



# North Berwick News

*North Berwick in Bloom wins Gold and Coastal Category in Britain in Bloom for a second time.*



It seemed a long time between judging on 7th August and the awards ceremony on 6 October but it was worth the wait as the town received high praise from the judges and was again awarded Gold and, jointly with Lytham, won the Coastal Category up to 12k population. Other finalists were Herm, (Guernsey), Grouville, (Jersey), Filey and Tenby.

Rosie Oberlander, Chair of North Berwick in Bloom, was in St Peter Port, Guernsey, to

receive the awards from Matt Baker, TV Presenter of the One Show, Countryfile etc

"We couldn't be more pleased. To do so well in RHS Britain in Bloom National Finals for a second time is truly thrilling. Our volunteers and supporters from right across the Community are absolutely delighted with this result. Indeed, the judges commented on the amount of partnership working within the town and on what they described as a wonderful Community spirit. It is so encouraging to gain this prestigious award for North Berwick as it helps us, with the Community and East Lothian Councils, to showcase the many attractions we know North Berwick has to offer to residents and visitors. Against a backdrop of stunning scenery and a vibrant High St, our volunteers work hard to ensure that the unique Lodge Grounds, fantastic bedding displays, more than ninety hanging baskets, wildflower areas, not to mention our Spring Tulip Festival, make visiting North Berwick a memorable experience. This was certainly the judges' experience - "from the moment we were piped off the train by a lone piper to the end of the judging tour, the whole experience showed your commitment, organisation and enthusiasm".

We have so many positives to take from these awards, including the fact that our Wild about Wildflowers bed was one of the best the judges had seen. We are all particularly pleased that Stan da Prato, an invaluable member of our Committee, with vast horticultural knowledge and experience, received a Community Champion Award"

In Bloom has been busy preparing for next year's displays and Tulip Festival. We have been invited to enter Champion of Champions competition which raises the bar yet again so any new volunteers will be most welcome to join us.



Stan da Prato

*Anne Turgoose  
NB in Bloom Committee*



### Friends of the Lodge Grounds

Once again the erratic summer weather caused some problems for the cafe in the Lodge grounds. No firm decision has been taken about opening next year but everyone is agreed that the facility provides an excellent training ground / work experience for local youngsters and is a wonderful asset in the park.

If any group of volunteers - or individuals - in town would like to help run this venture please contact Lesley Kay on 01620 893939

Horticulturally the Lodge grounds continue to impress visitors and undoubtedly contributed to the Britain in Bloom gold medal marking awarded to North Berwick in Bloom.

In July and August the park was a venue for a variety of events including a Family Fun Day, booked for the second year running by the NCT. Sadly however we were not able to host the annual storytelling sessions throughout the summer holidays but hopefully this will be re instated next year.

The next scheduled event organised by the Friends is carol singing under the chestnut tree in the forecourt. Come along at 6.30 on Friday 14th December and get in a festive mood by singing along together under the beautifully lit tree. All welcome.

*Sheila Sinclair*

---

## North Berwick Drama Circle

presents

### “Hot Toddy”



North Berwick Drama Circle's winter production – called “Hot Toddy” - is a fruity punchbowl of pieces chosen by the cast on the theme of winter. It includes readings from such heady brews as Dylan Thomas's Memories of Christmas and Dicken's Christmas Carol, as well as a lightly spiced take on the Twelve Days of Christmas. Some comedy sketches, wintry poems, and mid-winter songs add seasoning to the mix. An entertaining evening for all ages to be served up café style with the accompaniment of warming food and drink..

St Andrew Blackadder Hall, St Andrews Street, North Berwick  
Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd November 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets: £7 (£5 concessions) from Greens and Blues, High Street, North Berwick or on the door on the night. Enquiries to [dixonduffy@madasfish.com](mailto:dixonduffy@madasfish.com)

### The Russell Bequest

When Drem farmer James Russell died 30 years ago, he left the residue of his estate for the provision of sports facilities in North Berwick and the immediate area.

In the years since, the Russell Bequest has assisted with the provision of fifty local sports facilities, including the indoor swimming pool, the all-weather surfaces at the High School and Tennis Courts and an eclectic mix of other smaller projects.

The Trustees, who are two local councillors nominated by East Lothian Council and one member of North Berwick Community Council are always pleased to receive applications for consideration. These should be applications for the provision of facilities for use by the general public. Interested parties should apply through the Secretary, Russell Bequest, 15 Glenorchy Road, North Berwick or telephone Lyle Crawford at 892090 for further details.

