



NORTH BERWICK NEWS

The end of 2012 was marked by the fire at the Fire Station and storm damage at the harbour.



Reassuringly, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service (LBFRS) set up a temporary fire station in the council amenity site at Heugh Road within four days of the blaze occurring. During the short period between the fire and the temporary fire station being operational cover was provided by a fire appliance standing by in the local area thus ensuring that the town was not without cover for emergencies. LBFRS are reinstating the original fire station and plans are in place to commence building works at the Station Road site as soon as possible.



The dinghy park December 2012. Photo by Derek Braid

MUSEUM MATTERS

Your voluntary committee at Coastal Communities Museum Trust (CCMT) have demonstrated great commitment, meeting twice monthly and engaging with all manner of museum related activities to address our steep learning curve. Collectively we have attended workshops, courses, seminars, behind the scenes museum visits, established a constitution, invited experts, applied for funding, organised community consultation, branded ourselves and sought charity status. We have liaised, recruited, visioned, costed and planned allowing us to proudly announce to the community that their new museum is now an officially recognised charity with its own bank account, (ready and waiting to gratefully accept donations).

Meanwhile back in July, work started to refurbish the library and to bring the rest of the building up to public access and safety compliancy. We are pleased to report that work is progressing well and broadly on schedule according to status reports from the ELC architect. The best news is that the contractors have not found any major 'unforeseen' structural problem that would not have been covered by the ELC project budget and so work progresses towards early Summer completion.

The CCMT plan to organise a temporary golf themed exhibition for the Summer to celebrate the re-opening of the building, The Open Championship at Muirfield and to showcase the refurbished museum space. Space that we are then challenged to transform into a permanent, sustainable Coastal Communities Museum. The achievement of this will be wholly reliant on the combined outcomes of our major funding applications, generosity of patronage, and most importantly of all, active community support in the shape of volunteers, donations and support.

Recruitment will start very soon for the Summer exhibition and we are working on a simple process to efficiently manage interest through the Volunteer Centre East Lothian. Please look out for invitations to apply for a CCM volunteer role in this exciting and stimulating new community venture.

Coastal Communities Museum Trust

David Booth and Rosemary Everett Co-Chairs

The Trust can be contacted at CCMTrust@eastlothian.gov.uk



FRINGE BY THE SEA 2013

.....If summer ever comes

Make a diary note for this year's Fringe by the Sea, **5th-11th August**. The hub of the action will again be the Speigeltents down at the Harbour, spilling out to various whacky 'happenings' all over the town – and further afield!

Designated 'Year of Natural', the programme celebrates East Lothian's beauty and heritage – as well as some old friends coming to entertain us. Yes, that means Phil & Aly again, and special re-visits from The Blues Band and Dougie McLean! But also a host of first-timers, such as Elaine C Smith and Fringe First winners The New Rope String Band.

Watch the press for more details over the next two months!

NORTH BERWICK IN BLOOM



Champion of Champions

2013 is turning out to be a busy year for the In Bloom volunteers as they continue working to enhance North Berwick while preparing for Britain in Bloom's Champion of Champions competition in August. Entry, by invitation only, brings together candidates with a proven track record of high standards in the UK Britain in Bloom Finals. Rosie Oberlander, In Bloom Chair, feels that a place was justified. "As Gold medal and Category winners when we competed in 2010 and 2012, and Gold winners in Beautiful Scotland in 2009 and 2011, we are delighted to participate, if a little daunted as the judges will be seeking excellence". In Bloom will be judged on Horticultural Achievement, Environmental Responsibility and Community Partnerships throughout the year. Other entrants are Halstead in Essex, Herm - smallest of the Channel Islands, Lytham in Lancashire and Stanghow, North Yorkshire.

Tulip Festival

Building on a successful first Tulip Festival in 2012, In Bloom has planted even more types of Tulip this year and with all three schools, the Day Centre and ELC gardeners adding many hundreds, we are in for a real treat. All plants will be labeled and an informative, illustrated leaflet will be available. A highlight of the Festival will be a Tulip Afternoon Tea in the Abbey Church on Saturday 23 March.

