



NORTH BERWICK NEWS



Photograph by Ian Goodall, North Berwick Photographic Society

NORTH BERWICK HARBOUR

As everyone who was in North Berwick on the 15th December last year will remember the coast line was hit by a violent surge storm coinciding with a high tide causing considerable damage to the harbour infrastructure and private property. Damage to property would have been much greater had a handful of harbour users not cleared boats from the dingy storage area at 2 am before flooding became more severe and dangerous. As recorded by the SSC security cameras, waves swept over the esplanade wall, the steps to Galloway's Pier were washed away, the 16th century oldest part of the harbour wall – rough boulders pinned by wooden chocks – gave way behind the pump house and boats and debris were swept into the harbour. East Lothian Council's emergency response swung into action and boats were lifted from the harbour, debris removed and the container which had been washed into the water was lifted out. Boulders were recovered from the gully and used to plug a gaping hole in the harbour wall. A programme of repair work was then agreed with ELC. Over the last 6 months a series of inspections have established that some remedial work still needs to be done, including interim improvements to sea defences along the North East wall. However, the harbour is "open for business as usual" in time for the busy summer season. First on NBHTA's list of priorities is seeking funding for development of the North East section of the old swimming pool to include improvements to the sea defences involving larger boulders and a sea wall at the height of the old pond buildings. Recent new plans for Galloway's pier being rebuilt to allow for better access and even a ferry service will be modified to include whatever remedial work needs to be performed. For advice on the impact of flooding visit www.scottishfloodforum.org

RAFT RACE

It's that time again when intrepid rafters dust off their oars, hose down their life preservers and get into serious training for North Berwick's ever popular Annual Raft Race!

Whether you raft or prefer watching, put the 24th of August from 1pm in your diary now.

The fund-raising fun (all monies to RNLI and The Space) takes place on Elcho Green and the West Beach. The popular Family Sand Modelling Competition starts at 1.30pm and the race sets off at 4.30pm but there's so much more to do all afternoon. Fancy a cooling Pimms or a reviving cup of coffee with home-made cake or perhaps an ice cream? You are guaranteed a fun-filled afternoon with bouncy castles, candy floss and fairground games, face painting, live music, pipe bands, tombola with great prizes, and stalls of all kinds.

To enter your raft email Peter on hammopstrange@aol.com See you there!

NORTH BERWICK TRUST LAND UPDATE

In March 2013 Walker Group, acting as agents for the North Berwick Trust submitted an outline planning application for 420 houses and associated infrastructure. The target for granting planning consent is currently September 2013. Until permission is granted no further work will be carried out on the site which has already undergone archaeological investigations and soil sampling tests. The main planning topic which needs to be resolved involves agreeing the level of financial contribution which is required for educational purposes. Ongoing discussions are taking place with East Lothian Council on these matters. East Lothian Council have indicated that an area of land will be required to meet future educational requirements although the exact amount has not yet been decided. Sufficient land has already been designated for education in the local plan and this land is not included in the outline planning application now being considered. House building is likely to commence early next year and it is expected that, once the infrastructure is in place, a flow of 50 private dwellings will be built per annum.

INTEGRATION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SOCIAL CARE

With the overall objective of improving current practices, changes are taking place in the way that Health and Social care services will be provided in East Lothian in the future.

Integration of these services has been at the planning stage for some time and progress has now been made with the appointment of David Small as Director of the new Health and Social Care partnership. David who is currently General Manager of the East Lothian and Midlothian Community Health partnership will take up post on 1st August. A new shadow Board for Health and Social Care is in the process of being formed and this will work in tandem with the existing organisations to identify and resolve problems which changes in working practices could bring. Key aims of the new strategy are to help people who need care be able to stay longer in their own homes, to make it easier for people to be discharged from hospital earlier by ensuring that care is in place and, in some cases, to prevent hospitalisation in the first place.



