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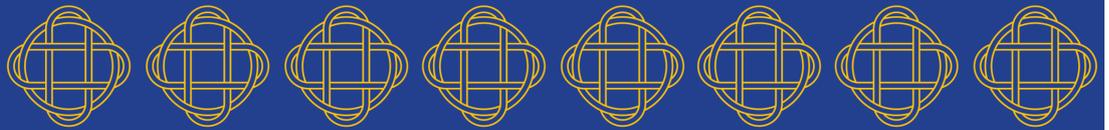
Issue 88

January 2018

www.ferrynews.org.uk



Community Centre Ceilidh



**Saturday 17th February 7pm
(to be seated for 7.15pm)**

**Tickets available from Rankin's Cafe
Or contact Jill Brown on 419 054**

£15



**Haggis, Neeps and Tatties,
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BYOB

GALA 2018

We are now into the New year & after an unsuccessful AGM in September it is with much sadness that we have to tell you that there will be no Gala this year. The Gala can't run with only 4 committee members. It was sad to see that no one else turned up other than the original committee although a few did say they could not make it.

The committee did a great job over the past few years and we are all saddened that this had to happen.

If there is anyone out there who feels that they can take time to get involved & perhaps get a few other people interested please do not hesitate to get in touch and we can discuss the way forward.

Thanks Again,

Ann Gordon
Former Chairperson

Heritage Trust

The North Queensferry Heritage Trust brought in the New Year with a Nature Walk around on the Village on January 6th. It was cold a start but with a low tide in the bay, we were able to spot some birds on our walk. We have a busy year ahead, with a plan for events over the year and a project that is in development which will celebrate Armistice in November. The Forth Bridge Visitor Centre continues to build up visitor numbers and it currently holds an exhibition on the Battle of Inverkeithing.

Our schedule of evening talks starts the year courtesy of Barbara McKechnie. On Tuesday 27th February Barbara will present her talk "Life via Bahrain". From 1976 to 1998 Barbara experienced life in the Middle and Far East from Qatar to Hong Kong with 5 other countries in between...some more of a challenge than others!

On 20th March Miles Oglethorpe, Head of Industrial Heritage at Historic Environment Scotland will give a talk on "The Forth Dimension – making our industrial past work for our future". We are delighted to welcome back Sir Geoff Palmer this year. On 24th April he will be giving a talk on the "The story of Scotch Whisky" and on 22nd May, Miranda Lorraine will present "The Fife Pilgrim Way". With a total distance of 70 miles, the route will link together many examples of the region's medieval and pilgrim heritage. This should be of keen interest to the village as North Queensferry is one of the starting points for the Way.

Throughout the year there are local and regional events – the Art-line Exhibition will take place at the Railway Station on 5th/6th May, Fife Open Doors is being held in September and the Village Show will be on the 8th September. John will be conducting nature walks in May, June and September.

Yet to be confirmed – an

arts & crafts exhibition evening and we hope to work with Calypso Marine to organise a trip to Inchkeith.

The last of the confirmed events: on 16th October we welcome back Trevor Kyle, Director of Lyon & Turnbull, with the "North Queensferry Antiques Roadshow" — giving you a chance to bring along your antiques and get some expert guidance from Trevor on your treasure troves.

Membership renewals will be going out in January & will be valid until December. We have recently updated our website which includes a huge amount of documentation on North Queensferry, so please do take a look and let us know if you have content that you would like us to include on the site. We will be updating the website regularly, along with regular emails and Facebook updates so do look out for our news.

Contributions

for the next issue

are to be with us by

Friday 4th May 2018

to:

7 Carlingnose Park

E: mary@ferrynews.org.uk



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Sheep Trail

During December we encouraged local children to search the village for a flock of lost sheep (knitted by various ladies). Four children found all of them, others not so many, but the point was that they tried and in the process learned something of the true Christmas story and all participants got small (sheep themed) prizes.

For the record, correct answers were – **Wright's shop** (Shaun), **Rankins** (Spotty), **Wee Restaurant** (Snuggles), **Greenhouse at top of Carlingnose Way** (Bob), **Ferrybridge** (Baba), **School window** (Amy), **Community Centre** (Tulip), **station gallery** (Rose), **railway pier notice board** (Donny), **Church outside notice board** (Jeff) and the **BONUS sheep** was in the **Church** on the music machine desk (Baarnie).

The sheep will now be donated to the "Crossreach" organisation and used to entertain the children of prisoners during family visits to Perth Prison.



