



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

Harbour Trust

North Queensferry Harbour Trust West Bay Business Plan

The North Queensferry Harbour Trust, which is the original trust founded to represent the supporting North Queensferry residents and all of the harbour using communities with an interest in developing the North Queensferry harbour area, continue to collate their business plan for presenting to Fife Council, confirming their strategic proposals for the development of the West Bay Area.

NQ Harbour Trust does not only benefit from the support of many NQ residents but also all of the maritime communities that utilise the NQ Harbour. This brings to the development of the NQ Harbour Trust Business Plan the unique opportunity and benefit of being able to measure and marry local and maritime community wishes and needs for the area. The unique blend of maritime experience available and supporting the NQ Harbour Trust bid, gives it the unrivalled blend of experience and competence required to manage a safe working and public space to the long term benefit of the area.

Gordon Scobie

Community Centre

At long last the new kitchen is up and running in the Community Centre and we hope that it will help to attract a number of local individuals and groups to hold functions in the Centre. The Annual Fundraising Celidh on Saturday 4th February will be the first major event with the kitchen in use.

We plan to go into partnership with the newly formed Community Trust to enable the proposed Multi-Use Games Area next to the Community Centre, This will be a project that will benefit many in the community, young and not so young, and already the school has taken an interest in it.

There are several exhibitions in the Centre at present. The Heritage Trust has an exhibition of the history of the Forth Rail Bridge. The Church has a display of pictures showing the exact location of Hohoe on the map of Africa, the church and school buildings and some of the local community.

Community Trust

North Queensferry Community Trust is a Community Company which, to quote its Articles of Association, exists "to promote, manage and develop activities and projects for the benefit and development of the communities within the electoral boundaries of North Queensferry Community Council". It can develop such projects itself or through working in partnership with other organisations in the village. It takes the form of a Company incorporated by guarantee and is recognised by OSCR as a Charity.

It has a wide membership drawn from all around the village, and many members were present for the Company's inaugural Annual General Meeting which was held in the Community Centre on Wednesday 23rd November, where the following directors were elected: David Grieg, Daniel Howie, Andrew Jones, Christina McKenzie, Iain Mitchell, Susan Reekie, Derek Timmins, and Paul Tucker. The Board held its first meeting in December and Lucie Macaulay was co-opted as a director, Christina McKenzie confirmed as Company Secretary and Iain Mitchell elected Chairman.

The first major project which the Trust has decided to undertake is to work with North Queensferry Community Centre to create a new Multi-use Games area adjacent to the Community Centre. The Trust has also decided to seek to carry forward the former West Bay Steering Committee's plans for the revitalisation of the West Bay area, though a lot of work remains to be done on this.

The Trust would welcome offers of help and/or suggestions for other suitable projects. If you have any ideas, please get in touch with Iain Mitchell (igmitchell@easynet.co.uk 416240), Christina McKenzie (Christina.McKenzie@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk 410811) or any of the Trustees.

Contributions for the next issue

are to be with us by
Friday 4th May 2012
to 7 Carlingnose Park
E: mary@ferrynews.co.uk.

Ferry Birds - Oct 2011 to Jan 2012 by John Done

The recent weather has been so different from last year and the bird sightings I have had have reflected this. Although we have had some frosty nights we have only had a couple of light snow falls and the birds from inland have not had to come to the coast for food and some shelter.

West Bay has, as usual, been the busiest for bird life. There have been up to 40 **redshanks** in the bay feeding on the mud most obviously before and after high tide. There are also **oystercatchers** and a few **curlews** scattered around the bay and they have been joined by up to 4 **dunlins** and **turnstones**. At high tide the **redshanks** often roost on the floating mooring in the bay and that is where I have normally seen the **dunlins** and **turnstones**. As some of you will have noticed we have a pair of **shelducks** in the bay this winter. Two more have joined them occasionally and there were also 2 **mute swans** there on the 3rd of December.

