



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

Ferry Birds – Sept 2018

The common birds in and around the village seemed to have done quite well this year. **Eider** ducks were showing off their broods in West Bay. I noted groups of about 20 young with a few females there on the 6th and 14th of July. The coastal path was the best place to learn the songs of our resident birds and summer visitors with the highlight being a **lesser whitethroat** at Carlingnose on the 1st of July.

As residents of the lower village will know there were lots of **terns** in and around West Bay this summer. The noise was continuous and very loud. There were both **common** and **Sandwich terns** present but I have been told that those on Long Craig did not breed very successfully. Apparently workers on the Road Bridge made noises which frightened the birds which left their nests leaving their eggs and chicks vulnerable to predation by gulls. Those nesting on the dolphins were not so badly affected probably because they were further away from the bridge.

After a quiet spell in June and early July I then had some good sightings (or hearings). A few **redshanks** were back in West Bay at the beginning of July but it got more interesting later that month with a **whimbrel** flying over the station on the 16th with another over The Brae in late August. There were a few **turnstone** in West Bay on the 9th and 20th of that month as well. In late September 2 **black-tailed godwit** were feeding with the **redshank** and **curlew** in West Bay. These birds are intermediate in size between **redshank** and **curlew**. They have long straight bills and are mainly autumn and winter visitors to

the muddy shore line of the Firth of Forth. Other sightings include a **peregrine falcon** calling above The Brae on the 26th of September with another or the same the following day and a **raven** near the rail bridge on the 4th of October. Both these species have bred in Cruicks Quarry, but I didn't see any breeding activity this year.

After a bonanza last year very few **field gentians** flowered on Carlingnose Point reserve this year. A few were found in the ground around the rocky knoll. **Dropwort** appeared again in the watertank field and was also found on the reserve on the steep bank above Carlingnose View. There were a few plants near the rocky knoll at Carlingnose as well. The annual cutting of the grass on the reserve has already been done and gorse was painstakingly removed from one side of the rocky knoll. 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** feeding on the mud. I counted at least 35 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 their 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

Heritage Trust

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF WAITING ROOMS

Both Waiting Rooms are currently being redecorated, prior to the opening of an extensive **WW1 Centenary Exhibition**. This will run from mid-October to March 2019.

The official opening of the exhibition will be announced shortly on the Heritage Trust's website, www.nqht.org and Facebook page "NorthQueensferryHeritageTrust".

The FBHC Gallery will be open daily as usual from 8th October 2018.

There is no change to the availability of the toilet facilities.

SUCCESSFUL VILLAGE SHOW

A short but very grateful thank you to all who helped make this year's village show so successful.

Particular thanks go to the many volunteers who gave up their time preparing produce, organising, setting up and the myriad of things needed to make it successful.

This year was a wee bit different due to the MUGA opening, but that simply added to the day. Perhaps next year, we can have a mini sport's day to keep our young sports children more involved?

Thank you - from the North Queensferry Heritage Trust

NQ Baby and Toddler Group

North Queensferry Baby and Toddler Group meets every Thursday from 9:30 until 11:30 in the Community Centre. Tea, coffee and biscuits (sometimes cake!) are available for parents, grandparents and carers and a healthy snack is provided each week for the children. We are breastfeeding and bottle feeding friendly. A contribution of £1.50 each week is appreciated, but your first visit is free. As well as toys, baby bouncers and push along vehicles, we have a fantastic soft play with ball pit! It would be lovely to see you there!

Pierhead Play Park - Update

The Project Group have been extremely active over the past months in an effort to source funding for the refurbishment of the Pierhead Play Park. Equally important, is the participation of the community and we wish thank everyone for their support and encouragement.

To date we have received financial support from BBC Scotland (through the Community Council), the Church and the proceeds from the recent Village Show (through the Heritage Trust).

Our stall at the Village Show was a great success and I would like to thank Diana Caldwell, Laura McLean and Lyndsey Lannie for their efforts on the day.

One of the many attractions was a competition to "Name the Ship" as a ship will feature in the new play park equipment.

The winning name will be carved onto the ship and the winner invited along to the official opening of the park.

We had a huge response to this competition and the outright winner, chosen by the Group, was unanimous.

So congratulations to Sophia & Charlotte Haigh of Forthside Terrace, North Queensferry for their submission of, "Ferry Belle" as the name for the ship.

The Group hope to have the expected funding in place by the end of this year, with construction commencing in Spring / Summer 2019. However, there are various challenges on the way, which could influence the schedule, so we will keep you posted with updates.

We are currently developing a web site, which will be linked to the existing web sites relating to North Queensferry eg. Community Council, Community Trust, Heritage Trust, Community Centre etc. and this will be the best method of keeping you abreast of developments.

