



NORTH BERWICK NEWS

The summer of 2013 has been outstanding. The town has benefitted from busy beaches, crowded cafes and a marvellous variety of well attended events organised by willing bands of volunteers with - in most cases - the additional blessing of brilliant sunshine. Repairs have been carried out on the sea wall, the rebuilding of the fire station is nearly completed, a feasibility study on replacing the roof at the old church in Kirk Ports has been carried out, research into the possibility of having an Arts Centre is in progress, the Museum is open again etc. etc.

Thanks to the efforts of North Berwick in Bloom and ELC the town looked beautiful. Judges from Britain in Bloom agreed and North Berwick was given a gold medal in The Champion of Champions class of the Royal Horticultural Society Finals in October. Additionally, Rosie Oberlander (Chair of NBIB) was given a community award and the Lodge was nominated as one of the best public parks in the UK.



Wild Flowers at The Seabird Centre

Rosemary Oberlander

The Committee of North Berwick in Bloom is delighted that, once again, all the hard work put in over the year has been recognised by the award of a gold medal but is concerned that without the help of more volunteers in future they will be unable to maintain the high standard which they have set. If you have been impressed by the appearance of the town this summer and would like to help to keep it looking attractive, please think about becoming a volunteer. The group is in the process of purchasing a polytunnel which will provide a permanent base for volunteers to meet and this should be in place in the Spring. Meanwhile our AGM is on December 10th in the Hope Rooms at 7.30 pm. Come along, hear our plans, and find out how much fun it is to be a bloomer. www.northberwickinbloom.com

HOOF AND JAW BACK ON THE LAW

East Lothian Council's Countryside Section are reintroducing the practice of grazing animals back onto the site this Autumn after an absence of over 10 years. Seven Exmoor ponies are due to arrive in late October and will be joined by further ponies in the Spring. The grasslands of the Law are very important sites for botanists and when grazing ceased, the more aggressive grasses started to take over the more sensitive species, threatening the value of this habitat. Gorse has also spread. As a result, something needs to be done to help us to restore the landscape. These animals are seen as being able to provide the best long term solution to the problem. Putting grazing animals back onto the Law requires a few changes on the ground. Water troughs have been put in place, boundary walls and fencing



repaired and new fencing put in, both to fence out the marsh area and also to create a second paddock out of the area that lies on the NE side of the Law. Having two areas for grazing allows the animals to be rotated from one area to the other, thereby controlling how much grazing goes on. Funding for this work has been provided by the Scottish Rural Development Programme.

None of these changes will impede public enjoyment of the site, as gates will also

ensure that people can freely move from one area to another. The only change will be that we shall be asking dog walkers to ensure that, as they continue to enjoy the Law, they keep their pet under close control at all times, in keeping with access legislation.

PLEASE LET THE PONIES EAT THE GRASS - DO NOT GIVE THEM EXTRA FOOD

This project represents part of a wider grazing scheme being undertaken across East Lothian at 4 locations. At each site, local volunteers help to check on the welfare of the animals and participate in surveying the grasslands. If this interests you please get in touch. Encouragingly, local schools are keen to be involved by working with our local Countryside Ranger, Sam Ranscombe.

Further details at dpriddle@eastlothian.gov.uk 01620 827459

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Christmas lights will be switched on at 4.30 on Nov. 23rd at Abbey Church. There will be entertainment from 4pm. Hot chocolate and muffins will be available and Santa is expected to arrive with a sack full of presents. Please help our fundraising by buying a prize quiz from usual outlets.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

North Berwick Photographic Society has an interesting programme of talks, practical evenings and outings. Meetings take place in the Abbey Church every second Thursday from September to April. See www.northberwickphoto.org for further information.



MUSEUM'S SUCCESSFUL SUMMER

With all the precious golfing artefacts now returned to their respective guardians, the Trust is delighted to report that, based on the documented and verbal feedback, the 'Open for The Open' exhibition at the new Coastal Communities Museum(CCM) has been a great success.

The Museum attracted close to 5,000 visitors from far and wide over the 12 week period with over 100 being welcomed on some days. The visitors' book bears testament to their complimentary messages of support. Steampunk's temporary residence running the Museum café also proved very popular and we thank them for adding to the Museum's popularity.