The resident **eider** ducks have been joined on the sea by reasonable numbers of **red-breasted mergansers**, **goldeneyes** and **little** and **great crested grebes**. The **mergansers** and **goldeneyes** tend to be offshore from the coastal path from Port Laing to Cruickness Point while the **little grebes** stay close to the coast along the same stretch. I counted 14 **goldeneyes** and about the same number of **mergansers** there on the 14th of January. The males of both species were in full breeding plumage and they are starting to show off to the females so that they can sort out who's with whom for the coming breeding season.

Unlike last year I have seen a few **red-throated divers** over the last few months. There was 1 at Port Laing on the 28th of October and probably 2 there on the 26th of November. The only other sea birds of note have been a few **kittiwakes** at the end of October and an immature one on the 3rd of November. **Kittiwakes** breed at several places in the Forth Estuary and normally winter far out to sea.

I have several reports and sightings of unusual or difficult to see species. I saw a **kingfisher** in Inverkeithing Inner Bay by the scrap yard loading jetty on the 29th of October and one was reported in West Bay at the end of November. **Tawny owls** have been heard calling near Garthhill in January and I heard them near The Brae on the 19th and 23rd of November and earlier near the station on the 16th. Autumn is a good time to see **goldcrests** and true to form my only recent sightings were of 1 near Jamestown on the 10th of October and 2 at Carlingnose on the 15th. A very surprising sighting on the 3rd of January was of 6 **whooper swans** flying over Inverkeithing Inner Bay. I first thought they were

mute swans, but then heard them. The names for these 2 types of swan are apt. The **mute swan**, apart from some hissing to frighten people and other birds is essentially mute. The **whoopers** are very noisy and their calls are well described as whooping. The birds I saw gave themselves away! The **whooper swans** in Scotland in winter are real wild swans which breed in Iceland. Using Satellite tracking a bird was found in the Outer Hebrides the day after it had been located in Iceland. The minimum distance covered was 800 km! The RSPB reserve at Vane Farm on Loch Leven is a favoured wintering spot with over 100 of them there at the moment. A **great spotted woodpecker** has been seen near Garthhill and one flew over the road near there as I walked towards Jamestown on the 14th of January. I heard a racket on The Brae on the 15th of December and looked up as 2 **peregrines** squabbled over a smaller bird. It was probably a **redshank** which was let go during the altercation and disappeared leaving the **peregrines** to settle their differences and remain hungry.

Redwings and **fieldfares** are usually quite common visitors to the area in autumn and winter, but there have not been many about recently. They belong to the thrush family which includes **blackbirds**, **song thrushes** and **mistle thrushes**. Walking the coastal path in autumn usually disturbs far more **blackbirds** than could be from the local population. The extra ones are probably from Scandinavia and have arrived with the **redwings** and **fieldfares** seeking food and relative warmth. I have seen a few small flocks of **fieldfares** during my wanderings around Fife but the only **redwing** I have seen in North Queensferry was one having a bathe in a puddle on the coastal path in the nature reserve on the 9th of November. There was quite a party going on with several **blackbirds**, a **robin**, **dunnock** and a few **blue tits** sharing the pool. A **mistle thrush** was perched on the high point of the reserve, but didn't join in.

The ducks displaying are a sign of spring and the **song thrushes** are also starting to sing. The first I heard was on the 24th of November with several more noted around the turn of the year. Another sign is the return of the **fulmars** to inspect their nesting areas on Inchgarvie. The first time I saw them was while on the Bird Walk on the 14th of January. We were a small select group and had a good walk round West Bay then along the coastal path to Port Laing. The tide was far out, but we spotted the waders from the play area at Pier Head, had a brief view of a **sparrowhawk** flying across the bay and then admired the male **eider** from the coastal path near the derelict pier.

The Rotary Club of Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay

The Rotary Club's next major fund raising event is a coffee morning and charity sale in the Church Hall, Aberdour on Saturday 18 February, with the proceeds going to Rotary International's End Polio Now campaign and deserving local charities, including some in North Queensferry. More than 200 tickets at £1 each have already been sold to Rotary Club members and friends but tickets can also be bought at the door on the day. As well as the usual coffee, biscuits and scones there will be a sale of cakes, books, quality household goods and white elephant. In addition, raffle and tombola tickets will be on sale throughout the morning, with the raffle being drawn around 12 noon. The event starts at 10.00 but donations of books and white elephant goods will be accepted in the Church Hall from 09.30 on 18 February.

