

Aberlady Heads Up

Spring 2026 edition

Aberlady Community Association updates

Our Village, Our Hall

One of the key aims of Aberlady Community Association (ACA) is keeping the Village Hall at the heart of Aberlady. The hall is much loved and well used; it is a vital resource for our village but it is not funded by the local authority so all the management and maintenance is done by a dedicated team of volunteers. We invite you to attend our AGM on Tue 16 June 2026 at 7.30pm in the Small Hall of Aberlady Village Hall. Come along and see what has been happening in the last year and lend your support. If you'd like to get involved with the work of ACA, helping to manage and maintain the Village Hall, we'd be delighted to hear from you. You can get involved as a volunteer helper at an event, with some spring cleaning of the hall or perhaps you can become a member of the Association and consider becoming one of our board of trustees. If you'd like to know more about the work of ACA please get in touch:

community.association@aberlady.org



What's happening in Aberlady?

Check out the events page of our website to see what's coming up in our lovely wee village!

www.aberlady.org/events

Do you have an event that you'd like to list? Send it to Carole at newsletter@aberlady.org.

Fundraising success

ACA is delighted to announce that, in 2026, work will take place at the Village Hall, thanks to a £20,000 grant from the SUEZ Communities Fund, managed by Grantscape. This funding will enable us to repoint the external stonework, making the walls wind- and watertight. Plans for future phases of the Hall refurbishment are proceeding with the help of earlier funding from Just Enterprise (Scottish Government), East Lothian Council via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership.

Thank you to everyone who has attended the markets in the Village Hall, the Ladies Swish event and Satanama Yoga sessions. Your contributions have helped us build up funds which will now be used towards the work.

Amenities updates

- Final exterior painting will be completed soon at the nature reserve car park toilet block - thanks to John Harrison, our Countryside Ranger, and the Nature Reserve volunteer team.
- With thanks to Darren Nisbet for his ongoing support with village hall roof repairs
- We are seeking volunteers to assist with 2-yearly bench maintenance. All materials will be provided. Please contact Sue if you can help: community.association@aberlady.org
- Thanks to East Lothian Council (ELC) for replacing the worn door threshold and painting it and the back door at the playing field pavilion.
- Any resident experiencing pot holes or any other community/service maintenance issue, please use the 'Report It' option on the ELC website or call/email their contact centre.

Defibrillators

This edition of 'Heads Up' comes with an important key facts document on bystander CPR and defibrillation. Please stick this to your fridge and familiarise yourself with CPR / defibrillation guidance and the location of our defibs. You could save a life!

ACA continues to work closely with the charity Together in Health on their defibrillator project across the North Berwick Coastal Area. Bystander CPR and defibrillation awareness sessions will continue into the summer including at key events like 'Picnic in the Park' and 'Fringe by the Sea'. For any Together in Health enquiries, please contact: chair@togetherinhealth.org.

Post Office

Thursdays, 1.15-3.30pm, Aberlady Village Hall

Just a reminder that the outreach Post Office is in the hall each Thursday. Please make use of this service when you can.

Thursday Afternoon Drop-in

Thursdays, 2-4pm, Aberlady Village (small) Hall

If you're using the Post Office, why not pop into the small hall after for a cuppa and a chat? We would love to meet you!

Get in touch with Aberlady Community Association at:
community.association@aberlady.org

Aberlady Gala 2026

***Save the date!* - Aberlady Gala Day**

Sat 6 June, playing field

An event for the whole community - come on down to enjoy the biggest event in the village's calendar! Things get underway on the playing field with the Gala Ceremony (12.30pm), followed by the tractor parade round the village (1pm). All the stalls and activities will open from 1.30pm: food & drink, tuck shop, more inflatables and games for 2026, storytelling, face painting, crafts, air cadets, search & rescue team, fire service, plant sales, and more! Then the music tent and bar open 2.30pm - 7.15pm, with free live music from a variety of talented local artists. We look forward to seeing you there!

Can you help?

The Gala relies entirely on volunteers. We need help with everything from shifts on the BBQ and bar, to the raffle and activities. If you're able to help in any way, even for just an hour, please get in touch, every wee bit helps! Please email: info@aberladygala.org.uk.



Aberlady Gala Week events

Mon 8 - Sun 14 June

A week of daily activities is lined up. Keep an eye out locally and online for details of how to sign up.

- **Mon 8** – Family Quiz Night
- **Tues 9** – Kids' Football
- **Wed 10** – Kids' Disco
- **Thurs 11** – Kids' Fun Run
- **Fri 12** – Pickleball / Ping Pong / Pint
- **Sun 14** – Kirkin' Sunday

Come watch the traditional, piper-led procession up the main street to the church for a morning service.

Look out for a copy of the full Gala programme dropping through your door in May. You can find updated information on the Gala website and Facebook page.

aberladygala.org.uk

www.facebook.com/AberladyGala

New wildflower area

Volunteers of all ages from the village have been busy planting native wildflowers and sowing seeds as part of a project to improve Coffin Lane for wildlife. If all goes to plan, you'll be able to wander down the path by the Kirk, flanked by beautiful blooms, buzzing bees and the heady scent of summer!

For more information, or to get involved, contact Ranger John at jharrison@eastlothian.gov.uk.



