The Ferry News

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Community Council

Over the last few months the community council has undertaken its regular responsibilities such as looking at planning applications and considering reports from Police Scotland, our local councillors and from community council representatives on the various village community groups, such as that organising the Forth Bridge Festival. Additionally the community council routinely supports the plant/floral displays around the village both financially and by managing and undertaking the gardening.

Over the last year or more the community council has been closely involved in considering the implications for the village of World Heritage status for the rail bridge and the proposed Network Rail visitor centre. The council has promoted meaningful communication between the village and Fife Council and with Network Rail. This month, in May, it arranged for representatives from Network Rail and Fife Council to attend the regular council meeting to further explain the plans for the visitor centre and what this will mean for the village and to hear Fife Council's views on the rise in tourist numbers: the expected benefits and effects. This was an opportunity for residents to put forward their views and concerns especially about the expected influx of vehicles through the village.

Currently council members attend the World Heritage Steering Group as does a representative of North Queensferry Heritage Trust. The aim of the Group is to obtain World Heritage status for the bridge and to make plans for the running of the World Heritage site should that status be granted. The work of the community council also feeds into the Forth Bridges Forum the aim of which is to ensure that thorough effective stakeholder engagement remains at the heart of the operation and maintenance of the bridges for further information see:

http://www.forth-bridges.co.uk/forth-bridges-forum.html

There is also community council representation on the newly formed Bridges Tourism Group which is looking at tourism for the whole area around the three Forth bridges, and participates in the group planning for the Road Bridge anniversary celebrations.

The council takes part in Transport Scotland's North Community Forum which informs representatives from north of the Forth about any traffic implications caused by bridge construction as well as construction progress. This forum also addresses community transport concerns. In March representatives from Transport Scotland gave a presentation about the construction and progress of the new road bridge (the Queensferry Crossing). This fascinating insight into the construction needs, challenges and progress was heard by an enthusiastic village audience. Transport Scotland is holding information days about the new road into the village. These will take place in the first and second weeks of August at the community centre.

The community council's website has had hiccups recently but expects to be back on track very soon. Meanwhile the minutes of the month's meeting can be seen on the village notice boards in Brock Street, Battery Road and at the turn to the Marina from Ferry Road.

The community council meets at 7.30pm in the community centre on the second Thursday of each month. The Annual General meeting will take place at the July meeting (10.07.14). All villager residents are very welcome.

North Queensferry Station

Those of you who have been to the station recently will have noticed that Phase 1 of the refurbishment programme is not far from completion.

North Queensferry Station Trust is pleased to announce the building will be open for use on 1st July 2014 exactly 124 years to the day since the station was opened in 1890.

Within the station building will be 'Bridge the Gap' café operated by Rankin's, Visitor Information section, Waiting Room and a Gallery showing the history of the station with supporting artifacts.

It is expected that Phase 2 of the refurbishment programme will continue with the installation of modern toilet and baby changing facilities to be completed by Spring 2015.

GALA, GALA, GALA

…..it's that time of year again when all our thoughts turn to the Gala (and whether or not we will be blessed with sunshine for the week ?!).

Congratulations to Luke Morgan and Hannah Taylor, your King and Queen for 2014.

Gala week this year runs





from Saturday 7th June
to Saturday 14th June. See separate Itinerary for full details of times and venues. The theme this year is Commonwealth Games.

The Gala will start with our regular Sand Sculpture competition on Port Laing Beach on 7th June at 1:30pm (tide should be receding this year!). The week then continues with Raft Racing (hope your rafts are nearing completion!), running, cycling, games, scavenger hunt and Friday Disco. All leading to a fantastic Gala Day on 14th June with Gala Dance that evening.

The week long Gala has been running since the 1950's and celebrates the landing of Princess Margaret in Fife. She became Queen Margaret in 1069 on her marriage to King Malcolm of Scotland. On Gala day (June 14th) pupils from the local primary School re enact the arrival procession & crowning of the royal couple.

Today the Gala King greets the Gala Queen and her Ladies in Waiting at the Pier (just past The Albert Hotel). They are then joined by other members of the royal party and villagers young and old.

The procession forms at Pierhead Buildings at 12 noon and Scottish Transport Pipe Band will then lead a very colourful parade, leaving at 12:15 prompt - they will then stroll up the Brae and along Brock Street to the Queen Margaret playing fields. The crowning ceremony then takes place. The committee have been working closely with the school in preparation for the parade, the children are refreshingly enthusiastic and we hope everyone has a really great time.

Throughout the day there are free rides and activities for all ages. This year we have some exciting new additions; a climbing wall , human table football, dunker tank and laser quest! Very active! We still have all the old favourites too. Stalls and performances are encouraged from all village groups, if you haven't yet confirmed your place please speak to a member of the committee as soon as possible.

Arena events during the day will include football finals, the infamous tug-of-war (male and female), human table football, raffle and prize giving.

There is definitely something for all tastes and styles this year, we hope to see as many villagers as possible taking part!

The free food bags for the village children (up to S4) will this year be donated by The Ferrybridge Hotel and Wrights Grocer. The vouchers for the food will be distributed via the nursery and school. We are aware that there are many children in the village who do not attend North Queensferry Primary School. Can you please make yourselves known either through a member of the committee, Facebook or our email address and we will arrange to deliver to you.

