

# The Ferry News



## Issue 60

Oct 2008 - Jan 2009

visit us at [www.ferrynews.co.uk](http://www.ferrynews.co.uk)

---

### SPONSORED BY NORTH QUEENSFERRY HERITAGE TRUST

#### Village Show 30<sup>th</sup> August 2008

The show this year benefited from a break in the bad weather and was again well supported by North Queensferry residents and others from Edinburgh and Fife. It was an excellent opportunity for everyone, particularly the children from the village, to meet and socialise on this informal occasion. The theme was 'Fitness and Fun' and the entire small hall was devoted to various exercise and alternative therapy demonstrations which proved very popular throughout the afternoon.

Entries in all classes, particularly baking, vegetables and children's art, were of a high standard and competition for prizes was strong, making the task of judging difficult. The basis for awarding the main trophies changed this year to a points system after pre-registration had been completed.

Our guest of the day, Sarah Brown, accompanied by her two children, spoke with many of those present and in her speech complimented the work done by the Heritage Trust in the village. Sarah presented the trophies and with assistance from her children drew the raffle tickets. The raffle prizes were numerous this year and were of excellent quality and value and for this we must thank all our donors.

The show concluded with the usual auction of the flowers, cakes, vegetables and preserves not required by the exhibitors.

To make this annual event the success that it is, owes a great deal to the show committee, the raffle organiser, those who served teas with delicious home baking, and everyone who helped on the day or prior to the show. Our thanks also go to everyone who attended and it is hoped to see you all on the last Saturday in August 2009.

The individual prize winners for all categories together with the trophy winners are listed on the back page.

#### Remembrance Sunday

This year's annual Service of Remembrance will be held at the Village War Memorial on Sunday 9 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 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. Should anyone wish to play an individual role at the ceremony, perhaps to read the Eulogy to the Fallen or to play a lament, please contact Brian Armstrong on 417429. He can also acquire Remembrance Crosses, should anyone wish to place one as a personal tribute to an individual or association.

#### Police

Just a reminder regarding pedal cycle security. Despite a number of warnings members of the public are still making it easy for the opportunist thief and leaving their bikes unattended and unsecured in common close areas, gardens and shopping areas. Please remember to secure your bike and please pass the message around your friends, family and workmates etc.

Should you require any further information regarding securing your bike do not hesitate to contact me.

Kenny Greig , Community Safety Officer  
Dunfermline, T. 01383 318745

North Queensferry Toddler Group  
**Coffee and Gift Fayre**

Saturday 1st November

at the  
Community Centre

10.00 - 12.00

## *Ferry Birds – May to September 2008*

The breeding season is now over but it seems that the most obvious of our breeding birds were reasonably successful. I saw my first **eider** chicks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June and saw plenty of them thereafter. As usual the bigger gulls took their toll, but enough young do survive to maintain the local population. A regular monthly survey of sea birds is done in the Forth and the highest counts of **eiders** over the last 3 years have been about 5000, although this is a lower than in 2003 when just over 7000 were counted in August. The **common terns** were joined, as usual, by **Sandwich terns** and their young in the middle of July. There are never more than one or two pairs of **Sandwich terns** breeding on Long Craig, but a recent study has shown that **Sandwich terns** from breeding colonies on the east coast of England use the Forth estuary as a feeding area after their young have fledged. There is good news about the use of the derelict pier below Carlingnose as a nesting site by the **common terns**. During the winter the tyres which the SWT had placed on the pier were removed by person or persons unknown. Ironically the tyres had been put there to encourage the terns to nest there and only after they had been removed did more than one pair of terns use the pier as a nesting area. Admittedly there was at least one young raised there last year, but I counted 12 young birds there in July. Unfortunately 2 of them were on the sea and they probably didn't survive. Later on or I saw several well grown young being fed there so I just hope that they all survived and are now on their way to the coast of West Africa for our winter.

