

The Ferry News



Issue 62

Jun - Sept 2009

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
North Queensferry Community
Centre Management Committee
on
THURSDAY 18TH JUNE, 2009
@ 7.00PM
in the
Community Centre

The Community Centre is a thriving venue within our village, with a variety of events taking place each week. There are Dance classes, Pilates, Arts & Crafts, Mother & Toddler, Youth Club, Football, Yoga and Dog Training. It is also used for Fundraising, Birthday Parties and other Community activities. The centre needs a management committee from within the village to run its affairs. Over the past six years George Parker and the same dedicated people have given up their time and effort to manage the centre. George, as most of you will know, is moving south and giving up his post as chairperson. We would like to thank him for all his hard work over the past six years as chair and wish him well in his new venture.

We are as always looking for new members to continue to run the centre, if we cannot find new members the centre cannot continue to function. All we require is for members to come to the centre for approximately 1-2 hours each month to ensure the continued success of the centre.

Ferry Birds - Jan to May 09

Spring is a time for change. The plants start growing and the insects which feed on them appear in ever increasing numbers and the resident birds, if they haven't started their breeding, begin to claim territories and attract mates. **Song thrushes, blackbirds, robins** and others often start the process during warmer spells in winter, but the real sign that spring is here is the arrival of the summer visitors who have flown in from their winter quarters in Africa. The end of March and beginning of April is the time to look out for these well-travelled birds. A **chiffchaff** was heard from the coastal path on the 5th of April and I heard at least two along with a **blackcap** in the woods behind Port Laing on the 14th. I also heard my first local **willow warbler** in one of the hawthorn trees by St Margaret's Marsh on the same day. I suppose for many people seeing a **swallow** is the first real indication that spring is here and the **swallows** at least don't hide themselves in the shrubby areas around North Queensferry as many of the warblers do. The **swallows** seem happy to be back as they fly around catching insects and twittering to each other. I saw my first **swallow** around North Queensferry above Jamestown on 20th of April and there were several **sand martins** near Cruickness Point on the same day. More recently I have heard and seen two other species of warbler near St Margaret's Marsh. These were a **sedge warbler** which was singing from the reed bed and a **whitethroat** in the hawthorn bushes. I have not yet heard a **lesser whitethroat** locally, but did hear one from the coastal path near Kinghorn on the 6th of May.

West Bay was, as usual, a good place to spot the wintering waders. I counted 41 **oystercatchers** on the Railway pier on the 9th of February and up to 35 **redshanks** have been using the floating mooring as a roost at high tide. About half a dozen **turnstones** were also using the bay as a winter refuge and I spotted a single **dunlin** on the 6th and 20th of February. The **redshanks** have now disappeared from West Bay to go to their breeding grounds further north. I searched in vain for one at the beginning of May but to no avail. There were a few **oystercatchers** and at least 2 **curlews** and a couple of **black-headed gulls** complete with dark brown heads. The latter normally breed by fresh water inland, so these were probably either inexperienced or failed breeders. The bigger gulls are still around and were squabbling amongst themselves in the seaweed beds exposed by the low tides at Port Laing on the evening of the 6th of May. Several of them had found orange starfish amongst the kelp and were finding it difficult to eat them as they were harassed by the other gulls. These were mainly **herring gulls** with a few **great-black-backed gulls**. **Common gulls** behave like the black-headed variety and leave in the spring for inland lochs to breed. A good sight was a flock of **kittiwakes** sheltering off Port Laing on the 9th of May. There must have been at least 100 on the water as I walked down towards the beach when they all took off calling and circled overhead before moving out into the estuary. **Kittiwakes** are real sea gulls. They come ashore to breed but spend the autumn and winter at sea. How they manage to survive during the winter gales is astonishing.

Disruption to July Rail Services

Due to rail infrastructure works passenger train services will be unable to serve Inverkeithing and North Queensferry Rail Stations on the following days.

4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 19th, 25th and 26th July 2009.

During these periods First ScotRail intend to provide replacement bus services to transport passengers between Dalgety Bay Rail Halt and Edinburgh via Inverkeithing Rail Interchange, Dalmeny, South Gyle, Haymarket. 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 also operate between North

Queensferry and Inverkeithing.

The management of car parks at Dalgety Bay, Chapel Place, Inverkeithing and at Inverkeithing interchange is still to be agreed with First ScotRail.

