

A photograph of the Linlithgow Town Hall, a large stone building with a clock tower. The building features a grand double staircase leading to the entrance. In the foreground, several large black planters are filled with vibrant pink and orange flowers. A silver SUV and a white car are parked on the street to the right. The sky is clear and blue.

Linlithgow FLORAL TRAILS 2018

Volunteers taking pride in our town

Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow

About the Floral Trails ...

Now in their second year, 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 numbered walking route round the town centre and the other two are lettered 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 a circular route round Springfield at the east end of the town (about 2 miles/3 km) and a linear route exploring the areas to the south and west (almost 3 miles/5 km). Their routes are shown on smaller maps on pages 8 and 9.

We hope that, on any of the three routes, participants will derive some 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 2018. 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 many parts of 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.

2. Cat Sculpture and Canal-side Bed* –

The big bed of summer begonias dotted with cordylines, now augmented with some permanent planting, creates a strong visual impact on the slopes down from the Canal Basin. As from June 2018, the bed provides a setting for a new cat sculpture by David Annand, thanks to an initiative by Burgh Beautiful. Associated improvements include removal of an unsightly telegraph pole in the flowerbed, kindly carried out by BT Openreach in December 2017.

3. 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 a pair of North American Liriodendron trees (“Tulip trees”) and recent additions include flowering cherries and an information board relating to the Ross Dooocot.



Colourful bedding at the Canal Basin.



Mixed planting and the Ross Dooocot 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 (photograph on left). In the waiting room in the eastbound platform are three new banners created by the Linlithgow & District Embroiderers' Guild, an extensive display of floral tiles by local schoolchildren and a mural depicting Linlithgow's Riding of the Marches.

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.

6. Hanging Baskets* – Also worth noting are the 120 hanging baskets which adorn poles and lampposts throughout the town centre. For summer, these mostly contain a mix of trailing petunias and trailing begonias with nepeta, white bacopa and big central begonias. For 2018, a different colour scheme is under trial at the West Port.

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, back at the traffic island. Continuing ahead, note the beds of shrubs and herbaceous plants in front of the office building on the right. Featuring a multi-stemmed birch tree, this was one of Burgh Beautiful's first displays.

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



Left: Floral enhancement around St Michael's Well, High Street. Right: Transition Linlithgow's 'Protect our Peatlands' bed, at the Vennel, predecessor of this year's World War I display.

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. World War I Display – Some distance beyond The Cross, you will pass a rectangular bed containing an innovative display to commemorate those who fought and those who died in World War I. Notice also floral planters and hanging baskets, both down towards the loch and further along the High Street as you walk westwards.

13. Serpentine Bed* – Just before the High Street narrows, turn right to view the 'serpentine bed' (photograph on left). Replacing standard sized and shaped flowerbeds, this spectacular sinuous bed, which continues across a path and then jumps down over a stone retaining wall, is now a popular and distinctive feature of the town. 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.

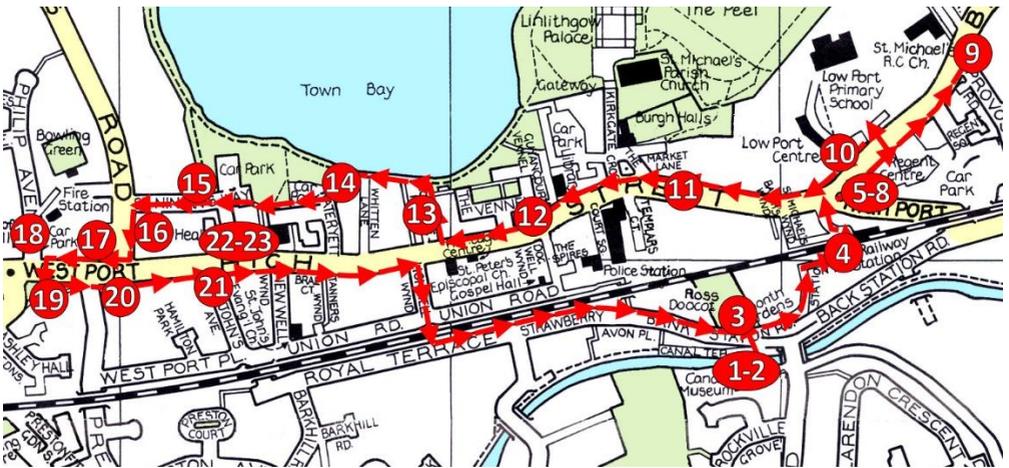
14. Water Yett Community Garden* – Turn left along the lochside and shortly you will see on the left the stunning floral displays provided by Eileen Murray and fellow residents of the Water Yett flats. Take time to examine in detail the variety of plants, providing both colour and wildlife habitats and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