*Lyle Crawford*

### NORTH BERWICK COASTAL WARD - COMMUNITY AND POLICE PARTNERSHIP (CAPP)

This is a once monthly forum where members of the public are invited to discuss matters of concern face to face with local Police Officers.

CAPP Autumn & Winter Meetings will take place at the Police Station at 7.30pm

Meetings will be held on 28th November 2012, 30th January 2013, 27th February 2013 and 27th March 2013.

## INTRODUCING YOUR NEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A new North Berwick Community Council was formed recently - there was no election as the number of nominations matched the number of vacancies available. The new Community Council met for the first time on 16th October 2012

**Here is your new Community Council:-**

### **Sheila Sinclair Chairman**



A North Berwick resident since 1990 Sheila is a former Secretary and Chairman of East Lothian Business Association. She is best known for her fundraising activities producing 2 – 3 quizzes a year and organising appeals for North Berwick in Bloom and Friends of the Lodge in addition to her role as Secretary for both groups.

A member of the Community Council since 2008 for the last 2 years she has been heavily involved in fundraising and suggesting improvements to the town's Christmas lights.

A keen miniaturist she regularly reviews the furnishings in the Rotary/NBIB joint fundraising lighthouse at the corner of Quality Street .

### **Elma Danks MBE. Vice Chairman**

Retired Pharmacist married to Tom Danks with three children living and working locally. Treasurer of North Berwick in Bloom and was previously Treasurer of North Berwick Community Council. Chair of North Berwick Day Centre, an Abbey Church elder, a committee member of the Friends of the Lodge and Treasurer of North Berwick Highland Games.



### **Kathryn Smith Secretary**



Kathryn has lived in North Berwick for almost 44 years. A graduate of the University of Edinburgh, she was in legal practice in Edinburgh for some 20 years. Kathryn has been a political activist for over 30 years. Chairman of East Lothian Conservatives for seven years, she has been organising Secretary since 1999.

A keen golfer Kathryn is a past Captain of North Berwick Ladies. She has been a member of the Community Council since 2004.

### **Jake Scott Treasurer**

Born in the Borders, Jake and his wife Gwen have been resident in North Berwick for 35 years and have been actively involved with several charities.

Now retired from his job as an accountant and grain merchant and with children away from home, Jake has time and opportunity to follow his hobbies of riding, walking and natural history as well as to become engaged in local affairs. He believes concern and care at grass roots can really make a difference to our quality of life.



### **Malcolm Baker**



Has lived in North Berwick for 32 years. Retired from the electricity supply industry after 38 years service throughout the U.K. Member of the Community Council for 18 years. Voluntary work includes Chairman of the North Berwick Trust.. Press Officer for the R.N.L.I. Former Commodore of the ELYC. Also lay representative for East Lothian Council on the Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee

### **Bob Bryson**

Born in North Berwick and has lived here all his life. He has been a member of the Community Council for approximately 15 years. He is now retired. Was Lifeboat Operations Manager of North Berwick RNLI until he was required to retire at the age of 70. He is still a member of the RNLI Committee in an Education/Visitor capacity. He has been on the Christmas Lights Committee for the last 4 years, also a member the the Community and Police Partnership (CAPP).



### **Hayley Flanagan**



A local business woman, Hayley previously owned a baby boutique on the High street for a number of years and is now a Director of a co-operative consultancy that coaches social enterprises and helps businesses put people before profit. Held positions as Vice and Acting Chair of the N.B. Business Association and was their liaison to the Community Council.

A mother of two boisterous boys, loves North Berwick's natural beauty, and thinks it is a wonderful place to raise a family. Within the community currently serves on the Nursery Committee, is a parent representative on the Community Centre Management Committee and a member of the North Berwick cluster Support from the Start Champions Group.

She is proud to live and work in a town with such a vibrant community spirit.

### **Linda Hall**

Linda was born and brought up in Edinburgh. After graduating from Edinburgh University she worked in England as an Analytical Chemist before taking early retirement to return home and find the ideal place in North Berwick. Linda has sung with local choirs and has just completed a Degree in European Studies with the Open University. She is now looking after all the planning issues that affect North Berwick and maintains close contact with East Lothian Council.



### **David Kellock**



Raised and educated in Edinburgh, has lived and worked in East Lothian since 1973, David moved to North Berwick in 1980 when he came to work in the former Redcroft Home for older people. He worked for 23 years in local authority of which 17 was in Social Work, followed by 17 years with a national Social Work charity, retiring as Deputy Director in 2004. David is an active member and elder, former Session Clerk and Property Convener of St Andrew Blackadder Church. He is a member and past Chairman of the North Berwick and Area Probus Club. Ten grandchildren continue to keep him alert.

