



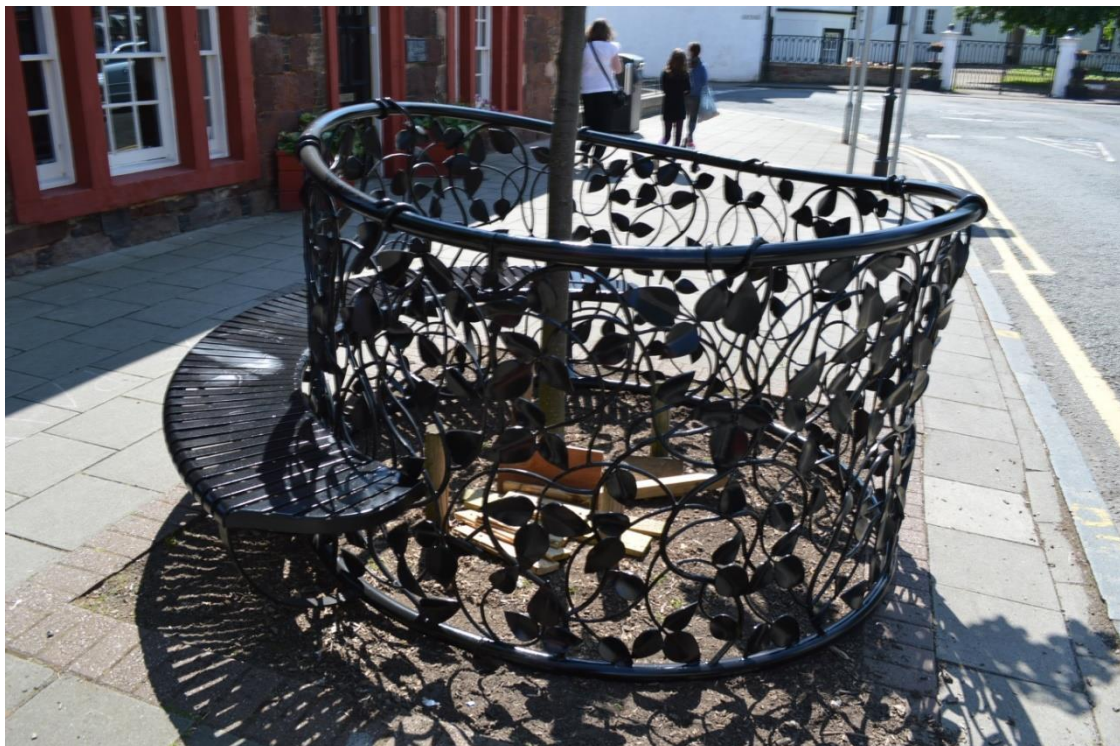
## NORTH BERWICK NEWS

### SPRUCED UP FOR SUMMER

The third ornamental tree seat commissioned by North Berwick in Bloom is now in place in Quality Street. The completion of the seat coincided with the Group's decision to repaint the existing seats and planters in the area and to refurbish the lighthouse which has been given a makeover.

The volunteers were delighted to win a gold medal again in the pallet garden section of Gardening Scotland and proud to have advised Law Primary School and North Berwick High School on their innovative entries, both of which were also awarded gold. See the pallets outside the Abbey Church. The High school pop up garden is being rebuilt at the school.

The hanging baskets and containers have been planted ready to welcome our visitors for the season and we are hoping that this year we can persuade the local pigeons to make their homes other than in the hanging baskets. Judges from Beautiful Scotland will be visiting on Tuesday 9th August. If you would like to help to keep North Berwick looking beautiful, come and join our friendly work group at 9.00 am on Mondays in the Lodge grounds. Can't garden but want to help, then enter our summer quiz celebrating 50 years of Beautiful Scotland on sale in the usual outlets, or ring Rosie Oberlander Group Chair. 895046



