



## Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow

### Judges' Portfolio for Beautiful Scotland 2017



Out in all weathers - autumn 2016 planting up 120 hanging baskets at our Clarendon base



***Our purpose is: 'To make our town a cleaner, brighter, more welcoming place for residents and visitors, fostering community involvement, civic pride and tourism'***

Linlithgow Civic Trust and Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow are both part of Linlithgow Burgh Trust  
Linlithgow Burgh Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)  
Scottish Charity Number SC047211

## The Royal Burgh of Linlithgow *'Is kinde to Straingers'*

- Historic town and made a Royal Burgh in 1389; Birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots in 1542
- Palace ruins and surrounding Peel managed by Historic Environment Scotland
- Past industries from tanning to brewing replaced with micro-systems
- Railway, nearby motorway and airport make Linlithgow highly accessible
- Vibrant community of clubs, societies, sports



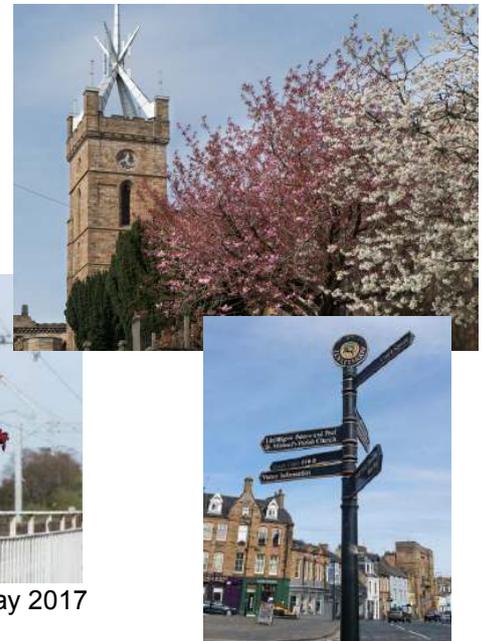
### Burgh Beautiful is seeking consideration for the VisitScotland Award for Tourism



Old and new to welcome folk at the Low Port



Electrification of the railway 2017



### Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow

- Established as the environmental initiative of Linlithgow Civic Trust in 2004, now part of Linlithgow Burgh Trust with a Committee of up to 16 volunteers
- Acquired the lease from West Lothian Council for a garden base in the grounds of Clarendon House in 2011
- Membership and informal voice on Community Council, Town Management Group and Community Development Trust
- With the support of West Lothian Council and other community organisations, won a number of awards including the coveted Rose Bowl in Beautiful Scotland 2013
- West Lothian Council completely ceased involvement in floral displays and high-amenity grass cutting in 2016
- Burgh Beautiful rose to the challenge with a 'Bye Bye' campaign. This led to increased sponsorships, fundraising and doubling the number of volunteers, allowing the continuation of nearly all the Council's displays within our town

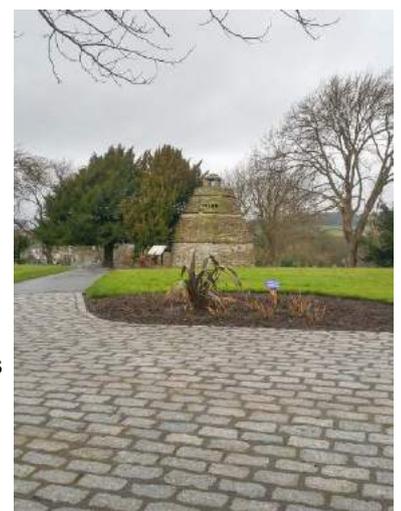
### Burgh Beautiful is seeking consideration for the RHS Scotland Award for Overcoming Adversity

#### Some of the beds taken over from West Lothian Council in 2016



at West Port and

Learmonth Gardens



## A. Horticultural Achievement

- 120 hanging baskets for year-round display
- 16 planters at entrances to the town, all replaced or first provided in 2017
- 73 other tubs and barrels, nearly all planted throughout year; 27 'imported' from the Council
- 35 beds of mixed shrubs, perennials and annuals; annuals in town centre beds all year; 16 ex Council
- Colour themes in winter/spring are predominantly yellow, and in summer red, pink, purples and blue
- Innovative approach to the design of bedding displays with more adventurous selections of summer and permanent plants

### A1. Impact

#### Summer 2016



Transition Linlithgow bed at the Vennel  
- Healthy Eating, Healthy Planet



Learmonth Gardens  
- with new paving and planting

Serpentine bed



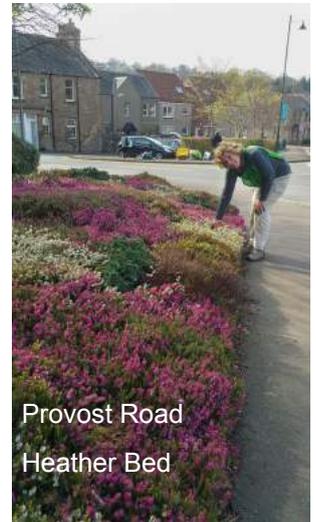
One of 16 beds and 27 planters taken over from West Lothian Council

River of Flowers display telling of polluted rivers being cleaned up by local groups over decades to now providing fresh water good enough for trout fry!



Low Port Centre

#### Winter / Spring 2017



Provost Road  
Heather Bed



Tulips at Low Port  
and

Bells at the Vennel



## A.2 Horticultural Practice

- Nearly all planting & maintenance done by Burgh Beautiful volunteers, including planting of all hanging baskets
- Subcontract watering with feed for baskets and key beds, some annual planting and contextual grass cutting
- Autumn and winter maintenance of most displays, therefore year round colour
- Total number plants purchased for winter 2016/17 - 7,008; and for summer 2017 - 18,456; total - 25,464
- Reducing annual content of beds taken over from West Lothian Council in order to be more sustainable
- Long-term plan is to reduce demand on labour and make beds even more environmentally friendly, consistent with the wishes of townspeople and sponsors for colourful displays

**Appendices 1 & 2**



Emptying baskets at Clarendon, preparing for new wicks and peat-free compost June 2016



Pentland Plants, for many years the successful provider



Redoing the Provost Road bed, improving soil ready for mixed planting Spring 2017