Publicity material will be issued by First ScotRail in due course which will confirm the actual disruptions and arrangements for passengers.

Alan Davidson

Technician Engineer

Traffic Management (south)

New City House Dunfermline

08451 555555 480091

e-mail AlanP.Davidson@fife.gov.uk

Toddler Group

Just a reminder to all mums, dads, grandparents and carers that the North Queensferry Baby and Toddler Group meets on a Thursday morning at the Community Centre from 10am till 11.30am. Toys, games, craft activities, soft play and singing time as well as outings and parties. This term we look

forward to Sports Day and hopefully a trip to the beach. The group will continue to meet over the summer holidays and older children are welcome.

For further details please contact Sarah Chadwick (chairperson) tel. 416690, Sue Sheehan (treasurer) tel. 420705 or Becky Hay (secretary) tel. 419101

Fulmars look like a kind of gull, but in fact are not even closely related to them. They belong to a group of birds called petrels which are closely related to albatrosses. Like the **kittiwakes**, **fulmars** spend much of the year at sea, but are regularly seen close to the shore during winter. **Fulmars** breed on Inchgarvie and seem to check the island out during January and February. They stay a few days then disappear. The first ones I saw back on Inchgarvie this year were there on the 27th of January.

There were low numbers of birds wintering around our shores this winter. The usual species were there, but the highest counts I had were 16 **red-breasted mergansers** off St Margaret's Marsh on the 14th of April and 13 **great-crested grebes** and 10 **goldeneyes** off Port Laing on the 27th of February. The only **red-throated diver** I saw was in the autumn and the only **razorbill** was one off Carlingnose Point on the 12th of March. You may have read in the press about the recent poor breeding performance of sea birds around the North Sea and my observations seem to be consistent with this. The various terns belong to this group so I was pleased to see several **sandwich terns** from the coastal path between Port Laing and Cruickness Point on the 27th of April, but I've not yet seen any **common terns**. Last year was not a good year for breeding terns in Scotland although they seemed to do reasonably well around the Firth of Forth, so I hope they will be back on Long Craig in the next few days

The more unusual birds I have mentioned before still seem to be around. A **blackcap** was seen in a garden near Main Road in January and I saw one

on The Brae on the 24th of March. These were probably the same bird as **blackcaps** do now winter in small numbers in the UK. Of the others I have seen one or two **peregrines** over Cruicks quarry on several occasions and I have also seen the **ravens** near the quarry and over Jamestown. The **buzzards** are also much in evidence. A good place to see and hear them is by the water tank on Ferryhills. Look west towards St Margaret's Marsh and try and spot one soaring around looking for a meal. With luck you might see a **kestrel** hovering over a patch of grassland as well. Other sightings of more unusual birds have been a **mistle thrush** by Ferryhills road on the 20th of January, a **grey wagtail** on The Brae and on the shore line of West Bay during the winter and a **treecreeper** in my garden on the 29th of January. **Treecreepers** are quite common, but very unobtrusive. They are small brown birds with a short narrow curved beak which, unsurprisingly given their name, creep up trees. They start at the bottom, climb up searching for insects and other invertebrates and then fly down to the base of the next tree. I have had reports of **treecreepers** in two different gardens in the village.

Please remember there may be breeding birds in your garden at this time of year and go easy on any clearing and pruning. Feeding them is not as important as in winter as there should be lots of insects around for the adults to catch to feed to the young. Good insect protein is essential for the young birds so that they grow quickly into fully-fledged adults.

John Done



N.Q.WALKING GROUP

The group meet on *alternate Wednesdays* in the Church car park at **10am**. Car-share is then organised depending on numbers. Walks vary in length from 3 to 5 miles. They also vary in difficulty but most can be adapted to suit all levels. The route may be changed at the last minute depending on the weather. Strong shoes/ boots, waterproofs, possibly a stick plus a snack/drink are all you need. We are a friendly group and enjoy chatting as much as we enjoy walking!

10 June Breich Water - circular - 4 miles
24 June Cramond Island - 3 or 5 miles

A new programme of walks covering July to December will follow. If you are not on my list and wish a copy, please e-mail jsking1@btinternet.com



VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

is held in the Church on
Alternate Wednesday's
From 10.30 to 12.00

Everyone welcome. Cost 50p

June 3rd 17th
July 1st 15th 29th
August 12th 26th
September 9th 23rd

Contact Chris Duguid on 413372
for info or transport help.

