



Ferry Birds – Sept 2019 to Jan 2020

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

My sightings over the last 3 months are quite similar to the same period last year. **Redshank**, **oystercatcher** and **curlew** are feeding regularly in West Bay and they have been joined by several **turnstone** and a few **dunlin**. The **redshank** are by far the most numerous with about 45 roosting on the floating mooring at high tide. They have recently been joined by a **great-black backed gull** which dwarfs the waders it is sharing the mooring with. At this time last year we had several **shelduck** in West Bay but I haven't seen any recently. There are however several in Inverkeithing Inner Bay. .

I've had several sightings of less common species. Various water birds come to our area in winter to avoid the colder conditions further north. Examples are **goldeneye** and **red-breasted merganser**. There was a small group of **goldeneye** just off Port Laing on the 19th of November and a single **merganser** in West Bay at the end of December. Various thrushes also come here and I saw a small group of **redwing** at Jamestown pond on the 6th of November. Resident thrushes were also evident with a **song thrush** and a **mistle thrush** calling briefly near Main Road in the middle of November.

Grey herons have been spotted from the coastal path several times. The Guvy pier is one of their favourite spots and they also

seem to like the north end of Port Laing. Other water birds to look out for from the coastal path include **little grebes**, **aiders** and **great-crested grebes**. The latter used to be common in winter and gathered offshore near Cruickness Point but they are quite rare there these days.

Less common resident birds I have seen include a **rock pipit** on the railway pier on the 17th of October and a **grey wagtail** near the Pierhead buildings two days later. A **blackcap** has been reported in a garden on Main Road and I heard a **goldcrest** while going up The Brae in November. I have also heard or seen a **raven** high over The Brae 3 times in the last 2 months. A good view from Carlingnose Point of a flock of immature **gannets** in October was to be expected. They would have been young birds from The Bass Rock colony exploring the Estuary!

Maintenance work on the Carlingnose Reserve was carried out last autumn. The grass round the rocky knoll was cut and some gorse was removed. Further cotoneaster removal is 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

Pierhead Play Park - The Final Chapter

Seems such a long time ago, but the refurbished Pierhead Play Park was officially opened on Friday 08 November 2019.

The Head Girl and Head Boy, Jessica Anthony and Euan Whiddett from North Queensferry Primary School carried out the honours and cut the ribbon to mark the official opening.

We were fortunate to have a couple of "Special" guests from the BBC Series of Molly and Mack, namely Joshua Haynes (Mack) and James McKenzie (James) who attended the opening and then spent some time with the invited children from the pri-

mary school.

Also, the ship, "The Ferry Belle" was officially launched and named by Sofia and Charlotte Haigh.

Despite the time of year, the park has been exceptionally busy, and the Community Project Group is confident, with the onset of better weather, the park will be a popular location for parents, relatives, friends and children alike, especially with such a fantastic outlook over the Forth.

Thanks again to all who helped transform an idea into a reality.

Our web site is:

www.pierheadplayparkproject.org.uk

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

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Olivier James: Builder

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Pot Holes

Are you fed up with potholes in the roads around the village?

If so please phone:

03451 550011

or report to: online.fifedirect.org.uk/lagan/roadfault

What's on at the Forth Bridge Heritage Centre at the Station...

New exhibition 'Steaming Forth'

A nostalgic look, with an informative leaflet, at the steam trains crossing the Forth Bridge. Photographs taken by our local internationally recognised and much published photographer, John Clemmens.

For example, photographs of **Maude** – number 673 (65243) – built by Neilson of Glasgow to a Holmes design for the North British Railway in 1891, a year younger than the Forth Bridge of 1890. This excursion train was to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Scottish Railway Preservation Society in 1961.

In this photograph, Maude, having failed mid-way across the Forth Bridge, is seen being propelled by a following train to Dundee to a



convenient siding at Inverkeithing.

This is only one of the many excellent photographs on display. More interesting facts can be found in the

leaflet that is available in the gallery. The exhibition is open daily from now until late autumn – dependent on our volunteers' availability of course. If you want to help, do get in touch via nqhtinfo@gmail.com.

HERITAGE TRUST TALKS...

Tuesday 18th February, 2020 - "The Rise & Fall of Dunfermline Linen"

Hugh Walker was a talented electronics research engineer with Hewlett-Packard Ltd who, in retirement, has also turned into an even more talented historian. His talk promises to be fascinating particularly for the members and friends who love textiles.