Spring primulas to be planted up for future use

## A.3 Residential and Community Gardening



Judging at Oakwell Allotments

Bridgend Primary School eco-garden



Summer and spring at the Spar bed, Springfield 2016/17

### Around the Water Yett

Eileen Murray's garden



Mr Common's looked after by BB volunteer

Dianne Lamont's



Audrey Simpson's



Tommy Peake's Alstromeria



## A.4 Business Areas and Premises

- High Street shops and some businesses with window boxes and tubs outside, and range of plantings
- Involvement by New Hopetoun Gardens and Binny Plants; extensive planting at Oracle, much wildlife friendly
- Railway Station with new barrels & banners to complement children's floral tiles and railing mounted planters
- Some shop windows carrying knitted flower pots or bees, done by the knitters at St Michael's Parish Church in support of Beautiful Scotland's theme
- Library entrance windows displaying anti-litter campaign posters from Linlithgow Schools



Three banners completed by the Embroiderers Guild and ready to hang in the station stairwell



At the Regent Centre with Tesco staff keen to be involved



Overflowing barrels at the Star & Garter Hotel



Ellie's Cellar

Binny Plants bed by Katie Wearie's statue



## A.5 Green Spaces

Masses of bulbs bloom by the Loch, The Peel, along the canal, verges and town entrances



Fruit trees by the Loch, planted by Transition Linlithgow



Wildflowers at the cycle ramp by the Union Canal  
**Appendix 8**

Perennial bed and cherry tree at Braehead, summer 2016 and spring 2017



Rosemount Park



## B. Environmental Responsibility

### B.1 Conservation and Biodiversity

- Establishing nature conservation and wildlife areas – Doomsdale, Cycle Ramp, Boghall Pathway, Learmonth Gardens (north, lower section)
- Varied habitats around Linlithgow Loch (SSSI) managed with statutory and volunteer help
- The Canal and River Avon and their banks provide corridors for wildlife
- Transition Linlithgow has planted 3 public orchards in town



Neglected Council plantings brought about the start of a nature friendly project with locals along Boghall Pathway



Wildlife friendly planting by New Hopetoun Garden



Tadpoles at the Water Yett



The Apothecary's rose in The Physic Garden by the Health Centre  
**Appendix 8**



Many signs by drains throughout

### B.2 Resource Management

- Establishing an appropriate balance between permanent and annual planting
- Council statistics suggest that Linlithgow has regularly recycled at almost double Scotland's average rate



Scouts filling baskets with peat-free compost – note protective gloves



Promoting peat-free compost at LADAS Seed Potato Day



Recycling compost at Clarendon where bulbs are also dried for recycling



Quality cutting by sub-contractor

### B.3 Local Heritage

1. Heritage Trails fully described in Linlithgow Visitor Guide of which 20,000 copies are printed and distributed annually; the trails include specially commissioned markers at points of interest and several interpretation boards
2. Perambulation of the Marches event (below) and accompanying leaflet encourage exploration of local heritage
3. Floral Trails booklet 2017 encourages appreciation of local environment and efforts of Burgh Beautiful and others
4. Heritage publications on the history of the Royal Burgh. Street names, walks etc **Appendix 3**
5. Flower beds in Learmonth Gardens replanted to increase variety and reduce labour when taken over from WLC; used Clarendon compost to enrich these ex-Council beds; Interpretation Board by the Ross Doocot **Appendix 8**
6. Battle of Linlithgow Bridge commemorated with a garden designed and maintained by BB members (below)
7. The Physic Garden at the Health Centre, designed and maintained by BB member, with water colour paintings of the plants in the entrance



## B4. Local Environmental

- Anti-litter campaign and annual spring cleans supported by many organisations and done regularly by volunteers
- Continuing pressures to engage with owners of vacant premises, and on McCarthy & Stone re High Street frontage
- Active involvement in Trust relating to redevelopment of derelict Victoria Halls site

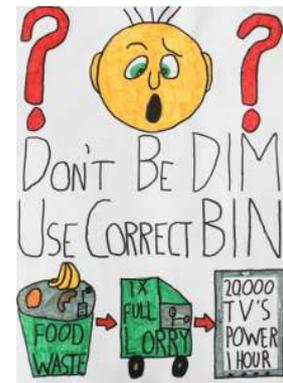
Doomsdale annual winter clean up where nine bird boxes have been put up



Mains Burn cleaned annually by Linlithgow Angling Club



Beavers litter picking



Fore-runner poster by primary school pupil for Burgh Beautiful's anti-litter campaign and competition

## B5. Pride of Place

- Coordinated programme of several environmental projects 2010-17, including 19 new planters at The Cross and town entrances, along with heritage lamp posts, litter bins, bollards, seats, finger posts and street name



New hard landscaping and furniture at Low Port



Katie Wearie's statue by Tim Chalk, beside the Binny bed, West Port

Clarendon's original gateway dating from late 19th Century



New planters for Templars Court for 2016-17 add to existing displays at the Cross



Survival of fine cherry trees in Braehead, vigorously defended, leading to stay of execution and wider consultation in April 2017



Train and new barrels with mixed planting at the Station

## C. Community Participation

### C1. Development and Continuity

- West Lothian Council cut-backs in 2016 presented challenges: additional sponsorships from local businesses and the community mean that our activities are likely to be fully funded for the foreseeable future **Appendix 4**
- Clarendon base provides an excellent resource for the development of the group's activities **Appendix 2**
- Hit-squad days have been set up for once a month, with good attendance, thereby encouraging team work
- Volunteers have doubled to 96



Work at Clarendon



Hit Squad at the Water Yett



Planting at Serpentine Bed



Linlithgow Union Canal Society

### C2. Communication and Education

- There is an active Facebook page and website
- Many articles have appeared in the Gazette, Black Bitch magazine & Linlithgow Civic Trust Newsletter **Appendix 5**
- All primary schools have received 'Green Play' awards and are active in creating wildlife friendly gardens
- Linlithgow Academy pupils help with the garden at Annet House Museum
- The new Floral Trails leaflet encourages exploration
- Volunteers respond to invitations to speak to other groups, and judge at the Allotments