Handcarts

Look out for a piece of North Berwick Social History at the entry to the SSC car park. Over the winter, a couple of volunteers have been restoring a handcart which was gifted by Douglas Seaton, retired painter and decorator. The handcart which would have been seen around town until the late 60's originally belonged to the old North Berwick Town Council. It has been restored to the Green and Red Council colours and will be planted to reflect the seasons. Another vintage handcart, used to transport newspapers from the station, has been gifted by Tom Danks and is currently undergoing restoration. In Bloom is grateful for these reminders of the town's heritage.

APPEAL TO DOG OWNERS

Over the last few weeks the number of complaints about dog mess has reached alarmingly high levels as irresponsible dog owners are allowing their pets to make life unpleasant for everyone else.

Carl Howman, East Lothian Dog Warden, reminds everyone that failure to pick up after your dog is an offence and owners are liable to be fined £40 each time. Free pick up bags are available at the council offices and the library and litter bins are emptied regularly. If you have any problems re. insufficient supply of bags, siting of bins, frequency of emptying bins etc. or if you see anyone allowing their pet to foul the streets please telephone 01875 824305 or visit www.eastlothian.gov.uk



EASTER ART EXHIBITION



Morning light The Bass Rock

The 2013 Easter Art Exhibition will take place at St Andrew Blackadder Church Hall St Andrew Street North Berwick EH39 4NU On Good Friday March 29th Saturday 30th & Monday April 1st from 10.00 am – 5.00 pm. Guest Artist John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo) of Tayvallich Argyll is kindly supplying several of his paintings for the exhibition. There will be approximately 270 original pictures by 25 artists ranging in value from £60 to £2500. Profits will go towards the upkeep of stained glass windows in St. Andrew Blackadder Church.

Admission Free Coffee cakes soup etc. at low prices. Contact Hugh or Margaret Trevor Telephone 01620 894924 e mail htrevor@talktalk.net

NORTH BERWICK HEALTH CENTRE

A touch screen self check in system for patients has been installed and is now operational for patients who have appointments with GPs and Nurses at the Health Centre. The unit is situated at the right hand side of the reception desk. Patients will be prompted to input their date, month then year of birth into the system which will then automatically check them in and will tell patients which waiting room to go to. It is hoped that this will help reduce queues at the desk. Two televisions have been installed in the surgery waiting rooms displaying general health promotion material and specific information on the surgery such as opening times, holidays and other seasonal information.

A new surgery website has also been launched which, as well as giving information on services in the practice, allows patients to update their personal details; take an online patient questionnaire; update their clinical records; send the practice feedback and securely order repeat prescriptions online. The surgery website can be found at www.northberwickhealthcentre.scot.nhs.uk. The practice have also introduced a new service which allows patients to email their repeat prescription requests by using a dedicated email address Repeats.NorthBerwick@lothian.scot.nhs.uk. As well as enclosing details of their prescription order, patients should include their name, address and date of birth in their email to allow staff to process the request. Practice Manager, Val Thomson, hopes that the new electronic options for ordering repeat prescriptions will allow patients more flexibility as, up until now, patients have been restricted to phoning for their repeats at specific times during surgery hours. Please contact the surgery on 893263 should you have any questions regarding any of the new services.



NORTH BERWICK ROTARY CLUB

North Berwick Rotary Club members have planted another batch of crocus bulbs along the south side of St Baldred's Road in North Berwick as part of their Community Service commitment. This is the seventh year crocus bulbs have been planted, in the verges along the main road through North Berwick. The section between Lady Jane Gardens and Dunbar Road has now been completed and, this year, work has started on the section between Lady Jane Gardens and Law Road... but there's still space for more next year!

