



GALA, GALA, GALA.....it's that time of year again when all our thoughts turn to the Gala (and whether or not we will be blessed with a sunny day this year?!).



Congratulations to Aidan Dowie and Jodie Simon, your King and Queen for 2013.

Gala week this year runs from Saturday 8th June to Saturday 15th June. See separate Itinerary for full details of times and venues. The theme this year is Transport.

Please note there are a few changes to the week's activities for 2013.

Due to a decrease in interest in recent years there will be **no fishing or fancy dress competitions** this year.

Prompted by your feedback the Gala Dance will return to the original 18+ event (calling all NQ babysitters!!). We plan to introduce a Disco for the under 18s on the Friday night, details to follow.

The Scavenger Hunt will now be on Thursday night.

All other events remain unchanged from previous years. The cycle and running landmark races will follow 2012 routes.

Gala Day begins with the Gala Parade, a tradition that started back in the early 1950s, honouring the landing of Queen Margaret and her meeting with King Malcolm .

Today the Gala King greets the Gala Queen and her Ladies in Waiting at the Pier (just past The Albert Hotel). They are then joined by other members of the royal party and villagers young and old.

This procession brings the village together and a carnival atmosphere is guaranteed! Squeals of excitement can be heard from the children as, led by a pipe band, they stroll up the Brae and along Brock Street to the Queen Margaret playing fields. The crowning ceremony then takes place.

The committee have been working closely with the school in preparation for the parade, the children are refreshingly enthusiastic and are currently producing flags to wave as they take part. Adults/parents, you can make and bring one too!!!

The procession forms at Pierhead Buildings at 12 noon and Glenrothes & District Pipe Band will then lead a very colourful parade, leaving at 12:15 prompt.

Throughout the day there are free rides and activities for all ages. Amongst the new happenings this year we have a roaming caricaturist, zorb balls and a birds of prey display, all are sure to be very popular! We still have all the old favourites too.

Stalls and performances are encouraged from all village groups, if you haven't yet confirmed your place please speak to a member of the committee as soon as possible. This year we have zumba, pipe band and dance displays, coconut shy, stalks, toy stalls and many more.

Arena events during the day will include football finals, zumba and dance workshops and the infamous tug-of-war (male and female), raffle and prize giving.

There is definitely something for all tastes and styles this year, we hope to see many more villagers taking part!

The free food bags for the village children (up to s4) will once again be donated by The Queensferry Hotel. The vouchers for the food will be distributed via the nursery and school. We are aware that there are many children in the village who do not attend North Queensferry Primary School. Can you please make yourselves known either through a member of the committee, Facebook or our email address and we will arrange to deliver to you.

The 'Tea Ladies' will once again turn the Community Centre into a cosy café offering a tempting selection of sandwiches and cakes. Donations are most welcome and can be handed into the centre on Friday evening or Saturday morning. On the field we will have burgers, ice cream and donuts.

The Gala Dance marks the end of the week's celebrations and this year is an 18+ event. We are very lucky to have the hugely popular Sid's Garage booked to play. Tickets, priced at £3, will be sold on a first come first, served basis and will be on sale soon. Please watch our Facebook page, village noticeboards and S1 for further details of sale.

FOGs (Friends Of the Gala), we are once again looking for your help. Can you hang bunting, steward a race, collect litter, set up on gala day, sell raffle tickets, sponsor a race, help clean the beach???

Continued overleaf

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Gala continued ...

If so we'd love to hear from you, please get in touch via the usual places to help where you can.

Can all 2012 winners please ensure trophies and shields are returned, engraved to the Committee by 24th May.

A photographer will be in attendance at most gala events. If you do not wish yourself, or your child, to be photographed please make yourself known to a member of the committee.

In other news....

We held a Race Night in March, another brilliant family night full of laughs. We raised just over £1000 from the event.

Easter Sunday saw Hugh Clarke perform the mighty feat of crawling across the Forth Road Bridge. This fantastic effort on a bitterly cold morning (straight after his nightshift?!) raised over £ 700 for gala funds, WELL DONE SHUG!!

The committee would like to thank you all for the continued support of our fundraisers throughout the year and hope to see you all enjoying yourselves at Gala Week 2013.

Get in touch with us on Facebook, at [North-queensferrygala@hotmail.com](https://www.facebook.com/northqueensferrygala) or join us at a meeting.

