



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

Community Centre

At our first meeting after the AGM in September Brian Armstrong was re-elected as Secretary, Christina McKenzie was re-elected as Treasurer and Lucie Macaulay was elected as Chair.

We are getting a lot of help and support from two local Councillors, Mike Shirkie and Pat Callaghan, in organizing the new lease on the building and the adjoining land for the new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). We've got funding from Fife Council to get us through the first stage of getting planning permission for the MUGA and are getting advice about what sort of surveys of the land will be necessary.

Our annual fund-raising Ceilidh will be held on the 2nd February. The Cameron Kellow band will be coming along again to get us up on our feet after the haggis and neeps. Tickets cost £17.50 and hopefully you will have seen posters with all the details around the village.

Best wishes,

Lucie Macaulay

Gala

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

We finished 2012 with two fantastic events.

In October we held our gooey and gruesome Halloween Party, once again we were absolutely thrilled by how many of you came along and joined us. There was a fantastic array of pumpkins and costumes from both the children and adults who came along. Well done to everybody!

November saw the return of our Christmas Fayre, where shoppers were able to choose from a wide range of stalls while enjoying a glass of fizz and a mince pie. The Fayre is one of our main fundraisers in the year and we would like to thank everyone who came along to support us. We already have a long list of stalls lined up for the 2013 Fayre, if you are interested in

attending please get in touch and we will add you to our mailing list.

We have a few fundraisers planned for the coming year.

There is a Quiz Night held at the Albert Hotel on the last Thursday of every month, 7:30pm for an 8:00pm start. Maximum 6 to team, £1 entry, proceeds to Gala funds. Always a good night, come long and join us.

The Race Night will be on 16th March, look out for posters or follow Facebook for details of ticket sales.

We have numerous other ideas in mind from a sponsored crawl over the Forth Bridge to walking the Rob Roy Way, further details to follow.....

We have a few new activities and events planned for Gala Day (more details in the next issue) but as always would really welcome your comments and suggestions at the planning stages. Please get in touch, it's your Gala so don't be shy! Gala week is 8th-15th June 2013.

We welcome your feedback and input on all things gala and encourage you to get in touch with us via email on northqueensferrygala@hotmail.com, comment on Facebook or join us at a meeting.

Plug Pulled on Seniors' Swimming

This was the headline in the Fife and Kinross Extra on week ending January 13th 2013.

The "over 40's" mixed swim on Wednesdays (3.45pm to 4.30pm) at Inverkeithing School Community Wing has been running for over 25 years but has latterly been poorly attended. Fife Council decided that it must end!

Did you know of this swim?

It only could be found listed in the Community Wing activities leaflet, which is available only at the Wing. There is no mention of it in the Fife Council web site, no notices in the Civic Centre, libraries, Health Centres or similar, or local newsletters such as The Ferry News.

Was this one of Fife's Best Kept Secrets?

Councillor Alice McGarry of Inverkeithing was surprised to know of the existence of this swim and was sympathetic. Before she could act to find funding, Fife Council had re-allocated our swim "slot"!

If, by good fortune, a swim could be re-instated at a similar time, but a different day, would you be interested? Please let me know.

Anne Monteith, Tel 01383 412365. e-mail [<wilf.anne.monteith@homecall.co.uk>](mailto:wilf.anne.monteith@homecall.co.uk)

Ferry Birds - Oct 2012 to Jan 2013

West Bay and Port Laing have been the focus for bird activity in the last few months. The **bar-tailed godwits** I mentioned last time disappeared at the end of September, but there has been a single one in the bay off and on since then. Up to six **dunlins** were in West Bay at the beginning of December along with the usual **redshanks** and **oystercatchers**. Two or three **curlews** have also been feeding regularly in the bay. At the same time a **grey heron** and the occasional **mute swan** has been seen, but the stars of the period have been the **shelducks**. The most I have seen was eight at the beginning of January. They are resplendent in their new plumage having been away for a several weeks in autumn at their moulting grounds. The male **aiders** which occasionally come into the bay are also looking immaculate, hoping to attract a female so that they can get down to the serious business of raising young in the spring. Other visitors to West Bay in the last few months have included 4 **mallards** (2 males and 2 females) present for several weeks in November and December and a male **wigeon** on the 17th of October. Six **goosanders** were also in the Bay a day earlier. This was probably a family group as they were all in juvenile or female plumage.

