

## T h e

## e r r



Issue 87 October 2017 www.ferrynews.org.uk

#### **Community Council**

Since the Community Council's last Ferry News report concerning meetings in the first third of 2017, we have held our usual monthly meetings in May, June, July and September. Similar to Fife Council, we had a break in August. This 'hiatus', however, proved to be at a very inconvenient time as we battled to ensure as many village residents as possible had the opportunity to take part in the Queensferry Crossing opening celebrations.

Edinburgh Airport's consultation process over the proposed new flight paths has continued. As yet no final decisions have been made partly due to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) temporarily halting its review of the airport changes causing a pause in Edinburgh Airport's decision process. Any progress/decision will be publicised in the Community Council website and minutes of meetings. Additionally up to date information is available on the website: <a href="https://www.letsgofurther.com">www.letsgofurther.com</a>

Focus has continued on finding a final resting place for the Beamer Light Tower. It appears that after many months of meetings and discussions, including an offer of an alternative site at West Bay, Fife Council has decided not to proceed in North Queensferry and is looking instead to rebuild it in Kincardine where, apparently, funding may be available from a coal regeneration fund to assist meeting the costs.

Our first meeting after the summer break was particularly concerned with the inconsiderate parking and antisocial behaviour at the Town Pier turning circle. Pierhead Building residents have expressed serious concern over the noise and behaviour of what appears to be 'boy racers' meeting in the evenings and staying until often the early hours of the morning. Your council are in contact with the Police who have offered more sup-

port to the village, though the Police have stressed that any incidents need to be reported to them and an incident number obtained, otherwise the Police will not know when these incidents are happening and will have no proper records on which to base action. If nothing is reported nothing can be done to improve the situation.

As in previous Community Council meetings there have been reports from local community groups, consultation on planning applications, reports from the Police and from your local Fife Council Councillors (Alice McGarry, David Barratt and David Dempsey) who are all taking an active role in village issues and giving very good support to the Community Council in its work.

For further information please look at the minutes of meetings on our website (www.nqcc.co.uk). The current (draft) minutes are also displayed on the village notice boards.

## LIKE TO COME CAROL SINGING?



It has been suggested that we resurrect Carol Singing around the village this December

If you can hold a tune, or play a (portable) instrument, please get in touch with North Queensferry Church. Members of <u>all</u> denominations are encouraged to join together, to help the village celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. Contact Ann on 417734

Your Community Council meets on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Everyone is welcome



The Forth Bridge Heritage Centre (FBHC) at the North Queensferry station is run by a group of volunteers who have one thing in common – passion and enthusiasm for promoting the Forth Bridge as Scotland's 6th World Heritage Site. Our group includes engineers, executives, teachers and other professionals who have a common goal of wishing to promote the outstanding values of this world-renowned Scottish icon.

As a registered charity, North Queensferry Heritage Trust <a href="www.nqht.org">www.nqht.org</a> now manages the station. It took over after the excellent refurbishment work by the North Queensferry Station Trust. To cover the running costs of the FBHC, Lonnie Wright from the village is now using the old ticket office to blend and roast coffee beans. His website for online orders is - <a href="mailto:3Bridges.coffee">3Bridges.coffee</a> - see more info elsewhere in the Ferry News.

The original "Ladies Waiting Room" is now the "Gallery" and is used for showing the heritage of the Forth Bridge with lots of memorabilia. There are many interesting Forth Bridge pictures, a beautiful model of the Queen Margaret Ferry, a piece of the actual steel structure as well as examples of the original Forth Bridge paint cans!