Community Centre

The Community Centre Management Committee are still negotiating with Fife Council to get a new and fair lease in place for the Community Centre. As soon as this is signed then we can start fundraising to build the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). We have the architects at Oliver and Robb guiding us through the process of getting planning permission for the MUGA and you might see signs of digging in the area soon as several small trial pits will be dug so that we can find out the depth of the soil and what the rock is like underneath to help determine the best location for the "cut and fill" job that will need to take place to create a flat enough area.

Our caretaker, Pat, has cleared out the redundant computers from what was the Computer Suite so we now have a small meeting room which is much easier to heat for meetings or groups with only a few people. We are also planning to put an access door at the back of the building directly into the underfloor space so that we can make the most of the large storage area here.

Coastal Rowing Club

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have launched our second community-built coastal rowing boat, Ferry Sonnet, and we will be able to go out in groups of 10 either to train together for the upcoming World Skiff Championships in Ullapool in July or just for a leisurely look at how the stanchions of the new bridge are coming along or what birds are nesting on Inchgarvie. A few

weeks ago we were joined by a Harbour Porpoise which kept us company over 3 days and was curious enough to come within a few metres of the boat.

Please get in touch and come along if you'd like to give rowing a whirl.

Facebook: North Queensferry Coastal Rowing Club

E-mail:

n.queensferrycoastalrowingclub@yahoo.com or
Phone Frank on 01383 412893 or 07770812337

Toddler Group

Our group meets every Thursday at NQ community centre between 9:30-11:15am. We are always pleased to see new faces and those that are visiting us after a bit of a break!

All families are welcome with children from newborn to pre-school age. We provide a safe environment for your children to play and interact with other children, including a variety of toys and our own soft-play area.

Equally important is the adults corner where you can relax with a cup of tea or coffee and chat to other parents.

We arrange special activities throughout the year, such as puppet shows, Easter egg hunts, teddy bears picnic, Halloween party etc. There is a nominal weekly membership fee of £1.50 per family which includes snacks and drinks for the children and tea/coffee & biscuits for the grown-ups. Your first visit is free.

For more information please contact

Claire Taylor (Co-chair) 07500277577

Becky Hay (Co-chair) 07917773615

Carole Graham (Secretary) 07908092298

Suzanee Carter (Treasurer) 07957446875



Musical Steps

fun-filled & educational music & movement classes
for babies, toddlers & pre-school children

Tuesdays @

NORTH QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Baby/Toddler Troupe 9.45 ~ 10.25am

for children from 4 months ~ 3 years

For further information or to book a Taster class please contact
Inga on:

t: 0845 224 0613 e: inga.jack@musicalsteps.co.uk

www.musicalsteps.co.uk

Classes also held weekly in Dunfermline,
Crossford & Duloch

Ferry Birds Jan - May 2013

The persistent cold easterly winds of March and the beginning of April seem to have had no consistent effect on the dates of my first sightings of the summer visitors which come to breed in Scotland having wintered in Africa. Some birds seem to have arrived later than last year and others more or less the same. Normally my first migrant sighting or, more strictly, a hearing is of a **chiffchaff**. This year I heard my first local bird near Port Laing on the 17th of April and, coincidentally, I heard a **willow warbler** the same day further along the coastal path towards Jamestown. Compared to last year the **chiffchaff** was about 3 weeks later and the **willow warbler** about 2 weeks later. In contrast my first sightings of **sand martins** was on the 12th of April which was just 2 days earlier than last year. Other migrant species have shown a similar varied pattern of arrival. The first **swallow** I saw was at Lochore Meadows Country Park on the 12th of April whereas last year it was the 22nd before I saw one. A few noisy **Sandwich terns** were off Carlingnose Point at the end of April which was a few days later than last year.

These migrants and others now seem to have settled in and a walk round the village or along the coastal path will allow you to hone your identification skills. The two warblers mentioned above can be heard from the coastal path and a **blackcap** has been singing on The Brae. Many of the resident birds are also now in full song. There seems to be a **blackbird** singing from every vantage point at the moment and there are plenty of **song thrushes, dunnocks, wrens** and **robins** in the trees along The Brae and other parts of the village. On the 6th of May there were several **swallows** feeding above Ferry Loch chattering away as they hawked the insects rising from the water. It is hard to imagine how these individuals had managed to fly at least 6000 miles from southern Africa to breed in Fife.

Back to the beginning of the year the **fulmars**, as usual, were back on Inchgarvie by early January and they did their normal trick of checking the place out, disappearing for a few days, and coming back to double check. I know this is my interpretation of what happens, but it seems to fit what I observe. The **fulmars** will soon be incubating just one egg and the two adults take turns, one bird flying off to feed and returning after about 3 days to change over.