Port Laing is where the **red-breasted mergansers** and **goldeneyes** congregate. These birds breed further north in Scotland and spend the winter around the coast of the Firth of Forth. The males are vying with each other to attract the females and the **mergansers** also seem to practice synchronised diving just offshore from Port Laing. When strong westerlies are blowing these ducks get shelter here along with hundreds of black-headed and herring gulls. These birds are joined by a few **little grebes** which keep quite close to the shore and this winter there have been joined by up to twelve **great-crested grebes**. Both grebes breed locally on fresh water so will soon disappear although if we get a cold spell of weather and the inland waters freeze they may delay their departure. I had several sightings of **red-throated divers** last autumn. They were off Port Laing on the 9th of October and again on the 1st of November. A more uncommon visitor was a **black-throated diver** which I saw off Port Laing on the 3rd of January and again off the Town Pier on the 11th. That day was also when I saw the first **fulmars** flying around Inchgarvie. Having spent two or three months out in the North Sea the **fulmars** seem to come back

to their nesting cliffs at this time of year apparently to check up that the cliffs are still there. They stay around for a few days and then disappear only to come back again a week or so later to make sure!

The return of the **fulmars** is the first sign that the breeding season will soon be here. Other signs are the **robins** singing their plaintive songs, often by lamp-light, and the **song thrush** I heard singing near Jamestown on the 3rd of January. Having said last time that I hadn't seen a **song thrush** around the village for some time one was seen at a bird feeder in the lower village at the end of December and I have seen or heard them in the village or from the coastal path near Kinghorn several times recently.

Other interesting sightings I have had include a male **yellowhammer** in the scrub near the Jamestown pond, a **peregrine falcon** over the quarry and a male **blackcap** in the tree near Willie's Well. **Blackcaps** normally winter in Africa, but a few are now seen every winter in Scotland. They have been seen in the village over the last few winters and I have seen reports of them recently in Edinburgh and East Lothian. A **kingfisher** was also seen near Pierhead Buildings in the autumn. Having been told of some **tree sparrows** visiting a garden birdfeeder near the school I was lucky enough to see 4 in one of the small trees along Ferryhills Road on the 2nd of December. My luck was really in that day because I saw the **green woodpecker** near the Jamestown pond about half an hour later. Again it was feeding on the ground and, as I approached, it flew off showing its characteristic yellow rump.

We had great weather for the Nature walk on the 12th of January. We timed it well as there were about 20 **redshanks** and a single **dunlin** on the tide line at the mouth of West Bay. A **curlew** was patrolling on the mud in the middle of the bay and a few **oystercatchers** were busily trying to dislodge limpets or other shellfish from the rocks by the play area at Pierhead. The highlight of the walk along the coastal path was a distant view of a **Grey Seal** on one of the marker buoys across the estuary towards Hound Point.

The maintenance of the Carlingnose Reserve was done in two phases this year. The grass was cut in November and then some of the gorse, dog rose, hawthorn and cotoneaster at the edges of the grassland were cut in December. This is all part of the plan to maintain and where possible increase the area of grassland so that the rare plants have as much room as possible to grow and thrive.

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Happy New Year from your Community Council

Well, once again, it's been a particularly busy (and quick) year for the Community Council. We have been short of Councillors for most of the year, which has resulted in a few meetings being cancelled and unfortunately we've let a few things slip. One noticeable absence has been the posting of minutes, for which we can only apologise. Fortunately, Brian Armstrong has offered to take this on (as a member of the public) and Jim George has re-joined as a Councillor, this should take some of the pressure off, however, we still have vacancies and would love to hear from anyone who might be interested.

