# The Ferry News



# Issue 48

# Oct 2004 - Dec 2004

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#### Ladies Cocktail Evening

Wow, what a wonderful night! I would like to say a big thank you to the Ladies who attended the Cocktail Evening on Saturday 31 July and in particular the Ladies who helped turn my idea into reality. I would also like to thank the men who assisted with the pre-dinner drinks etc., the men who allowed themselves to be auctioned as slaves and to Kieran Donnelly and Neil Porwol for their services as photographer and auctioneer/DJ. It truly was a fantastic evening.

I am pleased to say that the sale of tickets covered the outlays, the food, wine and hired furniture etc., and left a small profit of £115. Adding this to the takings from the auction of £790 and the £890 donations, taken on the night and given by Ladies who could not attend, we raised the magnificent sum of £1,795. As our Community Centre is a registered charity I will be able to claim tax on the donations received under the gift aid scheme which will amount to around £240. In addition to this the photographs taken by Kieran are being sold, therefore, I can confidently say that the total raised will exceed £2,000. Finally I want to thank the following individuals and businesses for their tremendous contributions to the prize draw –

lain Banks Deep Sea World Hair by David Wilmas Hair Chair Kieran Donnelly Greta Dyce Ferrybridge Hotel Person 2 person Albert Hotel Maureen's Hair Salon Shires Remo Williams Isla West Margaret Norwood

V & A Design Palmers Limited Malcolm & Lindsay Evans Gordon Brown Maureen Brett Builders Centre EB Electrical Mary Rae Beauty Spa Corus Hotels Jock Hunter Brian McNeil Molly Sinclair Redwring Jean Horn

The Centre's Management Committee have already agreed to spend £200 to start off a CD collection and are reviewing various other requirements which will improve the facilities within the Centre.



Due to the success and popularity of the evening it has been decided to host a similar event next year, which will probably take place at the end of May. (If anyone in the village knows of any Lady speakers, could they please get in touch with me.) However, I am currently in the process of organising a Burns Night & Ceilidh, the date of which has still to be confirmed.

Thanks again to all who assisted and attended.

Christina McKenzie

Heritage Trust AGM

Members of North Queensferry Heritage Trust are reminded that this year's AGM is to be held in the Community Centre on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, at 7.30pm and not the 15<sup>th</sup> as previously advised

## Ferry Bírds -May 2004 to September 2004

Those harbingers of autumn, the redshanks were back in West Bay on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June this year. This is 1 week earlier than last year. There were 5 birds then and now there at least 50 and they have been joined by about 6 turnstones. There are a few curlews and several oystercatchers as well. Their presence is a reminder of how important the Bay is as a safe roosting and feeding area for several groups of birds. The main groups are waders, ducks, gulls, terns and grebes. I have been checking my records and have identified 30 species which I have seen using the bay to roost, rest or feed. I have seen 14 different kinds of wader, 5 different ducks and 3 kinds of grebe. At least three kinds of gull, 2 kinds of tern and grey herons, mute swans, red-throated divers, cormorants and **shags** also use the bay at different states of the tide and different times of year. About 10 other species either use the edges of the bay to feed although 1 or 2 have only been present a few times in the last 15 years.

The breeding season has as usual been a mixed bag. The **eiders** produced their young and I saw up to 25 small young in the Bay at one time. The **gulls** took their toll as usual, but I think the local population seems to be more or less stable judging by the numbers I see along the coast between here and Kirkcaldy. The **common terns** also seemed to have done fairly well despite the occasional strong winds and heavy rain during the summer. I counted about 14 downy young on Long Craig in August and I am sure they were more out of sight on the other side of the island or hiding in the vegetation. Most

of the common terns have now left for warmer climes, but there are still plenty of Sandwich terns feeding off shore from the coastal path and there was a group of about 40 birds on Port Laing beach at low tide on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. On the Bird Walk on the 15<sup>th</sup> we were watching the **terns** fishing at Carlingnose. They were mainly Sandwich terns, but a few commons were seen so that the differences between the two species could be pointed out. We saw young of both species being fed on the water by their hard working parents. It is amazing that these young birds will soon be travelling to the west coast of central Africa and beyond to spend the winter before returning to the UK next spring. One common tern which was ringed in The Baltic was seen for 22 successive years at its breeding grounds. It had probably travelled about 250,000 miles in its life time. Not bad on a diet of sand eels!

