The Ferry News



Issue 50

Jun 2005 - Sept 2005

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GALA DAY 18th June

Gala week starts on 11 June (see insert for more details) and ends with Gala day on 18 June. This year we have decided to have the Wild West as a theme for gala day and this will include, among other things, North Queensferry's first ever rodeo!

As always we are looking for volunteers to help put up the flags, man a stall, act as a steward or perform any one of the other tasks that need to be done. If you volunteer we will only ask you to help for a maximum of 30 minutes. We would be particularly grateful for volunteers on the morning of gala day to help set up the field and the community centre. If you would like to get involved at any point please contact Myra on 416 388 or any of the other members of the gala committee. If you wish to donate some home baking this can be handed in on gala day to any of the ladies manning the teas and coffees stall.

The Family Fun day was a fun and successful day, thanks to everyone who attended.

Thanks also to those who donated money when we were doing our door to door collection. There were only a handful of helpers doing this and it proved difficult to get round the whole village so apologies to those we missed. If we missed you and you still wish to donate to the gala you can hand in your donation at the community centre.



Gala Queen - Jordan Howie



Gala King - Calum Dyce



Dog Owners!

PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR POOCHES HAVE DEFECATED IN THE playing field, The gala is coming up and the kids can tread all thro' it.

DON'T SPOIL THE CHILDRENS' DAY.

Ferry Birds - Jan to May 2005

Spring is here again and foliage is bursting out all over now we have got rid of the easterly wind off the cold North Sea. This wind can have it's compensations, but it makes bird watching from the coastal path something of a trial. On the other hand this wind brings the birds in from the mouth of the Firth of Forth and there is always a chance of a more unusual species turning up. I did see reports of some such birds at the beginning of April, but I wasn't in the right place at the right time. The only slightly unusual sightings that I can attribute to theses winds were the kittiwakes which I saw in several places around that time. Kittiwakes of course are not that uncommon and breed in several places in the Firth of Forth on the islands and along the coast. One of the best known places is Dunbar harbour where they nest on the walls of Dunbar Castle. The closest breeding birds to North Queensferry are on Inchcolm.

Most of the wintering birds have, as usual, left North Queensferry for their breeding grounds further north. Many go beyond the Arctic Circle, but some stay within Scotland where they generally move inland and breed along the rivers or the heather moors. I counted a maximum of 75 redshanks in West Bay in January whereas now I just see the odd one-or-two. Most of the curlews have also gone while the oystercatchers are still quite numerous because they also breed locally. Travelling around Scotland at this time of year you may be surprised to see oystercatchers well inland. The spread of theses birds from the coast began a long time ago in the 19th Century. They presumably found the shingle banks by the Scottish rivers very similar to their coastal habitat, but they can now be found along rivers and in arable farmland throughout Scotland. They don't find many oysters in any of their breeding places these days and they have

adjusted their diet accordingly. On the coast they seem to appreciate the mussels and inland they feed on worms and insect larvae.

The other species which have now more-or less disappeared are those that winter on the sea. The 6 or so little grebes had moved on by the middle of March. There were still some great-crested grebes well into April. I counted 6 on one of my walks round the North Queensferry peninsula on the 24th of April. The **goldeneyes** have also gone north, possibly to breed in the Spey valley while there are still several groups of red-breasted mergansers Both the grebes and the around the coast. mergansers are canny birds. They get shelter by moving to the west of the Road Bridge in the easterly winds so are seen offshore from St Margaret's Marsh and return to Port Laing when the westerlies blow.

Others of our resident birds are by now busy breeding. Eiders and shelducks breed locally. Most of the female eiders will be on their nests while the males loaf around in groups by the ruined pier or near the Road Bridge towers. Their job has been done and they leave the females to do all the child-rearing! The shelducks are concentrated in Inverkeithing Inner Bay although there has been a pair in West Bay occasionally recently. The resident land birds are also in full breeding mode. The starlings are certainly feeding young and the less obvious garden birds will also be busy. Many of them are much quieter now as they have claimed their territories and don't need to defend them so vigorously. The **blackbirds** however do seem to be fairly vocal whereas the song thrushes are much less obvious.