Last year purple crocuses were planted to represent Rotary Clubs worldwide who are working to end polio, but this year a mixture of colours has been planted. The club funded the bulbs assisted by a grant from Rotary Foundation, the charity arm of Rotary International



STELLA MOFFAT TRUST

The Stella Moffat Trust makes grants twice a year for a variety of charitable purposes. Applications for the next round of grants are due by 21st April and forms can be obtained from the factor Barbara Clark Littledean Abbey Crescent North Berwick EH394BU 01620 893934 barbara.clark12@hotmail.com to whom all enquiries should be made. Application forms and notes for guidance can also be found on our webpage www.northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk



FRIENDS OF THE LODGE

Visiting the Lodge in the Spring is always a delight but this year there are extra things to look out for as over 3000 daffodils have been planted on the bank to the right of the arch above the rockery. On the other side of the park 2000 snowdrops have been planted under the trees at the Law Road entrance, courtesy of a generous donation by Kenneth Buchanan. Snowdrops are notoriously slow to develop and at present only a few are in flower but hopefully a few days of winter sunshine will work some magic soon.

The carpet bed will be planted with a golf related theme to celebrate the 2013 Open Championship being held in East Lothian.

North Berwick Youth project has been awarded £50,000 from Young Start to run a 'Community Kitchen' Project. Part of this funding will allow the Youth Project to open the Café in the Lodge for the next two summers. The project also runs a café in the Community Centre on Friday afternoons during term time. The young people will have a community allotment at the foot of the Law, to provide produce. The Youth Project is also offering catering to community groups. If anyone is interested in having the catering provided for their event please contact Lauren Cowie on 07854 090471

NORTH BERWICK TRUST

The North Berwick Trust was formed in 1974 at the time of the re-organisation of local authorities. It was allowed to purchase the residue of land formerly owned by the Town Council of North Berwick. It did so at full value but with a loan which eventually passed to East Lothian Council. The Trust has charitable status. Its Trustees must use the Trust's assets for such purposes, for the benefit of the residents of North Berwick, as the Trustees in their absolute and uncontrolled discretion think fit. Without prejudice to that generally the Trustees may make provision for recreation, education, cultivation and the relief of need and suffering.

Under the Trust deed the Trustees are drawn from a cross section of the local community and professions.

In 2004 the then Trustees decided that the best means of managing the Trust property to achieve its purposes lay in developing its ground for sale for the maximum return. Contracts were entered into on that basis which are now binding on the Trustees.

The ground is now being prepared for development by the Trust's contractual partners.

Whilst the Trust has a consultative role in that process, it's obligation is to maximise value.

Once value has been realised the Trust will be in a position to further its purposes.

When funds allow the Trustees will programme their income to fund projects which satisfies it's purposes for the benefit of North Berwick.

THE EDINGTON

Don't miss your chance to have a say in the future of the Edington. Look out for questionnaires in the next few weeks in the health and community centres, churches, local shops and library, or at www.northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk

OPEN GOLF

The Open Championship will be held at Muirfield from 14th to 21st July with final qualifying rounds taking place in North Berwick on 2nd July. East Lothian Council and the Police will provide additional traffic management information following the Easter holidays.

For current travel advice www.theopen.com/en/information/traveltothecourse.aspx

DIARY DATES

Easter Art Exhibition St Andrew Blackadder Church 29th 30th March & 1st April

Easter Egg Hunt Lodge grounds Friday 29th March 10am

Friends of the Lodge Plant Swap Lodge grounds Saturday 4th May

Rotary Shop St Andrew Blackadder Church Thursday 23rd - Saturday 25th May

Rotary Concert St Andrew Blackadder Church Kirkintilloch Choir Sunday 26th May

Community Festival Day Lodge grounds 15th June 12.30 - 5.30

Raft Race and sand modelling contest 24th August

CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send contributions for the next edition of NB NEWS to the Editor Sheila Sinclair Fidra 1 The Heugh North Berwick EH39 5NP by 21 June Sheila.sinclair@btinternet.com
