

NORTH BERWICK NEWS



The summer of 2014 is one which will be remembered for several reasons not least the fabulous weather. Many successful events, both sporting and cultural, catering for all ages were arranged by different local organisations providing entertainment and contributing to a holiday atmosphere. Local heroes, Dan Wallace, gold medal winner in the Commonwealth Games and Jamie Douglas Hamilton who completed an epic row across the Indian Ocean earned their places in the record books. The work on the harbour continued apace and there are hopes that an explanatory board on the history of the area can be procured at some point. The Coastal Communities Museum has been hosting a poignant exhibition which can still be seen at weekends. The Community Centre, which has been closed for weeks, will re-open shortly sporting a brand new lift. The planters in Quality Street have been painted to match the new seating at Lighthouse Corner and outside the old tourist office. NBIB is in the process of commissioning a third wrought iron tree seat which will be put in place in the Spring. Meanwhile, there are plans to replace the old notice board in the area with two new wall mounted ones which should be in place by Christmas.

NORTH BERWICK IN BLOOM

The In Bloom team of volunteers has had another enjoyable and successful year, culminating in being awarded Gold at the Beautiful Scotland awards in September, against competition from Carnoustie, Broughty Ferry, Monifieth, Aberdour, Dunbar, Bute and Burntisland. North Berwick was one of only six Gold medalists this year and also achieved a discretionary award for best Community Horticulture. On the UK wide front, they were delighted to be runners up in the ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships) competition for their floral displays at the station. Many encouraging comments were received regarding the hanging baskets and containers, a great number of which were still in place well into autumn. The volunteers, noticeable in their green tabards, have been busy planting winter bedding and spring bulbs with plans for 2015 well advanced to ensure that the town is colourful through the year. More information is available at www.northberwickinbloom.org.uk and new volunteers are always welcome.



The High Street December 2013



Quality Street December 2013

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Christmas lights will be switched on at 4.30pm. on Nov. 22nd at Abbey Church with entertainment from 4pm. Refreshments will be available in the Church after switch on and Santa is expected to arrive with a sack full of presents. Please help our fundraising by buying a prize quiz from the usual outlets.

COASTAL COMMUNITIES MUSEUM

The Coastal Ward at War 1914-1918 Exhibition is running at the Coastal Communities Museum until 8 March 2015. It is a superb and sensitively arranged display, put together by volunteers. Informative display boards tell the story of the war as it affected people in this small community. They highlight the experiences of men who rushed to the recruiting office the day war was declared and soon found themselves in desperate conditions in the trenches on the Western Front and Gallipoli, or in battleships of the Grand Fleet in the North Sea and the Dardanelles. Nearly three hundred men did not return home to this corner of East Lothian and their names are prominently displayed in a Remembrance room in the museum.



There is a fascinating array of artefacts on display: family photographs and letters written home from the trenches, souvenirs from Ypres, a soldier's portable shaving mirror, a Princess Mary Christmas gift tin for the troops and campaign medals. All the items have a local connection. At the centre of the exhibition is a leather-bound, hand written, remembrance book containing the names of the fallen from the Parish and Burgh of North Berwick, compiled in 1922 to coincide with the dedication of the town's war memorial. There is also plenty to interest and stimulate young visitors. Lesley Scott, who led the team of volunteers researching the material and brought the many different elements of the exhibition together in time for the opening event, said: "We are grateful to those individuals for their generosity in allowing us all to share in their family memories."

The Museum, in School Road, North Berwick, is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. New volunteers are always welcome. Contact rtrogers@gmail.com
(Full article appears in *East Lothian Life*, Autumn 2014) Ailsa Fortune

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

The area surrounding the ruins at St Andrew's Church by the harbour is one of the oldest and most historic parts of North Berwick and it is well known that thousands of pilgrims worshipped there on their way to St Andrew's in Fife during the medieval period.

One of the last tasks of the Friends of North Berwick Museum is to recreate the Church of that period by creating both a virtual model which will be accessible on the internet and an actual model. The project requires a considerable amount of research involving searching old documents and carrying out site visits to buildings in the area dating from a similar period. Before completion there will also be an investigation by renowned archeologist Tom Addeyman and his team. Funding is in place and it is hoped that the work will be completed by the end of this year. Meanwhile working under the auspices of the Environment Trust a funding bid to restore the roof on the ruin at Kirk Ports has been submitted by a small band of dedicated volunteers who are determined to see the iconic bell shaped feature restored.

EAST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

The launch of the Community Rail Partnership which brings together national and local organisations to promote local train travel will be held on November 18th at Queen Margaret University. The steering group, which was formed in the summer, produced a survey the results of which have been analysed and are now being used to feed into a draft action plan. Objectives include having an integrated public transport network for the county and seeking opportunities to improve rail and bus interchanges. To find further information on East Lothian Community Rail Partnership go to www.ourlocality.org/eastlothiancrp.