The first summer visitor I saw and heard was a **chiffchaff**. This small nondescript warbler winters in Africa and is amongst the first to arrive back in the UK in the spring. It advertises itself by calling

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Home Salon in North Queensferry

Next Issue

Articles to be with Dave & Mary by Fri 16th Sept 2005

to 7 Carlingnose Park (415022)

10

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

it's name. A favourite spot seems to be in the obvious along the coast are the terns. As usual the woodland at the back of Port Laing which is where I heard one on the 29th of March. Last year I heard one first on the 26th of March at the same place. The **chiffchaffs** probably breed locally whereas the wheatear, which is also an early arrival moves on to the hills and moorland of Scotland. I have only seen one wheatear in North Queensferry this year. There was a female under the Road Bridge on the 22nd of April.

The last ten days in April produced some good bird sightings. As described above it is the time when many of summer visitors start appearing. The 22nd had a whimbrel on the beach at Port Laing and then on the 27th I heard and then saw a lesser whitethroat just by the first Carlingnose reserve sign on the coastal path. It was within a day of my first sighting last year. The 29th however was the best day, particularly for seeing (or hearing) warblers. There were 5 species scattered along the coastal path between the lower part of the village and Port Laing. The lesser whitethroat was in the same place as earlier and the chiffchaff at Port Laing had been joined by a few willow warblers. There was also a male **blackcap** in the blackthorn beyond Port Laing and a common whitethroat by the path near the ruined pier. Once I hear the first willow warbler or blackcap I seem to hear them in lots of places almost immediately. I still find it amazing that these birds, weighing between 1/4 and ½ ounce, can fly from central Africa over the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean to Central Scotland and further north.

The presence of all these warblers is usually detected by hearing their distinctive songs and I hope that the weather on the 18th of May will have allowed us to recognise them on the Bird Walk.

The other summer visitors which become very $John\,\mathcal{D}one$

Sandwich terns appeared first. My first positive sighting was on the 20th of April and there were several around the ruined pier on the 27th. The common terns only appeared in numbers in May. The first I saw around Long Craig were there on the 11th although I had seen a few at Musselburgh on the 8th. I saw the first **common terns** on the 7th of May last year. The summer visitors seem to keeping to schedule this year. The fulmars however were later than usual in returning to Inchgarvie. The first I saw were there on the 25th January compared to the 16th last year.

Two or three **peregrines** were on or around the Rail Bridge throughout January, February and March, but I have not seen them often since then. There is a chance they may breed on the bridge, but they may be deterred by the maintenance activity. Still it is great to be able to see them cruising around even though it may only be in the winter.

Finally to two special sightings. I saw a kingfisher in Inverkeithing Inner Bay on the 27th of January. This single sighting was disappointing as I had seen one quite regularly during the autumn of 2004.

After some atrocious weather in February there were reports of large numbers of little auks in the Firth of Forth. Having seen several at Musselburgh on the previous day, I was delighted to see 2 at Cruickness Point on the 25th These birds are starling-sized relatives of guillemots and puffins which breed in huge numbers on islands such as Spitzbergen around the Arctic Ocean and winter amongst the pack ice. Severe storms result in the birds being driven south and in exceptional cases they turn up on the coasts well south of their normal range.

The Right Solution?

Elsewhere in this Ferry news, we read that the village is to acquire a 20mph speed limit. Before we can tell if this is the right solution, we need to know what the problem is.

If 30mph, which used to be ok, is now too fast, then it is but where's the evidence?

If the problem is motorists exceeding the existing limit, then what effect will a reduction have? Law-abiding motorists will drop their speed. Will the speedsters take any notice?

Under a blanket reduction, driving at 22mph down Ferryhills Road at 5am on a fine June morning will be illegal. Is that the right way to go?

Dave Dempsey

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Introduction – PC Brian Smith

Welcome to the latest edition of the Ferry News. May I take this opportunity to intro-

duce myself to all readers out there who do not already know me. I have actually been the Inverkeithing/North Queensferry Community Constable for over three years now, although I must admit that most of my time is taken up working in Inverkeithing, and I do not get to spend as much time as I would like to in the other parts of my area, including North Queensferry. That is not to say that North Queensferry is neglected by either Fife Constabulary or myself, its more a case of "needs must where the Devil drives!".

