

The Ferry News



Issue 59

June - Sept 2008

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Community Council

I wrote in the last edition of the Ferry News of some of the exciting projects which are happening in the village, but perhaps potentially the most challenging for North Queensferry will be the building of the new bridge (or, as it is described in the legislation, the Forth Replacement Crossing). Transport Scotland has appointed a joint venture, Jacobs Arup to develop the crossing and there has already been some preliminary discussion between Jacobs Arup and interested parties, including representatives of Community Councils, in which we have participated. We made clear our concern that, during the construction phase, disruption for the village should be kept to a minimum and that clear and unimpeded access must be maintained at all times. It is encouraging to report that these concerns were sympathetically listened to. It is hoped that, towards the Autumn, there will be a public meeting in the village, where representatives of Jacobs Arup will be able to share more details of the developing plans.

Also happening on the wider scene is the setting up in association with Fife Constabulary of a West Fife Village Forum in order to improve and develop policing across this part of Fife. This is a development which the Community Council welcomes, and in which we are playing an active part.

Following my appeal in the last edition of the Ferry News, we are pleased to welcome three new members who have been co-opted to the Community Council: James Lawson, Patricia Dennison and Colin Bell. At the same time, Peter Dean and Jenny Robertson decided to leave the Council, though Peter is carrying on as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch. The village owes Peter and Jenny a great debt of gratitude for all of their hard work on the Council and, more widely, for the whole village.

In the result we have two vacancies now remaining amongst the membership of the Council, and we should still be very keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in joining the Council and helping with its work. Separately, we have decided also to

appoint a Minute-taker (who would not be a member of the Council). It may be possible to negotiate a small honorarium. If this is a job which interests you, please get in touch with any of the members of the Council.

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, please contact any of the councillors.

Disruption to Cross-Forth Rail Services 5th & 6th July

Due to Edinburgh Tram Project preparatory works, passenger train services will be unable to serve Inverkeithing and North Queensferry Rail Stations from 5.30am on Saturday 5th July until 5am on Monday 7th July 2008.

During this period, ScotRail intend to provide rail replacement bus services to transport passengers between Dalgety Bay Rail Halt and Edinburgh via Inverkeithing Rail Interchange, Dalmeny and South Gyle. Train Services will continue to operate in both directions on the Fife Circle and serve both Rosyth and Dalgety Bay Rail Halt. A shuttle bus will operate between North Queensferry and Inverkeithing.

Fife Council shall facilitate the operation of the rail replacement bus services as follows:

1. Dalgety Bay Rail Halt Car Park will be closed to all vehicles except for buses, taxis and disabled drivers.
2. Inverkeithing bus turning circle will be closed to all vehicles except buses.
3. Chapel Place Car park will be closed to all vehicles except taxis, disabled drivers and for drop-off/pick-up purposes only.

ScotRail will publicise the alternative arrangements leading up to and during the weekend in question.

Ferry Birds - Jan to May

The ducks and waders which spend the winter around North Queensferry have mostly left for their breeding grounds further north. The **redshanks** in West Bay have done their customary vanishing trick and there are only one or two **curlews** left. The **red-breasted mergansers** and **goldeneyes** seem all to have left although there were lower numbers on the sea than usual last winter. The **great-crested grebes** and **little grebes** have also gone. The latter probably breed locally on freshwater lochs, while the others go further north and west to nest by rivers in the Highlands. The highest counts I saw were 17 **red-breasted mergansers** and 16 **great-crested grebes** off Port Laing on the 22nd of February. The **eiders** and **shelducks** stay here to breed and, although I have never seen any nests, young are often seen in West Bay and Inverkeithing Inner Bay in June.

As usual I have had several sightings or reports of our less common species. A welcome sighting was the **green woodpecker** I saw flying towards the woodland round Northcliffe on the 27th of March. This woodpecker has one of the most bizarre calls of our native fauna. It has given rise to the word yaffle in the English language. It is a slightly maniacal loud laughing. I heard it again close to The Brae on the 18th of April, but was unable to see it. Another unusual record was of a flock of about 300 **golden plovers** circling round by the Road Bridge on the 13th of February. They came down on Long Craig and then flew around again. **Golden plovers** winter around our coasts and up to

