Aberlady Heads Up

Autumn 2026 edition

Aberlady: How can you help?

Get involved and make a difference in your village.

Aberlady is a wonderful place to live, and so much of what makes our village special depends on local people giving a little of their time, skills or support. From keeping our Village Hall open and welcoming, to organising community events and producing the village newsletter, many activities rely on volunteers working together behind the scenes.

Could you spare a little time to help?

You don't need to make a big commitment, attend lots of meetings or have any particular experience. Whether you can offer a few hours now and again, share a useful skill, or take on a more active role, every contribution makes a difference. Here are some of the ways you could get involved.

Aberlady Community Association (SCIO)

Following a recent reorganisation, Aberlady Community Association (ACA) is now a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It fully owns, manages and maintains Aberlady Village Hall. The ACA also works to encourage a strong community spirit and, where possible, to represent the views and interests of Aberlady when working with other organisations. There is a lot happening behind the scenes, and we would love more local people to get involved in helping to keep our village thriving.

Aberlady Village Hall – help keep it at the heart of our village

The Village Hall is an important part of community life, providing a space for local activities, events and gatherings. Now more than 140 years old, it is a much-loved building that also comes with the challenges of maintaining an older property. The ACA receives no direct funding from East Lothian Council towards the cost of the hall. Instead, running costs and maintenance are covered through income generated from hall bookings, donations and fundraising activities.

We need your help to keep the hall at the heart of the village. Whether you have practical skills, can lend a hand at an event, or simply want to support this valuable village resource, there are lots of ways to contribute.

What else does the ACA do?

The ACA supports a range of activities and services that help bring our community together, including:

- Producing and delivering the Heads-up village newsletter.
- Developing the Aberlady Local Place Plan
- Maintaining the www.aberlady.org village website.
- Supporting the volunteer team that manages our defibrillator network
- Organising the Christmas Market and Community Lunch
- Working closely with Gullane Area Community Council (GACC) and other organisations (e.g. North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP) and East Lothian Climate Action Network (ELCAN)) to help represent local views on issues affecting Aberlady, e.g. the Local Place Plan, Traffic management

How can you get involved with the ACA?

1. Become a member

Membership is a simple way to show your support for the ACA. It is free and open to everyone, with no obligation to attend meetings. Members are welcome to participate in meetings and have the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

2. Volunteer when you can

Not everyone has the time to take on a regular role, and that's absolutely fine. We are always pleased to hear from people who can lend a hand from time to time. This might mean helping with a spring clean, carrying out small maintenance jobs, preparing for an event or helping with one-off tasks. **Even an hour or two can make a real difference.** If you can help occasionally, we would love to hear from you.

3. Become a trustee

The ACA is overseen by a Board of maximum 12 trustees, who meet six times a year to help guide the organisation and oversee its activities. A number of trustee places are expected to become available over the coming years. We would particularly welcome people who can bring skills or experience in areas such as:

- Digital skills and social media
- Marketing and design
- Finance and accounting
- Fundraising
- Property management
- Building maintenance
- Event management

If you have experience in any of these areas, are looking to build your work experience, or simply feel you could bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm, please get in touch. New perspectives are always valuable.

4. Become a 'Friend of the Hall'

If you are unable to volunteer your time, you can still help support the Village Hall by becoming a Friend of the Hall. A regular annual donation by standing order provides a reliable source of income towards the hall's running costs and helps secure its future as a valued part of village life.
Please see the leaflet inside this newsletter for further details.

5. Help with our Community Lunch

We hope to launch a Community Lunch at the Village Hall in January 2027. The aim is to bring people together, enjoy good food and provide an opportunity for neighbours to meet and socialise. To make this happen, we will need volunteers to help prepare soup, scones and sandwiches, serve food, wash up and tidy away. You don't need to be an experienced cook – just willing to lend a hand!

Every little bit helps

You don't have to take on a big role to make a difference. Whether you have time to spare occasionally, a particular skill to share, an idea for something new or simply a desire to help your community, there is a place for you. By working together, we can keep Aberlady Village Hall thriving, support local activities and help make Aberlady an even better place to live.

Interested in finding out more? We'd love to hear from you. Please contact the Aberlady Community Association at: community.association@aberlady.org.



Stone bus shelter project

ACA is working with East Lothian Council to improve the stone bus shelter by the church bus stop. The aim is to make the shelter a welcoming, accessible space for bus users and a useful information point for the local community and visitors.

- **Information hub:** Install permanent information boards featuring a village map, walking routes and local paths. Temporary notices and advertising will not be permitted.
- **Accessibility improvements:** Ensure the shelter remains safe, well-maintained and accessible for everyone, while continuing to serve bus users.

Residents and visitors are invited to share suggestions, particularly about access, space, safety, screening and seating. Send feedback by 30 Nov to: community.association@aberlady.org.



