



# T h e F e r r y N e w s

Issue 65  
www.ferrynews.co.uk

## Community Centre

The Burns Ceilidh in January was most successful and raised £1228 for the Community Centre. Thanks are due to all those who organised and donated Prizes, those who supported the event by their attendance, the caterers from the Albert and the Cameron Kellow Trio.

We were delighted to welcome two new co-opted members to the Committee in March – Leonard Gray and Adam Nosal. We look forward to confirming their election at the AGM and would remind everyone in the community that there is still room for more to participate in the management of the Community Centre. Anyone interested should contact Iain Whyte (410732) or Brian Armstrong (417429). It has been good to have the contributions of several user groups at our recent meetings and we hope that others who are part of the centre will come and update us with their activities. Mike Blair, the new Fife Council Liaison Officer has attended regularly and advised us on the wider Community services picture in Fife.

On the practical side plans are underway to replace soft play equipment in cooperation with the Mother and Toddlers Group and in a more ambitious project we have now started to take steps towards a full refurbishment of the kitchen. It is hoped that this will give us considerably better facilities and encourage a wider use for functions and other events.

A final word of thanks for a recent donation towards the Ferry News cost from North Queensferry Wednesday coffee morning. This is much appreciated.

Iain Whyte  
Chair, Community Centre Management Committee



# VILLAGE SHOW 2010

An exhibition of village produce, traditional home crafts, floral art, photography and baking .

Sales tables, competitions, auction...  
...and much more

**Saturday 28th August  
2pm to 4pm**

in

**North Queensferry  
Community Centre**

## Craft Extravaganza!

This year we are celebrating Fife through a variety of local arts & crafts with

**workshops and demonstrations** taking place throughout the afternoon. Schedules will be delivered to all households

### Contributions for the next issue

are to be with us by  
Friday 1st October 2010  
to  
7 Carlingnose Park  
or  
mary@ferrynews.co.uk.

## Police Community Engagement Meetings

Inverkeithing High School

7.00 - 8.00 pm

Your chance to determine Police priorities

Next meetings

**Tuesday 6th July**

**Tuesday 7th September**

## Ferry Birds -January to May 2010

The winter visitors to North Queensferry have all left for their breeding grounds to the north and west. The **redshanks** which winter in West Bay are the obvious ones. This winter the highest count I made was about 40 perched on the floating mooring. At the end of April I searched almost in vain for any waders and only managed to find a couple of **oystercatchers**. This winter the **redshanks** were joined by a few **turnstones** and **dunlins**. The highest counts were 7 **dunlins** in West Bay on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January and 3 **turnstones** on the rocks by the play area on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February. One or two **turnstones** occasionally joined the **redshanks** on the floating mooring at high tide. The other wintering birds are those you can spot on the sea from the coastal path. This winter was a good one for the variety of species, but not for the overall numbers. The usual **goldeneyes** and **red-breasted mergansers** were joined this winter by a small group of **common scoters**, a single **long-tailed duck** and up to 4 **scaups**. These three types of duck regularly winter in the Firth of Forth, but the main concentrations are further out in the estuary at Leven in Fife and between Musselburgh and Gullane in East Lothian. Other birds wintering around our shore are the common resident **eiders**, **shelducks** and **great-crested** and **little grebes**. These 4 species all breed locally so don't travel far to winter with us. Indeed the **eiders** and **shelducks** breed along the coast while the **grebes** breed on fresh water inland.

Finally I had single sightings of a **red-throated diver** in Inverkeithing Inner Bay on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March and a **guillemot** near the Railway pier on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. The latter was the only sighting I had all winter which is very unusual. **Razorbills** are normally more common than **guillemots** in winter just offshore and I didn't see any this winter.

As I said last time the hard winter weather had brought an unusual bird to Draught Beach. The male **stonechat** was there throughout January and February, but the last time I saw it was on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

My sightings of other interesting birds include **peregrine falcons** in Cruicks Quarry on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, 6 sightings in March including one over Carlingnose on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 5 sightings in April. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of April I spotted a **peregrine** because of the shower of feathers it was producing as it plucked its prey! A **kestrel** has also been seen regularly in the lower part of the village. There have been **ravens** flying around over Cruicks Quarry and they seem to have bred because I saw 2 birds on a nest exercising their wings at the beginning of May. **Ravens** are one of the earliest breeders so this would not be too surprising. However the most intriguing bird has been a **green woodpecker**. I have not actually seen it, but have heard one on 4 occasions since March 13<sup>th</sup> when one was calling by Ferryhills road. Early on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April I heard one calling(yaffling) near Northcliffe, then one at the

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### Community Council

The Community Council has been involved along with Fife Council in facilitating a number of Meetings with regard to future plans for West Bay. These Meetings have been attended by representatives of Save Our Bay, the Boat Club, the Sailing Club, North Queensferry Heritage Trust, the Community Centre, North Queensferry Transition Initiative and other village groups, as well as the Community Council itself.