An interesting local development was the establishment of a colony of **sand martins** in the working quarry. Walking along the coastal path on the south side of Inverkeithing Inner Bay I had seen lots of **sand martins** flying around and going into the quarry. On closer inspection I could see them flying around what appeared to be a suitable nest site. For this bird this is a steep or sheer bank of earth of just the right consistency. It must be soft enough for the birds to be able to excavate a nesting tunnel, but hard enough so that the tunnel does not then collapse. It cannot be easy, especially if the weather is either too wet or too dry. Anyhow the colony has apparently been successful. I didn't inspect the site closely, but I saw **sand martins** from the coastal path many times and saw at least 50 of them feeding above the trees at the back of Port Laing on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. I also saw a few **swallows** at the north end of the village in June and also near Jamestown on several occasions but I didn't see them in the lower part of the village this year.

The **redshanks** which winter in West Bay each year did their usual disappearing trick in May, but there were a few back by the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. In the middle of July I counted 49 **redshanks** on or near the floating mooring in West Bay and there were a few **turnstones** on the railway pier at high tide on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. August is a good month to see or hear migrating waders passing over or pausing to rest and feed on the mud of West Bay or Inverkeithing Inner Bay so it was no surprise to see a **common sandpiper** in Inverkeithing Inner Bay on the 8<sup>th</sup> and to hear and then see a **whimbrel** high over The Brae on the 15<sup>th</sup> and one over Port Laing on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **New Forth Crossing**

An initial briefing on the New Forth Crossing Project was given by Transport Scotland and Jacobs Arup Joint Venture to North Queensferry Community Council at its 11 September meeting. Beamer Rock remains the favoured site for the middle pillar of what is intended to be a multi-modal, cable-stayed bridge. The design of the bridge has not yet been decided and detailed analysis of the results of the considerable research that has taken place to date will be required before its precise alignment can be decided.

It is anticipated that further information will become available towards the end of this year and an exhibition will be mounted in the village early next year, at which residents will be able to offer their views and to raise questions. In the meantime, a limited quantity of information brochures is available from the caretaker in the Community Centre. Further information is available on the Forth Replacement Crossing webpage

[www.forthreplacementcrossing.org](http://www.forthreplacementcrossing.org)

at which individuals can also sign up to receive the electronic magazine. You can also Email the Forth Replacement Crossing Team on [frcenquiries@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:frcenquiries@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone the enquiry line on 0141 272 7578.



### **Music and Movement Classes**

**for babies & toddlers**

**from 4 months ~ 3 years**

have fun together, and help develop your child's  
·CREATIVITY ·CO-OPERATION ·LISTENING  
·COMMUNICATION ·LANGUAGE

**NORTH QUEENSFERRY ~Tuesday mornings**  
**DUNFERMLINE ~ Wednesday mornings**  
**CROSSFORD ~ Thursday mornings**  
**DUNFERMLINE ~ Friday mornings**

**For further information please contact INGA**  
**T:0845 224 0613 E:[inga.jack@musicalsteps.co.uk](mailto:inga.jack@musicalsteps.co.uk)**

**[www.musicalsteps.co.uk](http://www.musicalsteps.co.uk)**

I have had or heard of some interesting sightings of other birds over the summer. There have been several sightings of the **ravens** by the quarry and over Carlingnose Point. I don't think the **peregrines** bred this year, although one of the two birds I saw over the working quarry in July was probably an immature bird. I also saw an adult flying over Port Laing on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. It was carrying 'supper' and heading towards the quarry in a determined fashion. I have also had several reports of **sparrowhawks** in the village and I saw one chasing a **feral pigeon** near the station on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September and I saw a female over the working quarry and a male by the coastal path by Inverkeithing Inner Bay on the same day in June. The **buzzards** are still around and they probably bred in the woodland behind Port Laing. I also heard at least 2 **lesser whitethroats** singing on several occasions while walking along the coastal path at Carlingnose Point and there were plenty of **willow warblers** and 2 or 3 **chiffchaffs** between the start of the path and Port Laing.

The Heritage Trust trip to Inchkeith on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July was a great success. The boat took the party out via Inchmickery to see the **puffins** and then on to Inchkeith. We also went close to Granton to be shown some typical denizens of the estuary which had been collected in a lobster pot. The highlight was a well grown lobster. Back on Inchkeith we inspected the lighthouse and then wandered round trying to spot the **puffins**. There were plenty of them on the sea close to the landing stage and several on the island as well. A pair of **peregrines** was also cruising around the island. An interesting plant was

spotted amongst the rank vegetation on the island. I learned later that it was **henbane** which is very poisonous although in times gone by it was used as the source of a primitive anaesthetic. We came back via Inchcolm and the navigation buoy which can be seen from Carlingnose Point. The first was occupied by a crowd of tourists while the buoy was occupied by an **Atlantic Grey seal**.