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Tuesday	10.30-11.30am	SQ Rosebery Small Hall
Tuesday	12.30-1.30pm	Cramond Kirk Main Hall
Wednesday	10.00-11.00am	Davidsons 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

8 years Qualified & Experienced Mat Level 3 Instructor

Tel: 07787 321571

Email: amanda@simplypilates.org

Web: www.simplypilates.org

Pierhead Play Park

Recently, Fife Council removed some of the equipment from the play park at Pierhead. This is in line with its policy of regular inspection and the removal of anything deemed a safety risk. There is no policy of replacement and no budget for new kit. That's not likely to change.

Nevertheless, there is a way forward. In various places, parents, grandparents and others have banded together to bring about major refurbishments. The park in Shore Road, Aberdour is a good local example.

This works because such a group can unlock funds that the Council can't. There's a lot of money out there and there's support and advice on tap from the Council as to how to proceed. Contact dave@ferrynews.org.uk if you'd like to know more.



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Donations can be handed in to the Church on Friday 4th May 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

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Community Council

The last three months have just flown by as your community council tries to push forward community issues while balancing the personal claims of the Festive Season. In many respects our work has not resulted in definitive changes during this period, however there has been notable progression towards solving some village concerns.

The worries brought about by Edinburgh Airport's proposed changes have not disappeared and currently we can still expect 111 flights a day passing over when there is an easterly wind. The meeting, originally planned for 13 November, was postponed and to date has not been reconvened. Douglas Chapman MP, on our behalf, is discussing the topic and our concerns with the Civil Aviation Authority.

Similarly, still evident but with little change, are the issues of traffic and parking which affect the majority of residents. Our local Fife councillors along with the community council are pushing for a traffic management plan which, although often discussed over the years, has never come to fruition. Such a plan is becoming increasingly necessary with the influx of visitors to the village to see the bridge in addition to which many residents changing their driving habits and now using the Brae instead of the B981. The village also experiences such concerns as lorries getting stuck on the Brae and in Main Street, parking worries for residents and the problems of Pierhead: parking in the turning circle along with antisocial behaviour of vehicle occupants making the lives of residents miserable.

As in the last Ferry News, the concerns of Pierhead residents remain a worrying issue. Your community council are working with the local police to try and improve the situation and in the next month Fife Council (councillors and officers), the police, community council and local residents expect to meet to look at the best way forward.

The police have also been involved at West Bay where vandalism damaged local vehicles and a caravan. Fortunately North Queensferry is not used to such vandalism although the graffiti on the wall at the Brae/Brock street junctions is another distressing example.

On a happier note: the Christmas tree near the War Memorial which was organised by the community council and paid for by Fife Council gave pleasure to many. Next year we are considering some Christmas lighting at the top of the village. This could be lights on the trees at the station entrance in Brock Street or something else. Your

suggestions would be most welcome.

The new bridge, the Queensferry Crossing, continues to need our attention as we liaise with the bridge authorities over such snags as the hump on the B981, traffic light coordination at Ferry Toll and the possibility of yellow hatching at the B981 traffic lights. For more details please read our December minutes.

Fife councillors in their reports to the community council provide much useful local authority information. They also bring to the public's attention any changes affecting the village such as the removal of the swings at the Pierhead play park, changes of the toilet facilities in Battery Road's car park and new road signs on the Brae.

The agenda for community council meetings not only gives time for these councillor reports but also enables discussion on planning applications such as the extension of Deep Sea World. The agenda also gives opportunities for community groups to provide information on, for example, the overarching matter of taking forward the defibrillator project in the village. This could see defibrillators placed at the station, marina and possibly the telephone kiosk near the War Memorial. Please contact us with your site suggestions.

For further information on topics in these notes please see the minutes of our monthly meetings on our website: www.nqcc.co.uk. The current draft minutes are also displayed on the village notice boards.

To contact us about your village concerns and your views about Christmas lighting and sites for the defibrillators please email nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk. or leave a note for us at the community centre.

**Your Community Council
meets on the second
Thursday of each month
(except August)
in the Community Centre at
7.30pm.
You are very welcome**

Carlingnose/Ferryhills Traffic

Some traffic issues have arisen recently around the Carlingnose/Ferryhills junction. The first involved the busses "loitering" on the double yellow lines at the mouth of Carlingnose Point as parked cars prevented them waiting outside the church. That was downright dangerous but complaints to Stagecoach seem to have put a stop to it.

Should there be a "bus stop" marked on the road outside the church, which would stop cars parking there? Apparently, it's not a "bus stop", which explains the lack of a metal post with a sign at the top. It's a "request stop" and the instructions to the drivers, confirmed by Stagecoach, are to pull up level with any parked cars, to allow passengers to board. Clearly that could block the road but any delay will be brief.

The increased car parking around the station is a symptom of ever-increasing commuting into Edinburgh. This has led to complaints about cars parked in Carlingnose Point opposite the top of Carlingnose Way. This is contrary to the Highway Code but the police have visited and they don't see it as obstruction. Obstruction requires the road to be blocked so that passage is impossible. Neither does it meet the guidelines for additional yellow lines, so that's not going to happen.