The Flying Scotsman © Garry's Photographs 2012

For our rail enthusiasts, Scotland's Rail Preservation Society (SPRS) still runs steam excursions over The Forth Bridge. On most Sundays, locals can hear the distinctive whistle as vintage steam locomotives cross this iconic structure. For the SRPS schedule check out their website at

#### www.srps.org.uk.

The **Gallery** is open most days from 8am to 6pm, so when you get a chance do pop in and see what we've got on display. Currently there is also an exhibition about the Battle of Inverkeithing back in 1651. The exhibition is called "Kingdoms in Crisis" because back then, the state of the UK was (also;) in crisis. This battle became one of the most important in these islands, it is described on the wall panels by our local village historians. It gave control of Scotland to the forces of Oliver Cromwell that lead to the end of the civil war and the beginning of a united kingdom. There is also a freerunning slide show presentation of the battle.

Meetings in the **Waiting Room** can use a large screen multi-media TV for online content as well as local presentations. For other events traditional picture rails are installed in the Waiting Room. We hope that these will protect the well preserved vintage paneling.

We have also set up a "ForthBridgeHeritageCentre" **Facebook** page to provide interesting history and updates to everyone about the Forth Bridge - Scotland's 6<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Site. The inscription for our local 'grand Old lady" was long over due as it has been a marvel of engineering and is still fully operational since its opening in 1890.

Through Facebook we plan to add to your knowledge of this wonderful structure that is one of the most photographed structures in the U.K.



Forth Bridge & LightTower © Garry's Photographs 2017

As we know this view of the Forth Bridge is spectacular. No wonder it is one of the most photographed sights in the UK! Together with the world's smallest operational Light Tower <a href="https://www.northqueensferrylighttower.com">www.northqueensferrylighttower.com</a> they make a great picture.

On Sunday the 17th September, we joined the West Fife Doors Open Day. It was a great success with visitors from across Fife as well as further afield such as Austria, Italy, Japan as well as south of the border. Hopefully the word has now got out that the station or the Forth Bridge Heritage Centre is open to host meetings (seating for up to 35 with free WiFi). The past few events are described below.

On the 18th April we worked with Historic & Environment Scotland (HES) sponsors of **Scotland in 6** to celebrate our six World Heritage Sites. This included a **3 Minutes in 1890** event that was organized by W. Steele (Atticus Oldman) of <a href="https://www.steampunkalmanac.co.uk">www.steampunkalmanac.co.uk</a>. A small entertainment group was present along with costumed performers and taster workshops of all things Victoriana. This included a vintage Photographic Booth where visitors could try out the various costumes available. But why three minutes? Because, as locals and train enthusiasts know, it takes you just three minutes to cross this engineering marvel!



© RobMcDougall.com 2017

These were followed by the **Artline** Weekend sponsored by ScotRail that took place on the 29th and 30th April at various railway stations in Fife. These stations have been restored or adopted by individuals or groups including North Queensferry, Inverkeithing, Aberdour, Burntisland, Kinghorn, Kirkcaldy, Cupar and others. You can find out more information here... <a href="http://www.theartline.co.uk/">http://www.theartline.co.uk/</a>



Artline - North Queensferry Station © Garry's Photographs 2017

The last event, held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, was a Macmillan Fund Raiser held by 3Bridges.coffee. It was successful with several hundreds of pounds going to this excellent cause.

**FBHC** is now ready to host meetings with village led groups getting a good discount on the standard hourly rate. Catering can also be arranged. The Waiting Room has access to WiFi and can host a meeting of up to 16 around a large meeting table and an extra 20 or so on the original and comfortable bench seating. The Gallery next door can also hold a further 12 and would be ideal for a breakout room. Naturally the regular trains pass with some stopping for passengers, however, privacy is maintained.

Last weekend, <u>3Bridges.coffee</u> opened and held a fund raising event for the MacMillan Cancer relief fund. It was a busy morning with lots of visitors sampling the excellent coffee and the great range of cakes that had been baked for this occasion.

We are very grateful to a small number of volunteers who help with managing the centre; cleaning; hosting visitors and acting as guides... so do get in touch if you are interested in helping. For walking parties we have a few knowledgeable guides who can show and tell the history and natural history of the area.

Naturally we would be delighted to accept donations of Forth Bridge memorabilia you have. They would be given a good home for the benefit of local, national and international visitors who come to see **Scotland's 6**<sup>th</sup> **World Heritage Site**.