7000 have been counted in the Forth Estuary in winter. Nevertheless it was good to see a small proportion of them at North Queensferry. My only recent local sighting of a **kingfisher** was of 2 birds on the south side of Inverkeithing Inner Bay on the 10th of January but I also saw one from the Fife coastal path between Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy on the 1st of February. **Treecreepers** are relatively common, but quite shy birds, so one in the woodland between Port Laing and Cruickness Point on the 15th of March was good sighting. The most unusual sighting was a male **garganey** with 3 **eiders** just off shore from East Bay on the 6th of May. **Garganeys** are small ducks, about the size of **teal** and are the only ducks that winter in Africa and return to Europe in the summer to breed. Only a few pairs breed in Scotland each year although they are probably under recorded as they are unobtrusive and therefore difficult to detect. This sighting was, however a first for me in Scotland.

It was commented on the bird walk on the 8th of May that North Queensferry was a good place to see birds of prey and this was demonstrated by our sightings of a **kestrel** hovering over Carlingnose Reserve and a **sparrowhawk** soaring above Port Laing. We didn't see any **buzzards** that evening, but I have often seen them over Cruickness quarry and on the 24th of April there were 5 soaring above Brock Street. I noticed these because, as they soared, I heard their characteristic mewling call. The other bird of prey in our area is the **peregrine falcon**. A pair nested in one of the quarries last year and I have seen one or two birds

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Wednesday	7.30-8.30pm	NQ Community Centre
Thursday	10.30-11.30am	Dalgety Bay Parish Church
Friday	10.30-11.30am	NQ Community Centre

Contact: **Amanda Johnstone**

07787 321571

Or email: JohAman@aol.com

Places are limited to 12 per class so book early to avoid disappointment



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NORTH QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tuesday Mornings

For further information contact **INGA**

T:01383 418605 E:inga.musicalsteps@btinternet.com

www.musicalsteps.co.uk

Childcare needed (starting August)

For morning school run to NQ
Primary 3 days a week for a new
family to the village. Happy to
return the service on the other 2
days.

Contact Lucy 414407

around the village several times in the last 3 months.

Another uncommon bird which has been seen round the village recently is the **raven**. Above the working quarry seems to be their favourite spot, although I have heard them over The Brae and also Carlingnose Point. Perhaps they will breed this year. There was a pair above the quarry on the 24th April which harassed a **peregrine falcon**. This was lucky for me as I would not have seen the falcon if the **ravens** hadn't been around.

The breeding season was as usual heralded by the return of **fulmars** to Inchgarvie. They winter at sea and seem to come back to check that the island is still there several times during January and February. There can be large numbers flying around one day and none the next. They do seem to be there permanently now and soon they will have laid eggs and one of the pair will be incubating them. They take it in turns and often the adults are away for several days between changeovers. Incubation takes about 50 days and it is a similar time from hatching before the young can fend for themselves. There are 1 or 2 pairs of **fulmars** on the cliff above Deep Sea World and I have seen one flying around the cliffs above Carlingnose on a few occasions.

Many of our resident birds will be nesting now with the male **song thrushes**, **blackbirds** and **dunnocks** singing loudly to warn off others from their territories. The **song thrushes** are the first to advertise themselves and are often heard in January and even in

December on quiet days in the village. Other signs of breeding I have seen are **house sparrows** on The Brae collecting feathers for their nests and **starlings** flying purposively around with beaks full of food.

I suppose the real start of summer is when the summer visitors start arriving from Africa. Although the **swallows** are traditionally considered to be in the vanguard they are by no means the first summer visitor to arrive. In North Queensferry the **chiffchaff** is usually the first and, right on cue, I heard 2 or 3 at the back of Port Laing on the 31st of March and I have heard them regularly there since then. **Sand martins** are also one of the earliest arrivals and I saw several at Jamestown with some **swallows** on the 24th of April. **Sand martins** have their favourite areas and I had seen lots of them at Musselburgh Lagoons early in April with my first sighting there being on the 19th of March. Other species arrive in April, with **willow warblers** often the most common and I have heard several from the coastal path recently. The star warbler of Carlingnose Point has also arrived. I heard the first **lesser whitethroat** there on the 6th of May although again I heard one earlier at the end of April near Kinghorn. Their song is a chatter on the same note often preceded by a subdued scratchy warble. Listen out for it as you walk the coastal path through Carlingnose Reserve.

