



A warm welcome

We hope that the information contained in this handbook will help you to settle into your new home and the community. Your neighbours will no doubt be welcoming and assist you as needed, but this handbook aims to help you to find your way round services and activities so you can connect with the wider community when you first arrive.

The guide contains up-to-date and relevant information about the area. You will also find this and other information on our website at www.dirletonvillage.org

We hope you find this handbook useful and soon settle in. Please do get in touch if you have any additional suggestions you might have or if you find anything is wrong or missing.

The Dirleton Village Association
DVA@dirletonvillage.org

[Click here to view Dirleton Street Map](#)

(This map is also posted on the dirletonvillage.org website)



The Dirleton Village Association (DVA)

The DVA is a registered charity which represents the hub of the community on matters such as planning and conservation and facilitates all community matters and wishes for the future of the village. Every year we strive to do our best for the community.

The DVA committee currently comprises eight village residents who were elected at the November AGM. Anyone is eligible to stand and indeed this is encouraged.

The DVA membership year runs from 1 September to 31 August and costs between £2-5 depending on single/family membership. Donations are also welcome. Joining up is easy, just email: dva@dirletonvillage.org

Meetings are usually held in the Kirk Hall at 7.00 pm and the agenda and minutes are circulated by email and posted on the website www.dirletonvillage.org

Over the last 5 years the DVA has been responsible for many projects to enhance the village and surrounding areas including: public toilet improvements; quality benches; new noticeboards; alleviation of flooding on church green; additional parking on church green; repairs to the war memorial; 20 mph signs; heritage lighting; wildflower and hedge planting; and the planting of 70 trees as part of the late Queen's Green Canopy project, one for each year of her reign. The last two projects involved many of the pupils from the Primary school.

The DVA actively encourages all types of community activity and acts as the main discussion forum for environmental and conservation issues affecting Dirleton and surrounding areas. Its structure is democratic and open, and anyone may raise issues for discussion at its meetings.

The Community Council and North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

The Community Council, comprising up to 13 elected councillors, two of them nominated by the DVA, covers Gullane, Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem and the surrounding rural areas. It meets monthly by rotation in Gullane, Aberlady and Dirleton and its role is to find out and represent local community views and wishes to East Lothian Council and other public bodies, such as Police Scotland and the NHS. [Community Council](#) – GADDabout

The [North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership](#) has a similar remit but covering the whole of the North Berwick Coastal Area ward. It includes representatives of the DVA and of other village organisations.



Dirleton

Dirleton is a historic village centred around the ancient castle and the surrounding area has a multitude of enjoyable walks and activities. The parish boundary incorporates Archerfield Village to the north, Ferrygate Cottages to the east, Queenstonbank Cottages to the west and Fenton Barns to the south. The village and the immediate surrounding area are designated as a Conservation Area, giving them special conservation status. A map of the village and surrounding area can be found on the website www.dirletonvillage.org

Access to Dirleton Castle and Gardens

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) run Dirleton Castle and Gardens. At present the castle is closed for safety survey assessments, but the Gardens are open and free for members of the DVA on presentation of a valid membership card.

Community activities and events in Dirleton

Dirleton Good Neighbours (DGN)

DGN are a Constituted Community Group launched at the beginning of September 2017, within the remit to promote social activities in Dirleton within the aims of being healthy, active and connected.

Dirleton Lunch Hub - In January 2022 our monthly Lunch Hub restarted on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 12-2pm. The venue is the Kirk Hall and thanks to our volunteers we offer delicious homemade soup, bread and cakes. With a cost of £5.00. This is one of our most popular activities, with a great atmosphere and a real buzz. With a capacity of 40 it may be advisable to pre-book.

With the funds being reinvested into our community and ideas are welcomed, of how best these funds can support Dirleton.

Community Café - During the winter months October to April 22/23 we have started a Community Café once a month in-between our Lunch Hubs. This is an opportunity to meet informally, offering a range of games and refreshments. With between 8-14 attending.

Other Activities - In the past we have subsidised fitness classes, organised an afternoon tea to celebrate our Late Queen's Jubilee and with others, supported the lighting of the Christmas tree and provided refreshments.