Summer term at the Primary School

The summer term is always a busy one at school and this year is no exception! We have a couple of really exciting projects going on in our playground. The first one is the installation of some new playground equipment, which will provide our pupils with a wider variety of activities during play times.

The other really exciting project for everyone in school this term is the development of our Kitchen Garden Project, which is being led by two of our parents Mr Dan Trotter and Mrs Jane Shields. Dan has drawn up a fantastic plan for this garden and we have been lucky to have lots of parents and pupils in school building our raised borders and digging up borders and paths over weekends. Dan has designed a number of different borders, raised borders and African keyhole borders made from driftwood found on the beach, giving our garden a super variety of different shapes and sizes of borders making the whole thing really beautiful. We also have had a shed put up and are looking forward to building our greenhouse from recycled 2 litre plastic bottles so we can bring on our own seeds and plants in future years. A beautiful willow hedge and fruit trees surrounds our Kitchen Garden. We are now going to start planting our vegetables – potatoes, beans, peas, carrots, onions, leeks and pumpkins as well as some berry bushes and are looking forward to our first harvest! We will keep everyone in North Queensferry up-to-date with this project as time goes on.

Some of our Primary 7 pupils and their class teacher Mrs Scouller are off on the 11th of May to Normandy for 5 days as part of the class project on World War II. I am sure they will have a super time and we are looking forward to seeing all their photographs and hearing all about the trip on their return to school. Our P6 pupils are away to school camp at Ardroy in the middle of June 2009. This is an outdoor education camp and the children will be involved in activities such as mountain biking, climbing and abseiling, canoeing etc. We have a number of others trips and outings planned for this term with classes going out and about to the Children's Festival in Edinburgh, Science Festival in Aberdour and trips to Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh Castle and Aberdour Castle and beach.

At the end of this term we will be saying good-bye to Mrs Kirkland, one of our Nursery teachers as she is retiring. Mrs Kirkland has worked in our Nursery since it opened and is a very valuable member of staff. We will all miss her terribly when she leaves but wish her a long and happy retirement.

Our annual open afternoon / evening is on Thursday the 4th of June from 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm and again from 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm.. Everyone is welcome to come into school and see the great work going on.

Sally Hourston, Head Teacher

Are you concerned about Peak Oil?

Worried about Climate Change?

Interested in food miles or renewable energy?

Would you be interested in getting together with like minded people to discuss how we as a community could do something about these (and other) issues?

If so contact Andrew Jones on 414407 or email

aj.dreamer@virgin.net

A third of the food we buy in the UK ends up being thrown away!

Reduce; Reuse; Recycle (compost!)

<http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

	<h2>Strawberry Tea</h2>	
at North Queensferry Church on Sunday August 16 th from 3 to 5 pm. Look out for the posters nearer the event!		
	in aid of <h2>PiggyBankKids</h2> Jennifer Brown Appeal	

Neighbourhood Watch

Now that we are well into the gardening season again, please keep all your gardening tools safely locked away when you're finished with them. Also keep garden sheds locked and dangerous chemicals away from children and pets. If you have any concerns please contact Dalgety Bay Police Station or speak to your co-ordinator or phone Jill Brown on 419054 who will forward your concerns to the police.

	educational & inspiring Music Classes for Babies, Toddlers & Pre-school children from 4 months to 5 years
<h2>Musical Steps</h2>	
Have fun together and help develop your child's ·CREATIVITY ·CO-OPERATION ·LISTENING ·COMMUNICATION ·LANGUAGE	
NORTH QUEENSFERRY ~ Tuesdays CROSSFORD ~ Thursdays DUNFERMLINE ~ Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays	
For further information or to book a FREE trial class please contact INGA T: 0845 224 0613 E: inga.jack@musicalsteps.co.uk www.musicalsteps.co.uk	

The Old Harbour Light Tower

Designed by Robert Stevenson and re-erected in 1817 from the adjacent Signal house that previously housed the lightroom which was installed on top of the outer staircase in 1812.

The 2nd of February 2009 saw the refurbishment project commence with the erection of all necessary scaffolding and working platforms. On the 4th, the engineering contractor moved in to assess how best to remove the entire lightroom with one lift of the crane.

200 years of time, tides and the prevailing winds would ensure that decay to a greater or lesser extent would be present in the cast iron windows and copper roof. The full extent would only be known once the lightroom was safely inside the iron foundry and tests carried out.