Finally, a big THANK YOU, once again, for your support. It's very much appreciated.

NORTH QUEENSFERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Charity No SCO07414

AUTUMN FAIR

JOIN US ON **SATURDAY 3rd NOVEMBER AT 2PM**

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ENTRY DONATION : Adult £3 / Concessions £1
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Donations can be handed in to the Church on Friday 2nd 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 a local charity

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Day Service on November 11th will be held in the Church at 9:45 am to be followed by the War Memorial Service commencing at 10:55 sharp, conducted by the Rev. Colin Alston.

Carol singing around North Queensferry

After the success of last year's trial event, when we had 38 people at one point, it has been suggested that we do it again in 2018.

If you can hold a note or play an instrument, or merely just enjoy carols then contact Ann;

on 01383 417734. Once I know that people wish to go ahead we can organise a practice and a date.



NORTH
QUEENSFERRY
CHILDRENS
GALA
COMMITTEE

AGM

Sunday 28th October 2018
North Queensferry
Community Centre
@ 6pm

ALL WELCOME

Come along and join us, share your views, join the Committee or even register as a Friend of the Gala. It needs a committee to run the Gala, and a Committee needs members, so PLEASE help if you can.


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Village Show 2018



Thank you to everyone: all the exhibitors, both young and old, and all the helpers whose tasks included moving tables, making teas, selling raffle tickets and baking cakes. So many people helped to make the annual Village Show a very enjoyable occasion. This year the Show was held at the Community Centre on Saturday 8 September. It was a great success. The large turnout may have stemmed from the lack of a Gala this year but a more likely reason was the opening of the Multi Use Games

Area (MUGA) on the same afternoon. This meant more families from outwith the village visited the Show when they came to watch their children play on the new MUGA pitches. The hungry young participants and their accompanying families resulted in the Show selling a record number of teas, cakes and juice.

The Village Show displayed the usual exhibits ranging from pot plants to potted jam and chutney – all from the village. The school's entered a particularly bright and cheerful selection of decorated jam jars along with many 'Scotland' posters showing great talent among the pupils.

The 2018 Show had a new section, 'professional photography', which exhibited some interesting large prints. This year also saw an enhanced local groups/activities section publicising such diverse local activities as rowing and the children's nursery. The Village Gala had a successful stand aimed at promoting/reviving North Queensferry's annual children's Gala and the Play Park Group's fundraising stand painted many overjoyed faces while at the same time substantially adding to the total Village Show outcome. Proceeds from the Show are going towards refurbishing Pierhead Play Park.



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This year, Fiona George, as overall winner, was awarded the Bob Cubin Cup and the Maureen Trotter Cup went to Richard Moore for his floral arrangement. McKenzie Foreman received the Queen's Jubilee Cup as overall winner of the children's section.



Photography: 'Garry's Photographs'.

Parking in Brock Street

There's a parking problem in Brock Street and it's not getting better. It has a number of causes and it'll require a number of solutions.

At the bottom end, we have rail commuters and school traffic. At the top, we have Community Centre and MUGA. A few thoughts on each of those.

Commuters are coming here in part because Inverkeithing is full. There, anyone who isn't up with the lark won't find a parking place within a sensible walking distance of the station, so some have worked out that parking in North Queensferry is worth missing out on the trains that don't stop here.

A lot of the school traffic is temporary, with kids being dropped off in the morning and picked up later in the day.

Both the Community Centre and the MUGA attract custom from outside the village. In particular, the Dog Training classes contribute significantly to the Centre's income.

So, what could be done. First and foremost, **IF YOU CAN WALK, THEN PLEASE DO WALK**. If you live in the village, you're fit and well and the weather isn't too grim, a walk up to the School or the Community Centre is a chance for some extra exercise.

Second, if you're dropping someone off, do you have to go to the Community Centre door? Could you drop them off on the other side of the playing field or even some way down Brock Street?

Thirdly, if you do need to park up at the Centre, please try to maximise the number of cars in the car park. It may be possible to get some white lines to mark parking bays but they're not there yet.

There's a Residents' Parking scheme in Inverkeithing but that's aimed at commuters by allowing anyone to park for three hours without a permit. There's talk from time to time of residents'-only parking restrictions but a few moments thought yields lots of complications.

What about home care workers, for example? Even at three hours, tradesmen can have problems.

There are patches of grass that could be (and perhaps already are in decent weather) used for parking. Subject to finding the money, those could be candidates for Grasscrete, the concrete honeycombs that let cars sit on what looks at first glance like straight grass.