Until recently, my 'partner in crime', i.e. the other Inverkeithing/North Queensferry Community Constable, was PC Mark Maylin who has now moved on to a new position at Police Headquarters in Glenrothes and a replacement for him is hopefully going to be appointed in the near future.

Sergeant Davie McKelvie has recently taken over as Dalgety Bay's Community Sergeant following the promotion of Sergeant Jim McCluskey to Inspector. Inspector McCluskey is now a Patrol Inspector working out of Dunfermline. Sergeant Davie McKel-

vie joins the Community Team having been a shift Sergeant at Dalgety Bay and was in Fife Constabulary's Dog Section prior to that.

Ferry Issues

So far in 2005, the most prevalent problem in North Queensferry would appear to be Vandalism. The instances of vandalism in the village appear to be random, with no apparent pattern or reasoning behind them. I would ask members of the public to be vigilant and to report any acts of vandalism they see occurring, after all, one day it may be your property that is the target.

The prevalence in acts of vandalism may be associated with the rise in youth disorder type calls that the Police are receiving from the North Queensferry area. Many of you will no doubt be aware of the problems of youth disorder and the associated anti-social behaviour from articles in the press and on television. North Queensferry has so far been relatively untouched as far as this blight on society goes, but, over the last few months there has been a noticeable increase in the number of complaints relating to youth disorder, particularly in the areas of the Primary School and War Memorial. Calls are also increasing regarding this subject near the top end of Brock Street, where reports of youths drinking and causing bother to residents in the vicinity of the small park are received on a fairly regular basis.

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Church News

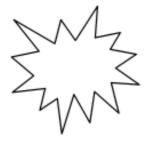
Chris Park, the new minister was delighted to welcome so many villagers and friends to the Spring It was a busy afternoon and at times tea were at a premium so thanks for your tables patience. We raised the sum of £931 of which £93 will go to Chogoria Hospital to continue our funding of the Palliative Care programme. The remainer will boost the Renovation Fund. Thanks again to all who contributed to this successful day. We hope to repeat the Sunday Brunch in September to raise funds for other village groups. Our previous venture was well supported and £340 was raised for the Ferry Boys Brigade - a greatly appreciated donation to their funds. These lunches are very informal and a good opportunity to mix and chat so do watch out for the next date.

Lastly, our thanks to the Dempseys who give so much of their time to publishing an excellent Newsletter and promoting the various fundraising events in our village.

In Memory

Naomi Waddell who attended North Queensferry school and was in her first year of Inverkeithing High School, was killed in a road accident at Hillend Industrial Estate on Friday 6th May 2005.





Wild West Gala

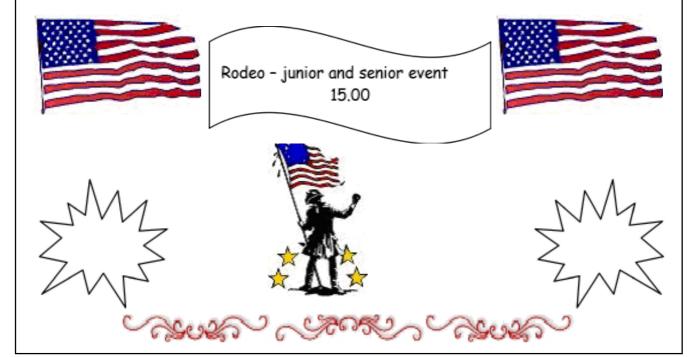


Come along to Gala Day and enjoy all the fun of the Wild West -

12.00	Royal Party Arrives at the Pier
12.15	Procession begins
12.45	Crowning Ceremony
13.00	Fancy Dress Competition
13.30	Tug of War - women
13.45	Tug of War - men
14.00	Football - women
14.20	Senior football - men
15.00	Rodeo
15.40	Obstacle race
16.15	Prizes & trophies
20.00	Gala Dance

Pony rides territorial army ice cream van stalls sumo wrestling

Home baking bouncy castle inflatables show rides fire brigade & lots more......



