The Ferry News



Issue 54

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Neighbourhood Watch

It's been a year now since we reformed the North Queens-ferry Neighbourhood Watch. The year started off well, with support from the local Police and the new co-ordinators, making themselves known to the residents in their chosen



area. Throughout the year we had regular meetings where the Police were usually in attendance, giving us local information on crime in the area, this helped us make residents of North Queensferry aware of any bogus callers, burglaries or car crime that may be in our area. Six months after starting our neighbourhood watch unfortunately our Police Liaison Officer left, leaving us with a breakdown in communications between ourselves and the police.

This has now been resolved with a new officer being appointed, we look forward to his continued attendance at our meetings.

A big thank you to all the co-ordinators for keeping all the residents in the village informed by dropping off leaflets. We still have one or two areas in the village needing a co-ordinator, e.g. Whinneyknowe & the Old Kirk Road flats, if any one would mind covering these areas could you please phone me and I will give you a co-ordinators pack.

Lastly, if anyone is going on holiday and needs any plug in timers for their lights, please let me know, as we have a few left and I will try and make sure you receive what you need.

We are all looking forward to a new and hopefully uneventful year as far as crime goes.

If you have any questions or wish to contact me please call 419054

JILL BROWN
CHAIRPERSON NONW

Community Centre

Unfortunately there will be no Hogmanay party this year as the committee are unable to support this function. Following the great success of the last Ceilidh we intend running another one around Burns Night next year. We feel that about 100 is the right number, so to save disappointment anyone wishing to purchase a table of 6,8 or even 10 please contact the committee. Remember these events take a considerable amount of time and effort - anyone willing to lend a hand for this event or to join the committee please come along to the next meeting in the centre on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.00pm

George Parker

Remembrance Sunday

This years annual service of remembrance will be held at the Village War Memorial on Sunday 12 November, commencing at 1050 a.m. It is anticipated that the Salvation Army Band will be able to play for us again this year and, as usual, tea and coffee will be available at the Albert Hotel after the service.

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 an individual role – perhaps to read the Eulogy to the Fallen or to play a lament – please contact Brian Armstrong on 417429.

Thank you

... to everyone for handing in Tesco vouchers to the school. We collected 13000 and are using them to buy a digital video camera and we are banking 8000 in order to buy an interactive whiteboard next year. This is a superb effort from the community - THANKS!

Gillian Mackay Headteacher

Ferry Birds - May - Sept 2006

The breeding birds around the coast and village seem to have done pretty well this year. Swallows bred in the lower part of the village and I saw young being fed by the adult birds in June. Probably more successful was the pair which nested under the eaves of the station building. The adults were feeding young in the nest and perched on the roof the first week in September and there were at least 11 **swallows** on the electricity wires by the school on the 11th of September. This probably meant at least two broods were raised successfully. In good years **swallows** can raise 3 broods of 4 to 5 young which means an awful lot of insect catching for the adults. All this work just before they set off to South Africa a journey of up to 7000 miles. It's amazing for a bird weighing less than an ounce and fuelled by thousands if not tens of thousands of small insects to travel this distance. Those that survive then return and often come back to the same place next spring.

The other obvious breeding birds are the **eiders** and **common terns** which both seem to have had a successful season. Small young **eiders** started appearing in West Bay in June and I saw several groups of up to 30 young being shepherded along by 3 or 4 females. I even saw a male helping out one occasion. A male **eider** taking parental

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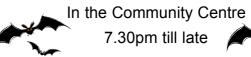
responsibility is quite unusual. The **common terns** breed on Long Craig and I am fairly sure that a few pairs of Sandwich terns also bred. Young terns are not very obvious when they are first hatched. They stay close to the nest and wait, often not that patiently, for one of the adults to come in with a sand eel snack. They breed amongst the rocks on Long Craig and are sometimes quite difficult to see. Later when they have fledged they become more obvious as they follow their parents around again hoping to be fed. The noise of the young entreating their parents to go fishing can be very pervasive during July and August, but this year most of the activity was on Long Craig and the adjacent rocky islets rather than on the mud in West Bay. To emphasise how important Long Craig is for the terns I estimated there were up to 500 birds on the island at low tide during August.