Under the expert guidance of a Fife Council Facilitator and with helpful and supportive input from representatives of the appropriate departments of Fife Council, those participating have so far concentrated on shared values and philosophies and giving some preliminary thought to the sorts of uses and activities which might take place in this area. What has been remarkable is just how much common ground there is amongst the participants, and how there seems to be a broad consensus on the need for the whole community to be involved in carrying ideas forward. The next

stage is to start putting flesh on the bones of the shared values of community use, equal access, security for existing users, opening up to new uses, sustainability, and the need to start to get to grips with developing appropriate administrative structures.

The group is anxious also to receive input from the wider public. If you have any thoughts or ideas on any of the matters mentioned above, or, indeed anything else concerning West Bay, then please get in touch with me or with the Brian Armstrong, the Secretary of the Community Council [brianrretired@btinternet.com](mailto:brianrretired@btinternet.com).

The Council continues to meet at 7.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Community Centre. Members of the public are welcome to come along. There is still a vacancy in our number, so if anyone is interested in joining, please get in touch with me or any of the members to let us know.

Iain G. Mitchell QC  
Chairman.  
May, 2010.

back of Port Laing on the 20<sup>th</sup> and again near Northcliffe on the 24<sup>th</sup>. To prove I am not imagining this, when I said I had heard the **woodpecker** some members of the bird walk group on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May said they had also heard one. Let's hope that there are at least 2 birds and they might be breeding.

The end of March is when the first summer visitors return from their winter sojourn in Africa. Normally the first I see (or hear) locally is the **chiffchaff**. True to form my first was on the 24<sup>th</sup> near the entrance to Cruicks Quarry. Since then I have heard them regularly while walking the coastal path and even had one singing in my garden on The Brae. **Willow warblers** and **blackcaps** return from Africa a little later and I have heard and seen them on The Brae and around the village. **Blackcaps** seem to be particularly plentiful this year. It never fails to amaze me that these small birds weighing between 10 and 20 grams fly from central Africa across the Sahara desert and then the Mediterranean to Scotland to breed, so as to take advantage of our long summer days and abundant insect life.

Another trans-Saharan migrant is also one of the first to arrive. **Sand martins** have a breeding colony in Cruicks Quarry and I first saw them back there on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April which was a little later than usual. **Sand martins** eat insects catching them on the wing particularly over fresh water. Ferryhills Loch is a good place to see them. **Swallows** can also be seen there although in smaller numbers. The Loch and its surrounds are a good place to hear **chiffchaffs** and **willow warblers**. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of April I saw a **little grebe**, a pair of **teal**, a male **mallard** and a

**moorhen** on the Loch. The **little grebe** was there again on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May so please be wary if you walk that way as all four species may well be trying to raise young there.

Another migrant to nest in the area is the **common tern**. As you will remember the Scottish Wildlife Trust has been trying to encourage them to breed on the derelict pier between Carlingnose and Port Laing. On the bird walk I was just saying I had not seen any on the pier when someone said 'that sounds like some terns'. Sure enough there were about half a dozen **common terns** perched on the end of the pier.

A few more interesting observations include up to 4 **shelducks** off and on throughout the winter in West Bay. They seemed to come and go at random. On a misty day in February I heard a group of **jackdaws** passing overhead and I counted a flock of about 15 **goldfinches** in one of the tall trees along Ferryhills road on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. I have also heard a **yellowhammer** singing near Jamestown and by the water tank on Ferryhills.

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*

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## Sailing Club

The new North Queensferry Sailing Club has had a busy few months since we started. Now that the sailing season is finally upon us we are looking forward to getting out on the water, and are looking forward to some of you joining us!

Over the spring we received some generous funding from Fife Council which has allowed us to put our plans into action. The money has gone to buying several training boats, plus all the safety gear we need and putting one of our members through the Royal Yachting Association Training programme so we now have an RYA qualified trainer and can give comprehensive training courses for people at all skill levels. Continuing on from this, our plan over the next year or so is to develop to become an RYA training centre which we hope will be a great addition to the activities available in the village. We will let you know more about this as plans develop.