The Club's annual Burns Supper was held in the Queensferry Lodge Hotel on Friday 27 January with Club members taking on the task of proposing the various toasts and providing the entertainment. An excellent evening celebrating the anniversary of our National Poet. The Club's Grand Raffle, which raised almost £2,000 was also drawn on the night.

Future school events supported by the Rotary Club will include the, by now, well established Primary School Quiz, the Young Chef Competition and the Inverkeithing High School music evening on 27 March. The Club will shortly be asking for applications for the 2 places on its Rotary Youth Leadership week at Nethybridge in Speyside. This week long course in July offers students the opportunity to try a wide range of challenging outdoor activities under the guidance of experienced leaders. Students attend from many parts of Scotland so there are good opportunities to develop new friendships. In addition to the outdoor challenges participants can take part in team building and leadership activities. Participants on previous courses have found the experience rewarding – and great fun! Any 5th year High School student interested in a place on this year's course should speak to their rector or call Dr Ken Ritchie on 01383 413508.

The Club continues to meet in the Queensferry Hotel on Wednesdays at 12.30 when lunch is usually followed by a speaker from local organisations or businesses. Anyone interested in coming along to a Rotary Club meeting, or who would like more

information on the Club's activities, should get in touch with the secretary, John Curtis, on 01383 860228.

Hohoe Twinning Update.

Two from NQ head for Hohoe in Ghana.

Following on from the visit last year of the Rev Dr Solomon Sula-Saa from Ghana, the twinning committee decided at their November meeting to investigate the possibility of sending two of its members to Hohoe in Ghana. The purpose of the visit would be to strengthen existing contacts with the church, community and school, build on our relationship, learn more of their culture and establish a twinning agreement.

With this in mind an application was sent to The Church of Scotland World Mission Committee to help and support us with our plans. Our application was delivered just in time for their November meeting and in December we were informed that our application had been successful and that we would receive financial support for flights, visas and insurance for two people to go to Hohoe.

At an earlier meeting Jan and I had indicated that we would be prepared to go to Hohoe if and when the opportunity arose and the time was right.

Now this is a reality. We fly to Accra, the capital of Ghana, on 15th Feb 2012 for a 15 day stay in the village of Hohoe.

Since December the preparations have been hectic, collecting gifts and artefacts which depict our life here in North Queensferry and Scotland.

Our Sunday Funday children are busy making a banner which we will present to the Sunday school in Hohoe.

North Queensferry PS is undertaking a whole school project on Africa this year and is keen to establish links with the school in Hohoe. We plan to take letters from our pupils, to the pupils in Hohoe, explaining what life is like in North Queensferry and we hope they will write back to explain what life is like there. In addition our pupils will be designing individual bookmarks which we will take as gifts from the children of NQPS to the children of Hohoe School.

The preparations continue - watch this space.....

Douglas and Jan Short

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Gala

Here's to 2012! I hope everyone had a great Festive Period.

The Gala Committee had a very productive end to 2011.

September saw us bag packing in Asda. This raised a massive £515. Half went to the school. This will go towards the cost of the trips for those kids who came along to help. Well done everybody, it was a long day!

October was our Halloween Party. I think everybody in the village was there!! There were some truly imaginative costumes and pumpkins in the competitions, well done to all who took part! We had a wide range of fun and gory games and activities on offer for the children. Fun was had by all.

November was our very first Christmas Fayre. A wide variety of delightful stalls (35 in total) displayed their wares on a cold and wet evening in the comfort of the Queensferry Hotel. It was wonderful to do Christmas shopping while chatting to friends and sipping a glass of fizz. The event raised £1100 for funds and will definitely be on our calendar this year, make sure it's on yours!

Behind the scenes we have updated the Constitution to allow us to apply for charitable status. The application is in. Charitable status will allow us to claim Gift Aid on future sponsorships. We secured grant funding and have purchased PA equipment,

3 gazebos and a large marquee (12m x 6m, holding 104 people). The PA equipment and marquee are available to hire. Please contact a committee member if you are interested.