In July and August many of our resident breeding birds are quiet and unobtrusive as they moult their feathers and lie low. Many of them are now becoming much more obvious and the **robins** in particular are back in full song. **Blackbirds, blue, great and coal tits** are also busy feeding on insects which are attracted to any source of nectar produced by the flowers on the plants in our gardens or by the coastal path. Ivy is one of these plants and the patches of this plant draped over a wall or the shrubs between Port Laing and Cruickness Point can be covered with insects during the occasional sunny period in September. The plant, in fact, is an essential link in our local ecosystem as it provides food for the insects, which, in turn, become food for our resident birds so that they have a better chance of surviving the winter when it comes.

Management of the plants on Carlingnose reserve will take place in September and October. The grassland will be cut and some of the gorse and other invasive species will be removed. This is all part of the work which has to be done to maintain the calcareous grassland which is, of course, the reason why it is a reserve in the first place.

*John Done*

# DEEP SEA WORLD

Scotland's **Shark** Capital

October 17th – 31st:

Creepy Crawlies Fortnight

Halloween Weekend

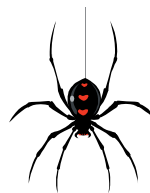
25th & 26th

children in costume are free when accompanied by a full paying adult.

October is time to get touchy feely



with some creepy crawlies! With regular handling sessions daily throughout the fortnight you can get up close and personal with some of nature's neatest beasties.



There will be ghostly games, creepy crafts, witchery walks and terrifying touchy tombstones



– can you work out what is buried beneath them?



Ghouls, ghosts, frights and delights await you.

## Marine Conservation and the wonderful life beneath Scotland's seas

Calum Duncan, Scottish Conservation Manager for the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) gave a talk to North Queensferry Heritage at Deep Sea World on Tuesday 13th May. He introduced MCS, the UK charity dedicated to protecting our seas, shores and wildlife, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. From basking sharks to coral reefs, leaping dolphins to colourful jellyfish, Calum introduced the wealth of amazing life in Scotland's seas, highlighting how important healthy seas were to support coastal communities and industries such as wildlife watching, fishing and fish-farming. He also highlighted that pollution of our seas and beaches, over-fishing, damage to fragile seabed habitats, climate change and coastal development remain a problem.

He then went on to discuss where MCS is working to protect our seas, shores and marine life. MCS is campaigning for both UK and Scottish Marine Bills to include effective marine protected areas for national species and habitats and a range of other issues. MCS encourages the public to get involved with a number of conservation projects: Adopt-a-Beach and Beachwatch to help turn the tide on beach litter; Basking Shark & Turtle Watch to help record and protect these gentle giants; Jellyfish surveys to help find out where leatherback turtles feed and Seasearch, where divers record their local seabed to help in their conservation. Furthermore, MCS provides information and guidance on many aspects of marine conservation and produces the annual Good Beach Guide ([www.goodbeachguide.co.uk](http://www.goodbeachguide.co.uk)), the UK's only independent guide to bathing water quality, and the Good Fish Guide and [www.fishonline.org](http://www.fishonline.org) to provide advice on eco-friendly, sustainable seafood. The charity also runs the successful Adopt-a-Turtle project to support turtle conservation worldwide and the fundraising scheme, the MCS Coastal Challenge. In Scotland, MCS has also recently launched the exciting Cool Seas Scotland outreach programme ([www.mcsuk.org/coolseas](http://www.mcsuk.org/coolseas)), with MCS Scottish Projects Officer Anne Saunders focusing on the Clyde and Solway Firths, and is chairing a joint-campaign for a Scottish Marine Bill with the environment at its heart, see [www.savescottishseas.org](http://www.savescottishseas.org). A short video was shown about the joint campaign.