Now that the weather is warming up we are planning

a number of activities over the coming weeks and months. We will be holding 'Try Sailing Days' at various venues around the village, and everyone is welcome to come to these and have a shot in a boat. The dates on which these are taking place and the venues will be advertised on posters around the village, so keep your eyes peeled! We are also helping the Gala Committee with the Raft Race on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June. In addition to the race, we will have various boats there so people can have a go in a dinghy, yacht or speedboat – or all of you are really keen! There will be other activities as well though to keep the less nautically inclined entertained as well.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Sailing Club and our activities you can now visit our new web site at [www.northqueensferrysc.co.uk](http://www.northqueensferrysc.co.uk). For those interested in joining, you can download an application form from the website, or call Paul on 416 385. We look forward to seeing you over the summer!

## Transition Initiative

\*\*\* News Update \*\*\*

We found out in March that we have been granted funding for a year of community events and an energy-efficiency project. By the time this edition of the Newsletter reaches you we hope to have a Project Co-ordinator and two Energy Advisors in post and an office in the Reading Room at the Community Centre.

In April, we distributed leaflets about NQTI to every household in the village, along with information about the Station Refurbishment Project and a Community Survey. Thank-you to everyone who completed the survey - we got 100 responses and the feedback was very useful for the NQ Station Trust.

We had our Get Going With Growing Event on the 24th April. This was a great success with around 100 people coming down to the Harbour to visit the Transition Yurt, find out more about what we've got planned and order their tyre-planters, compost mix and seedling for delivery. We distributed almost 50 planters on the day and have since had several orders for more! The event was run along with the new Sailing Club who had one of their boats on show and were delighted with the number of new sailors they signed up.

Our next event will be:

### Beach Cleaning Saturday 22nd May

We aim to work our way through the beaches in the village and end up at Port Laing for a bonfire, marshmallows and a Beach Art competition in the late afternoon. Please look out for posters nearer the day!

Contact: [nqtransition@googlemail.com](mailto:nqtransition@googlemail.com) if you'd like to know more.

### VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS

Want to meet up for a chat with other villagers?

We are a friendly group, meeting on alternate Wednesdays from 1030 to 12noon.

Do drop in any time, you'll be warmly welcomed.

Dates as follows:

June 2 16 30

July 14 28

August 11 25

September 8 22

## Introducing Andrew

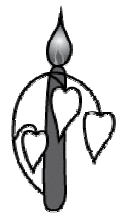


The Heritage Trust is delighted to introduce to the community, Andrew Dodds as the manager of the Light Tower, a new visitor attraction to the area. If you have not yet had the opportunity of visiting the tower which is now open every day please accept a welcome

invitation from the Trust. At the moment until after the 22nd June our 'official opening day' there is no charge to inspect everything that has been done to restore the tower including the installation of the original lighting system, a whale oil storage tank and a small 'lightkeeper's' stove. However it will not be possible to light the lamp until after the opening ceremony. Andrew is there to not only look after the Light Tower but to help with any specific questions you may have on its history as well as in the wider context of the pier and Queensferry Passage.

The opening of the light tower is the start of the Trust's policy to develop specific sites in the North Queensferry Peninsula that will enhance resident and visitor experience with up to date information on their historical relevance. As an example, new information panels on the history of the Queensferry Passage and Light Tower are currently being prepared, in conjunction with Fife Council, for display on the Town Pier and should shortly be in position.

Chernobyl Children Life Line  
thank  
North Queensferry Church



At the end of March, the Church provided a fund raising Brunch for the Dunfermline and West Fife Link of CCLL. It raised the splendid sum of £744. Even before the gift aid addition, this represents well over the costs of bringing a child over for the month's respite visit, and a contribution towards a second. In the present economic climate, this is especially appreciated.

This was another wonderful effort by Team NQ Church. On behalf of the 12 children we will be hosting in July, all our Link members send many thanks.

For more information visit our website:  
[www.clldunfermlinewestfife.org.uk](http://www.clldunfermlinewestfife.org.uk)

or contact Carol Dean: 01383 418781



## The Parents of NQF Primary School Pupils should FEEL THE SHAME ...

Im soooo frustrated that I feel like standing outside the gates at the primary school and handing out flyers to all the kids to give their parents!!

We had a gala fundraiser in The Albert on Sat 24 April with a casino night in the lounge and live music in the bar. The place was jam-packed mobbed - a mahoosive amount of folk made an effort to come, and not all local it has to be noted - some came from miles away. BUT and its a BIG HUGE BUT, off the top of my head (so dont quote me on it lol), I reckon there were less that 5 parents of NQF primary school pupils there ...

The support from others was fantastic but what about the actual parents of the actual 'gala kids.' Once again, the funding is mostly being supported by the same stalwart supporters of old.