Gullane Area Community Council (GACC)

GACC represents the interests of communities across an area stretching from Longniddry Bents to Aberlady, Gullane, Dirleton, Drem and Ballencrieff. It is a statutory body that makes representations to East Lothian Council on matters affecting local communities, including planning, sewage and traffic. GACC also administers a small seed-funding programme to support local initiatives. It is important that Aberlady is properly represented so that the views and interests of local residents are heard.

Meetings: Take place at 7pm on the last Thursday of each month (except in July and December).

Vacancies: There are currently two vacant places for Aberlady representatives, and we are also looking for a Secretary to take minutes at meetings and monitor emails. The Secretary role comes with an honorarium of £100 per month.

If you are interested in getting involved and helping to represent Aberlady, we would love to hear from you. Get in touch with Malcolm Duck if you would like to find out more (07740 676 113 or malcolm@ducks.co.uk).

Improving Traffic Safety in Aberlady

ACA, together with GACC, North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership and local residents, is in discussion with East Lothian Council's Roads Department to address a number of traffic-related concerns in Aberlady. Many of these concerns relate to vehicle speeds and a lack of consideration for the safety and wellbeing of residents as motorists travel through our village. Through GACC, we want to hear residents' views, identify the areas that need improvement and agree on practical measures that will make Aberlady a safer place to live. Ideas for consideration include:

- Traffic speed monitoring at eastern/western entrances to the village, to establish actual vehicle speeds.
- Repainting road markings, including faded white lines in the village and on surrounding local roads.
- Speed tables at strategic locations along the A198, where appropriate.
- Extending 20 mph speed limits to improve safety for residents, pedestrians and other road users.
- Village gateways to encourage drivers to slow down and recognise when they are entering a residential community.



These are initial ideas, and your views and suggestions are important in helping us decide which measures should be prioritised. Please look out for announcements about an upcoming community meeting. Let's work together to make Aberlady safer and improve the quality of life for everyone who lives here.



We're excited to welcome back the **Aberlady Christmas Market** to the Village Hall on **Saturday 21 November**! Kick off your Christmas shopping with local makers, buy some tasty treats and try your luck at the raffle.

New for this year: Festive Kids' Zone! Bring your little ones up on the stage to meet Santa and enjoy some Christmas crafting and games.

Free entry to the Christmas Market. £3 entry per child to the Festive Kids' Zone. All profits from non-vendor sales will go towards the Aberlady Village Hall renovation project.

2027 Aberlady Gala and fundraisers

Aberlady Gala Day: Sat 5 June 2027

The 2027 Aberlady Gala plans are in full swing, and we encourage you to save the date now for the community event of the year!

Gala Day is planned for Sat 5 June 2027, with Gala Week continuing until Sun 13 June 2027.

We're also planning a series of community and fundraising events, which we invite you all to attend.

For full details and tickets, visit:
aberladygala.org.uk

Aberlady Gala

- Aberlady Christmas Tree Lighting (Thurs 26 Nov)
- Wreath Making (Sun 6 Dec) {sold out!}
- Christmas Film Night (Fri 11 Dec)
- Burns Supper (Sun 24 Jan)
- Valentines Disco (Thurs 11 Feb)
- Bongo Bingo (Sat 27 Feb)
- Whisky tasting (date TBC)
- Yoga event (date TBC)

Events

- **Aberlady Wild Goose Chase Art Trail drop-in day**, Sat 28 Nov (10am-3pm), Aberlady Village Hall
- **Coro Con Spirito Christmas Carol Concert**, Fri 11 Dec (7pm), St Adrian's Church, Gullane
- **A Coorie Christmas with Satanama Yoga**, Sun 13 Dec (7-9pm), Aberlady Kirk Stables
- **Coorie Down with Satanama Yoga**, Sun 17 Jan (7-8.30pm), Aberlady Kirk Stables

For full details and booking information visit:
www.aberlady.org/events

Regular groups

Monday
Classic Callanetics (9.15am)
Aberlady Babies & Toddlers (9.30am)
T'ai Chi classes (10.45am)

Tuesday
Zumba Gold (9.30am)
Senior Mo(ve)ments (11.30am)
Scone Café (2pm)
Tai Chi (6pm)

Wednesday
Picasso Club for kids (3.40pm)
Clubbercise (6pm)

Thursday
Outreach Post Office (1.15-3.30pm)
Thurs Afternoon Drop-in (2pm)

Friday
Express Callanetics (10.30am)

Aberlady & Gullane Parish Church
For services and events, visit:
www.aberladygullaneparishchurch.co.uk

All groups take place in Aberlady. Please visit website for full details including location and booking info:
www.aberlady.org/regular-groups/

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