In recent years he has been a trustee of charities relating to people with drug and alcohol issues, homelessness and young people. He maintains a keen interest in local history, criminal justice matters and care in the community issues.

### **Bill Macnair**

Followed Mum & Dad around various farms in England and the Borders before returning to North Berwick to finish his schooling at North Berwick High. Served a local apprenticeship as electrician then joined the Merchant Navy for 3 years. Worked as an engineer in the off-shore industry until he took over management of the family business at Gilsland in 1990.

He has served on the Committee of the East Lothian Tourist Board and then became a director of the Edinburgh & Lothian's Tourist Board until its demise and amalgamation with Visit Scotland. Helped form EL Tourist Forum and served as Chairman for a number of years. Married to Anna.



### **Hilary Smith**



A Biology teacher by profession, worked in East Lothian schools for a number of years. Has lived in North Berwick for the last ten years where her children attended NBHS. Volunteers as Group Leader with the NB Duke of Edinburgh Open Group, which she finds fantastically rewarding. Believes that communities should play a significant role in their own development with Community Councils providing an appropriate vehicle for doing just so.

### **Ian Watson**

Born in Edinburgh and moved to North Berwick in 1958, Educated at North Berwick Primary & High Schools. Started work with local Radio & TV shop and then worked in sound recording and electronics before setting up in own electrical business in 1972. Elected to Community Council in 1986, and is a past Chair and Treasurer. Currently Chair of both Youth Network & Youth Cafe.





## AULD KIRK RESTORATION

In 2011 the Council, who are the owners of the Old St Andrew's Church in Kirk Ports, removed the timber framed Bell

Tower Roof because of its deteriorating condition and their safety concerns. Their initial intentions were to cap the headwalls and leave the ruin in a stable state. However, local opinion didn't agree with this proposal because of the loss of the iconic profile of the historic building.

The Kirk is the second parish church in the town and was built between 1658 and 1664 after the original church, near the site of the Seabird Centre, was largely washed into the sea during storms in the 1650's. It continued as the place of worship until it became too small for the needs of the growing town and a new church, the present St Andrew's Blackadder, was built in 1883. The kirk is an integral part of the history of the town and local families can be traced through the records and many are buried in the graveyard. Also buried there is John Blackadder the Presbyterian Covenanter preacher who died while imprisoned on the Bass Rock.

The concerns of the local community have been expressed at meetings between council members and officers, the Community Council, North Berwick Environment Trust and Historic Scotland. Ways of replacing the roof and making safe the remainder of the building have been examined and a decision made to employ a consultant to undertake a feasibility study to report on the issues and costs to replace the roof, make the tower structurally sound and arrest the deterioration to the remainder of the building. The possibility of opening the church up to more visitors with interpretation boards and direct access from the Lodge Grounds will also be considered.

The advice from the technical officials is that £10,000 would be required for a suitable study and the partners were able to contribute or apply for funding and £9000 has so far been raised from East Lothian Council, the Community Council, the Stella Moffat Trust and the Common Good Fund. Because of its charitable status the North Berwick Environment Trust is taking a lead in the project and will commission the study. The Chair, Val Harding has undertaken to consult with the community when the study is complete to ensure all views are considered before any further developments.

*Sandy Wallace*  
Secretary

*North Berwick Environment Trust*



## ROTARY CLUB UPDATE

### Visit of children from Chernobyl to North Berwick

The Rotary club of North Berwick has for several years been hosting children from Chernobyl, giving them a fun day out.

This year the children came from a poor rural agricultural area of

Chernobyl. Their land is still badly contaminated with the radioactivity from the explosion of the nuclear plant in 1986. As a result of the radioactive pollution the children's immune system against cancer is very low and a high percentage of the young people will suffer from cancer of the Thyroid Gland. Research indicates that if the young people from Chernobyl can be given a holiday away from the pollution, on their return home their immune system is greatly boosted. Statistics show that for each week away in clean air with healthy food their life expectancy is extended by 1 year.

During their visit to North Berwick, they had a trip in the Braveheart, a shore ride on the inshore Lifeboat and a visit to the Seabird Centre. After a bonus visit to the aviaries in the Lodge Grounds, the children went to the Sports Centre for an hour on the Trampolines followed by a picnic at the Lodge grounds play area.

### Dictionaries distributed to Year 6 Pupils.

North Berwick Rotary Club has supported the Dictionary for Life project for a number of years, and this year presented dictionaries to all year 6 pupils at Dirleton, Gullane and North Berwick Primary Schools.

### Over £3000 raised at golf event

On Sunday 19th August 2012, at Whitekirk Golf and Country Club, The Rotary Club of North Berwick held its eighteenth annual Charity Golf Competition. There were 84 competitors some of whom had travelled from as far afield as Ayr and Italy to play!