West Bay was host to the usual collection of waders and ducks during the winter. **Shelducks** were present throughout with 13 or more feeding on the mud when the tide was out. They have disappeared now; presumably off to their breeding areas such as Inverkeithing Inner Bay. They were joined at various times by at least 4 **mallards** and the occasional **red-breasted merganser**. The resident **eiders** used West Bay as a sheltered place from both the easterly and westerly winds and they can still be seen in the Bay and on Rail-

way Pier. **Mute swans** seemed to come and go in the bay as well. The most common wader which winters in West Bay is the **redshank**. Up to 40 were present and they too have moved on. This winter a few **dunlins, curlews** and **turnstones** joined the **redshanks** in the bay with the end of the Railway Pier being a favourite spot for the **turnstones**. The other wintering birds which use the coastal waters have also, in the main, moved on although, having apparently left in April, there were 22 **red-breasted mergansers** off Port Laing on the 1st of May. During the winter the **mergansers** were joined by **goldeneyes** and **great-crested grebes** and a few **little grebes**. Numbers were slightly higher this year and I saw about 60 **goldeneyes** and 22 **mergansers** between Port Laing and Cruickness at the end of January. There were 12 **great-crested grebes** with them on that day as well.

Sightings I have had of the less common birds include a few **tree sparrows** with the **house sparrows** in the shrubs near the station, a **rock pipit** at the end of the Railway Pier on the 16th of January and a **collared dove** again by the station on the 15th of April. These doves were quite common in the village several years ago, but are now quite unusual. **Yellowhammers** conversely have made a significant come back. I hear them regularly when walking over the hill and there were at least 2 on Ferryhills on the 6th of May. I have also been told that a **tawny owl** has been calling from the trees at the end of Mount Hooly Crescent. I have seen a **peregrine falcon** flying over the quarry and perhaps the most unusual record of a **green woodpecker** calling near Jamestown on the 8th of February. **Lesser whitethroats** are uncommon breeders in Fife so one feeding in the blackthorn by the coastal path on the reserve on the 6th of May was a good sighting. They have been present in previous summers but I don't have any evidence that they have bred here. Hopefully they will this year.

As usual a plea to remember the birds and other creatures which share our gardens. Go easy on the garden clearing so that you don't disturb the nesting birds. I am sure you will all agree its better to give the birds a safe haven to bring up their young than to have a neat immaculate garden. Tidiness is, after all, a human concept and it is probably the untidy corners of the garden where the birds can find most of their food.

John Done

Ferry News Alert

Between the regular paper copies of the Ferry News, the Ferry News team provides an e-mail service reminding people of upcoming events and alerting them to things happening in the village at short notice. To receive these emails just email alert@ferrynews.org.uk with the subject line "Please add me to the Ferry News mailing list".

The Golf Course on the Ferryhills

(Another forgotten gem that is very much part of the heritage of North Queensferry)

The pathway from the Community Centre around Ferry Loch crossing the railway tunnel by scrambling up the part of the rock face, continuing on to the water reservoir and down to the Ferryhills road has been a favourite walk for many.

The Heritage Trust is planning to have the pathway named as the 'Ferryhills Heritage Trail' with information boards sited at various viewing points explaining the ecological importance of the area and the historical events that took place on or are viewable from the Ferryhills including the golf course.

The views from parts of the pathway are stunning and one of the reasons why Dunfermline Golf Club laid out, on the east facing slope overlooking Inverkeithing Bay and Port Laing, a golf course which opened on the 6th September 1890. Described in a newspaper article at the time as 'one of Scotland's finest inland courses'. Initially a nine hole course with a small wooden building acting as the clubhouse tucked away close to then newly built railway cutting which had to be expanded within two years to a full eighteen hole course at a total length of 5021 yards. The opening of the Forth bridge brought with it new membership from Edinburgh as well as from Inverkeithing and Dunfermline. On May 20th 1897, with membership nearing 400, the original wooden clubhouse was abandoned and possession taken of Cruicks House which was hastily reconstructed to add staff

