The Ferry News

Ferry Birds Jan to May 2021

As usual West Bay has been the focus for many of our resident and wintering birds. A few **shelduck** have been spotted as well as several **mallard** and **eider ducks.** The usual flock of **redshanks** spent the winter with us. They have now left to go to their breeding areas in Iceland and Northern Scotland. There were small numbers of the usual waders with the **redshanks** as well.

The **fulmars** are now nesting on Inchgarvie. The first I saw were on Inchgarvie at the beginning of February although they had probably been back earlier in January and done their usual disappearing trick before coming back at the start of February. It was only in March that I saw them regularly on the island.

The winter was notable for the presence of several **blackcaps** which spent the winter in the village. This bird breeds across Europe and usually spends the winter in Africa but in recent years some have started wintering in the UK and this winter there were several in the village which showed particularly well on the Brae and gardens overlooking West Bay. More recently The Brae has been the hot spot for other warblers which come to Scotland to breed. I have seen or heard **chiffchaff, willow warbler** and more **blackcaps** while walking The Brae. Resident birds were also very evident with **blackbirds** and **song thrushes** in full song and **chaffinches and goldfinches** joining in while a **redpoll** near the school on the 19th of May was a good spot. Other resident species I have seen or heard from The Brae have been 4 different types of **tit** and **robins, dunnocks** and **wrens.** At times it seemed an orchestra was warming up on The Brae**!**

The **common terns** are back. The first one I heard was flying over West Bay on the 12th of May and I have heard and/or seen them several times since then. I have not checked the Guvvy pier for signs of nest building but will do so soon.

Finally a suggestion you visit the Carlingnose Point Reserve again. The gorse and broom are both showing well but the bluebells on the rocky knoll demonstrate the result of removing the cotoneaster from that part of the reserve Elsewhere the gorse in particular is showing brilliantly around all the village.

As usual a plea to leave some of your garden unmanaged so that the insects and other invertebrates on which many of our birds depend can thrive.

John Done



Community Council

Your last Community Council Ferry News' update was back in January… some five months ago. So what has changed while we have all been in lock down? The Community Council has continued its monthly meetings albeit on Zoom which actually is a very positive experience and much more democratic: previously meetings at the community centre would seldom have anyone attending besides the Community Council itself while on Zoom some five to thirty residents link into the meetings. If you would like to join us please contact one of your community councillors for a Zoom link. The meetings are always the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm and will, at the moment, continue on Zoom.

Looking through the minutes of the last five months, there are certain vital topics which have dominated namely the Albert and its future, work on the Forth Bridge, a public toilet for the village and COVID relief.

The current owner of the Albert has applied to Fife Council for planning permission to change the use of the Albert Hotel into residential flats. Needless to say there were over a hundred objections to this proposal but as yet Fife Council has not made a decision. For the present we will all have to continue dreaming of enjoying a drink in our favourite pub.

Work on the Forth Rail Bridge, being undertaken by Balfour Beatty for Network Rail, is noisy, sometimes dusty but essential. See Network Rail's article in this FerryNews. Weather and COVID permitting the work is expected to be finished at the end of this year or early 2022. There are weekly updates about the work and expected noise on the website https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/forth-bridge.
There are also weekly updates, unfortunately without the photographs, displayed in the three village notice boards. From the beginning of June a Network Rail notice board will be in Battery Road Car Park displaying up-to-date information on the work taking place.

A public toilet for North Queensferry …you would think this would be an essential amenity for any place enjoyed by visitors, is still at the planning stage although possibly a little bit closer that at the last edition of the FerryNews. Maybe, just maybe, it will be in place by the end of the year….to the relief of so many.