Email: info@forthbridgeheritagecentre.org

#### 3 Bridges Coffee CO.

Those of you who use the station will have noticed some strange tubes, pipes and equipment appearing in the old ticket office. Most of you will now know that this is coffee roasting equipment, and some of you may now have even tried the coffee it produces.

I first experienced freshly roasted coffee around 12 yrs ago when introduced to the whole roasting process by a distant relative. I was immediately hooked, the aromas and of course the taste of freshly roasted coffee were unlike anything I'd tried before, but there were also so many stories behind the beans. Our coffee may have passed through 30 pairs of hands before reaching our cups, a journey that should be celebrated and honoured, frankly most of the coffee we drink fails to do that.

So I started a small roasting business on Galiano Island in British Colombia, Canada where I lived at the time - it's still going strong! My policy of always putting the roast date on the packaging was a first, even in that coffee obsessed part of the world, and customers were soon hooked. The beans in their bags were always fresh, always fair and always organic.

I returned to Scotland 8 yrs ago and I had my own little roaster in the shed, was happy to roast for a hobby, although a growing band of people would swing by on the off-chance they might grab a few beans. 6 months ago I was offered the opportunity to use the old ticket office in the recently renovated local rail station and I couldn't resist the upgrade from the shed.

The focus of the business here is the same as it was in Canada. Ethically traded beans, largely organic and shade grown, and fresh. The business is mainly focused on building internet subscription customers from across the UK, but already has a number of local aficionados. If you're local and comfortable buying online, you can use the code 'Local' to get 25% off all prices, with free delivery through your letterbox. It is also available in Rankins, along with bags of beans which can be ground in store.

In November the business will open in the station every Saturday morning from 9.30-1.30 and for special events, such as the recent Macmillan 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'. This was a great success with some wonderful baking from Kari Ann Shiff and Ali Judd and raised £320! Our thanks to all those that came along.

#### **Village Show**

Thank you to all our competitors and helpers and to all the people who came and enjoyed the Village Show which in 2017 was a financial and enjoyable success. We made an estimated profit of £447.10 of which 50% will go towards village savings for a North Queensferry defibrillator.



The Show is also benefiting children around the world who need a Teddy Bear to hug. We posted 22

teddies to Knit for Peace:

www.knitforpeace.org.uk. who have sent a letter of appreciation. At the moment teddies are going to refugee camps in Syria and Food Banks in the UK. Thank you knitters.

The Show was visited by the many village 'annual regulars' but also there appeared to be a number of new children to the village bringing in their families to see their exhibits and at the same time taking the opportunity to enjoy a cup of tea (or coffee from the Thee Bridges Coffee), a piece of wonderful cake and to buy raffle tickets. Some excellent raffle prizes had been donated by businesses outside the village such as the Plant Market (Growforth), Tesco's Rosyth, Hopetoun House Garden Centre, Dakota, and Woodlea Stables. From within the village prize donors included Rankin's, the Wee Restaurant, Deep Sea World, Ferry Bridges, Hilton and Three Bridges Coffee.

The resuscitator demonstrations were very welcome and of interest to visitors of all ages. For a number of reasons, not least the weather, there were less vegetable entries this year however the number of crafts easily made up for this. There were also less photographs and pot plants.

32 adults contributed 237 entries to the Show. As overall winner, Sandra Hood was presented with the Bob Cubin cup by Sarah Brown. Eileen Donaldson was second and Moira Clark third. The Maureen Trotter cup for home baking was awarded to Ann Bain. In the children's section the Jubilee Cup for overall winner was presented to McKenzie Fraser with Joe Howie second and Niamh Somerville third. There were 101 entries from 19 individual children and the school.

#### Village Show Exhibits



**Paintings** 



**Tomatoes** 



Potted Plants

## **Pilates Classes**



8 week block booking £72. Booked in advance.
Suitable for all fitness levels. Small class numbers.

