

# The Ferry News

## Issue 47

Jun 2004 - Sept 2004

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### Community Council

North Queensferry is a delightful village in which to live.

This is quality of life. We have a railway station for those bad days that you just have to go to Edinburgh, a very good park and ride system, good motorway connections, wonderful walks, especially if you have dog and, if you do, please use the new doggy poop bins, relatively low levels of crime and when there is a hiccup, the Dalgety Bay police roar into action, a visiting library, [we did try to keep the old one], a school for the children, a village shop- thanks Wilma, a community centre which is not used enough, an interesting lower village which has been improved over the years and which provides much to interest the day visitor and the local, more history than you can shake a stick at, some interesting wells which are in the process of being refurbished, two places where you can go out for a drink and a good dinner, a church, beautiful flowers planted throughout the village, some rights of way to walk, a couple of places in which to keep your boat if you have one, a good beach which is kept clean throughout the year to look at the water if you don't have one, public transport which is always trying to be improved, a good village atmosphere, at Christmastime a couple of people who go to a great deal of trouble and light up their houses like Las Vegas and much much more.

Do you agree? Good, so do I and that's why my wife and I moved here some three years ago. Why not join the Community Council and keep it like this?

Do you not agree? Well join the Community Council anyway and let's see what we can do to add what you think is necessary to improve life in the village. We are always interested to hear from you.

Jeremy Hawkings

Telephone 01383 825 800

### HELP KEEP NORTH QUEENSFERRY BEAUTIFUL

North Queensferry is being entered in Fife Councils annual "Best Kept Village" competition.

To improve our chances of success, residents across the village are encouraged to help enhance our community environment by having pleasant gardens and by keeping all street areas tidy.



#### NO LITTER PLEASE

We hope that the combined efforts of householders, community groups and individuals will give our village an excellent chance of doing well and improving the environment in which we live.

Furthermore, any garden may also be entered into Fife Councils "Best Garden" competition, which runs at the same time as the Best Kept Village event. Hopefully a large number of our village gardens will be entered for this award, which will be judged by the 'Best Kept Village' assessors. There will shortly be publicity in the village, via posters and leaflets, for both competitions and judging will take place during July. Application forms will be available shortly for individuals to complete (Contact Jill Brown on 419337). Closing Date is June 28<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the above, North Queensferry Heritage Trust have added a new award for "Best Garden" into their annual village show (Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Aug). This will be awarded to the winning garden as judged by Fife Council in their competition.

N.Q.Community Council and N.Q. Heritage Trust.

## Ferry Birds –January to May 2004

The bird walk on the 5<sup>th</sup> May was, I think, a success despite the cold easterly wind off the sea. Because of this the birds were hiding away and it meant that we had to rely on our ears as much as our eyes. We started by looking at the Bay and saw nothing. The waders, except for a single **curlew** and a few **oystercatchers**, are all away to their breeding haunts. The **black-headed gulls** and **common gulls** have also disappeared leaving the **herring gulls** to feed in the mud, more particularly in the Bay behind The Albert when the tide is out. I was watching them feeding recently. The only things I saw being caught were small crabs which the gulls dealt with by vigorous shaking to remove the legs. The remnants were then swallowed. It is a one-sided battle once the crab has been spotted not quite hidden in the mud. I also saw several hundred gulls, mainly **herring** and **lesser-black backed**, feeding on the sea between Port Laing and Cruickness Point the last week in April. They seemed to be picking eel-like fish from just below the surface of the water. Once a fish had been caught a melee ensued with the other gulls in the vicinity trying to make the catcher drop its prize. There seemed to be plenty of these fish around and the air resounded to the calls of the gulls which only attracted more of them to the scene. I spoke to friend who has a fishing boat at Granton and he said that he had seen unusual numbers of butterfish in the Forth and that they were long, thin and dark and would look eel-like from a distance. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows about these fish and if it was likely that they were what the gulls were feeding on.