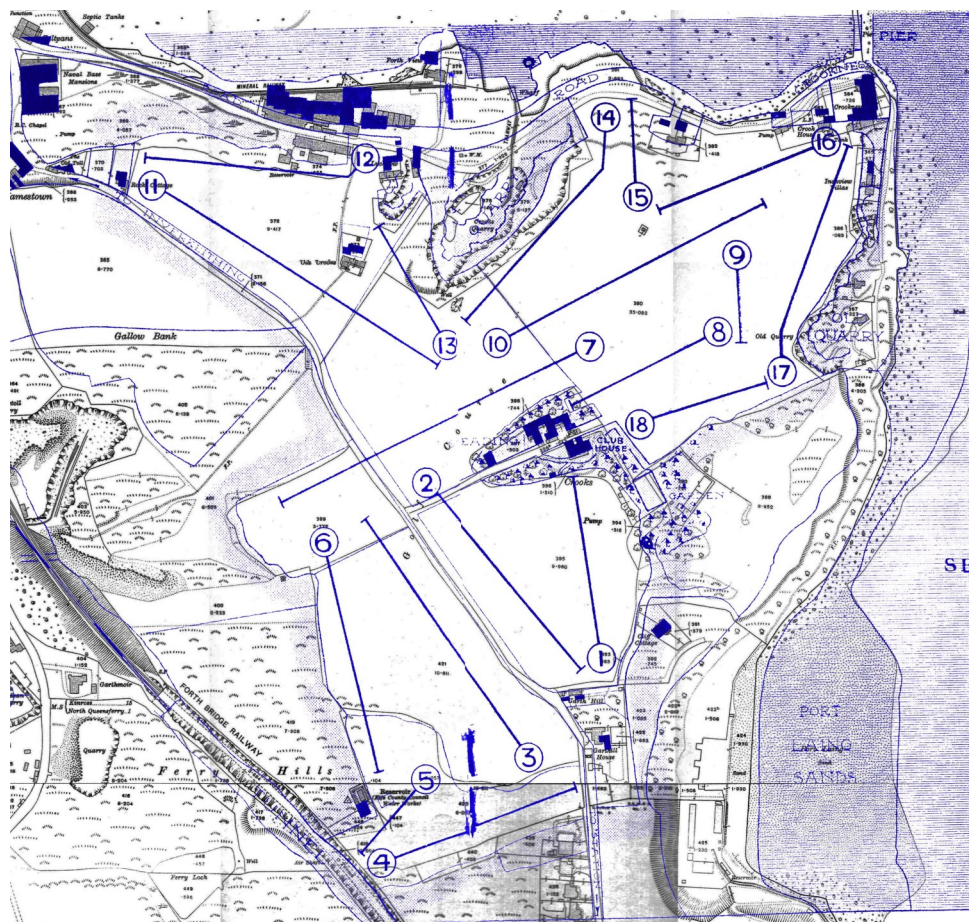
accommodation and a spacious dining room. The wooden clubhouse was eventually sold to Torwoodlee Golf Club at Galashiels for £70 having been originally exhibited at the International Exhibition of Science, Art and Industry in Edinburgh in 1890 and purchased by the Dunfermline Club for £200.

There were many stories and descriptions on how to play the course and the Heritage Trust aim to include some of these on the information board. During WW1 the club extended considerable hospitality to the 'golfers' of the Grand Fleet from both the many British and American ships stationed at Rosyth and St Margaret's Bay and the trophies they gave as a mark of their appreciation are still competed for to this day. A fitting tribute, perhaps, to the world event that followed with the largest display ever seen of naval ships from May Island to Rosyth on the 21st November 1918 as part of the Great Pageant leading up to the signing of the document of surrender by the German High Seas Fleet sailing into the Forth estuary and the final closure of WW1 hostilities ten days after the surrender of all land forces in France.

The Heritage Trust is most grateful to Dunfermline Golf Club for allowing access to and photography of the archive much of which we hope to publish in the near future.

Friday ...

...would be House cleaner available most mornings, 9-12 weekly or fortnightly. Contact Gwen on 07914686063



Golf Course layout super-imposed on 1915 OS map

Community Council

North Queensferry is facing a time ahead of challenges and opportunities: there is, of course, the continuing work on the Forth Replacement Crossing, but there is also the proposed application for inscription of the Forth Bridge on the UNESCO World Heritage List and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Forth Road Bridge in 2014.