Unusual or interesting sightings I have had recently have included a kingfisher at the mouth of the Keithing burn on the 21<sup>st</sup> August and the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 5 herons on the ruined pier off Carlingnose on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September and an **arctic skua** from Carlingnose on the same day. Herons seem to be even more common this autumn. There are nearly always 1 or 2 in West Bay and at least half a dozen along the coast between Carlingnose and Cruickness at low tide. A new species for me in the local area was an osprey over Cruicks quarry on the 19<sup>th</sup> August. It was being harassed by a herring gull and flew off over Inverkeithing to get away from the gull. On reflection it is not that surprising that I saw an **osprey**. There are now at least 200 pairs in Scotland and they are regularly seen over Loch

#### **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're thinking of having a large party the main hall is ideal and at 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 is 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 gives 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 member 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.

#### **Ferry News Special**

This is issue 48 of the Ferry News. Issue 49 is due out in February and next June's issue will be number 50.

We'd like to mark this milestone by creating something special and we need your ideas and help. What do you think would make a really memorable newsletter? What would <u>you</u> like to see?

Please phone 415022 with any thoughts, ideas or suggestions or email mary@ferrynews.co.uk

Leven in summer and they migrate southwards at bridge and also near Port Laing at the beginning of this time of year so one had to turn up sooner or later. The 15<sup>th</sup> of September was a good day. As well as seeing chiffchaffs (see later) I also saw a treecreeper near Cruickness

At this time of year you can, within reason, see almost any of the less common British and Northern European birds along the East coast of Scotland. Fife Ness is renowned for the rare birds which land there and feed and rest before continuing their migration south. It is well placed to attract these birds as it sticks out into the North Sea and any birds migrating south which are blown off course by an easterly wind may well end up there. North Queensferry juts out into the Forth and, although it is further west than Fife Ness it still seems to attract wind blown migrants under certain conditions. A south-east wind and haar are the best.

In North Queensferry we don't often see really unusual species, but migrants do drop in for food and shelter. The Bay is particularly attractive to waders, although the only passage migrant wader I have seen there this autumn has been the common sandpiper. There were 2 flying between the west side of the Railway Pier and Long Craig on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. There was also a wheatear at the end of this pier on the 30<sup>th</sup> Of August. The only whimbrel I have noted this autumn was one flying over the station on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August.

Other possible migrants I have seen recently are either local breeders which have completed their moult and have become more conspicuous or birds passing through. It's impossible to tell, but I heard chiffchaffs at Cruickness and Port Laing on the 15<sup>th</sup> September and I saw blackcaps near the road

September. Blackcaps are known to stock up on wild fruit prior to migrating so the abundant brambles and other berries will be a big bonus to them. On the other hand blackcaps do winter here in small numbers so they may have been early arrivals from Europe.

The late summer/autumn display of wild fruit is prodigious. The brambles in particular have been fantastic. Other fruits are also appearing in large numbers. Rowan, hawthorn and dog rose are covered in fruit; rowan trees are weighed down with berries with the branches bending over towards the ground. I have also noticed several beech trees which are also heavily laden with mast. It appears that there were just the right conditions of sunshine, rain and warmth in spring and summer to produce this abundance of fruit. Notice that there is not a drop of artificial fertiliser in sight!

The summer has also been a good one for peacock butterflies. They seem to appear in waves so you see many of them or only a few. They are particularly conspicuous when they open their wings to show off the eye-spots to frighten off predators. The undersides of their wings in contrast, are dark and inconspicuous. Peacocks are, for butterflies, long-lived. They hibernate through the winter as adults and can live for almost a year. The caterpillars feed on nettles and this brings me easily to my oft repeated plea. Leave part of your garden wild this autumn so that there is an area for the birds to feed and shelter in and room for the insects and other invertebrates to spend the dark cold days of winter.

John Done

#### Pet Dog Training School

The Dog training classes are held to teach the dog owning public how to take care of and control their dogs.

The classes are held 7-9pm each Monday evening in the Community Centre with a break for Christmas and the New Year.

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 Trainer Mike O'Brien is a member of the APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers), membership no 0601 and has Public Liability Insurance.

The school held at North Queensferry captures dog regards owners from North Queensferry, Rosyth, In-Mike O'Brien

verkeithing and surrounding districts but has also attracted attendees from as far north as Kinross.

The school is associated with the Help Fife Animals Charity and we assist the Charity financially in its very valuable work for animals by being involved in raising money through Sponsored Walks and Dog Shows.

All profit from the classes (subscriptions minus hall costs) is paid to the HFA on a monthly basis.