North Queensferry Gala Week 11th - 18th June 2005

• Saturday 11th 'Gone Fishing'

Children and adults fishing competition

(for details contact Mick Schofield 410811)

Family quiz night

Community Centre 7pm

• Sunday 12th Raft Race Marina 4pm

teams of 4

Junior (10+) and senior events

Rafts to be inspected from 12 onwards at the marina

(for details see posters)

• Monday 13th 'Hot Wheels' Playing Field 6pm

Bike Races

Ferry Hills Bike Race Church 7pm

• Tuesday 14th 'Run Ragged' Playing Field 6pm

Running Races

Ferry Hills Race Church 7pm

• Wednesday 15th 'Football Crazy' Playing Field 6.30pm

'Netball Night School 6.30pm

• Thursday 16th 'Ferry Stars' Community Centre 6.30pm

• Friday 17th Scavenger Hunt Community Centre 6pm
U14 must be accompanied by an adult

Dalgety Bay Community team are well aware of the gravity and extent of this problem and take it very seriously indeed. But, as we as the Police can only do so much. Many of the youths that are the cause of these complaints of anti-social behaviour are local youths, the children of residents in this village!. So I would appeal to all the parents out there, please, take an interest in where your child says they are going, who they are with, what they intend doing whilst they're out. Check them when they come home. Do they smell of alcohol? Do they appear to have been drinking, how is their demeanour? There seems to be a "not on my doorstep" attitude with a lot of parents, whereby they don't really care what their offspring get up to outside, as long as its not on their doorstep, but the downside it, it puts the problem on someone else's doorstep!. As I said, North Queensferry is nowhere near as badly affected with the youth disorder and anti-social behaviour that is so common in other communities the length and breadth of Britain, but lets not be complacent. We, the Police, do patrol, and will continue to patrol the area and deal with youth disorder and anti-social behaviour as we find it, but you as residents, and especially the parents amongst you, must do your bit to help prevent, what at the moment is a relatively minor problem, escalating into a major problem within your community.

"Please take an interest in what your child gets up to, before we have to!"

Neighbourhood Watch

It has emerged at recent Community Council meetings that the Committee and current members of North Queensferry Neighbourhood Watch are on the verge of folding the organisation. The Community Council are currently trying to resurrect interest in this worthwhile cause and as such are appealing for volunteers to breathe new life into a Ferry Neighbourhood Watch. It is not a time consuming or difficult job, so if anyone out there feels they could spare some time and effort to this worthwhile cause, please contact your Community Council members to register your interest.

Need to get in touch?

Should anyone need to get in touch with Dalgety Bay Community Team we can be contacted on the following e-mail addresses:-

Inspector McFarlane (Community Inspector) john.mcfarlane@fife.pnn.police.uk

Sergeant McKelvie (Community Sergeant) david.mckelvie@fife.pnn.police.uk

Constable Brian Smith (Inverkeithing/North Queensferry) brian.de.smith@fife.pnn.police.uk

Community Council

What speed are you doing when you arrive in North Queensferry?

We are blessed with quiet streets and no through traffic in our village. Which makes it all the more noticeable when a car arrives on the scene, travelling at 30mph or more.



Government research has shown that at 40mph, 85% of people hit by vehicles die, compared to 20% at 30mph and just 5% at 20mph. An average family car travelling at 35 mph will need an extra 21 feet (6m) to stop than one travelling at 30mph.

Would you be able to stop in time if you encounter a family of 5 crossing the road at the crossing point at the base of the road bridge steps? What about a boisterous group of toddlers spilling into the main road at the foot of the Brae?

Two thirds of all collisions in which people are killed or seriously injured occur in built up areas. There are 36000 serious injuries and 3400 deaths on Britain's roads each year.

Soon we will see our 30mph zone become a 20mph zone. Let us welcome this measure and let us take a pride in a safe and pleasant environment for our little ones to grow up in.

Do you need extra childcare over the holiday period?



SCHOOL'S OUT!

I am a Registered Childminder and have the following availability:

• 2 spaces available for the 5 to 12 age group for the month of July (no availability for August).

For further information please contact Jackie Brown:

Home 01383 414770 Mobile 07880 851461 or e-mail JBKids100@msn.com



Forth Bridge Memorial Committee

The Forth Bridge Memorial Committee, formed under the chairmanship of John Barrett MP, held its inaugural meeting recently in South Queensferry.