Thursday 19th March - "When the wind blows"

Stan Green, of Growforth, the Plant Market at Hillend is now well established as a quality supplier of plants and just as important advice.

This talk will give a great opportunity to ask



questions that will help you in your own garden this year. Also, remember that Heritage Trust members

get a useful discount when shopping there!

Tuesday May 5th - 'The Submarine Miners at North Queensferry'

This talk from the local TA unit of the Royal Engineers who pioneered defences of the Forth in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This unit also inherited many artefacts illustrating the exploits of this unique regiment, some of which will be on show and will include one from rowing competitions. In addition, Boyd Williamson from the Heritage Trust, will tell us about his research on the Port Laing activities.

Old Pier Light Tower – continues to be a visitor destination with now over 86 countries



having visited and left their mark – by signing the visitor's book. Requests to "light the lamp" continue to be received on nqhtinfo@gmail.com and so we are developing a "VIP Light The Lamp package" which may include a unique hand-crafted 50:1 model of the Light Tower sculpted by Scott Gleed.

North Queensferry Heritage Trust website, nqht.org, is also regularly updated and now contains a number of new heritage articles.

Patient Participation Group of Inverkeithing Medical Group

Depression and Mental Health

Antidepressants seem to be in and out of the headlines at the moment. Despite a lot of it being bad press, antidepressants can be incredibly beneficial to those living with mental illness, particularly moderate and severe depression.

For most people, the drugs are effective and the benefits will outweigh the risks and potential side effects. Sometimes, however, a patient may choose to stop taking their medication or no longer need it. This could be for many reasons, but it is important that patients seek medical help when coming off antidepressants to avoid the withdrawal symptoms and make sure that their mental health is properly managed throughout.

This article is reproduced by kind permission of Dr Sarah Jarvis.

If you have comments or suggestions for the PPG group please contact us by leaving a note in the suggestions box at the surgery or emailing on fife-uhb.img@nhs.net. (Please do not use this email for medical matters.)

Walking Group

It is 15 years since the North Queensferry Walking Group was set up and it has been meeting every second Wednesday ever since, come rain or shine. If the forecast is doubtful an alternative walk is agreed upon.

Everyone meets at 10am in the church car park and fill up whatever cars are volunteered.

It is open to anyone, resident or not and is not affiliated to any organisation. It is very much an open group with no hierarchy and no costs. Participants are encouraged to suggest new walks or to put forward those they have enjoyed to be included in the six monthly programme.

As the years have gone by the walks have been developed to broaden the scope to allow all abilities to participate. Hence the two mile-ages on the same walk. Very seldom at present does any walk exceed 5 miles with some much shorter. Generally everyone departs at the same time and somehow all arrive back together.

Where it is possible and depending on the cars and timing the opportunity is often taken for a light lunch.

Date	Walk	Type	Dist	Walk
8 Jan	Hawes Inn to Dameny House	L	4 M	Undulating walk along the foreshore on good paths, mainly sheltered. Views across river.
22 Jan	Townhill Loch	C	3 M	Mainly level walk on good paths and mostly sheltered
5 Feb	Cammo House	C	3 M	Snowdrop walk on generally good paths. Mainly sheltered with some open views.
19 Feb	Blair Adam Forest	C	4 M	Undulating walk on mainly good paths through sheltered woodland.
4 March	Blackness to Abercorn Church	C or L	5 or 3 M	Mainly level walk on good paths, open to begin, then sheltered woodland. Can be linear or circular
18 March	Powmill	C	4 M	Open farmland, then riverside on variable paths.
1 April	Dalgety Bay to Braefoot	L	3M	Daffodil walk from St Bridgets Kirk to Braefoot bay and back.
15 April	Preston Island	C	4 M	Level walk on good but open paths with views over the river and inland.
29 April	Gartmore Dam	C	3 M	New walk round Gartmore Dam on good paths with far reaching views.
13 May	Loch Leven	L	3 or 5	Choice of walks depending on weather, but all very level and on good paths.
27 May	Aberdour to Burntiland	L	4 M	Undulating walk along the foreshore on good paths in variable shelter.
10 June	Cramond Island	L	3 or 5 M	Undulating walk along river almond on good paths, mainly sheltered, except out to Island.
24 June	Lochore Meadows	C	4 M	Level walk on good but open paths round the Loch.