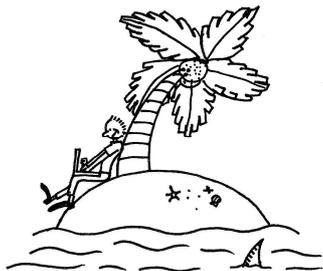
I have heard that a few terns have been seen from a boat and also from Carlingnose Point. I've not yet seen any here, but I'm sure Long Craig will soon be the busy noisy breeding colony of **common terns** it usually is.

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Fife
COUNCIL

GARDEN



COMPETITION 2008

Open to ALL Fife residents
(not restricted to Council tenants)

TROPHIES & CASH PRIZES

Applications are invited to compete in the 2008
Garden Competition
in the following categories: -

FLOWER (formal)
FLOWER (landscaped)
MIXED (flower/vegetable/container)
VEGETABLE
HANGING BASKET/CONTAINER

ONLY ONE CATEGORY MAY BE ENTERED

Entry forms available from your Local Office,
Library or by contacting: -

Central & East Area– Margaret MacKenzie
(01592) 583 268

NQ Village Show Co-ordinator - Jill Brown
(01383) 415022

Closing date for applications is

Monday 30th June 2008



Neighbourhood Watch

We are lucky in North Queensferry in that there is little in the way of crime or nuisances. There is however another area of life in the Village that is worth highlighting.

There are elderly and lonely persons who may be at risk and where our sense of community is important. If you have an elderly neighbour, is that person protected through contact with others?

If you are elderly and on your own do you have people locally to whom you may turn in times of need or even threat for support? Be aware of one's own vulnerability and that of neighbours.

Fife Council, Fife Police and Fife Ambulance Service have a number of schemes.

Fife Elderly Forum

The Forum provides information and advice on older peoples issues and individual and peer group advocacy. They are the umbrella organisation for Fife's local elderly forums. Local forums meet on a monthly basis in Benarty, Cardenden & Kinglassie, Cupar, Dunfermline & District, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy & District, Levenmouth and Markinch.

Contact Details

Tel 01592 643743/644998
Email info@fife-elderly.org.uk,
Web <http://www.fife-elderly.org.uk>

Nominated Neighbour

See PC Kenny Greig's article on the back page for details.

For more information, please call Fife Constabulary on 01592 418506.

Fife Cares Home Safety & Security

The Fife Cares 'Home check' service is a home safety check for hazards around the home.

Domestic appliances to ensure there are no damaged flexes, broken plugs or loose wires.

Areas of danger where you could trip or fall.

In addition microwave ovens will be checked for radiation leakage.

Minor repairs to cables, flexes or plugs will be done, free of charge, on the spot by one of the Home Safety Advisers.

Each Home Safety Adviser is also trained to test smoke alarms and where appropriate will install new or replace old alarms with a ten-year smoke alarm free of charge.

The service is FREE and aimed at the over 60's and is available Fife-wide to Homeowners, Council Tenants & Private Tenants

Home Safety Check Tel: 01592 599599

Home Security Visit

Fife Constabulary can offer a FREE house security survey to help you make your home more secure. A Security Adviser or Police Officer can visit your home to give advice on a variety of subjects including:

- Door and window security
- Security Lighting
- Cash handling
- Property Marking
- Intruder Alarms
- Shed and outbuilding security
- Personal safety
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Bogus Callers and Sellers

If eligible, free security equipment is available.

Please contact Fife Community Safety Partnership Tel 01592 418506

Fife Fire And Rescue Service - Free Fire Safety Visit

Fife Fire and Rescue Service offer all householders a free Fire Safety Visit. A Community Fire Safety Officer will visit your home free of charge and offer advice on a variety of fire safety issues including:

- Fire Safety Action Plan - advice on what to do if your smoke alarm is activated
- Night time routines
- Smoke detection
- Kitchen Safety
- Bedroom Safety
- Electrical Safety
- Access to property
- Smoking issues

Visits are arranged at your convenience and to suit the individual.

Free phone 0808 100 3141 or Text the Word FIRE to 61611.

Your **Neighbourhood Watch** contact number is

Jill Brown 01381 419054
Peter Dean 01383 418781

The aim is to make us feel and actually be secure.

Cleaning services required

For general housework. Probably weekly.

References required.

Contact Lucy 414407

Contributions for the next issue

are to be with us by Friday 12th September
to 7 Carlingnose Park or
mary@ferrynews.co.uk.