Now the kids are back to school, we are well into the New Year and looking forward to all that 2012 will bring. We have a few dates for your diary already.

We will be holding a Family Race Night in the Community Centre on 31st March. This will be a ticketed event, details to follow on Facebook (or contact a committee member).

A growing group of villagers and committee members are organising a sponsored cycle on the weekend of 11th-13th May. The route is 165 miles. Day 1 will be to Dundee via St Andrews and Crail (85 miles). Day 2 routes back to North Queensferry via Crieff (80 miles). Can anybody interested in taking part in the cycle please contact Linda Whiddett at our hotmail address asap.

James Gallagher (Shammy) and Lee Myles (Trigger) will be doing a sponsored swim across the Forth. This is going to take place on the day of the Raft Race.

Gala week is 16th – 23rd June. There will be all the usual events to look forward to. And a shiny new trophy for the winning tug of war team!!!!

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.

Carols at Christmas

A crisp evening on the 20th December welcomed about 70 children, parents and well wrapped up residents to the singing of Christmas carols on the Town Pier. The light on the tower was lit as it would have been throughout the most part of the 19th century adding to the sense of occasion. The intensity of light from this source did contrast greatly with the modern street light which allowed the words on the song booklet to be read.

The school staff, led by Sally, came well prepared with copies of a song booklet for everyone and a suitable musical accompaniment system to keep everyone in time. A total of 12 well known carols were sung with great enthusiasm despite the considerable chill in the air. Someone had kindly organised a hot drink and shortbread for the children and some of the adults which certainly brought a most welcome conclusion to the event.

Carol singing, or another musical event, could, with a little bit of imagination, become a regular feature at the pier. Once the refurbishment process on the Forth Bridge is complete and floodlighting restored,

the night time backdrop is as dramatic as anywhere in the world. The pier lit with flaming torches and a well tended brazier could provide both additional light and warmth and really set the scene for a fantastic community event.



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Boat Club

NQBC are going through their quietest period as far as being on the water goes. Visitors shall see that this is the time when the members get on with fixing the wear and tear on their vessels of the past season. A couple of the boats suffered some damage during the recent gales but nothing major.

Fife Councils Events Strategy department have recognised NQBC efforts and contribution to Fife's Culture through the creation of the NQ Boat and Harbour Festival. Recognising the difficulties, time and money that is required to create strategic events of all sizes, Events Strategy have invited NQBC to represent NQ on a steering group. The group aims to develop a shared approach with other Fife Festivals to investigate the coordinating and sharing of assets, marketing and promotions etc, through the creation of a constituted singular Fife Festivals body.

NQBC believe that the Boat and Harbour Festival can grow into a bigger more encompassing event to the betterment of all of North Queensferry through the participation of more NQ groups, organisations and trusts.

The building of the first community rowing skiff is accelerating along thanks to the efforts of our resident boat builder Frank Wood and the great news is we have received permission from the

lottery to purchase a second skiff from the Awards for All funding received last year. This means that we shall be starting on the second skiff immediately on completion of the first.

We are ambitiously setting the date for the launch as Sunday the 6th May, a double launch in North Queensferry. Not only is it unique but the second Skiff is the 50th Skiff of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Project which is a landmark on its own.

In January we held our third meeting of the Rowing Club. This time we were more formal and elected our Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. At the launch the NQBC shall present to North Queensferry the skiffs as promised as a legacy from the Boat and Harbour Festivals.

We have a growing band of people expressing an interest in joining the Rowing Club and representing the village against other communities, especially the racing across the Forth between our friends and rivals at South Queensferry. We shall be advertising the date of our February meeting on all the usual sites

So please come along to the Old Ferry Pier on Sunday 6th May for the NQBC Launch and Party on the Pier where you can enjoy some NQBC hospitality and witness a little piece of history in the making

Gordon Scobie Chairman NQBC



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Calling all dog owners!