The 'Tea Ladies' will once again turn the Community Centre into a cosy café offering a tempting selection of sandwiches and cakes. Donations are most welcome and can be handed into the centre on Friday evening or Saturday morning. On the field we will have burgers and ice cream.

The Gala Dance marks the end of the week's celebrations and this year is an 18+ event. We are very lucky to have retained the hugely popular Sid's Garage to play. Tickets, priced at £5 , will be sold on a first come first, served basis and will be on sale soon. Please watch our Facebook page, village noticeboards and S1 for further details of sale.

FOGs (Friends Of the Gala), we are once again looking for your help. Can you hang bunting, steward a race, collect litter, set up on gala day, sell raffle tickets, sponsor a race, help clean the beach??? If so we'd love to hear from you, please get in touch via the usual places to help where you can , we especially need help marshalling the bike race. .

Can all 2013 winners please ensure trophies and shields are returned, engraved to the Committee by 24th May.

A photographer will be in attendance at most gala events. If you do not wish yourself, or your child, to be photographed please make yourself known to a member of the committee.

In other news….

This year we held a **Bingo night** with normal bingo as well as Irish and Rock and Roll Bingo. We also had a **Sinatra night** at the Ferrybridge hotel followed by some impromptu karaoke.

The committee would like to thank you all for the continued support of our fundraisers throughout the year and hope to see you all enjoying yourselves at Gala Week 2014.

Get in touch with us on Facebook, at Northqueensferrygala@hotmail.com or join us at a meeting.

Police Update

Throughout March and April 2014, Officers from Police Scotland have conducted a number of pro-active initiatives throughout the Inverkeithing and North Queensferry area, addressing concerns that have been raised at both local and national levels.

At the last Community Engagement meeting for Inverkeithing and North Queensferry, local residents identified the following priorities for the following two months.

Anti Social Behaviour in the area of the Community Centre at Ballast Bank, and Speeding Motorists throughout Inverkeithing and the trunk roads serving Inverkeithing and North Queensferry.

In response to these priorities, community officers have worked in cooperation with staff at Inverkeithing Community Centre, response officers, Police Scotland Campaign Against Violence officers, and roads policing officers.

Staff at the Ballast Bank Community Centre have met with community officers and have identified measures that are being undertaken to deter further instances of anti social behaviour at the community centre and the surrounding area.

High visibility, foot patrols and mobile patrols have been conducted at the community centre and the surrounding area in order to deter anti social behaviour. Officers have also engaged with local youths in order to make them aware of the impact that anti social behaviour has on the surrounding community.

An increased number of regular speed check deployments have been conducted on the major trunk routs throughout and around Inverkeithing and North Queensferry, which have resulted in warnings, and charges being issued to road users in relation a range of road traffic offences.

Throughout the last two months a significant number of the crimes have been detected as a result of information received from the local community. Any information relating to crime in the local area is appreciated, and will allow officers to work more effectively, dealing with matters that are relevant to local residents.

You can give information about crime in your area by calling Police Scotland on 101, or by contacting Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Alternatively, Community Engagement Meetings are held at Inverkeithing High School every second month. These meetings are open to all members of the public and will next be held at 7PM on Tuesday the 1st of July 2014.

Matthew Ghilotti PC1132

Visitors from Hohoe Ghana 2014

Many of you will remember the twinning visit paid to North Queensferry by the Rev Gershon Agbi and Ms Esther Kandah from our twinned church in Hohoe, Ghana, in the autumn of 2012.

During their stay they enjoyed a wide variety of activities. There was a ceilidh in the community centre during which they were entertained by children from our primary school. They also spent a day in the school learning about local traditions and observing the children at work and play.

There were visits to Edinburgh, Falkland Palace, St Andrews, Linlithgow and many other places, not to mention a sea trip to Inchcolm Island which Esther said she will remember for the rest of her life as she hates the sea and boats! .

Since that visit Gershon has moved to another church further north in the Volta Region of Ghana and the church in Hohoe has a new minister. The new minister's name is Rev Hannah Ofori, she has a ten year old son called Nathaniel and her husband's name is David.

In order to maintain the close link between the congregations and communities of Hohoe and North Queensferry the twinning committee in North Queensferry church have sent an invitation to Rev Ofori for one of her congregation and herself to visit us here in North Queensferry.

The provisional dates for the visit are the 27th Sept. to 11th Oct this year. The plans for this visit are progressing and should you wish any more information about the planned visit or indeed would like to get involved in some way please contact Dougie or Jan Short on 01383 416492 or email douglas.short@sky.com.

Village Show

An exhibition of village produce, traditional home crafts, floral art, photography &baking.

