



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

COMMUNITY CENTRE

The last few months have seen development and frustration (in equal measure!) at the Community Centre. Flooding over the Christmas/New Year period has necessitated considerable remedial work on ceiling and walls. This has delayed the fitting of the new kitchen but the end is in sight and within weeks we will have an excellent new facility which hopefully will attract more use for functions.

Although the annual grant from Fife Council has been reduced, reflecting the need for local authority savings, a substantial grant towards the new kitchen has been secured.

Although we were sorry to lose the Transition Initiative staff due to failure to secure further funding we are glad to welcome back North Queensferry's football team after their temporary sojourn

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Since the previous issue of Ferry News your Community Councillors have been busy on a number of issues affecting the community, including planning applications, winter resilience, policing matters and the Forth Replacement Crossing. As winter once again approaches, we have asked Fife Council to provide a number of additional grit bins and advised suitable sites for the depositing of one ton sacks of salt/sand should they be required in an extreme situation. Some may have seen an article in the Dunfermline Press about our efforts to get a response from Network Rail concerning the restoration to its original condition of the picnic and viewing area under the Forth Bridge and Battery Road car park. We shall keep up the pressure. Work has also commenced on analysing the responses to the recent village survey. Whilst only a minority of residents have so far responded, it is clear that a number of issues exist that merit further examination.

Forth Replacement Crossing. The Community Council is represented on the Community Forum which was set up to maintain a dialogue between the contractors and communities. As information becomes available it will be published on the Community Council website – www.nqcc.co.uk. Copies of Project Update are available in the Community

with the Royal Navy's facilities. We were glad to give some support to the Youth Club for their weekend away at Dalguise Centre and look forward to developing cooperation with them.

The Heritage Trust have recently mounted an exhibition on the Forth Rail Bridge in the Centre's corridor and it is hoped that the new partnership between North Queensferry Parish Church and Primary School with the community of Hohoe in Ghana will also see photographs and other materials of interest displayed.

At the Annual General Meeting on 26th September two representatives of organisations were elected as full members of the Committee – Daniel Howie (Gala) and Tracy Macleod (Parents and Toddlers) The Annual fundraising Burns Celidh will be held on Saturday 4th February.

Iain Whyte, Chair, Management Committee

Centre. Currently ongoing activities are:

- Erection of 18 Intelligent Transport System gantries on the M90 north of the road bridge, necessitating a 40mph speed limit. Works are expected to complete in summer next year.
- Access to St Margaret's marsh will be denied until spring 2013 whilst the approaches to the north abutment of the new crossing and the new route to take the B981 to the west of the sewage works are constructed.
- Works in the estuary to remove the Beamer Rock Lighthouse, install navigational aids and conduct marine ground investigations are expected to complete on 25th November 2011.

As the nights close in, it is worth reviewing your arrangement to make your home less appealing to would be thieves. Timer switches can be obtained relatively cheaply from hardware stores to activate a light, television or radio to give the impression it is occupied. (I have three free approved timer switches available for anyone needing one (phone 417429). It is also worth making a friend, relative or neighbour aware if your house will be unoccupied so they can remain vigilant to any suspicious activity. Above all, keep windows and doors locked to prevent opportunist thefts. With very best wishes
Brian Armstrong Chairman (Tel. 417429)

Ferry Birds - May to September 2011 by John Done

Despite consecutive winters with extremely cold spells our resident birds seem to have coped quite well. Although some common birds such as **house sparrows** and **starlings** have declined in numbers others are doing pretty well. I have noted large groups of **goldfinches** and usually hear or see parties of **long-tailed-tits** on my walks around the village. The **eiders** also produced quite a few young and there were 10 small young with a few females in West Bay on the 5th of June. One or two **shelducks** were also in West Bay throughout May but I didn't see any young. Most of the **eiders** and **shelducks** have now moved away to their moulting grounds although they will be back soon to spend the winter around our shores.

The summer visitors from Africa have been and gone. The **common terns** bred on the derelict pier as usual and there were several **chiffchaffs** singing along the coastal path in May and June. Other local breeders included **sedge warblers** and **reed buntings** in the reeds in St Margaret's Marsh as well as the **sand martin** colony at the entrance to Cruicks quarry. Other summer visitors I have seen away from North Queensferry seem to have done well with **swifts** in Dunfermline, **swallows** at several places including Inverkeithing and at Kinghorn Loch and **willow warblers**, **blackcaps** and **whitethroats** locally along the coastal path. I didn't see or hear any **lesser whitethroats** this summer at Carlingnose although you need to be quite lucky to see these shy birds. All these birds leave Africa to breed in Scotland and elsewhere in Europe to take advantage of the long summer days to feed on the abundant insect life.