Exhibition on The Bridge that never was ... at Deep Sea World

On the 21st of February many local residents, school children and staff from Deep Sea World were joined by Sarah Brown for the opening of our exhibition.

The exhibition depicts many of the major events and stories about the crossing which led up to the rail and road bridges we have today. History often repeats itself and visitors will see from the plans that the line of crossing for the new bridge had already been proposed in 1934.

All guests enjoyed the hospitality of Deep Sea World before some short welcoming and explanatory speeches which was followed by a presentation to Sarah Brown, by the schoolchildren, of a model of their interpretation of the new bridge. The exhibition will be running throughout the summer and all donation received will go directly to Piggy Bank Kids.

Subsequently the charity wrote to Deep Sea World with the following.

Piggy Bank Kids wishes to thank Deep Sea World and the North Queensferry Heritage Trust for their support through the Forth Bridge exhibition.

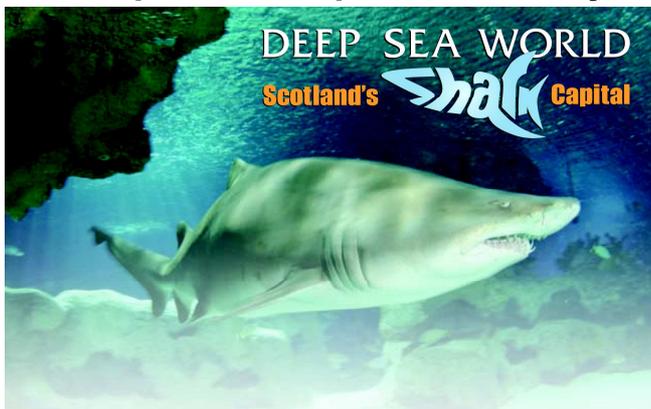
All your donations will go directly to the Jennifer Brown Fife Appeal, set up by the children's charity Piggy Bank Kids in 2002. This appeal supports NHS Fife Hospitals with community-based projects run by midwives, nurses and other health professionals to benefit mothers and babies.

Get your legs ready for Summer

Soon, hopefully, Summer will be here – the time of sun, shorts and bearing the legs on Port Laing beach. A good way to get your legs into shape for summer is to do simple squats. Stand next to a wall if you need support. Place the feet somewhere between an inch and a foot apart, experiment to find which works best for you and your spine. Unlock the knees, let the upper body lengthen away from the hips. Gently allow the knees to soften and bend, directing them outwards towards your baby toes. Keep bending the knees so they move forwards over the feet. Raise the arms to shoulder height to help your balance, remember: raise the arms not the shoulders. Allow the heels to come off the floor as they need to. Watch out for the chin jutting forwards and pinching of the spine at the back of the neck. If you are pregnant pay particular attention to not arching the back – come only half way down if necessary. Remember you're already doing nearly double the work by carrying your baby. Coming in and out of the pose, with control, is the essence of the exercise – it is not enough to flop into a squat and rush back out of it. Doing 5 of these squats a day, in a way that uses your legs and protects your spine, will re-energise the legs. Bringing life back to the legs can smooth away bump and lumps, make the skin and muscles more supple and prepare those legs for coming out of the shade.

Susannah runs classes for general yoga, pregnancy yoga and baby massage. See the website: theyoga.co.uk or call for details 01383 413121

Aquarium helps beat holiday boredom with new summer activities



At Scotland's national aquarium you can:

Experience the UK's longest underwater tunnel

Get up close and personal with rays, crabs, and dogfish in our Rock Pool

Visit rescued seals in our Seal Sanctuary

Encounter our Sand Tiger sharks



North Queensferry
01383 411 880



NEW!

www.deepseaworld.com

Take the plunge this summer at Deep Sea World with two exciting new activities for children to enjoy throughout the school holidays.

Bubblemaker is the perfect introduction to diving for 8-15 year olds! Our qualified PADI diving instructors will teach you about Scuba techniques and then you will get to dive in our main 4.5 million litre tank with real Sand Tiger sharks (No need for mom to worry there will be a secure metal gate between you and the sharks).

Crew Member for a Day runs every week of the holidays for 7-12 year olds and invites children to become a member of the Deep Sea World team for the day. The new recruits get to try presenting, feeding, creating fishy arts & crafts and learn some of the best kept secrets of how Deep Sea World looks after the marine life in their care.