Sales tables, competitions, raffle, auction.....and much more

Saturday 30th August 2014

14.00 to 16.00

NQ Community Centre (Brock Street)

Admission:	Adult	£1.00
	Child/ Conc	£0.50
	Family	£2.50



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Forth Bridges Festival 4th September to 13th September

The Forth Bridges Festival will celebrate the 50th Birthday of the world-famous Forth Road Bridge. Here are some of the events to look forward to:-

Scotland Welcomes the World to Lunch
Saturday 6th September
North and South Queensferry

Enjoy a delicious taste of Scottish food and drink as we show the world how Scotland celebrates. The menu for this special lunch will be designed by Celebrity Chef Nick Nairn and will be served at tables against the backdrop of the magnificent Forth Bridges. A range of entertainment will provide the perfect accompaniment to the high-quality food and drink: from street drummers to choirs; unicycle displays to dancers; a fashion show to mobile demonstration kitchens– this will be a fantastic, vibrant and high-tempo family outing. The Queensferry Hotel will host a 'Best of Scotland' Food & Drink event, where visitors can sample the finest produce, complemented by suitable beverages! The fun will include a BBQ and hog-roast. A Scottish Food & Drink Market will run in South Queensferry from 10am - 7pm to offer tastes of a wide range of products and give you the chance to purchase mementoes of a special day out. The streets will be decorated, there will be an amazing Birthday Cake and, if the Scottish weather does not co-operate fully with the celebrations, there is a wet weather plan which will allow us to go on with the Party!

Boat Flotilla
Sunday 7th September

The Firth of Forth will be decorated with up to 200 boats and vessels of all kinds, including Navy ships, tug boats, yachts and even 'Reaper', the famous restored Fifie herring drifter museum ship. The Food & Drink Market will also operate on the day of the Flotilla. Crowds of visitors will line the water's edge to witness a memorable and beautiful sight. There will be viewing-points along both shores, allowing spectators to watch as the crafts sweep up the Firth, turn under the Forth Road Bridge and travel back down in arrow formation.

Torchlight Procession and Fireworks Finale
Saturday 13th September

On the last evening of the Festival, the celebrations will conclude with a spectacular torchlight procession and fireworks event. This will be a unique chance for local people and visitors to cross over the Forth Road Bridge, by torchlight. Torches will be sold to participants, with a proportion of the revenue going towards our Charity Challenge to support charities within the local community. Come and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Bridge, while at the same time contributing to worthwhile causes within the community.

Other Events

An Art Trail Exhibition, Boat Tours, an Ancestry Day, a Biker Rally and the Queensferry Rowing Challenge are just some of the other inclusive events being planned for this 10-day extravaganza. We look forward to welcoming visitors from near and far to celebrate a very important Birthday of a very important Scottish landmark.

For details of all the events and information on how to purchase tickets for this world-class celebration, please visit www.forthbridgesfestival.com

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Come and have a row...with the North Queensferry Coastal Rowers

The second full season of NQCRC was an eventful one, a fantastic summer gave us plenty of great rowing, enjoyable trips away and a surprise win at the inaugural Queensferry Challenge row against South Queensferry.

Winter weather hasn't been kind to us, but did allow a window for St Margaret's Hope to go into dry dock where Peter has lovingly restored her scuffs and scrapes. Longer evenings are now back and we would love to see some new rowers. Coastal rowing has no age limits and is not as difficult as it may sound. A row under the bridges definitely offers Maximum Impact for Minimal Effort!

Come and have a go before you decide if you would like to join the club. We generally row (tide permitting) on Saturday mornings from 10am, Sundays at 1pm and Tues-Thurs Evenings from 6.30- 8.30. Let this inspire you to come out and have a try and get out of rowing what you wish. Be it an occasional relaxing paddle on the water, increased fitness, community spirit or a bit of competitive racing.

If you would like to Come and have a Row, come anytime, or come along to our

Beach BBQ and Have a Row Session on Wednesday 18th June @ 7-9pm

N.queensferrycoastalrowingclub@yahoo.com

His Name is Carved with Pride

The Heritage Trust is delighted to publish this remarkable story of one North Queensferry's former residents who is listed on the War Memorial as a casualty during WW1.

A considerable part of the research was carried out by Hamish Ferguson who will be known to many as an English teacher, for many years, at Inverkeithing High School.

"When I go on to that field I see only the ball. Where it goes, I go, and should someone be in the road, that is their own lookout…"
It has been some time now since Scottish rugby produced a genuinely world-class player; one respected and feared by its opponents. But in David Revell Bedell-Sivright it had a player who was both.

Born on December 8th 1880 in Edinburgh, he spent his early life in the family home of North Cliff in North Queensferry before being sent to Fettes College at the age of thirteen. It was here he was introduced to rugby football, the sport of choice of the private schools. By nature a shy and sensitive boy, he was teased by his schoolmates but he found his release on the rugby field, his powerful physique barrelling through his opponents like a tank through a cornfield.

In 1898 he went up to Trinity College Cambridge to read Law. He played four times for Cambridge in the annual game against Oxford, and became its captain. It was inevitable that he would come to the notice of the Scottish national selectors, and Bedell-Sivright made his debut for Scotland in Swansea against Wales on 27th January 1900. It was the classic fixture of the Edwardian age. With England still weakened by the split between the two rugby codes, Ireland a little off the pace and France not yet involved, the Scots and the Welsh dominated the first decade of the new century.