GOODBYE AND HELLO

Two Community Councillors have stood down in the last few months. Hayley Flanagan who was a councillor for 18 months has left to devote more time to her growing family and her flourishing business in town. Bob Bryson has lived in North Berwick all of his life but has decided to move to New Zealand where he and his wife Heather have family. Bob has served on the Community Council for the last 14 years. Previously Lifeboat Operations Manager of North Berwick RNLI, he is currently a member of the RNLI committee. Bob is a regular attendee at Community and Police Partnership (CAPP) meetings and a member of the Christmas Lights sub committee.

We wish Hayley and Bob the best of luck in their new ventures and thank them for their contribution to the Community Council.

Welcome to our new members Deborah Ritchie and Peter Hamilton.

Dr Deborah Ritchie has lived in North Berwick since 2003 and has many family connections in North Berwick and East Lothian. Deborah has recently retired from her job as a senior lecturer in



Deborah Ritchie

Nursing Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Her research interests focussed on public health issues, particularly tobacco control, mental health and community development. Her background in community development, both practice and research, has motivated her to join the community council. In retirement she is continuing her public health interests and is involved in some national charity work: Alcohol Focus Scotland and the Scottish Tobacco Control Alliance. Locally, she is a volunteer bereavement counsellor for CRUSE. She has previously served on the North Berwick film club committee and is currently involved in the 'Rusty Rackets' at the tennis club and a local yoga group.

Peter Hamilton was educated at both North Berwick Primary and North Berwick High Schools. After training as an apprentice Plasterer with a local building firm in Gullane for five years he left that trade and joined the army in the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots where he served for just over three and a half years. He returned to the building trade for 15 years before being forced to give up paid employment due to ill health. His interests and hobbies are fly fishing, sea fishing, and also clay pigeon shooting. He also likes to show Clydesdale horses in Hand at Horse show competitions. Additionally, he is a volunteer checker on the Exmoor ponies that are on North Berwick Law. He is currently a member of the Law Residents and Tenants Group and regularly attends the local CAPP Meetings.



Peter Hamilton

NORTH BERWICK DRAMA CIRCLE

Another Burns Supper Wi' a Difference

Encouraged by the great success of their first alternative Burns Supper, North Berwick Drama Circle has put together another colourful entertainment of words and music to wrap around the traditional Burns Night feast. Come along to honour the Bard at the Glen Golf Club in North Berwick on Friday January 23rd 2015, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. For tickets - £25 including a delicious threecourse meal - email davevh@hotmail.com or call 01620 862221.



FRINGE BY THE SEA 2014 – THE BEST YET

The word on the streets is that this year's festival in North Berwick was the best ever and certainly the feedback from performers and audiences alike has been extremely positive. All the headline concerts in the large Spiegel tent and those held at St Andrew Blackadder were well received, with Phil & Aly playing to their customary full house and being on top form. Many people have commented on how the whole town now seems to be involved and enthusiastic about the event – with a fantastic group of volunteers making the whole enterprise run with a great deal of efficiency and good humour. The local businesses are also realising how important their role is in the festival – and the large numbers of 'potential customers' it generates. Actual audiences were up to over 7,000, but of course there was a much greater footfall overall throughout the week. Two introductions this year seem to have been very well received – firstly, the reappearance after many years of donkeys on the East Beach and secondly, the rickshaws riding round the streets - promoting the event as well as taking the adventurous on a wee trip round the town! Finally, for those at the comedy on the Saturday night – you can now say you saw that television star, Phill Jupitus, the night hedidn't fare too well!



Donkeys on parade

RESILIENCE PLANNING

The high tides and resulting damage at the seafront in October provided a timely reminder of how quickly emergencies can arise. Strong winds, high tides, blizzards etc. all have the capacity to create situations where people are left feeling vulnerable so it is essential to have contingency plans in place to deal with unexpected occurrences should the unthinkable happen.

Emergencies range from weather related incidents like coastal flooding, oil pollution and power shortages to man made ones which include toxic problems in the unlikely case of a leakage from Torness, train crashes etc. As a community we need to be aware of how to cope with all of these events. Sandy Baptie, Emergency Planning and Risk Manager at East Lothian Council is responsible for the development and maintenance of East Lothian Council Emergency Plans and helping to co-ordinate the Council's response to serious incidents. Sandy carries out this role both during and out of office hours and is constantly striving to ensure that communities develop the resilience to deal with the various situations which can cause disruption and distress. Additionally, he is responsible for ensuring that all risk management assessments are correctly undertaken, especially where public safety is involved.

We have had a glorious summer and now it is time to start thinking about preparing for winter when the more vulnerable members of our community may be unable to get out for essential shopping or to clear ice and snow from their paths and need to rely on others for assistance. If you can help a neighbour and prevent an emergency arising by taking early action, please do so.