I hope the more familiar resident birds have also had a good breeding season. It is difficult to be sure since they seem to disappear from view in early summer. This is because they renew their feathers at this time and become vulnerable to predators. They therefore become quiet and wary. **Robins** are a good example. In June and July you would imagine they have all left for pastures new only to hear them again in August in full flow. **Song thrushes** also seem to disappear, but from the numbers I heard singing in April and May I am sure there are still lots around.

As I have said here before the peak of the breeding season for many birds is often well before we humans are taking, or at least thinking about, our well-earned summer holidays. This summer was no exception with the **redshanks** disappearing from West Bay at the beginning of May to go north and

HALLOWEEN NIGHT - FANCY DRESS

Saturday 28th October 2006



Tickets at door - £3 per adult £1 per child

Lantern/Pumpkin Competition Fancy Dress Competition



Dooking Disco

Raffle

In aid of the Gala

west to their breeding grounds. On cue a few were back in the middle of June. I saw 1 back on the 22nd of June and by the end of July there were over 30 feeding at low tide in West Bay. There were several turnstones on Long Craig as well on the 15th of June, but my feeling is that a few summer along our coasts each year. Turnstones are Arctic breeders with a few pairs nesting along the coast in Northern Scotland each year. The **curlews** also disappear, but often there are one or two which remain in the bay. Oystercatchers probably breed locally and can be seen throughout the summer.

Migrating birds I saw later in the summer included a **whimbrel** in Inverkeithing Inner Bay on the 22nd of August, a common sandpiper in West Bay on the 19th of July and a **wheatear** on the coast near the Road Bridge on the 31st of August. **Common** sandpipers and wheatears are widespread breeders in Scotland while **whimbrels** are confined to the Northern Isles and the far north of the mainland. They all however winter in Africa and some pass through, stopping off to feed and recuperate before continuing their journeys south. Places like Inverkeithing Inner Bay and West Bay which are full of mud loving crustaceans and other invertebrates migrant species.

At the beginning of August I walked along the coastal path from Jamestown back to North Queensferry. I realised something was happening because of the commotion on the sea at three different places. Many terns, razorbills and black-headed gulls with a few kittiwakes and guillemots were gathering and actively feeding. There must have been shoals of small fish in the area and for these birds

fish mean food. They were feeding by the pier on the north side of Inverkeithing Inner Bay, at Port Laing and between the railway pier and Long Craig. I watched the varying feeding techniques, the terns diving in from a few metres above the water, the razorbills diving from the surface and the kittiwakes and black-headed gulls picking any scraps from the surface of the sea. I assume the fish were sprats, sand-eels or whitebait.

I have had several interesting sightings of wild life recently. Having not seen a kingfisher for 3 months I saw 4 in a week. It started in Inverkeithing Inner Bay with a flash of turquoise by a boat moored at the breakers' yard, then one along the Water of Leith, another on the Tay at Dunkeld and finally one by the coastal path between Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy. The last one was very obliging sitting on a rock by the shore. Other unusual sightings have included an arctic skua chasing a Sandwich tern near Cruickness on the 6th of September and a **tawny** owl calling from the trees at the top of Whinneyknowe on the 4th of September. An owl has also been heard since then near Garthhill. On the non-bird front I counted about 50 seals on rocks in the sea near Kirkcaldy on the 3rd of September and are vital feeding stations for these and many other also several hauled out on Beamer Rock later that week.

> Finally, as usual, a plea to give some of the other species that share our planet the space they need, particularly at this time of year, to feed and lay down fat reserves to help them survive the winter. They need shelter as well so keep at least part of your garden unkempt as well as putting out food for them on a regular basis.

John Done

Heritage Trust

Our most recent event has been the Village Show held on Saturday the 26th August. Jill Brown and her committee of volunteers again put on an excellent and most enjoyable afternoon of events and entertainment for adults and children. It must be hard to estimate the amount of effort required to organise this show over the preceeding months.

The theme this year was, the Natural world, shown to great advantage by a magnificent display of Bonsai trees presented by Archie Page. The skill of local artists was also in evidence with tables showing metalwork, painting, jewellery, greeting cards and other craft items.