As a small charity, MCS is covering a lot of ground. For just £3 a month, members receive a beautiful quarterly magazine and the satisfaction of knowing their money is helping protect UK seas, shores and wildlife. MCS also relies on dedicated volunteers. Calum highlighted the excellent work that Anne Monteith has done over the years in organising one of the longest running MCS Beachwatch groups in the UK at Port Laing, having organised surveys

every year from 1993 to 2006, and showed a downward trend in litter here from a peak in 1995. This is against the UK trend of litter levels being almost double what they were when the project started in 1993. He encouraged local residents, businesses and Deep Sea World to help keep Anne's excellent legacy going at Port Laing Beach, North Queensferry.

Calum Duncan, MCS Scottish Conservation Manager ([scotland@mcsuk.org](mailto:scotland@mcsuk.org) 0131 226 6360)

Anne Saunders, MCS Scottish Projects Officer ([anne.saunders@mcsuk.org](mailto:anne.saunders@mcsuk.org) 0131 226 2391)

## Toddler Group

The North Queensferry Toddler Group continued to meet over the summer holidays which was a welcome relief for most mums owing to the lack of sunshine! Since the beginning of the new school year, numbers have been steady despite many moving to nursery. Good luck to those who have gone!

Many new purchases have been made including a fantastic safe and fun soft seating area for the babies and a whole stack of new toys to keep the little ones interested.

Future plans for the year include a "Coffee and Gift Fayre" on Saturday 1st November 2008 from 10-12pm at the Community Centre. This will be a great chance to purchase Christmas Gifts before the mad rush. Anybody locally who has an enterprise or business who wishes to book a table to sell their products or find out more please contact Sarah Chadwick (chairperson) on 416690.

We will round off the year with the annual trip to the Singing Kettle, carol concert and Christmas Party. The Group meets every Thursday at 10am at the Community Centre and all new mums, dad, grandparents, child minders etc are very welcome!

**Contributions for the next issue are to be with us by Friday 9th January to 7 Carlingnose Park or [mary@ferrynews.co.uk](mailto:mary@ferrynews.co.uk).**

## Autumn Fete

in the  
Church  
on

Saturday 1st November  
at 2.00pm.

home-baking Christmas corner  
white elephant  
plants and produce tombola  
afternoon tea

Everyone welcome



## Trip to Inchkeith

On 12th July just before 11.00 am our boat the 'MS Conserver' departed from the Town pier for Inchkeith. On board were 11 members of the Heritage Trust and the curator of the Museum of Scotland responsible for lighthouses. The itinerary of our 'cruise' and what we saw, is well described by John Done. Perhaps worth mentioning is the excellent two course lunch served from the ship's galley with the addition of endless cups of tea, coffee and cakes available throughout the voyage.

Inchkeith is an island exuding an air of desolation, primarily used as a fortress over the centuries. From the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards the island has played a small part in the major affairs of Scottish political and maritime history. French troops were garrisoned there in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century and Mary, Queen of Scots visited the island in 1564. An engraved stone bearing her coat of arms is still visible today. The lighthouse built by Thomas Smith, father-in-law of Robert Stevenson, was opened in 1804. Large scale defence considerations started in 1878 when three 18 ton gun batteries were built. Fortifications across the island, including searchlights, continued for the first and second world wars. All of these individual batteries were connected by a 'military road' around the island which has now mostly disappeared with only the section to the lighthouse useable. During the Second World War nearly 1000 people were stationed on the island which gives an idea of its perceived importance but their main problem was the lack of water. There are no natural springs on the island and there is much evidence of concrete runways being built to retain the rainwater.

Will the Heritage Trust repeat the boat trip next year? Yes, if there is a demand. The island is well worth visiting to experience at first hand the sense of history, current bird population and air of desolation. Is this the magic of the Island of Inchkeith?



General Yoga Wed 6 - 7.15pm NQF  
Yogabirth Wed 7.30 - 9.30pm Dunf

Other classes also coming to the area,  
including baby massage, parent & child yoga.  
See website for further details or call  
Susannah on **01383 413121**

**theyoga.co.uk**

## Fife Elderly Forum Executive Advocacy Service for Older People

If there is something happening in your life which is causing you concern and you are not sure what to do, it's good to know that you can call on Fife Elderly Forum's Advocacy Service to try to help you resolve the issue

### What do we offer?

Independent support, information and assistance:

- You may be looking for more information before making a decision or feel you would benefit from talking over your concern with someone independent.