COASTAL COMMUNITIES MUSEUM – OPEN FOR THE OPEN

As the greatest golfing show on earth, The Open Championship, rolls into Gullane 11 years since it last pitched camp at Muirfield, the Coastal Communities Museum Trust is delighted to announce that, also for the first time in eleven years, it can re-open the doors of the museum, presenting a temporary exhibition for the summer – Open for the Open. Golf is a perfect unifying subject to engage all the coastal communities with their new museum space. The 18 hole family exhibition has something to interest everyone – from the herring's influence on global golfing Greats to teeing off in the height of style and fashion. Understand the difference between a 'featherie' and a 'guttie' and view prized artefacts that have never been on public display before. This is an entirely volunteer-led initiative and we welcome everyone interested in becoming involved in whatever way they can (no previous experience necessary and training is provided.) Join our friendly, sociable team by e-mailing your contact details to volunteerccm@gmail.com or phone 0131 665 3300. The summer golf exhibition from 13th July to September will showcase the new space, give a taster of what's possible and seek your ideas for the future. We are looking forward to welcoming friends old and new, offering plenty to see and a new café to enjoy. We hope you are looking forward to coming back. Thank you to all who have helped and supported us.

Rosemary Everett and David Booth Co Chairs CCMT

NORTH BERWICK YOUTH PROJECT



The North Berwick Youth Project runs weekend Drop-ins and monthly trips. 6 young people with disabilities attend the ZAP group every Thursday where they take part in football, arts & crafts, baking etc. The Girls Group has been running since 2009. This year they had street dance sessions. They also cook a healthy balanced meal each week. The Youth Project works with North Berwick High School to deliver life and employability skills courses, including the Princes Trust, Future Skills and Hairdressing.

The Project also offers one to one support for the most vulnerable young people. Additionally, the Youth Project runs a Community Kitchen project comprising The Café in the Lodge, the Community Centre Café, cookery sessions and the Community Allotment at the foot of the Law as well as catering for community events. For the third year, the Café in the Lodge will be open over the summer holidays. A group of young people fundraised for 18 months and did voluntary work on a visit to Rwanda. A young person won Young Volunteer of the Year and the Rwanda and Café groups were runner ups at the Inspiring Volunteer Awards. For further information please contact Lesley Kay on 01620 893939.

GOLF QUIZ

Please support North Berwick in Bloom by buying a copy of the summer quiz (£1) which has a golf theme. All proceeds go towards making the town look more attractive throughout the year. Copies are available at all usual outlets. Closing date is 31st August.

On a golfing note, congratulations are due to local girl Clara Young who was runner up in the Scottish Ladies Amateur Championship earlier this year.

BEAUTIFUL BRITAIN

Another Open Competition has come and gone and the eyes of the golfing world have been focused on our beautiful scenery as well as some great matches. Judges will be casting critical eyes on North Berwick on Monday 29th July as North Berwick in Bloom competes in The Champion of Champions category In Britain in Bloom. Our competitors are Halstead, Herm, Lytham and Stanghow. Group chair Rosie Oberlander said "we are determined to show the judges North Berwick at its best so, please, help our small band of dedicated volunteers to keep the town looking beautiful and litter free." Find us at www.northberwickinbloom.org.uk

GOLD MEDALS

Congratulations on winning Gold medals at Gardening Scotland to North Berwick in Bloom for their Open Golf pallet & Law Primary school pupils Ollie, Oliver, Ursula and Brigid for their incrEDIBLE pallet. Both displays can be seen outside the Abbey Church.

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

Congratulations are also due to Val Stuart and Fiona Dobson from North Berwick Floral Art Club who were members of the gold medal award winning SAFAS team at Chelsea Flower Show for the exhibit entitled "Far Below the Sea Blooms". Look out for photographic and mood boards displayed in the foyer of St Andrew Blackadder in the morning of July 29th.



A NEW THEATRE AND CINEMA FOR NORTH BERWICK?

The North Berwick Arts Centre Steering Group has been busy over the past months including holding a very successful public meeting on 12th February which was attended by 70 people. Around 500 survey forms have been completed with over 90% of respondents stating that they would like to see an arts centre. Enthusiasm was also evident for theatre and cinema as well as music and dance.

As a result of the consultation a list of preferences has been drawn up. Ideally, the Group would like to see an iconic, attractive arts centre including a theatre seating up to 500 and a café preferably in the centre of North Berwick. They have looked at other community theatres including the Maltings in Berwick and the Beacon in Greenock to get an idea of what is possible. Ian Watson, Chair of the Group said: "We are very impressed by the enthusiasm of the community and we hope that we can bring the idea to fruition."