The photography exhibition, organised by John Clemmens, was again well supported. Flowers, pot plants, vegetables and homebaking all made a display worthy of the occasion with prizes being given out by the judges for all sections. The standard of entries was high although fewer than last year. Always room for more entries in future!

Sarah Brown agreed to present the individual prize winners with their trophies and these were.

The Maureen Trotter cup - Flo McNaught The Bob Cubin cup -Jill Brown The Jubilee cup -**Lucy Kerr**

The various category prizes awards can be seen on the back page.

An important part of the afternoon's enjoyment was the raffle. This was very well supported largely because of the excellent selection of prizes organised by Helen Walker Boston. To all those individuals and organisations who donated prizes we must record a huge vote of thanks.

Dave Dempsey (in good voice) auctioned all the remaining perishable produce. This went with a swing, ably assisted by a willing band of helpers.

Our thanks must also be recorded for a job well done, to everyone who helped with the teas, set up the stands before the the event and also stayed behind to clear up.

GALA WEEK

The fishing was the first event to kick off our Gala Week......the sun was shining and we had a very good turn out. A few fish were caught this year, but well done to our winners and thank you to Amanda Rooney for organising it all.

Our Quiz Night is usually a very popular event, but with such lovely weather this year it wasn't particularly well attended, possibly due to barbecue parties around the village! Nevertheless, those that did attend wracked their brains to answer four categories of questions: General Knowledge, TV & Entertainment, Music and 60's, 70's and 80's. In the end it was a close finish between 2 teams, but very well done to Mia's team for winning.

The Raft Race was a complete no go, with no rafts being built this year at all, but at least it was a beautiful day to have a lovely stroll on a Sunday afternoon for all that attended down at the Marina.

As always, the cycling and running races were superbly attended so thank you to everyone who came up to the playing fields to either watch or take part and also to those who followed us round to the Church to cheer on all that took part in the Landmark races. Our thanks to the Police for ensuring the road

closures and safety of all who participated.

Football and Netball were held within the same areas this year, rather than using the school playground for the netball. This worked very well with lots of spectators able to flit between both events to cheer the boys and girls on. I think this is the event where our ladies show even more grit, determination and competitiveness than the men!

Onto Thursday nights' talent show. This was rather short of children wishing to show off their talents but we thoroughly enjoyed those that did take part, entertaining us all with their dance routines, singing and instrument playing! The X-Cite Youth Theatre put on a varied medley of song and dance for us afterwards, which was superbly performed and wonderful to watch.

The Ferry scavengers all set off quickly from the Community Centre to dash around the village hunting things down in the quickest time possible. To see everyone rush back in wearing the most bizarre attire and carrying a variety of extras with them amuses us no end each year!

Gala Day itself was a great day but sadly the worst weather of the entire week. Ever hopeful it would brighten up throughout the afternoon, we were soon

Village Gardening Project

This year has seen the first of our floral displays around the old village, and overall the project has been very successful, resulting in a summer of vibrant colour in our barrels, and our thanks go to everyone who helped plant and tend the displays. A special thanks to Roy Taylor for not only helping us to purchase our plants, but for also donating flower troughs and compost.

But we need to look a bit wider for volunteers if we are to expand the gardening project throughout

the village. It's not an onerous task, just helping to plant out the displays and then helping with the watering. These floral displays make a huge difference to any village – and who knows, in time, we could even put ourselves forward for the Best Kept Village!

If you think you could give a little of your time to helping improve how the village looks, then please contact:

Jenny Robertson 413365 Anne Monteith 412365 Peter Dean 418781

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Home Salon in North Queensferry

in full swing. The procession began rather late due Last but certainly by no means least, a very big thank to unforeseen circumstances with the Pipe Band, however our Villagers - en masse - proceeded up happen. From the Committee who work tirelessly The Brae to the playing fields, to crown our Gala Queen. With ladies football and both male and female tug of wars, alongside an It's a Knockout tournament, we had a bungee run and bucking bronco for the brave and determined, a big slide for those with no fear of heights and the ever faithful bouncy castle for the youngsters. A wonderful day was had by one and all.