C denotes circular, L denotes linear (there and back). For further information contact Eileen Donaldson on 01383 412874

Sunday footballers of all abilities welcome to join regular friendly NQ game

If you're a football fan and are looking to get fitter in 2020, you might be interested in a friendly game of football happening every Sunday morning in North Queensferry!

Each Sunday at 9am the NQ five-a-side group get together for a friendly kickaround at the MUGA pitch behind the community centre.

The group play for an hour, with typically between 8 and 12 people lining out each week. Males and females of all ages from 16 + to our more senior citizens are welcome to join in the football fun. It's a family game so fathers and sons or mothers and daughters are welcome, as are players of all abilities!

And at £2 per game it's probably the cheapest fitness option you'll get for miles around!

"We're a friendly group who play in a competitive but fair and inclusive spirit," said organiser Steven Minto. "Whether you're a regular footballer, or haven't played in a while but want to dust off your boots and rekindle your love for the beautiful game, you'll be made very welcome by the North Queensferry 5-a-side gang."

For more information email 5asideng@gmail.com

Pilates Classes



8 week block booking £72. Booked in advance.

Suitable for all fitness levels. Small class numbers.

Class Timetable

Monday	6.30-7.30pm	SQ Rosebery Main Hall
Monday	7.40-8.40pm	SQ Rosebery Main Hall
Tuesday	10.30-11.30am	SQ Rosebery Small Hall
Tuesday	12.45-1.45pm	Davidsons Mains Parish Church
Wednesday	10.00-11.00am	Davidsons Mains Parish Church
Wednesday	12.00-1.00pm	SQ Rosebery Small Hall
Thursday	9.55-10.55am	Dalgety Parish Church
Thursday	11.05am-12.05pm	Dalgety Parish Church

Contact: [Amanda Johnstone](#)

10 years Qualified & Experienced Mat Level 3 Instructor

Tel: [07787 321571](tel:07787321571)

Email: amanda@simplypilates.org

Web: www.simplypilates.org

**Contributions
for the next issue
are to be with us by
Friday 1st May 2020**

to:

7 Carlingnose Park

E: mary@ferrynews.org.uk

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

On 13 February a Scotrail representative will speak about new works on the Forth Rail Bridge.

Everyone is welcome



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Community Council

'Happy New Year' to everyone.

So it is 2020 –another year bringing another host of issues for your Community Council to consider and take action as appropriate. There are however a number of concerns continuing from 2019 (some from even earlier) which include the Edinburgh Airport air space change, provision of public conveniences, repairs to rumble strips and the Albert. Hopefully your Community Council will try to bring some of these to successful conclusions in 2020 but often our hands are tied: we are only one 'spoke in the wheel'. Village issues frequently need the support of outside bodies and these are often strapped for funds. Take for instance the long-standing issue of a public toilet at the bottom of the village – this was removed by Fife Council from Battery Road car park several years ago yet funds are not available to reinstate it despite the village's increased tourist foot print. (Thankfully there is now a day time public convenience at the station, provided by the Station Trust).

On a more positive note- your council received funds from Fife Council through the Small Grants Scheme to support local community groups. This will be used to provide equipment for the village's Art and Crafts Group and outside play equipment for the school. Additionally it will also pay the cost of a refurbished village interpretation board with drawings of North Queensferry's attractions produced by primary school pupils and will also contribute to the maintenance of the public convenience at the station.

Our monthly community council meetings continue the usual routine responsibilities of assessing planning applications, reporting and monitoring village snags and receiving updates from the Police, local councillors and community groups. Police reports note local police calls and criminal activities and also publicise a scheme to recruit volunteers to

help with a community speed watch project. Currently residents in Ferryhills Road are considering taking part in this: volunteers from the bottom of the village would be welcome. Vehicles (usually local) being driven way above the 20mph speed limit are common place in the village.

Airport expansion and flights over the village have taken the time and energy of two councillors in particular over the last year and as yet there does not appear to be any significant progress towards a solution. Low flying planes are heard above the village when there is an easterly wind however this is nothing compared to the obtrusive sounds expected if Edinburgh Airport is allowed to continue its plans. For more information please contact nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk and look at the website, <http://www.eanab.org.uk/>.