For useful tips on preparing for winter in the community, at home, on the move and in the workplace, go to Scottish Government's website www.readyscotland.org

telephone 0131 625 6000 or email readyforwinter@union.co.uk

For more information or advice on Emergency Planning ring Sandy Baptie on 01620 827779



ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Club of North Berwick occasionally gives Service Recognition Awards to people who have made outstanding contributions to the local community and this year it has recognised both Liz MacColl and Ian Donald for their efforts.

For many years Liz has worked tirelessly, raising funds for numerous charities, organizations and individuals both locally and as far afield as Malawi, while somehow finding time to run the Glen Bridge Club teaching bridge to beginners while retaining her reputation as a worthy opponent.

Paul Harris Awards are made to Rotarians in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance in the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world. Ian Donald past President of the club and now in his second term as Treasurer and the local representative for the Shelterbox charity which provides emergency shelters for refugees and emergencies worldwide was considered to be a worthy recipient of this award.

The 20th Annual Charity Golf Competition in August raised over £4000 which will be distributed among Leuchie House, The Fraser Imrie Trust and other local charities. The event was a true community effort, being supported by over 27 local businesses who sponsored holes or donated prizes. The worthy winners were the Kilspindie Monday Club +1 led by Andy Watt.

The Club was delighted to sponsor two NB High School students on the Youth Leadership Award Scheme and Jessica Maschetto and Lewis Shen who demonstrated that they had benefitted from the scheme when they came along to the club to recount their experiences.



Lewis Shen Dave Portway Jessica Maschetto

NORTH BERWICK TRUST UPDATE

In May of this year planning permission in principle was granted to Walkers Group, the development partner of North Berwick Trust, to build 420 houses at the Mains Farm Site. The expectation is that this development will be completed in phases over the next 8 years.

As part of the agreement, there is a mechanism to deliver a proportion of affordable housing for which the planning is currently in hand. The agreement also states that there will be a gift of land from the Trust to East Lothian Council for provision of a town park, sports pitch and school expansion. In addition to this gift of land, the Trust agrees to pay over £5 million from development proceeds towards primary and secondary school expansion / improvement and over £500k to create and maintain the park and the pitch.

Detailed planning permission will be applied for imminently and it is expected that work will start early next year.

VOLUNTEER CAR SCHEME

Could you help elderly local residents who are having difficulty in getting to hospital and other appointments by becoming a driver in the Volunteer Car Scheme? If so Colleen Prail the Scheme's co-ordinator would love to hear from you. Colleen can be reached between 9am and 12 noon Monday to Friday on 01620 894942 Local residents wishing to make arrangements for transport to hospital, dentist, hairdressing appointments etc. should ring the same number during these times.



NORTH BERWICK DAY CENTRE BUS

Over £70,000 has been raised for the bus appeal making it possible to place an order for a higher specification bus than was originally planned. The higher specification means that the bus will have more storage which is easily accessible and should last longer than the one currently in use.

A spokesman for the Day Centre Management Board said " We are very grateful for all the contributions, both large and small , which we have received from Trusts, Churches, Businesses, Organisations and individuals both in North Berwick and further afield. The order has been placed and the expected delivery date is March / April next year. Now we can focus our attention on carrying out our scheduled programme of Winter activities in the centre as well as planning outings in the Spring without worrying that our transport might let us down."

The North Berwick Day Centre is all about improving the quality of life for older people who live independently in and around North Berwick, offering a safe and welcoming environment in which to make new friends and keep in touch with old ones. The Day Centre bus is an essential part of the service, so look out for the new bus next Spring.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Antisocial behaviour bothering you ? ring Community Warden Keith Tait on 0845 6018518

Need to phone the police on a non emergency matter ? ring 101

Want to check the Community Council webpage ? www.northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Need information about the Health Centre ? www.northberwickhealthcentre.scot.nhs.uk

Volunteer car scheme 9.am – 12 noon Monday – Friday 01620 89494

SHARED CAR CLUB UPDATE

SpareWheels and EasyWheels , car sharing clubs in Dunbar and Haddington , have merged and formed a new Co-Wheels East Lothian car club that will include North Berwick as a location for shared vehicles. The current plan is for North Berwick to have two cars for members' use some time next year. One of the vehicles will be an electric car. If you would like to be involved or are interested in becoming a member contact Jurgita Galbraith at NorthBerwick.CarClub@gmail.com

DIARY DATES

22nd November Christmas lights switch on Abbey Church 4.30 pm (entertainment from 4pm)

5th December NB Floral Art Club Christmas Lunch and Demonstration Marine Hotel

6th December Coffee Morning Seabird Centre volunteers Hope Rooms 10 - 12

6th December North Berwick in Bloom Christmas Tea 2 – 4 pm Abbey Church

9th December North Berwick in Bloom Annual General Meeting Council Chambers 7.30pm

20th December Rotary event See Santa in the High Street

30th January Marine Hotel NB Burns Supper

NB Information correct at time of going to press. Please note that some details may change

CHECK THE NOTICE BOARD IN LAW ROAD FOR DETAILS OF LOCAL EVENTS

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 15th March 2015
