



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

## Ferry Birds Autumn 2021

The village has been quite quiet over the past few months but I have seen or heard plenty of species nevertheless. A quick trip to Carlingnose early in October illustrates this. Fortunately the seat was vacant and several cormorants and guillemots were spotted on the sea along with some gulls and an immature gannet. A common tern also flew by. Other birds heard included a chaffinch, a small flock of long-tailed tits and a greenfinch. Back in the village The Brae was reasonably busy with a noisy pair of magpies and a crow along with a noisy flock of house sparrows. Meanwhile the usual waders were busy feeding on the mud in West Bay. The oystercatchers and curlews give themselves

away as they noisily decide who feeds where and the slightly quieter redshank get on with feeding up to regain their weight following their flights from Icelandic breeding sites. Another reminder of this migratory behaviour was the sound of geese over the village early in October. Other birds I have noted around the village have included blue and great tits, blackbirds, robins and wood pigeons.

This time of year also produces the amazing display of flowers and fruits of the ivy. This never seems to fail with the ivy producing a continuous supply of flowers which in turn produce seeds and in the process supply food for insects such as hover-flies, bees and wasps. Take care, but choose a warm afternoon and go and marvel at a wonder of nature.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

The annual Remembrance Day Service will take place at the village war memorial on Sunday 14th November 2021, commencing at 10:50.

Anybody who would like to take a more active part in the Service, giving the Reading or delivering the Eulogy, should contact David Bonas on 07947943292 or e-mail [david\\_bonas@hotmail.com](mailto:david_bonas@hotmail.com)

### Work on the Forth Rail Bridge

#### Working hours: Seven days

Dayshift 07.30hrs to 17.30hrs

Backshift 20.00hrs to 04.30hrs

Nightshift to suit possessions but normally 22.30hrs to 07.00hrs.

For any concerns relating to work on the Bridge please phone:-

During the day (working hours): Ian Simms: 07919307711

At night and at weekends: the Contact Centre: 0345 711 4141

To keep up to date on the project, find details about oncoming work and browse a 'FAQ' section see:-

[www.scotlandsrailway.com/projects/forth-bridge](http://www.scotlandsrailway.com/projects/forth-bridge)

## Community Council

Zoom, zoom, zoom, the year is rapidly passing and your Community Council is still using Zoom in place of actual face to face meetings. Depending on the decision at the Council meeting on Thursday (14.10.21) your zooming council may well not have face to face meetings using the Community Centre until next year. At least Zoom meetings mean we don't have to go out in the dark and cold ! In fact these online meetings have proved very successful with many more village residents attending and putting their opinions forward. It appears that Zoom enables the voices of a lot more residents to be heard at Community Council meetings. If you would like to join a meeting please contact one of your community councillors for a Zoom link. The meetings are always the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.

Looking back at the last Ferry News Community Council article - in May - most of our activities are long standing except that in the last few months we have been involved in the beginnings of a Local Plan for the village. All residents have had the opportunity to complete questionnaires and the results informed two village workshops held in the Community Centre and Deep Sea World in early August. The village seems to be in agreement that traffic and parking are two critical issues although by no means the only concerns. Although the Plan is being administered by Fife Council's Community Education Department it must be stressed that this Plan will be 'for the village by the village'.

As in previous articles about the Community Council certain vital topics continue to dominate our activities namely the Albert and its future, work on the Forth Bridge, a public toilet for the village, COVID relief and unsociable be-

haviour at Pierhead.

Stalemate seems to be the situation of the Albert as the current owner has withdrawn an application to Fife Council for planning permission to change the use of the Hotel into residential flats. Meanwhile the Albert building looks more and more sad as each week passes. The state of the Albert combined with the condition of the Ferrybridge hotel does nothing to provide a positive impression of the village to tourists and locals alike.