For further information contact Sandra King Community Development Officer 01620 893056

EDINGTON SURVEY

The Community Council are delighted to report that we received over 700 responses to the Edington survey. This information has been analysed and passed to the NHS. Steps are also being taken to look at the existing buildings of the Edington and the NB Health Centre to see if it would be possible to expand them on the existing footprint while meeting all the requirements of new legislation. Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire.

FIRE STATION

On April 1st 2013, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service became part of the single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). Following the unfortunate fire that required the fire appliance and crew at North Berwick to be displaced temporarily to the amenities centre at Heugh Brae, talks have taken place with insurers and architects to progress the re-instatement of the fire station to its original condition. These have been completed and work on the rebuilding has commenced. Anticipated completion date is Nov. 2013.

Station Commander Alex Hume said "For the last 6 months the community of North Berwick has continued to be served by a dedicated team of firefighters operating from a temporary base at the amenities site. As well as responding to operational incidents and undertaking training at the Scottish Fire Services College, local firefighters have maintained a proactive approach to community fire safety, through conducting free home fire safety visits across the North Berwick and East Lothian area which includes the fitting of smoke detectors in homes if required." To book a home fire safety check call 0800 0731 999, or text "check" to 61611 from your mobile. See also the SFRS website www.firescotland.gov.uk



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH BERWICK

The rotary club of North Berwick has had an active spring and early summer with members being involved in fund raising and community support activities. One fund raising activity involved sky diving by David Lancaster and Allen Angus to raise funds for Leuchie House.

Other events included organising concerts by the Kirkintilloch and Kevoch choirs, a quiz evening and the ever popular Rotary Shop which was again blessed by good weather allowing the furniture to be displayed in the open air.

Members will tell you that Rotary is not just an endless round of fund raising but that there is a considerable amount of fun to be had in helping others both in the local community and further afield. Every year local members host a day for children from Chernobyl and the picture shows some



of the youngsters who enjoyed a trip to the seaside in June. For details about becoming involved with the local Rotary and sharing in both the fun and the fundraising e mail harry.armstrong@hotmail.com

Fringe by the Sea 5th-11th August – A little of what you fancy.....



With the programme for this year's Fringe by the Sea now well and truly announced – and tickets flying out of the door, it is a good idea to look at the wide and eclectic mix that the organisers have lined up for all the family . Always willing to introduce something new and to take a few risks, it seems that nothing is beyond this little gem of a festival. Being touted country-wide as the best small scale arts festival in Scotland, the balance of music, comedy, authors and childrens' offerings are augmented with a whole section celebrating our 'glorious coastline and historical past'.

There will be guided walks, a fun day on the beach [some of us don't have to look too far to dress up in Victorian one-piece cozzies!], and 'Performance Archeology' – being claimed as a first at any festival of this kind in the world! Is there really a lost village on the grassed area in front of the tennis courts? Join the dig on the 7th and find out. Sure hits will be the Food Day Out on Friday [9th] with three superb experts in the culinary arts coming to 'talk and show ' and Tulipa who is doing a flower arranging demonstration the previous afternoon .The pick of the music will be The Blues Band, Dougie MacLean and Larkin Poe, while the list of authors is astounding. Where do you begin?

It's worth remembering that the whole event is only 6 years old this year, and it is the combined vision and energy of three individuals, plus their amazing band of volunteers, who put this festival on. Without it, the town would be the poorer, so please give it the support it richly deserves.



Larkin Poe

DIARY DATES

Afternoon teas	Abbey Church	Sundays in July
Putting competitions	East Links	July 23rd - 25th
Open tennis competition	East Links	July 22 - 28th
Marie Curie stall	East Fortune Air Show	July 27th
Afternoon teas	St Baldred's Church	Sundays in August
Fringe by the Sea	Various	August 5th - 11th
Law Race	Harbour	August 7th
Highland Games	Recreation Park	August 10th
Law Walk	Law car park	August 13th
Raft Race/Sand Castle Building	Elcho Green	August 24th
Bible Society coffee morning	St Baldred's Church	September 7th

CONTRIBUTIONS

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