#### **Class Timetable**

Monday	6.55-7.55pm	SQ Rosebery Main Hall
Monday	8.00-9.00pm	SQ Rosebery Main Hall
Tuesday	10.30-11.30am	SQ Rosebery Small Hall
Tuesday	12.30-1.30pm	Cramond Kirk Main Hall
Wednesday	10.00-11.00am	<b>Davidsons Mains Parish Church</b>
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

8 years Qualified & Experienced Mat Level 3 Instructor

Tel: <u>07787 321571</u>

Email: amanda@simplypilates.org

Web: www.simplypilates.org

#### NQ Heritage Trust

The North Queensferry Heritage Trust has two final events for 2017.

On **Tuesday 17th October** James Lawson will be giving a talk "Reflections on a River Journey Yangon (Rangoon) to Mandalay. The Scottish connection working in one of the jewels of the British Empire and its sudden end."

The final event of the year is on Tuesday 28th November, given by John Clemmens and Jim Todd—"India: Then and Now". Two NQ residents present their experiences and thoughts on India—Jim grew up in India and John is a regular visitor—both will be presenting their own photos from their lives and journeys.

Both events will be held at the Community Centre at 7.30pm, £2 / members, £3 / non members & refreshments will be served.



OPENING TIMES

Lunches 12-2pm Wednesday-Sunday Dinner from 6pm Wednesday-Saturday Closed: Monday and Tuesday Room with a View, Forth View Hotel, Hawkcraig Point, Aberdour, KY3 0TZ

FREE Transport Available within Aberdour

See Sample Menus and information : <u>www.roomwithaviewrestaurant.co.uk</u>

Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/RWAVRestaurant or

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Room-with-a-View/185425816035

### Interview with North Queensferry's Post Master: Alex Wright

Have you tried to start a Post Office before? When I first opened the shop in October 2009, I thought a Post Office would be good for the village but I had difficulty contacting Post Office headquarters.

Why did the Post Office want an office in NQ? With the restructuring of the Post Office, new local offices called 'White Spaces' are planned. North Queensferry is the first one to open in the UK. 150 are supposed to be opened by April 2018.

How long ago did Post Office suggest an office in NQ? January 2017

Did you have to do training before the Post Office could start? Yes, at the start there was an application process, then I had to provide a business plan with my intentions and what I was hoping to achieve along with a three year projection of accounts which, when accepted, went on to a good 20 hours worth of online modules that had to be completed. Then there was two full ten hour days of classroom training before being made Postmaster. This was followed by ten days of onsite training when the Post Office was open.

Where was this training? Old Dunferm-line Crown Post Office building.

What has been the reaction from local

people to a Post Office in the village? Everyone has been very supportive and very pleased that I have brought this service back to the village.

Are people using it to get their pensions,

etc.? It is being used, yes, but I'm hoping it will just take time to build and for everyone to get out of the habit of going elsewhere for Post Office and banking use. As long as it is being used it won't be lost again.

What is the busiest day in the Post Office's week? *Monday* 

Have you met customers who have not used the shop before? Yes, I have seen a lot of new faces.

Has the shop benefited from extra trade? Not so much, but I'm hoping this will change for the sake of the shop.

What are the most popular items people buy from the shop? Papers, juice, crisps and confectionery.

Are you enjoying the Post Office's extra duties? Yes, it is a lot more work and I have not had any time away since opening. I need to make sure family are properly trained before I think about leaving it for now to avoid problems, so it's hard at the moment.



During Advent, from  $1^{st} - 22^{nd}$  December, there will be a flock of 10 lost (knitted) sheep hidden around North Queensferry. Children (and adults) are encouraged to find them. They will easily be spotted from outside the buildings and no premises will need to be entered.

Free entry forms can be had from NQ School, The Church or the Community Centre from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November, to be returned to the Church (via members or letter box) by Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

Small Prizes will be given!!



At the **Church Fair on November 4**<sup>th</sup>, there will be fun craft activities for children who can finish making the sheep, naming them and doing other Christmas Crafts.