Work on the Forth Rail Bridge has continued throughout the summer and at the moment appears to be on schedule, thanks to the good summer weather we have enjoyed. This essential work, undertaken by Balfour Beatty for Network Rail, remains noisy and sometimes dusty however blasting is expected to finish at the end of December and the entire scaffold removed over the following months. Obviously this depends entirely on the weather and also the state of the steel and past repairs uncovered by the blasting. Weekly updates about the work and expected noise are posted on the three village notice boards as well as Network Rail's notice board in Battery Road Car Park. This information can also be found on the Network Rail website <https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/forth-bridge>.

Two of your community councillors have weekly meetings with Network Rail and Balfour Beatty to raise village concerns, understand the works in progress, ask for reports and attempt to ameliorate difficulties. These meetings sometimes involve another department working on the coastal path which unfortunately still remains closed from the Brae to just past Piggery Steps. Additional to the work necessary to make various rocks safe Network Rail will also be taking down one tree and lopping the tops of others to improve safety at the Piggery

## Community Council cont

Steps. Meanwhile access to the Coastal Path is via Helen Lane and up a small track along the side the water treatment works.

**If there is something you would like us to mention at the Network Rail, Balfour Beatty weekly meeting, please contact the Community Council Secretary:**

One issue which is very long standing is the provision of a public toilet for the village. What is there to say? We are still waiting as the project crawls through the Fife Council system (cistern?)

The monthly agenda of your Community Council meeting has certain topics which always occur. These include village planning applications received by Fife Council; a Police report; reports from our four local Fife Councillors who regularly take forward our questions and concerns to Fife Council officers; a Floral Enhancement report detailing their flourishing gardening activities which we all must have noticed around the village and information on Edinburgh Airport's plans for changing their

flight paths.

The police monthly reports record any crime in the village and also the number of North Queensferry phone calls made to the Police. Although the Police try to have a presence in the village often they are only able to act when contacted by the public as they are much overstretched and have minimal staff. The Police receive, on average, ten phone calls a month from the village which is very few compared to other areas in South West Fife, so obviously the latter receive priority. Antisocial behaviour of 'visitors' to North Queensferry has plagued the village for years however to obtain Police support to help solve this unsociable matter it is imperative that we phone 101 when the problem occurs.

The Community Council continues to administer a small fund for COVID relief to support local residents. This fund will probably be wound up at the end of this year unless the situation with COVID changes. Grants are completely confidential. To apply: please contact 07973 839751



### Village of Light

**In December 2020 many households helped light up the village during the festive season.**

**Can we make the village even brighter this year by encouraging and supporting our neighbours to add lights to their garden, doorway, porch and windows ?**

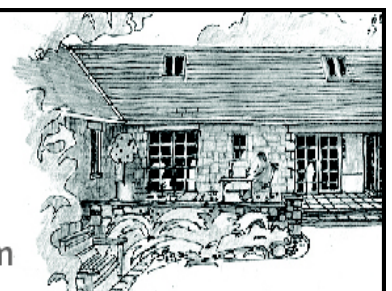


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## North Queensferry Community Complex

Formerly known as North Queensferry Community Centre has new trustees Nigel Carter is Chair, Lucie McCaulay is Secretary and Susanne Carter is Treasurer, you will probably have noticed that the existing carpark was extended earlier this year, new external doors and fire escape doors fitted, and the fire alarm system is being updated.

We hope that these improvements may put the hall and the MUGA back at the

Centre of village life.

We are currently looking at improving the efficiency of the building which will be environmentally friendly and help reduce running costs.

Internal discussions are currently taking place regarding employment of a part-time Community Complex Development Officer, whose function will be to invigorate the use of the Community Complex and MUGA after their long period of disuse caused by Covid.

