

The Ferry News



Issue 58

Feb to May 2008

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Sponsored by North Queensferry Community Council

Community Council

The village is going through a time when many new and exciting projects are on the horizon - the development of West Bay by the projected community company, the restoration of the lighthouse by the Heritage Trust, the creation by the Forth Bridge Memorial Committee of a monument to those who died building the Forth Bridge and the possible restoration of the railway station building as a visitor centre, to name but a few. All of these are matters in which the Community Council takes a keen interest, and, in some, a fairly active part. In addition, the Council carries on its close involvement as a consultee in planning matters affecting the village, and in acting as a channel of communication for residents' concerns and enthusiasms to the statutory bodies such as Fife Council, the police and others.

As the newly-elected Chairman of the Council I take a great deal of satisfaction from taking part in a body which, though it may have few statutory powers, nonetheless touches in many ways the lives of all who live here in the village.

I was appointed, along with my fellow office bearers (Vice-Chairman, Peter Dean; Secretary, Brian Armstrong and Treasurer, Christina McKenzie) at the first meeting of the Council in November, after the recent Community Council elections. The other Councillors are Jenny Robertson, David Greig and Jan Short, making seven members in all.

The total size of the Council is ten (with the possibility of additional co-options) and for the Council to be able to achieve its full potential, it would be very good if we could be brought up to strength. If any of you feel that you might be interested in helping, please contact me or any of the other councillors. Our meetings, which are open to the public, are held at 7.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Centre, and, if you would like to get an idea of what we do,

or if you have some issue you want to raise, please feel free to come along. We actively encourage participation. Even if you are not able to come along, or do not want to, but still have some issue or concern to raise, (or even compliment to bestow) please contact any of the councillors.

One rather happy problem which we and the previous council have had for some time now is that there is a sum of £1,000 set aside in our budget for the benefit of the youth of the village. Strange to relate, it has proven extraordinarily difficult to find anything to spend it on. Various projects have been mooted from time to time, but have all turned out to be, variously, impractical or impossible. Anyone got any good ideas? If so, please let any of the Councillors know, or, even better, come along to one of our meetings and tell us about it yourself!

Iain G. Mitchell QC
Chairman



Butterflies Ball

Look out girls! A Ladies Night is planned for 10th May at the Community Centre. The 'Butterflies Ball' promises to be a great night with wonderful food, drink and entertainment. An excuse to get your glad rags on and party with your friends, all for a very good cause. Ten women from the village are doing the Moonwalk in Edinburgh this year and in order to raise funds for the breast cancer charity they are organising the Ladies Night. Each table at the Ball will sit ten so contact your friends and make it a night to remember! If you can't attend but would like to make a donation this can be done via www.justgiving.com/Feet_Fae_The_Ferry If you need more information regarding tickets etc contact Sonia McGrath at mcgrats@googlemail.com.



Ferry Birds Sept '07 to Jan '08

The winter has, again, been quite quiet in terms of wintering birds. The usual species have been around in similar numbers to last winter with, for example, 18 **red-breasted mergansers** off Port Laing on the 7th of January and 9 **great-crested grebes** there in December. Earlier in the year there were 17 **great-crested grebes** between Port Laing and Cruickness Point. **Goldeneyes** have been more numerous with about 40 sheltering from the westerly gales between Port Laing and Cruickness Point on the 8th of January. The usual **little grebes** have also been wintering along the coast with Port Laing being a favoured spot. A more unusual sighting was of 20 female **common scoters** by the ruined pier on 31st of October. **Common scoters** winter regularly in the Forth Estuary, but are more likely to be seen from Leven in Fife or Gullane Point in East Lothian. Following the high tide alert in the North Sea in November thousands of **little auks** were seen from places such as St Abb's Head which jut out into the sea. A fortnight later I saw 5 between Port Laing and Cruickness Point and about 70 were seen from Carlingnose two days later. It was also a good autumn for **pomarine skuas** although I wasn't in the right place at the right time. However 83 were reported from Carlingnose Point on the 4th of November. I also missed an even rarer record of a **Sabines' gull** on the 25th of September from the same spot.