Many residents have been aware of unpleasant odours in the village at times. A representative from Scottish Water attended a Community Council meeting to explain the upgrades taking place in the nearby water treatment plant and to answer questions particularly about the unpleasant smells emitting from this plant. Likewise four representatives from your council met with the INEOS (Inspec Ethylene Oxide Specialities) to investigate gaseous odours from Houndpoint. If you are aware of any foul smell from Houndpoint or the water treatment plant please phone 0793220515 or 02383 415215 or email nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk.

If you have any issues which you would like the Community Council to look at please do not hesitate to contact any Community Councillor or to email the Secretary: nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk.

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.

Training for Defibrillator

The Community Council has arranged training for residents of North Queensferry to use the Defib which is installed at the Bus Stop Battery Road courtesy of Deep Sea World. This training increases the confidence of individuals to use the Defib should a visitor or resident experience a cardiac episode in the lower part of the village, prior to emergency services arriving on scene.

We would like as many residents as possible to sign up for this training thereby spreading the level of experience as widely as we can across the village. You never know when you might require this expertise or support yourself. Please try to attend this training.

VENUE - The Ferrybridge Hotel.
DATE - 25th March 2020.
TIME - 7pm for 7.30 start.

NB. If any participants wish to have supper before the training starts please arrive an hour earlier. Any questions regarding this evening please email :

sheila@foggon.net

68th Fife Scout Group

(Inverkeithing)

New Members Welcome

Come along for a trial visit

Beavers (6 to 8 years): Tuesdays 6.15-7.30pm

Cubs (8 to 10 years): Thursdays 6.30-8.00pm

Scouts (11 to 14 years): Mondays 6.30-8.30pm

Explorer: Mondays 8.30-10.00pm

BP Hall, Hope Street, Inverkeithing

Please email kevinlloyd6@msn.com with any enquiries



VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING IN NORTH QUEENSFERRY CHURCH ON ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS

10:30 TO 12 NOON

ALL AGES WELCOME

Dates as follows:

February	12	26
March	11	25
April	8	22
May	6	20
June	3	17

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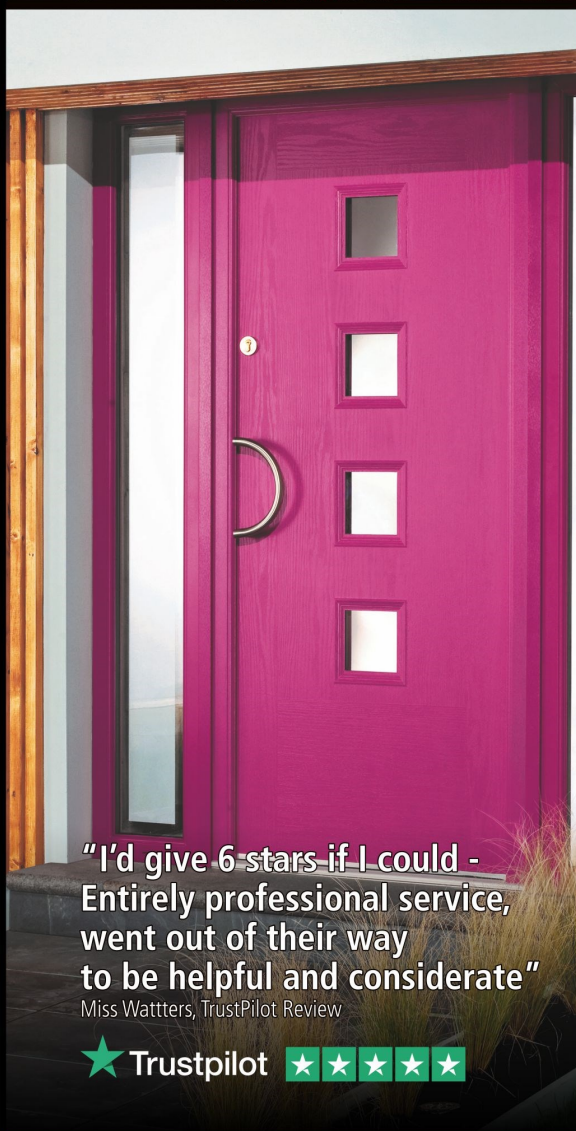
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