Continuing our walk we went along the coastal path towards Port Laing. We heard **chaffinches**, **willow**

**warblers** and **linnets**, but were disappointed to find that the **fulmars** on the quarry face had disappeared. However one did do a fly-past as we walked along. At Port Laing we saw a **great-black-backed gull** amongst a group of **herring gulls** and then spotted an **oystercatcher** and what I said was a **curlew**. I was probably wrong about the **curlew** and one of the party did say that it had a short bill for a **curlew**. The next day I went back to Port Laing and found a bird which, with the better light, was obviously not a curlew but a **whimbrel**. Assuming that this was the same bird, John Clemmens was right to question my original identification. My consolation was that it was the first **whimbrel** I had seen this year. Beyond Cruickness Point we had a good view of a **kestrel** hovering over the quarry and saw several **shelducks** in Inverkeithing Inner Bay. The walk was a good example of how listening for the bird calls is so important for their identification.

Although most of the winter visitors have now left North Queensferry there were a few stragglers this year. One of the noticeable ones was a **red-throated diver** which was seen frequently close to the shore at Port Laing. There were 1 or 2 others further out at the same time, but I think the one close to shore was injured in some way. It seemed to be holding it's foot at an awkward angle out of the water. I've not seen it recently, so I hope that it has managed to fly back to its breeding grounds, probably in the North-West of Scotland. Up to **4 great-crested grebes** have also been on the sea between Port Laing and Cruickness up to the middle of May. These birds breed on fresh water locally so I'm not sure why they are still here on the sea. I also saw a single female **goldeneye** off Cruickness Point on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.

## Village Photographic Archive

### (Project to make a sound and vision presentation on CD)

North Queensferry Heritage Trust will be holding a special video demonstration of the Photographic Archive collection, as it is at present, on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 in the Community Centre.

We are needing more photographs especially of the ferries and of the Road Bridge opening. So please search out your treasured photos and bring them along and see them on screen. Photographs brought along on the evening can be scanned in there and then (from 7.00pm onwards) and returned to you straight away. These photographs will then be added to the Archive.

### Entry is free!

For further details contact John Clemmens on 01383 418442.

## Can You Help?

Christina (Christian) Bell (maiden name Proud) and James Bell were married in 1851. They had two daughters Mary and Martha (my great grandmother) and approx 6 sons including Alexander, John and Robert. Most of the children were born in Beath but they also lived in Inverkeithing and North Queensferry. In the 1881 census they lived in North Queensferry at Orchard Head Cottage.

Is there still an Orchard Head Cottage? What was the name of all the brothers and where did they end up? Although Martha and her husband Charles McNeil are buried at Inverkeithing next to her daughter, my great aunt Christina (Tina) and her husband Charlie Donaldson, I can't find anyone else? I would love to know where Christina and James Bell are buried. Any info would be much appreciated.

Contact The Ferry News (415022) if you can help.

Many of our summer visitors are now present in and around the village. I have heard and seen several different warblers along the coastal path and by St Margaret's Marsh. There seem to be plenty of **blackcaps** and **willow warblers** along the path and the usual **chiffchaffs** at Port Laing. The latter is usually the first warbler to appear each spring. This year I heard the first one on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. The rarest is the **lesser whitethroat** which I first heard on the 30<sup>th</sup> April and then saw on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May in the Carlingnose Reserve. St Margaret's Marsh is a very good for **sedge warblers** although the first one I saw in the area was again from the coastal path near Port Laing. I have also seen a few **swallows** usually flying overhead and often near Cruickness Point.

The **Sandwich terns** have been back in good numbers since the middle of April, but the **common terns** which often nest on Long Craig were much later in arriving. The first time I saw more than 1 or 2 was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May when there were several checking out Long Craig and several others feeding out in the Estuary.

Meanwhile the breeding cycle for our resident birds will now be in full swing. **Blackbirds** and **song thrushes** will now probably have young to feed so they will not have time to be singing so much and the **robins**, **dunnocks** and **wrens** will also soon become less conspicuous as they realise that the welfare of their young is more important than showing off to their next door neighbours. Let's hope all our birds have a successful breeding season and fill our gardens and hedgerows with young birds.