#### **NQ Coastal Rowing Club**

The club has two 4-person skiffs and a smaller 2-person boat and we are out rowing on the Forth, and at events all round Scotland through the year. Evening rowing sessions have come to an end for the season but we will still be out at weekends and for the occasional daytime sessions when the weather allows.

This year we have had some great outings:

 we got right up close to HMS Queen Elizabeth when she had come out of Rosyth dock and was waiting to go under the bridges at low tide

we took part in the flotilla for the opening of the new Queensferry Crossing and watched the Red Arrows fly right over our heads

we rowed from Kinghorn to Inchcolm Island and back again

we rowed 14 miles up the Clyde as part of the Castle to Crane race in company with 75 other rowing boats from around Britain

The club is very friendly and open to everyone whether you're interested in racing, bird-watching, island-hopping or just popping over to South Queensferry for an ice-cream. You don't have to be super-fit and all ages and stages are welcome.

Email <a href="mailto:nqrowing@yahoo.com">nqrowing@yahoo.com</a> or find our Facebook page @nqrowing

#### **NQ** Community Centre

NQ Community Centre MUGA project has nearly reached its fundraising target and we are having one last push to get us over the line! Construction will start in January 2018 if all goes to plan...

Thank-you to everyone who has supported the project by filling in the Community Consultation questionnaire earlier in the year and by voting for the MUGA to receive funding from the OneFamily Foundation. We weren't lucky enough to win the vote but now we have a new opportunity to get us to the funding finish-line...

Lukasz (AKA Bananaman!), an NQ resident and ultra-runner, is going to run non-stop for 24 hours to fundraise for the MUGA. He is hoping to cover 200km!

Please go to <a href="www.nqcommunitycentre.org.uk">www.nqcommunitycentre.org.uk</a> and follow the MUGA link to make a donation and help us get the MUGA built next year.

#### **Rotary Club**

We are always looking for speakers at our weekly lunches on Wednesdays at The Hilton Doubletree hotel in North Queensferry.

If you are interested please email me at "tackem61@gmail.com"

John Thomson



We will be open every Saturday from November 4th - 9.30 to 1.30, drop by the station and experience our freshly-roasted beans.

Our coffee is also available in Rankins, just ask for it!

Or use code LOCAL online for a 25% discount and free delivery.



#### **Community Trust**

In case you have been wondering what the Trust has been up to recently we've pulled together a quick summary - principally around what has been happening down at the West Bay harbour.

- A Volunteer Harbour Manager has been recruited to oversee the movement and storage of boats, to manage on-going maintenance and to ensure that the rules and regulations are adhered to.
- The workshop building has been upgraded with new external doors and an internal wall to give separate areas for the Rowing Club and the Boat Club. Each club has a license to occupy their area of the workshop.
- The electrical system over the entire harbour area has been upgraded including new lighting in the workshop and the installation of new meters to allow appropriate billing
- New toilets are being progressed.
- On-going maintenance has been carried out safely and co-operatively by volunteers with new tools and equipment purchased by the Trust.
- have been contacted and they have given permission for the boats to be dismantled and removed.

Discussion is on-going as to the best way of maintaining the stability of the harbour wall by the workshops - Historic Scotland have been kept in the loop to ensure any short term fix won't jeopardise any future restora-

If you want to know more about, or become a member of, the Trust please see

#### http://www.ngcommunitytrust.org.uk/

Basically the trust is a charity set up to promote, manage and develop activities and projects for the benefit and development of the communities within the electoral boundaries of North Queensferry Community Council which also advance any one or more of the following:

- education;
- health:
- the arts, heritage or culture;
- the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational facilities available to the public;
- public participation in sport;
- environmental protection or improvement.

The owners of several abandoned boats NQCT membership is free and open to all residents of the village aged 16 or over. A trust board is elected from the membership.