Burgh Beautiful banners are on display in both the Library and the Burgh Halls



Presentations and interactive sessions have been held by BB members in all primary schools

St Michael's Well: a visiting class has a history lesson;

another learns about healthy eating and a healthy planet at the Transition Linlithgow Vennel bed 2016



Many volunteers wear green tabards and get engaged in conversation with passers-by



### C3. Community Involvement

- At least 20 organisations are involved with Burgh Beautiful
- First Step has recently started preparing a vegetable patch in St Ninians Craigmalen Church
- St Michael's Parish Church knitters have entered the spirit of Beautiful Scotland's theme - 'birds, bees and trees' - with displays for shop windows
- Rotary Clubs of Linlithgow Grange and Linlithgow & Bo'ness either sponsor beds or maintain their own displays

**Appendix 6**



Linlithgow Guides have looked after the all-year-round planters outside Timpsons



Community Council bed



Rotary bed at Low Port

### C4. Year-round Involvement

- The calendar of events fills the year with horticultural activities, fund-raising and monthly meetings
- In particular, we plant and maintain most displays throughout the year, including hanging baskets, planters and beds

**Appendix 7**

### C5. Funding and Support

see page 9

- Sponsorships from individuals, businesses and organisations (2016-17: £11,360)
- Financial support for revenue costs from Town Centre Business Improvement District with grants for capital purchase from Town Management Group
- Tesco Bags of Help: £2,000 award in 2017 to make paths safe at Clarendon
- Donations and legacies are encouraged
- Gift Aid can now be sought following obtaining charitable status
- Fundraising events including Advent Fayre (raffle, holly balls etc), plant and seed sales, open garden events, can collections, bag packing, and a coffee morning organised by Tesco



120 new baskets for 2016/17 funded by Town Management Group

### Fundraising Events



First Adeventures Nursery participates in Inviting Gardens 2016



Plant Sale 2017



Bag packing at Tesco 2015 with another day being held on 26 August 2017



Grew, made and now selling dried flower arrangements at the Advent Fayre 2016



**BURGH BEAUTIFUL BUDGET (RUNNING COSTS/REVENUE), 2015-16 and 2016-17****Actual and Anticipated Expenditure**

Item	2015-16	2016-17
Winter/spring plants (Pentland Plants)	£1,353	£2,227
Extra winter/spring plants (for planters)	£138	£158
Winter/spring bulbs	£0	£212
Summer bedding plants including cordylines (mainly Pentland Plants)	£6,914	£6,840
Other plants	£900	£300
Sponsorship/maintenance of acknowledgement plaques	£700	£237
Contractor costs for planting/maintenance of certain flower beds	£600	£600
Contractor costs for cutting of grass edges and grass-cutting	£400	£1,600
Basket installation/removal	£1,000	£1,100
Watering of hanging baskets and servicing of bowser	£2,620	£2,530
Watering of planters/beds	£1,000	£1,000
Compost, fertiliser, etc	£750	£750
Clarendon expenses, incl rental, electricity, painting	£250	£700
Beautiful Scotland	£0	£150
Holly balls (costs unknown for 2015-16)	£0	£208
Advent Fayre stalls (costs unknown for 2015-16)	£0	£30
Other costs and expenses	£848	£850
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£17,473</b>	<b>£19,492</b>

**Actual and Anticipated Revenue**

Source	2015-16	2016-17
Sponsorships	£9,320	£11,360
Donations	£3,519	£809
Proceeds from single-use plastic bag levy (Dougal Philip)	£90	£78
Reimbursement for sponsorship plaques - Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange	£0	£45
Plant reimbursement - Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange	£256	£0
Plant reimbursement - River Forth Fisheries Trust	£729	£0
Plant reimbursements - ScotRail	£430	£350
Plant reimbursement – Transition Linlithgow	£84	£0
Plant reimbursement – Linlithgow Union Canal Society	£97	£70
Plant reimbursement – St Peter’s Episcopal Church	£52	£60
Grant for sponsorship plaques (Town Management Group)	£350	£0
Councillors’ disbursements, 3 x £200	£300	£600
Grant from Linlithgow Town Centre BID (£5,000 over two years)	£2,500	£2,500
Compensation from Linlithgow Community Development Trust	£300	£0
Holly balls	£300	£500
Advent Fair stalls (except holly balls and donation)	£750	£1,081
Sales of seeds at Potato Day	£108	£80
Back-packing at Tesco	£668	£0
Proceeds of Tesco coffee morning	£500	£0
Plant sale	£744	£500 (est.)
Inviting Gardens/other fundraising event	£1,937	£1,000 (est.)
Surplus carried over from previous year	£0	£5,561
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£23,034</b>	<b>£24,594</b>
Notional surplus to be held over for following year	£5,561	£5,102
<b>TOTAL (minus surplus)</b>	<b>£17,473</b>	<b>£19,492</b>

**NOTES:** Figures relate to year, 1 September to 31 August, and do not include projects with external funding.

**FINANCING OF PROJECT – 19 New Steel Planters at Town Entrances/The Cross, 2016-17**

David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd – manufacture, supply and installation of three planters at The Cross	£ 2,561.64
David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd – manufacture etc of 16 planters at town entrances	£11,054.10
David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd – filling of planters with drainage materials and soil	£ 871.20
Alex Simpson – provision of slab base for three new planters at Edinburgh Road	£ 480.00
NWH Services – removal of contents of old barrels	£ 421.00
Total cost of project	£15,387.94
Less 50% grant from Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group	£ 7,693.97
<b>Net cost paid by Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow (from Liz Burrows’ bequest)</b>	<b>£ 7,693.97</b>

**Plans for the future**

Activities

- Maintaining and increasing number of volunteers through recruitment and enthusiasm
- Continuing to develop contact and collaboration with other groups, from the young to the old
- Sustaining the number of baskets, beds, barrels and tubs but where necessary and desirable, widening the range of plantings to reduce maintenance and costs
- Continuing to consider new and innovative floral displays
- Developing programme of workshops for volunteers and wider public once paths at Clarendon have been made safe; aim to raise funds for this specific project through the Tesco Bags of Help scheme
- Building on established links with six primary schools
- Developing areas of neglected urban land for wild life such as along the Boghall Pathway
- Maintaining pressure to upgrade the Station Road area and vacant premises in town
- Promote public art feature in town centre