Nevertheless, if you're reading this and you regularly park opposite a junction, it would be good if you could find an alternative spot nearby.

If you see any similar problems that need investigated, please feed those back via the Ferry News.

Carol Singing

Following a suggestion to revive a village tradition, an article was placed in the "Ferry News" and subsequently, a group of people from the village (led by a core of our members) went out singing carols around the village one evening. Twenty-eight set out from the Church, about another 10 joined in part way round and many came back to the Church afterwards for coffee



and mince pies. We were assisted by musicians from among our number and bolstered part way round with mulled wine kindly provided by Freda and Olivier. The object was to have some Christmas fun, but some people kindly gave donations and we handed over £30 to the Salvation Army for their Christmas Meal Appeal.

Maybe we'll do it again next year!

Community Speedwatch

Community Speedwatch is a project rolled out nationally across the UK and invites members of the public to work in conjunction with Police to address poor driver behaviour, especially speeding. More information on the scheme can be found at www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk.

Volunteers are currently being sought across South West Fife and West Fife Villages as we seek to re-launch in April 2018 after the winter break. All those who are successfully vetted will receive appropriate training and will be continuously supported by local Community Ward Policing Officers.

The scheme aims to cater for the problem of real or perceived speed related offending through partnership with the community in order to:

- Reduce death and injury on the roads
- Improve the quality of life for local communities
- Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Community Speedwatch is not about interfering with neighbours' behaviour or being a 'busy body', nor is it about doing the Police job for them, or seeking to boost coffers through the issue of fines. It is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community with speeding continuing to be a regular issue raised by members of the public via Community Council meetings and through elected members.

Should you be interested in finding out more about Community Speedwatch or in volunteering please contact Police Sergeant Kenny Bow, SWF/WFV Community Ward Policing Team at Kenny.bow@scotland.pnn.police.uk or visit the CSW website which has a page of FAQ's as well as other useful information.

Ferry Birds Oct '17 to Jan '18

It is business as usual with some slight adjustments in West Bay. You can see up to 45 **red-shanks** feeding on the mud as the tide comes in. When the tide is full they congregate on the floating mooring where they are occasionally joined by a solitary **curlew**. There are a few other **curlews** using the bay as a feeding place along with probably a dozen **oystercatchers**. Recently I have seen a small flock of **turnstones** in the bay but they don't feed on the mud. They feed by poking and prodding the seaweed hoping to disturb some prey such as small crustaceans. Two or three **shelducks** have recently joined in the fun. They eat tiny snails called hydrobia which are plentiful on the mud. A **grey heron** drops in for a feed occasionally as well.

The ducks which winter around our coast have also been seen as last year although the numbers seem to be down this year. There are a few **gold-eyes** on the sea between Port Laing and Cruickness Point and earlier in the winter there were about 20 **red-breasted mergansers** offshore from Port Laing. There are also a few **great-crested grebes** near Cruickness Point and the usual **little grebes** scattered along the coast visible from the coastal path.

Other winter visitors have included **redwings** in the trees by the Jamestown pond at the end of October and also near the Railway pier on the 12th of January. I have not seen any **fieldfares** around the village but there was a **mistle thrush** calling near the station on the 9th of October and there was a **song thrush** singing near the school on the 22nd of December. It must have realised it was not quite the right time of year to be proclaiming its territory as I have not heard it again. There has also been a small flock of **starlings** around the school perched on the roof. There are far fewer starlings in the village these days but the flock I have mentioned before near Kinghorn loch has numbered about 200 so things maybe aren't that bad. **House sparrow** numbers have definitely decreased. There are however small flocks around the village including one by the play area on the town pier and another which uses the beech hedge on Carlingnose Way for shelter. There is also a very noisy flock in the shrubs at Inverkeithing station.

Other interesting sightings have included a **mute swan** with five well grown young at Port Laing on the 15th of October and a small group of **whooper**

swans flying west above the lower part of the village on the 29th of the same month. **Whooper swans** are real wild swans which breed in Iceland and winter in the UK. In contrast to the mute variety they are very vocal and it was their whooping calls which alerted me to their presence. There was a **goosander** in West Bay on the 11th of November and a few **gannets** near Cruickness Point on the 24th of October. Finally there was a **chiff-chaff** calling its name at Jamestown pond on the 7th of October.

This year the **fulmars** are back on Inchgarvie. They appeared in the second week in January. They will no doubt soon do their disappearing trick and will be back and forward a few times before they settle down to breed!.

Maintenance work on the Carlingnose Reserve was carried out last autumn. The grass round the rocky knoll was cut. Further cotoneaster removal has been done by local volunteers.

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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