You may have noticed that the village is starting to look a little dilapidated, we certainly have - it had been at least 18 months since the verges were last cut. We recently spent a couple of hours with Ian Jones, from Fife Council, walking around the village and identifying issues where action could be taken. This was a mixed bag, from potholes and overgrown footpaths, to speeding and antisocial behaviour. He made a list of 32 issues to pass on to the relevant section heads. There are obviously budgetary constraints to contend with; however, I'm pleased to note that some have already been actioned and both Fife Constabulary and Fife Council have agreed to take action with regards to speeding on Ferryhills Road.

One noticeable success, has been the agreement to put night gates on Battery Road car park, the scene of antisocial behaviour predating most of the current Councillors. This has come about due to the constant campaigning of the residents of Battery Road and should also bring some relief to those residents of Pierhead and Main St. We have spent almost two years negotiating with Network Rail and Fife Council to take responsibility for the car park and return it to its former condition. Hopefully once

the barrier is erected in the spring, the car park will remain in excellent order and be used for the originally intended purpose. Unfortunately, our efforts to secure the return of the Picnic area and access to the East Battery foreshore have not been so successful, Network Rail digging in their heels and remaining both physically and literally obstructive. We will continue addressing these issues as one of our top priorities for the coming year.

As you may have recently read in the Press, Cruicks Quarry has been granted planning permission for a further extraction period of up to 20 years. This was a disappointment, the quarry is currently mothballed and the community council see this as a simply pushing the restoration and remediation date further into the future. However, with the help of Councillors Chapman and Shirkie, the applicants have been bound to consult with the local communities properly and enter into talks over a communities' fund being set up.

We had really hoped to re-light the North Queensferry Christmas tree at the War Memorial this year, something that's been missing for a lot of years, but unfortunately our plans were scuppered at the last minute by a dodgy electrical connection (and not having £2k for a new one!) Still, it puts us well ahead of the game for next year. Our plan is to start with the tree, then move on to the ten lamp posts between the bottom of the Brae and Pierhead and finally the trees outside the station on Brock St. Obviously this will take a bit of funding. Each post is approximately £250 for the supply and £250 for the lights, so we're open to suggestions (and wealthy benefactors.)


This is only a fraction of what we've been up to, I could go on forever (but I won't,) we'd love to hear from more members of the community, so please get in touch and all the best for healthy, happy and prosperous 2013.

Colin Bell

WALKING GROUP

The Group are now in their 8th year with some regular and other occasional people joining when available. The walks vary from 3 to 5 miles and are never too difficult even for beginners. If you are interested in coming along then either contact Janet King on 01383 416734, or email jsking1@btinternet.com or just come along. We meet in the Church car park at 10am and arrange car share. Strong shoes/boots, waterproofs, stick and an optional snack/water are all you need. The programme for the first half of 2013 is shown here.

NORTH QUEENSFERRY WALKING GROUP PROGRAMME – January to June 2013

Feb 13	Loch Leven - circular - 4 m	 NEW
Feb 27	Blackness to Abercorn - circular - 4 ½ m	
Mar 3	Dunfermline Glen - circular - 3	
Mar 27	Lochore Meadows - circular - 4 m	
Apr 10	Aberdour daffodil trail - linear - 4 m	
Apr 24	Cramond Brig - circular - 4 m	
May 8	Corstorphine Hill - circular - 4 m	
May 22	Craigencalt, Kinghorn - circular - 4m	
Jun 5	Powmill to Rumbling Bridge - circular - 3 ½ or 5 m	
Jun 9	Cramond Island - circular - 3 m	

Coastal Rowing Club

We've been out rowing right through the autumn and winter and are beginning to gear up for the launch of our second 4-man skiff in the spring and a season of races, regattas, picnics on Inchcolm and trips out to view the building of the new bridge.