Ornamental tree seat outside old Council Offices Quality Street

### NEW COMMUNITY FUND

North Berwick Golf Club (NBGC) has set up a new fund of up to £10k per annum to benefit projects contributing to the good of the local community. Awards will not exceed £2000 in any year but can be for a period of 3 years. Applications from organisations and individuals based in EH39 will be considered by a small panel. Further details and application forms can be obtained from the Club's Managing Secretary Christopher Spencer at [www.northberwickgolfclub.com](http://www.northberwickgolfclub.com)

#### **NORTH BERWICK TRUST**

North Berwick Trust is entering an exciting new phase offering the potential to provide a host of positive and tangible benefits to North Berwick. For many years the Trust has been obliged to operate under conditions of strict confidentiality. The Trustees are now delighted to confirm that following the recent sale of land to Walker Group, CALA and Cruden Homes the Trust is in funds for the first time in its history and in a position to begin considering how money could be invested and disbursed in line with the aims of the Trust Deed for the benefit of the residents of North Berwick.

#### **BACKGROUND**

When the North Berwick Town Council was disbanded in 1974 the North Berwick Trust was formed and arrangements were made for the Trustees to buy 103 acres of the remaining land at Mains Farm at a cost of £408,000. The funds required for this purchase were originally provided by North Berwick Town Council, its successor East Lothian District Council and, most recently, East Lothian Council.

Following a process of tendering in 1993 Walker Group was appointed lead developers and it was agreed that they would finance the Trust until planning consent enabling the land to be sold for development was obtained.

During the recession, land prices collapsed. At one point had the Trustees sold the land for development the price gained would not have covered the necessary infrastructure costs. Throughout this worrying time the land was being farmed under a long standing agreement. Litigation ensued necessitating conditions of strict confidentiality to avoid prejudicing the final outcome as envisaged by the Trust. By the time vacant possession was obtained, allowing the land to be sold, the price had recovered sufficiently to give the Trust a profit. A decision was taken to proceed with the sale of some land and the commencement of building. At that point the original loan from East Lothian Council was repaid.

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#### **TRUST MEMBERS**

As laid down in the Trust Deed the members of the Trust are the Chair of the Community Council, six other Community Councillors, one minister of religion within North Berwick, one GP practising in North Berwick, one member of the North Berwick Environment Trust, two teachers of schools within North Berwick and one East Lothian Councillor representing North Berwick.

Currently the members are Malcolm Baker (Chairman) Ian Watson, Elma Danks, Kathryn Smith, Sheila Sinclair, David Kellock, Jake Scott, Dr. Morgan Flynn, Rev. Neil Dougal, Lauren Roger, Jill Wareham, Val Harding, Cllr. Jim Goodfellow.

#### **TRUST SPECIFICATION**

The Trust Deed provides that the 103 acres or proceeds of the sale should be administered by the Trustees for such charitable purposes for the benefit of the residents of North Berwick as the Trustees in their absolute and uncontrolled discretion think fit and without prejudice to the foregoing to provide:

- Facilities for public recreation
- Education for North Berwick residents and their dependents
- Public amenity grounds and gardens within North Berwick, roads, sewers and other services
- Relief of need and suffering of any kind

#### **WHERE WE ARE NOW**

As a consequence of the sale of the land to Walker Group and CALA, considerable discussions took place with the developers and East Lothian Council and agreement was reached concerning the following projects :-

- Realignment of the Haddington Road
- Expansion of Law Primary school and NB High School
- Formation and maintenance of a Town park
- Sports pitch and changing accommodation
- Transfer of 1.1 acres to education land
- 105 affordable housing units divisible among social housing, mid-market rent and low cost home ownership.