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

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



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.



'Rotary' bed at the West Port.

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, is a mixed herbaceous bed planted by Binny Plants of Ecclesmachan (Billy Carruthers) and maintained with the help of Burgh Beautiful volunteers (photograph on right). 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*.



Binny Plants' display of perennial plants around the 'Katie Wearie' artwork at the West Port.

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.

21. St John's Avenue Triangle – The large triangular bed further along, once occupied by 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* – Yet further along on the opposite side of the street is an attractive stone wall planter containing vivid begonias dotted with cordylines.

23. The Physic Garden* – Just beyond, and immediately in front of the Health Centre, are two beds containing an impressive selection of plants, nearly all of which have either medicinal, culinary, cosmetic or aromatic uses. There is a key to the beds' content on the left hand side of the entrance lobby to the Health Centre.

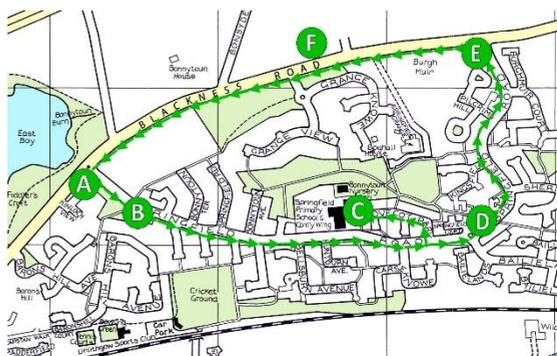
This marks the end of the Central Area Floral Trail. To walk back to the starting point, continue along the High Street for a short distance (noting the floral planters on the way), turn right up the steep Lion Well Wynd, continue round the stone walls at the top and over the railway, then turn left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

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.



High-impact permanent planting, Kinloch View.

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.



The ‘Spar’ Bed at Springfield.

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.

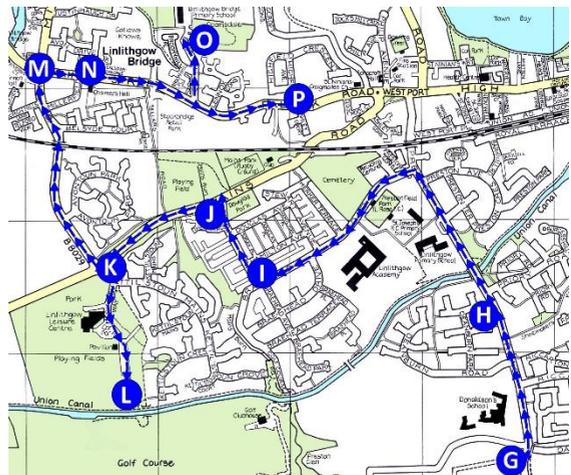
E. Rotary Display and Tree Planting – On the left, at the end of Springfield Road where it joins the main Blackness Road, is a Rotary-themed display of permanent planting (by the Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange) with, at the back, a small grove of young trees nurtured and planted by Burgh Beautiful volunteers. *Before turning left*, note in the distance on your right one of the groups of new planters provided by Burgh Beautiful at the town entrances 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 permanent planting but also some annuals which provide summer colour at this important entry point to the town (from Falkirk). The bed on the north-west corner has been upgraded and replanted for 2018 by Binny Plants.

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 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 2017-18 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' approach, not just focussing on the town centre, and provide most of its floral displays 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 around 100 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 the Council disbursement awarded by Councillor David Tait, 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.