



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

Village Let Down - a letter from Help Our North Queensferry (HONQ)

This open letter from members of HONQ was sent to Steve Grimmond, Fife Council's Chief Executive and to members of the local and national press on 9 December 2015. Fife Council are treating this letter as a complaint and as such we can expect a reply by 19 January 2016.

The media have been in touch and the Courier photographed a representative group HONQ members down at the Town Pier on 31 December.

Village Let Down

We wish to make you aware and to put into the public domain our disappointment with the manner in which the recent approval for the provision of a floating pontoon alongside the Town Pier at North Queensferry has been conducted.

The pier, for which Fife Council is responsible but has failed to maintain, is an A listed structure and is on the Buildings at Risk Register due to its condition. Fife Council accordingly made an application to the Coastal Communities fund for a grant to consolidate it. Reports by structural engineers revealed that between £250,000 and £400,000 would be required. For reasons which are still unclear, this application was amended to one seeking to provide a floating pontoon instead. This resulted in the award of £754,439.

Since then, another application has been submitted for funds to repair the pier and Fife Council officers have stated that, even if it is successful, they still intend to proceed with the provision of a pontoon rather than save many thousands of pounds for the public purse.

The planning application for the pontoon attracted in excess of thirty objections from local residents, including one from the Community Council. Despite this, and in the full knowledge that a supplementary funding bid for repair of the pier, which would negate the need for the pontoon, had been submitted, the planning process continued and approval was granted.

Many residents of North Queensferry are extremely disappointed by the inclusion of some questionable supporting statements in the planning application, the planning process itself and the subsequent decision. They are also saddened by what is seen as a rather opportunistic manipulation of the funding application process.

We are immensely proud of our village, its historic setting and its conservation status and in the light of recent events we now have little faith in Fife Council's ability or willingness to preserve it in the face of more tourist related and commercially driven proposals which could be made, such as the visitor centre envisaged by Network Rail.

Toddlers Group

The toddlers group meets most Thursdays 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, equally important is the adults corner where you can relax with a drink and have a chat. A £1.50 charge covers refreshments, including a snack for the children.

Hope to see you there!

Coming soon.....celebrate Spring with some Easter crafts on Thursday 24th March, should be egg-cellent fun!

Everyone is very welcome!

Spring

Her flimsy coverlet of the night,
He has ripped and cast away.
Suppliant and slowly warming up,
she lies, in disarray

Lovingly, he covers her o'er,
With kisses warm and light.
Languidly, she surrenders,
To her golden, shining, Knight

Exhilarating golden shafts,
penetrate to the core.

Avidly she absorbs him,
still, she asks for more

So eagerly, she awaited him,
all throughout the night.
Now with the Morn', the Sun has come,
infused her, with his light

All the seeds that ly within,
dormant, in her womb.
Soon, his heat shall bring them forth,
bursting in to bloom

Bobby Banks

Ethiopian Multiplication (or how to multiply without multiplying)

Suppose you want to multiply 17 by 43. Make two columns with 17 & 43 at the top. In the first column, keep halving the number, ignoring any fractions till you get to 1. In the second, keep doubling till you're level with the bottom of the first column.

So	17	43
	8	86
	4	172
	2	344
	1	688

Now score out any number on the right that's opposite an even number.

So	17	43
	8	86
	4	172
	2	344
	1	688

Add up the remaining numbers on the right.
 $43 + 688 = 731$. And $17 \times 43 = 731$. Guaranteed to work every time.



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VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

There is a fortnightly "get together" in the Church for coffee and a chat every second Wednesday, from 10:30 to 12 noon – the dates for the first half of 2016 are shown below. This is aimed at all villagers, not just the Church congregation, so why not come along. A lift can be arranged for anyone who has difficulty walking there – contact Chris Duguid on 413372.

2016 Coffee Morning Timetable			
February	10	24	
March	9	23	
April	6	20	
May	4	18	
June	1	15	29

In 2015 we raised £768 in donations from those attending the coffee mornings which we have donated to the good causes detailed below.