So why not try dog training, it is good fun, you and your dog will both be trained and you will be helping a worthy charity.



#### **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. Autumn is the time when the nights are drawing in. Particularly when the clocks change at the end of October. If the house is going to be empty in the evening remember to have a few lights on timers and change the settings every now and then.

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 (Kirl	kcaldy) 0'	1592 641517

#### Heritage Trust

The Heritage Trust celebrated yet another successful Village Show last month with record attendance from both villagers and visitors. This year's event was made more special because not only did it celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forth Road Bridge but it also hosted the annual Best Village Garden awards event run by Fife Council.

Once again the show illustrated the quality of village



entries for their flowers, crafts, home produce and photography award categories, with this year's cup winners as follows: the Maureen Trotter Cup was presented to Connie Dennison, the Jubilee Cup was presented

to Connor McAllister by Sara Brown and the Trust's new award, the Bob Cubin Cup, was presented by James Dyce to Esmee Yuille.

The committee wishes to take this opportunity to thank all those who kindly gave of their time to help make the day such a success, especially those who had entered items into the show and provided goodies for the sales tables.

#### North Queensferry Church Annual Autumn Sale

on

#### Saturday 6th November at 2pm in the Church

An invitation is extended to all and we look forward to meeting with you over a cup of tea on the day.

#### **Bay Concerns**

There has been a lot of concern over rumours that Fife council planned to fill in the bay between the two piers. The Community Council have had firm assurances from Fife Council that this is not the case and they have put the following in writing

"for the avoidance of doubt any scheme which calls for the infilling of the basin or which detracts from rather than enhances the unique scenic value of the area will not be considered"

The bay is an international Special Protection Area (SPA), a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), is part of the village conservation area and has been proposed as a world heritage site. Even if the council were to renege on their written assurances there are other very significant protections in place. I hope this will reassure anyone who has been worried.

Adrian Neville

Chairman, North Queensferry Community Council

CENTRELINE

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#### Save Our Bay

Fife Council's Environment and Development Committee are proposing to put North Queensferry's West Bay up for sale to developers. Council officials are currently in the process of drafting a prospectus to attract interest. We thought we should write to tell you that is that this isn't a very sensible sale.

Firstly, West Bay is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, it's also a Special Protection Area. Scottish Natural Heritage have already stated that they will view any loss of intertidal habitat as 'serious'. They state that they fear development, 'for example a marina', could prove a threat to the integrity of the site. We've seen previous plans for development that have include infilling the bay! Even the current draft of the prospectus doesn't rule out concreting over parts of the bay and surrounding beach areas. Fife Council may not be prepared to defend the wildlife but local residents are and they'll fight every step of the way to ensure the natural environment is protected.

Fife Council support a scheme to designate North Queensferry and the Forth Rail Bridge area as a World Heritage Site. But the land for sale is within the heritage site boundaries and it includes the best point on the Forth for viewing the Bridge, Railway Pier. Does it make any kind of sense to damage the architectural context of this great landmark with a housing development? Should the World Heritage status of North Queensferry be threatened just for a quick buck at the top of the market?

Village residents are also outraged at the idea that land which is currently in public use might be privatised. This is land with picnic benches and green space where people walk their dogs and children play. A sign at the entrance states that the area is for 'public amenity'. This public land, and public water, for public use and we want to keep it that way!

Of course, the area is a bit run down and it desperately needs looking after but whose fault is that? It's been owned by Fife Council for the last forty years. Recently the public toilets have been set on fire and left unrepaired. The Boat Club are kept on a twenty eight day lease so they aren't able to invest in their buildings. But that isn't the worst of it. The worst of it is that the towns historic, listed, piers are in a state of disrepair. Councillor Mike Rumney has admitted that 'the deterioration over the last forty years' means that 'to do nothing is an unsustainable option.' What have Fife Council done to look after the piers for forty years? Nothing.

We at the Save Our Bay campaign want to help out. We want to set up a village trust, accountable to all North Queensferry Residents which is prepared to take on the burden of looking after the wildlife and natural heritage, keeping the land in perpetuity for public amenity, putting the boat club on a secure

lease and securing lottery and other funds to repair the two piers. In short, we're prepared to buy The West Bay from Fife Council for one pound. We think you'll agree that this is a very generous offer. It will save Fife ratepayers £800,000 and it will save Fife Councillors from an embarrassing and drawn out confrontation with the residents of North Queensferry - and everyone else who care about the Forth Bridge and the wildlife of the Forth Estuary.