In June, on cue, some **redshanks** returned to the mud of West Bay. They fly north and west to breed and some arrive back nearly always in the last week of June. The first I saw for about a month were there on the 25th of June. They slowly build up in number and now there can be between 30 and 40 on the floating mooring in West Bay at high tide. Their reappearance is a sign of the changing seasons as far as the birds are concerned. They are not interested in sunbathing in their summer haunts so they come back to the relative safety of West Bay as soon as they have finished their breeding attempts. The first back are presumably those that have failed. **Sandwich terns** follow the **redshanks** bringing their offspring with them. The Forth Estuary seems to be a favourite place for them to feed before they return to West Africa for the winter. They arrived in numbers at the end of July. Most of them have left the area by now but there were several on the beach at Kinghorn on the 6th of October along with an adult and young **common tern**.

Late summer and autumn is the time to see some of our more unusual birds. Immature **gannets** appear in Inverkeithing Bay in the autumn. There were at least 70 there on the 8th of September with a few adult birds with them. There was also a single immature off Port Laing on the 10th of October. Other birds I have seen have included a **whimbrel** in West Bay on the 11th of August, an **arctic skua** from Carlingnose on the 10th of October and a flock of about 25 **wigeon** on the sea off Port Laing on the same day. A group of 6 **swallows** flew over my head near Cruicks quarry that day as well. I wonder if they have any notion that they will be travelling up to 6000 miles in the next two months!

Other sightings of note include **peregrine falcons** on several days in June, about 20 **puffins** and 2 **razorbills** on the sea from Carlingnose Point on the 3rd of June and a **little grebe** in Inverkeithing Inner Bay on the 16th of September. The latter was another sign of the changing seasons as **little grebes** breed on reedy fresh water such as Otterston Loch and Kinghorn Loch and often move to the sea during the autumn and winter. A group of **goosanders** has been seen in West Bay. I saw 10 individuals in West Bay on the 12th of July and 5 there on the 12th of October. These birds breed by freshwater in Scotland and the young and females form small groups which often come to the sea at this time of year. They are usually close in shore and appear at times to practice synchronised diving as they search for their fishy food.

The grass and some of the scrub on the Carlingnose reserve has been cut recently as part of the annual maintenance. The **field gentians** were not as prolific as last year although there were a reasonable number of plants. Some research is being done on **field gentians** in Fife and The Lothians and the Carlingnose colony has been inspected as part of this. As you know one of the other plants on the reserve is **dropwort**. This produced an impressive show this year both on the reserve and in the field by the water tank and I found a plant away from the reserve on the railway embankment near the bottom of Brock Street this summer. On the subject of plants the ivy around the village and along the coastal path is coming into full flower. In the warm sunshine at the end of September the plants were covered in insects feeding on the nectar and pollen. The insects, in turn, become food for our garden birds so they can build up reserves to help them survive the rigours of winter.

John Done

Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay, which also serves and draws its members from North Queensferry, Rosyth and Aberdour, continues to have a full programme of fundraising and public service in the area. The club was present at both the North Queensferry Gala and the Boat Show and Harbour Festival. In recent months it has supported the famine appeal in the Horn of Africa and the area of Pakistan affected by floods. Nearer to home it has provided financial support to Maggie's Centres in Kirkcaldy and Edinburgh, to Piggy Bank Kids, the charity fronted by Sarah Brown, and Fife SANDS. Its annual charity walk from Inverkeithing to the Silver Sands in Aberdour on 11 September was supported by around 200 walkers and is expected to raise £5,000 for local causes. Club members are active in supporting local day care centres for the elderly and the club has a strong relationship with our local schools. Meetings are held at lunch time in the Queensferry Hotel and are usually followed by a speaker who covers a topic of local interest. Anyone who is interested in more information on the club should contact the secretary, John Curtis on 01383 860228.

Community Trust

North Queensferry Community Trust (NQCT) originated from the West Bay Steering Group, which was set up by representatives of eight different community groups to attempt to improve facilities in the West Bay area for residents, users and visitors. There are similar trusts all over the UK with local ones in Kelty, Ladybank, Newburgh, Tayport and Comrie. They are owned and managed by the local community to tackle local issues and provide new opportunities for all ages.

Whilst NQCT's first project will be to respond to the recent community consultation about the future of West Bay and work with Fife Council towards community ownership or a long-term lease of the area, it has become apparent that, as it develops, it could take on other projects to provide and improve upon facilities and services in the village. An example is the possible creation of a Multi-Use Games Area next to the Community Centre and other projects will undoubtedly emerge.

NQCT was incorporated as a Company limited by guarantee on 1st July 2011, Company Number SC402773, and was awarded charitable status on 19th September 2011, Scottish Charity Number SC042598. The Articles of Association of the Trust can be viewed in the Document Library section of the North Queensferry Community Council website, www.nqcc.co.uk.