2015 DONATIONS BY COFFEE MORNING		
March	£31	Toddlers Group
April	£93	Chernobyl Children
May	£47	HIV AIDS
June	£44	NQ Gala Committee
July	£100	Progressive Supra Nuclear Palsy
August	£58	Ferry News
September	£275	Special McMillan Coffee Morning
October	£40	NQ School
November	£60	Toddler Group
December	£20	Church Electricity Bill

Thank you to everyone for their kind donations.

Heritage Trust

North Queensferry Heritage Trust welcomes 2016 with a new year of membership. This year for the first time, membership is for NQHT as a SCIO, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Heritage Trust transferred to this new legal structure in September last year, one of the benefits includes

limited liability to the membership. The previous structure will require an AGM and this is expected to be held in the Spring of this year. The new membership forms will be sent out in mid-January 2016.

We have another great year for our evening talks programme and will continue to have some nature walks during the different seasons. We started the year with a nature walk on Saturday 16th January, when John Done updated us on the migrant visitors, including a rare bird that was spotted during the first week of the new year. The talks start on 23rd February with a talk by Jack Eady (born in North Queensferry) on the shipbreaking company at Dalgety Bay, who started in Inverkeithing and later moved to St David's Harbour. At the end of March we will hear about the saltworks at Inverkeithing (on the site of the old paper mill). We are also fortunate to get a talk from one of the present Forth River Pilots, who is in charge of piloting the aircraft carriers being built at Rosyth. Later in the year we will welcome a talk on the Innocent Railway in Edinburgh and a talk on the history of the bicycle by Louise Innes, who lives in the village.

This year the Village Show will be held later than usual on the 10th September. Also in September we will be conducting our regular Open Door walking tours round the village. We will have our usual nature walks throughout the year. All our events will be posted up on the website and facebook page. We hope that you will join us throughout the year.



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Ferry Birds –October 2015 to January 2016

West Bay has been the usual focus for water-side birds in the autumn and winter. The mainstays are the **redshanks** which number about 35. They are joined by a good number of **oystercatchers**, 2 or 3 **curlews** and there have also been a several **turnstones** feeding amongst the seaweed and a few **dunlin** (15 on the 7th January) on the mud in the bay. This winter only 2 **shelducks** have been in West Bay. The first time I saw them was on December 20th. There are also **black-headed, common** and **herring gulls** as well as the occasional **great-black-backed gull**. There seem to have been more **common gulls** with the others this winter.

As usual Port Laing has been the site for the **red-breasted mergansers** which spend the winter months around the Forth Estuary. There have been fewer this winter and they have been joined by some **goldeneyes** although more of these congregate in Inverkeithing Inner Bay. About 20 were there on the 6th of January. Several **little grebes** have also been spotted from the coastal path and 2 **great-crested grebes** were on the sea in Inverkeithing Inner Bay on the 8th of January. It should also be noted that the **mute swans** which breed at the mouth of the Keithing Burn raised 5 young this year. They have often been visible from the coastal path sailing serenely about waiting for the next person to come along to feed them. A **mute swan** also paid a fleeting visit to West Bay on the 22nd of November. I have also noted a **grey heron** in West Bay feeding at the edge of the tide. **Hérons** have a distinctive barking call which drew my attention to one as it took off and flew towards the west side of railway pier.

One of the first birds to start calling and proclaiming territorial rights is the **song thrush**. It can often be heard in December but I haven't heard any in the village so far this winter. Maybe the weather has put them off. I did however hear one near Inverkeithing station on the 6th of January and one at Ferrytoll a day later.

As to the less common local birds, I have seen the **peregrine** on the quarry face from Ferryhills and I have seen or heard a **raven** a couple of times from the same place. A roost of up to 10 **grey herons** in the working quarry

has also been reported. Other sightings have been flocks of **redwings** and **fieldfares** over the station on two occasions in October and a **sparrowhawk** upsetting the **feral pigeons** by the school on the 3rd of January and spreading alarm in West Bay one day in December. A **great-northern diver** showed up off the Town pier on the 6th of January while I was searching for **little auks** (see later). As far as I know the **fulmars** have not yet appeared on Inchgarvie although, as last year, there were some on the cliffs at Kinghorn Bay on the 4th and 8th of January.