Finance

- Setting annual budget for approval by trustees with quarterly subsections for guidance
- Fundraising through can collections facilitated through being a charity
- Inviting Gift Aid declarations and legacies
- Imaginative fund raising (and awareness raising) initiatives within the community

Structure

- Establishing new committee structure on becoming a SCIO in April 2017; identify designated responsibilities for committee members in keeping with Policy and Procedures as laid down by Linlithgow Burgh Trust
- Retaining open meetings similar to current Steering Group monthly meetings



## Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow

### APPENDICES TO JUDGES' PORTFOLIO July 2017

#### APPENDIX 1

##### Horticultural Practice - A2

Burgh Beautiful Summer Annuals Table 2017, showing where, and by which volunteer, annuals are planted throughout the town. Displays taken over from West Lothian Council are shaded in light green.

#### APPENDIX 2

##### Horticultural Practice A2 and Resource Management B2

Clarendon's Story

#### APPENDIX 3

##### Local Heritage - B3

The following booklets are available:

*Linlithgow Visitor Guide* - the heritage trail and the section relating to the Perambulation of the Marches were prepared by members of Linlithgow Civic Trust/Burgh Beautiful and the whole was produced in conjunction with the Pride & Passion Linlithgow, the Linlithgow Central Area Business Improvement District, the Community Council and other local organisations.

*Perambulation of the Marches*

*Floral Trails published in June 2017*

*Linlithgow – Architecture and History of a Scottish Royal Burgh* – a more comprehensive guide to Linlithgow's heritage produced by members of Linlithgow Civic Trust/Burgh Beautiful.

#### APPENDIX 4

##### Development and Continuity - C1

List of sponsors of Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow

#### APPENDIX 5

##### Communication and Education - C2

Compilation of publicity material from 2016-17, mainly reports from the *Linlithgow Gazette*, *Linlithgow Civic Trust Newsletter* and the Linlithgow community magazine *The Black Bitch*  
*Examples available on display*

#### APPENDIX 6

##### Community Involvement - C3

List of local organisations involved with Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow

#### APPENDIX 7

##### Year-round Involvement - C4

Calendar of horticultural activities, litter picks, fundraising and meetings

#### APPENDIX 8

Management Plans for the following floral displays or landscape features:

The Physic Garden by the Health Centre

Wildflower area at the cycle ramp between Linlithgow Leisure Centre and Union Canal

Learmonth Gardens

Highfield Corner bed





**DELIVERY No. 3 (continued)**

Volunteer	Site	Surf- inia giant pur- ple	Surf- inia hot pink	Bac- opa bahia white	Begonia illum'n tring- Sal- mon pink pico- tee	N'peta Ager - varie- gata Blue plan et	Begonia semperflorens						Begonia tuberosus						Ciner- aria silver dust	Cos- mos sona ta car- mine	Geran- ium Pent- land scarlet	Geran- ium Pent- land violet	Verb- ena Santos Purple	Millet purple majes- ty	Per- illa	Totals																								
							Big Red bro- nze	Night- life red	Spr- int rose	Night- life blush	Sprint blush	Sprint white	devil mixd	go- go scar- let	non- stop rose	non- stop pink imp.	non- stop deep orange	non- stop yell- ow									go- go scar- let	non- stop rose	non- stop pink imp.	non- stop deep orange	non- stop yell- ow																			
SUB-TOTALS FROM ABOVE																						198	198	640	52	268	0	168	0	588	84	84	0	28	28	560	0	700	336	616	252	84	84	0	196	28	248	5,540		
3 TE planters, Edinburgh Road																								36	36																							9	165	
3 planters, Templers Court																						36			36									84															156	
West Port House planters																						18		12																									62	
Margaret Gunstone																								28	28									28															102	
E High St Planters																						36	16																										8	118
St Nimian's Way (contrib.)																						18	18	28			16																							148
Water Yett displays (contrib.)																								28			56						28																	280
Tommy Peake																																																		40
West Port flats displays (contrib.)																								12																										96
LUCS (repayable)																																																		112
St Peter's Church (repayable)**																								28										56																84
Vennel Bed																																																		0
K Leonard																																																		84
Kirsten Lamb Dovecot Park																											28																							84
TOTALS – DELIVERY No. 3																						216	306	828	128	328	0	296	0	588	84	84	0	84	196	644	0	728	420	700	392	140	168	112	0	252	28	265	6,987	
ORDER – DELIVERY No. 3																						216	306	840	140	336	0	308	0	588	84	84	0	84	196	644	0	728	420	700	392	140	168	112	0	252	28	280	7,046	

**GRAND TOTALS**

Volunteer	Site	Surf- inia giant pur- ple	Surf- inia hot pink	Bac- opa bahia white	Begonia illum'n tring- Sal- mon pink pico- tee	N'peta Ager - varie- gata Blue plan et	Begonia semperflorens						Begonia tuberosus						Ciner- aria silver dust	Cos- mos sona ta car- mine	Geran- ium Pent- land scarlet	Geran- ium Pent- land violet	Verb- ena Santos Purple	Millet purple majes- ty	Per- illa	Totals																								
							Big Red bro- nze	Night- life red	Spr- int rose	Night- life blush	Sprint blush	Sprint white	devil mixd	go- go scar- let	non- stop rose	non- stop pink imp.	non- stop deep orange	non- stop yell- ow									go- go scar- let	non- stop rose	non- stop pink imp.	non- stop deep orange	non- stop yell- ow																			
Total – Delivery No. 1																						36	522	252	504	0	252	0	392	28	0	28	0	56	0	0	28	0	56	28	0	28	0	56	28	0	0	0	0	2,182
Total – Delivery No. 2																						126	198	308	84	0	336	364	0	672	28	448	0	84	1148	0	1848	0	2,548	140	112	196	168	252	0	28	140	9,228		
Total – Delivery No. 3																						216	306	840	140	336	0	308	0	588	84	84	0	84	196	644	0	728	420	700	392	140	168	112	0	252	28	280	7,046	
GRAND TOTAL FOR ORDER																						378	1026	1,400	728	336	252	644	756	616	140	448	84	336	1792	0	2576	420	3,248	560	252	420	308	252	0	252	56	420	18,456	

**Notes**

For comparison, the equivalent order for summer 2016 was for 18,382 plants.