The initial Annual General Meeting of the trust will be held on 23rd November at the Community Centre at 7.30pm. At this meeting, members will vote to

elect nine Trustees, who will be responsible for the overall strategy, direction and management of the Trust. Anyone aged 16 or over living in North Queensferry can become a member of the Trust and thus become eligible to vote, by completing one of the membership application forms that have been delivered to every house in North Queensferry. Completed forms can be handed in either to Wrights licensed grocers or to the Blether by the Bridge cafe. Additional copies may be obtained by contacting Brian Armstrong on 417429. Membership is free.

Village Coffee Mornings

A friendly group meet up in the Church on alternate Wednesdays, 10 to 12, for tea/coffee and chat. We have a core group of regulars with occasional other visitors. It is always good to see new faces so do come along and join in. We decided to be part of **The World's Biggest Coffee Morning** this year and were overjoyed when we had 86 people through the doors. It was hectic at times but I think everyone managed to taste some of the lovely home baking. We were particularly happy to see the staff from the Blether-by-the-Bridge arrive with a huge tray of scones when our supplies were running low so a big thank you to them. In total we raised £344 so were delighted with the response and our thanks go to all who donated.

Dates remaining this year are :

November 2nd 16th and 30th
December 14th

CHURCH FETE

In

NORTH QUEENSFERRY CHURCH

On

SATURDAY 5th NOVEMBER

From

2 to 4 pm

All the usual stalls including home baking, gifts, white elephant, tombola, Christmas goodies, children's lucky dip, toys and games.

Also

afternoon tea/coffee with home baking included in entry fee

Adult £2, Conc. £1, children 60p

COME EARLY FOR THE BEST CHOICE

Pot Luck Supper

Friday 2nd Dec 7.30pm

North Queensferry Church

In aid of Church funds

with a humorous talk by
Elizabeth Kenny

Tickets £10 from Church Elders or Ann Bain

Bring your own plate of
cold meat / flan etc.
We will supply salads,
soft drinks & dessert



byob

A charity registered in Scotland SCO07414

Scottish Women's Rural

A new branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute has been started in North Queensferry.

Their next meeting will be in the Church Hall at 7.30pm on 24th November, the topic is "The icing on the cake". So come along for great tips on decorating your Christmas cake.



fun-filled & educational music classes
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Classes also held in Dunfermline & Crossford

Blether-by-the-Bridge

As the Autumn leaves blow over the doormat it's hard to believe we've been open for five months. There are few compensations for driving rain and chill winds, but cradling a cup of cappuccino with a freshly made scone while the elements do their worst outside helps.

We've launched our new menu this week which adds a greater choice of light meals to our already popular formula of home baking and artisan tea and coffee, supplied by Eteaket teas and Artisan Roast Coffee from Edinburgh. As well as Steamie Bakehouse Bread (which makes superb toast and open sandwiches) we now use Fisher and Donaldson bread and rolls in the production of freshly made rolls and toasties. Fife's own legendary Puddledub Pork provides the essential bacon for the breakfast rolls which, in response to popular demand, now feature on our menu.

We remain committed to addressing a range of dietary needs with vegan and gluten free items and alternatives consistently available. Our chocolate brownies, one of our most popular items manage to be both gluten-free and incredibly indulgent!

Local sourcing of fresh, seasonal food is high on our agenda and we are proud to be associated with our own North Queensferry Primary School's very successful kitchen garden. They have supplied us with a range of herbs and vegetables which reappear as side salads, soups (eg. Roast pumpkin and pepper) and cakes (eg. chocolate and courgette).

Many customers have admired the stunning mirror mosaic commissioned from local artist Karen Trotter who provided our first exhibition of beautiful paintings inspired by fish. We are currently showing photographs by inverkeithing based Helen Morton. Showcasing the work of local artists contributes to Blether's unique atmosphere; we also run a drop-in knitting group on Monday nights between 7.30 and 9.30 with tea/coffee and home made biscuits provided for £3.00. Many of our recipe books are on display to inspire customers in their own kitchen. We provide books and toys for our younger clientele. We also offer free Wi-fi connection.

We want you to feel that Blether-by-the-Bridge is a community asset as well as a facility for visitors. Your views are essential to us in developing as a business; tell us what you like, what you don't. We're on Facebook, contactable by phone (01383) 616313 or better still pop in for a Blether! We're open seven days a week from 8am until 5pm. If you need further motivation 10% discount will be given on production of the coupon below.



This Voucher entitles the Bearer to a
10% Discount

Blether-by-the-Bridge, 4 Main Street,
North Queensferry
(01383) 616313

Redeemable for a single transaction only
expires 31/12/11

Don't get caught out

Over the past few weeks officers from the South West Fife Policing area have received an increased number of phone calls in relation bogus workman calling at peoples doors, and local residents receiving phone calls offering free home security products.

The popular picture of a Housebreaker is a man with a striped jumper carrying a jemmy who breaks into houses overnight.