People have been talking for years about the possibilities of the Forth Bridge becoming a world heritage site, and for many it seems quite surprising that nothing concrete has been done about it up until now. If there is one defining image (I hesitate to say "icon" as it is a word which is overused, but it does seem appropriate here) which represents Scotland it is perhaps that mighty engineering achievement which sits on our doorstep. For some, the very fact that it is so firmly rooted in the village presents a challenge - the increased visibility of the bridge on the world stage, which comes from inscription on the World Heritage list will lead to an increase in visitors and with that increase, concerns about increased congestion, pressure on already-strained parking facilities and the like; yet for all the challenges there are potential significant benefits for the village, even beyond the obvious ones of increased business and employment opportunities. In particular, I was recently a guest at an Edinburgh World Heritage event where the experiences of Edinburgh and Krakow (also a World Heritage site) were discussed and compared, and one message which came through loud and clear was that World Heritage inscription is not just an end in itself (though there is a danger that if it is not built upon it can end up that way) but, rather, that if managed effectively, it can be used as a "lens" to focus all sorts of associated improvements for local people. In North Queensferry, the lens of World Heritage could provide the impetus for all sorts of improvements on which local groups have been working - for example, new life for the West Bay, a boost to the ongoing project for restoring the Railway Station building - and tackling some of the thornier issues such as finally repairing the historic piers and restoring full public access to the base of the cantilever at Battery Point. At the same time, care will have to be taken to ensure active management to deal with issues such as parking, for example by being serious about providing parking facilities outwith the village or encouraging other sustainable means of access for visitors, for example by train and boat, with a heritage itinerary such as arriving by train at the restored station, linking via the Brae with its already-restored wells, to the light tower and with a boat trip back to South Queensferry, together serving as the spine on which other visitor activities, such as a walk in the Ferry Hills or a visit to Deep Sea World might be built.

These are some ideas which could provide a focus for discussion, and I am sure that there are other ideas which local inhabitants might like to put for-

ward. The key to the process of building on the advantages of World Heritage status is full and meaningful consultation with the people of North Queensferry so that we can all feel that this is a project in which we are full partners and not only bystanders.

Ensuring proper consultation is also a key concern of the Forth Bridge World Heritage Nomination Steering Group, operating under the umbrella of the Forth Bridges Forum and in which Historic Scotland plays a key role. The Forth Bridges Forum is about to launch a wide and extensive consultation amongst local government and community groups. For North Queensferry, the main channel through which that communication is being facilitated is the Community Council (though other groups both sides of the river, such as the North Queensferry Heritage Trust, the South Queensferry History Group and the South Queensferry Community Council are also being involved in this process). The Community Council has a place on the World Heritage Nomination Steering Group. In addition, the Community Council is helping the Forum to facilitate a Public Consultation Meeting with representatives of the Steering Group and Fife Council at the Community Centre at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 11th June. This is the best opportunity for everyone to hear about and influence the evolving plans, though, of course you can also feed into the process through the Community Council by speaking to any Community Councillor.

The result of the World Heritage bid is likely to be announced in 2015, but a more immediate happening will be the enormous big party which is to be held in 2014 to celebrate 50 years since the opening of the Forth Road Bridge. Though there will be some disruption (the bridge is likely to be closed for a few hours to allow the event to be held on it!) it will be, above all, a tremendous party for everyone involved, including the people of North Queensferry. The Community Council is also very much involved in the consultation and planning which is surrounding that event, and, again, has a representative on the organising Committee.

The upshot of all of this is that the Community Council is very heavily involved in the above, as well as the more bread and butter issues such as police liaison, scrutiny of planning applications and acting as the statutory consultee for matters affecting North Queensferry. Unfortunately, we have lost a number of our members recently, and so have a number of vacancies. If any of you would wish to be more involved in all of this work which so intimately affects the whole village, we should be very happy to hear from you. Please get in touch with any of the Community Councillors, or with me at igmitchell@easynet.co.uk.

The Council continues to meet at 7.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Community Centre. Members of the public are welcome to come along.

Iain G. Mitchell QC, Vice-Chairman.

Fiftieth Anniversary of Church building

On 19 April, North Queensferry Church held a "Pot Luck Supper" and on Sunday 21 April, a Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication, to celebrate 50 years since the present building in Ferryhills Road was brought into use. This Church was dedicated by Rev Douglas Beck just prior to the induction of Harold Troup, which took place on 27 March 1963.

The charge, which has been linked with Inverkeithing since 1958, had a further four Ministers before the arrival in September 2012 of Rev. Colin Alston. By co-incidence there have also been six Session Clerks in post during those 50 years, one of whom (Helen Leitch) served for 22 years from 1990 to 2012.

Part of our celebration has been the hanging of a new banner in the Church.

The present building is in fact the third Church to have existed in this village, on three different sites. There was a pre-reformation Chapel, the ruins of which are in Chapel Place. It was reputedly built on the orders of King Robert the Bruce about 1320-1323 and dedicated to St. James. According to a local historian it may actually be even older. It may have been burned during the invasion of the English in 1547 and is said to have been further demolished by Cromwellian troops in 1651. The space was in use as a burial ground in 1842, although now no further burials are permitted. The now demolished Free Church, which was in Main Street (where Old Kirk Road now is) was opened on 14 July 1878. It was built in three months and had seating for 230. It had become beyond economic repair by the early 1960s. For a time services were held in the Primary School. The current building was completed in 1963.