### Establishment of Burgh Beautiful Clarendon Base



Clarendon Base, September 2011 (TO)

In 2011 the campaign was successful in securing a site at Clarendon House and obtaining Council Grants totalling £16,250 for the establishment of a work base with polytunnel, storage accommodation and nursery beds. Planning was obtained and a lease agreed via the Town Management Group. The base, when BB first gained usage of it, was a grass and weed covered area plus semi-derelict outbuildings covered with ivy.

The first priority was to make the buildings wind and water tight.

A polytunnel and shed were then erected to facilitate the various BB activities: planting and storing of hanging baskets, making holly balls and temporary storage of plants for the BB borders and tubs in Linlithgow which are planted and cared for by BB members.



Clarendon Base, September 2011 (TO)

The next priority was to increase the biodiversity of the site by installing the beech hedge, the pond, rockery, and the ornamental bed areas. Much of the pond, rockery, and ornamental installations made use of recycled materials and items already on-site.

The original brick paths were uncovered and restored.

Retaining the original character and features of Clarendon was considered to be important, and should reflect BB ethos of improving the environment with horticultural features. It is hoped that Clarendon Base is an aesthetically pleasant place to work in and visit.



Clarendon Base, September 2015 (KL1)

### Planting at Clarendon

Trees from the Woodland Trust were grown at Clarendon and later planted in various areas around the town.

Some plants from the hanging baskets were retained and replanted later.

In 2016, everlasting flowers were grown, dried and made by some BB members into wreaths and Christmas decorations at the Linlithgow Advent Fayre.

### Recycling at Clarendon Base

All the plants from the hanging baskets are recycled using the three compost bays and plant pots and trays are reused. Old wooden fencing has been donated by West Lothian Council and has now been cut up for use as storage for plant trays and empty hanging baskets.

A plant nursery has been established.



Three Compost Bays, June 2017 (KL1)



*New Entrance Border, April 2017 (KL1)*



*Bug Hotel, June 2017 (HL)*

## Organic Practice at Clarendon Base

Organic pest control is in place with ground sheep's wool, beer traps and garlic compound sprays.

## Recent Developments at Clarendon

A new entrance border was created in October 2016. The plants in the damp semi-shady area were chosen to provide colour and texture in Spring/early Summer and were from cuttings and seedlings donated by BB members. It is hoped that demonstrating the method of using cuttings and seedlings will perhaps encourage people to move on to the next stage of gardening rather than always buying new plants: "Plants for free."

There will also be a supply of cuttings and seedlings from this border for future use in BB areas or at the annual BB Plant Sale. An information board is in place in this border.

A Bug Hotel was made using recycled fencing and some insect-friendly plants were planted in a small area.

A system of low maintenance is being adopted at Clarendon Base and wood chip from the Linlithgow Allotment Group has been put down for weed control.

A green house was donated and will be erected this year.

## Community Involvement at Clarendon Base

Community and Youth Groups have been involved with various activities at Clarendon, including University Students, and the Local Scouts Group.

The Group were successful in their application to the Tesco Bags of Help Funding and secured £2,000 for the replacement of the brick paths.

The original brick paths had become unsafe underfoot. Most of replacement brick paths will meet disabled access requirements.

## Clarendon: The Next Phase

Burgh Beautiful wish to involve the Community and Youth Groups in Linlithgow and are looking to start workshops and Horticulture events at the Base. Raised beds are being considered.

## Acknowledgements

Credits for images: Kathleen Lindsay (KL1), Helen Livermore (HL) Tony Oxbrow (TO)



## Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow

### LIST OF SPONSORS 2016-17

Keddie Consulting Ltd	Dianne Lamont
Rotary Club of Linlithgow & Bo'ness	Jean Lennox
Robert Bennie & Sons	Linlithgow Folk Festival Association
Robert Callander, Optician	Linlithgow Heritage Trust
Fraternity of Dyers	Linlithgow Ladies Choir
Linlithgow Floral Art Club	Linlithgow Rugby Club Male Voice Choir
Linlithgow Round Table	Jim & Nuala Lonie
Pride & Passion Linlithgow	Mvairi & Douglas Lynch & Family
Alan Steel Asset Management Ltd	Allan & Laura McCartney
Templars Court Home Owners	Bill & Mairi McFarlane
Jack & Christine Adair	Duncan & Sheena MacFarlane
Lyn & John Aitken	Bridget McGee
Corinne Anderson	Colin & Janie McGill
Ronna & Len Arfield	Monica McGill
Ronnie Bamberry	Joy & Hamish MacIntyre
Jeanette Black	Diana & Clive Marchant
Black Bitch Association of Linlithgow	Alan & Carol Monie
Barbara & Graham Blackburn	Margaret Morrison
The Boyle Family	Ormond Family
Jan & John Burles	Stewart Ormond Consultancy
Centre Stage Dancewear	Purely Patchwork
Chris & Liz Collen	Royal Burgh of Linlithgow Reed Band
Nancy & Tom Conn	Residents of St Ninian's Way
Brenda Cook	Shona & Allan Robertson
Eileen & Paul Curry	Paul Rolfe Sales & Lettings
Members of the Deacons Court	Patricia & Peter Russell
Gordon & Ruth Dixon	St John's Church Friday Community Café
Peter & June Drylie	St Ninian's Way Residents
George & Hazel Duguid	Ian Service
Fire Protection Group	Chris & Ananda Smith
First Adventures Nursery	George & Joyce Strachan
Karen Fleming & friends	So Strawberry Caffe
Folksters – Linlithgow Sports Club	Springfords LLP
Garden Cottage Self Catering	Averil & Gavin Stewart
Sheila Gardner & family	David Tait
The Golden Chip	Madelene Thompson
Judy Gray	Alan Young
Chris & Margaret Gunstone	Alasdair Young
Morag & Mike Harris	Anonymous X 3
Highfield Neighbourhood Watch	Sponsors in kind:
JMK Business Supplies Ltd	Alan Agnew
Kumon Linlithgow Study Centre	Linlithgow Business Association
Alison Lamont & Family	