Wales had developed a fast, flowing game, passing from man to man until they made it over the line to score. The Scots built their game on forward power, using their pack to overwhelm, surging towards the opposition line as a unit, dribbling the ball along the ground with their feet until they forced their way over for a try.

While the Scottish rugby establishment despised the Welsh game as inferior, it was results that counted. In the first decade of the century Wales won five Triple Crowns, often tearing through the Scottish team. Bedell-Sivright's arrival marked a tilt in the balance of power, especially when the Scots had home ground advantage.

Scotland won the Triple Crown in 1901 and 1903 and again in 1907. Bedell-Sivright played in eight of the nine games during these three seasons. Scotland missed out on the Triple Crown in 1905, when he was out for the season due to injury. In 1909 he called it a day, and Wales went on to win all three home internationals that year.

More than a century after he retired Bedell-Sivright remains the only Scot to have played in three Triple Crown-winning teams. Since then only five other Scottish sides have beaten all three of the other home nations in the same season.

The typical modern rugby forward is a giant of a man. He would not have been big by today's standards but he was powerfully built. His role seems to have been similar to that of the modern loose forward, taking himself wherever the ball was. But the essence of his game was total commitment, playing with a ferocity that took the breath away. He gave no quarter to opponents, and accepted fearsome physical punishment himself; an attitude that he carried into his other sporting passion of boxing.

Bedell-Sivright was also a Scottish amateur champion heavyweight boxer. He boxed just as he played rugby, swinging haymakers and ready to take a few hard shots in order to get in close enough to land his blows. The only way to beat him was to stay out of range until he punched himself out, then move in and nail him.

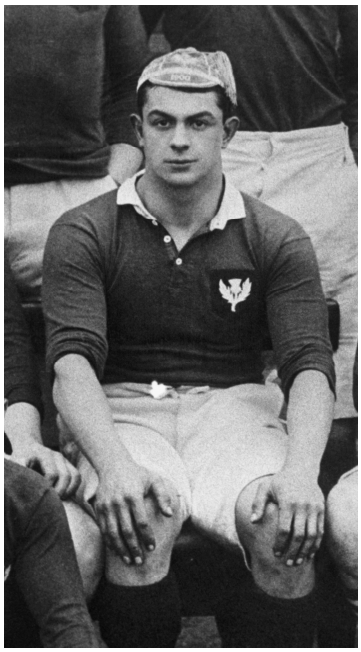
On top of his physical skills, he had the ability to inspire. After touring South Africa with the British Lions in 1903, the English Football Union nominated him as Lions captain in 1904 at the age of twenty-three - the youngest man to this day to have been appointed captain of a British Lions touring squad. The team won all fourteen of their matches in Australia.

However in their first match in New Zealand, he broke his leg and returned to Sydney to recuperate. He spent some time as a jackaroo in the outback, but its attraction did not last. In June 1905 he returned to Scotland, and that autumn matriculated at Edinburgh University to study medicine – and also returned to first-class rugby.

He captained Edinburgh University and was invited to lead his country against the touring New Zealanders. This game led to an incident that caused bitterness that lasted twenty years. Rumour had it that the tourists were on two shillings a day per man expenses. SFU secretary James Aikman Smith and Bedell-Sivright went to their hotel to try to have the match called off.

New Zealand insisted on going ahead but the SFU went out of its way to make it an uncomfortable experience. With no attempt to protect the playing surface from a November frost, the pitch was treacherous. New Zealand won 12-7, but when they took the match ball as a souvenir the SRU sent an official to ask for it back. As a final insult the touring party was not invited to the post-match banquet. It would be a generation before

rugby relations between the two countries were restored. The All Blacks did not return to Scotland until the late 1920s.



This was not the first time that Bedell-Sivright had antagonised people in the southern hemisphere. In 1904, during a match in Australia he led his team from the field in protest after the referee sent a British forward off for swearing. In his post-match interview he said that the referee had been incompetent, but his team had put up with the decisions but drew the line when the referee questioned the honour of one of his players who, being a gentleman, would never have sworn.

Bedell-Sivright was a complex character, a mixture of opposites: a quiet youngster who found self-expression in violent sports; a shy man who made no effort to hide from controversy; an intellectual who would spend twelve hours reading in his personal library, then cause mayhem on the rugby field; a tough heavyweight boxer with two degrees, who relaxed by playing the piano.

He was a refined gentleman who knew how to party after a victory. On one occasion he got so drunk that he crash-tackled a cab horse in Princes Street, then settled down to sleep it off on the tramlines, bringing traffic to a standstill. None of the policemen in attendance dared to do anything to stop him.

It was typical that when he qualified as a doctor he walked away from rugby to concentrate on his medical career. His rugby career had probably not yet reached its peak. At twenty-seven years of age he was younger when he retired than more than half of the captains of the British Lions have been when they led their teams on tour. But he had always been an amateur, playing the game for love. He had found something more important, it was as simple as that.

When the Great War broke out he enlisted in the Royal Navy, sailing for Gallipoli with the expeditionary force as a medical officer. There, they met ferocious resistance from Kemal Ataturk's Turkish forces. The months of pressure as a front-line doctor slowly eroded his health. Apart from the carnage on the battlefield there was the problem of disease among the troops in the Mediterranean summer.