There are 4 relatively common birds of prey around the village. Perhaps the best known and certainly

the commonest until a few years ago is the **kestrel**. Its familiarity was probably due to its habit of using roadside verges as its hunting grounds and as a consequence it became the most recognisable bird of prey in the country. The **kestrel** is the only bird of prey which persistently hovers as it searches for its prey. It is the only one which can do this on calm days. Small rodents are the main prey for **kestrels**. **Buzzards** which are much bigger than **kestrels** do occasionally hang in the wind searching, but can only do this if the wind is strong enough and will always be facing into the wind. **Buzzards** normally hunt by soaring high over the ground, circling around using their keen eyesight to spot their rabbit prey. In recent year buzzards have become much more common and are often seen on fence posts along our main roads. **Sparrowhawks** also soar to spy out the land and then come down to the woodland and hedges to chase their prey. They are agile flyers and try to surprise their prey by flying along a hedge and then flying over it and along the other side. Because the male **sparrowhawk** is much smaller than the female they take smaller birds whilst the female can take prey as large as a **woodpigeon**. **Peregrines** are the local star performers as birds of prey. They can fly at up to 150 miles per hour by closing their wings and literally falling through the air. Their main prey around North Queensferry will probably be the **feral pigeons** on the Rail Bridge. The **kestrels** and **buzzards** are the easier to see and recognise. Their way of hunting makes that the case. The **sparrowhawks** and **peregrines** are often gone before you have chance to recognise them, but they are around to be seen, if you keep your eyes open. There's nothing like practice, so get out there and get spotting.

*John Done*

## Neighbourhood Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch soldiers on. The trouble is that there isn't that much trouble in the Village. Security is always a case of being sensible and anticipating what might happen. If you are at the bottom of the garden cutting the grass are you sure your front door is secure? If you are in the house having that well-earned cup of tea having cut the grass is the mower far away at the bottom of the garden unattended? Did you lock the garden shed when you put the mower away? Just remember and you won't be sorry.

We are still looking for someone to join the Committee with the intention of carrying on the running of the Neighbourhood Watch. Any volunteers please contact one of the Committee. It is not an onerous task, but we need some new blood to revitalise the Scheme.

Finally, we can only try and improve security if we know what needs doing. It is the member's Neighbourhood Watch not just the Committee's. If

you have any concerns get in touch with a Committee member or Dalgety Bay Police. If you see anything suspicious call the Police at Dalgety Bay or call 999 if it is really urgent.

Anyone wishing to join The Neighbourhood Watch please contact a member of the Committee whose names and telephone numbers are listed below

John Done 415731 Marion Gargett 414829  
Olive Fairley 416057 Dalgety Bay Police 318900  
British Transport Police (Kirkcaldy) 01592 641517

## Church Fete

The Spring Fete held in the Church on Saturday 8th May was a happy and successful event. The total raised was £1025 which was an excellent result and our thanks go to everyone who contributed. It was great to have such a big response from the residents of the village and other friends. 10% of the income will be sent to Chogoria Hospital, Kenya for work in the Palliative Care Unit



## Current Issues

The main issue affecting North Queensferry at present is the increase in the number of calls being received from the local community involving the anti-social behaviour of youths. The local police have received a number of complaints recently which range from disorderly conduct to youths congregating and consuming alcohol at various locations. The local police will continue to address such problems in a proactive manner.

Over the past few weeks, the local primary school has become the focal point of such behaviour and this has resulted in damage being caused to the school on several occasions. In view of this, the school has been designated the 'Hot Spot' for the local police and will be subject to numerous checks and a high profile police presence in the area.

If any local residents experience any form of anti-social behaviour, I would ask them to contact the local police as any incidents arise.

Local residents have also reported problems with indiscriminate and dangerous parking of motor vehicles at various locations within the village. The local Community Police and Traffic Wardens will continue to monitor and regulate such problems, however, if any specific parking issues arise, please report such instances to the local police.

## Ongoing Initiatives

Vandalism – We have implemented an initiative to tackle vandalism in the local area. The initiative is operating on a number of levels including education and police enforcement. The local primary school recently won a prize for the work undertaken by the pupils as part of a project highlighting the various issues surrounding vandalism.

