance barrels on your left. At

the traffic lights (*where you turn right*) are various flower beds on three of the four corners containing mainly shrubs but also some annuals which provide summer colour at this important entry point to the town (from Falkirk).

N. Linlithgow Bridge Barrels* – Continuing eastwards back towards the town centre, you will notice, on the left, two groups of barrels with seasonal planting of colourful annuals, one at the bus stop in Main Street (Linlithgow Bridge) and the other at the traffic lights beyond the petrol filling station.

O. Doomsdale Nature Walk* – If you turn left at these traffic lights and continue to the far end of East Mill Road, you will come to an area of woodland on the right which Transition Linlithgow and Burgh Beautiful keep tidy and make wildlife-friendly. This is an area of naturalised woodland through which an informal path has been created. Wear appropriate footwear, take care and keep to the path in all circumstances.

P. Highfield Avenue Raised Bed* – Continuing along the main road towards the town centre, there is a raised bed at the corner of Highfield Avenue, planted with perennials with the occasional annual to give added colour. Wildflowers flourish in the grassy bank going eastward.

We hope that you found these Floral Trails informative and enjoyable!

**A BIG THANK YOU FROM BURGH BEAUTIFUL LINLITHGOW
TO ALL OUR 2016-17 SPONSORS ...**

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About Burgh Beautiful ...

Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow aims to enhance the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow's historic environment through its horticultural, environmental and community activities, encouraging civic pride and making the town more attractive to visitors. We take a 'whole town' and 'whole year' approach, not just focussing on the town centre, and provide most of its floral displays, including hanging baskets, throughout the year.

Since the local authority (West Lothian Council) withdrew all its funding for seasonal planting in 2015, Burgh Beautiful has adopted all the former Council displays (with some amendments to the balance of planting). This has been achieved thanks to wonderful financial and voluntary support from local individuals, groups and businesses, even taking responsibility for 'high amenity' grass cutting where required for the setting of our displays.

Burgh Beautiful has over 90 volunteers who, along with community partners, now maintain 120 hanging baskets, 95 planters/barrels and 35 flowerbeds. In addition, the work of our community gardeners in the town centre is particularly impressive. Complementary activities, some by other parts of the Linlithgow Burgh Trust, include the encouragement of wildlife and wildflowers, promotion of sustainable materials such as peat-free compost, anti-litter initiatives, heritage interpretation and events, working with schools, tourism promotion, public art and fund-raising events.

If you would like to join our merry band of volunteers, or if you would like to sponsor our floral displays, please email us at bbl@lbt.scot.

Acknowledgements

Burgh Beautiful would like to convey its appreciation for councillors' disbursements awarded towards the cost of printing this leaflet.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Our sponsors of hanging baskets, tubs/planters and flowerbeds (see page 11).
- Our own volunteers – public-spirited local people who have done all the hard work to improve the look of the town.
- Our community gardeners – central area residents who have transformed their neighbourhood with outstanding floral displays
- Our partners – all the local groups who 'go that extra mile' through their gardening and environmental activities including the Rotary Clubs, churches, youth organisations and community groups, notably Transition Linlithgow.
- Our local businesses and all who support us.
- The Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group for capital items such as landscape works, planters and other street furniture.