> NORTH QUEENSFERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Charity No SCO07414

## AUTUMN FAIR

#### JOIN US ON SATURDAY 4th NOVEMBER AT 2PM

PLANTS CAKE and CANDY TOYS BOTTLE STALL GIFTS BOOKS JEWELLERY

> TOMBOLA RAFFLE HAMPER

Children's fun craft activities

ENTRY DONATION: Adult f.3 / Concessions f.1 INCLUDES AFTERNOON TEA/COFFEE WITH HOME BAKING

Donations can be handed in to the Church on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November from 6:30pm to 7:00pm or on the morning of the Fete from 10:30am to 11:30am. Please note we **cannot** accept used electrical goods, prams or bicycles. For further information contact Ann tel. 01383 417734.

10 per cent of the proceeds will go to Chogoria Hospital, Kenya

#### **Trees**

Over the last couple of years, I've been contacted by an increasing number of people about problems with trees – generally ever larger and ever older trees overhanging their gardens or blocking out their light. It's a particular problem in new towns but it comes up everywhere.

Trees fall into two groups – protected and not. Protected trees fall under a Tree Preservation Order, which makes it the tree equivalent of a listed building. To do work on a protected tree, you need to apply to Fife Council for permission. It doesn't matter whose tree it is. If it's protected, permission must be obtained.

Some orders apply to individual trees, while others cover areas of woodland. If you go to <a href="https://www.fifedirect.org.uk">www.fifedirect.org.uk</a> and put 'protected trees' into the search box, you'll find a zoomable map that'll show you the status of each tree.

Within North Queensferry, there's a large area of protected trees around Northcliff House but that's it. What happens to other trees is very much down to the owner, which is basically the owner of the ground that the tree stands on.

The usual reaction to that, which I shared when I first found out, is something approaching astonishment. Fife Council cuts the grass and maintains shrubs and bushes all over the place. It's "aye bin" so. Yes but technically the Council shouldn't be doing that and a major operation is under way to identify areas where responsibility should pass to someone else.

But there's a big difference between cutting a stretch of grass that you've cut for years and trimming an overgrown tree that no-one has touched in ages. For some time now, I've been taking advantage of the local Parks team to get them to do things that aren't strictly their job. That works up to a point because the guys in charge locally are naturally helpful and want the place to look nice. However, their budget has been squeezed like everyone else's. In fact, their budget has been squeezed harder because they're an easy target. It's easier to take resources out of grass cutting than out of a school.

And it's worse with trees because tree work requires specialist skills that grass cutting doesn't. So, after years of haggling with the tree specialists and often not getting anywhere, I've changed tack.

I wanted to explain that and what better way to reach North Queensferry than through the Ferry News.

What we need is a strategy and a way of implementing it, rather than piecemeal requests for work to a team that isn't resourced to respond. Fife Council's new political administration wants to "Establish a tree management strategy for Fife in particular removing and replacing trees in urban settings which are considered a health and wellbeing risk to local residents". However, when asked whether that's a strategy for all trees or just Council-owned trees, they didn't yet know.

What should such a strategy involve? No one has a right to a view but there are planning guidelines on access to daylight and sunlight. Anyone planning a building or extension that breaches those risks having their planning application refused. It seems reasonable to argue that if it's not acceptable to build something that blocks your neighbour's light then it shouldn't be acceptable to allow your tree to do the same.

Clearly buildings have to be built and building them requires planning permission, whereas trees get bigger all by themselves, so it's not a perfect analogy but it's a starting point and I'll be making enquiries around how any rule might be enforced.

This will not be simple and it'll not be quick. It'll take persuasion and the building of consensus. But if you don't start out, you'll never arrive.

**Dave Dempsey** 

Fife Councillor for North Queensferry and other places nearby



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 and Duloch

#### Ferry Birds - May to Sept 2017

The commoner breeding birds in our area seem to have been present in good numbers this year, Willow warblers, chiffchaffs, blackcaps and white-throats could be heard singing in various places round the village and from the coastal path. Sand martins were again present in the quarry and could be seen flying low over Ferryhills feeding off whatever insects were flying around. Eider ducks with ducklings appeared in West Bay as usual in early June and hopefully many of them managed to survive and I saw a moorhen with 2 well-grown young on the Jamestown pond on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August.