On September 3rd 1915 an exhausted Bedell-Sivright returned from a forward dressing station to his base. He had been bitten by an insect and when the bite turned septic, he died of septicaemia. The most feared forward in the history of rugby had been felled by the tiniest of opponents.

David Bedell-Sivright was buried at sea, somewhere in the Dardanelles.

More than ninety years after his death the Scottish Rugby Union established a Hall of Fame. Among the twelve inaugural inductees was Bedell-Sivright. A bronze trophy was presented to each inductee who was still alive, or given to the families of those who had passed on. No living descendent of Bedell-Sivright could be traced, so his trophy was given to Edinburgh University.

It was a poignant ending to the story of Scotland's forgotten sporting hero.

Heritage Trust Events

We are delighted to have organised some interesting talks in the first half of the year. Hugh Walker gave a well-received talk on the linen industry in Dunfermline to an audience of over 30 people. In April we had a talk from Rory Sandison of SWT. We heard about the great work that this organisation has done over its 50 year. We also heard about the Jupiter Garden project in Grangemouth. Jupiter is a demonstration garden with a nursery. They are currently developing demonstration areas for wildlife gardening which should be finished in July this year. If you are keen gardener then it is well worth a visit.

Looking forward, on 25th June John Done will be taking a family walk around the village starting at 7pm at the war memorial. The annual village show is on Saturday 30th August. On Friday 24th October, we are very pleased to have Trevor Kyle who will be running an "Antiques Road Show" event. You will be able to bring along items and get some views from Trevor on valuations and history etc. Our AGM is on Tuesday 28th October. Then to finish off this year's events on Tuesday 25th November we have the infamous John Clemmens. John will be storytelling about his life in the oil industry taking us on a journey around Iran, Nigeria, Libya and The North Sea.

Other activities that the Trust are focusing on include developing the idea of installing the Beamer Rock lighthouse in the village and creating a heritage trail. In the Autumn we will be working with staff at the new Dunfermline Museum to develop a local reminisce project. We will also be giving guided walks during the Bridges Festival as we are keen to get a good guided walk format established for the village.

The Light Tower will be open through the Spring and Summer. Eric Hood will be opening the Tower from May through to the Autumn (weather permitting).

All our events and news are listed on our Facebook page – do "like us" to keep up to date, on https://www.facebook.com/NorthQueensferryHeritageTrust or visit our website www.nqht.org

The Rotary Club of Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay

Congratulations to the pupils of North Queensferry Primary School who filled over 30 shoeboxes with toys, books and toiletries for children in Eastern Europe as part of a UK wide Rotary project. To date thousands of shoeboxes have been delivered to the former Soviet Bloc countries to make life a little easier for families caught up in poverty there.



Shoeboxes filled by pupils of
North Queensferry Primary School

The club, whose area also covers Rosyth, North Queensferry and Aberdour, supports a number of local organisations as well as contributing to national and international Rotary projects such as the shoebox scheme. The club has also started to plant out the many floral displays it maintains at local rail stations. Look out for the displays at North Queensferry station.

The club continues to meet each Wednesday at lunchtime in the Queensferry Hotel where lunch is usually followed by a speaker from a local charity or business. Anyone interested in coming along to a meeting should contact our secretary, Bob Tait, on 01383 412020. A recent club development has been to hold very informal evening meetings at the ASDA store in Dalgety Bay, usually on Monday evenings. These meetings have been well attended and suit local residents who would like to contribute to the rotary club's community projects but who cannot attend the regular lunchtime meetings. If you are interested in attending one of our Monday evening meetings at ASDA get in touch with Cath Chorley on 01383 823578. And, if you think that club members are involved only in local fundraising events (important as those are) think again. The club also has a full programme of social and sporting events and members have recently paid visits to the aircraft carriers at Rosyth, to the new BBC broadcasting facilities in Glasgow and to the Isle of May by boat from Anstruther.



Ferry Birds -Jan to May 2014

The changing of the seasons is evident from two quite different standpoints. The non-resident birds which have wintered locally have moved away to their breeding grounds both near and far afield and those that spent the northern winter in Africa have returned to take advantage of our long summer days to find food for their chicks for 14 to 16 hours a day. The first group include the ducks such as **red-breasted mergansers** and **goldeneyes** which winter on inshore waters and move to their breeding grounds in the north and west of Scotland. Other birds which winter on the sea just move inland to local freshwater lochs. Typical of these are **great-crested grebes** and **little grebes.** Kinghorn Loch is a local spot for both these birds and there are usually several pairs of each grebe raising young in the summer. Ferry Loch also has a pair of **little grebes** which can sometimes be seen when they are not hiding away in the aquatic vegetation.

The **redshanks** which winter in West Bay have also disappeared. As far as I know **redshanks** which winter in south-east Scotland go to Iceland to breed while those that breed in Scotland tend to winter further south. I searched West Bay for **redshanks** at the beginning of May and could only find one whereas there were between 30 and 40 feeding there throughout the winter. This year they were regularly joined by several **curlews** and **oystercatchers** and a few **dunlins** and **turnstones** occasionally joined the feast.

