



NORTH BERWICK NEWS



Photo by Ian Goodall NB Photographic Society

ALL WEATHER PITCH

The new all weather pitch at the rugby ground, operated by Enjoy Leisure, is proving to be an extremely popular addition to the sporting facilities in town both throughout the day and in the evenings.

Bookings for regular matches and practice sessions have already exceeded the expected demand and both youngsters and adults have remarked on the excellent playing surface and the benefits of the flexibility afforded by the presence of the floodlights.

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

The tourist information office is now at the Library /Museum building in School Road. The library staff has always been a source of information for visitors but they have now been given extra training to ensure that all the information previously provided in Quality Street is available at the new venue. The repositioning of directional signs is in hand.

NOTICED OUR NOTICE BOARD?

In response to a request from the community to have a centrally placed notice board where events of local interest can be advertised, we have put a new board in Law Road. Simply unscrew the wing nuts and place your notice on display. Please remember to remove your notice when the event is past.

DAY CENTRE BUS

One of the best known sights in the town is the North Berwick Day Centre Bus – it's the one with the lovely panoramic photograph of the West Beach along its sides. Every day of the week, the Bus is full of the happy smiling faces of some of our older citizens heading to and from the Day Centre.

The North Berwick Day Centre provides social contacts, friends, a good meal and fun for some of our oldest and most socially isolated residents. For many people it's a real high spot to get out and about, meet friends and have a good time. The bus does four trips a day bringing our members into the Centre and taking them safely home again; it takes our members on trips and outings. The bus is kitted out with a wheelchair lift and a passenger assistant is always on hand to offer that little bit of help people need. Without our bus, many of our members couldn't attend.

Sadly the bus is starting to show its age.



Isabelle Liddle

Whilst East Lothian Council help with the costs of running the Day Centre, it does not cover our essential transport costs, so the bus and its maintenance are not funded.

We need to replace the bus and need your help to raise a total of £60,000. Any donations, however small or large, would be much appreciated.

You can donate in the following ways 1)The Skipton Building Society, 68 High Street, can accept donations over the counter and there is the option to complete a Gift Aid form if you are a UK taxpayer. 2) Drop into the Day Centre in St Andrew Street with a cheque or cash..3) Online via the Day Centre web site at www.nbdaycentre.org.uk –click on the Donation button to reach the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) giving Page.

Derek Braid, North Berwick Day Centre Management Committee.

Isabelle Liddle a regular user of the bus says *“I can't walk very far but I always look forward to my visits twice a week to the Day Centre. These two days in the week are the most important in my life. Without the bus I would not be able to get to the Day Centre”.*

A fund raising quiz where all the answers contain the word BUS is on sale in the usual outlets in the High Street, library and the Day Centre. Cost £1.00.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN

Last summer when we conducted the Edington survey to find out what clinics you would like to see in any reorganisation of health services provision, advice on dementia was highlighted as being very important.

A new group has been formed in North Berwick with a view to making the town dementia friendly. Sue Northrop, a volunteer with the Day Centre has teamed up with Sandra King from the Community Centre to organise two events on 22nd April to which everyone with an interest in the subject is invited to come along and help decide what we want to change. If you'd like to come to an event or would like to help in any way, please call Sandra at the Community Centre 01620 893056 or e mail sue.northrop@btinternet.com

ST. ANDREW'S KIRK

Following the removal of the distinctive roof on the old St Andrews Church in Kirk Ports for safety reasons, the working group set up to examine different ways as to how the ruin and surrounding area could be made more of a feature for visitors, has made considerable progress. A proposal is in place to restore the old Church as a picturesque ruin, augmented with illustrated information boards detailing the history of the site, and the historic links with other Churches in town. Improvements to the graveyard – where details of the graves have already been fully recorded under the auspices of the Environment Trust - as well as provision of additional access to the Lodge grounds are also included in the plan. This is in line with the minutes of the Kirk Session of 1883 which state that the building should be maintained as a picturesque ruin with the bell tower remaining with the Church bell (this currently stands at the back entrance to St Andrew Blackadder Church). Applications for funding have been submitted to various organisations and further action depends on the results.

