



# North Berwick News

## *North Berwick in Bloom ticks all the boxes at Beautiful Scotland Awards.*

*The winning smiles say it all as Rosie Oberlander, Chairman of North Berwick in Bloom with Secretary, Sheila Sinclair, receive the Gold Award and Dave Kerr Trophy for best in the Coastal Category from George Anderson, Presenter with BBC Scotland's 'Beechgrove Garden' at the Beautiful Scotland In Bloom Awards Ceremony at Stirling.*



*The Coastal Award Trophy has a special significance to North Berwick as it was presented to Beautiful Scotland in Bloom by ELC Colleagues in memory of Dave Kerr, Senior Amenity Officer with Landscape & Countryside Dept., Judge for Beautiful Scotland in Bloom and Volunteer with NB In Bloom, who died suddenly two years ago and is missed by all of us who knew him.*

*Our congratulations to NB In Bloom Committee, Volunteers and ELC Ground Care personnel for this wonderful achievement.*

*Pat Burton, Chairman, NBCC*

In her first year as Chair of North Berwick in Bloom volunteers, Rosie Oberlander was delighted that the town was awarded Gold and Best in the Coastal Category of Beautiful Scotland at the awards ceremony at Stirling on 1st November. The ceremony was originally planned to take place in Rothesay in September but, due to stormy weather, was reconvened.

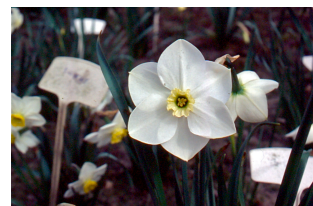
This is the seventh time that North Berwick has won this award and now look forward to representing Scotland in Great Britain in Bloom 2012 where the campaign theme will be "Wild about Wildflowers". The In Bloom team had a busy summer as they also participated in the international competition, Communities in Bloom, for which we were awarded the top category of 5 blooms and also received special recognition for our Spring Bulb Trail.

### *Tulip Festival.*

In Spring, the Town can look forward to a Festival showcasing the wide range of tulips around the town. Everyone is welcome to join in the planting sessions. A leaflet will be produced to help identify the different types of blooms.

### *Narcissus North Berwick*

It is a great thrill to have our own narcissus. A "white on white" narcissus, which has taken many years to mature, was gifted to us by Rae Beckwith, Chair of Daffodil Society North and a judge for Britain and Bloom and other competitions. We have four bulbs which are being nurtured very carefully.



### *AGM*

Everyone is welcome to attend the AGM on Wednesday 7th December at 7.30pm in the Council Chambers when we will be reflecting on 2011 and outlining our plans for the year ahead.

*Anne Turgoose*



### Friends of the Lodge Grounds

The summer of 2011 has not been the best one in living memory but nevertheless the regular events such as the family fun day, the event organised by National Childbirth Trust and the Teddy Bears' picnic all took place on the scheduled dates and benefitted from some sunshine. Less lucky were some of the story telling sessions organised by the Library staff and the Fringe by the Sea performances in the park when rain caused a switch of venue on at least one evening.

Poor weather also affected business at SALA (the Cafe in the Lodge) where on some particularly wet or cool days there were no customers whatsoever. The original opening period was extended in the hope that trade would pick up and the future of the cafe is being reviewed for next year.

Green flag status has again been awarded to the park thanks to the tireless efforts of Landscape and Countryside staff and NBIB / Friends of the Lodge volunteers.

The main entrance to the park has been enhanced by the erection of a striking black and white notice board which mirrors the buildings and provides some historical information for visitors.

The temporary signs in various beds have been replaced with smart black and white notices matching the plant labels. The summer saw the introduction of a new feature in the form of a stumpery opposite the fernery.

This new bed contains several large tree trunks recycled from elsewhere in the county as well as hellebores and other shade loving plants. In Spring the area will feature snowdrops and primroses.

Lights have been placed in the chestnut tree in the forecourt of the Lodge grounds and these together with the lights on the other large trees in Quality Street will be switched on simultaneously with the main Christmas display on November 26th.

*Sheila Sinclair*

### Coastal Communities Museum at North Berwick

There has been good progress this summer with the project to re-open the museum in School Road. In August a 'Pop up Museum' sponsored by the Community Councils of Gullane and North Berwick was organised in the Hope Rooms by June Douglas Hamilton and Bill Nimmo, two members of the Museum Working Group. Running for two weeks it enjoyed excellent attendances with over 1600 people viewing the exhibits that had been carefully chosen to provide a taste of what the communities of the Coastal Ward can share of their common history. The comments left by visitors made clear the growing public enthusiasm for the re-opening from both residents and visitors as well as an appreciation of the rich heritage that the Museum will be able to draw on from the Coastal Ward and its environs. The exhibition also raised £800 in support of the future Museum.