Gerry O'Donnell, park director at Deep Sea World, said: "Our aim is to put the fun back into the school holidays. Our divers are keen that children discover diving in a safe, fun, and exciting environment, which we hope will teach them the importance of marine conservation.

"We are also looking forward to seeing the children become team members- they might even teach us a thing or two!"

Crew Member for a Day costs £35 and includes lunch. The Bubblemaker diving course includes the hire of diving equipment for only £35.

Parents are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. Full details are available on www.deepseaworld.com or by calling the bookings department on 01383 411 880.

The Heritage Trust Research Team - Exploring History with Google Earth

Google Earth is a web-based application that allows you to fly around the planet, and zoom in to obtain birds-eye views, based on satellite surveillance images. One of the benefits of being close to Rosyth Dockyard is that the satellite surveillance images of North Queensferry are in high resolution, i.e. lots of detail. If you haven't tried Google Earth before – you can download it from the Internet for free, and fly the friendly skies above North Queensferry – leaving no carbon footprint!

Google Earth also lets you add overlay images to the satellite photographs. The NQHT Research Team has been exploring this capability using old Ordnance Survey Maps.

Here are a few examples of how Google Earth shows the evolution of the village.

Here is the current view of the “Old Village”



and here is the 1855 OS map overlay



Some features are unchanged e.g. The Hope Tavern (which was renamed The Albert Hotel), and the Light House and Signal Tower. Others have changed immensely. Look at how far St James's Bay extended into the village; boats were tied up to houses at the water's edge, before it was gradually filled in with waste from the quarries. The Coast Guard Station used to be right under the main tower of the Rail Bridge, with only a flagstaff at the current location.

Here is the stretch from Ferry Toll roundabout



and here is the 1855 OS map overlay



The road into the village swept further inland, rounding the eastern edge of Weldean Quarry. St Margaret's Bay was full of water – with a breakwater and an access wharf at the quarry.

The road over Ferry Hills passed through what is now Cruick's Quarry – Cruick's was a farm, visible in the top right hand corner of the 1855 map.

By 1896 – the next year that the O.S. maps were updated, the railways had arrived in the village.



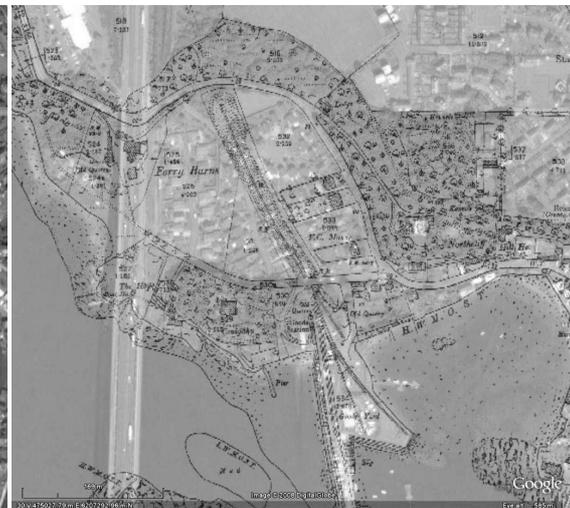
This 1896 overlay shows the railway line to the Forth Bridge running diagonally from top left to bottom right, and the earlier line that ran along the path of the present B981 road, then tunnelled under Ferry Hills, and ran in a cutting just behind Ferry Lane, to the Railway Pier at the Marina.

In this 1896 map the road still follows the 1855 path. A new quarry – St Margaret’s – has been opened, right on top of the line of the railway tunnel! This quarry became part of the cutting that carries the M90 past the Queensferry Hotel

Zooming in on the 1896 view, we can see the railway cutting that follows the line of Ferry Lane, and connected the railway pier with a tunnel under Ferry Hills.

Here is the Ferry Barns area

and here is the 1896 OS map overlay



From the 1960s development continued around this area with the addition of Inchcolm Drive, and Ferry Barns Court. Ferry Barns Court commemorates Ferry Barns Farm which was demolished to make way for the Forth Road Bridge.

The Heritage Trust Research Team has only just begun to explore the use of Google Earth with these maps. We will publish more snapshots in future editions of the Ferry News, and also post some higher-resolution, full-colour images on our web-site – www.NQHT.org

BOYS BRIGADE

Here we are again at the end of another BB session - doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself!