I have had a few sightings of some unusual birds around the village. The most surprising was a **little auk**. It is a sea bird so I was quite surprised to find one fluttering about by the coastal path near Carlingnose Point on the 5th of January. I managed to catch it and launch it back onto the sea in West Bay. I saw it, or another one, in the Bay on the 6th and then saw 2 more later on that day near the Guvie Pier. **Little auks** are small black and white birds related to **guillemots** and **razorbills**. They breed in huge numbers on cliffs in the arctic. In winter they move south and are seen in small numbers along the North Sea coasts of the United Kingdom. Occasionally, often after strong northerly winds, they appear in large numbers and this winter this has happened. They even featured on the BBC Scotland 6:30 news bulletin on the 6th of January. Another unusual sighting for me was on the 1st of December when 2 female **blackcaps** paid a brief visit to my garden. **Blackcaps** normally spend the winter in Africa, but over the last 20 years some have taken to wintering in the United Kingdom and they have been seen in North Queensferry several times over the years.

Maintenance work on the Carlingnose Reserve was carried out last November with the help of a work party from the SWT head office in Edinburgh. You may have noticed the squad at work on the 17th of November. There were about 20 people and we were able to extend the area of grassland significantly and remove all the cuttings from the site.

As usual a plea to leave some areas in your garden wild so that our resident birds and winter visitors have good places where they can scavenge for food in relative safety.

John Done

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Class Timetable

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Tuesday	12.30-1.30pm	Cramond Kirk Hall
Wednesday	10.00-11.00am	D.Mains Parish Church
Thursday	9.55-10.55am	Dalgety Parish Church
Thursday	11.05am-12.05pm	Dalgety Parish Church
Friday	10.00-11.00am	NQ Community Centre

Contact: [Amanda Johnstone](mailto:amanda@simplypilates.org)

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The Rotary Club of Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay

Rotary Club members were shocked and saddened to hear of the unexpected death on Christmas Day of their past president Hamish Ferguson. Hamish had been an English and history teacher at Inverkeithing High School and was held in high esteem by students and colleagues. He played an active part in Rotary activities and was frequently the first to volunteer his services. He made a huge contribution to the communities the club supports across west Fife. He was, in many ways, a larger than life character and will be very much missed by his Rotary friends.

The club's next major fundraising event is its annual coffee morning which will take place in the church hall, Aberdour, between 10 am and 12 noon on Saturday 27 February. In addition to the usual coffees and cakes there will be household goods and book stalls, a raffle and a tombola.

HONQ - Help Our North Queensferry

HONQ was set up summer 2014 as a single-issue campaign group in response to Network Rail's Visitor Attraction proposals. In the interim Fife Council have applied for Planning permission for a pontoon off the Town Pier to compliment the Network Rail proposals. As a consequence HONQ now addresses both these issues.

HONQ, with its local membership in excess of 120 people meets every month. HONQ representatives attend North Queensferry Community Council meetings to make representations and also correspond with Senior Officers at Fife Council.

HONQ is in favour of the Forth Bridge World Heritage status.

The objectives of HONQ are as follows:

To focus on maintaining and preserving the character of the village of North Queensferry and the right of residents to enjoy its peace and calm.

To ensure residents are fully consulted and informed on any changes proposed for the

village, with particular reference to traffic generation.

To support existing and new businesses consistent with the character of the village.

To make representation on behalf of HONQ supporters to the decision makers in Fife Council, North Queensferry Community Council and relevant Government Departments.

The next meeting of HONQ is on Tuesday 23rd February in the Ferrybridge Hotel. Please come along, everyone is welcome.

Contributions for the next issue

are to be with us by

Friday 6th May 2016

to 7 Carlingnose Park

E: mary@ferrynews.org.uk

MEET IN CHURCH CAR PARK AT 10am
TO ORGANISE CARS.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
EILEEN DONALDSON ON 412874

