



Uphall Village Newsletter

The Community Newsletter of Uphall Community

Issue 11 2021

Community Council Members

The inaugural meeting of the new Uphall Community Council was held in October 2021. The following individuals are your current Community Councillors:

Irene Bishop (Chair)	irene@uphallcc.org.uk	David Flight	david@uphallcc.org.uk
Jonathan Moore (Vice Chair)	jonathan@uphallcc.org.uk	Gerald Paisey	gerald@uphallcc.org.uk
Lynne McEwen (Secretary)	lynne@uphallcc.org.uk	Pippa Plevin	pippa@uphallcc.org.uk
		George Scott	george@uphallcc.org.uk

In 2022, our hybrid meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month. For a community of our population size, we are permitted to have a maximum of 12 Community Councillors. If you are interested in joining us, please contact our Secretary via lynne@uphallcc.org.uk

Passing of Community Councillor Fraser Graham

Shortly after the inaugural meeting, long standing Community Councillor Fraser Graham sadly passed away. Fraser served as a member of Uphall Community Council for approximately 40 years.

He was well known in the Uphall Community for many years of service in Strathbrock Church and his involvement with the Basics Trust (which supports the Busy Project) since its inception.

Fraser was a keen bowler and he and his late wife Evelyn were familiar faces in both indoor and outdoor bowling circles.



He will be sorely missed by his fellow Community Councillors and local Councillors for his kindness, keen wit and sense of humour.

Boundary changes to Uphall Community Council area

Recently, the boundary of the Uphall Community Council area has changed to include a number of residential and commercial properties bounding the A89 westwards from Station Road.

Seeking opinions regarding Alexander Street Traffic Management

Uphall Community Council were approached regarding the traffic situation at the junction of Alexander Street with the Main Street. A survey is ongoing and should you wish to express your view, please visit <https://surveyhero.com/c/c6b098e1>



Public Realm Consultation

Uphall Community Council assisted the Broxburn and Uphall Town Centre Management Group by seeking opinions regarding how local people felt about/used both town centres. The results of the survey helped Uphall Community Council members formulate a response to West Lothian Council. In a few short months, we hope to hear from West Lothian Council how the two towns will benefit.

Consultation on Spaces for People measures

A number of temporary measures were introduced in West Lothian during 2020 to support people to walk, cycle or wheel for essential trips and exercise during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Spaces for People programme was funded by the Scottish Government.

A two-month consultation was launched on 1 December 2021 seeking public and community group opinions on whether some or all of the Spaces for People measures should be retained after the temporary period. To take part in the consultation, please visit: https://app.surveyhero.com/s/Spaces_for_People_Consultation

Tree Planting at King George V Park

Earlier this year, Uphall Community Council welcomed Becky Plunkett, Open Space Officer of West Lothian Council, to a meeting to discuss proposed changes to King George V Park. As a result of discussion at the meeting, it was agreed that a mini-forest would be planted in an area of the park. The details of how you can help this project will soon be published on our website, facebook and in the community noticeboard at Ecclesmachan Road.

Uphall Conservation Area

Conservation areas have a special architectural or historic character which make them worthy of protection. There are currently 9 conservation areas in West Lothian. Should you wish to know more about Conservation Areas and listed buildings within them, please visit: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/conservation-areas>

Working with other local groups

Broxburn & Uphall Town Centre Management Group

The Community Council regularly works with a number of other organisations locally. We are represented on the Broxburn & Uphall Town Centre Management Group by Irene Bishop. The Town Centre Management group includes representatives from local Churches, the Broxburn and Uphall Traders Association, Councillors and our Town Centre Manager Stuart Ness. The group identify and fund various projects to benefit the town centres of Broxburn and Uphall.

Uphall Community Centre Management Group

We worked jointly with the Uphall Community Centre Management Group to purchase audio and visual equipment. This will enable hybrid meetings of groups who meet within the centre.

Broxburn and Uphall War Memorial Group

Irene Bishop represents the Community Council on the Broxburn and Uphall War Memorial Group. This group organises the annual Remembrance Parade and Service at the public War Memorial near to Strathbrock Partnership Centre.

West Lothian Loves Local

BROXBURN & UPHALL * 2021-2022

Shop locally
all year round



The Scotland Loves Local West Lothian Gift Cards are now available to buy, giving people the chance to show their support for businesses in their community and help to fuel the financial fightback from COVID-19.

With a number of West Lothian businesses already signed up to the local loyalty scheme, local residents are now being urged to buy the cards, either to spend themselves or give as gifts to others.

By buying the gift cards, you are helping increasing footfall to local businesses, which protects local employment and ensuring our communities, town centres and local high streets prosper through the economic recovery.

The Scotland Loves Local West Lothian Gift Card scheme is supported by both West Lothian Council and the Scottish Government, and is managed by Scotland's Towns Partnership using technology by Scottish card operator Miconex.

To buy the gift cards, or see participating local retailers, please visit Scotland Gifts Local website and select the option for West Lothian:

<https://scotlandgiftslocal.com>



Remembrance Sunday

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold a parade in 2020. Due to the ongoing covid19 pandemic, this year's Remembrance Day Parade had fewer participants. However, we were delighted to see a very strong presence from our Air and Army Cadets. They are a credit to their cadet leaders and families.