The current Church was constructed with the advice of the National Church Extension Committee and has been modernised and improved over the years. In October 1965 Presbytery approved the building of the hall at the rear of the Church; by January 1966 the sum of £1,015 had been raised in the village. The foundations were laid in May 1966 and the hall was dedicated by Mr Troup on 11 September 1966. By March 1968 the cost of the hall had been paid off. More recently, the heating and lighting has been updated and the Church has been re-roofed and new doors and windows installed.

In the late eighteenth century *Old Statistical Account*, the village is described as being in the Parish of Dunfermline. In the *New Statistical Account*

(1842) it is mentioned as part of the Parish of Inverkeithing. The 1855 edition of the OS map shows it to be in the parish of Dunfermline, while back in 1695 Inverkeithing Session admonished the people of this place for operating ferry boats on a Sunday. Clearly the question of geographical responsibility was not always clearly fixed in everyone's mind.

Although our Congregation is one of the smaller ones in the country, it has a high percentage of active members and strives to make its presence felt in this community.

We recently received a flattering mention on the <http://communityprideinfife.co.uk/wp/?p=1117> website which describes the efforts of various communities in Fife.

Walking Group

Despite the weather earlier in the year the group almost managed to stick with the programme. We have had an average of 12 walkers over the last few weeks and are happy to welcome any newcomers. There are still a few walks on our current programme as follows:

June 5	Powmill to Rumbling Bridge - 3 ½ or 5 m
June 19	Cramond Island - 3 m

Further information from Janet King on 416734 or jking1@btinternet.com

Contributions for the next issue

are to be with us by
Friday 4th October 2013
to 7 Carlingnose Park
E: mary@ferrynews.org.uk.



Dalgety Bay
Chiropractic
Clinic

Victoria Thompson DC, BSc
Dalgety Bay Business Centre
Ridge Way
Dalgety Bay
KY11 9JN

To book your appointment, please contact
01383 829310
www.dalgetybaychiropractic.co.uk

What were NQ SWRI up to this year?

We began our 2nd year on 27th September 2012 with a birthday cake to celebrate our 1st birthday. We were pleased to welcome five new members, but sorry that four others had to temporarily stop being members, either through their own or family illness, or extended overseas visits. We have had another great year with a very varied programme of events - some 'hands on' demonstrations and some interesting and thought provoking talks. The constant element however, has been the laughter and friendship we have all shared.

We meet on the last Thursday of every month at 7.30 in the Church Hall Ferryhills Rd. Here is what we did this session.

27th September - Jean Boath, nationally acclaimed collage artist, gave a fascinating demonstration of printing on fabric and ideas on embellishing it to make beautiful wall hangings.

25th October - Linda and Edith from 'Ellanee' held a workshop on 'One-stroke painting'. A simple but most effective colour graduation technique, used in 'barge' decoration etc.

22nd November - We had a visit from 22 ladies from Aberdour Branch who showed us how to make little boxes from old Christmas cards. We then enjoyed a 'traditional rural' tea that our NQ members had prepared.

24th January - Lyndsey Evans (one of our members) gave a talk on 'House Swapping'. She intrigued us with pictures and stories of the many places, all over the world, that she has visited through exchanging her house, for a holiday.

28th February - We had a visit to our local Bistro 'Rankins' who tempted our taste buds with an array of treats. We also sampled the purest of chocolate (made in Scotland).

28th March - Two 'Street Pastors' from Dunfermline told us about their work with young people at risk on the streets, through excess drink or through other mishaps.

25th April - Liliac Macdonald showed us pictures taken on her world cruise, keeping us captivated with tales of her travels, with her usual charm and enthusiasm.

23rd May - An planned outing to the Hidden Gardens of the Royal Mile Edinburgh has had to be postponed, but members hope to meet for a meal out that evening.

New members are always made most welcome - whether for a one off talk or the whole session. We emphasise that we run a very informal and friendly group - and try to be as 'unstuffy' as possible! So whether you love (or hate) doing crafts or cooking but would just like to make and meet friends - Come along and give us a try.