Our heartfelt thanks to all those who attended and took part on the day to ensure another successful Gala. The Gala Dance was not very well attended which was much of a disappointment as this is And finally, we always require fresh ideas on usually the most popular evening of all through Gala week for all the adults, to be able to kick off their shoes and enjoy a few drinks with the peace and quiet of having no children running around their feet. We would hope to see a far better turnout next year!

We would like to thank Alan Dyce for all his hard work over the last 8 years in playing a key role in organising our village Gala and his support to the Committee in the last year to ensure a smooth handover now that he has retired from Gala duties.

you to everyone involved in making the Gala actually both in public and behind the scenes, to the tea ladies who do a fantastic job organising all the teas and coffees, cake baking etc for Gala Day, to Phil, our Community Centre caretaker who is always happy to give us a hand at any event. A very special thank you to Derek at the Albert Hotel, who organised fundraising towards our Gala and raised a whopping amount of £1200 for us! Also to everyone who attends our fundraiser's throughout the year as well as coming along on Gala Day to enjoy the fun: Thank You

fundraising and new people to join us on the Committee to enable us to keep putting on our main Annual Event. Please come and join us to make sure that we keep our Gala going.

Thank you once again to everyone involved and we hope to see more members joining our happy throng of volunteers. A meeting has been arranged for January 17th 2007 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre for anyone who wishes to join us.

North Queensferry Gala Committee

North Queensferry Community Council Questionnaire Responses

There were **38** replies, **3** of which were anonymous

Are you in favour of a new bridge or tunnel to the west (Rosyth side) of the present Forth Road Bridge? Yes = 33 / No = 4 / Don't Know = 0

Which form of crossing would you be happy to see built?

Road Bridge (like the present one): Yes = 20 / No = 10

Multimodal Bridge (with rail and special lanes for busses and / or

multi-occupant cars): Yes = 14 / No = 14 Tunnel: Yes = 21 / No = 9

Would you support any other measures to improve congestion on the bridge?

Ferries from Dalgety Bay or Burntisland to Leith: Yes = 22 / No = 9More and longer trains at peak times: Yes = 31 / No = 3

Yes = 27 / No = 2Investment in work and jobs within Fife: Toll charging at peak times: Yes = 10 / No = 17

Increased Park and Ride: Yes = 25 / No = 5

Would you like to see the grass area part way up Brock Street turned into a car park?

Brock Street residents Yes = 4 / No = 3 / Unsure = 1 Yes = 5 / No = 5 / Unsure = 14 Others

Yes = 36 / No = 2Did you know that North Queensferry has a Community Council?

Did you know when and where it meets? Yes = 32 / No = 4

Did you know that it meetings are open to all? Yes = 33 / No = 3

Do you know what it does? Yes = 24 / Slightly = 9 / No = 3

Our thanks to everyone who responded. The detailed comments, which are too lengthy to reproduce here, were read out at the September Community Council meeting.

Toddler Group

The North Queensferry Toddler Group continues to go from strength to strength. The summer saw us visiting Almond Valley Heritage Centre and a enjoyable meal at the Ferrybridge for the adults. After a productive summer our numbers are up to around ten families per session! This is fantastic for the group and has resulted in a full calander of events to take us to (dare I say it?) Christmas.

Events planned for the children include a Halloween Party, trips to the theatre to see The Singing Kettle, photo sessions, a Carol Concert and of course a wonderful Christmas party. The grown ups are having as good a time with a trip to the Playhouse to see Chicago and a Christmas night out!

Due to the generosity of the Church Group during the year we have been able to purchase various equipment including a sand tray and safety gates. We are also able to fund First Aid for Babies and Children training for interested parents and carers as well as taking the children to the theatre.

We are always looking for new members, especially first time Mums who really benifit from the friendship and support the group can offer. Many lifelong friendships have been formed at Mother and Toddler groups and ours is very open and welcoming. We meet every Thursday 10 - 11.30am at the Community Centre. For more information phone Sue on 419639 or email Sarah on nqtoddlers@tiscali.co.uk

Nominations For The Willie Myles Trophy

This award will be given out each year for outstanding achievement or contribution to a nominated person from the Village. You are invited to send your nominations, by either email or in writing to Jill Price, who will collect these together and the person with the most nominations will receive the trophy. Please state clearly the name (and contact details if possible) of the person you wish to put forward and your reasons for nominating them.