Beach Wheelchairs

Beach Wheelchairs is a local charity in North Berwick, Portobello and Haven Seton Sands Caravan Park, providing free hire of manual and powered beach wheelchairs. All sites have hoisting facilities to support a wide range of needs, from temporary to long-term mobility challenges, any age. Run by volunteers, we're always looking for more people to get involved and help others enjoy the beach.

To book, volunteer, or find out more, call 0300 111 2112 or email info@beachwheelchairs.org.

Little Owlettes - new Aberlady childminder

Stacey Hart has registered as a childminder and will be open from Mon 11 May. If you are looking for term-time childcare, contact Stacey on 07500 820613.

Events

Kids' Clothes Swap

Mon 27 April, 7-8.30pm, Aberlady Village Hall

Bring along an empty bag and fill it with 'new to you' clothes. Contributions of clothes and footwear (ages 0-12) will start a few weeks before. This event is open to the whole community. Everyone is welcome regardless of whether you have been able to offer items or not.

Cost: Completely free! Updates will be shared on the 'Buy Nothing Aberlady/Gullane/Longniddry (East Lothian)' Facebook group.

More to Life Festival

Mon 27 April- Sun 3 May

A brand new community festival is coming to the North Berwick Coastal Area, offering a week of activities designed to help older people to get active, make new friends and try something new. The 'More to Life Festival' has events taking place across venues in Gullane, Aberlady, Dirleton and the surrounding area. Look out for the festival programme with full details of events and how to take part.

Aberlady Open Studios

Sat 9-Sun 10th May, 10am-4pm, free

Aberlady Open Studios returns for its second year! Nineteen artists across the village are preparing to open their workspaces, showcasing paintings, printmaking, sculpture, textiles, illustration, photography, and more. For full details and map visit aberladyopenstudios.co.uk.

Coorie Down yoga. A time to rest.

Sun 10 May & Sun 28 June, 7-8.30pm, Aberlady Village Hall

Come and join Angela from Satanama Yoga for this popular restorative yoga session. Expect gentle movement (from qigong to acupressure!) and longer held, floor-based poses to encourage you to rest and restore. Included is the option of a micro head massage or reiki, along with a curated essential oil blend to enhance the experience. The fire will be lit, and a warm welcome awaits!

£18 per session.

Book at www.bookwhen.com/satanamayoga

Aberlady Conservation & History Society - Old Aberlady

Wed 13 May, 7pm, Aberlady Kirk Stables

Join the Aberlady Conservation & History Society for a trip around Aberlady through time, from the 18thC, based on artwork and photographs. Free to members. Donations from non-members appreciated. Contact Ian Malcolm with any queries - hello@aberladyheritage.com / 07557 236232.

Coro Con Spirito Spring Concert

Sun 17 May, 3pm, St Adrian's Church, Gullane

Coro Con Spirito are a Gullane & Aberlady Community Choir. Their Spring Concert will feature classical, contemporary & popular music. No entry fee. Donations at the door in aid of East Lothian Foodbank. The choir practise in St. Adrian's Church every Tuesday (7.30pm) - all welcome to join! Contact Richard with any queries (07738 469957).

Church

Aberlady & Gullane Parish Church

Minister, Rev Lis Stenhouse, is retiring after Easter. Dr John Arthur will be the Interim Moderator during the vacancy period. Please refer to website for dates/location of weekly services -

www.aberladygullaneparishchurch.co.uk. Services at Gullane are held at 9.45am and 11.15am at Aberlady.

- 9 May - Annual Plant sale, Aberlady Village Hall (10am-noon)
- 31 May - Celebration of Holy Communion in Aberlady Church
- 14 June - Kirkin' of Gala Queen and Consort Aberlady Church

Aberlady Church Flower Arrangers

Aberlady Parish Church are very grateful for the volunteers who provide the Church with a flower arrangement on Sundays. There are a few months this year when no one is available to help and they are looking for volunteers. If you would like to contribute to the community in this way please contact Liz Forsyth 07880337695 or elizabethmforsyth@btinternet.com.

Groups

Aberlady Babies & Toddlers

Mondays, 9.30-11.30am, Aberlady Kirk Stables

For parents, grandparents and carers and their little ones. £3 per family, with snack for kids. Plenty of toys for kids and hot drinks for the adults! Facebook: 'Aberlady Babies & Toddlers'.

Zumba Gold

Tuesdays, 9.30-10.15am, Aberlady Village Hall

A fun, friendly, relaxed, low impact Latin style dance class. Easy to follow routines, suitable for all fitness levels. No need to book. £6 a class.

Senior Mo(ve)ments!

Tuesdays, 11.30am-12.30pm, Aberlady Village Hall

Fitness and fun for the over 55s. Simple exercises using all parts of the body to aid mobility, co-ordination and balance. No partner dancing.

Aberlady Tai Chi Group

Tuesdays, 6.15-8pm, Aberlady Village Hall

A friendly, informal group with beginners and more experienced members. First 2 weeks are free and after that there is an annual fee of £70. This covers the hall hire and insurance.

The Aberlady Singers

Wednesdays, 7-8.30pm, Aberlady Village Hall

The choir rehearse weekly, in the wee hall (through the back of the main Village Hall). All welcome, no auditions. £15 join up fee, £5 weekly. Contact Rachel for more information on 07908632557 or aberladysingers@gmail.com.