Bogus callers and telesales operators do not fit this popular image of a criminal. A number of recent incidents involved individuals who targeted vulnerable elderly residents living within our communities.

Bogus Callers walk up to your door unannounced and ring the bell. When the door is answered they come up with a plausible reason to gain entry to your house. They **claim** to be meter readers, workmen or to be lost and in need of help. They may ask to use your toilet or telephone. They may even ask your help in locating the home of a relative who they believe lives nearby. Remember they are there for the sole purpose of stealing from you. Be alert, be on your guard, and don't let them in...

Telesales operators call you at home on the telephone, they tell you that your postcode is one of the lucky few winners in a free prize draw to have a free home security alarm fitted within your property. They then arrange for a sales person to call at your home to arrange the installation of this system. When the sales person arrives at your home they again advise you that you will get the home security alarm fitted free of charge, however they then advise that this system must be monitored and maintained. It is at this point they ask you to sign a direct debit monthly contract at a vastly inflated price.

Fife is one of the safest areas in the country to live with a falling crime rate for housebreaking and other forms of property crime. Sadly the same cannot be said for Bogus Callers or telesales scams.

Real tradesmen or officials should carry an **identification** card with their **photograph** on. Check this

carefully and if you are unsure, **KEEP THEM OUT**. No real caller will mind having their details checked so beware of callers who do not seem to want you to check their identity.

If a caller is not expected Fife Constabulary suggest that you consider the below points:

- **Stop** - Are you expecting anybody?
- **Chain** - Secure the chain
- **Check** - Ask for ID and check it carefully
- Do lock the back door before opening the front
- Do ask them to come back another day if you are unsure
- If goods are offered ask yourself if you really need this product.
- Always arrange appointments
- Try to have someone with you
- Don't believe all callers are genuine
- Don't let anyone in if you are unsure
- Don't believe scare stories or be pressured into a cash or quick sale
- Don't keep cash in the house
- Don't arrange work from a telesales calls

If you require work done on the house or in the garden always use a reputable company; for a list of approved contractors contact Fife Council Trading Standards on

www.fifedirect.org.uk/trustedtrader

or by calling 01592 583141.

REMEMBER IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE THEN IT PROBABLY IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

PC McLeod (Community Safety Officer) stated "I would urge members of the public to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Police immediately. Following the few simple steps mentioned above will help reduce the possibility of you becoming the victim of this type of crime. If anyone has any information on individuals who are purporting to be genuine and committing this or similar crimes then I would urge them to contact Fife Police on 0845 600 5702 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111



Everyone at Blether by the Bridge looks forward to welcoming you to the new look café to sample Artisan Roast coffee, Leaf teas by Eteaket and home baking from Lemon & Lavender Cake to Scones, Jam & Cream

Monday-Friday 9-3pm

Saturday & Sunday 10-4pm

(from the 1st November to the year end)

4 Main Street, North Queensferry, Fife KY11 1JG

T: 01383 616313 E: bletherbythebridge@btinternet.com

Find us on Facebook 

Chernobyl Children's Life Line



This year you would not have seen the Chernobyl children in their red hats - for reasons unknown, they were issued with navy blue ones! "Our" children did come however: a group of ten 9 and 10 year olds from villages near Brest in S.W. Belarus.

Their company, and seeing their health and spirits improve over the month, once more made all the hard work worth while. The hard

work arises because (in addition to the administrative requirements, the selecting and vetting of host families and arranging a full schedule of activities and visits) we have to raise more than £500 per child simply to bring each one to Fife. We can do this only with the enormous support we receive from the local community. Thank you, again, North Queensferry for all your help. The village church's fund-raising Brunch and help with the Coffee Evening are invaluable.

The children enjoyed a full timetable, their favourite activities being the boat trip to Inchcolm, the swimming pool at Burntisland and the beach -all free thanks to generous people and nature. Trying to gauge what to eliminate in future we enquired, "If you had to miss one visit, which would it be?"- answer "Nothing!" The same questionnaire asked, "What advice would you give to another child who was coming to Scotland?" and elicited, "That people are very nice in Scotland."

The use of the Dalgety Bay scout hall for a two week "camp" in the middle of the visit has made hosting possible for a number of families where both "parents" work. (Not all host "parents" have children of their own.) Hosting for two weeks, rather than the full month has also been encouraging. Even so, we are always hoping that more families will come forward to help: we can only invite children for whom we have hosts

We are taking a short breather until the New Year. Then we will be back in harness. If you are able to host or help in any way, please do get in touch.

Knowing the circumstances of "our" Chernobyl children underlines how important these respite visits are and what a difference they make to the children who are lucky enough to come. Our only regret is what we are not able to help more.

On behalf of "our" children and the Dunfermline and West Fife Link of the Chernobyl Children's Life

Line, **THANK YOU.**

Carol Dean

Remembrance Sunday

This year's annual Service of Remembrance will be held at the Village War Memorial on Sunday 13th November, commencing at 1050 a.m. The service will be conducted by Rev. Dr Iain MacRobert, the Salvation Army Band will play for us 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 an association.