The second group consist of several **warblers** and **swallows**, **sand and house martins and swifts**. The first of the **warblers** to arrive is the **chiffchaff**. This year one was calling at Port Laing on the 12th of March which was 5 weeks earlier than last year. **Blackcaps** and **willow warblers** are the others in this group which can be heard and sometimes seen around the village. As usual, the coastal path is a good place to wander along to hear these birds but I have also seen and heard all three of the **warblers** on The Brae.

Ferry Loch is also a good spot to look out for the proverbial **swallow** to make, or at least to mark, the beginning of summer. My first **swallow** this year was however at Kinghorn Loch on the 9th of April. There were several flying low over the water with many more **sand martins**. I have since seen **swallows** in North Queensferry at Ferry Loch on the 18th of April, there were 2 on the telephone wires at Garthhill on the 3rd of May and they have also been seen around the boats on Railway Pier. The **swift** is normally the last of this group to appear and the first I saw was one at Carlingnose Point on the 7th of May.

Some of my sightings of the less common birds in and around the village have included a **peregrine falcon** flying parallel to the train as I came over the bridge back from Edinburgh on the 28th of April and there have been other sightings near the quarry and over Ferryhills Road. **Ravens** have bred in the quarry recently and I heard and then saw an adult and a flying young over Port Laing on the 5th of May. **Ravens** are one of the earliest breeders so it wasn't that surprising. I have also seen and heard **tree sparrows** from the coastal path and in the hawthorn bushes on Ferryhills road. **Tree sparrows** definitely seem to have made a comeback in the last year or so.

I have mentioned Ferry Loch previously and it is definitely worth a visit and a quiet sit down on the ruined wall. I have seen **moorhen, coot, mallard** along with the **little grebe** and there is always a chance of some **swallows** and **sand martins** feeding over the loch and **chiffchaffs, willow warblers and blackcaps** singing in the surrounding trees. There is often a **yellowhammer** calling from a gorse bush or the power cables as well.

A small group of **tufted ducks** have been just off shore between Port Laing and Cruickness Point for the last month or so and there was a noisy group of **common terns** on one of the piers in Inverkeithing Inner Bay on the 5th of May. They bred there last year as well as on the derelict pier off Carlingnose Point. There were a few near this pier on the 6th of May but they didn't land on it, probably because a pair of **herring gulls** was in occupation. Something similar happened last year when the **terns** took some time to take over the pier and only did so when there were enough of them to see off the **gulls.**

Otherwise life in the bird world around North Queensferry is normal with **eiders** everywhere and the **fulmars** breeding on the quarry face above Deep Sea World. The **shelducks which** wintered in West Bay have also disappeared, but they can still be seen in Inverkeithing Inner Bay or in the flooded areas in the quarry.

As usual a plea to remember the birds and other creatures which share our gardens. Go easy on the garden clearing so that you don't disturb the nesting birds. I am sure you will all agree its better to give the birds a safe haven to bring up their young than to have a neat immaculate garden. Tidiness is, after all, a human concept and it is probably the untidy corners of the garden where the birds can find most of their food.

John Done

North Queensferry SWRI

Again, we can claim to have had another successful year. Our membership numbers have increased to 20 with several new members. Although we have had to make last minute changes to some of our venues and meeting subjects we have met the challenges and even thrived on these changes.

We started off the session on 26th September 2013 with 'Tasty Nibbles and Bites' a taste and try session with Sally Williamson from 'My Secret Kitchen' which proved very popular, with lots of people ordering their seasonings and products .

On 24th October Ann Bain did a workshop on Christmas Flowers demonstrating easy floral decorations with everyone making one to take home.

On 28th November we had been scheduled to visit 'Curves' Fitness Studio but due to a change of staff they had not recorded the booking so Ann Bain did a paper sculpture workshop and everyone enjoyed a longer chat than usual.

On 23rd January we had been scheduled to have a workshop Doodle style art. Unfortunately due to the sudden death of her mother the demonstrator, understandably, felt unable to do this. We were fortunate to obtain Ken Young from Dalgety Bay Art Club who did a workshop on a simple water colour painting. We may have not exceled in the art but everyone had a great time.

On 27th February we enjoyed hearing Roy Johnston talking about Mary Queen of Scots. His enthusiasm and knowledge were appreciated by all.

On 27th March we had an outing to Jennifer Foster's Hair and Beauty Salon in Inverkeithing. We were very impressed by the efforts that she and her staff had made and enjoyed seeing a member having a makeover hair style. There were also speakers on Skin Care products and Health and Beauty Therapies. We were provided with wine and nibbles and had a really great night.

24th April was our AGM and a great interactive demonstration of recycled crafts made out of inner tube bicycle tyres, by Lucie Macaulay. There was then a finger buffet.

22nd May saw another cancellation to Corstorphine Walled Garden by our guide, Gordon Swann. The committee decided to arrange to revisit 'Honeypot Ceramics'. (A list of dates suitable to Mr Swann will be given to members if they wished to visit over the summer).

North Queensferry came 4th in the Inter Institute Show in Cupar on 10th May with 121½ points out of a possible 140. Not bad for a first go!

We begin again on Thursday 25th September. Come along for a great night out.