The waders have been using West Bay as their wintering area as usual. I've counted 60 **redshanks** following the tide as it comes into the bay and about 6 **curlews** and perhaps 40 **oystercatchers**. There

have also been up to a dozen **turnstones** and a few **dunlins**. Exceptionally there were 60 **dunlins** in West Bay on the 14th of December. Watching the waders feed demonstrates the power of evolution as each one has its own way of feeding and thus avoids head-on competition between the species. The real competition in fact is between members of the same species for the best feeding areas and later on for the best nesting sites. West Bay has the usual pair of **mute swans** and the occasional visit from a pair of **shelduck**. Most of the local **shelducks** are now back in Inverkeithing Inner Bay.

The other notable winter visitors are the **fieldfares** and **redwings** which arrive in autumn from Scandinavia to feed on the berries on the trees and shrubs along the coastal path. Their favourite spot this year seemed to be by the Jamestown pond. **Fieldfares** were the first to arrive in reasonable numbers followed by **redwings** in December. **Blackbirds** from the continent also winter in Britain. They seem to be much more common at this time of year along the coastal path.

My list of less common birds over the past 4 months includes several sightings of **ravens**. I had previously seen or heard them near Cruickness quarry, but I heard and saw 2 over The Brae on the 20th of October and the 22nd of December. There were 2 at Cruickness Point on the 5th of November and on the 17th of December I saw them at Port Laing, Cruickness Point and over the quarry from Ferryhills road. The last one was harassing a **peregrine falcon** as I watched. **Ravens** often breed on cliffs and quarries are man-made cliffs so I wonder whether they might breed here this year. I saw the

DSW News

New Seahorse Exhibit

Come on Down to the Sea Horse Saloon! Opening soon this new exhibit will display pot bellied seahorses native to Australia and New Zealand. These seahorses grow to 14 inches and love to eat krill.

Crew Member for a Day

Looking for something to do over the February half-term holidays? Have you ever wondered what its like to work in an aquarium? Now you can find out!

Learn what it's like to be a Deep Sea World team member – join the team preparing the animals food,

feed the animals and even try some presenting! All this and lunch thrown in for just £35!

Feb 16th & 17th Magic Oceans Weekend

Come along and learn all about the 'magical' creatures of the sea. We will also have performances of magical marine tricks to amaze and delight. This weekend is a treat for the whole family.

Feb 29th-2nd March Leapfrog Weekend

Have a hopping good time at Deep Sea World! Learn all about amphibians, from how they grow to how they defend themselves. With plenty of activities including froggy quizzes, and froggy crafts there is something for everyone so hop along to Deep Sea World.

Toddler Group

The North Queensferry Toddler Group had their usual exciting end to the year. The Carol Concert was well supported and the children enjoyed serenading the guests! There were trips to the Singing Kettle and a fun Christmas Party as well as a great night out for the Mums. The year has been a wonderful one for the group. Numbers have

increased steadily (baby boom in the village!) and a successful grant application and nearly new sale have resulted in new toys and equipment being purchased. A change of Officers at the end of the year see Sarah Chadwick becoming Chairperson, Sue Sheehan Treasurer and Becky Hay the new Secretary. The group meets every Thursday at 10am at the Community Centre and all new Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Aunties etc welcome!

peregrine on the Rail Bridge in October, the quarry in December and there were 2 over Port Laing on the 2nd of January. I heard 1 or 2 **tawny owls** on The Brae in November. The highlight however was 2 **kingfishers** by the coastal path on the south side of Inverkeithing Inner Bay on the 10th of January. The same day I saw about a dozen **siskins** feeding on the alder catkins on the trees by the coastal path.

Despite the relatively cold weather in the middle of December and the beginning of January there are several signs of the birds, at least realising that spring is around the corner. On cue were the **song thrush** singing at the back of my house on Hogmanay and the group of 8 **eiders** (4 male and 4 female), the males showing off their pristine plumage, by the ruined pier on the 9th of January. There were also 18 **red-breasted mergansers** off Port Laing on the same day, the males looking particularly handsome as they showed off in front of the females.

Of course our resident birds should not be forgotten. Please keep the feeders well stocked, especially during cold weather. It always amazes me how any of the birds survive the type of weather we had during the night on the 8th/9th of January. They don't have nice warm houses to go to so they need the good cover we can provide in our gardens. Leave at least some corner of your garden wild to give our birds a chance.