**Ferry Property Maintenance Services**

**Building work and all types of maintenance**

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*Roofing: slate, tile, zinc, felt, lead work, flat roof.*  
*Guttering: cast iron, plastic, aluminium.*  
*Roughcasting: dry, wet, lime.*  
*Plaster boarding: wall, ceiling, plastering.*  
*Woodwork: fencing, decking and more*  
*Repair or new, no job too small.*

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*For work requiring specialised trades, I bring in recommended experienced tradesmen such as joiner, plumber, electrician, blacksmith, tiler.*

**Olivier James: Builder**

Mobile Phone: **07815029249**

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Use your Facebook and LinkedIn



## Contributions

for the next issue  
of the Ferry News

are to be with us by

**Friday 14th January 2022**

to:

7 Carlingnose Park

E: [mary@ferrynews.org.uk](mailto:mary@ferrynews.org.uk)

**Your Community Council meets on Zoom at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month.**

**Minutes of the previous meeting are on the village notice boards.**

**For the Zoom link to the monthly meeting contact one of your community councillors or the Secretary**  
[nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk](mailto:nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk)

**Everyone is very welcome**

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To become a member and for further information about the Community Trust please contact-

<http://www.nqcommunitytrust.org.uk/>

## Local Action Plan (NQLAP)

The North Queensferry Local Action Plan is an inclusive area wide community consultation, using the place standards framework to guide the community consultation process. Fife Council Community Learning and Development staff along with colleagues in Housing Services, Safer Neighbourhoods team and The North Queensferry Local Action Plan steering group reps, posted questionnaires through every door in North Queensferry. This also included having a chat with residents to assist them fill in the questionnaires and how it was important for every resident to have their say on The Local Action Plan.

504 questionnaires were delivered in North Queensferry, with completed questionnaires to be returned to either Wrights Shop or Rankin's Café.

There was a 20% return of questionnaires, along with information sent directly by voluntary and community groups in North Queensferry.

Added to this was an online consultation with P1-P7 pupils from North Queensferry Primary School. We also had a Zoom call with local businesses in North Queensferry.

The Community Consultation process has had to, like all things in everyday life, contend with the Covid-19 global pandemic. At all times Fife Council staff and steering group members followed the Scottish Governments guidance and protocols throughout.

In September we got the green light to hold 'Vision into Reality' and 'Making It Happen' workshops in the North Queensferry Community Centre and Deep-Sea World café area. This gave us venues at the top and bottom of the village to encourage maximum participation in the workshops from residents.

The workshops took place on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September from 3-5 pm in the Community Centre and from 6-8 pm in Deep Sea World café.

At the workshops all the information from

the completed paper questionnaires, online questionnaires, consultations with school pupils, businesses and information directly from voluntary and community groups, were on display in the workshops.

Participants in the workshops were guided round the information on display. Participants were encouraged to fill out forms that identified what outcomes from the questionnaires were a priority for them and to give an indication if they would like to be involved in finding resolutions to the outcomes in the Local Action Plan. Various Fife Council and partner agency staff attended the workshops to start discussions with participants on the outcomes from the consultation. This has already had positive impacts, with new cycle racks being installed around the village to encourage more green travel within the village.

All the information & feedback from the participants at the four workshops is being used to develop the local action plan. Community & Neighbourhoods Service staff are working with colleagues to write up the draft local action plan.

When the draft action plan is completed, staff will arrange community events, to ensure residents agree with the layout and format of the local action plan. The process will also include presenting the plan to the South & West Fife Area Committee, where the elected members will sign it off.

Fife Council Community & Neighbourhoods staff would like to acknowledge and thank, the Local Action Plan Steering Group, all community groups, businesses, school pupils, residents, Fife Council and partnership agencies, Wright's shop, Rankin's café, North Queensferry Community Centre and Deep-Sea World for all their help and support in developing the North Queensferry Local Action Plan.

For more information on the North Queensferry Local Action Plan please email [letstalkaboutnorthqueensferry@fife.gov.uk](mailto:letstalkaboutnorthqueensferry@fife.gov.uk).



## Village Show - Art Competition - 2021...

We are all disappointed that the 'village show' has also been cancelled this year. However, with considerable help from the Primary School the annual Art Competition went ahead.

All the artwork from P1 through 7 have now been judged and are now on display in the Station Waiting Room for all families and visitors to view.