Coastal rowing and the South Queensferry skiff have been featured twice in the Guardian in the last month or so with a full-page photo and an article about the growth of the sport in Scotland. You can find out more at www.scottishcoastalrowing.org

Please come along and give it a try if you're interested. It's a great way to get out on the water and see North Queensferry from a new angle as well as spot birds and the odd seal or dolphin. We are also starting to put teams together for the racing season if you're more interested in a good workout and winning some prizes...

You can contact the club by Email at n.queensferrycoastalrowingclub@yahoo.com or phone: Lucie on 412 316.

or come down to the Harbour at West Bay around high tide at the weekend and see if we're about. Our next committee meeting will be at the Albert on 30th January at 7.30pm

Police

We set the new priorities for the next 2 months for Inverkeithing and North Queensferry at the last Community Engagement Meeting and are as follows:

Priority 1 - Anti-Social Behaviour at Friary Gardens and Spittalfield Road Inverkeithing

Priority 2 - Speeding Ferryhills Road, North Queensferry.

Priority 3 - Speeding Alma Street/King Street and Church Street, Inverkeithing.

These are on the Fife Constabulary website and will be regularly updated by ourselves on what action has been taken. Also another area of concern was Anti-Social Behaviour at Battery Road car park, North Queensferry which will be regularly checked.

Our next Community Engagement Meeting is Tuesday 5th March 2013 at Inverkeithing High School.

PC 688 Robert Drummond

SWF Community Team

Village Coffee

A friendly group meet up in the Church on alternate Wednesdays from 10.30am to 12 noon for tea/coffee and chat. We have a core group of regulars with occasional other visitors. It is always good to welcome new faces so do come along and join us. We were again part of **The World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Care** with over 100 people joining us including most of the primary school. It was a very busy morning but raising over **£400** for the charity made it all worthwhile. In total this year our generous visitors have donated a total of **£1062** which has mostly been distributed amongst local charities. Dates for the first half of the year are:

January 9, 23 February 6, 20 March 6, 20
April 3, 17 May 1, 15, 29 June 12, 26

Red Cinema

We are trying out a few new venues this season, hopefully including The Albert. Its great using the school as a community resource and also it is the only place in the village which can house our enormous 16ft screen! However, we think it would be good to give people the opportunity for a night at the local pub as well as seeing a great film. We will have to use a smaller screen and projector, but hopefully the pay off will be a more 'grown up' venue. We hope to trial this with the brilliant and unmissable 'You've Been Trumped' on the 15th Feb.

The next screening takes place in Inverkeithing Civic Centre, where we'll be showing Danny Boyle's classic hit 'Trainspotting'. Hope to see you there!

**Future programme info can be found on
redcinema.org**

Room with a View

Seafood Restaurant



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

01383 860 402

Menu's will reflect weekly fish market

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

Closed:
Monday & Tuesday

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

Toddler & Baby Group

The North Queensferry Toddler & Baby Group meets every Thursday morning during term time in the Community Centre from 9.30 - 11.15am. We have a large room where the children can play with a variety of toys, and a soft play area. A snack is provided for the children on the day, and tea and coffee are available for the adults.

New members are always welcome.

Admission is £1.50 per family.

For any additional information please contact a committee member.

Becky Hay, Co-Chairperson (419101)
Claire Taylor, Co-Chairperson (410459)
Carole Egner, Secretary (417503)
Susanne Carter, Treasurer (07957446875)

SWRI

All meetings are held in the Hall behind the Church, Ferryhills Rd at 7.30pm on the 4th Thursday of the month

28th Feb Cookery Demonstration by 'Rankins' Cafe and Deli

28th Mar 'Street Pastors' on help given to homeless and people in difficulty on the streets (meeting open to all)

25th Apr 'A world cruise' Liliac Macdonald

23rd May An outing to The Hidden Gardens of the Royal Mile Edinburgh.

Our meetings are very informal, friendly and fun and all ages are very welcome.

Are you affected by the "Forth Replacement Crossing?"

The Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors have an official Community Liaison Manager.