Finally a request for help. Field work started in November to collect information on the distribution and breeding status of the birds of the British Isles. The information will be collected over 4 years and the main organiser is The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) in partnership with The Scottish Ornithol-

ogists' Club (SOC) and BirdWatch Ireland. There are 2 ways in which you can contribute. Wherever you are you can send in sightings of any bird. It applies to all species. It doesn't matter whether it is unusual or common. These are called roving reports and you can report them on-line at www.bto.org. The first time you will need to register, but thereafter you can just log on and report your sightings. All the sightings need a grid reference and the website allows you to find the correct reference. You can contribute these records anytime from anywhere over the next 4 years. North Queensferry is in the 10x10km grid square NT18. This square is then further divided into 25 2x2km squares each given a letter of the alphabet. North Queensferry happens to be entirely in NT18F. Further details are on the BTO website.

The second way to help is to do timed visits to one of the 2x2km squares. During these visits you count the number of each species you hear or see for at least 1 hour and preferably 2 hours. You need to visit each square 4 times a year for the 4 years of the survey. If you feel you could do this you would need to contact the BTO through their website and you would be allocated a square to survey. The BTO have a Scottish Office in Stirling and a regional representative in Fife who would contact you after you have registered with the BTO and asked to be allocated a square.

Both kinds of records can also be submitted by post. You should contact BTO Scotland on 01786 466560 for a supply of forms and instructions.

John Done

PROGRAMME OF WALKS - FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2008

WALKS ARE ON **ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS** MEETING AT THE CHURCH CAR PARK OR TRAIN STATION AT **10am** AND RETURNING AT APPROX. 1PM. JUST TURN UP OR CALL JANET 416734 OR ANNE 412365 IF YOU NEED TO KNOW MORE. WALK ROUTE MAY BE CHANGED DEPENDING ON WEATHER.

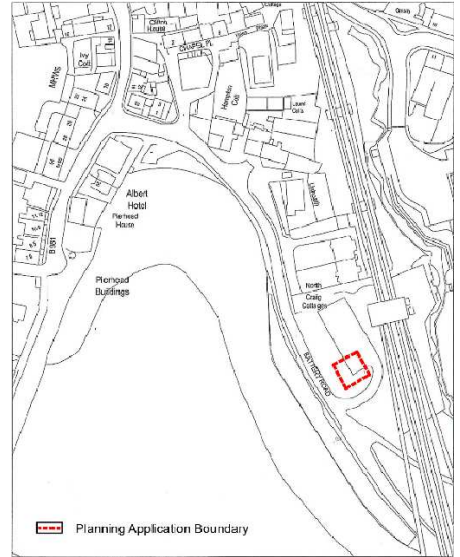
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| FEBRUARY 20 | BLAIRADAM FOREST - Circular - 4 miles |
| MARCH 5 | DALGETY BAY to ABERDOUR (to/from N.Q. by TRAIN) - 3 miles |
| MARCH 19 | MONCRIEFFE HILL WOOD - Circular - 3 Options |
| APRIL 2 | HAWES/LONGCRAIG to DALMENY HOUSE - Lateral - 4½ miles |
| APRIL 16 | BIRD WALK (to be confirmed - probably TRAIN) |
| APRIL 30 | DOLLAR BANK - Circular - 3 miles |
| MAY 14 | LOMOND HILLS (Holl & Harperleas Reservoirs) Circular - 4 miles |
| MAY 28 | LOCH ORE MEADOWS - Round Loch - Circular - 3½ miles |
| JUNE 11 | ABERDOUR via HEUGHS - Circular - 4 miles |
| JUNE 25 | SALINE GLEN - Circular - 3 miles |

Forth Bridge Memorial

To those residents who completed the survey form, the Memorial Committee would like to convey its appreciation for their assistance in identifying a suitable site.