More recently the Council moved forward with the plans devised in conjunction with the Working Group to appoint a Shadow Management Committee. This committee will be responsible for setting up a charitable organisation that can re-open and run the Coastal Museum under an agreement with the Council. There was an excellent response to the advertisements seeking potential members for the Committee. There was a broad field of exceptionally well qualified individuals prepared to work voluntarily to bring the project to fruition. By the time this Newsletter appears the Shadow Committee will have started its work. Together with the Council they will have barely a year to tackle the many tasks that will have to be completed to allow the planned re-opening in the Autumn of 2012. Pat Burton has kindly agreed to act as the Community Council's nominated member on the shadow committee.

It is hoped that planning consent for the extension and other very significant improvements to the building will very soon be forthcoming. Tenders for the building work are also expected to be invited in the coming weeks and plans have been made to re-house the NB Library temporarily so that building work can commence. And look out too for a new notice-board at the Museum building that will aim to keep everyone posted on the project's progress.

*Robin MacEwen Chairman Museum Working Group*

## THE EDINGTON HOSPITAL CENTENARY



The Edington Hospital opened its doors to patients in 1912 and the Friends of the Edington hope that everyone will want to celebrate the tremendous benefit which the Hospital has brought to the town and district in the century since. At a recent meeting, representatives of a large number of local organisations were eager to say "thank you" by offering to organise a range of activities and events on Saturday 9 June 2012. It looks like there will be more ideas than we can use! More information and details will be forthcoming shortly. In the meantime, the Friends would be delighted if anyone could put them in touch with any relations of the Misses Edington whose generosity paid for the building as it would be most fitting if they were able to take part in the celebration.

*David Robertson Secretary  
Friends of the Edington.*

### **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.

North Berwick Coastal CAPP covers North Berwick, Gullane, Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem and Whitekirk

CAPP Meetings are held on the **LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7.30PM IN NORTH BERWICK POLICE STATION.** The next Meetings are -

Wednesday 30 November, 2011  
Wednesday 25 January, 2012  
Wednesday 29 February, 2012  
Wednesday 28 March 2012

*Pat Burton Chairman NBCC*

### **NORTH BERWICK LIBRARY TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

After many years of campaigning by local residents and groups, library staff are delighted that we will once again have a museum in the town. The Coastal Museum will be based in the building in School Road along with the library and customer services. We will be relocating for around 12 months to allow for the extensive building works necessary to make this exciting project happen.

There will be extensive advertising around the town, on the library website, in local press and of course in the library as soon as we have confirmation of our temporary location and the dates of our move so do keep an eye out for news.

If you have any questions please just drop into the library or call us on 01620 893470.

*Also the Library have now started a Google Calendar for the North Berwick Community Diary so that details are available online as well as in the library. We will update anything that is written in the diary here on the online version and vice versa.*

*The diary can be viewed through the North Berwick Library homepage on the council website. We will update the diary and calendar for any community events that we are informed of in person or by email to [northberwick.library@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:northberwick.library@eastlothian.gov.uk).*

*Caroline Henley, Librarian, North Berwick Library*

### **NORTH BERWICK - WEST BEACH SEWER**

In our Spring Issue, we reported on the steps North Berwick Community Council were taking with East Lothian Council (ELC) and Scottish Water to find a solution to the exposed Sewer on the West Beach.

Progress is painfully slow and with his retirement in September, we lost Alan Blackie the former ELC Chief Executive who had been particularly helpful in giving this matter a high priority.

NBCC held further discussions with ELC and Scottish Water in July at which Scottish Water provided a number of proposals to remedy the Sewer problem. The favoured solution was a Walkway which would cover the Sewer. This was an expensive option, which, if acceptable to adjacent householders would still require scientific test before implementation. Scottish Water agreed to produce a 'Scoping' document to go out for Tender to specialised Contractors. At the time of going to Press we have not seen the Document.

Funding also is an issue, as neither ELC or Scottish Water have provision for this work in their current budgets. It would, however, feature in ELC's 2012/13 Budget discussions.

Your Community Council are mindful of the priority this Sewer problem requires and will continue to press for action.