Contributions for the next issue

are to be with us by
Friday 13th January 2012
to 7 Carlingnose Park
E: mary@ferrynews.co.uk.

Pilates classes



6 week block booking, booked in advance.

Suitable for all fitness levels

Max 12 in class. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Pilates Class Timetable

Monday	7.00-8.00pm	SQ Community Centre
Monday	8.00-9.00pm	SQ Community Centre
Tuesday	10.30-11.30am	SQ Rosebery Hall
Wednesday	10.00-11.00am	D. Mains Parish Church
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](#)

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Web: www.simplypilates.org

North Queensferry Boat Club

NQBC is growing from strength to strength with our membership numbers increasing monthly especially our female membership compared to a few years ago. Over the last few months the club made a generous offer to Fife Council to provide toilet provision by installing temporary toilets at our expense, within the harbour. These toilets were to be for the use of both club members and the public. Unfortunately for all users and visitors to the harbour we were not given the support for this initiative from Fife Council and the West Bay area remains without any toilet facility. We are very disappointed at the clear lack of support from Fife Council on this issue, who have now removed all sanitary provision from the West Bay area.

NQBC have also offered to purchase the empty buildings that they were removed from by Fife Council nearly 3 years ago. Using the same initiative that is seeing Fife community halls sold off to community groups who can justify proper use for these buildings. Again we were not given any support from Fife Council on this initiative so the buildings continue to remain un-leased and derelict. This has left the club, who have been looking after the buildings and harbour for 20 years, with a growing membership, including more women, being denied the most basic needs of shelter and sanitary provision.

This year's Boat and Harbour Festival was a disappointingly lesser event due to the strong winds and severe cold. It unfortunately destroyed the marquees that had been built over the week by the members leading to the short notice cancellation of the live music and craft fair. We still managed to put on the kids' rides which were as popular as ever especially the Water Balls which were here for the first time. The steam traction engine was a popular

attraction from yesteryear, as was the Scottish Fisheries Museums 109 year old Herring drifter, the "Reaper". However, the wind and cold did take its toll. Thanks to everyone who braved it and came down to support us. Especially the NQ Primary School kids who sang from the deck of the Reaper this year, which acted as a perfect stage, with the proud parents and visitors looking down from the Harbour wall.

The NQ Coastal Rowing Club continues to develop and has now purchased the boat/skiff kit from Jordon Boats. We held an informal meeting in the Albert Hotel to discuss the setting up of a steering group to get the NQ club going. Half a dozen people have confirmed their interest in organising the club set up with another couple who couldn't make the meeting expressing their interest in joining. Members of the South Queensferry Rowing Club came along to give us some tips and advice on setting up the club. Many thanks to them.

North Queensferry Harbour Trust is preparing its business plan in response to Fife Council's request that we prepare a plan to demonstrate our strategic objectives for the taking over of the management of the West Bay. The plan is taking shape and shall be built around the continuing good management and development of the area into a public space for use by both maritime and non maritime users. With all monies generated being reinvested 100% into the harbour area.

If you have any comments or are interested in any of the above, then please do not hesitate to call on 07879 472 261, I look forward to hearing from you.

Toddler & Baby Group

The North Queensferry Toddler & Baby Group meets every Thursday morning in the Community Centre from 9.30 - 11.15am (cost £1.50 per family).

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 also from time to time arrange other fun things for the kids, from Christmas parties and small shows, to sports days and trips to the beach. Please note, our AGM is on Thursday 27th October in the Community Centre and, if you are interested, it would be great to see you.

Tracy Macleod, Chairperson
07946 295524

Room with a View

Seafood Restaurant



Room with a View
Forth View Hotel
Hawkcraig Point
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Fife, KY3 0TZ

Menu's will reflect weekly fish market

Open:
Lunches 12 - 2.30pm Wednesday - Sunday
Dinner from 6pm Wednesday - Saturday

Closed:
Monday & Tuesday

01383 860 402

Check out the website for sample menus and information:
www.roomwithaviewrestaurant.co.uk

Light Tower

North Queensferry Light Tower, the world's smallest working tower, has operated very successfully as a visitor attraction for a second season from the end of May until the beginning of October. Visitors coming to the tower increased by nearly 100% with a 50% increase in those deciding to light the lamp. The guide and manager for this season was Matthew Todd who travelled daily from his home outside Dunfermline and was quickly trained into the technique of lighting and maintaining the lamp. Visitors coming to the Town Pier now expect to see information on the Forth Bridge, how the ferries operated and much more besides, from the history of North Queensferry to the location of the station and bus terminal. The 'fisherman's hut' has functioned not only as an office and base for Matthew but also as a place for general information and a shelter from the rain.