The Community Council administers a small fund for COVID relief to support local residents. Grants are completely confidential. To apply: please contact 07973 839751

Of course at its meetings, your Council continues to consider planning applications; to report on activities associated with Edinburgh Airport's considered change of flight paths; to receive the monthly police report and to hear about the energetic activities of the Floral Enhancement Group who are making considerable positive changes to the appearance of the village. In addition your Council continues to support the concerns of Pierhead residents about antisocial behaviour: unfortunately action/meetings have been in abeyance due to the pandemic but should soon take place. Meanwhile activities starting to produce and develop a Local Plan for the village which could take forward the means of ameliorating issues of antisocial behaviour both at Pirhead and Battery Road car park.

Finally the coastal path needs to be mentioned but whereas the last edition of the FerryNews was concerned with the path and the Coastal Forum's ideas for improvement, this issue notes that the coastal path is closed from the Brae to just past Piggery Steps. Work is taking place to make various rocks safe. Meanwhile access to the Coastal Path is via Helen Lane and a small track along the side the water treatment works.

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

Please see the village notice boards for this Council's monthly Zoom link and the minutes of the previous meeting.

Everyone is very welcome

Community Centre

The Community Centre has re-opened for classes that are allowed under the current Covid restrictions:

Mondays

Bumblebees children's activities 9.30-11.30am

Arts and Crafts 7 - 9pm

Wednesdays

Toddlers 9.30-10.30am

Yoga 7-8pm

Thursday

Toddlers 9.30-10.30am

Fife Dog Training also have a wide range of classes on both in the big hall and outside.

**** We are planning a clear-out of the basement of the Community Centre. If you, or any group you are a member of, has anything stored under there then please let us know *****

Tennis @ the MUGA

We have a tennis net that is easy to put up and down and an accessible place to store it but not enough caretaker cover for it to be available at all times. We are working towards getting an informal group together who can arrange booked sessions so that the net is looked after. If you would like to find out more then please email nqmuga@gmail.com

Email:
nq.community.centre@gmail.com

Phone: 01383 411 381

Walled Garden

Are you interested in growing food but don't have the space or the skills to get started? North Queensferry Transition Initiative have a landshare agreement to make use of an old walled garden on private ground in the village and have established a food-growing garden with a large polytunnel, a fruit-cage, apple trees and lots of vegetable beds.

We have regular work days every fortnight and everyone works at the level they want to and takes home whatever is ready to harvest. If you would like to come for a look around or join the Facebook group then please email:

tubular54321@gmail.com

Coastal Rowing Club

We are back on the water with brand new oars and comfortable seats with sessions on weekday evenings and at weekends. We are a very friendly club and combine training for regattas and races with relaxed outings to admire the view, spot birds and seals and have a picnic anywhere between Blackness and Aberdour. You don't have to be superfit or need any special equipment or clothing. Total beginners are welcome! You can find us on Facebook @NQRowing or email nqrowing@yahoo.com.

Celebration @ The Harbour

Saturday 24th July

A film-crew will be filming a reality TV show at the Old Railway Pier on the 20th-22nd July. There will be no parking onsite on those days but visitors on foot are very welcome to come and see what is going on. To mark the end of a busy week, as well as 10 years of the Community Trust (which manages the harbour area) and the launch of the new Makers' Space project, the Trust is hoping to have a celebration afternoon at the harbour. We are working with the Gala team to see what we can do, depending on Covid restrictions. Please save the date and look out for more news!

Work on the Forth Rail Bridge

The next stage of Network Rail's Forth Bridge refurbishment project is currently underway.

The £7.5M Project which commenced in 2019, has now progressed with the grit blasting work to remove layers of old paint from the North Queensferry approach to the 130-year-old structure.

Engineers from Balfour Beatty who are working in a bespoke encapsulated zone will then repaint the spans using the iconic Forth Bridge red colour – a job that will not be required again for up to three decades after completion.

Train services have not been disrupted during the work, which is part of Network Rail's five-year, £4bn programme of investment in Scotland's Railway between 2019 and 2024.

It's the latest stage of bridge renewal works that will see Balfour Beatty maintain and monitor one of Scotland's most iconic and recognisable structures with works on the North approach expected to completed late 2021/22.

Mark Wilson, Project Manager at Network Rail, said: "This is an exciting milestone in our project to refurbish the north approach span to the world famous Forth Bridge.