4-5 Years-olds



6 Year-olds...



7 Year-olds



8 Year-olds



Congratulations to Maisie Allen for winning the NQHT Shield, and to Jude Fraser for winning the Jubilee Cup. This year, prizes, with an Amazon Gift Card from the Heritage Trust will be presented by the School.

Special thanks to Jill Brown, Fiona George and Mary Dempsey for their invaluable assistance.

# Activities at the North Queensferry Community Complex

## Dog training

Dog Trainer, Saffi Rowan has been working with dogs in North Queensferry since she was 13. Google Fife Dog Training to find Saffi on Facebook or through her website to access a registration form

## Yoga

We have 3 yoga classes a week in our Small Hall

Mondays & Wednesdays 7 to 8.30 with Nacho email [downwardfacingdog@protonmail.com](mailto:downwardfacingdog@protonmail.com)

Friday 9.30 to 10.30 am with Anne Guilloton email [aneyoga4everybody@gmail.com](mailto:aneyoga4everybody@gmail.com)

## Toddlers

Our Parent and Toddler group meet every Thursday at 930 until 1130 in our small hall.

This is a great place to meet other young families in the village, and a chance for little ones to create bonds with their age mates that may endure throughout their nursery and school years and beyond.

## Arts and Crafts

We have an Arts and Crafts group running on Thursday nights from 7 until 930.

The group has been going for many years now and if you would like to join them contact Jill Brown on 0976 133701 or email [jill.ebe@talktalk.net](mailto:jill.ebe@talktalk.net)

## Youth Club

We would love to see new members for our youth club which meets on Thursday evenings in our Main Hall.

There are a number of awards that our young ones can train for at the Youth Club and these can count towards their academic qualifications.

p4 to p7 pupils meet in our Main Hall from 6.15 to 7.30

s1 and above meet 7.45 to 9.15

## Ukulele

We have had a block of ukulele classes running through September/October. The teacher, Ivy Partridge, is great fun and the lessons superb. We would like to have her back again but need more people to join.

Ukulele was introduced into schools a few years ago as a replacement for recorder lessons, and it is this that has led to a huge uptake in adult players throughout the UK

## Social Cafe

We have a social cafe running on Wednesdays from 10 until 1230. If you are over 65 and wish to register for this just come along any Wednesday.

If you would like to book a space within the Community Centre or the Multi Use Games Area, please email at [nq.community.centre@gmail.com](mailto:nq.community.centre@gmail.com).

Alternatively you are welcome to pop in on a Thursday morning to make inquiries in person or to pick up food waste bags from our front lobby.

KarenTrotter (Facilities' Supervisor/artist in residence)

### **Narrow pavements and public paths**

**Are plants from your garden making public paths narrower?**

**If so, please cut them back.**

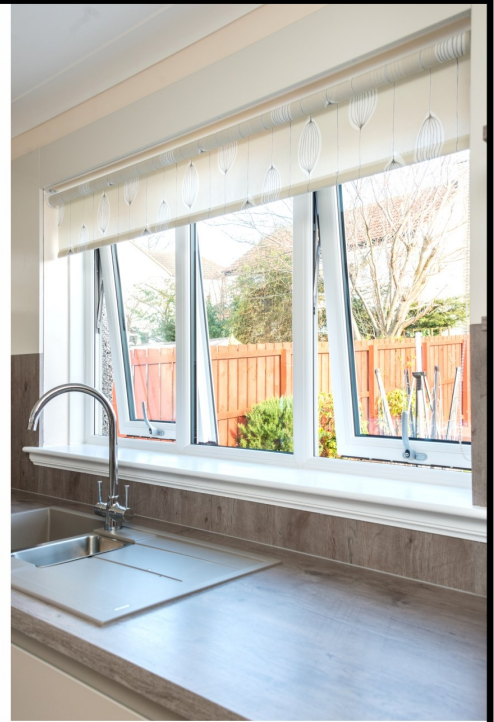


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