This year a small exhibition was opened within the hut on the bridges and Queensferry Passage. It is planned to add more exhibits for next year. The entry policy this year was to allow free entry to the tower but have the donation box in full view. Donations to the Trust have certainly increased and this was particularly noticeable when the guide gave visitors a personal tour and information on the history and heritage of the area.

Postcards were introduced this year and these souvenirs regularly contribute to the trust's income. It is planned to increase the range of postcard choice for next year along with other souvenirs.

Visitors often ask us if the lamp can be lit at night

which does show off the light to best effect and makes an ideal opportunity to obtain unique photographs. As a trial this year and subject to weather it is planned to have the tower open and lamp lit for about 2 hours on Saturday 3rd December from 6.00 to 8.00pm. If this is a success and well supported then a date nearer to Christmas can be chosen.



northqueensferrylighttower.com is the dedicated address for the tower which after one year is now undergoing 'refurbishment' including becoming the window to the world.

With the support of trust members and BT the installation of web cameras into the tower, accessed through the website, a view of visitors lighting the lamp and general views of the ferry passage and Forth Bridges will be achieved. A Facebook page is also being added.

The feedback from visitors this year as well as last has been most encouraging towards achieving the long term goal of sustainability. The current financial situation undoubtedly makes the task more difficult but none the less it is expected to make further progress in season 2012.

North Queensferry: The Facebook Village

Did you know there is now a Facebook page for North Queensferry which tells you what is going in the village?

This page was set up only recently by some local residents who felt there was a lack of co-ordinated information about the many events, activities and opportunities there are in North Queensferry. So with a bit of effort spreading the word by mouth to residents, the page has got off to a great start with over 120 likes, which means it is probably reaching at least 250 people in the village. The page also has many local groups and businesses posting useful content so the 120 people who like the page are staying well informed of what is going on. So far community groups such the Toddlers Group, the Red Cinema and local businesses such as restaurants, hoteliers or zumba classes – to name but a few - have seen the value in using the page. It even has great potential for keeping residents informed during difficult times for the village such as winter snowfall or bridge replacement disruption.

And that is the strength of the page. Content is generated by local people looking to promote their activity or information to a wider local audience. This in turn generates more 'likes' of the page as more people seek out this useful content which in turn generates further good content because the audience continues to get bigger. So everybody wins.

In essence the page has one simple purpose – to connect the people of North Queensferry to all that is happening around them locally. So if you want to know about local events, activities, groups, businesses and issues to do with North Queensferry then this is the place to find it. And the page does not belong to any one person. It belongs to all of us with an interest in the village. Please share your news (and photos) about upcoming events, local groups, and specific activities on the page. You can find the page here www.facebook.com/NorthQueensferry

So please visit the page, 'like' it, and spread the word. The more people that use it the more engaged our community will be. Enjoy.

Hohoe Twinning Update

Aid in the rebuilding of the school in Hohoe, Ghana and host our first visitor.

North Queensferry community through the school and the church have raised an amazing amount of money over the summer months in aid of our partners in Ghana.

In response to the news received in mid July of the devastation caused by a rain storm which destroyed the school in Hohoe, our school children here in North Queensferry decided, at their end of term service, to dedicate a retiring offering to help rebuild the school in Hohoe. Their gesture resulted in an amazing £226 being raised. This added to the £218.10 collected as retiring offerings at the church made a total amount of £444.10.

We have been told that the school re opened for business in mid September and look forward to hearing and seeing how the school now looks. Pictures of the destruction to the school can be seen in the vestibule of the church.

In addition to the above, and under the expert guidance of Janet King, the recent Strawberry Tea held at the church on 7th August. was in aid of the Hohoe Fund. This fund will be used to aid and support our friends from Hohoe when they come to visit us. We were delighted at the sum raised, which, including gift aid, was £360.06 a truly amazing amount. And a grateful thank you is due to Janet and her team.

We were also delighted to be invited by the Church of Scotland World Mission Council to host a visit from the Rev. Dr. Solomon Sule-Saa who is the Director of the Department of Ecumenical and Social Relations in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, and was in Scotland to attend a national conference which was held on the 1st of October in Auchterarder entitled "Reaping the Benefits of Twinning"

Solomon was with us here in North Queensferry on the afternoon and evening of 27th of September.

His visit included an invitation to spend the afternoon in our primary school.

After a welcome cup of coffee and an introduction to "Tunnocks Tea Cakes" Solomon was introduced to each of the classes in turn as he toured the school.

In each class he shared a little of where he came from but more importantly was able to answer questions from the pupils. He was very impressed by the range of questions.

As he left each class Solomon demonstrated to the children how to shake hands Ghanaian-style and then invited each child to shake the hands of their neighbour. Those of you with children at the school will no doubt have had a demonstration already.