Visitors to the Coastal Communities Museum have an opportunity to learn about the site as the current exhibition which runs till 1st June includes a display featuring some of the long and fascinating history of the area.

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Plans are being drawn up for the new Community Hospital building in Haddington. The Community Council is arranging for the architects and planners involved in this exercise to address an open meeting in North Berwick. The date and venue for this will be announced shortly.

GALLOWAY'S PIER

Thanks to the North Berwick Harbour Trust and East Lothian Council identifying funding for restoration work, exciting things are happening at Galloway's pier this Spring where work will commence shortly on heightening and broadening the pier and widening the access path. The improvements which it is hoped will be completed by July will make the landing stage safer and more convenient for all harbour users.

EASTER ART SHOW

The annual Easter Art Show at St Andrew Blackadder Church will take place on Good Friday April 18th, Saturday 19th, Monday 21st, 10.00am - 5.00pm Easter Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm. Guest Artist, John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo) OBE of Tayvallich, Argyll, is supplying several of his paintings to the exhibition which will feature approximately 300 pictures by over 30 artists. Prices range from £60 to £2500. Admission is free. Coffee, cakes, soup, etc are available at low prices. Contact Hugh or Margaret Trevor Tel. 01620-894924. email <htrevor@talktalk.net> for further details.

Proceeds from the exhibition will go towards the ongoing project of refurbishing the stained glass windows in St Andrew Blackadder Church. The programme has been running since 2005 and will continue till 2016 by which time the repair and restoration of the stained and leaded glass will be complete.

EDINGTON UPDATE

Following the publication of the Older Peoples Strategy in 2011 which did not specifically address the position of the Edington, a forum made up of representatives from the NHS, East Lothian Council, local councillors, North Berwick Community Council, the Friends of the Edington and other local interested parties was set up to look at options for the future. Since then the forum has met several times with much of the discussion being about the process by which the future of the Edington should be determined, rather than about the services which should be provided. All members of the forum have contributed views.

In 2013 East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian formed a Health and Social Care Partnership appointing David Small as Director with responsibility for these two areas. A consequence of this is that now both areas have to be taken into account when discussing the future provision of health and social care in East Lothian which obviously affects the Edington.

At present Local Area Partnerships are in the process of being established to identify needs of local communities (based on the electoral wards of East Lothian Council) and to implement plans accordingly. It has been suggested that the concerns of the Edington forum should be taken into account under this mechanism. The first meeting of the North Berwick Coastal Ward partnership is due to take place in the next two months.

The Friends of the Edington have expressed grave concern that after all this time there is still no positive statement about the future of the hospital but have been assured that a draft strategic plan addressing a number of issues including the services at the Edington will be available within the next 6 months.

The Friends have welcomed this assurance, but should this deadline not be met, reserve the right to call a public meeting involving the NHS, East Local Council and local councillors to seek clarification on the future of the hospital.

NEW LITTER BIN

A new weapon in the fight against scavenging seagulls is now on trial in Quality Street. Designed to take up to 8 times the amount of refuse placed in bins of equivalent size, the opening mechanism prevents seagulls pulling out food scraps and scattering litter around. If successful, the bin could be moved to the sea front in the busy summer period.

NORTH BERWICK IN BLOOM



The hard work of the In Bloom volunteers can be seen around the town in the numerous tubs, beds and planters which have been producing colourful displays throughout winter. The Spring planting included 5000 wallflowers, 1800 violas and 3000 tulip bulbs of 23 different varieties. This year, financial pressures led ELC to limit winter bedding to wallflowers in the War Memorial gardens. North Berwick in Bloom bought extra wallflowers, tulips and other plants to ensure that the War Memorial area continues to be a much appreciated focal point in the town. The pallet garden entry at Gardening Scotland is being planned with the theme of the Commonwealth Games. The pallet will reflect all seventeen events so the search is on for relevant bits of equipment, balls, clothing etc. If you can help, please contact Rosie Oberlander on 01620 895046 or bring items along to the Tulip Tea, part of our popular tulip festival and earn a free tea and cake.