Some of these projects are already visible for example the realignment of Haddington Road has already been completed. Others will progress over the course of the development as and when appropriate. The development comprises up to 315 private dwellinghouses for purchase over an eight year period including 102 three-bedroom houses; a linear park running from North to South; and a safe foot and cycle path from Gilsland to the schools. The property development will provide a mix of house types and sizes, plans for which can be seen through the planning portal on East Lothian Council's web page ([Eastlothian.gov.uk](http://Eastlothian.gov.uk)). Meanwhile the Trust will retain ownership of the remaining land including a substantial area of amenity ground to the South as parkland with structural landscaping. The Trustees have worked diligently over many years to reach this point while continually bearing in mind the need to provide affordable homes in North Berwick. All three contractors have started work on the site and the first few homes are already occupied. When the affordable homes have been completed their allocation will be mainly at the behest of East Lothian Council and the Registered Social Landlord who will manage them. The proceeds from land sales will be paid by instalments over the next three years.

#### **THE FUTURE**

The Trustees now need to review their governance, taking special advice on investment in order to safeguard funds and to agree the procedures for disbursement to local projects in accordance with the stated aims of the Trust. The total amount due for the completed transaction (in the region of £15 million after all expenses are paid) will not be available to the Trust till April 2019. As is normal practice with charitable Trusts, the capital sum may be retained with the annual interest only being used for grants. A sum of £50,000 has been set aside for consideration of grants in the next few months and this will be available from September. Application forms will soon be available on NBCC's web page ([Northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://Northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk)) as an interim measure until the Trust's web site is created, or on application to the Trust Secretary at [info@lylecrawford.co.uk](mailto:info@lylecrawford.co.uk)

The Trust's details are published on the website of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

#### **VOLUNTEER CAR SCHEME**

The North Berwick Volunteer Car Scheme is looking for volunteer drivers who are able to take house-bound people to various appointments in North Berwick and Haddington. If you can spare some time to drive once a week or even fortnightly to help others it would be much appreciated. Recently we have had to refuse requests for transport because of lack of drivers so, if you can help, please contact Colleen on 01620 894942. Requests for journeys to be booked should be made to this number between 9.00am and 12.00 Monday to Friday.

#### NORTH BERWICK ROTARY CLUB



By the time you read this, we will have a new President. Ken Gordon will have completed his year in office and his place will have been taken by Richard Rogers. Take note of Richard's picture, because it is likely to feature regularly in the Courier over the next year! Since the last Newsletter, we have had a busy time raising and distributing money. Fund raising activities included the highly successful "Shine" concert, a coffee morning, a quiz (and another for Athelstaneford Primary School) and, of course, the annual shop which raised over £7,000. Our member David Lancaster was particularly busy, raising money through taking part in the local Triathlon (for which we provided stewards) and the marathon. Local activities supported by the club include Beach Wheelchairs, Project Play, and Muirfield Riding Therapy. Together with other local Rotary Clubs, we plan to fund the purchase of a new pony for the group. We helped North Berwick in Bloom to repair the seats at St Andrew Blackadder Church and painted the seats beside the third fairway of the West Links. We helped the McKinney family to buy a specially adapted tricycle for their daughter Eliza. As always, we have been closely involved with the local schools. Our new junior vice president, Liz Martin, has worked with schools on an inter school quiz, a writing competition, and the annual distribution of "Dictionaries for Life" to P6 pupils. A number of our older members shared their memories of World War II with pupils at North Berwick High School. The annual golf competition will be held at The Glen on Sunday 4th September. Details will be available on the Club's website and Facebook page shortly. Our Facebook page is up and running, with lots of information about the Rotary Club locally, nationally and worldwide. North Berwick Rotary Club would like to invite anyone who wishes to be involved in activities to help support their local communities and those in need abroad, whilst enjoying fun and friendship, to join us. Contact Bruce Wilson on 890555 for more details. Douglas Shiell