Our warmest congratulations go to Mark McCall who has gained the highest award in the Brigade - the Queens Award. Mark has been with us since the tender age of 5 yrs and is the last of the lads to come through all 3 sections. Mark has been a great lad and his contribution to the Company will be celebrated at a cut down version of our usual awards night in the church on Friday the 30th May at 6.30pm. On the same night Sandy Strang and Richie Stirling will receive their Junior Section Gold Award and the Company Section 5 aside football team will be presented with the trophies they won in the Battalion competition earlier in the season.

After the summer break for a number of reasons - mainly a considerable increase in workload in my

"day job" and an ever decreasing drop in innovative thinking and energy levels! (maybe an age thing!) I will sadly (for me!) be hanging up my boots/hat/whistle and retiring from the position of Company Captain. The Battalion are looking into the possibility of supplying another leader who will take the reins but I have to say if this does not happen there is a danger the Company here in the Ferry will have to fold. Can I appeal to anyone out there who might be able to lend a hand to contact either Brian or myself ASAP. We will keep all parents informed of any decisions arising from forthcoming discussions with the Brigade officials and let you know as soon as any plan emerges.

In the meantime.....thanks for the memories boys past and present and thanks for the support from the church and community as a whole over the years.

Pauline 416563
Brian 419407

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FROM PC KENNY GREIG

Your Neighbourhood Watch Is Working For You!

North Queensferry Neighbourhood Watch is actively working alongside the Community Safety Officer in your area to address local crime trends and concerns my residents.

The first main concern that PC Greig has is the ever continuing problem of "Doorstep Crime"

Doorstep crime can be split up into 3 categories

Bogus Workman

Bogus Money Collectors

Bogus Officials/Distracted Theft

After extensive research it is clear that doorstep crime is a continuing problem in the Fife area. This research identified that the vast majority of "bogus caller type crimes" occurred between the months of May to September.

It is clear that door-answering behaviour is not being adhered to and that householders routinely leave doors open and unlocked. The failure to use door chains and spy holes is a constant problem and identification is rarely asked for from unknown callers.

This type of crime causes extreme distress and anxiety to those victims involved. The criminals who commit these crimes often target the most vulnerable sections of the community such as the elderly and find them an easy target.

Fife Constabulary is committed to actively preventing further crimes of this nature occurring and reducing the effects that these have on our communities. As a result "The Nominated Neighbour" scheme has been devised and after successful trials is now available in your area.

This scheme is quite simply a yellow card, held up to a window or door directing the caller to a neighbour's house, who will then check the identity of the person and return to their home with them. The neighbour will then supervise the visit to ensure that there is nothing untoward taking place and will not leave until the caller has left. This will provide a valuable comfort and added feeling of reassurance to the householder and an additional person who can provide details to the Police if required.

The "Nominated Neighbour" will be trustworthy, chosen by the householder, readily available and remain with the caller for the duration of the visit.

The chances of the householder entering into any contract, having any unnecessary or overpriced work carried out, or indeed, handing over any cash would be virtually eliminated.

Your Neighbourhood Watch is actively working in the area to help prevent these types of crime and

information is available from your local representative (details later in this article)

Break ins to sheds is also a seasonal issue that we face and I would ask you to look at the security of your shed and ask yourself if the £2 padlock on the door is sufficient to prevent the theft of the hundreds of pounds worth of equipment within. Please remember that shed alarms are available at Dalgety Bay Police Station for the reasonable price of £3.

I would like to also remind those members of the community aged 70 years or over who are all entitled to a FREE home security survey. Should any work need to be carried out then we arrange this again FREE of charge. Most popular work carried out is door chains, door viewers and security lighting and I would urge you to contact me if you are interested.

One final thing for the newsletter is to highlight the fact that North Queensferry Neighbourhood Watch will be hosting a Women's Safety Evening at the Community Centre. This will involve a presentation by Fife Constabulary Officers and I can ensure you that this is a worthwhile and entertaining evening. Again, this is FREE of charge.

If you are interested in the above safety evening please contact Jill Brown at 12 Carlingnose Park to register your interest on 01383 419337.

For all other enquiries please do not hesitate to contact PC Kenny Greig on 01383 318645.

CENTRELINE

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