In Bloom will be entering Beautiful Scotland again this year and preparations are well under way. A working squad of volunteers is currently meeting each Monday morning at the Lodge car park at 9am – see the Community Notice Board for details. Tools/equipment will be provided and a warm welcome is guaranteed.



NORTH BERWICK ROTARY CLUB

Thanks to N.B Rotary Club planting 8000 bulbs between Lady Jane Gardens and Law Road in 2013 the display of crocuses in St Baldred's Road this Spring is better than ever.

Fund raising activities over the Winter have included a collection for the Philippines Disaster Appeal greatly helped by the understanding approach of Police Scotland and East Lothian Council who waived normal procedures to allow speedy action to be taken. A Shelterbox and its contents were put on display at the railway station and outside St Andrew Blackadder Church where a tent (included in the box) was erected and attracted considerable attention from people of all ages. Thanks to the generosity of the residents of North Berwick and district, over £1100 has been sent to Rotary partner Shelterbox which provides emergency shelter and lifesaving supplies for families around the world who are affected by disasters, at the time when they most need it. In other activities including collections at the entrance to TESCO, a bridge afternoon and a quiz night in Gullane just over £4000 was raised from generous members of the public. Most of the money will be used to support local organisations as well as local individuals gaining experience and helping the needy in other parts of the world. One of our charities is a school in Malawi. For the third year, the club has agreed to support a teacher at the Mangochi Orphans Education and Training organization. If you would like to join the North Berwick Rotary Club for fun, fellowship and an opportunity to help others, please contact Harry Armstrong (harry.armstrong@hotmail.com tel:894450) who will be happy to tell you more and arrange attendance at a meeting on Tuesday at the Marine Hotel.

COASTAL COMMAND COMMEMORATION

Since its dedication seven years ago the Coastal Command memorial at the Seabird Centre has been the focus of an annual commemorative service on the first Sunday in May.

To the thousands of visitors who pass it each year the memorial serves as a poignant reminder of the Scottish Contribution to Maritime Operations during World War 11 during which almost 11,000 maritime aircrew lost their lives at sea. For them there are no marked graves. We also remember that 72,000 allied sailors and merchant seamen as well as 30,000 German sailors lost their lives during this conflict.

In this, the 75th anniversary of that conflict, it would be fitting if as many people as possible attended what is traditionally a brief but moving service to honour those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and helped to preserve the freedom we enjoy today.

The service which will take place at 2pm on May 4th will be conducted by Rev. Bob Kane



and attended by various senior service personnel and guests as well as the local squadron of air cadets under the command of Flying Officer Iain Edmans RAF VR (T).

Please do come along if you can, remember those to whom we owe so much and support the enthusiasm and dedication of some of our local youngsters as they pay their own tributes. Details on the service and how to join or support the squadron from Iain Edmans Tel 01620 892504 (Tuesday & Friday evenings) or e mail oc.297df@aircadets.org

DIARY DATES

NBIB Tulip Tea Abbey Church 12th April 2 - 4 pm

Easter Art Exhibition St Andrew Blackadder Church 18th - 21st April

John Muir Festival April 17th – 26th April

Cut Off date Stella Moffatt applications to Barbara Clark (01620 111999) 21st April

Friends of the Lodge Easter Egg Hunt Lodge grounds 18th April 10.00 am

Dementia Awareness Events Community Centre 22nd April 10.00 - 12.00 and 7.00 - 9.00 pm

Coastal Command Commemoration 4th May 2pm

Drama Circle St Andrew Blackadder 6th - 9th May 7.30 pm " Quartet "

Coastal Communities Museum Opening of World War 11 exhibition 28th June

Fringe by the Sea 4th – 10th August

COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS *Please send any comments / suggestions for items for inclusion in NB News to Sheila.sinclair@btinternet.com by 28th June*