#### NORTH BERWICK HIGHLAND GAMES

The 21st North Berwick International Highland Games will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August at the Recreation Ground in North Berwick. Over 100 Pipe Band performances from competing bands representing 15 countries are scheduled to take place with an overall expected attendance of up to 15000 from countries as far afield as Australia South Africa, USA, Oman, New Zealand and Canada. A Highland Games would not be complete without the Heavy Events athletes Tossing the Caber, throwing the traditional wooden-shafted Scots Hammer and competing in the Tug "O" War teams, or the Highland Dancers displaying their skills in the Highland Fling, S/Truibhas, Strathspey Reels and the Sailor's Hornpipe. Many dancers have already confirmed attendance. In addition to the traditional events, there will be demonstrations from the Midlothian Dog Training Society, members of the Lammermoor Stick Dressing Society and an Armed Services static display. As usual, there will also be many craft and trade stalls in the grounds as well as kiddies' rides. At the end of the afternoon all the Pipe Bands parade in to the arena to salute the Chieftain of the day who this year is Pat Murphy from Waterford Ireland. After the presentation of trophies, the Pipe Bands conclude the afternoon with the Winning Grade 1 Band playing them off the field. We are hoping to arrange for the bands to parade down to the Town after the Games. Road closures will be in place on the day and roads around the event will have parking restrictions so, please look out for traffic diversion and direction signs. John Starr President

#### COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

Watch out for the new earlier Sunday trains which will start running from August 14th The first train from Edinburgh is timed to arrive at North Berwick at 10.06 allowing a departure time of 10.20. Work to increase the amount of cycle storage at North Berwick station is currently under way and expected to be finished shortly.



#### COASTAL COMMUNITIES MUSEUM

Record numbers of local people have visited the museum over the past three months since the latest exhibition, '99 OBJECTS, a History of the Coastal Communities' opened over the Easter weekend. Having walked round the exhibition, some visitors have elected to seek out another 20 objects outside the museum featured in the *Hidden Treasure Trails*.

While many objects could be displayed within the museum, others because of their size or situation e.g. WW2 tank defences, ancient tombs, historic architecture and mysterious carvings, could not. To encourage locals and visitors alike to seek out the extra 20 items, they have been grouped into 3 distinct trails. Access to these extra objects can be on foot, by bicycle, by car or by bus or a combination of these. Only two locations require an entrance payment i.e. Tantallon and Dirleton Castle (unless you are a member of Historic Scotland) the rest are free but can be tricky to find! To find out more pop-in to the Coastal Communities Museum School Road, North Berwick EH39 4JU (*we are open 11.00 - 4.00, Wednesday to Sunday*) and pick-up a trail leaflet (50p), then decide what trail to follow. Take advantage of longer summer days to boost your local knowledge, while getting some exercise into the bargain.

#### NORTH BERWICK YOUTH PROJECT

The Youth Project, based in the Hope Rooms, is for 11-18 year olds in North Berwick and the surrounding area. There is a cookery group on Tuesdays, Wednesdays are for the Girls Group, Thursdays are for the Zap Group, a session for young people with disabilities, and the Friday drop-in remains open for all age groups.

The Youth Project provides employability support and has been successful in helping young people into jobs and College. It works in partnership with North Berwick High School, where a youth worker supports the Hairdressing tuition as well as working on transition for P7s.

It has set up a Youth Committee and the young people were heavily involved in the recent refurbishment of The Hope Rooms which was funded by the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership. An open evening will be held in September where some of the work undertaken by the young people will be on show.

A group of young people are working towards going to Rwanda to do voluntary work and are actively fundraising. This will be the third time the project has visited that country.

The Café in the Lodge will be open for a sixth summer from 2 July to 14 August, 11.00 am- 3.00pm but closed on Mondays. The Youth Project hopes as many people as possible will visit this community café which provides light lunches and snacks.

Some trips have been organised for young people in the summer and there are a few places left for climbing at Ratho, M&Ds theme park and a BBQ with bush craft. To book a place on any of the trips please email [lauren.cowie@northberwickyouthproject.org.uk](mailto:lauren.cowie@northberwickyouthproject.org.uk).