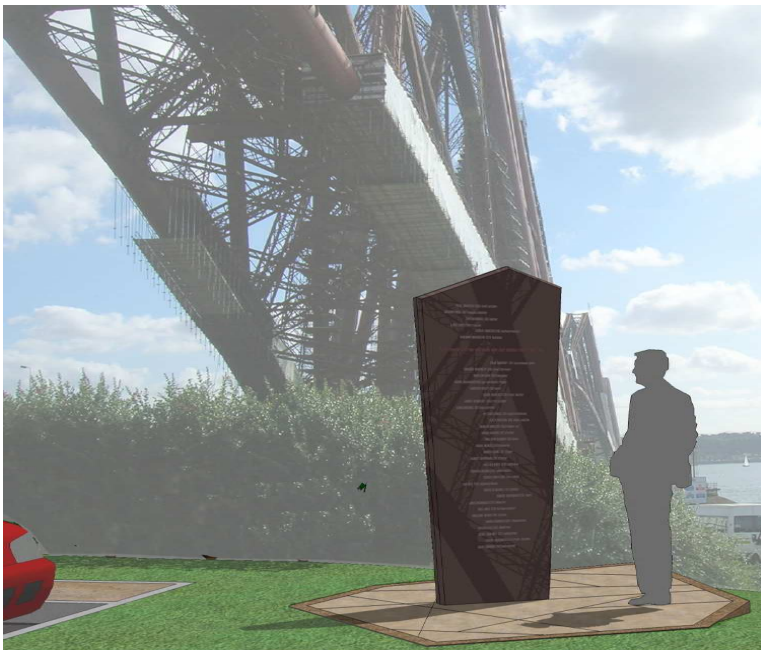
The result was fairly clear cut as may be seen from the following votes for each section.

	strongly approve	approve	neither approve nor disapprove	disapprove	strongly disapprove
Site 1 (Battery Rd)	23	15	5	6	10
Site 2 (War Memorial)	19	10	1	10	6
Site 3 (Marina)	5	4	5	20	14
Site 4 (Mt Hooly)	8	7	5	11	17



Forth Bridge Memorial Site Location

The result of the survey, with some of the comments made, were discussed at the Community Council meeting in October and unanimously approved by all those present. Battery Road car park is now the approved site and this computer generated image of how it might look has been provided by the architect.



A subsequent meeting with local residents endorsed the decision and it is hoped that the memorial might be the catalyst to considerable improvement in the landscaping of the surrounding area.

The architect is now actively seeking planning permission for this site together with that on the promenade in South Queensferry.

Next Issue

Articles to be with Dave & Mary by
Friday 9th May 2008
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

Dalgety Bay Recycling Centre

24 RIDGEWAY, HILLENDD & DONIBRISTLE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, DALGETY BAY, KY11 9JD



Opening Hours

08:00 - 18:30 October to March

08:00 - 19:30 April to September

Heritage Trust

The Heritage Trust wishes its members and all readers of the Ferry News a very happy New Year. The new year starts with a busy programme of events which it is hoped will be of interest to everyone. Details on starting time and venue for all of these can be found on our website www.nqht.org, the Ferry News information service, or posters which will appear on the village noticeboards prior to each event.

The Town Pier Harbour Light

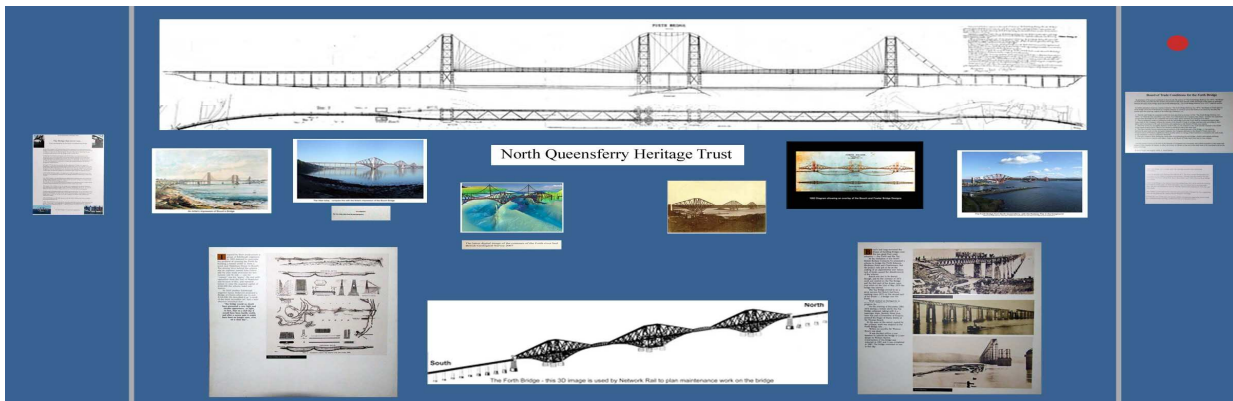
The Trust has now secured a long term lease on the lantern tower from Fife Council. This will enable the trust to obtain listed building consent from the planning authority after which work can start on the refurbishment. Funding will be required to complete the project but offers of help are available in a variety of forms which will greatly assist progress. It is still hoped, once work on the project is underway, to incorporate into the volunteer workforce some pupils from the NQ school's ecology section. They will be introduced to the advantages of learning and working with the traditional skills which have withstood the test of time and are so important to the preservation of our heritage.