**Articles in the Press since from March 2016 – May 2017****Appendix 5  
Communication & Education C2**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Title</b>
March 2016	LTC Magazine	Review of previous year, Advent Fayre, School visits, Mosaic
28 April	Journal & Gazette	Litter Pick, incl Fishermen and Beavers
Spring 2016	Black Bitch	Keeping Linlithgow Floral
6 May	J & G	“We Blooming Did It” - Bye Bye Campaign Follow-up
3 June	J & G	Floral Displays are now back on track
June 2016	Marches Magazine	B.B. continues to flourish & rises to the challenge
3 June	J & G	A walk through history to kick start the Marches
8 June	Black Bitch	Perambulation of the Marches
25/26 June	Black Bitch	Inviting Gardens
25/26 June	J & G	Volunteers keep Linlithgow Blooming
1 July	J & G	Letters in paper re past achievements and grass cutting
July 2016	Black Bitch	Three Peaks support for Burgh Beautiful
July 2016	LTC Magazine	Behind the baskets and the beds
22 July	J & G	Sport Disability Scotland – Rotary Bed
Sept 2016	J & G	Saying it with flowers wins a beautiful prize
21 Oct	J & G	Greenfingered volunteers needed
Oct 2016	Black Bitch	Hasn't Linlithgow been looking great this summer?
Nov 2016	LCT Magazine	News from the Potting Shed
Nov 2016	Black Bitch	Blooming “Outstanding”
Nov 2016	J & G	Time capsule – people
Jan 2017	Black Bitch	Linlithgow Young People Volunteering
March 2017	Black Bitch	The Beautiful Burgh of Linlithgow in 2017
April 2017	Black Bitch	What about Blooming Litter
April 2017	LCT Newsletter	New Barrels – Sponsors Thank You
14 April	J & G	It's Blooming Marvellous – Tesco Community – Bags of Help grant
April 2017	J & G	Letters to Editor – Tesco thanks – tree vandalism Braehead
28 April	J & G	Council U-Turn on trees
5 May	J & G	Blooming Awful – Station upgrade faltering
5 May	J & G	Concerns on work timetable
12 May	J & G	Beavers Litter Pick
12 May	J & G	Scouting for summer planting



## Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow

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# LIST OF ASSOCIATED LOCAL ORGANISATIONS 2016-17

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**Community gardeners** including Eileen Murray, Audrey Simpson, Kirsten Lamb, Dianne Lamont, Tommy Peake and Jean Vaagenes.

**Beaver Scouts – 4th West Lothian** (enthusiastic litter-picking and bulb planting)

**Binny Plants** (plant provision for the 'Katie Wearie' flower bed at West Port)

**Brownies – 3rd Linlithgow** (garden at Longcroft Hall)

**Embroiderers' Guild, Linlithgow & District** (new banners at Railway Station)

**Guides – 1st Linlithgow** (planting of tubs at The Vennel)

**Guides – 3rd Linlithgow** (planting of flower beds at Learmonth Gardens)

**Knitters at St Michael's Parish Church** (knitted items for shop window displays)

**Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council** (floral display at High Port)

**Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group** (financial support, most recently for a second set of hanging baskets and 50% towards new planters at Templars Court/town entrances)

**Linlithgow Business Association** (maintenance of planters and help with sponsorship plaques)

**Linlithgow Town Centre Business Improvement District** (contribution towards watering)

**Linlithgow Union Canal Society** (floral displays at the Canal Basin)

**New Hopetoun Gardens** (planting/maintenance of wildlife-friendly area, St John's Avenue)

**River Avon Federation of Angling Clubs** (help with Serpentine bed and maintenance of river banks, litter picking)

**Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange** (displays at Springfield and West Port, litter picking, etc.)

**Scouts – 4th West Lothian** (help at Burgh Beautiful's Clarendon base)

**St Peter's Episcopal Church** (planters at front of church)

**Tesco, Linlithgow Branch** (grants, help with cash collections & other fund raising; some gardening)

**Transition Linlithgow** (bed at The Vennel, orchards and other environmental activities)

All business owners who adorn their premises with flowers

### OTHER DONORS

**Morgan Sindall and ScotRail** (provision and placing of new floral barrels at Railway Station)

**ScotRail Foundation** (contribution towards new banners at Railway Station)

**West Lothian Council Local Members** (councillors' disbursements)

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## Judges' Portfolio

## Appendix 7 C4

## Year-round Involvement from 25 June 2016 - 24 June 2017

Inviting Gardens	25th and 26th June 2016
BB monthly meeting, Thursdays, Black Bitch tavern	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June at 7.30
LCT Newsletter - copy deadline	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July
BB monthly meeting	28 <sup>th</sup> July (TBC)
BB monthly meeting	25 <sup>th</sup> August
It's Your Neighbourhood Judging of 3 beds	September
Black Bitch - copy deadline	20 <sup>th</sup> September
BB monthly meeting	29 <sup>th</sup> September
Preparation of 120 winter hanging baskets	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October
Delivery of winter/spring plants	Week beginning 10 October
Planting of hanging baskets	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> October
KSB event	26 <sup>th</sup> October
BB monthly meeting	27 <sup>th</sup> October
LCT Newsletter - copy deadline	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October
Black Bitch - copy deadline	1 <sup>st</sup> November
Ordering deadline for 2017 summer plants	Mid November
Holly ball preparation	19 <sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am
BB monthly meeting	24 <sup>th</sup> November
Advent Fair	26 <sup>th</sup> November
Empty & compost contents of 120 summer baskets	3 <sup>rd</sup> December
Tesco Bags of Help deadline for application	31 <sup>st</sup> December
Black Bitch - copy deadline	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
Hit Squad: Doomsdale working party	Sunday 22nd January
BB monthly meeting	26th January
Presentation to Polmont Horticultural Society	Sunday 29 January
Tesco Bags of Help - bid successful from 1st Feb	Tokens available all month
BB monthly meeting	24th February
LAPD Potato Seed Day with BB & TL involvement	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February
Black Bitch - copy deadline	28 <sup>th</sup> February
Social evening 'Pot Luck supper'.	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Hit Squad: Water Yett	Sunday 12 March
LCT Newsletter - copy deadline	17 <sup>th</sup> March
BB monthly meeting	30 <sup>th</sup> March