The project has a small supportive Board, but would love to welcome some new members so, if anyone is interested in finding out more, please email [lesley@northberwickyouthproject.org.uk](mailto:lesley@northberwickyouthproject.org.uk)

#### CALDER AND CRAWFORD CUP COMPETITIONS

The qualifying rounds for the annual competitions for the Calder and Crawford Cups will take place at the East Links Putting Course on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July between 10am and 7pm. The finals for the Crawford Cup will be at 11am on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> July and the finals for the Calder Cup will be AT 6pm.

**FRINGE BY THE SEA 2016, August 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.**

Elkie Brooks, the international recording star and her band will open this year's Festival at one of the two Spiegel tents at the Harbour Hub. We have two big nights of comedy with Pete Firman, Zoe Lyons and Jo Caulfield joining Grant Stott on the Tuesday, and Alistair McGowan, plus friends, on Saturday. Traditional Scottish music is to the fore on Wednesday [another Saltire celebration day] with a North Berwick Riding Out followed by Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain joining us as part of their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour. Capercaillie will round off the day. On Thursday, Geno Washington and The Ram Jam Band are back by popular demand, while the pace is kept up to a high tempo with The Manfreds playing on Friday. Finally, on Sunday there will be a 1980s and 90s 'Tribute Night' with Dirty Harry and Party Fears Three.

Sprinkled in amongst these great offerings are plenty more gems of gigs. In a series provisionally dubbed 'Six O'clock Specials', there will be jazz from Quatro McJazz, The Hot Seats [American bluegrass band plus much more!], NB Drama Circle, Richard Navarro, the Heart and Soul Swing Band and the internationally renowned poet Roger McGough. Other sell out performances are expected from Ian Rankin, Denise Mina, The Classic Jazz Orchestra, Pauline Mc Lynn [Mrs Doyle from Father Ted and Shameless] and African band Inkanyezi Zezulu. Courtesy of Belhaven Breweries, we introduce something new - The Twisted Thistle Sessions – the perfect way to end each day with a variety of music and comedy late night and juicy! A 'Fabulous Food Fest' will run all week, and, of course, there will be a full childrens' programme – definitely with donkeys this year – featuring Alexander the Great each morning, plus evergreen Mr Boom making a couple of trips from the moon to sprinkle some moon dust and entertain his loyal fans – of all ages!

**SCOTTISH SEABIRD CENTRE**

The Centre is now in the process of developing more detailed plans for the National Marine Centre. An initial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund is supporting this work which involves working with a variety of key stakeholders and undertaking consultation with existing and potential visitors. Plans include the development of new education and outreach programmes which will encompass wider aspects of the marine environment across Scotland. For further details contact [nmcproject@seabird.org](mailto:nmcproject@seabird.org).

Bookings are now being taken for the Forth Ferry - 45 minute crossing to/ from Anstruther for great days out either side of the Forth. Booking and suggested itineraries at [www.seabird.org](http://www.seabird.org). The Centre is looking for people in North Berwick and Fife to contribute to the Forth Ferry blog - for the chance of a free trip, contact [marketing@seabird.org](mailto:marketing@seabird.org).

**DIARY DATES**

Tennis championships:- 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July Dunbar and North Berwick Tennis Courts  
Crawford & Calder Cups Putting Competition:- 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July East Links Putting Green  
Law Race:- 3<sup>rd</sup> August 7.30 North Berwick Harbour  
Topper Event:- 7<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> August North Berwick Harbour  
Highland Games:- 6<sup>th</sup> August Recreation Ground  
Fringe by the Sea:- 8<sup>th</sup> August North Berwick Harbour  
Raft Race:- 20<sup>th</sup> August West Beach

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please send comments, suggestions and contributions for the next edition of NB NEWS to the Editor Sheila Sinclair at [Sheila.sinclair@btinternet.com](mailto:Sheila.sinclair@btinternet.com) Tel. No. 01620 894666 by 14<sup>th</sup> October or contact us via our webpage at [northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk)

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