The committee has been formally constituted with the sole purpose of overseeing proposals for the commissioning of an appropriate memorial to commemorate those who were killed during the construction of the Forth Bridge in the late nineteenth century.

Members include representatives from local government, community groups from both North and South Queensferry and other interested parties. Office bearers have been appointed, in addition to a chair there is a vice-chair, secretary and treasurer.

Initial aims have been identified, these include the choice of a suitable location, the design and structure of a memorial, fundraising to meet the costs involved and continuing research to identify the names of those to whom the memorial will be dedicated. There will be other issues which will be addressed as and when they arise.

As a first step with regard to fundraising, a bank account in the name of "The Forth Bridge Memorial Fund" has been opened with the Clydesdale Bank, High Street, South Queensferry to which donations may now be made.

A further meeting will be held in May: information, comments and enquiries which can be addressed at this meeting are more than welcome. At this stage, the committee can be reached in writing via spokesperson David Steel, c/o The Rosebery Hall, High Street, South Queensferry or by email to david@ferryfair.co.uk

David M. Steel Spokesperson Forth Bridge Memorial Committee 12 April 2005 Tel 07751 897692

Boys Brigade

Well, almost another session over !! Phew!!

Our Annual Display will be on Friday 3rd June 6.30pm. 4 boys have gained their Presidents Awards - Scott Richards, Calum Richards, Ross Curran and Patrick Hughes - Well done lads -you've done us proud.

This year so far the Junior Section have won the Battalion Quiz trophy beating Tulliallan in the final - well done to Michael Tate, Callum Strang, Sandy Strang and Calum Farrell.

The Company Section won the Battalion 5-A-Side football competition, in a nail biting, toe curling, hair pulling final against Inverkeithing. The final went to extra time, golden goal and finally 2 rounds of penalties!! Lewis Davies was our hero among heroes on the night - my blood pressure hasn't returned to normal yet and Brian has even less hair than he had before!!

The winning team was Ross Curran, Paul Johnston, Calum and Scott Richards and of course Lewis Davies - Who said that being a BB officer was dull III

Our thanks must go to everyone who has supported us in the last year - particularly to the Church who held a brunch after the service a few weeks ago and gave us a large donation - we were down to our last pennies -so the timing was spot on !!

Again ,if anyone would like to help us in any way ,whether fund raising ,providing transport or helping us run the weekly programme - we would be grateful.

Any other boys out there - and we know there are some...who would like to join us after the summer break will be made most welcome. watch out for the enrolment poster in Wilmas for details...Those of you who have "fallen by the wayside " Get yourself back along - we miss you!!!

Pauline 416563 Brian 419407

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Greetings from North Queensferry Church of Scotland

Since coming to be the new minister of North Queensferry in January, I have greatly enjoyed beginning to find my way around this fascinating corner of the Kingdom. My first impressions are of an area rich in both natural history and local history and it is has been good to meet people who are committed to promoting and preserving this enviable heritage.

The more I do meet those who live in the Ferry, the more I realise what a diverse community it has become over the years and it's been encouraging to hear many people speak of the sense of community they find here. This is surely something well worth striving to maintain and develop and it's good to know there are people willing to work together for the good of the area which must bode well for the future.

I have also been struck by both the warmth of the fellowship in the church here and the diversity of this small but lively congregation. The Christian church has always sought "unity in diversity". Not the kind of bland unity of people who come from similar backgrounds who feel comfortable together because they think and act the same way. But rather a group of people from all backgrounds and walks of life who have found a common purpose that transcends their individual goals and attitudes and enables them to accept and value one another despite their differences.

Such an ideal is never easy to realise because differences between people all too easily lead to distance or even division in society. But at the heart of our faith is the conviction that Christ came into our world to bridge those distances and heal those divisions. Just as the amazing rail and road bridges have made their mark on the history of this commu-

nity, so the bridges that Christ built between God and mankind and between people is the very essence of what the Church is meant to be about.

I look forward to meeting more of you in North Queensferry and as a congregation we hope to be able to work ever more closely with the wider community of which our members feel privileged to be a part.

With best wishes, Chris Park

Neighbourhood Watch

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Olive Fairley died earlier this year. She had been a stalwart member of the Committee for several years. We would like to extend our condolences to her husband Douglas and her family.