C'mon PARENTS, get your fingers out and start helping/supporting the gala properly! After all, its for YOUR kids! Do you think it just happens - the money miraculously appears and the events happen with no organisation/effort... well the answer to that, is a BIG FAT NO! so feel the\_shame and take action ...

Vanessa Gallagher

## WALKING GROUP

The walking group continues to prove popular with several new members joining in this year. Despite some awful weather earlier in the year we managed to walk on all dates, as arranged - even in the snow!

A new programme of walks for the second half of the year will be available in early July.

If you'd like a copy, please e-mail [jasking1@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:jasking1@btinternet.co.uk) or phone Janet on 416734.

Walks for June leaving from the Church car park at 10 am are:

June 7 - Lomond Hills paths

June 21 - Hillend Trail (using ski-lift)

## Toddler & Baby Group

The North Queensferry Toddler & Baby Group meets every Thursday morning in the Community Centre from 9.30 - 11.30. We are a busy, lively group and we always love to see new members. In addition to the children enjoying the toys and soft-play at the Centre (and the adults enjoying a cuppa and a chat!), we have some exciting events coming up including a Teddy Bears' Picnic, Sports Day and a trip to the beach. Following on from our successful Baby Loves Boogie disco, we will also be holding another fundraiser, a children's theatre event - date and details soon to be publicised.

Lynoa Cattanach, Chairperson 01383 415171

Emma McLachlan, Secretary 01383 415315

Catherine Maclaurin, Treasurer 01383 411113



## An Invitation

To try a unique seafood restaurant.....

# Room with a View



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**Dinner:**  
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**Closed:**  
Monday and Tuesday

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To make a reservation call:  
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Room with a View, Forth View Hotel  
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## Scottish Country Dancing

Ladies Social Class  
Commences  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010

Wednesday Evenings  
7.30 - 8.45 pm

B.P. Hall  
Hope Street  
Inverkeithing

Beginners welcome  
Just come along or  
Phone 414169

## **Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay Rotary Club**

### **Annual Charity Walk Sunday 12 September**

The Rotary Club of Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay, which also operates in Aberdour and North Queensferry, will hold its annual sponsored charity walk from Inverkeithing to the Silver Sands in Aberdour on Sunday 12 September. The Rotary walk is now well established as a major fundraising event in West Fife. Participants enjoy a pleasant day out on the attractive six mile stretch of the Fife coastal path and a barbeque is provided for all at the finish on the Silver Sands. Walkers also receive a certificate that confirms their participation. Since the Club's first charity walk in 2003 the Rotary Club has raised more than £25,000 for local charities, with the largest share going to the Children's Hospice Association of Scotland. More than 100 walkers take part each year.

A well established practice is for local organisations and clubs to join the walk as a group and raise sponsorship that is divided between the Rotary Club's chosen charity and participating clubs' own funds. This has proven to be a very effective way for local clubs and organisations to both raise funds for themselves and contribute to other deserving causes. It means, too, that all of the organising is done by the Rotary Club and participants don't need to consider health and safety issues, stewarding or publicity. The walk usually gets good coverage in the local press. In recent years local scouts, the Boys Brigade, sports clubs and church groups have taken part in the walk as a fundraising exercise.

Individuals or organisations in North Queensferry that would like to participate in this year's walk, or would like more information on the walk, should get in touch now with John Taddei on 01383 860456 or the Rotary Club secretary, Ian Wilkinson, on 01383 727803.

### **STRAWBERRY TEA**

North Queensferry Church  
is holding the annual  
**STRAWBERRY TEA**  
on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August  
From 2 to 4 pm in the Church.  
All proceeds will be donated to

### **THE MAGGIES CENTRE**

These events are always enjoyable and we appreciate your support in the past. So do come along and help raise lots of money for this very worthwhile cause.

## **Boat Club**

North Queensferry Boat Club are Hosting a Traditional Boat Festival on Saturday 11th September 2010, as part of Fife's year of culture and celebration. Why not come aboard for a fantastic family day out down at the Railway Pier. Visit the old Traditional Tanned sailed boats in the harbour, or browse in the craft fair, try your hand at ancient crafts brought through by Gal Gael, Glasgow or admire the talents of the guest Chainsaw Wood Sculptor whilst the kids can visit the mini fairground. Deep Sea World shall be there with their touch pool as will the RNLI and Scottish Sea Kayaks. Or you can just chill out with a coffee and a famous Arbroath Smokie. All during the day there shall be musical events with the local primary school children singing sea shanties and an open mike for any budding artists from the village or beyond. Laugh with our resident clowns or have your face painted like your favourite pirate. Don't miss out on history in the making with the first ever North Queensferry, Traditional Boat Festival. A great day out for all of the Family.