Organised visits from school groups and the local scouts have taken place and, in addition, we had a special visit from the 98yr old step-daughter of Dr James Richardson, the Museum's original founder. She thought it was "wonderful". The CCM has also welcomed its first patron who will provide a regular annual donation.

The trustees are indebted to the small but reliable group of excellent Front of House volunteers who managed to keep the Museum open as advertised but we do need more people to give it a go. A simpler volunteer registration form has been developed from initial feedback so if you are interested in joining the friendly and enthusiastic team, please contact volunteerccm@gmail.com or call 0131 665 3300. Visitors have expressed a strong desire for the Museum to stay open over winter and so, as we have volunteers willing to man it, a mixed community display has been planned to open in November. Please visit coastalmuseum.org and keep an eye out for local publicity for the latest developments. Thanks to all our visitors. *David Booth and Rosemary Everett Co-Chairs CCMT*

NEED A LIFT ?

Are you resident in North Berwick? Do you find it difficult to travel to essential local services within North Berwick (eg. doctor,dentist, bank,shops) or to Haddington (eg. Roodlands) or to Belhaven Hospital Dunbar. Just call 894942 and ask for Colleen. We can provide transport for a return journey, door to door.There are no formalities, just call between 9am and 12pm Monday to Friday.The more notice you give the easier it is to arrange – our drivers are all local volunteers. The suggested donation for a return trip within North Berwick is £4.00 and for a return trip to Haddington or Dunbar is £10 00.

NORTH BERWICK DRAMA CIRCLE

The Drama Circle is looking ahead to a production in St Andrew Blackadder Hall in the Spring of 2014 and welcomes enthusiastic new members, whether their interests lie onstage or backstage. Contact Lorna Dixon at dixonduffy@masafish.com

The Festival Village Comes Alive!



A huge 'Thank You' to one and all who came and supported this year's Fringe by the Sea. The great turnout from residents of North Berwick and East Lothian, combined with increased numbers of tourists and holiday makers, resulted in our ticket sales going up by 9%. Undoubtedly, the weather [sun for just about the first time in six years!] was a helpful factor - but we also got many compliments on the creating of the 'festival hub' down in the harbour area - a real focus for our activities. Many people came down just to sample the atmosphere even if they weren't going to a performance! The mix of events on offer went down well – and the ranger walks, 'beach day', archaeological activity, and food day were all successfully tried and tested, so more next year. The big concerts in the Belhaven Spiegel tent were all very well attended, and as the changes were rung every night with the style and type of performer – we had different audiences of different ages. 'Fun for all' as we promised! The few shortcomings of the event were clearly articulated to us [and thanks for taking the time and trouble], so we know there are a number of areas where we can improve – resulting in an even better festival! The important thing is that we have decided to give it another go, so keep 4th – 10th August clear in 2014. *John Shaw*

RUSSELL BEQUEST INFORMATION

Local farmer Mr James Young Russell of Drem who died 30 years ago left the residue of his personal estate for the provision of sports facilities in the North Berwick area. The fund is administered by the Russell Bequest Trustees (two local councillors and one community councillor) who have over the years provided or made contributions to more than 50 sporting facilities of which the largest are the indoor swimming pool and all weather surfaces at the High School and tennis courts. In the last year grants have been made to North Berwick Rowing Club, North Berwick Kayak Club and North Berwick High School rugby trip to Northern Ireland. Grants are made at the discretion of the trustees and must be for the provision of sporting facilities. The only restrictions are that grants cannot be awarded to private clubs and cannot fund projects that it is the duty of the local authority to provide. New applications for the Trustees' consideration are always welcome and should be addressed to the Secretary, Russell Bequest Trustees, Lyle Crawford and Co, 15 Glenorchy Road North Berwick EH39 4PE Telephone 01620 892090 e mail Idc@lyleCrawford.co.uk

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS of THANK YOU's

“Thank you” are the first words that Community First Responders often hear as their arrival gives reassurance to patients, friends and relatives who know that someone trained in medical emergencies is there to help. When an ambulance is on its way to a patient in a life threatening situation we are asked by Scottish Ambulance Control to attend. Being local and trained in various techniques we can provide reassurance and simple treatment to improve the patient’s chance of survival within those crucial first few minutes of an emergency. With the responsibility of being first on the scene comes the need for regular refresher training in resuscitation techniques and patient care. Initial training includes a two hour HeartStart Course held locally in North Berwick, followed by a short training course run by the Scottish Ambulance Service in Edinburgh. Additionally, we hold short, monthly, training sessions to maintain our expertise. We often have to administer oxygen, or more rarely, perform **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)** and use our **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** in the case of cardiac arrest.