Tammy Johnstone Memorial Bench

The bench in memory of Tammy Johnstone has now been refurbished. Two possible sites have been identified towards the west end of the village, close to Millers Bridge. The bench is due to be re-instated early in the new year.

Recycling Bins at Strathbrock Place

West Lothian Council have temporarily relocated the glass recycling bins elsewhere within the car park. This reduces the number of available car parking bays. We have requested that the Council re-site them nearby. More information will be shared in a future newsletter and on our website/social media feeds. Please remember when using the recycling facilities to keep noise to minimum to ensure neighbours are not disturbed.

Christmas Church Services

At the time of going to print, no details are available for Christmas Services. Once details are available, we will publish these on our website and facebook page. Links are:

- Website: www.uphallcc.org.uk
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/uphallcc

A short history of Old Uphall Post Office (now the Open Door)

Uphall post office has a long association with the Brown family – or families. In fact, their history as Uphall postmasters can be traced from at least 1837 when a Wm Brown was grocer, spirit dealer and postmaster, and the post office was in his house - now Chenzo's. He was followed by Miss Charlotte Brown, possibly his daughter. From 1860 to 1865, the post office was where the dog grooming shop is now, opposite the Oatridge Hotel; then from 1865, at the Open Door site.



(the premises of Uphall Post Office from 1865 until 1993)

For almost all of that time, from 1870 till 1945 - 75 years - just two men, father and son, were postmaster. William L. Brown was appointed postmaster in 1870, and he was also the Inspector of Poor (in charge of administering poor relief benefits to the poor), and also cemetery clerk. As well as all of these jobs, his premises contained not just the post office, but also a drapery shop. When his son James left school, he came into the business and helped his father in all his four jobs. In August 1914, however, the First World War broke out and young James went off to the war. William, by now rather elderly, carried on as postmaster and draper until his son James came back from the war, and took over the postmaster's job and the drapery business. He was also an elder of Uphall North Church, and for a time was session clerk. In December 1945, James Brown retired as postmaster, bringing to an end over 150 years of the Browns' service to the post office.

The new postmaster was Alex Douglas, but his time was also interrupted by war, and he served through the Second World War as a captain with the Royal Corps of Signals. The post office remained here until 1993, when it moved up the road into Macfarlane's newsagent's shop. The Open Door opened in 1998 as a Cafe to support the activities of the Busy Project and Basics Trust - all manned by volunteers.

Text supplied by former West Lothian History Librarian Sybil Cavanagh after her Guided Walk of Uphall in August 2019.

Nativity Word Scramble

Some family Christmas fun. Will you be the first to get them all correct?

GLEAN — — — — —

MAYR — — — —

ERANMG — — — — — —

TEBLAS — — — — — —

SJESU — — — — —

HSERHSEDP — — — — — — — — —

HJSEPO — — — — — —

YKENDO — — — — — —

ASTR — — — —

SGKIN — — — — —



Calling all Children - Design a Christmas Card Competition

Uphall Community Council would like YOU to design a Christmas Card. Entries can be emailed by your parent/guardian to the community council via contact@uphallcc.org.uk or by messenger to [facebook.com/uphallcc](https://www.facebook.com/uphallcc). If you would prefer to hand your entry in, the collection point will be announced on facebook and our website at www.uphallcc.org.uk in a few days.

The winning Christmas Card design will be used by Uphall Community Council next Christmas! Entries to be submitted by **Saturday 15th January**. Please include your name, age and parent/guardian contact information.

Christmas Jokes for Children

What happens to elves when they behave naughty? *Santa gives them the sack*

What kind of music do elves listen to? *Wrap*

What is a snowmans favourite breakfast? *Ice Crispies*

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? *A Mince Spy!*

What says 'Oh Oh Oh'? *Santa walking backwards!*

What do you call a greedy elf? *Elfish*

What did one snowman say to the other snowman? *Can you smell carrot?*

Whats the best Christmas Present? *A broken drum - you can't beat it*

Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners? *Rude-alph!*

Why does Santa have three gardens? *So he can ho, ho, ho*

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? *They always drop their needles!*

What happened to the thief who stole a Calendar? *He got 12 months!*

What is Santa's dogs name? *Santa Paws!*

What falls at the North Pole but never gets hurt? *Snow*

What do you call Frosty the Snowman in May? *A puddle!*

Did you know that Rudolph the Reindeer never went to school? *He was elf taught*

What do snowmen usually wear on their heads? *Ice caps!*

Where do you find chilli beans? *At the north pole!*

What Christmas carol is a a favourite of parents/guardians? *Silent Night*

How do you know Santa is good at karate? *He has a black belt!*

What do you call an old snowman? *Water*

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? *The elf-abet*

Where do snowmen keep money? *In a snow bank*

Why does everybody like Frosty the Snowman? *Because he is so cool!*

Where do Snowmen go to dance? *A Snow-Ball!*

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas? *Deep and Crisp and Even*

... and the last one ...

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? *The Christmas one has no L (Noel)!*

Merry
Christmas
to all

from

Uphall CC