17 February	Coastal Path	3.5	L	Starting at Ravenscraig Castle, Kirkcaldy, down to Dysart harbor then past defunct Frances colliery then St Mary's Chapel to the village of West Wemyss. Bus to Kirkcaldy. Those who wish can continue to East Wemyss
2 March	Shiresmill	2.5 or 4	C	The annual Snowdrop in the policies of long gone Valleyfield house Through the woods, along the riverbank. This can be shortened or lengthened to suit
16 March	Flotterstone	2.5	C	A gentle walk up Glencorse on vg path with views over the reservoir, returning past Castlelaw firing ranges.
30 March	Aberdour	5 or less	L	This is the annual daffodil walk from Dalgety Bay to Aberdour and can be shortened or lengthened to suit.
13 April	Leven	4	C	Along the shore of the Forth before turning inland past the golf course and the fruit farms then back through Letham Glen.
27 April	Dalmeny	3 to 6.5	C	SQF to Dalmeny village then through Dameny estate along the shore back to SQF. Mostly good paths with alternatives to shorten the walk to 3 & 5 miles.
11 May	Corstorphine Hill	4.5	C	Despite its name this is a very gentle gradient on reasonable paths through mainly woodland but affording good views over Edinburgh and beyond.
25 May	Pattiesmuir	2.5 or 5	C	This is actually a figure of 8 walk, starting up through woodland then over open farmland before taking the Coffin road to the old church at Limekilns. Paths and tracks !
8 June	Dunkeld	3.5 to 5	C	A choice of walks, including the Hermitage Ossians hall , Falls of Braan.
22 June	Lomond Hills	3.5	C	A walk up to east Lomond, then over to the shoulder for views over Fife. For the more energetic up to the summit then down to the shoulder.

Twinning Visit to Hohoe Ghana 31st March 14th April 2016.

By way of an update on the above visit I can report that plans are at an advanced stage for the visit of Rev Colin Alston and Ann Low to Hohoe in Ghana.

Readers will remember from the last issue of the Ferry News that I pointed out one of the enormous advantages of visitors going from North Queensferry to Hohoe was that, as their flights are classified as charity flights, it allows each of them to carry 2 cases of 23Kgs.

This provides an ideal opportunity to transport much needed items which otherwise would cost a prohibitive amount to post.

These items include:

- children's and adults flip flops,
- football strips and shorts,
- summer tee shirts large and small,
- childrens summer clothes,
- pens, pencils and note books.

In addition, old laptop computers which are in working order and suitably cleared of personal data can also be sent.

To facilitate the collection of such items suitcases will be placed at the rear of the church and people are invited to drop their donated items into the cases after church on a Sunday.

If you are unable to donate any of the above items but would like to offer some support to our twinned community in Hohoe please come along to the church on **Sunday 31st January at 12.30** at which time we will be having a **Sunday Brunch event (with a difference)** as a fund raiser. The BIG difference at this event is that instead of soup, biscuits and cheese, this will be a SOUP and PUDDING brunch!!!!

Suitcases will also be available for filling at that event.

Should you wish any more information about any of the above please contact Douglas or Jan Short on 01383 416492.



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Community Councillors Appointed

Two new Councillor appointments were approved at the monthly North Queensferry Community Council (NQCC) meeting on January 14, 2016. David Shields shall have a particular interest in environmental concerns and Peter Selbie, as a long term resident of the village, will take a general interest in the concerns of North Queensferry residents.

If you are interested in joining the Community Council and would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact the Chair, Iain G Mitchell or the Secretary, Barbara McKechnie. Contact details are on the website, www.nqcc.co.uk.

Community Engagement Meeting's

The Inverkeithing and North Queensferry Community Engagement Meetings will be held on the dates below. The meetings will start at 1830 hours at The Old Townhouse, Townhall Street, Inverkeithing:-

Monday 28th March 2016
Monday 30th May 2016
Monday 01st August 2016
Monday 03rd October 2016
Monday 05th December 2016



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Meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month
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Visitors welcome: £3.50 per meeting
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Meet up with old friends or make new ones
Try out new crafts and share interests
Keep in touch with village news

25 February 2016 - Zentangle creative drawing
31 March 2016 - Talk on 'Mary's Meals'
28 April 2016 - AGM, food, fun, & games night
26 May 2016 - Visit to East Fortune Museum of Flight

NB March meeting is on last Thursday of month due to Easter

Further information from Anne Monteith (01383 412365)





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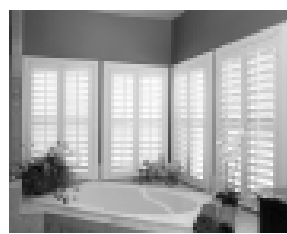
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