On behalf of the NQ Toddlers group we would respectfully ask all dog owners in the village to please clean up after their dog. There appears to be an increasing problem of dog poo on the pavements around the village and in the grassy sports playing field at the Community Centre. This creates a problem as children want to play with the poo and pedestrians pick up dog poo on their shoes then trail it into their homes. This is especially hard to avoid with prams, trikes etc, leading to dog poo being brought into homes, and into the Community Centre.

If you are a dog owner then please remember that you have a legal responsibility, as well as a duty to your friends and neighbours in the community, to clean up after your dog.

Many thanks,

Toddler group.

PS The NQ Toddlers group meet every Thursday morning at the community centre from 9:30am till 11:15am. There are lots of toys for the children to play with, and plenty of tea, coffee, biscuits and chat for the parents. All are welcome! To find out more please contact Carole Egnor (417503) or Susanne Carter (07957 446875)

Syllabus for North Queensferry SWRI

26th January	'Scottish Evening' Talk on Tartans - Gertrude McAlpine Take - any 'Scottish' item (china, tartan, picture etc)
23rd February	'Embroidery' Embroidery through the ages - Margaret Lappin Take – any personally sewn, knitted or embroidered item
22nd March	'Wildlife of North Queensferry' OPEN MEETING on our local flora and fauna. John Done Take - a personally taken photo of our local area
26th April	'AGM & Gardening Demonstration' How to plant fabulous tubs and baskets. Elizabeth Reynolds Take – your oldest gardening tool Bring a plate of finger food
24th May	'Outing' – to be confirmed. A meal out and visit to a local 'craft' attraction.

Meetings held in North Queensferry Church Hall at 7.30 pm

Police Community Engagement Meetings

Inverkeithing and North Queensferry Community Engagement meetings are held every two months at Inverkeithing High School. Local residents can influence the way their communities are policed by attending these meetings and voting on what they consider as local priorities.

At the most recent meeting on Tuesday 10th January 2012, the local priority was voted as the "Anti-social behaviour / youth dis-

order at Ballast Bank & Preston Crescent, Inverkeithing".

The next meetings are at 7.00 p.m. within the assembly hall at Inverkeithing High School on the following dates:

Tuesday 6th March 2012
Tuesday 1st May 2012
Tuesday 3rd July 2012

You can also contact the Police by calling the non-emergency number 0845 600 5702 or by email: SouthWestFifeCommunityTeam@fife.pnn.police.uk

Village Coffee Group

Coffee / tea drinkers who drop in to the village group on alternate Wednesday mornings have generously donated **£857** to various groups / charities during 2011, most of it to local organisations or those with a local connection.

The breakdown is as follows:

Gala £78, Youth Club £53, Sunday School £50, Toddlers Group £50, School £40, Church £66, Chernobyl Children £54, Gordon Cottage £45, Leukaemia £53, Ovarian Cancer £38, Maggies Centre £50, MacMillan Nurses £280.

If your group is not on the list please make yourself known to us.

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

IN NORTH QUEENSFERRY CHURCH ON ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS 10:30 TO 12 NOON

DATES FOR 2012 – JANUARY TO JUNE ARE:

JANUARY 11 25
FEBRUARY 8 22
MARCH 7 21
APRIL 4 18
MAY 2 16 30
JUNE 13 27

We are a friendly group who enjoy a chat and a coffee so do join us any time. Ring Chris on 413372 if you require transport. All ages welcome.

At the Heart of History

Heritage can bring treasured memories as a special legacy for any community

A Happy New Year to everyone as we enter 2012 and mark the 24th year of the Heritage Trust. Many members over the past two decades have supported the need to preserve the immense and important historical legacy of this area. None more so than the late Bob Cubin MBE who left many of his notes and recordings to the trust. Residents have published books which define and catalogue the history over the centuries and the research activity of the trust is ongoing. These have and are enriching our knowledge and ensure that this part of Scotland will always be remembered and linked to great events in history.

The primary aims of our constitution gives the trust a wide remit to care for the beauty, history and character of North Queensferry and surrounding area. Our current membership is continuing to add to the past legacy through the continuing expansion of a photographic archive with nearly 1000 prints and recordings of memories from some of our older residents. It is hoped to make these available through this year but certainly for the trust's 25th anniversary in 2013. Complete listings of all census records from 1841 to 1911 are now in the archive and will also be made available this year.