Here are his contact details:

Ewen Macdonell, Community Liaison Manager,
Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors

Email: ewen.macdonell@fcbcjv.co.uk

Tel: (01383) 421369 Ext: 1137

Mob: 7885 345876

Forth Replacement Crossing Project Office
King Malcolm Drive
Rosyth
KY11 2DY

You can contact Ewen to discuss any issues which affect you such as noise, traffic, pollution etc.

Make Music

Fun preparation for learning an instrument,
with puppets, tuned and untuned instruments.

At 13 Carlingnose View,
N. Queensferry.

Tuesdays, 10.00-10.45 a.m.

For more details contact Rosemary Stanley:

01383 410758

roseystanley@btinternet.com

Also available: recorder lessons
for 5-8 year-olds; children's musical parties

Congratulations Room with a View

Not only is the Room with a View restaurant the winner of the VisitScotland Scottish Thistle Awards 2012 (Central South East Region) for Best Café, Bar or Restaurant sponsored by Tennent Caledonian Breweries but it is now the **National Winner**.

This category celebrates Scotland's world famous reputation for exemplary service to the visitor. Scotland's cafés, bars and restaurants are a key part of what attracts millions of people to Scotland's shores through the warmth of our welcome, the excellence of our food and drink and quality of our people dedicated to delivering memorable experiences that encourages visitors to return again and again.

In the opinion of VisitScotland,

"The Room with a View Seafood Restaurant in Aberdour is a restaurant on the edge - literally! On

the edge of the sea front with spectacular views across the beach, the River Forth and to Edinburgh. However, the steep narrow road can be daunting to many drivers so a complimentary transport service is provided - not only from the top of the hill and Silver Sands car park, but the Train Station, local hotels and even private addresses.

The small but perfectly formed menu tempts guests with delicious seafood dishes using local produce, cooked to perfection by resident chef Tim Robson. Whilst food is the star, having local, high quality staff is a priority and in addition to extensive on-site training, formal training and team building events the restaurant works with the local High School work experience to develop confidence and skills in the young people of Aberdour.

By rising to the economic challenges with focused marketing strategies and great new collaborations, revenue has more than doubled since the original forecast and repeat business is booming."

Christmas East Delhi style

I have read all the village festive notices on the web and my diary says it is 25 December... so it must be Christmas!

There is a fierce biting wind from the Himalayas....it is 20 degrees but feels like North Queensferry in January. I walk to work along the dual carriageway: past three sets of traffic lights, past oxen waiting to be hitched to their carts...but no stable and manger in sight. I wish the roaming family of pigs best wishes for the festive season and say my usual one hundred 'Good mornings' starting with the gate keeper and finishing with the night guard at Manovikas where I'm working. He is always pleased to see me as seeing me means he can go home. It is eight o'clock and most of the staff will not appear before 10am. He spends the night sitting on a plastic chair on the pavement facing the building... not my idea of fun.

This is East Delhi...not the sophisticated South Delhi with its posh malls, Marks and Spencer, Early Learning and Mothercare but a down at heel community with small markets and barrows selling wonderful fruit and vegetables. Guavas are in season at present but unfortunately Mango are not. I stop to wish the fruit barrow boy 'Happy Christmas' and continue down the dusty road greeting usual men huddled over a sort of brazier making tea. I chat to a road sweeper who brushes the leaves and rubbish into neat piles ready for a Delhi municipal van to collect. Yet again I remind myself...it is Christmas Day. Maybe there are slightly less cars and cycle rickshaws on the road...but really it is hard to notice any difference from yesterday or the day before. Delhi has many many public holidays celebrating festivals from at least all the main religions including Hindu, Islam, Buddhist and Christian and Sikh. It seems that like the local children are never at school...something the children welcome but the parents don't. I continue walking following a yellow flowering hedge bordering the road. Three small thin men in drab worn clothes, brown/grey woollen hats and sacking shawls, cycle pass me on rickety bikes.... riding abreast, deep in conversation, all pulling small wooden carts with grey plastic sacs...off to scavenge people's rubbish put out for the 'official' bin man. They are followed, almost immediately by three well built arrogant teenage school boys in smart maroon blazers and grey trousers.... also three a breast, also in deep conversation but in all other respects so very different. The caste system is still much in evidence here.