## **South Fife Community Safety Panel**

Meets at Dalgety Bay Police Station in the evenings every six weeks or so to develop community safety initiatives.

New members needed. If interested or for more information, contact the Ferry News.

## **Pilates classes**



### **Simply Pilates**

**Pilates consists of a series of exercises to rebalance the body, achieve better posture and improve movement & body strength. 6 week block booking, booked in advance.**

**Suitable for all fitness levels - Cost £45.**

#### **Pilates Class Timetable**

Tuesday	10.30-11.30am	SQ Rosebery Hall
Wednesday	7.00-8.00pm	NQ Community Centre
Wednesday	8.00-9.00pm	NQ Community Centre
Thursday	10.30-11.30am	Dalgety Parish Church
Thursday	12.15-1.15pm	NQ Community Centre
Friday	10.30-11.30am	NQ Community Centre

#### **Contact:**

**Amanda Johnstone**  
**Fully Qualified Mat Level 3 Pilates Instructor(REPS)**  
Tel: 07787 321571  
Email: [JohAman@aol.com](mailto:JohAman@aol.com)

**One to One consultations also available**

## Gala News

### Gala Week 12th - 19th June

Preparations are already well in hand for our week of Gala events.

A special congratulations to Robbie Jack and Mairi Taylor who were nominated as this year's Gala King and Queen.

### Gala Dates for the diary

#### Fishing competition

#### Saturday / Sunday 12-13th June

12 midday registration

Sunday 4pm weigh in

#### Raft Race

#### Sunday 13th June

North Queensferry Marina

2.30pm - Race starts



This year we have teamed up with the Sailing Club for what promises to be a great afternoon's entertainment. Life Boat demonstration – Boat Rides – Bar-B-Q and more....!

We would like you to enter in to the spirit of the event and construct a raft to race with a theme of "all things Scottish". We are looking forward to a big turn out this year, and already have a number of new rafts registering for this event. Get your rafts and teams ready for this year's race as it should be a good one.

Entry forms available on the S1NorthQueensferry web site <http://www.s1northqueensferry.com/> or via email at [northqueensferrygala@hotmail.com](mailto:northqueensferrygala@hotmail.com)

#### Bike Races

#### Monday 14th June

6:30pm - Queen Margaret's Playing Field

Under 4yrs to Primary 7 all welcome to take part

Bike races will take place on the grass behind the Community Centre

7:30pm - Ferry Hills Cycle Race

For those that want a little more of a challenge - join in on the Ferry Bike race. If you have not entered before - the race starts at the Church and continues down Ferry Hills Road to the Comfort Store. The first rider to make it back to the Church wins the trophy! Please come ready to cycle by 7:15pm - don't forget your helmet!

For the younger entrants (1st, 2nd & 3rd year) - you will start at the Church, continue down to Garth Hill and return.



## Running Races

### Tuesday 15th June

6:30pm - Under 4yrs to Primary 7

Running races will take place on the grass behind the Community Centre

7:30pm - Ferry Hills Running Race

Using the same route as the bike race, runners should be ready from 7:15pm.

1st, 2nd & 3rd year pupils will start at the Church, continue down to Garth Hill and return to the Church.

### Netball & 5 A-Side Football

#### Wednesday 16th June

6:30pm Queen Margaret Playing Field

P5, P6 & P7 and 1st, 2nd & 3yr (Jnr Team)

4th year & above (Snr Team)

Teams decided on night



#### Talent Night

#### Thursday 17th June

6:30pm - Community Centre

The talent night was hugely popular last year, and we had some fantastic performances. All welcome to attend.

Entries available for all ages

Pre-registration from 6:15pm

#### Scavenger Hunt

#### Friday 18th June

6:30pm - Community Centre

All ages welcome to take part in this popular event. Winner to be announced on Gala Day.

## Gala Day

### Saturday 19th June

Gala procession forms at the Pier at midday, and the procession will commence at 12:15pm. The procession will walk up to the Community Centre where the festivities will continue on until about 4pm. A disco will be held in the Community Centre in the evening and all families are welcome to attend.

#### Trophies

Could all trophies please be returned to a Committee member engraved by no later than 1st June.

#### Fundraising

The fundraising for our gala continues throughout the year, and the support we receive from our local community is greatly appreciated. Without your continued and valuable support, we would not be able to hold a free community event. More information about the Gala week will be sent out shortly.



# GARAGE SERVICES



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**Crossford Garage**  
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**Stirling Garage**  
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