First Responders, who need to be 18 or over, are from all walks of life including teachers, housewives, engineers, accountants, scientists, farmers, and administrators. Each First Responder group has to be financially self-sufficient, raising funds for equipment and uniform and general expenses. North Berwick has been very fortunate in receiving grants from the Stella Moffat Fund and the local community, including the Rotary Club and sponsorship from local businesses. Donations from former patients and relatives are always particularly rewarding. Being part of the Community is an important factor and to this end we involve ourselves with other volunteer groups by having a stand at local events. Our link with the Edington Hospital where we keep our Emergency equipment bags when not in use was reinforced with involvement in the Hospital Centenary celebrations last year.

The group has doubled the number of active members in a year, and is covering 200% more shifts over the 24 hour/seven day a week period since last summer. Co-ordinator, for the past 3 years Hope Johnston, is stepping back into more of a support role, and has handed over the reins of a healthy and keen group to the new co-ordinator Carole MacLaren. For more information on North Berwick Community First Responders, including Heartstart courses sponsorship and donations please call 07977 316411 or e mail firstresponders nb @btinternet.com



NB First Responders

Photo Ian Goodall



NORTH BERWICK ROTARY CLUB

The North Berwick Rotary Club has bought a new tricycle for local boy Charlie Kay, who suffers from cerebral palsy. While he waits for a Selective Dorsal Rhysotomy operation at Bristol, Charlie attends Law Primary School. He has outgrown the tricycle that he was using and the new one (which cost just over £2000) will serve his needs until he leaves primary school. The cost has been covered fully by the North Berwick Rotary Club from funds raised at the Rotary shop in the summer. The tricycle was delivered in September and Charlie now commutes to school with his Mum, Melanie, in hot pursuit. An attachment allows the tricycle to be adapted so that it can be linked to his father, Martin's, bicycle while younger sister Meredith rides on the back of Mum's bicycle. Charlie is clearly very excited about his new transport and he is the centre of attention at school when he arrives in the morning. The tricycle is dual purpose as it provides a form of physiotherapy which helps to encourage flexibility and muscle tone in Charlie's legs as well as giving him pleasure.

AIR CADETS

Congratulations to the North Berwick Flight of air cadets who have been granted squadron status - 132 (North Berwick) Sqn ATC following a successful year which included winning the S. East Scotland Wing swimming gala in September.

As the number of cadets has risen, accordingly more volunteer helpers would be welcomed by the OC, Flying Officer Iain Edmans RAFVR(T), Tel. 01620 892504 (Tuesday evenings) or Dr Sue Oliver, Chair, Civilian Committee, Tel: 01620 850375, sueoliver@dragonlea.co.uk .

DIARY DATES

16th November North Berwick in Bloom Christmas Tea 2 – 4 pm Abbey Church

23rd November Christmas lights switch on Abbey Church 4.30 pm (entertainment from 4pm)

28th November Scottish Songs and Music in aid of Leuchie St Andrew Blackadder 7.30

1st December NB Floral Art Club Christmas Lunch and Demonstration Marine Hotel

6th December Friends of the Lodge carol singing Lodge courtyard 6.30 pm

10th December Annual General Meeting NBIB Hope Rooms 7.30pm

21st December Rotary event Santa down the street

25th January Marine Hotel NB Burns Supper

31st January Glen Golf Club 7pm Celebration of Burns presented by NB Drama Circle

COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send any comments and suggestions for items which you would like to see included in North Berwick News to Sheila.sinclair@btinternet.com 01620 894666. Items for inclusion in the next edition of NB NEWS should be submitted by 14th March 2014