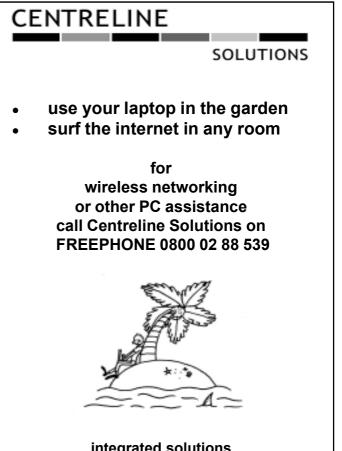
North Queensferry is a small village. The residents here care about the bay and the land and they don't want the unique character of village damaged by profit led development. Let us look after West Bay. Let us buy the land for a pound.

#### **Ferry News Website**

Because the Ferry News comes out only three times a year, there's a lot happening in the village that never makes it into a printed copy of the newsletter.

To get round that problem, we run a website, www.ferrynews.co.uk, that's updated every few weeks and includes a "What's On in NQ", useful information about village groups, back copies of the newsletter, photographs of village happenings, etc.

We're always happy to receive additional material. Perhaps you have a village-related website and would like a link. Or you'd like added to our emailing list for reminders about village events. Or you'd just like to comment on what is (or isn't) on the site. Phone 415022 or email mary@ferrynews.co.uk.



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#### North Queensferry

North Queensferry, a place by the sea. It is a place where I always want to be.

I have a million memories there, where I have seen death and life; North Queensferry, is a village in Fife.

Holidays there, are jewels in my grey year. There are sights and sounds, that I always want to see and hear.

I've had Christmas parties, New Year parties, parties galore. Days at North Queensferry, I always want more.

> There's more than the blue, grey and green at North Queensferry There's things you haven't seen.

Weeks there are fast wheels Too quick for me. It's the best place in the world, is North Queensferry

> Paul Moffat May 2004

#### **Tommy Healy**

Former North Queensferry man Tommy Healy, now living in Glenrothes, has landed a job with an English Premiership side. The 72-year-old is the new Scottish scout of recently promoted Crystal Palace. He has experience in the field having worked in a similar role with Oldham, West Bromwich Albion and Newcastle in the past.

#### **Remembrance Sunday**

This years annual service of remembrance will be held at the Village War Memorial on Sunday 14 November, commencing at 10.50 a.m. It is hoped that the Dunfermline Corps



of the Salvation Army will be able to accompany us again, but this will very much depend upon how many musicians they can muster. Regrettably, their numbers appear to reduce year by year and they would appreciate any help they can get.

This is very much a whole community event, which has been well supported in the past and it is hoped that this year will be no exception. Additionally, if anyone would like to play a more central role – perhaps to read the Eulogy to the Fallen or to play a lament – please contact Brian Armstrong on 417429.

# Next Issue

to be with Dave & Mary by Fri 14th Jan 2005 to 7 Carlingnose Park (415022) or e-mail Mary@ferrynews.co.uk We would prefer articles to arrive either on disc or by e-mail if possible, failing which paper is fine Small ads. items of interest, letter etc. are all welcome

# Registered Childminder Care for the under 5's in North Queensferry



I have recently registered as a Childminder and have the following availability:

 1 space available for a child age 1 - 4 years (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays available)

Also:

• Creche facility available Monday to Fridays until Xmas – bookings essential

For further information please contact Jackie Brown on: Home 01383 414770 Mobile 07880 851461 or e-mail JBKids100@msn.com