The common terns again failed to nest on the Guvy pier and the site in Inverkeithing Inner Bay was active for a short time but was then deserted. As compensation Long Craig was alive with common terns throughout the summer and it appeared that they bred successfully again. We had a little more interest with the common terns. It seems that Long Craig was full up and 1 or 2 pairs decided to nest on the dolphin (pier?) in West Bay. They were very easy to see from near the Boat Club office and there was also an oystercatcher nesting close to them. Terns are renowned for their aggressive behaviour to other birds and human beings and they lived up to this reputation. The ovstercatcher took the brunt of the aggression. Away from the terns I saw an oystercatcher with a small but mobile young amongst the seaweed near the play area at Pierhead buildings on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July.

Sightings of more unusual birds over the summer have included a whimbrel flying over West Bay on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July. This was very definitely a 'hearing' because the haar was enveloping the whole village. A small flock of black-tailed godwit flew past Carlingnose Point on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. These birds are intermediate in size between a redshank and curlew with a long straight bill. I was very lucky to see them as I had just sat on the seat as they flew past - doubly lucky because seeing the wing pattern is a very good way of identifying them. I also spotted a sparrowhawk near the station on the 6th of September and I have heard or seen buzzards soaring over the village on several occasions. Other sightings I have had includes a few goosanders in West Bay on the 12th of July, four turnstones near the Pierhead play area on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October and herons regularly perched

on the Guvy Pier.

An annual autumn happening involves groups of **gannets** - mainly immature birds - which circle round in Inverkeithing Bay. As of the 8<sup>th</sup> of October I have not yet seen any this autumn, but there's plenty of time left. Chiffchaffs sing by saying their name, but tend to stop calling when they have paired up. Later in the year they seem to start again but not as persistent as they are in the spring and early summer. I like to think of them just doing a bit of practice for next year. One was doing this near the station on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September.

The **field gentians** on Carlingnose Point reserve flowered again this summer. Over 200 plants were found in the ground around the rocky knoll and also on the high part of the reserve above the quarry. **Dropwort** appeared again in the watertank field and was also found on the reserve on the steep bank above Carlingnose View. There was one flowering stem near the rocky knoll as well. The annual cutting of the grass on the reserve has already been done and there is a possibility more maintenance will be carried out later in the year.

Finally why not take a walk round the lower village and keep your eyes and ears ready for some nature spotting. Time your walk to coincide with the tide starting to come into West Bay and count the redshanks feeing on the mud. I counted at least 45 recently. They were accompanied by 3 or 4 curlews and several oystercatchers and a few turnstones which feed on the rocky surrounds of the bay and the piers rather than the mud. Listen out for the pink-footed geese flying over after there journey from Iceland. Other winter visitors such as redwings and fieldfares should soon be here so check the rowans and cotoneaster shrubs while on the coastal path. Check the ivy for insects on a sunny day as well.

John Done

Contributions
for the next issue
are to be with us by

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

to:

7 Carlingnose Park

E: mary@ferrynews.org.uk

#### Village celebrations for the opening of the Queensferry Crossing

Monday 4 September 2017 was the official opening of the Queensferry Crossing - known as the 'New Bridge' - by HRH The Queen. People attended the official ceremonies in South Queensferry and Rosyth and got very wet while 50-60 North Queensferry locals of all ages celebrated in Community Centre and remained dry. Unique Events, funded by Transport Scotland, organised the Kilter Ceildh Band, a wide screen to watch events 'live', delicious refreshments and even a fly pass of the Red Arrows!

#### "Nice to meet friends and celebrate together."







"Nice to have a village celebration, good turnout, big screen, out to see the Red Arrows then back inside for more coffee, sandwiches and cakes."







"A good spread of cales and sandwiches, "





The band was good and they were all enjoying themselves". "We wanted to dance but nobody got up."

**Photographer: Pretty Bright** 



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