Contact Jill at <u>jillianp13@hotmail.com</u>
13 Old Kirk Road, North Queensferry
Or through the Primary School - marked c/o
Jill Price, Nominations.



GALA RACE NIGHT

APRIL 2007

Details and Actual Date
To Be Confirmed

Look out for posters!

(It's not really a) car boot sale



in the church hall on Sunday 15th Oct between 2 & 4pm

To raise funds for the Sunday Funday Club (Sunday school) and the BB and to help with the cost of the church windows.

Boys Brigade

Sections meet on Wednesdays

Junior Section (8-12yrs) from 6pm - 7.30pm

Company Section (12-17yrs) from 7.45pm - 9pm

All boys are welcome

Pauline 416563 Brian 419407



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Walking Group

Throughout the summer months a core group of 15 individuals have enjoyed a series of local walks on The walkers have mostly been alternate weeks. villagers but not necessarily all known to each other. We meet in the Church car park at 10am to sort out transport. The walks are up to 4 miles and last about 3 hours including drive time. The pace is that of the slowest walker. To date we have done 10 walks with people joining in as and when they are It is our intention to continue with the available. walks at least through the next couple of months, weather permitting. The walks will move to Wednesday from 5 October. We welcome anyone interested in joining us to either contact Ann Monteith tel. 412365 or Janet King 416734 or alternatively just turn up on the day.



VALENTINE DANCE (adults only)



Saturday 17th February 2007 7.30pm till late

Tickets at door - £3 admission
In aid of the Gala

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No previous dance experience is needed. Classes are:

- rotated so fixed partners are not essential.
- friendly, fun and easy to pick up.

Tuesdays from 7.30pm - 10.30pm North Queensferry Community centre,

For more information call Bill on 07962404123. www.fifejive.co.uk

Forth Bridge Memorial

A memorial to those who lost their lives building the Forth Bridge has moved a step closer with the formation of the Forth Bridge Memorial Arts Trust.

With its charitable status, the Trust will be eligible to apply for funding from arts bodies and seek business sponsorship, grants and public donations.

NQ Community Council and NQ Heritage Trust are involved, as are the Community Council and History Group from across the river.

The new Trust carries on the work of the Forth Bridge Memorial Committee, set up in January 2005. John Barrett, chair of the committee, said that the launch of the Trust is another milestone on the path to securing a fitting memorial to those who lost their lives during the construction of the bridge. He added that he had spoken to many people in the Queensferries who feel that this memorial is long overdue. Now that charitable status is in place, the Trust will be looking for more groups and funders to play their part in the fund-raising which will be needed to make any memorial a reality.

One of the ideas is to install an artist in residence in each of North and South Queensferry to work with villagers on ideas for the memorial.

For nearly two years, the project has been to compiling a list of for those who lost their lives during the construction of the bridge. Records from the time showed that 57 men had died during construction but detailed research has since suggested that the true number was nearer 100.

To begin with, the search turned up the names of John Anderson and a boy named Duffy but scanning the death columns in newspapers uncovered more names. The group enlisted the services of genealogist Sheila Hay to find extra information such as the cause of death.

Her detailed research found many more workers had died, some not actually working on the bridge, but still involved in the construction. Several were also found to have died suffering from Caisson's disease or "the bends". These men were involved in laying the foundations for the giant cantilevers 90 feet below sea level.

Local contacts include lain Mitchell of the NQ Community Council and James Lawson from the Heritage Trust.

Next Issue

Articles to be with Dave & Mary by Friday 12th January 2007 to 7 Carlingnose Park (415022) or e-mail mary@ferrynews.co.uk.

Articles on disc or by e-mail if possible, failing which a paper copy is fine.