Community Trust

North Queensferry Community Trust was set up by representatives of the different community groups in NQ to work on projects to provide and improve on facilities and services in the village. There are similar trusts all over the UK and Scotland with local ones in Kelty, Ladybank, Newburgh, Tayport and Comrie. They are owned and managed by the local community to tackle local issues and provide new opportunities for all ages.

Following a rigorous process conducted by Fife Council, the Council, on the basis of the business plan which we presented to them, have now agreed in principle to grant the Trust a 50 year lease of the West Bay Harbour, and we are now involved in detailed negotiations with the Council over the terms of the lease. The intention is that the annual facility fees that all boat-owners pay to keep their boats there will come to the Community Trust to use in upgrading the facilities and improving the area for the benefit of all harbour users and residents. This is a great opportunity for local residents to manage a substantial asset at the heart of the village at a time when our interests are being squeezed between the building of the new Queensferry Crossing Bridge on one side and the planned developments around the Forth Bridge becoming a World Heritage Site on the other side.

In order to discuss the way forward in running West Bay Harbour we will be having a meeting on:

Saturday 7th June

at 10am in the Albert Hotel

Please come along if you have any questions, concerns or ideas for the future management of the harbour area. You can also contact the Trust by e-mail: nq.communitytrust@gmail.com

Chernobyl Children Brunch

At the recent brunch in North Queensferry Church, the sum of £784.20 was raised , to which will be added the sum of £143 in "Gift Aid" tax claim, making a total of £927.20. Thank you to everyone for their support.

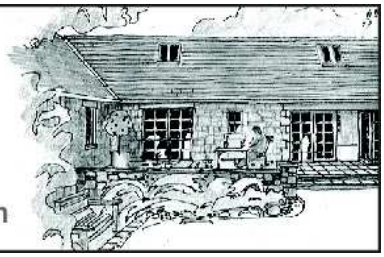
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Bathed in Sunshine

Three years ago, we installed an array of photo-voltaic cells on our south-facing roof. Since then, we have generated approximately half of the electricity that the house uses. That is very satisfying, but last year I heard of a device that can direct the electricity generated by the pv-cells directly to an immersion heater in the domestic hot water cylinder. We talked about it with a local electrician, and he and I checked out different types of device made by various small companies. We decided on a particular model, and it was installed in late February this year.

For our central heating we rely on a gas boiler, which also heats the hot water cylinder. At the beginning of March, the new switch was doing what it said on the box, so I switched off the timer that controls the gas boiler heating the domestic water. Would the solar panels on the roof be able to generate enough power to heat our domestic hot water during the day? And would the water stay hot overnight so that we could have our regular showers in the morning?

The answer to both questions is yes. Since the beginning of March, all the hot water that we use in the house has been heated by the electricity that we generate on the roof. We still earn the same feed-in tariff on the electricity that we generate. At the moment that is running at about £1500 each year, and it increases each year by the rate of inflation - just as state pensions and benefits are linked to the retail price index. But we are now also saving a considerable amount on the gas that we use. So we are using less gas, and the electricity that we use to heat our domestic water is not just free: we are actually paid to generate it.

It is too early to know how much less gas that we will use over a year. But I am keeping a daily check on the electricity generated, and I am monitoring the gas meter and registering meter readings each month. The manufacturers of this kind of controller generally estimate that we will recover the cost of the installation within two to three years. We shall see. Over the first four months of this year (January - April), our gas consumption was lower than over the same period last year. That is not surprising, because the last winter has been much milder than the winter of 2012-2013. But over the months of March and April, as our new switch came into operation, our gas consumption dropped by a further 7%.

If we can heat our domestic water with solar power from March, we may expect to have solar-power hot water for seven or eight months of the year. I will watch the figures over the whole year with great interest. If anyone is interested to know the result, they should ask me at the beginning of April next year. That is when the original pv-cell installation came into operation, so I keep my gas, electricity and solar power figures from the start of April to the end of March.

We have installed a SOLiC 200 solar immersion heater controller, but there are many more, some of them more sophisticated. The switch itself costs about £300, and the electrician fits it into the circuit that powers the immersion heater. The only other electrical connection is a sensor that is attached to the cable that carries the electricity from the pv-cells on the roof. If you already have an immersion heater in the hot-water cylinder, the electrician's job is quick and simple.

When the solar cells are generating electricity, the switch offers that electricity to the immersion heater. Simple. Effective. Money-saving. Green. It explains why I enjoy my daily shower even more than before.

Trevor Watkins



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Queensferry Crossing Update

Construction works are moving ahead strongly on all fronts. All three of the bridge's towers are now well above the level of the foundation caissons (or cofferdam on the Centre Tower) and are heading steadily upwards. The towers are expected to reach deck level during the summer. Later this month, the first steel bridge box sections will arrive on-site from Shanghai. This will trigger the start of production of the reinforced concrete deck which goes on top of these sections at FCBC's precasting sheds in Rosyth Docks. See the article in the latest update publication for information on construction of the towers.