*Pat Burton, Chairman, NBCC*



ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH BERWICK RAISES NEARLY £5000 AT THE 17TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY

Joining Rotary contact Bruce Wilson on 01620 890555 or [www.northberwickrotaryclub.org](http://www.northberwickrotaryclub.org).

For information about Mary's Meals, see <http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

*Douglas Shiell*

At a recent Charity Golf Day at Whitekirk, players and local businesses (who provided prizes and sponsored holes) combined to raise nearly £5000. Half of the total will go to the featured charity Mary's Meals, which provides daily meals for thousands of hungry children throughout the world, and the other half will be distributed to local charities in and around North Berwick.

With an outstanding better two ball medal score of 117, first prize was won by the Paris Steele Players team led by Gordon Symon. The photograph shows Gordon accepting the prize from North Berwick Rotary Club president Donald McCullough.



### **Bulb Planting**

North Berwick Rotary Club will again be planting crocus bulbs in the grass verges in Marmion Road. Around 7000 bulbs will be planted this year near the junction with Lady Jane Gardens to add to the many thousands planted in previous years to remind everyone of the Rotary campaign to eliminate Polio worldwide. In 2009, less than 2000 cases of polio were reported worldwide, but these represent the most difficult and expensive to prevent due to geographic isolation, armed conflict and cultural barriers.

### **International Support**

In addition to its wide support of local charities, North Berwick Rotary Club also provides funds for work among disadvantaged people abroad. Typical is the financing of a bore hole in Chole, Malawi to bring fresh water to the village. For information on

### **RAISING THE CHURCH ROOF**



At the time of going to Press, the North Berwick Community Council (NBCC) is still in talks with East Lothian Council (ELC) and Historic Scotland

concerning the possible reinstatement of the iconic bell-shaped roof on the old Parish Church in Kirkports. East Lothian Council, who own the derelict Church, made the decision to have the roof removed in May, after being served with a Dangerous Building Notice. The problem is it now leaves the Tower exposed to the elements and it will only be a matter of time before it too deteriorates beyond saving and another North Berwick landmark will be lost.

North Berwick Community Council in partnership with North Berwick Environment Trust is talking to ELC and Historic Scotland to see if a rescue package of funding can be obtained so that the roof, which has been replicated on many buildings throughout the Town, can be reinstated.

At the Museum Exhibition held at the Hope Rooms in August, where we highlighted the plight of the Church roof - many of you gave your signatures demonstrating your support for our actions and we thank you for that.



*Pat Burton, Chairman, NBCC*

## NEWS FROM NORTH BERWICK DAY CENTRE

The North Berwick Day Centre is the hub of the local Community for older people and has been in existence in its St Andrew Street premises for over 7 years.

In that time it has catered for more and more elderly people from those that want to meet and make friends in a happy and friendly environment to those that want just to have a meal, or a coffee or be entertained and allow their partner or carer time to themselves.

The Centre provides many activities for its members from knitting to woodworking to gardening to crafts to walking and even trips to local places of interest or further afield to the Falkirk Wheel or the Seagull Trust Ratho barge trips. Entertainment is provided every afternoon be it music, dance, songs or story telling, these are conducted by local people or those from out with the area.

An exciting opportunity presented itself recently through part Leader Funding when a Member's Choir was formed with a cross section of members and a few volunteers who loved music and wanted to sing. They have under the direction of Andrew Brown been practicing hard to master the selection of songs and music and it is hoped that they will be able to not only entertain members but to move out into the Community and entertain in some of the homes, sheltered houses or other establishments in and around North Berwick.

The Day Centre is run by a voluntary Management Committee and the day to day running is carried out by our Coordinator Carol Wicker along with a compliment of dedicated staff and volunteers. The Centre is open 5 days a week and with a dedicated

bus can transport those less mobile members to and from the Centre as required.

If you are interested in the work of the Centre and would like to give some of your time and talents, either as part of the Committee or to help in the activities please contact Carol Wicker on 01620 890906.

If on the other hand you like the sound of the Centre and would like to attend again contact Carol to see if a place could be made available.

*Ian Donald Director*



### WINTER PLANTING FOR THE MEMORIAL GARDENS, NORTH BERWICK

North Berwick Community Council (NBCC) were disappointed to learn that due to budget constraints East Lothian Council's Landscape and Countryside Division were unable to provide Winter plants for the Memorial Gardens in Quality Street this year. North Berwick in Bloom held discussions with ELC and NBCC when it was agreed that North Berwick Community Council would provide £500 from their Local Priorities Budget for Winter plants and maintenance for this very special corner of the Town.