At the end of his visit Solomon was shown round the school eco garden and was amazed to learn what the children were growing and supplying to the school kitchens. This prompted an exchange of ideas between Solomon and the Head Teacher in relation to a project which the school might develop with our twin school in Hohoe, in terms of similarities and differences in food production.

Later that day Solomon attended a Congregational Board meeting in the church which was also attended by members of the Twinning Committee. Much was learned as to how we can best develop the twinning relationship with our partners in Hohoe,.

Solomon left after a tiring day with fond memories of his time with the children of North Queensferry his time in our community and the enduring memory of "Tunnocks Tea Cakes."

We are left with a much clearer understanding of life in Ghana and the challenges which face our partners in trying to communicate with us. Also with a clearer vision of how we might be able to progress on our journey of twinning with Hohoe.

If you would like to be part of the committee or, like several people, just want to be kept abreast of developments (e.g. entered into a mailing list for emails, notes of meetings and agendas. etc. please contact Douglas Short at douglas.short@sky.com or speak to any of the committee members:

Ann Bain	Chris Duguid
Sally Hourston	Bridgette Johnston
Janet King	Catherine Maclaurin
Jan & Douglas Short	Iain and Isobel Whyte.

Currently we have a display of photographs from Hohoe in the church which can be viewed during Wednesday coffee mornings or when the church is open on Sundays or for the school services.

Walking Group

We have enjoyed a variety of walks over the past few months with weather also varying between abysmal and terrific. Our day at Lochore Meadows at the end of September was particularly memorable being one of the few warm and sunny days this summer. There are still a few walks on our programme for the remainder of the year and we'd be happy for new walkers to join us. We meet in the Church car park at 10 am.

November 9	Almond Valley
November 23	Loch Leven
December 7	Townhill Loch
December 21	Local coastal path (possibly finishing at Blether-by-the-Bridge)

Watch the notice boards around the village for our new 2012 programme.

Gala Committee

Many thanks to all that attended and supported Gala week this year. Through the generosity of local sponsorship and donations we raised over £1500. Many thanks to everyone that has supported and sponsored our fundraising throughout the year.

Our AGM was held last month, and we were delighted to welcome 10 new members to the committee. We now have a committee of 19, which represents a really good cross section of our community. Meetings are held at the Albert Hotel, and are open to the public. For further information on meeting dates, check out the North Queensferry Gala group on Facebook - all welcome to become a friend.

Our new committee has been busy planning, and we already have a variety of fundraisers planned for next year. Look out for our Christmas Fayre in November at the Queensferry Hotel, a Race Night in the Community Centre in Feb/March, and for anyone wanting to get involved in something a little more active, we are doing a sponsored cycle to Aberdeen in May 2012.

Gala week dates have now been confirmed 16-23rd June 2012. Gala Day will be held on Saturday 23rd June 2012.

We will soon have a dedicated website that will be updated regularly with local gala news, more info to come on this – watch out for our new website address to be confirmed on Facebook!

If you have an idea, or would like to get involved in the organisation of the gala please get in touch with us via email: northqueensferrygala@hotmail.com @ or become a friend on Facebook.

More details to come on our new website address



In aid of
North Queensferry Gala

Christmas Fayre

Wed 30 November
Queensferry Hotel
From 6:30pm - 10pm

Admission: £5.00 includes glass of sparkle on arrival and a delicious mince pie

Stalls including makeovers, massages, manicures, colour analyses, a fabulous array of boutique shopping as well as a prize draw.

For further information please see northqueensferrygala@hotmail.com or contact Sue Kerr on 07767260274 or Merrin Storie on 07795144753

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



NQ Boat Club
NQ Toddlers
Balfour Beatty
Darling Forsyth
Liz Anderson
Roods Guest House
The Albert Hotel
Donibristle
Living Water Ecosystems
Blether by the Bridge
Veronika Hawkins
Fife Council
Ann Gordon
John Wemyss
Memorial Weekend
Brooks - Queensferry Hotel
Alistar & Hilary
ACR Electrical Systems
Play Planet
Scottish Deer Centre
Active Kids Adventure Park
Deep Sea World
Murrayfield Ice Rink
Adam Smith Theatre
Inga Jack
Hopetoun House & Grounds
Perth Leisure Pool
Fife Sports and Leisure Trust

Pitreavie Golf Club
Forth Road Bridge
Lorna
Forth Sea Safaris
Isla West
Solar Cities Scotland
Mag Thomson
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The Courier
Julie Bell
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Mike Dooley
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Jennifer's Hair Design
Nailz & Divine Beauty
Munro Hairdressing
Keavil House Hotel
The George Hotel
Ferrybridge Hotel
The Wee Restaurant
Allison Wood
Bay Catering