The Police enforcement phase of the initiative has also commenced with a series of articles in the Dunfermline Press highlighting the problems associated with vandalism across the Division. In addition, a dedicated enquiry unit has been set up whose sole remit during the initiative will be the investigation and detection of vandalism. If you have any information regarding vandalism, please contact the local police.

Anti-Social Behaviour - The officers of Dalgety Bay Community Team have produced an Action Plan which will run for the entire month of May. As stated earlier, there has been an increase in the number of complaints from local residents across Dalgety Bay policing area regarding youth disorder and the associated anti-social behaviour from youths congregating and drinking alcohol at various locations in all the towns and villages in our policing area. The locations are primarily being used as gathering points and drinking dens by groups of up to 50

youths, particularly on Friday evenings, and are subject to littering, acts of vandalism and use as a public toilet by these groups. In view of this members of the Dalgety Bay Community Team assisted by the valuable members of our local Special Constabulary will undertake both plain clothes and uniformed foot and mobile patrols at these locations to address this anti-social behaviour and to detect any offences committed.

If there are any areas in your local community which you would wish the police to target, then please let me know.

## Contact Details

Should anyone wish to contact the local police please telephone 01383 318900. If you wish to contact the Community Team, please telephone the above number and ask for the Community Team. As a reminder, your local Community Constables are PC Brian Smith and PC Mark Maylin. Alternatively your Community Officer can be contacted by E-Mail. eg. Kevin.Woods@fife.pnn.police.uk

Sergeant Kevin Woods (Community Sergeant)

## Christian Aid

North Queensferry Christian Aid Door-to-Door Collection raised £975.25. With tax recovery from gift-aided donations this will increase the total to £1087.97.

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## Gala News

Gala Week starts on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June (see insert for more details) culminating in the Gala itself on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>. The main focus this year is on celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forth Road Bridge. Pupils from the primary school designed this year's medals on that theme and to continue in that spirit we are going for a very traditional gala. The programme (see inset) follows the normal format apart from the switch of the talent contest and the football/netball due to the European Election. Food tickets will be distributed through the primary school and if you require guest tickets or tickets for older village children call Anne on 413494.

We are looking for volunteers to help put up the flags, man a stall, act as a steward or any one of the multitude of tasks on offer. We will only require your services for a maximum of 30 minutes on Gala Day. We would be particularly grateful for any volunteers to set up on the Saturday morning. If you would like to get involved at any point during the week or on the day itself please contact Anne or speak to the volunteers who will be knocking on your door shortly. Inside this edition of the Ferry News you will find an envelope, please make a donation to the costs of the gala. We will endeavour to return and pick up the envelopes but if we don't then just hand it in to the Albert or Wilma's. Alternatively you can pass them on during gala week itself. The last fundraiser in the Community Centre raised a whopping £420! Well done! Many thanks to all of you, who take part in, help out and generally support the gala. We really appreciate it. Now if we can all make a concerted effort with the weather....

### Medal Design Competition

Pupils from North Queensferry Primary have been busy designing medals for the forthcoming Gala. The theme was the Forth Road Bridge and here are the winners.

Jamie Ranaldi P7      Sarah Greenwood P4

Alana Malkani P2      Nathan Jones P1

## Gala King and Queen

**This years Gala King is Fraser Bastianelli and the Gala Queen is Bethany Howie.**



## "... live without destroying things!"

Our Secret Garden at the school is used by everyone here but sadly, over the past few months, it has been vandalised by groups unknown. The police are aware of the situation and are keeping a close eye on the premises.

Here are some points raised by the children after the "Wildlife Garden" was vandalised during the Easter holidays. The Garden has been there for five or six years and has never been a target before. The children were upset about it and here are some of the comments they made during a class discussion.

"Why would anyone want to spoil the garden especially if they used to be pupils here?"

"Maybe they weren't pupils here but perhaps they know who did it!"

"Maybe they even planted the bulbs themselves when they were at school!"

"Someone must know who did it!"

"Please start showing some respect for our playground and don't leave any of your rubbish behind when you come into the playground as it might be dangerous for children"

"A second of fun for lots of guilt or perhaps you are not guilty which is even worse."

"I'm disappointed in what's happened, maybe their families would be upset if they knew!"

"Maybe they have younger brothers and sisters at the school and they are suffering as well!"