We are now 'closing' for the summer but hope to continue meeting (even less informally) for a walk

or pub meal on the last Thursday of the month. We start again 'officially' on Thursday 26th September with "My Secret Kitchen' Taste and Try Demo".
Ann Bain President 07734 517361

The Rotary Club of Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay

The Rotary Club aims to support the communities in Rosyth, North Queensferry, Inverkeithing, Dalgety Bay and Aberdour through hands on participation in, for example, school events and community activities and through occasional financial contributions to deserving charities and local organisations. At the club's recent annual general meeting in the Queensferry Hotel the president, John Liston, was able to report that around £20,000 would be distributed to international, national and local organisations by the end of June. Support had been given to a number of international projects, most notably a further £1,200 to Rotary International's campaign to eradicate polio worldwide which included funds raised through the sale of "polio crocuses" in the Albert Hotel. In addition, substantial donations had been given to the Fife Society for the Blind, Alzheimers Scotland and to MacMillan Cancer Care. Funding was also provided in support of several local school events including the popular rotary primary school quiz in which the pupils from North Queensferry Primary School participated. Thanks to all those who have supported the club's fundraising events. The club has recently placed floral planters at a number of local railway stations, including North Queensferry, and club members will take it in turns throughout the summer to maintain the displays. Members will also be present at the North Queensferry Gala and at the Village Show later in the year. The club continues to meet each Wednesday at 12.30 in the Queensferry Hotel where an informal lunch is usually followed by a speaker from a local charity, organisation or business. Anyone interested in attending a meeting would be made very welcome. Further information is available from the secretary, Bob Tait, on 01383 860695.

Village Coffee Group

The Group meet in the Church on alternate Wednesdays where they enjoy home baking, tea, coffee and chat. It is usually fairly lively and friendly so if you would like to join us just come along on May 29, June 12 or June 26.

Chris Duguid can arrange transport if needed, tel. 413372

Church Fete

A busy afternoon on 4th May raised the sum of £908 of which £100 will be donated to the hospital the Church supports in Chegoria. Thank you to everyone who supported the Fete either by their attendance or donations and apologies to those who missed out on the meringues!

North Queensferry: East Delhi.....a personal comparison as a VSO volunteer.

Back in North Queensferry for some weeks and the culture shock persists. Maybe living for nine months, totally immersed in the life around me in India, east Delhi to be precise, is something to do with it. When I arrived at Heathrow I could not even remember how to put money on my mobile phone! There are many fond memories of my time spent in India and some I would rather forget. There are good and not so good things there and here.

During my last weeks in east Delhi, after I had my ticket home, I began to yearn for water from the tap, a hot shower, a washing machine, some cheddar cheese and quietness. I now have all these and I think back fondly to days of sunshine and settled weather and going to work without a coat or umbrella or even a cardigan. I think about my landlady's family with their two boys, both mad on cricket, who embraced me as part of the family so that I enjoyed numerous welcoming cups of tea, tasty meals and occasions with their extended family. I miss the bright light and vivid colours: blue skies, flowering shrubs and trees and women in flowing garments. I miss the stalls selling a wonderful selection of fruits and vegetables....all fresh and all seasonal. I miss the friendly "good mornings" from the young men cleaning cars, the cycle rickshaw men, the chai wallers, the office/house

guards and other pedestrians when walking along a road. Of course the friendliness and concern might have been because I was the only white person around... whatever... it is a happy memory. The streets of North Queensferry seem so empty and quiet as people are cocooned in their private bubble, in their cars.

Now, back home, it is a great pleasure listening to the Scottish small birds chirping away and the blackbird singing for his territory but I also miss the constant whirr and screech of Black Kites, Eagles and Buzzards and the chirp chirp of the Chipmunks sounding very much like irate Robins.

In North Queensferry I wake up to the first train crossing the bridge and then the increasing roar from the traffic on the road bridge. In Delhi I woke up to the haunting sound of the Muslim call to prayer at about 5.10 am closely followed by singing from the Sikh temple. Then, at 6.30 am, with the exception of Sunday, would be the first of many shrill beeping school minibuses alerting their pupils.

If I have to nail down my thoughts to the main differences between living in Fife and in east Delhi I think they must be water, noise and dust.

Here I have been enjoying drinking water from the tap and do not have to remember to buy large 25 litre containers of drinking water. However being in Delhi meant that I was lucky to have a tap with water, even if not drinkable. As a volunteer in



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basic accommodation I had bucket showers (a large basin with a jug). It is laughable that when it was really hot weather, from July to September, when I needed a cold shower, I could only get very hot water from the tap and had to wait for it to cool. There was no cold water as the sun was heating the water in my tank on the roof! In Scotland we are lucky to have pressurised water in the tap. In Delhi, as in every household, I became disciplined to switching on the water pump to fill my water tank early morning and in the evening. The times for me to do this were 7am and 6pm so on a Sunday there was the choice between having water or a lie in bed! Being back home means a washing machine....it is so nice not to have to do my washing by hand anymore....clothes were OK, but sheets and towels required the strength of a wrestling athlete. A friend taught me that the best way to wring out something large, say a towel is to stand on one end while twisting the other....it works.