The leading team of four players in the "AmAm" format, where the two best net scores count on each hole, were a team from the West named "The 4 Amigos." John Dowds, Brendan Faulds, Kenny Godfrey, and Billy McMillan. They scored a very good score of 120, to win by four strokes from local Whitekirk players named "It's in the bag" led by Clark Millar, on 124.

*Douglas Sheil*





**Museum committee members needed now.**

We'd like to welcome additional members to the newly formed Coastal Communities Museum Trust. Could you be one of them?

The museum, in School Road, North Berwick, has been closed for ten years but after a sustained community campaign, is finally going to see the light of day again. Significant building refurbishment is underway and the empty museum space will be completed by summer 2013.

If you have experience in any of these areas:

- Costing and Finance
  - Volunteer management
  - Social enterprise
  - Minute taking & administrative support
- and would like to get involved, then please get in touch with us.

We're a friendly, community organisation with a common goal of ensuring the successful opening and running of the museum, which will be operated under an agreement with East Lothian Council.

As a member of the committee and a trustee, you will play a key role in the museum's future direction and success, and hopefully enjoy the experience along the way. We are all volunteers with a wide range of relevant skills and interests who meet regularly in the evening.

If you have the relevant skills, enthusiasm for heritage and some time to offer, then we'd love to hear from you.

Interested? Please send a short email detailing your skill, level of experience and interest in the project to Margaret O'Connor, Cultural Services Manager, East Lothian Council, moconnor@eastlothian.gov.uk tel 01620 827 576.

The closing date for applications is 3rd December 2012

**EDITOR'S FAREWELL**



This, the 45th Issue of North Berwick News, is my last as Editor and marks my recent retirement from North Berwick Community Council. The Newsletter began

life around 1998 and one of the first Issues featured an Artist's impression and article on the proposed Scottish Seabird Centre - how the years have flown by!

What is generally not known is that the Newsletter, whilst delivered by our local Postmen and Postwomen, is not sorted in North Berwick and has to be delivered to the Door to Door Sort Centre in Perth two weeks before it is delivered to North Berwick households.

In recent years, to save the cost of a Courier, my husband and I have taken the consignment to Perth ourselves - a day out which mean't our dog, Saba, had her walk in the Hermitage at Dunkeld followed by lunch for Alan and I. My particular thanks to my husband Alan who lays out and sets the Newsletter ready for printing and to you the North Berwick Community for all the articles, adverts and calendar dates and for your support over the years.

*Pat Burton*

**NEW NORTH BERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL - WEBSITE**

[northberwickcommunitycouncil.com.org](http://northberwickcommunitycouncil.com.org)

The Community Council now has its own dedicated Website where you will find names of Community Councillors, Minutes and Agendas.

There is also information about The Stella Moffat Trust - a Bequest left to North Berwick Community Council by Miss Moffat in 2001 and administered by the Trust. Applications for funding for charitable purposes are considered twice a year May and November.

**NORTH BERWICK CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON**

WHEN - SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER - 4.30PM  
WHERE - ABBEY CHURCH, HIGH STREET

CHRISTMAS CAROLS, SANTA AND MORE.....

**Calendar**

**November**

**Sat Nov 24th**

Xmas Lights Switch On In front of Abbey Church 4.30pm.

**December**

**Sat Dec 1st**

Antique & Bric a Brac Fair St. Andrew Blackadder 9.30 am. to 4.00pm. (Donations to NB Day Centre)

**Sun Dec 2nd**

NB & District Floral Art Club demo & lunch'At Home for Xmas' 12 noon to 3.00pm. Marine Hotel

**Fri Dec 14th**

Friends of the Lodge - Carol Singing 6.30 Lodge Entrance

**February**

**Sat Feb 2nd**

Antique & Bric a Brac Fair St. Andrew Blackadder 9.30 am. to 4.00pm.

**March**

**Sat March 2nd**

Antique & Bric a Brac Fair St. Andrew Blackadder. 9.00am to 4.00pm

**NORTH BERWICK VOLUNTEER CAR SCHEME**



**Need a Lift?**

We provide transport for infirm, elderly or disabled people needing to travel to health related appointments, (including visits to Roodlands Hospital) and, also, for shopping and social purposes

For further information contact

**COLEEN PRAILL  
CO-ORDINATOR  
TEL. 894942**

**THANK YOU SUE**

The Community's thanks go to Sue Potter who has been the long serving Co-ordinator for the N B Car Scheme for 11 years & retired on October 31st -best wishes to Sue and John for the future.