There won't be one answer to this. If you have any thoughts, please let the Ferry News know by phoning 01383 415022 or emailing dave@ferrynews.org.uk

Postage Stamps

Thank you to everyone who puts used postage stamps into the envelope at Wright's shop. Until now these stamps were sent to 'Hearing dogs for the Deaf' however the charity has decided to stop collecting them. In future your stamps will go to the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Please see the website: www.rnib.org.uk/donations-and-fundraising/fundraising-your-community/stamps-appeal.



Your stamps provide charities with a valuable means of fundraising. **Thank you for continuing to collect.**

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Community Council

In September the duties of all Fife community councillors came to an end with the expiry of the term of the old Community Council. In the succeeding elections there were fewer nominations than the number of places available, so those who had put their name forward were duly elected.

The new community council saw the return of all of your community councillors, with the exception of Peter Selbie who has retired. Thank you, Peter for all your good work with the council over the last four years.

Your community councillors are :- Donna Beveridge, Lin Collis, Bruce Finlayson, Mary Finlayson, Sheila Foggon, Jim George, Christina McKenzie, Iain Mitchell and David Shields.

The inaugural meeting of the new four year session of the community council took place on 11 October 2018, when Iain Mitchell was elected as Chairman, Lin Collis as Vice-Chairman, David Shields as Secretary and Christina MacKenzie as Treasurer.

Following this meeting your community council continued its work on issues which have needed its attention over the last five months and longer. Transport, both air and road, continue as important, also frustrating, issues. Concerns about the new flight paths remain: there are now seven neighbouring community coun-

cils supporting North Queensferry's actions. You can obtain more information by logging into the Edinburgh Noise Advisory Board website <http://www.eanab.org.uk/> and you can become involved by:

Writing to MPs including the Green MSP Mark Ruskell and publishing the letter on the village Facebook page and the NQCC Website.

Signing the online petition (started by a member of the public in Dalgety Bay) against approval of Edinburgh Airport's application. <https://www.change.org/p/richard-moriarty-refuse-edinburgh-airport-s-flight-path-change-and-stop-flights-below-10k-feet-over-w-fife>

Road transport issues could be said to be inevitable in a small, village with a 'dead-end' road and next to a World Heritage site. Your council is working hard to ensure the appropriate bodies know of the worries and to follow up and push for action. Current road transport issues include: parking at the Pierhead turning circle and at the school, bus routes which do not take in Rosyth, the use of the Brae by unsuitably large/long vehicles as well as such vehicles being directed into the village by Sat. Nav., speeding (not sticking to the 20mph speed limit) throughout the village and dipping cobbles at the War Memorial in Main Road.

Your council continues to lobby for a public

Contributions

for the next issue

are to be with us by

Friday 11th Jan 2019

to:

7 Carlingnose Park

E: mary@ferrynews.org.uk

NQHT Exhibition

November 3rd to 31st March 2019

Destination Forth - the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet in the Firth of Forth - the last act of WW1

We expect this exhibition to be popular as it has many unseen footages of the Great War and more information about the many groundbreaking roles North Queensferry played. We are also looking for more volunteers to supervise the exhibition for an hour or so during this period and beyond if possible! We would like to keep the main meeting room open but that depends on having a sufficient number of volunteers.

Thank You!

Community Council cont.

toilet in the village but Fife Council's lack of funding seems to be the hurdle.

At a time of limited funding and action for change it is good to get some positive news: there is progress towards obtaining defibrillators for the village. The station defibrillator is in place with full instructions for its use on the case and planning permission has been applied for resuscitators at the Battery Road bus stop and the marina. Please keep an eye out for information about training courses in the near future.

Finally your council has and will continue with its usual responsibilities of assessing planning applications, reporting and monitoring village snags, such as the corroded traffic pole opposite the Albert and the hole in the sea wall in Battery Road, working with Fife Council and

Fife councillors to rationalise village grit bins, consider seagull proof bins in Battery Road, improving the steep slope between Mount Hooly Terrace and the Brae and tidying up the gravel area around St James Chapel.

If you have any issues which you would like the community council to look at please do not hesitate to contact one of the councillors listed above or to email the Secretary: nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk. Following the elections there remains one vacancy on the Community Council and we are always happy to hear from anyone who would like to serve the community by joining us.

For further information please look at the minutes of meetings on our website (www.nqcc.co.uk). Current (draft) minutes are displayed on the village notice boards and at the community centre.

**Your Community Council meets at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Centre
Everyone is welcome**

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Wednesday	10.00-11.00am	Davidsons Mains Parish Church
Thursday	9.55-10.55am	Dalgety Parish Church
Thursday	11.05-12.05pm	Dalgety Parish Church
Friday	10.00-11.00am	NQ Community Centre

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