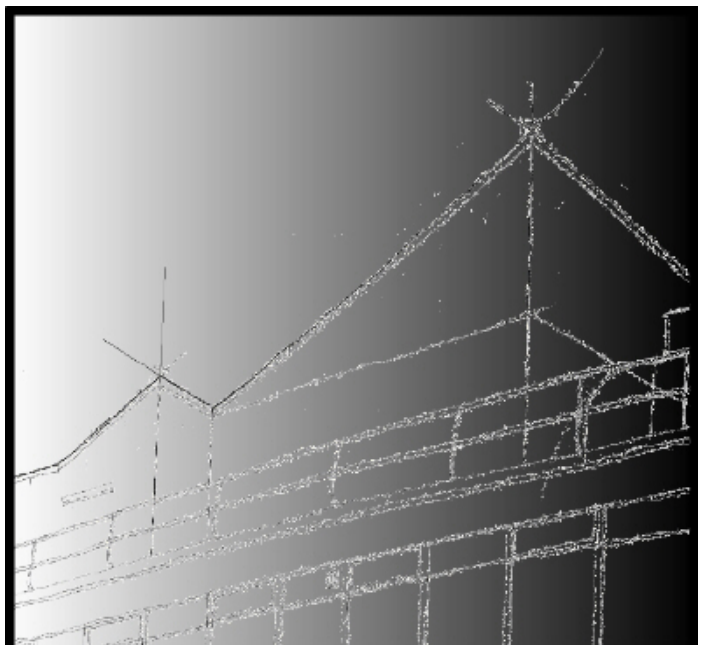
- You may feel that it would be helpful for you to have some support to deal with a matter which is concerning you, perhaps by someone making a telephone call for you, by writing a letter on your behalf, or attending a meeting with you.

**It doesn't have to be a big problem - we can support you to deal with any matter which is causing you concern**

### How do you contact us?

If you feel that we could help you or someone you know, please give us a ring on **01592 643743**.