#### Village Show Results - August 2004

#### Cup Winners<sup>.</sup>

<b>Cup Winners</b> : The Bob Cubin Cup The Jubilee Cup The Maureen Trotter Cu Forth Road Bridge 40 <sup>th</sup>	•	Esmee Yuille - Bes Connor McAllister Connie Dennison - Mel Bell - Bridge p	- Children's entry Flower exhibit.	Muffins Pancakes Gingerbread Shortbread Tablet Meringues	F. McNaught E Yuille A Low A Low A Monteith A Monteith	A Monteith A Monteith M Low	M Paterson B Thoms M Paterson
Vegetables				Floral Arrangements			
Mixed Vegetables Tomatoes Cherry Tomatoes	W.Brown W.Brown P Bell	A Monteith A Monteith A Monteith	J Donaldson Anne Low Anne Low	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Theme Miniature	B Wilson	F. McNaught B Wilson	G. McAlpine [J Burns] [F. McNaught]
Smallest Ripe Tomato	P Bell	J Donaldson	W.Brown	Lunch Table	I Knight	F. McNaught	G McAlpine
Heaviest Onion	A Monteith	W.Brown		Sewing, Knitting, Crafts			
<b>Flowers</b> Floribunda roses	C Dennison			Embroidery	M Stokoe	F.McNaught	[W Cunningham] [F. McNaught]
Hybrid Tea	C Dennison			Ribbon Embroidery	F. McNaught		
Pinks	P Bell	B Paterson		Soft Toy	F. McNaught	A Judd	
Hydrangea	A Monteith	M Bell	J Donaldson	Sampler	F George	K Bates	
Summer Annuals	P Bell			Patchwork	M Paterson		
Flowering Bush	P Bell	J Donaldson	P Bell	Quilting	M Stokoe		
Pot Plants				Knitting	M Paterson		
Foliage Only	C Dennison	F Bastianelli	R McAlpine	Crochet in Wool	M Paterson	F.McNaught	I West
Flowering Plant	E.Yuille	M.Stokoe	E. Reynolds	Hobby Craft Model	l West I West	H Walker-Boston F. McNaught	Tvvest
Pelargonium	G. McAlpine	D. Legge	- <b>)</b>	Greetings Card	S Hood	S Hood	F. McNaught
Pot of Herbs	A, Monteith	00		Painting	F George	F. McNaught	F. McNaught
Begonia	D. Alexander	B Paterson	D. Alexander	Drawing	F. McNaught	H Walker-Boston	H Walker-Boston
Fuchsia	D. Alexander	E. Yuille	B Paterson	Ū	-		
African Violet	M. Stokoe	E. Donaldson	G. McAlpine	Children 7 years & und	er		
Cactus	M. Paterson	M. Paterson	C. Ewen	Tray Garden	Connor McAllister	Nathan Jones	
Succulent	P. Bell	G. McAlpine	C. Ewen	Painting	Alana	Catherine Moir	Cameron
Preserves and Baking	l				Highly Commended		Euan Colston
Single Fruit Jam	M Paterson	C Ewen	M Watt	Craft Item	Fiona Watters	Fiona Watters	
Mixed Fruit Jam	L Malcom	C Ewen	IVI VVall	Crispy Cakes	Connor McAllister	Fiona Watters	
Marmalade	A Monteith	M Stokoe	E Donaldson	Greetings Card	Fiona Watters		
Jelly	C Ewen	L Malcom	J Leitch	Cress Head	Fiona Watters		
Lemon Curd	M Bell	J Burns	A Judd	Children 8 to 12 years			
Chutney	C Ewen	? Low	F. McNaught	Tray Garden	Jessica Ranaldi	India Malkani	
Scones	A Low	M Paterson	A Judd	Painting	Gavin Sullivan	Hannah	Tom Timmons
Sponge Cake	M Paterson	F George	A Low	Greetings Card	Munro Bastianelli		
Fruit Loaf	F George	M Bell	M Paterson	Ū			
	-			Photography Results	not available		

### WHAT'S ON

#### **OCTOBER**

Tues 12th Thurs 21st	Heritage Trust AGM CC Management Committee Meeting	Community Centre Community Centre	7.30pm 7.00pm		
	NOVEME	BER			
Sat 6th Sun 14th Thurs 18th	Church Autumn Sale Remembrance Service CC Management Committee Meeting	Church War Memorial Community Centre	2.00pm 10.50am 7.00pm		
	DECEMBER				
Thurs 16th	CC Management Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7.00pm		
	JANUA	RY			
Fri 14th Thurs 20th	Deadline for Articles for the next Ferry CC Management Committee Meeting		7.00pm		

"What's On" is updated regularly on www.ferrynews.co.uk

#### **Hire of Community Centre facilities**

Revised charges from 1st June 2004

Regular Commercial rates per HOUR	Regular Vol Orgs rates per HOUR
£17.33	£8.67
(max let £66.67)	(max let £33.33)
<b>£6.23</b> (max let £24.00)	<b>£3.12</b> (max let £12.00)
<b>£3.47</b> (max let £15.00)	<b>£1.73</b> (max let £11.25)
<b>£3.47</b> (max let £15.00)	<b>£1.73</b> (max let £11.25)
<b>£6.23</b> (max let £24.00)	<b>£3.12</b> (max let £12.00)
£5.00	£2.50
£1.03	£0.52
	<b>£1.03</b>

\* - when booked with either main or small hall

Minimum charge of £15.60 at weekends. £20.80 additional charge after midnight

Contact the Caretaker on 411381 to book

#### 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						