This part of Delhi does not see tourists. In fact I only meet/see local Indians. People know about Christmas but there are not any decorations, lights, Christmas trees, in fact absolutely none of the frantic consumer bonanza experienced in the UK. Now

Divali was something totally different: lots of houses decorated with lights and the fireworks from across all of Delhi sounding like a continuous loud clap of thunder. Households decorated their rooftops with candles and I did the same, since I live in a 'barsatis' (a wee hoose/one room, on a rooftop). All Delhi flats are not allowed to be higher than four stories which means I have good views across of the city and soaring black kites, buzzards and eagles.

I stop at a stall and buy some candles to put around my roof top for Christmas.

Yes, the candles went around my roof top on Christmas night. Now more are lit each night in memory of the twenty three year old girl who died from injuries caused when she was gang raped. You have probably heard about it on the news ...it has caused mass demonstrations in Delhi and other Indian cities. The Government is now looking at the rape law (someone is raped in Delhi every 14 hours). This might help but there needs to be a change in society's attitude to women before there are any real improvements in women's safety in India.

Lin Collis

Contributions for the next issue

are to be with us by

Friday 3rd May 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

Qualified & Experienced Mat Level 3 Instructor

Tel: 07787 321571

Email: simplypilates@sky.com

Web: www.simplypilates.org

Heritage Trust

The Trust starts 2013 with good news stories of further potential developments that will benefit our area and also takes this opportunity of wishing all members and readers a very happy New Year.

A Treasurer is being sought following the resignation of our new Treasurer due to other commitments. The position is voluntary and includes attending monthly meetings, the processing of receipts & payments, maintaining financial & PAYE records and submitting annual Inland Revenue and OSCR returns. If you are interested please contact nqheritagetrust@gmail.com

The 25th anniversary since the formation of the Trust in 1988 occurs this year and the committee have been debating on a suitable event to celebrate the occasion. On the 25th May in the Community Centre it is our intention to host an exhibition celebrating the achievements of the Trust over the past 25 years. As an integral part of the celebration the Trust would like to invite all artists in the North Queensferry area to exhibit paintings and craft items which could be offered for sale. Anyone who wishes to enter an exhibit(s) or organise a stand will be most welcome and is asked to notify our secretary at nqheritagetrust@gmail.com with their intention.

The Trust's archive now has a complete record of all published North Queensferry census records from 1841 to 1911 which shows the huge influx of people to the area during the construction of the Forth Bridge and the development of the Rosyth Naval base prior to the First World War. Full details in easy to read and identify names format are available on the Trust's CD.

The photographic archive continues to expand and now has well over 1,000 photographs from the 19th century up to today. Volume 3 of our CD series is now in course of preparation.

Ferryhills Heritage Trail is another project that is continuing to be planned between the Trust and the land owners Tarmac.

Phase 1 is to display information boards in the area leading up to the water tower describing the key points of interest over the centuries. These include the Battle of Inverkeithing, the Industrial Development and the former Ferryhills Golf Club and its prominence during WW1.

Phase 2 is a possible link up with the existing pathway from the end of the Forth Road Bridge to the Community Centre, on to the Ferry Loch and the difficult project of safely crossing the railway cutting.