A vital part of the works is the approach viaducts. The Southern Approach Viaduct has recently taken a leap forward with the completion of two of the supporting piers enabling both carriageways of the steel box girder structure to be launched as far as Society Road. Work on the piers supporting the northern approach viaduct is on-going, whilst work on the viaduct itself is on schedule to begin in the autumn. More on the viaduct's construction is in the update publication on page 4.



Central Tower May 2014

Meanwhile, work on the new connecting roads is progressing well. On the southside, the new Queensferry Junction is rapidly taking shape and, during the summer, it is aimed to have traffic flowing on the realigned A904 which includes the new roundabout part of the junction. Works on the new stretch of M90 motorway, which will link the bridge to the M90 (formerly M9 Spur), is moving steadily ahead. To the north, good progress is being made with the new road layout at Ferrytoll. The realigned B981 coming out of North Queensferry is due to become operational in the autumn. The new Ferrytoll embankment, destined to be one of the highest motorway embankments in the UK, is now a highly visible feature on the northern approaches to the Forth estuary.

In summary, major advances are being made right across the project. It is a fantastic job to be involved in and the whole team remains focussed on building a magnificent new bridge of which the whole country will be proud when it opens to traffic in late 2016.



Photo montage of the Queensferry Crossing

The special issue of the Queensferry Crossing Project Update takes a detailed look at the works across the entire construction site. Interest in the bridge construction is increasing as the bridge structures and connecting roads become ever more obvious to local residents and passing motorists. This issue will be available from the community centre, the Albert Hotel and Rankins.

The Community Centre
now has its own website at
www.nqcommunitycentre.org.uk
Check out:-
What's on
Facilities for hire
Regular groups etc.

Contributions for the next issue
are to be with us by
Friday 3rd October 2013
to 7 Carlingnose Park
E: mary@ferrynews.org.uk

Village Show

The Village Show is open to all villagers to enter with a comprehensive range of categories from indoor to outdoor plants; fruit and veg; home baking; floral arrangements; arts & crafts; photography. So put your thinking caps on and see what innovative entry you can submit! The more entries the more interesting the show! A lot of work goes into the preparation of the show so please take part and ensure its success. Your Village Show Schedule will be out next month, delivered to every door in the village!

The primary school children have all received pots pre-planted with two sunflower seeds along with instructions on cultivation. The competition is to see who can grow the tallest sunflower. If your child has grown a very tall sunflower, please tell us the height of the plant by August 22nd by emailing us at nqvillageshow@gmail.com and we will arrange to come to measure it. If you don't live in North Queensferry, please provide us with a photograph of your plant taken with a measuring tape beside it. There will also be an entry form as part of the Village Show schedule which should be handed in at school by Friday 22nd August. The tallest flowers will be measured prior to the show.

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Tuesday	12.30-1.30pm	Cramond Kirk Main Hall
Wednesday	10.00-11.00am	D.Mains Parish Church
Thursday	10.30-11.30am	Dalgety Parish Church
Thursday	12.15-1.15pm	NQ Community Centre
Friday	10.30-11.30am	NQ Community Centre

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North Queensferry Church of Scotland.

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Are you one of the 33 percent?

The church in North Queensferry was delighted to hear that in the 2011 census, 33% of the inhabitants of North Queensferry considered themselves part of the Church of Scotland. That amounts to 355 out of the 1076 people who live in the village.

Unfortunately that is not reflected in the numbers attending your church each Sunday, where the actual turnout is only a fraction – and we would like to find out why!

To do that, can we please ask you some questions.

Firstly, this is what do we do at the moment -

- A service is held in the church each Sunday at 10.00am, which includes Sunday Funday (Sunday School).
- We provide pastoral care for the community through our Minister, assisted by the Elders and other members of the congregation.
- We are members of a Forth Churches grouping, along with Dalgety, Aberdour and our sister church at Inverkeithing (with which we have shared a Minister since 1958).
- We have a Twinning Agreement with a church in Hohoe, Ghana which has seen reciprocal visits. A further visit from our "twins" in Hohoe is being planned for this year.
- We hold a variety of "fund raising" events throughout the year.
- The church hosts a village coffee morning every second Wednesday, to which all are welcomed (proceeds go to local charities).
- We also support other local and international charities

During the winter the hall is used for the monthly meetings of the local SWRI branch and is available for let to others in the community.

We all have to justify our use of scarce resources and in the current climate with present church attendance there is a real concern that if those in North Queensferry who consider themselves as part of the church don't use it, they may sadly lose it.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	Yes	No
Are you a member of North Queensferry Church		
Do you attend some other place of Worship (ANY Faith)		
Have you ever been in North Queensferry Church for a service (Funeral, Wedding, etc)		
Would you expect the Church to be there for funeral, wedding or support		
Have you ever been in North Queensferry Church for another reason e.g. coffee morning, fete, concert, exercise class, SWRI etc (please circle or add)		
Have you had a former (lapsed) Church connection e.g. Sunday School		
If you are a BELIEVER BUT NON ATTENDER – what stops you getting to Church? (health, work, children's sport etc)		
If you used to attend, but stopped – what stopped you?		
What other things could we do to encourage you to come to Church?		

Please drop your answers in the letterbox at the car-park side of the Church in Ferryhills Road

(Feel free to expand on any of these points in writing, or phone 07961 434483)

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