"They don't have to spoil things as other people can live without destroying things!"

As I'm sure you would agree some of these comments make a lot of sense.

The Garden has been tidied up and hopefully if the people involved read this it might make them think before they become involved again. Hopefully, we will return after the holidays to the Garden as we left it!



## ATTENTION LADIES

A "Ladies Cocktail Evening" is being organised in the Community Centre and will be held on Saturday 31 July 2004. The format will be – pre-dinner drinks & canapés, a three course dinner with coffee/tea, after-dinner speaker, prize draw and an auction. Evening wear is essential. If you haven't heard about this and are interested, contact one of the caretakers at the Centre who have a list of the organisers' names and phone numbers. Note - numbers are limited.

This is the first of many fundraising events which will be held in the Centre in order to boost funds and ensure our Centre remains open.

**Christina McKenzie**

## parent and toddlers group

If you have a child or children aged between 0 and 3, then why not come and join us on Thursdays from 10am to 11.15am.

We meet in the small hall of the community centre. There are plenty of toys, a soft play area, and refreshments. There is a charge of £1 per family to cover teas etc.(first visit free). Little ones must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

This is a great place to meet other parents and families in the village. We run the group throughout the school term time, with the exception of any days when the school/nursery is closed.

We have a non-smoking policy. Breast feeding is welcomed.

**Karen Trotter**

## Second Chance Association Dog Training School



The Dog training classes are held to teach the dog owning public how to take care of and control their dogs. This also aids them to become responsible members of society. The classes are held 7-9pm each Monday evening throughout the year (with a break for Christmas and The New Year).

All profit from the classes is currently paid to the Second Chance Association (registered charity no Sc032203) to help them maintain their kennels at Thornton. These kennels are kept to enable rescue, restoration to health and rehoming of unwanted dogs.

The numbers attending the classes varies but on average the attendance is ten per night.

The dog training undertaken is based on the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS) and the Kennel Club Bronze, Silver and Gold tests are held throughout the year at the North Queensferry Hall with a high success rate.

The school is also involved in raising money through Sponsored Walks and Dog Shows.

The school held at North Queensferry captures dog owners from North Queensferry, Rosyth, Inverkeithing and surrounding districts but has also attracted attendees from as far north as Kinross. The school is planning to become involved with the Dog Aid Society Scotland (DASS) in the near future and this will enable us to become involved with and aware of dog owners throughout Scotland.

Mike O'Brien  
Trainer

# Thank You

A big thank you to the Community Council for its contribution towards the cost of the production of this issue of the Ferry News.

## ATTENTION!

Network Rail have made claim by Notice of Title to ownership of land in the village. Any persons who feel that this may effect their title to land should investigate this and make conter claims as soon as possible.

Details are in the Community Centre.

If you wish to contest ownership, please contact Network Rail.

## CENTRELINE

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## Heritage Trust

This had been a very busy year for the Heritage Trust so far, with a series of topical talks held in the Community Centre and the Spring Bird Walk having taken place.

The North Queensferry brochure has also been launched. This worthwhile joint project between the Heritage Trust and the Kingdom of Fife Tourist Board will fill a glaring gap in the promotion of Fife. Fifty thousand high quality full colour brochures have been distributed to the tourism sector to raise awareness of the history and amenity of North Queensferry as the Gateway to Fife and it is hoped that this will set a precedent to the Tourist Board for future promotion of North Queensferry.

Further Heritage Trust events are coming up soon, details of which can be found in the "What's On" listings and of course as always, the main event of the Heritage Trust, the Village Show will take place in August.

**Village Show: Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup> 2004 2pm – 4pm Community Centre.**

It's time to start planning your exhibits for this year! As always we try to keep the best of the traditional aspects of the show while introducing some new ideas to tempt you to participate. The handcrafted, food and photographic entries are always well supported and last year the children's entries showed a high standard of originality. For this year, some vegetable categories will be re-introduced due to popular demand and we will also have activities on the day. Families can help build a butterfly arch in the foyer and there will be an opportunity to bring your photographs to be scanned in for the photo archive.