The light tower will again be open during the summer season but we are hoping that with your help it will be possible to keep the tower and

exhibition on the 'Ferries' open for a longer number of hours. We continue to open the tower and exhibition 'free of charge' except for lighting the lamp but do rely on donations to cover all the costs. The Trust would be pleased to hear from residents who perhaps have some free time and like to help by talking to visitors. Anyone interested please email jj.lawson@talktalk.net

The Rotary Club of Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay

The Rotary Club of Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay, which also covers Aberdour, North Queensferry and Rosyth, continues to meet each Wednesday at 12.30 in the Queensferry Hotel, North Queensferry where lunch is usually followed by a short, interesting, talk given by someone involved in local business or a charity organisation. The club has an active programme of fundraising – to support national and local charities and a social programme that includes golf, curling, theatre visits and outings to local businesses and places of interest. Anyone interested in joining, or in attending a meeting of the club, should get in touch with our secretary, Bob Tait, on 01383 860695.

The club is very actively involved with local schools and supports a Rotary Young Chef competition, a primary school quiz, a music concert in conjunction with Inverkeithing High School and a Rotary Youth Leadership course at Nethybridge Outdoor Centre in Speyside. Recently pupils at North Queensferry Primary School filled more than 30 'shoeboxes' with children's games, toys and toiletries as part of Rotary's support for children in Eastern Europe.



A recent club initiative has been to place floral planters at each of our local stations including at North Queensferry. And the club's recent major fundraising has been in support of Alzheimer Scotland and the Chest, Heart and Stroke, Scotland charity.

The day Rebus was beaten 'Black and Blue' in the Ferry

On a wild and windy Sunday in November 1999, Craighdu Cottage was the scene of a brutal murder...

And as we prepare to put the 'for sale' board up and leave North Queensferry after almost twenty years, we thought we would share our memories of the day Rebus was beaten up in our garden.

If you don't know Craighdu Cottage, it sits on the water's edge, up a tree-lined driveway near the Road Bridge, with access to private wooded grounds and coastal rocks. The estate agent's favourite clichéd phrase 'an idyllic hideaway location' could have been penned with Craighdu Cottage in mind.

So what was Rebus doing in North Queensferry? (as far as we know he wasn't swapping the Oxford Bar for the Albert.)

Apparently the location scouts for the company filming Rebus for STV had been flying over likely locations and had spotted a property which looked ideal for some scenes in their adaptation of Ian Rankin's novel 'Black and Blue'. The company then posted a letter through our mailbox asking if they could use Craighdu Cottage as a film location.

What followed was a fascinating insight into the filming process.

On the day of filming, a crew of around 70 people,

including two 'stunt cats' (our own moggies didn't have the necessary credentials) descended on our house and garden. Howling gales and torrential rain added authenticity to the menacing story line – poor John Hannah looked cold, wet and muddy as he was pursued and beaten up in the grounds.

Our elder daughter at the time was 'social editor' of the school magazine and the leading man generously agreed to her cheeky request for an interview.

Meanwhile, the 'chuck wagon' set up in the field next door produced a full Sunday dinner for film crew and family.

Between takes, the 'murderer' (well known as the actor who plays Bishop Brennan in Father Ted) chatted and joked with our children. One moment the chilling and evil eyed 'Bible John' character and the next, affable, charming and avuncular.

When the film was screened in the spring of 2000 it was fascinating to see our house transformed by the skill of the production team into a film set.

There was our kitchen, our tea-towel, our saucepan - and then the camera panned to a naked body sprawled across our dining room floor....(not the lovely Mr Hannah in case you're wondering....)

There's no 'blue plaque' above the door yet, but one day, maybeafter all, not every property in the Ferry can claim the dubious honour of having Inspector Rebus beaten 'black and blue' in its garden.



This year, Deep Sea World celebrate their 20th year with a variety of exciting events from Pirate & Princess week to UGH weekend plus lots more. Don't forget all North Queensferry residents can purchase a special annual membership for only £40.00 (2 adults plus 2 children). This would normally cost £124.00 saving you £84.00. As a Deep Sea World member you can visit us and hang out with all your favourite fish as often as you like. This package also includes some great benefits such as 10% off birthday party children & 10% off selected items in the cafe and gift shop and 10% off for friends and family when you visit with them. One visit to Deep Sea World is never enough! Visit www.deepseaworld.com for more information.