<i>Black Bitch - copy deadline</i>	<i>5<sup>th</sup> April</i>
<i>Hit Squad: Provost Road to renew soil and structure</i>	<i>Sunday 9 April</i>
<i>Hit Squad: Cycle Ramp to plant wildflowers</i>	<i>Wednesday 26 April</i>
<i>BB monthly meeting</i>	<i>27<sup>th</sup> April</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Plant delivery for hanging baskets</i>	<i>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May</i>
<i>Preparation of 120 summer hanging baskets by Scouts</i>	<i>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May</i>
<i>Planting hanging baskets</i>	<i>Saturday 6 May</i>
<i>Ventilating polytunnel and watering baskets</i>	<i>Weekly rota during May</i>
<i>Speaker(s) for Floral Art Club AGM</i>	<i>Wednesday 17 May</i>
<i>Black Bitch - copy deadline</i>	<i>17<sup>th</sup> May</i>
<i>Transfer barrels to Station with help from Rugby Club</i>	<i>Friday 19 May</i>
<i>Anti-letter Poster Competition for schools - deadline</i>	<i>Thursday 25 May</i>
<i>BB monthly meeting</i>	<i>25<sup>th</sup> May</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Plant delivery for ex WLC beds</i>	<i>Week beginning 29 May</i>
<i>Plant Sale</i>	<i>Saturday 3 June</i>
<i>Taking down winter baskets and hanging summer ones</i>	<i>Sunday 4 June</i>
<i>Hit Squad: Planting at Serpentine bed</i>	<i>Monday 5 June</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Plant delivery for BB beds, tubs &amp; planters</i>	<i>Week beginning 5 June</i>
<i>Empty and compost top 1/2 of winter baskets</i>	<i>June</i>
<i>Presentations to 6 Primary School Assemblies</i>	<i>Between Feb and May</i>

*Monthly meetings in the Black Bitch Tavern on Thursdays at 7.30*

*Deadline dates for copy*

*Fund-raising*

*Displays and associated activities*

*Other*



Nearly all of the plants in the bed have either medicinal, culinary, cosmetic or aromatic uses.

### PLANT LIST 2017.

- Angelica archangelica
- Apothecary's Rose
- Allium various
- Borage
- Bay tree
- Broom "Allgold"
- Bergamot/Monarda
- Box
- Cardoon
- Catmint/Nepeta
- Chamomile
- Chives
- Cistus
- Dog's Tooth Violet/Erythronium
- Dianthus
- Evening Primrose
- Egyptian Tree Onion
- Echinacea
- Feverfew
- Fennel
- Foxglove/Digitalis
- Geranium
- Garden Mint
- Heartsease
- Hyssop
- Lady's Mantle
- Lavender Hidcote
- Mallow
- Marjoram/Oregano
- Mullein
- Nasturtium
- Opium Poppy
- Periwinkle/ Vinca Major
- Perilla
- Perovskia/Russian Sage
- Pot Marigold/Calendula
- Pulmonaria
- Rosemary "Tuscan Blue"
- Selfheal
- Southernwood
- Salvia microphyllum
- St John's Wort
- Thyme Various
- Valerian
- Verbascum
- Viper's Bugloss
- Wall Germander
- Wild Garlic
- Wild Mignonette
- Yarrow
- 
- Buddleia Buzz
- Ceanothus "Blue Mound"
- Escallonia "Crimson Spire"
- Ilex aquifolium
- The Jacobite Rose
- Old Rose Alba Semi-plena
- Potentilla
- Weigela
- Spring Bulbs

History and maintenance

- 2014: Highly engineered ramp installed by West Lothian Council
- 2015: Foundation Scotland gave donation for wildflowers, blaeberry & heather shrubs and tools
- 2016: Summer: Predominantly yellow and white, with scattering of cornflowers & corn cockles
- Autumn: Scattered collected seeds of Yellow Rattle and Red Campion
- Winter: Maintenance unfortunately delayed
- 2017: Spring: see below

Species identified - April 2017

Birdsfoot trefoil Buttercup Bugle Cat's-ear Clover Cranesbill Corn cockle Corn marigold Cow parsley Daisy Dandelion Dead nettle	Dock Every lasting pea Forget-me-not Foxglove Knapweed Lady's bedstraw Lady's smock Nettle Ox-eyed daisy Plantain Primrose Red Campion	St John's-wort Scabious Self-heal Speedwell Stitchwort Thistle Vetch Violet Willow-herb Yarrow Yellow rattle
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Scattering Yellow Rattle seed



A scattering of Corn cockle in 2016



Hit squad in action April 2016

Principles of management

To develop and sustain a flower-rich herb community, initially in the upper triangle and moving progressively down the ramp over the next few years.

To accept it takes time to develop such an area but management should be concentrated in the autumn, collecting & scattering seeds and tidying up

Tasks achieved 26 April 2017 with 7 volunteers

1. Remove Alder saplings & broom and replace with potted up wildflowers
2. Weed stony north edges AND ensure WLC does not use weed killing chemicals
3. Remove wild flowers threatening blaeberrys and heathers
4. Scarify in specific areas and scatter seed from Keep Scotland Beautiful

## LEARMONTH GARDENS

### Birds, Bees and Trees



**Introduction** – Learmonth Gardens is a public garden entirely maintained by the local authority until all financial and maintenance responsibility for the flower beds and surrounding grass was taken over by Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow in 2016-17. Over the same period, the lower area to the rear was upgraded by West Lothian Council at the expense of the Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group to form a wildflower area with improved, ramped access. These works also included new stone sett paving, replacement stone copes and a new sign, all at the park entrance.