The Community Council felt that this year held a particular significance as uniquely Remembrance Day falls on the 11th. hour of the 11th. day of the 11th. month - 2011.

*Pat Burton, Chairman, NBCC*

### PLANNING AHEAD FOR SEVERE WEATHER

East Lothian Council have responded to concerns raised by North Berwick Community Council in relation to the community's ability to rise to the challenge of dealing with another severe winter like the one experienced last November onwards.

North Berwick Community Council will have a stock of grit, tabards brushes and shovels available for public use whenever required.

We are currently agreeing a location for storage with ELC and will provide details in the local press.

*Pat Burton.*



*Members of the choir Eric, Derek and Bea in full voice*

### Christmas Lights

For many years now the Community Council has been pleased to have brought a bit of festive spirit to the town by organising the Christmas Lights which decorated the High Street, Westgate and parts of Quality Street. Last year however increasing concerns about fulfilling health and safety legislation together with worries about the age and reliability of the displays culminated in the need for an extensive upgrade.

Thanks to a substantial grant from the Stella Moffat Trust and generous donations from the Community Council, Friends of the Lodge, the Business Association and the organisers of the raft race, new hooks have been installed along the High Street (our gratitude to the owners/occupiers of the buildings for permission) and new strings of low voltage, low density, multi coloured, environmentally friendly bulbs have been purchased to criss cross the High Street and the existing features in Westgate have also been upgraded.

In addition the trees in Quality Street and at the entrance to the Lodge grounds have been decorated with permanent strings of white lights which can be switched on, not only at Christmas, but whenever an appropriate occasion arises.

Although we have been able to meet the capital costs of this the running costs of testing, erection and dismantling continue each year. Anyone wanting to help with this should send a cheque payable to NBCC Christmas Lights to Sheila Sinclair, Fidra, 1 The Heugh, EH39 5NB.

*Jake Scott Chairman Christmas Lights Committee*

**Please send comments and suggestions to the Editor**

**MRS PAT BURTON**

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### Fair Trade Town

North Berwick has again been granted the status of Fair Trade Town. In order to be accredited as such the town has to have a number of businesses, organisations and community ventures committed to using and promoting Fair Trade. What exactly is "fair trade"? Much of the world's trade is managed to benefit the rich and powerful and small producers, especially in developing countries, find it impossible to compete and are forced to accept the lowest possible prices for their products, often less than it costs to produce them.

The Fair Trade Forum was set up to ensure that small producers receive a fair price for their work - one that allows them to support their families adequately, and in addition allows communities to provide schools, clinics, and other essential infrastructure. This is an alternative form of trading that puts people before profit. Not all goods that are fairly traded display the fair trade logo, as it takes time to perfect a set of suitable criteria for the thousands of diverse items now available.

North Berwick churches, schools, some cafes and businesses use fair trade food products like tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate and biscuits, and each year more come on board persuaded by the justice and humanity inherent in the ideal. But it is also possible to buy a huge range of other fairly traded goods in our town by taking a little time to look around and to ask questions. Look for these items locally - wine, sweets, biscuits, nuts, dried fruit, fruit juice, jams, honey, adult and children's clothes and accessories, jewellery, glassware, furniture and furnishings and many unusual gifts to name but a few.

Fair Trade doesn't yet cover every thing we might need or want, but each year more unique and delightful items are added to the list. And each year more people are buying fairly traded goods in the knowledge that they can make a difference to reducing poverty and making the world a better place.



*Sheena Anthony*

### Calendar

#### November

##### Wed Nov 30th

N.B. Photographic Soc. County Hotel 7.45 pm. (weekly meetings)

#### December

##### Fri Dec 2nd

Bookbug Session (babies, toddlers and pre-school 10.30 - 11.00 am. North Berwick Library (weekly event)

##### Sat Dec 3rd

Antiques & Bric a Brac St. Andrew Blackadder 10.00 - 4.00

Shop Cancer Relief 2.00 -4.00pm. Hope Rooms

##### Wed Dec 7th

"Phillimore's Legacy to North Berwick & East Lothian" 7.30 pm. North Berwick Community Centre  
Presentation by David McAdam & Vincent Guy  
Friends of N.B. Museum

N.B. in Bloom A.G.M. 7.30 pm. Council Chamber Quality Street

#### January

##### Wed Jan 18th

"The Nisbets of Archerfield" Presentation by Ailsa Fortune 7.30 pm. North Berwick Community Centre. Friends of North Berwick Museum

### 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

**SUE POTTER -  
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