

EAST LINTON GALA ASSOCIATION

CHAIR'S REPORT – YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The trustees of East Linton Gala Association are pleased to present their annual report for the period from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.

The Association's purpose is to advance community development and provide recreational opportunities for the benefit of the residents of East Linton and the surrounding area. Throughout the year, the charity worked to deliver a varied programme of community activities designed to bring people together, reduce social isolation and celebrate the traditions and community spirit of the village.

The principal activity of the year was East Linton Gala Week and Gala Day 2025. The programme included family entertainment, fairground rides, the Gala Court, community stalls, music, catering and the annual Traprain Law Hill Race. These activities brought together residents and visitors of all ages and provided opportunities for volunteering, participation and community engagement.

Despite challenging weather conditions, Gala Day was successfully delivered and received positive feedback from attendees. The introduction of a licensed bar area was welcomed by the community and contributed to improved management of alcohol consumption compared with previous years. The committee received positive feedback from Police Scotland and community officers attending the event, with no reports of anti-social behaviour and significantly reduced levels of littering.

In addition to planning and delivering East Linton Gala Week and Gala Day 2025, the Association organised a number of events throughout the year. New activities included a Christmas wreath-making and children's crafting event, which was extremely popular with local families and residents. A Burns Night ceilidh attracted attendance from across East Lothian, helping to promote community participation and celebrate Scottish culture. The Association also organised a Mother's Day lunch, which, while smaller in attendance, provided a valuable opportunity for social interaction for residents who may feel that some Gala activities are primarily aimed at families with children.

As a volunteer-led organisation, the Association must balance its ambitions with the availability of volunteers and practical considerations. During the year some regular events, including the Books and Cooks event and the summer barbecue, could not take place due to weather conditions and limited volunteer availability. The trustees remain grateful to the volunteers who contribute their time and recognise the importance of maintaining a sustainable programme of activities.

The Association remains in a sound financial position at the end of this year. Total receipts for the year amounted to £16,786.11 and total payments were £14,529.15, resulting in a surplus of £2,256.96. At 30 September 2025, the charity held reserves of £7,489.57. These funds will support the delivery of future Gala activities and help ensure the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

The trustees are grateful for grant funding received from the National Lottery Community Fund, Tesco Stronger Starts Fund and East Lothian Community Rail Partnership, which enabled the Association to expand its programme of community

activities and continue providing opportunities for local residents to participate in community life.

The charity remains entirely volunteer-led and relies on the commitment and enthusiasm of committee members, volunteers, sponsors, donors and local partners. The trustees would like to record their sincere thanks to everyone who contributed their time, skills and resources during the year.

Looking ahead, the trustees will continue to build on the success of 2025, maintaining the Gala's long-standing traditions while developing new opportunities for community participation and ensuring that East Linton Gala remains inclusive, accessible and enjoyable for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine McMeeken'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C' and 'M'.

Catherine McMeeken

Chair
East Linton Gala Association

16 June 2026