As with all community events we depend on our volunteers who give their time willingly. If you would like to volunteer with DGN we would love to hear from you

Contact details: dgn@dirletonvillage.org



Dirleton Fete and Games

The Fete & Games has been held in the village for over 100 years. It is a fun day out for all age groups, with traditional stalls, races, sideshows, competitions and refreshments including:

Events & Competitions: Kids Races, Kids Sideshows, Family Dog Show, Baking Competition, Vegetable Carving Competition

Stalls: Plants, Raffle, Books, Bric-a-Brac, Playgroup (with kids' activities), History Society

Refreshments: Bar, Tea Tent, BBQ, Ice Cream Van

Other: Music Tent, Classic Cars, Kids Inflatables & Rides, Fun Fire Engine.

See www.dirletonvillage.org for further details, including how to volunteer to help with the event and the date it will be held each year.

Dirleton Open Gardens

Dirleton gardens are open to the public under Scotland's Gardens Scheme every second year and the next opening will be in 2024. We usually open on both the Saturday and Sunday of the second weekend in June, but the exact dates will be confirmed nearer the time. As well as gardens being opened throughout the village, teas are offered in the Kirk Hall, provided by the RNLI (whose volunteers provide the teas). The DVA, RNLI and Scotland's Gardens are the nominated charities who all benefit from the funds raised. If you are interested in taking part, please contact carol.glebe@btinternet.com

[Gullane and Dirleton History Society](#)

We provide a series of history talks emphasising on local subjects . These alternate between Gullane Village Hall and Dirleton Church Hall The society also maintains an archive and produces publications many of which are available for sale from Amalfi Ice Cream Shop. Contact ndjones62@gmail.com and 07506166260

[Dirleton Joggers](#)

Small and friendly group able to cater for all abilities. Main session is 9 30 am running between 5k and 5 miles on Wednesdays leaving from outside Castle Inn . Also Sunday morning opportunity. We can also offer 1 to 1 running particularly to help beginners. Contact ndjones62@gmail.com and 07506166260

[Dirleton Bowling and Social Club](#)



Our green is situated within Dirleton Castle grounds and is one of the oldest and most scenically located bowling greens in the UK. Access to the bowling club is via the pathway at the top of the swing park. We are a small club with approx. 25 members. We are always looking for new members, all abilities welcome! During the bowling season (April -September) we meet for:

Hat Games – Tuesday evenings 7pm (6:30pm April & Sept due to light)

Practice (finishing in the Castle Inn) – Wednesday evenings 6:30pm

East Lothian Bowling League – Friday evenings 6:30pm

Internal Tournaments – monthly at the weekend

We run a monthly bingo session – open to all, second Friday of each month at 2pm

We run regular social lunch events for our members

We meet socially through the winter to play pool and darts – Tuesday evenings 7pm

If you'd like to see our newly refurbished clubhouse or in fact the most picturesque green in Scotland please feel free to contact dirletonbowlers@gmail.com and a member of the committee will be happy to meet you and show you round.

Churches

Dirleton Kirk and Kirkhall – Further information and details on hiring the Church hall can be obtained from: abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church (North Berwick)

St Baldred's Episcopal Church (North Berwick)

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland (North Berwick)

Abbey Church of Scotland (North Berwick)

St Andrew's Church of Scotland (Gullane)

Aberlady Parish Church (Church of Scotland)

Baptist Church (Victoria Road, North Berwick)

Dirleton Playgroup for 2-5 year olds



Are you looking for quality, affordable childcare in the local area?

Dirleton Playgroup offers a safe, secure and welcoming environment, providing valuable learning opportunities through play for all children from 2-5 years of age. The Playgroup has been running for over 45 years in the local community and supports children and families living in Dirleton and the surrounding areas.

Held in the Kirk Hall, the Playgroup is open during school term times on Monday (all day), Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mornings. Morning sessions (9.15am-12.15pm) currently cost £12, while a Monday longer day session (9.15am-2.15pm) costs £19. Children can attend from age 2-5 years and their names can be added to the waiting list from 18 months.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions about the Playgroup, or if you want to pop in to see us in action or pick up an application form.

Contact Lorna Greenan, Playgroup Manager, by email dirletonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk or call 01620 850 486 during Playgroup Hours or 01620 894 422 out-with Playgroup hours.

You can also find us on Facebook – just search Dirleton Playgroup.

Household waste and recycling

Green (waste) bins are emptied every two weeks. Boxes/bags for waste food, waste paper and re-cyclable material every week. Brown (garden waste) bins every month. East Lothian Council issues calendars showing exact collection dates.

The recycling centre is on Heugh Road in North Berwick, behind Howard Selby's garage.