**Maintenance/Management – now a Community Responsibility** – Until the summer of 2015, all seven flowerbeds in the park were planted entirely with summer bedding by West Lothian Council, albeit to the specification of Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow. As part of the negotiations associated with the transfer of maintenance to Burgh Beautiful, it was agreed that the Council would add 50% permanent planting to five of the eight flowerbeds to cut down on long-term costs and maintenance associated with the bedding plants, but still retain the colourful impact desired by the general public. A combination of phormium purpureum, hydrangea macrophylla ‘Ami Pasquier’, phlox maculata and astilbe pink was selected as a

suitable basic mix to tie in with established colour themes, since augmented as described overleaf.

At the same time as the Council stopped involvement with floral displays, it also ceased ‘high amenity’ grass cutting and edging which meant less frequent cutting, no uplifting of cuttings and the prospect of weedkiller for edging. Burgh Beautiful considered that these measures would spoil the setting for its flowerbeds and, following unsuccessful discussions with the Council, the group now organises relevant grass maintenance itself, employing a contractor (Alan Agnew) to do most of the work. The grass to the back and side of the main garden area is still maintained by the Council and the dividing lines are usually clearly evident! The lower wildflower area is currently under maintenance by the Council’s contractor.

Burgh Beautiful volunteers fully plant and maintain the five central flowerbeds and the three fronting the street are kept by the girls and parents of the Third Linlithgow Guides.

Currently, five of the seven flowerbeds in the gardens are sponsored by public-spirited local people, some in memory of loved ones. This goes a long way towards meeting Burgh Beautiful’s costs and expenses.

## BIRDS BEES AND TREES ...

**Birds** – The ‘bird’ connection here is the 16th century Ross Doocot which forms a backdrop to the formal garden area. Now floodlit at night, its heritage value is described on a new interpretation board. The ‘beehive-shaped’ doocot contains 370 nest holes and its projecting string courses are said to have been created to stop rats getting inside. The doocot was built for the Barons Ross of Halkhead (Hawkhead near Paisley) on the tail rig of their High Street town house. This rig or garden was bisected by the railway around 1840.

**Bees** – Burgh Beautiful has augmented the basic planting in most of the flowerbeds to accommodate plants which attract pollinating insects, apart from the front three beds which remain as formal begonia planting with central cordylines, to create impact as seen from the street and the canal towpath.

Pollen producing plants used in the flowerbeds include:

**Annuals** – Cosmos Sonata Carmine; heliotrope Dwarf Marine; ageratum Blue Planet

**Tender perennial** – Canna the President (red)

**Other perennials** – Monarda/bergamot Panorama Mixed (‘bee balm’); monarda/bergamot Mohawk (mauve/purple); monarda/bergamot ‘Pink Supreme’; agastache Golden Jubilee; centaurea dealbata; campanula glomerata alba; malva moschata rosea; sedum Autumn Joy; linaria purpurea; polemonium caeruleum (Jacob’s Ladder).

**Wildflowers** planted as ‘plugs’ in 2016-17 in the lower part of the park as ‘woodland understorey planting’ include geum urbanum, digitalis purpurea, alliaria petiolata, primula vulgaris, gallium odoratum, stachys sylvatica, prunella vulgaris, filipendula ulmaria, campanula trachelium, hypericum hirsutum, silene dioica. Also male ferns (dryopteris felix-mas) and lady ferns (athruium felix-femina).

**Trees** – The entrance to the park features a pair of specimen tulip trees (liriodendron tulipifera) planted over 30 years ago, while two much older yews (taxus baccata) flourish close to the Ross Doocot. Four cherry trees, two prunus Kanzan (pink flowered) and two white flowered, first blossomed in the spring of 2017. The lower part of the park was cleared of scrub and undergrowth during the recent upgrading, but a framework of mature trees (native species) remains.

**During the Winter** – At least the front three beds will be planted over winter/spring 2017-18 with a variety of wallflower grown from seed at Burgh Beautiful’s Clarendon base over the summer. This will be the first time for many years that these beds have been planted up with annuals over the winter. Daffodils, planted in the grass along the western edge, flowered for the first time in 2017.



Formal bedding at the front of Learmonth Gardens (RS).



Guides planting the front beds, 2 June 2017 (MM).



Alan Agnew, gardening contractor to Burgh Beautiful, at work on the grass (RS).

Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow is part of Linlithgow Burgh Trust.

Linlithgow Burgh Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Scottish Charity Number SC047211

### History and maintenance

Some 10 years ago, the Royal Burgh sign was relocated from the high ground on the east side of Highfield Avenue to the pavement below the bed on the Falkirk Road. The bed was until that time the responsibility of West Lothian Council. Thereafter, after a few years of being a weedy wilderness some guerilla gardening was undertaken.

Grass was removed and the soil improved with recycled garden compost and mulch. Donated shrubs, including Rhododendron and Skimmia were planted along with a display of winter and summer annuals. Snow in summer dominated the banking and still does, leading up to an untamed area which follows east towards brambles, ivy and self seeded ash and hawthorns.

2010-15 The Highfield Corner was adopted by a Burgh Beautiful resident with contributions from Highfield Neighbourhood Watch. A hebe, heathers, vincas, succulents and bulbs were donated and a modest ramp built to allow access for watering and weeding.

2016 - Wildflower seeds were scattered where there had been little invasion and grass was sheared back along the pavement line .

2017 - An increasing number of challenges promotes reassessment of the area and what can be successfully grown

### Challenges

1. Concrete platform on which the Burgh sign was anchored is less than 6 inches below the soil
2. Bed is south facing, drainage is poor and dries out readily
3. Access up the slope gets increasingly difficult and descent more so especially in summer
4. Watering from above is problematic as is watering from the pavement

### Successes

1. Eye catching location and raises many comments and conversations
2. Anthemis daisies, ornamental grasses, lavender, vinca and succulents survive most easily with the few shrubs providing some structure
3. Insect friendly wildflowers to the east are beginning to dominate the grasses: red campion, vipers bugloss, foxgloves and recently introduced primroses and violets.



Spring 2017



Summer 2016

### Principles of management

1. To focus even more on insect loving plants for dry places and minimise need for watering and maintenance
2. To collect and spread seeds, and add herbs such as Marjoram and Thyme to the grassy bank
3. To keep hawthorn and ash under control
4. To have unsafe slope for access replaced with more solid blocks