The Research group of the Trust has now published all North Queensferry census records from 1841 to 1901. These are now available in CD rom format at a cost of £9.00 each or £7.00 to members. Further work continues on researching the valuation rolls in order to establish the layout of the village and individual residences in the 19th century. Research into the land registry records will follow, to complete the basic historical records of this community.

The Bridge that never was ... is the name of the exhibition which the Trust has mounted at Deep Sea World. This is now up and running and already creating considerable interest.

The story covers over 200 years of Scottish enterprise through the minds of engineers planning to construct a crossing over or under the river Forth.

The official opening of the exhibition is now scheduled for 21st February and NQHT members on



Heritage Trust Exhibition Board on display at Deep Sea World

presentation of a membership card will obtain free access thereafter until 20th March.

The Trust would like to encourage new members. Support from within the village and beyond is always welcome, particularly from those willing to serve on a committee and in doing so, help in the long term development of this community.

Details on how to become involved are on our website www.nqht.org.



Full Grooming, Hand Stripping, Bathing, Nail Clipping, Ear Cleaning. One to One Individual Attention (No Cages).
All Breeds Welcome, Competitive Prices.

THE CHERNOBYL CHILDREN

Eileen Harper of St. Fillan's Church, Aberdour, interviews the Chair of the local CCLL Link

Who are the Chernobyl children?

In 1986 there was an explosion of a nuclear plant at Chernobyl. The fallout blew towards Belarus. The worst hit area was evacuated but the families there have been effected ever since. Children are born with abnormalities and cancer kills many before they grow up.

What does the Chernobyl Children LifeLine do?

The charity was started by Victor Mizzi, MBE in 1992 and there are branches all over the UK. The Dunfermline and West Fife Link has been running for 8 years. Each year for a period of 4 weeks the children come here for a holiday. The better diet and clean air improve the children's health considerably.

Where do the children stay?

The children, preferably in pairs, stay with local families. In 2007 the children stayed in Comrie, Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Gowkhall, Kinross and Rosyth. Most of the host families have children or young adults who can help to entertain, but this is not essential.

What do the children do when they stay here?

They go on group outings every second day. These included Fordell Firs; Leith Waterworld; Dunfermline Fire Station; Deep Sea World; Stirling Castle, Blair Drummond Safari Park; Inchcolm; Dunfermline Glen; local swimming baths; and a ceilidh! Each year Dunfermline Rotary Club organises a day of treats for the children.

And what about their health problems?

Some of the children are on medication. When they are here they receive free dental checks and treatment provided by local dentists in Inverkeithing, Kinross, Oakley and Dunfermline and also free eye tests (and spectacles if needed) at Specsavers, Dunfermline.

Are there language problems?

The children all learn English at school. There is a Russian phrase book for the host families. The Belarussian leader who accompanies the children is always available if there is a problem, but usually

communication problems are overcome with acting and sign language!

Do they like our food?

Yes. Hosts are flexible with the food they offer, to accommodate individual preferences. They provide wholesome food to help recuperation. In some cases the children initially eat very large portions until they realise that each day they will regularly be offered as much food as they can comfortably eat.

What do the children enjoy most?

Having fun! Most love swimming.

What do they find strange?

One child was frightened by the shower but when his friend accompanied him into the shower they had great fun! Another child remarked on the rabbits at the side of the road and couldn't believe we did not use them for our dinners!

What do they go home with?