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 Karen Trotter who is the secretary of the Community Council. Karen's telephone number is 412535. It is not an onerous task, but we need new blood to revitalise the Scheme.

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
Dalgety Bay Police	318900
British Transport Police (Kirkcaldy)	01592 641517

Heritage Trust Events

May	Wed 18th	7pm	Spring Bird Walk with John Done, meet at War Memorial
May	Fri 27th	7.30pm	'Ferry Tales' by Lord Elgin, in NQF Community Centre (Entry £4 for Heritage Trust members and £5 for non-members, wine & refreshments provided)
May	Tue 31st	7pm	Village Guided Walk with Carol & Peter Dean, meet at War Memorial
June	Sat 18th	9.30am	Beach Clean with Deep Sea World, Beach behind Albert Hotel
June	Sun 19th	2pm	Beach Clean, Port Laing
July	Wed 6th	7pm	Carlingnose Natural History Walk with Stewart Bonar meet at War Memorial
August	Sat 27th	2pm	Village Show, in the Community Centre (Entry Adults 50p & Children 20p)

The Bob Cubin Cup for "Best Village Garden"

Application forms for the Bob Cubin Cup will be available soon.

Everyone is welcome to enter.

Look out for the posters giving more details!



Ode to North Queensferry's Magnificent It sits there in all it's glory Obliterating the very fine view. "Thunder box": "long drop". North Queensferry's "Super Loo" aroon' There's nae a

Ye canna see the Bridge for it There's mony a better place tae sit! Caught short? In a hurry? Don't panic. No. Here's the loo for the few - nae queue!.....

At the double, in deep trouble Where is this fancy lo It's the big white box // the bus stop. Ye canna miss it noc

Standing shiny, whit and grimy Look there's somet dy there. Where's the doorw 77 He's in a Don't just staun an stare.

Dinna fret he'll ge here yet But this ye micht o' ken; When ye gang in it coonts Ye've tae be oot gain, gin en.

Jamsie's got a file pence le But naw "That's no eneug Gettin' intae thill damned loo Ye've tae pay e richt stuff!

What on eart will a'body thinkin' When I get do no inside It's a' closed up, an array a peephol ... a a peephole Maybe I'll just bide

Gala Lottery Winners

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interest to do so. I look torw Martin Gaskin - Area C Neighbourhood . 135 N. LAFFERTY, MRS. BROCK ST BROCK STREET 1. HAMILTON, MR. WHINNEY KNOWE MOUNT HOOLEY CRE 1, LUGTON, MR.

NAME

QUEEN MARGARET S. TATE. MR. FERRYHILLS ROAL TATE MRS CARLINGNOSE RS. D. ALEXAND CARLINGNOSE F. HUNTER, MK CARLINGNOSE CLARK MR. MAINSTREET LXANI. MR. MAIN STREET J.OLIV 9 MR J.TAYLL MR. C.HALL N MAIN ROAD ERRYLANE M. GARGET MRS. ERRYBARN

ICHCOLM! IVE M. GARGETI MRS. S. MILLAR. N S. AST BAY ORTH SIDI NSFERRY M. GASKIN. RORTH QUI M. GAes ference. ne know.

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First Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Dave Symington (415289)

SATURDAY 15TH APRIL

INVERKEITHING CIVIC CENTRE

7.00PM SPEAKERS

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Jim Leishman, Gordon Durie, Stevie Crawford and other well known sporting perso

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Jens 2th February

A MHO WOULD TO BEFORE OR THE EVE OR ADVERTISE IN
THE PROGRAM PLE: "HIGHEVE WILE (410199)

Major Incident Exer se North Queensferry

I have been informed by the group who co-ordinate emergency planning amongst the intergencie in Fife that they intend to hold a major incid to exercise I sed In North Queensferry on Sunday, I in February 1994.

The key players in this exercise will be the Indar-Fish C Dalgety Bay Police North Que Insferry

24644 Martin Gaskin (Area Co-ordin or)



NORTH QUEENSFERRY KIMARY SCH JL

Mr Ireland who has en headmas will retend who has so headmas of our village school if the past ten sars is due to retire summer. Wr Jany former pro who would like a concess retirement pres if please make their donations to M. Caudrey at

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No.