The lightroom was successfully released from the tower on 5th February 2009 in the presence of many onlookers and children from the local school. The children have already indicated their willingness to be involved with the restoration and introduction in the use of traditional skills.

A photographic record has been taken at every stage of the refurbishment process for this unique project and the picture gallery shows some of the work undertaken to achieve the first phase of the project and method used to protect the remainder of the tower from severe weather. This gallery will be updated on a regular basis as progress is made.

The history of the original Queensferry Passage as named by an Act of Parliament in 1809 is quite remarkable and is perhaps not as well known as it ought to be considering its importance in the development of Scotland and the United Kingdom.

A book is to be published on the 'Queensferry Passage' detailing all new information recently discovered. For those of you who have an appetite for history the article recently published in 'Forth Sight' the newsletter from the Forth Estuary Forum gives an insight into the future plans.

Village Show

Saturday 29th August 2pm – 4pm

Our theme this year is homecoming, celebrating everything Scottish and our Scottish Heritage. As always without your fantastic exhibits we would not have a show, so please enter as many categories as possible. Good luck!

We will be awarding points again this year to win the Bob Cubin Cup. So the more entries you have the better chance of winning.

Schedules will be distributed throughout the village during the first week of August.

Remember to register when delivering exhibits.

Doors open for exhibits

Friday 28th Aug 7:30 – 8:30

Saturday 29th Aug 9:00 – 10:30

Where did your Granny live?

Who lived in my house 150 years ago?

I would like to visit North Queensferry to research my family history.

NQ Heritage Trust is helping to provide answers to such questions by importing the Census Data for North Queensferry every 10 years from 1841 to 1901. The intention is to make this data publicly available on the NQHT Website. An additional facility is to list all the house names or addresses and to define the location of each by OS Grid Reference. A grid position can then be located on the 1896 OS map or keyed into a car navigator system.

The property location list is now almost complete except for some locations which we have been unable to find. So now we are appealing to NQ residents. **Can you help to locate any of the following places?**

Port Laing Villas 1901	Chapel Road 1861,1851
Rockhill Cottage 1901	Fore Close 1861,1851
Farmbank 1901	Back Close 1861,1851
Glenboag House 1901	East Sands 1861
North Road (many houses) 1881	Tainville Cottage 1851
Old Road (many houses) 1881	Scots House 1851
Ladywell Cottage 1891,1881,1871,1861	Peaceable Land 1851
Welldean Parks, Cruickness 1864	East Cliff 1851
East Craig Cottage 1861	East Road 1851
Ures Close 1861,1851	Cruicks Lodge 1851

If you have any information on the above previously used names (house deeds may be useful), please contact one of the following:

Wilf Monteith	Tel	01383 412365	email	wilf.anne.monteith@homecall.co.uk
Boyd Williamson		01383 417735		BoydW@talktalk.net
John Taylor		01383 413509		

Community Council

Minutes of Community Council are available on the NQCC website, in addition to being posted on village notice boards and at the Community Centre. This article is intended to provide a flavour of the items discussed and initiatives pursued by YOUR Community Council since the last issue of Ferry News.

Perhaps the area of most concern to all residents over the next few years will be the new Forth Crossing. Since the well attended public meeting arranged by the CC at the Queensferry Hotel in January, the CC has met again with Transport Scotland and the Project Managers to ensure that we are able to provide continued input and to comment on their plans as they evolve. The current intention is to alter the alignment of the main road from the village so that it passes to the West, rather than the East of the sewage works. One spin-off is that it should be possible to keep the current road in use whilst the new section is under construction and then switch to use of the new route use with very little disruption. This will alleviate one of the main concerns raised by residents, namely, restriction to village access and disruption during construction.

The CC considers all planning applications within or affecting the village. Whilst the vast majority require no further action, the CC has objected, based upon many previous representations, to an application by Tarmac to extend operations at Cruicks Quarry by a further 3 years. Much continues to be done to enhance the appearance of the village through the provision of floral enhancements and we are currently investigating whether it may be possible to obtain some sort of Christmas decorations this year.

A matter of great concern - our beaches need cleaning

Over the years Anne Monteith has organised beach cleans of the various beaches in the village. North Queensferry had one of the longest running Marine Conservation Society Beachwatch groups in the UK at Port Laing, having organised surveys every year from 1993 to 2006. The survey showed a downward trend in litter at Port Laing 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. Since then there has been no regular beach cleans as no one was prepared to take over the organisation.