**Remember, this is a FREE service.**



**cls** centreline solutions  
architects

initial consultation free

01383 417 509  
www.cls.info

# VILLAGE SHOW RESULTS

Class	First	Second	Third	Class	First	Second	Third
<b>VEGETABLES</b>				<b>SEWING</b>			
Basket or Dish of Mixed Vegetables.	W BROWN	E DONALDSON	A MONTEITH	Embroidery Item (including smocking)	F MCNAUGHT	F MCNAUGHT	F GEORGE
Tomatoes: one dish of 3 red or yellow	W BROWN	E DONALDSON	A LOW	Any Soft Toy: sewn or knitted	F MCNAUGHT		
Cherry Tomatoes: one dish of 6	E DONALDSON	A MONTEITH		Patchwork Item	J ANASTASIO	E REYNOLDS	
Onions: one dish of 3	A MONTEITH	E DONALDSON	W BROWN	Quilted Item	J ANASTASIO		
Potatoes: one dish of 3	E DONALDSON	M RAE	W BROWN				
Beetroot: one dish of 3	A MONTEITH	E DONALDSON	M RAE	<b>KNITTING &amp; CROCHET</b>			
Runner or French beans: dish of 6	W BROWN	A MONTEITH	E DONALDSON	Any Knitted Item	S WATTERSON	M PATERSON	
Any other vegetable: one dish of 3	M RAE	W BROWN	E DONALDSON	Any Crochet Item: cotton or rayon	P BELL		
Basket or Dish of Salad selection	W BROWN			Any Crochet Item: wool	F MCNAUGHT		
<b>FLOWERS</b>				<b>CRAFTS</b>			
Roses: 3 blooms of any variety	B PATERSON	B PATERSON		Hobby Craft Item	J ANASTASIO	F MCNAUGHT	H WALKER BOSTON
One Vase of Pinks or Carnations	B PATERSON	B PATERSON		Model: any item	C BELL		
Sweet Peas: mixed, 6 stems	E DONALDSON	A LOW	S WATTERSON	Hand Made Greeting Card	S HOOD	S HOOD	F MCNAUGHT
Hydrangea: 3 blooms any colour	E DONALDSON	A THOMS	B WILSON	Painting	K TROTTER	F GEORGE	F MCNAUGHT
Pansies: 6 blooms any colour	E DONALDSON			Drawing	F MCNAUGHT		
Summer Annuals: 4 to 6 blooms	E REYNOLDS	S HOOD	B WILSON	Hand made item	K TROTTER	J TAYLOR	
Flowering Bush or Climber: 3 stems	B WILSON	A MONTEITH	E DONALDSON				
Herbaceous: 6 stems, same or mixed	E YUILLE	B WILSON	A MONTEITH	<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>			
				North Queensferry / Local Interest	M FITT	H WALKER BOSTON	S WALKER BOSTON
<b>POT PLANTS</b>				Any Scottish Scene / People	C JACK	M ANASTASIO	M ANASTASIO
Foliage only	C DENNISON	E DONALDSON	C EWEN	Panoramic: any subject			
Flowering Plant	J LEASK	E REYNOLDS	B PATERSON	Holiday Scene: any location	M ANASTASIO	M ANASTASIO	M ANASTASIO
Pelargonium (Geranium)	C EWEN			Family pets	C JACK	M ANASTASIO	C JACK
Begonia	B PATERSON			Fitness & Fun	A MONTEITH		
Fuchsia: any variety in bloom	E DONALDSON	M DEMPSEY	J LEASK				
African Violet	F MCNAUGHT			<b>CHILDREN'S CLASSES</b>			
One Cactus or Group of Cacti	M PATERSON	M PATERSON	M PATERSON	Photo: own choice (12 yrs and under)	A MACAULAY	E CLAYTON	F WATTERS
One Succulent	C EWEN	P BELL		Photo: own choice ( 13 to 16 yrs)	G SEVIOUR		
Ornamental Grass	P BELL	P BELL					
				<b>'FITNESS &amp; FUN' BOOK COVER</b>			
<b>PRESERVES</b>				AGE 5	O CHAN	B FEENEY	S RANKIN
Fruit Jam: any fruit	E REYNOLDS	P BELL	A JONES	AGE 6	S TROTTER	E MCGREGOR	L KERR
Marmalade	C EWEN			AGE 7	E CHAN	E STRANG	E SHORTEL
Jelly: Savoury or Sweet - any size jar	P BELL	A JONES		AGE 8	LAURIE	REBECCA	ELLA
Lemon Curd	A LOW	P BELL	M BELL	AGE 9	C MCGOLDRICK	B ROONEY	C PENRETH
Chutney	F MCNAUGHT	M PATERSON	M PATERSON	AGE 10	C ZARENSKI	T BARTON	J LONGMAN
				11yrs and over	A MALKANI	I MALKANI	
<b>HOME BAKING</b>				<b>GENERAL (7YEARS AND UNDER)</b>			
Oven Scones: 4	A LOW	A THOMS	E GREER	A Tray or Large Plate Garden	H TAYLOR	J WEBB	S CLAYTON
Sponge Cake with a Filling: any variety	A BAIN	A LOW	M PATERSON	Design a mini 'Beast'	S CLAYTON		
Fruit Loaf / Cake	M PATERSON	M PATERSON	A MONTEITH	Four Crispy Cakes	L KERR	S CLAYTON	
Muffins: 3 of any flavour	M PATERSON	M PATERSON	M RAE				
Four Pancakes or Drop Scones	A LOW			<b>GENERAL (8 TO 12 YEARS)</b>			
Ginger Bread: 1lb loaf tin	A MONTEITH	B THOMS	M RAE	A Tray or Large Plate Garden/	A MACAULAY	F WATTERS	E CLAYTON
Four Shortbread Biscuits or one Round	A THOMS	I JACK	A GROGAN	A Model or Craft Item	F WATTERS	A MACAULAY	J CLAYTON
Six squares of Tablet or Fudge	A MONTEITH	S HOOD	E GREER	Four Crispy Cakes	F WATTERS	J CLAYTON	J WEBB
Six Meringue Shells	A MONTEITH	A LOW					
<b>FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS</b>							
'Fruits of theEarth'	F MCNAUGHT	E YUILLE	P BELL				
Miniature Flower Arrangement:	F MCNAUGHT	J BURNS	B WILSON				
Lunch Table Arrangement: low	F MCNAUGHT	P BELL	P BELL				

**The Bob Cubin Cup EILEEN DONALDSON & FLO MCNAUGHT**  
**The Maureen Trotter Cup JACK LEASK**  
**The Jubilee Cup FIONA WATTERS**