Better health, lots of memories and new clothes. Many of the children have only the clothes they stand up in when they arrive. Clothes are donated for them and they get to choose new outfits. Some have never had pyjamas and usually sleep in their underwear.

What about the host families?

The families all say that they gain more from having the children, than they give. All those involved can see the children glowing with health after the 4 week holiday. After an initial shyness the children are enthusiastic and gracious about the generosity they are shown.

What does it all cost?

£400 for each air fare and then funds for hiring transport and outings etc. Each host family is given some money to buy the children some basic clothing, and the charity buys winter shoes for the children to take home.

What can we do?

Make a donation; support local fund raising events.

Be a host family. Without host families, there can be no holidays for the Chernobyl Children. If you would like to know more about being a host family, please contact Carol Dean at carol@triple-f.co.uk or on 01383 418781.

MathsLearner



One to one Maths Tuition available for pupils taking Standard Grade, Highers and Advanced Highers, and getting ready for exams in May.

Contact Mathslearner Tel 01383 416981

New: Tutorials available now with a live tutor online. If you have broadband, then go to www.mathslearner.co.uk and check out how you can take a 15 minute tutorial, a "catch up" lesson or a regular personal tutorial every week.

Email : admin@mathslearner.co.uk

NORTH QUEENSFERRY GALA NEWS

THE WILLIE MYLES TROPHY

For the 2006 Gala, the Myles family donated a trophy to the Gala Committee, in memory of Willie Myles. It was proposed that this trophy be awarded to a person from the village of North Queensferry, for outstanding achievement or service to the community.

The Committee chose Brenda Howie as the first recipient, for all her hard work and dedication to the fostering of many children throughout the years. Last year, Anne Monteith was nominated as the winner. This year we would welcome your nominations to decide a worthy person to receive this award.

Please send your nominations to either of the following - marked Willie Myles Trophy Nomination by June 1st 2008.

Jill Price, 13 Old Kirk Road, North Queensferry

Jillianp13@hotmail.com

The above can also be contacted for any queries or more information regarding this award.

Thank You



YOUR GALA COMMITTEE OFFICE BEARERS

DANIEL HOWIE—CHAIR

JILL PRICE—VICE CHAIR

ANNE CONNOR—SECRETARY

MYRA MCDAVID—TREASURER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JANE HOWIE

AMANDA ROONEY

SUE KERR

ANNE TAYLOR

JENNIFER FOSTER

Questionnaire

There will shortly be a Questionnaire distributed to everyone in the Village. Please be kind enough to fill it in and return it to the Gala Committee by February 29th so that we can act on any feedback that we get.



70'S AND 80'S DISCO NIGHT AND KARAOKE

FAMILY NIGHT

**SATURDAY 23RD FEB
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

7PM TILL LATE

£3 PER ADULT

£1 PER CHILD

FANCY DRESS

RAFFLE

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
REFRESHMENTS**

GALA COMMITTEE

PRESENTS

THE FERRY RACE NIGHT



**SATURDAY 19TH
APRIL**

**Doors open at 7pm
first race at 7.45pm**

£2.50 per adult

and children go free

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
REFRESHMENTS**

GALA 2008

Gala Week will kick off in the week commencing
Saturday 14th June 2008.

Unless otherwise advertised, Gala Week will run as follows:

Saturday 14th June 2008 - Fishing and Quiz Night

Sunday 15th June 2008—Raft Race

Monday 16th June 2008 - Bike Races

Tuesday 17th June 2008—Running Races

Wednesday 18th June 2008—Football and Netball

Thursday 19th June 2008—Talent Night

Friday 20th June 2008—Scavenger/Treasure Hunt

Saturday 21st June 2008—Gala Day

All Trophies must be returned by Saturday 14th June 2008.

Great Goings On At Deep Sea World!



New Seahorse Exhibit

Coming Soon

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New Zealand. These seahorses grow to 14 inches and love to eat krill.

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February half-term

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The first consultation is free



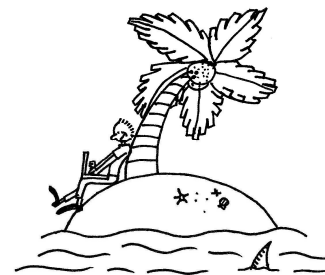
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