The constant noise, people, music and the honking of vehicles was difficult to live with after the quietness of North Queensferry even with the roar of the bridge. I lived beside Hindu and Jain temples and learned to enjoy the music. However, particularly during January, which is the wedding season, there was very loud music across the colony well into most nights. My accommodation was in a basatis, a room on the roof open to most sounds. In the night I would frequently be woken up by the reassuring clonk clonk of the security guard's stick and the shrill cry from his whistle. It was his job to keep the colony where I lived secure and it was hoped that the whistle and stick would scare any ill doers. Delhi has many colonies which are like housing estates but usually consist only of flats. Regulations in Delhi do not allow flats to be more than four stories high. Most colonies have at least one small rectangular park for children to play in, women to exercise by walking briskly round in the late afternoons and use as a meeting place for community events. Living in the col-

ony was like living in a big family ...you knew everyone and they knew all your actions, visitors, etc.

The British law against blowing vehicle horns makes for such quiet streets that it is possible to walk and have a conversation. I'm sure most drivers in India, as in many other countries, think that the horn is a safety mechanism and in town centres it is impossible to walk and talk. If the horn is hooting a vehicle can go anywhere at any time without thinking about other road users. Likewise with no regular take up of traffic rules it is very scary trying to cross a road... something which I can happily do without.

I miss the sounds and smells of close community living: spicy odours, frying onions and incense sticks; the cries of men selling vegetables/ fruit/ dairy products/ plants or collecting rubbish or the juice and snack vendors sellers; children of all ages from about two years playing together usually football, cricket and badminton and even hop scotch and sometimes frantic games of hide and seek often well into dusk. The colony appeared so safe that parents allowed their young children to 'play out'. Often a wee girl I knew would greet me several roads from her home.

Leave a house in North Queensferry and it will become dusty but Scottish dust is nothing compared with the dust of Asia. This dust is pink/brown and very fine and settles on everything. All white clothes change to a become pale beige colour and without glass covered cupboards books are damaged and kitchen, eating and drinking things need washing before use.....even the soap suds from lathering my hair were the shade of coffee ice cream.

This brief comparison only just touches on some of my experience and has not mentioned meeting so many wonderful people who were helpful, friendly and so polite. Likewise I have never heard a British Rail intercom 'deeply regret' a train being late although trains are late in both countries!

Make Music

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North Queensferry Community Centre

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For more information contact Zoe: 07902477115

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Railway Station Building

North Queensferry Station Trust is delighted to announce that the refurbishment of the inside of our historic, Grade B listed, station building is now ready to start. The Trust's application was evaluated initially by Transport Scotland and funding for the project has now been given by the Stations Community Regeneration.

As many of you will know the building has been empty for the past 25 years with no power or water supply. The restoration of both these utilities is a first priority for the Trust who will be working closely with Scotrail and Network Rail, the building's owner, as the restoration process gets underway.

The plans for the use of the 3 refurbished rooms are to have: 1, A visitor information point and limited refreshments for travellers; 2, A multi purpose waiting room that can be hired by community groups; 3, A railway themed exhibition that is organised and updated by the Heritage Trust.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of station or railway artefacts that would help to ensure the authenticity of the restoration and exhibition then the Trust would be delighted to hear from you. Contact in the first instance should be made to jj.lawson@talktalk.net

The restoration of the station building happily coincides with the public consultation process for the nomination of the Forth Bridge for World Heritage Status.

Village Show

The theme for this years show is "Natural Scotland" which gives great scope for interpretation!

The children will be receiving pots pre-planted with two sunflower seeds plus brief instructions on cultivation. The competition is to see who can grow the tallest sunflower. As part of the Village Show schedule there will be an entry form to be submitted by children who wish to enter their sunflower into the competition. The tallest flowers will be measured prior to the show.

The Village Show is open to all villagers to enter. The more entries the more interesting the show! A lot of work goes into the preparation of the show so please take part and ensure its success.

Saturday 31st August 2013

14.00 to 16.00

in the

Community Centre

Admission: Adult - £1,

Child/ Conc - 50p, Family - £2.50