The Village Show is attractive to the whole community, but exhibitors are essential to make a show. The emphasis is on fun as well as competition, so we hope you will try and participate in some of the categories. Schedules will be displayed soon on the village notice boards and on the Ferry News website and will also be delivered through doors nearer the time.

## Midsummer Beach Party and BBQ (Swedish Style)

Following the success of last year's beach party, the boatclub are organising another exiting event to be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June on Port Laing Beach at 3 pm. This is a family fun day to which all residents are invited. Games, races, live music and food will be organised by the boatclub. All you have to bring is yourselves, something to sit on and some liquid refreshments.

Come along and join in the fun!



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## Community Centre

It doesn't seem that long ago since I wrote my last input into the Ferry News. What has happened since then.....Well we're holding on in there and surviving but we are not in as healthy a position as we were this time last year; bookings are down. We really do need your support; **we need you to use your community centre.** If you think of having a large party the main hall is ideal and it only £75 for the night and there's now disco equipment available. Want to throw a Kiddies party – the small hall is only £9.35 an hour and for additional £5.20 you can have the Soft Play room – it so much nicer to have the little darlings jump on things that are supposed to be jumped on and not your good furniture.

The computer suite has now been upgraded to broadband which give you far faster access to the internet, come and give it a try. The youth club is getting near to opening again but we do need some more volunteers to help. Finally the present committee has 6 regular members who cannot be expected to run it for ever, we are looking for new blood with new ideas; anyone with a good community spirit is welcome to come along and find out more. We are particularly looking for someone in PR, advertising and marketing who can help promote the centre. If you want to find out more we meet on 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.00pm in your Community Centre – come along and help us.

# WHAT'S ON

## JUNE

Sat 5th	Gala Week Begins	(Gala Day is Sat 12th)	
Tues 15th	Village Photo Archive Display	Community Centre	7.30pm
Sun 20th	Port Laing Beach Clean	Port Laing Beach	2.00pm
Sat 26th	Midsummer Beach Party & BBQ	Port Laing Beach	3.00pm
Mon 28th	Closing Date for Entry to the "Best Garden" Competition		

## JULY

Sat 31st	Ladies Cocktail Evening	Community Centre	
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## AUGUST

Sat 28th	Village Show	Community Centre	2.00-4.00pm
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## SEPTEMBER

Fri 17th	Deadline for Articles for the next Ferry News		
Sun 19th	Port Laing Beach Clean	Port Laing Beach	2.00pm

## FERRY NEWS ADVERTISING RATES

1/6 Page Ad	9cm x 8cm		£15.75 per issue	or	£36.75 for 3 issues
1/4 Page Ad	9cm x 13cm	or 18.5cm x 6.5cm	£21 per issue	or	£47.25 for 3 issues
1/3 Page Ad	18.5cm x 8cm		£31.50 per issue	or	£68.25 for 3 issues
1/2 Page Ad	18.5cm x 13cm	or 27.5cm x 9cm	£42 per issue	or	£94.50 for 3 issues
Full Page Ad	18.5cm x 27.5cm		£73.50 per issue	or	£157.50 for 3 issues

Issued in February, June & October. For further information contact Mary or Dave Dempsey on 415022

## School News

We have been invited to take part in the 150th celebrations of Captain Cadell and his canoe. We are working closely with artist Kenny Munro, with whom our P7 children produced the reliefs for the Coastal Path, in marking this anniversary.



"The navigation of the 'mighty' Murray River (Australia) in 1852 by Cockenzie born Francis Cadell has inspired an international project to strengthen existing relationships and develop new ones between communities at the opposite ends of the world. Together they now celebrate a shared heritage through the adventures of Captain Cadell's Canoe - 'Forerunner'. The Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Council is supporting the idea which links with the people of Goolwa. Growing interest is promoting collaboration; linking the schools of both towns and encouraging plans for future civic links."

The school is pleased to be included, along with schools along the length of the Forth, in this valuable and worthwhile project. It touches the curriculum in many ways and is instrumental in broadening the children's view of the world outside.

# WANTED



for 8 hours per week

## admin assistant

contact Adrian or Jason on 01383 417 509

or e mail [adrian@cls.info](mailto:adrian@cls.info)

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