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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The Trust continues to put on a series of informative talks from authoritative speakers over the winter months and these will be listed on the website www.nqht.org. Plans are already underway for this year's village show which as usual is designed to showcase creativity across all ages contained and sometimes well concealed within this community.

The Light Tower and supporting exhibition is now entering its third year as a 3 star visitor attraction and although closed throughout the winter months should be open for the coming season. Help from anyone who is interested in talking to visitors for an hour or two on specific days would be much appreciated. Those who have volunteered do find the experience most rewarding and a call to 07852 437384 will give all the information and future plans.

The coming of the new Forth Road Bridge and all its construction activities will inevitably bring some disruption in the short term and probably an increase in visitors to this area as **'three bridges'** start to become a reality. In the longer term much of the engineering legacy will fall to this area. North Queensferry and the Heritage Trust are well positioned to highlight and archive the story as it unfolds by way of promoting exhibitions and talks.

This increased activity will require support not only from our existing membership but also from potential members who would like to volunteer to serve the community in a variety of ways.

Membership of the Trust is open to all and the very modest annual subscription does now bring local benefits. Full details can be found on the website or direct from the Trust's Secretary by telephoning 07949 490013.

An example of how our heritage can suddenly disappear.



Photo : Beamer Rock Light Tower now dismantled and gone for good.

The Heritage Trust has made arrangements to have photographic evidence of the dismantling preserved in its archive.

Red Cinema

The Red Cinema ended 2011 on a high with a festive screening of 'It's A Wonderful Life.' About 35 people came along to enjoy the movie, drink mulled wine and eat a few mince pies. The 2012 - 2013 season is being put together (subject to funding) so please let us know if you have any suggestions. Do you have a favourite Scottish film? How about a perfect film for a ladies night? Please do get in contact with us to share your ideas or get involved.....email contact@redcinema.org , follow us on Facebook or have a chat with Sarah Jeffs, Lucie Macaulay, Chris Speed, Nacho Vinuela or Sue Walker.

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North Queensferry Church

Are holding their

SPRING FETE

in

MAY 2012

There will be all the usual stalls so make sure you get in early for bedding plants, home baking, gifts, bric-a-brac, books, children's toys and games and afternoon teas. Watch for posters appearing round the village with further details, or ring Janet on 416734 if you wish to donate.

BRUNCH

Will be held in the Church

on Sunday 25th March 2012

From 12 noon to 2.30

In aid of

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S LIFELINE

Selection of Soups

Crusty bread

Cheese and biscuits

Tea, coffee or juice

Suggested donation of £5 per adult

All of which will go to the charity

North Queensferry Walking Group Programme January To June 2012

January 04	Linlithgow Loch – circular – 2 ½ miles	
January 18	Longcraig to Dalmeny House – linear – 4 ½ miles	
February 01	Torryburn – circular – 3 miles	
February 15	Shiresmill Snowdrop Walk - circular - 2 ½ miles	
February 29	Pattiesmuir – circular – 2 or 4 miles	**NEW**
March 14	Water of Leith from Haymarket – linear – various options	
March 28	Aberdour Daffodil Walk – circular – 3 miles	
April 11	Dollarbank – circular – 3 miles	
April 25	Hermitage of Braid/Blackford Hill (optional) circular - 2 ½ miles	**NEW**
May 09	Lochore Meadows – circular – 4 miles	
May 23	Glen Lednock/Dunmore Hill (option) Comrie – circular – 4 or 5 mile	**NEW**
June 06	Aberdour – Silver Sands – Heughs – circular – 3 or 4 miles	
June 20	Powmill to Rumbling Bridge – circular – 3 or 5 miles	

We meet in the Church car-park at 10am on alternate Wednesdays (dates as shown above) where car share is arranged. Walks normally last about 2 hours and are mostly within a 30 minute drive of the village. New walkers are welcome to join us. Ring Janet on 416734 if you need more information.