Local Information

Hotels, Pubs and shops

[Open Arms Hotel](#) and restaurant 01620 850241

[The Castle Inn](#) – pub, restaurant and B&B 01620 850221

Royal Mail services are provided in the Castle Inn on Monday mornings

[Amalfi Ice Cream and Coffee Parlour](#) – Tea & coffee, ice cream, lunch and cakes.

[Archerfield Walled Garden](#) - Café/restaurant, shop and garden centre

~~Fenton Barns Retail Village~~
<https://www.fentonbarns.com> and [Fenton Barns Farm Shop and café](#)

[Dickson's Fish Van](#) Tel: 01875 811301

Public Transport

Trains between North Berwick, Drem and Waverley (Edinburgh) [Timetable](#)

(Nearest station with a stop on the East Coast Mainline is Dunbar)

Nearest station to Dirleton is Drem. Parking at North Berwick and Drem is free although parking at Drem can be limited at times.

[124](#) East Lothian Buses between North Berwick (through Dirleton) to Edinburgh

[X5](#) East Lothian Buses between North Berwick (through Dirleton) to Edinburgh (express service)

~~and Haddington~~
[122 Gullane Circle](#) comes through the village connecting Gullane, Drem, Aberlady

Other activities in surrounding areas

Golf Courses - there are numerous golf courses in the close vicinity including:

North Berwick	North Berwick West Links GC Childrens' golf course (beside Marine Hotel) The Glen GC Dunbar GC
Gullane	Childrens' course (East of Gullane GC) Gullane nos 1-3 Luffness New Muirfield Archerfield GC and Spa Renaissance GC Craigie Law GC

[Cubs and Scouts](#)

[Brownies and Girl Guides](#)

[North Berwick Rugby Club](#)

[North Berwick Pipe Band](#)

[North Berwick Sports Centre](#) operated by [Enjoy Leisure](#) 01620 820730

[North Berwick Film](#) nights Third Friday of every month
North Berwick Community Centre, Main hall, 8 Law Rd, North Berwick

Aging Well/Health and Wellbeing Walks - pwoodger@eastlothian.gov.uk

Archery. Castlefield Archers, Dirleton. Castlefield archers are a field archery club who have a range very close to Dirleton. Anyone interested or wish more information contact [Eric on 07831173421](tel:07831173421)

Other useful contacts

[East Lothian Council](#)

GP practices - in Gullane and North Berwick

East Lothian Community Hospital (Haddington)

Dentists - in North Berwick

Opticians - in Gullane and North Berwick

Pharmacies - in Gullane and North Berwick



Veterinary practices - in North Berwick and Haddington

Library – in Gullane and North Berwick

Useful contacts for household services

(These are services/people which have been used by local residents, but their inclusion in the welcome pack does not constitute an endorsement by the DVA)

BUILDING TRADES

Ecoheat Scotland Ltd, boiler installations & Servicing, Tel: 01506 530428

Thomson, plasterer & roughcaster, Tel: 07738 493820

Claymore Lock & Safe Company, Tel: 01620 829550

Fidra Scaffolding, Tel: 07359 274421

Chris Burns, Electrician 07972830828

Chris Thomson domestic appliances 07749987215

Archibald Plumbing & Heating

BUILDING TRADE SUPPLIERS

Drem Timber & Fencing Ltd, Tel: 01620 850833

Lothian Building Services, Tel: 01875 615522

Highland Plant Hire, Tel: 01875 819090

GARDEN SERVICES

Fidra Garden Services, Tel: 07801 945399

Bakersfield Garden Services

Anderson Landscaping and Garden Services, Tel: 07906 034258

Mitchel Turf, Tel: 01236 453059



PETS

Links Veterinary Group, Tel: 01620 822262

Petit Paws - Dog Walker, Tel: 07940 796534

Valley Forge dog & cat Kennel & Grooming Services, Tel: 01875 870674

Dunedin Vets, Dunbar, Tel: 01368 860001

OTHER

Andrew Johnston - Mobile Fruit & Veg Van

Catkins Floral Design, Tel: 01620 890476

Dirleton PC Doctor, Tel: 07557 353862

Piano teacher: James Willis - all ages taught, references available,
contact James on 07535 272232 or mail@jameswillis.co.uk

nextdoor This is an [app](#) which links you with others in our community.
Good for local news, activities and recommendations of useful people/services



Face Book – Dirleton Village Association

If you would like any additional information, please get in touch with the DVA and we will try to help dva@dirletonvillage.org