"We have planned these works carefully to try and minimise possible disruption to the local community and railway users.

"Our investment in this work will not only ensure the bridge remains one of the most recognisable structures in the world but will be crucial in our efforts to maintain a safe and reliable railway for years to come."

"A key element to the work has been the engagement with the North Queensferry community which sits underneath the North Approach and we would like to thank the community for their patience and understanding during this essential work."

The Forth Bridge has been a key part of Scotland's Railway for over a century and this work on the approach spans to the famous structure is vital to ensure Network Rail continues to maintain a safe and reliable railway.

For more information about the project, visit https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/forth-bridge/
For weekly community updates including working hours and noise levels please see the village notice boards and the boards at Battery Road..

Gala

As lockdown begins to lift the Gala Committee are exploring a number of fund raising options to help support future Galas and opportunities to celebrate later in the year. For the Gala this year we're organising bags for the Village's Children to help celebrate the 'virtual Gala' on **19th June 2021**. We're hoping for better weather this year for the socially distanced garden party celebrations – please join in and post pictures on the ***North Queensferry Children's Gala*** Facebook page.

Gala bags will be distributed through the Primary School and will be available at Wright's, for children not at NQ Primary School. Join the ***North Queensferry Children's Gala*** Facebook page to find out more about this summer's raffle and how you can support the Gala!

We have a new email address NQGala@outlook.com – if you have any ideas for fund raising or can support us with raffle prizes – please get in touch.

Safer Ageing In Fife

Every year over 100,000 older people in Scotland experience harm, abuse or neglect. That's over 100,000 older people that are physically, emotionally, financially or sexually abused. Thousands of over 65-year olds fall prey to scams, doorstep crime and those who are deliberately targeting older people.

Hourglass (previously Action on Elder Abuse Scotland) is the only charity in Scotland dedicated to calling time on the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people.

Hourglass Scotland's Community Hub launched in Fife at the end of 2020, providing specialist advice, information and practical support to both older people and those concerned about the welfare or safety of older people. Our dedicated Helpline (0808 808 8141) and new community-focused support, helps promote all aspects of safer ageing, from prevention and early intervention, right through to direct support recovery from abuse or exploitation.

The Impact of COVID-19

We have all felt that impact of the pandemic, however older people have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Many older people, from the outset, have been forced to self-isolate, unable to escape their abusers and unable to access support protection or other key services.

Hourglass Scotland has launched our new Community Hub to better serve the needs of local older people affected by abuse within their local communities.

Based in Fife, but supporting communities across Scotland, our new Community Hub, will act as a one stop shop providing advice and guidance to older people and those concerned about elder abuse as well as promoting safer ageing for all.

If you or someone you know is in need of support from Hourglass Scotland, please call our confidential freephone Helpline on **080 8808 8141** or visit **www.wearehourglass.scot**

Hourglass is always interested to hear from anyone who can spare a few hours to help volunteer or help with fundraising. Please give us a call on 08088088141 or email volunteer@wearehourglass.org

Help is just a phone call away

Freephone Helpline: 0808 808 8141
Mobile number for the text service 07860 052906
Knowledge Bank: https://knowledgebank.wearehourglass.org/
Email: helpline@wearehourglass.org

Contributions

for the next issue of the FerryNews

are to be with us by

Friday 30th September 2021

to: 7 Carlingnose Park

E: mary@ferrynews.org.uk

Fed up with pot holes?

Then ring:

03451 550011

or report to:

www.fife.gov.uk/services/form-pages/report-a-road-or-pavement-fault

Parent Council

The NQPS Parent Council would like to thank everyone who came to the plant sale and supported the school by buying plants, donating plants and helping out on the day. We raised an amazing £475 which we are very grateful for as we have struggled with funds this year without our normal Christmas Fayre fundraiser. We're looking at future ideas and hope to announce another kind of fundraising event soon.

We have donated some of the money to fund repairs to the school poly tunnel and fund resources for the school to spend more time outside learning about nature.