As no-one was prepared to take over the co-ordination. Can you help? If so, please contact Anne Monteith to talk it over. Tel 412365.



Pictures taken on the Albert Beach in May



We maintain a dialogue with the various departments of Fife Council and are pleased to be able to advise that funding has been secured to resurface The Brae this year. It is intended to do a complete resurface, as opposed to merely adding another layer on top of the existing surface as has happened previously. This is likely to take up to two weeks and will entail closure of the whole length of The Brae. Fife Council will consult with all those living on The Brae in order to maintain access to their homes. To minimise disruption, work should ideally be carried out after the main tourist season and whilst schools are closed for holidays. October is a distinct possibility but further discussion is required before a final date can be decided.

Regular liaison with the police, Rights of Way, supporting individual residents in their dialogue with external authorities and attempting to identify a use for the railway station building are other matters that have kept the CC busy over the last few months. An initiative very recently decided upon is to invite the School Council to be represented on the Community Council, thus ensuring that the younger generation and their parents have an opportunity to express their opinions.

In all of this activity the Community Council remains very conscious that it must remain impartial and represent the views and concerns of all residents. This is easier said than done when very few residents attend its meetings to express their views. These are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Community Centre, commencing at 7.30 pm. The next regular meeting, on 11 June, will be preceded by an Annual General Meeting and we would urge as many of you who are able to attend.

A Resident's Concern

Please can I remind the children and teenagers of the village that residents' gardens, driveways, closes and general property are not part of their play area for them to explore as and when they please, no matter how open they appear to look. As gardens and sheds have been broken into in the recent past and property stolen, I'm sure you can appreciate my concern. Also, with the added security for the PM's house, if a resident reports someone prowling about in their garden at night to the police, this may send alarm bells ringing. As someone who works nights and whose wife is alone in the house by herself, this only adds to my concern and after a recent incident, I've advised her to call the Police as this would be her only safe option.

Contributions for the next issue

are to be with us by
Friday 11th September
to 7 Carlingnose Park
or to mary@ferrynews.co.uk.

South West Fife Police Report

Bogus Crime

In recent weeks officers from South West Fife have been involved in an action plan aimed at addressing the issue of bogus crime. Officers have been working with various partner organisations including Neighbourhood Watch groups, Community Safety Panels, Community Wardens and Community Councils in an effort to raise awareness within the community regarding Bogus crime, which includes bogus workmen, callers and collectors. Examples of such crimes are: -

- I. Bogus callers - person(s) who use deceitful means to gain entry to dwellings for their own advantage. Examples include persons posing as officials of well-known organisations, such as utilities companies, the local council or the police. Examples also include persons who request a glass of water or to use the toilet.
- II. Bogus workmen - Person(s) who purport to be bona-fide workmen who carry out work, which is often unnecessary, of sub-standard quality and charged at over inflated fees. Examples include persons who offer to carry out roofing/guttering work, gardening and the re-surfacing of driveways. The persons involved often ask for full or part payment prior to the start or completion of the work and thereafter do not finish the job. These incidents may or may not involve the person(s) responsible gaining access to dwellings.
- III. Bogus collectors - Person(s) who falsely claim to represent a charity or sponsorship and obtain monies by deception. These incidents may or may not involve the person(s) responsible gaining access to dwellings

The majority of bogus crime is committed during spring and summer and such criminals tend to target elderly and vulnerable persons within the community.

Although bogus crime is particularly nasty because the victims of such crimes are normally elderly or vulnerable members of our communities it is thankfully not a common occurrence, however we must remain vigilant and takes all available steps to prevent bogus crime from occurring in the first place. The public are urged to take precautions when dealing with callers at their homes, ask for identification and never sign anything or hand over money unless you are completely satisfied that the caller is genuine or the work carried out is to the standard you expect.

The action plan involved Community police officers and Neighbourhood Watch volunteers who carried out leaflet drops throughout West Fife in an effort to raise awareness and to provide crime prevention

advice and reassurance. Funding for the leaflets was provided by the Dunfermline, Cowdenbeath and South West Fife Community Safety Panels.