VILLAGE SHOW RESULTS 2011

	First	Second	Third	Home Baking	First	Second	Third
Vegetables							
Mixed Vegetables.	A Monteith	R Errington		Oven Scones	A Low	M Paterson	M Paterson
Tomatoes	S Hood	E Donaldson		Sponge Cake	S Hood	A Jones = M Paterson	
Onions	A Monteith	E Donaldson	E Greer	Fruit Loaf / Cake	R Timmins	A Monteith	M Paterson
Leeks	A Low	E Donaldson		Muffins	F George	M Paterson	S Rankin
Potatoes	E Greer	E Donaldson	A Low	Pancakes / Drop Scones	A Low	S Rankin	
Beetroot	E Donaldson			Ginger Bread	A Low	M Paterson	
Runner / French beans	A Monteith	E Donaldson	B Wilson	Four Shortbread	A Low	E Greer	A Monteith
Courgette	E Donaldson			Tablet / Fudge	S Hood	E Greer	
Any other vegetable	E Donaldson			Meringue Shells	A Low		
Salad selection	S Hood			Floral Arrangement			
Flowers				"The Essence of Fife"	F McNaught	E Algie	
Roses	M Storie	M Paterson	B Wilson	Miniature Arrangement	F McNaught	E Greer	B Wilson
Pinks or Carnations	A Monteith	M Paterson	E Algie	Lunch Table Arrangement	E Algie	F McNaught	
Sweet Peas	E Donaldson	M Paterson	M Paterson	Sewing			
Hydrangea	E Errington	A Monteith	M Bell	Embroidery Item	S Rankin	F George	F McNaught
Pansies	E Algie			Any Soft Toy	F McNaught	J Anastasio	I West
Summer Annuals	E Donaldson	E Errington		Patchwork Item	J Anastasio		
Flowering Bush / Climber	E Donaldson			Quilted Item	F McNaught	J Anastasio	
Herbaceous	E Wilson	E Donaldson	E Wilson	Knitting & Crochet			
Pot Plants				Any Knitted Item	N McConnachie	M Armstrong	J Anastasio
Flowering Plant	M Paterson			Crochet Item: wool	I West	F McNaught	
Pelargonium (Geranium)	E Donaldson	M Paterson		Crafts			
Begonia	M Paterson			Hobby Craft Item	F McNaught	A Jones	J Anastasio
Fuchsia: any variety in bloom	E Donaldson	E Algie	M Paterson	Model: any item	S Hood		
One Cactus or Group of Cacti	M Paterson	M Paterson	M Paterson	Greeting Card	F McNaught	I Moir	S Hood
Preserves				Painting	K Trotter	A Low	F George
Fruit Jam: any fruit	E Greer	A Monteith	E Donaldson	Drawing	I Moir	F McNaught	E Greer
Marmalade	E Donaldson	E Greer	A Jones	Item from recycled material	A Jones	J Bell	J Taylor
Jelly	E Donaldson			Photography			
Lemon Curd	M Bell = L Jones			Winter Scene	B Armstrong	D Symington	M Armstrong
Chutney	F McNaught	M Paterson	E Greer	Nautical	A Low	M Bell	D Symington
				Panoramic	D Symington	A Jones	A Jones
				Holiday Scene	D Symington	M Anastasio	A Low
				Animals	M Anastasio	A Low	D Symington
				Humour	M Anastasio	A Jones	D Symington
				Close Up	A Hansen	M Bell	D Symington
The Bob Cubin Cup							
The Maureen Trotter Cup							
The Jubilee Cup							

Maggie Paterson
June Anastasio
Fiona Watters

VILLAGE SHOW RESULTS (Children's Classes)

	First	Second	Third
Photography			
12 years & under	D Chadwick	S Clayton	E McGregor
13 to 16 yrs	F Watters	F Watters	F Watters
Arts & Crafts (all ages)			
A Nautical Scene			
Aged 3 - 4	J Van Den Brock	Z Innes	T Fraser
Aged 5	J Maclaurin	C Foster	G Hay
Aged 6	Emily	Lara	?
Aged 7	?	Niall	A Crichton
Aged 8	T Low	?	Kein
Aged 9	Ellie	Beth	?
Aged 10 - 11	R Drury	E Strang	J Morgan
General (7yrs & under)			
Tray Beach	C Ramponi	P Jones	
Collage	B McGregor		
Crispy Cakes	L McLachlan	E McLachlan	C Rankin
Marshmallow Top Hats	B McGregor	C Ramponi	
General (8 to 12yrs)			
Tray Beach	S Clayton	E Mair + Sarah	
Tray Bake	E McGregor	C Timmins	
Fairy Cakes	T Morrice	K Symes	E Mcgregor

Thank you

Thank you to all the villagers for their generous support of the Dunfermline & Inverkeithing Lifeboat branch. This branch covers Dunfermline, Rosyth, Limekilns, Hillend, Inverkeithing and North Queensferry and we collected a total of £5,926.07 (in North Queensferry the grand total was £463.80). This collection was gratefully received by the RNLI.



Lifeboats



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