Currently we are in need of more parents to join the committee to keep our work going, please get in touch if you can help.

We love being able to build community spirit and make the learning a little more exciting for the kids by supplying resources and organising fun educational events.

Parents and carers of nursery and primary aged kids can keep in touch with us by joining our email list (nqparentcouncil@gmail.com) or Facebook page.

Thank you,

Ali, Alice, Susie, Karen and Kirsteen.

Village Show

Unfortunately, last year our Village Show 2020 had to be cancelled. The Trust had hoped to continue this important annual event this year, as soon as restrictions are lifted appropriately. But we are afraid with the ongoing uncertainty the Village Show this year is also cancelled.

However, the good news is that we are having discussions with the school regarding an art competition for the children. More news via Facebook and the Ferry News as things develop.



John Clemmens 1935 - 2021



Another stalwart of the Heritage Trust, John Clemmens, died on 6th February 2021 after a sudden illness. His enthusiasm and work for the trust through his photographic skills and knowledge on all matters of steam locomotives and rail matters will be greatly missed. The trust is planning to preserve his legacy in an appropriate way later in 2021.

We are pleased to say that his Steaming Forth photographic exhibition is still available to view in the Station Gallery waiting room. For your safety, a hand sanitizer, and floor markings are installed to keep everyone safe.

Floral Enhancement

I would like to thank every one who have donated so many plants .they are very much appreciated. I would like to thank all the volunteers for all their hard work and support Vouchers are always welcome every little helps to keep the village looking welcoming .

Eileen

Let's talk about North Queensferry

Dear Resident,

North Queensferry Local Action Plan (NQLAP)

Fife Council's South West Fife Community Learning and Development Team are working in partnership with various Fife Council and partner agencies to develop an area wide consultation to assist the development of a NQLAP.

NQLAP is an exercise and will create a series of indicative proposals and recommendations generated by the residents and community of North Queensferry, raising the profile of North Queensferry's rich heritage, history, tourism opportunities, use of green space, economic development and new initiatives in line with local people's needs.

Timescales for the consultation will be from late May, through to September 2021, where we have been tasked with having a draft plan ready.

While in the middle of a global pandemic, we aim to utilise the use of online and social media platforms to engage with local people. **We will be coming out to do door to door surveys in June, to seek your views.**

Most community groups and voluntary organisations have been contacted by letter to make them aware of the NQLAP Consultation and asked to pass on to their wider networks.

Officers from the Fife Council and partner agencies will work directly with local community groups and individuals to gather all **your** thoughts and ideas on what the NQLAP should contain.

The NQLAP will be a fluid document that contains short, medium- and long-term outcomes. Officers are very keen to hear about what the North Queensferry community would like to see or do in their neighbourhood. What community initiatives would **you** like to see in the development of the NQLAP.

The article in the Local Ferry News is one of a number of community strategies to assist contacting local groups, schools, churches and most importantly local residents who wish to participate in the NQLAP Consultation.

If you wish to participate in the exciting process of developing an Action Plan for **your** area, please contact Fife Council designated Community Learning and Development staff directly by email.

Email: letstalkaboutnorthqueensferry@fife.gov.uk

Or fill in the tear off slip and hand in to: -

Wrights, Brock St, North Queensferry, KY11 1JF or Rankin's Café, 4 Main St, North Queensferry, KY11 1JG

✂ ----------

Please fill in all your contact details and David or Lisa will contact you directly.

I would like to participate in the North Queensferry Local Action Plan Consultation.

Name: ……

Address: ……

……

Telephone number: ……..……

Please tick the box below if you are interested in becoming a member of the NQLAP steering group. Group members would be an active part of drawing all the ideas/thoughts together from all residents in the consultation.

☐ Tick here if you wish to join the steering group

Many thanks

David Manderson/Lisa Hemphill
South West Fife Community Learning and Development Team



CALL 01383 851951
VISIT www.srjwindows.com

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conservatories. sunrooms. windows. doors.