Safer Schools

An action plan aimed at addressing parking issues and road safety at schools within South West Fife has also been on-going in recent weeks. In April community police officers and traffic wardens carried out high visibility patrols during the first week of the summer term in an effort to provide education/advice to drivers and vehicle users. The action plan is on-going and will involve officers re-visiting schools on a sporadic basis, throughout the course of the school year, when enforcement action will be taken where appropriate.

All parents and others who have cause to convey children to and from school are encouraged to walk or use alternative means of transport other than motor vehicles. If there is no alternative to using a motor vehicle then every effort should be made to park legally and with due consideration of other road users in an effort to improve safety in the areas around local schools.

South West Fife Community Safety Panel

The panel are currently seeking to attract new members. The objectives of the panel are as follows:

- a) To promote public awareness of crime within our community.
- b) To combine existing measures and new ideas in prevention of crime.
- c) To be aware of public concerns regarding crime and to respond to these concerns.
- d) To promote a better and safer way of life in the community.

The panel has been running for some time and has previously introduced and implemented numerous initiatives in the local area. Examples of some of the previous initiatives include youth projects, women's safety courses, providing the elderly with increased security measures, property marking including bicycle coding, creation and distribution of safety/crime prevention leaflets, road safety initiatives, neighbour / personal and property alarms, security lighting and improvements to areas of the community where members of the public feel unsafe. The panel meets once per month to discuss current and planned initiatives. If anyone is interested in helping improve the safety of their community and would like to volunteer to join the panel please contact the chairperson Chris Cunningham on 01383 417773 or Sgt Stephen Clark at Dalgety Bay police station, Regents Way, tel. 0845 600 5702.

If you need to contact South West Fife police, call 0845 600 5702, or 999 in the case of an emergency.

Gala Day - Saturday 13th June



Gala Queen - Kayleigh Hunter



Gala King - Cormac McGoldrick

Gala Week - starts 6th June

For full details please see <http://northqueensferrygala.synthasite.com/>



Pilates Classes

Would you like to:

- Improve your posture?
- Strengthen your back?
- Flatten your tummy?
- Improve your flexibility
- Learn to relax?
- Improve your self esteem?

Realistic Pilates is a safe method of exercise which can help you achieve all of the above.

- Suitable for all fitness levels
- Block booking of 6 classes to ensure continuity
- £7.50 per class (£45 for 6 x 1 hour classes)
- Mats provided.

Pilates Class Timetable

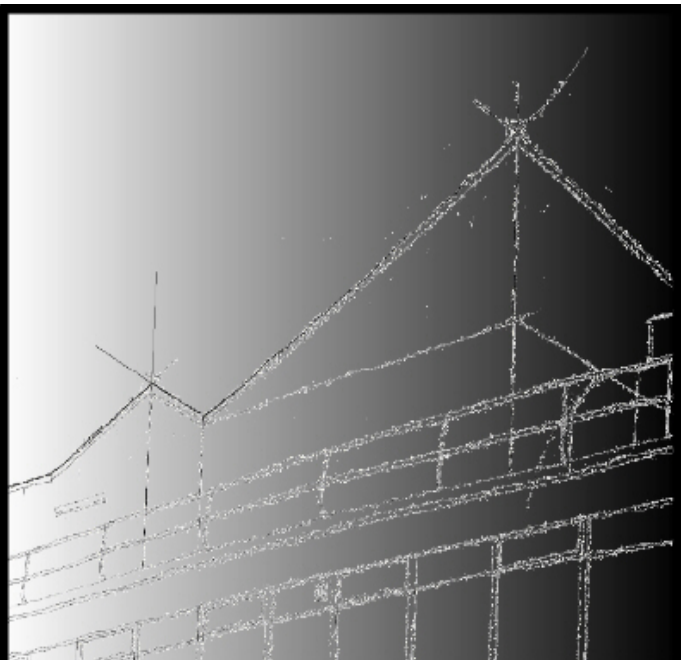
Tuesday	10:30 - 11:30 am	SQ Rosebery Hall
Wednesday	7:00 - 8:00 pm	NQ Community Centre
	8:00 - 9:00 pm	NQ Community Centre
Thursday	10:30 - 11:30 am	Dalgety Bay Parish Church
Friday	10:30 - 11:30 am	NQ Community Centre

Contact: **Amanda Johnstone**

07787 321571

Or Email: JohAman@aol.com

One to One Consultations also available.



cls centreline solutions
architects

initial consultation free

01383 417 509
www.cls.info