Small ads, items of interest, letters etc. all welcome

HERITAGE TRUST VILLAGE SHOW RESULTS 2006

Class	First	Second	Third	Class	First	Second	Third
VEGETABLES Basket/Dish of Mixed Vegetables Tomatoes - dish of 3 Cherry Tomatoes - dish of 6 Onions - dish of 3 Potatoes - one dish of 3 Beetroot Runner Beans	M Rae W Brown A Monteith W Brown W Brown M Rae W Brown	WBrown G Dyce M Rae A Monteith M Rae A Monteith A Monteith	J Leask E Donaldson M Rae W Brown W Brown J Beaton	SEWING Embroidery Item (inc smocking) Any Soft Toy - sewn or knitted Patchwork Item KNITTING & CROCHET Any Knitted Item	F McNaught F McNaught M Paterson	M Paterson	C McKissock
FLOWERS			o Beaton	Any Crochet Item - wool CRAFTS	F McNaught		
Hybrid Tea Roses - 3 blooms One Vase of Carnations Pinks - 3 stems Mixed Sweet Peas - 6 stems Hydrangeas Annuals	B Patterson H Paterson S Waterson E Donaldson B Wilson	B Wilson H Leitch H Leitch B Wilson	A Montieth J Brown	Hobby Craft Item Hand Made Greeting Card Painting Drawing	H Walker S Hood F McNaught F McNaught	H Walker S Hood H Walker	F McNaught / C McKissock F McNaught
Herbaceous POT PLANTS Foliage only Flowering Plant Pelargonium (Geranium) Begonia	P Bell M Dempsey R Patterson J Beaton P Bell	P Bell B Paterson B Paterson B Paterson	P Bell R McAlpine B Paterson B Paterson	PHOTOGRAPHY North Queensferry / Local Interest Any Scottish Scene / People Panoramic - any subject Holiday Scene - any location Family Pets Natural World	S Boston G Irvine K Zaremski H Walker-Boston I Reid A Dempsey	C Jack S Boston K Zaremski S Reid A Dempsey A Dempsey	G Irvine A Dempsey J Lawson K Zaremski S Reid
Fuchsia - any variety in bloom African Violet One Cactus or Group of Cacti One Succulent Ornamental Grass	R Porterson F McNaught M Paterson M Paterson P Bell	P Bell M Dempsey M Paterson M Paterson P Bell	M Dempsey M Paterson M Dempsey	The JUBILEE Cup (Children's Classes) PHOTOGRAPHY Photo - own choice (12 yrs & under) Photo - own choice (13 to 16 yrs)	. ,	F Watters	C McAllister
PRESERVES Fruit Jam - any fruit Lemon Curd Chutney	M Rae A Monteith F McNaught	H Leitch J Robertson	A Montieth F McNaught	GENERAL (7 YRS & UNDER) Tray or large plate garden Four crispy cakes	L Kerr A McAllister	A McAllister L Kerr	E Jones
HOME BAKING Oven Scones - 4 Sponge Cake with a Filling Fruit Loaf Muffins - 3 of any flavour	H Leitch A Montieth J Durand H Leitch	M Paterson A Low A Low M Paterson	A Thoms E Reid F McNaught	GENERAL (8 TO 12 YRS) Tray or large plate garden Drawing or painting: 'The Natural World' Model or craft item Four crispy cakes	A MacAulay J Ranaldi F Watters F Watters	C McAllister J Ranaldi J Clayton	N Jones R Neville F Watters
Four Pancakes or Drop Scones Ginger Bread - 1lb loaf tin Shortbread Biscuits (4) or Round (1) Six squares of Tablet or Fudge Six Medianus Shalls	E Reid B Thoms E Reid J Lawson A Low	M Paterson A Low M Paterson A Monteith	A Montieth B Thoms A Montieth J Beaton	GENERAL (13 TO 16 YRS) Model or craft item ART COMPETITION	J Ranaldi		
Six Meringue Shells FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS	A Low	A Montelli	J Dealon	P1 P2	Rebekah Mill Lauren Johnston	Erin Shortell e Ciaran Tucker	Connor Timmins Ewan Clayton
The MAUREEN TROTTER Cup Fresh Floral Arrangement Miniature Flower Lunch Table	F McNaught = P Bell & F Mc F McNaught F McNaught	:Naught P Bell	I Knight	P3 P4 P5 P6	Sandy Strang	Liam Lugton Christy Zarenki Annie MacAulay Hannah Barton	Georgia White Kayleigh Gamble Craig Walton Euan Flemming
The BOB CUBIN Cup Best Village Garden - judged in July	Jill Brown			P7	Heather Roberts	on Callum Strang	Isla Robertson