



## NORTH BERWICK NEWS

This summer sees the 20th anniversary of the North Berwick International Highland Games which are set to be the biggest and best yet. So far over 80 bands have confirmed attendance as have 100 Highland Dancers.

20 years ago the attendance which could be expected at this event was 4000. This number has now risen to a staggering 15,000 with people coming from no less than fifteen different countries from all parts of the world.

In addition to the piping and dancing, there will be the additional attractions of Tossing the Caber, Throwing the Hammer and the traditional Tug of War teams who rely on sheer strength to pull their opponents across the line.

The main arena will feature a demonstration by Midlothian Dog Training Society and there will be craft and trade stalls throughout the grounds, as well as a demonstration by members of the Lammermuir Stick Dressing Society.

The games will take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August at The Recreation Ground in Dunbar Road. The gates will be opened at 9 am and the pipe band competition will start at 9.30.

At the end of the day the bands will parade and salute the Chieftain of the day, Jimmy Johnstone MBE, Past Chief Superintendent of Lothian Borders Police and Depute Chieftain Pat Murphy of Waterford Ireland.



Photo Ian Goodall, North Berwick Photographic Society

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#### NORTH BERWICK ROTARY



The club has been especially busy in the last few months, fund raising and distributing donations, at one point leaving just £60 in the kitty! Local charities which have been supported recently include Beach Wheelchairs, Kids Out, the Fraser Imrie Trust, two local play schemes, Becky Dalgleish's appeal for CHAS and Leuchie House. A special collection for the Nepal earthquake resulted in £2260 for Shelterbox, a Rotary associated charity which provides tents and cooking equipment for use in disasters. A Shelterbox tent outside St Andrew Blackadder Church attracted widespread attention and helped to focus passers by on what was needed. In April, Rosie Oberlander was presented with a Community Service Award which is given to people who are considered to have provided exceptional service to the community and stimulated changes for the better. In May the annual Rotary Shop in St Andrew Blackadder Church Hall raised nearly £9500 which brings the total raised since the shop was started in 1970 to over £100,000. Many unsold items were passed on to local charities for sale in their own outlets, thus directly benefitting other organisations. North Berwick Rotary Club is extremely grateful to everyone who supports our many fund raising activities and would like to thank those who put their hands in their pockets, those who donated items for sale in the shop, as well as Tesco in North Berwick, and The Car and Van Rental Co Ltd in Haddington, for their support. The Club's 21st annual golf competition will be held at the Glen Golf Club on Sunday 23 August from 9.00 in aid of the North Berwick Lifeboat Station and other local charities. With prizes of up to £5000 for a hole in one at the 4<sup>th</sup> hole (sponsored by the Gates Corporation) and cash prizes for a hole in one on all the other short holes, this will be an exciting event. For an entry form and further details, please contact Richard Bell at [rbrb4010@gmail.com](mailto:rbrb4010@gmail.com). North Berwick Rotary Club invites anyone who would like to be involved in activities to help support their local community and those in need abroad whilst enjoying some fun and friendship to join us. For more details contact Bruce Wilson on 890555 or [bruceandvalerie@btinternet.com](mailto:bruceandvalerie@btinternet.com) . *Douglas Shiell*

#### RAFT RACE

Raft Race has a theme of submarine / Rowntrees Sweets in memory of Ronnie Coates Walker who founded the race 30 years ago and was instrumental in having the RNLI boathouse re-instated. The fun starts at 1.pm with stalls, live music and, of course, the Sandcastle competitions. Proceeds will go to RNLI, the Edington and other local charities.

#### LAW RACE

The race will start at the harbour at 7.30 pm.on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Last year's winning time was 19 minutes 11 seconds and there were nearly 300 entrants.

#### STATION NEWS

There are plans to extend the platform at the station in the near future. Watch this space. Help yourself to a free book at North Berwick in Bloom's book swap stall at the station. Collect a free Community Rail partnership line guide for stations in East Lothian.

#### LODGE CAFÉ

Café in the Lodge will be open on July 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday to Sunday for 6 weeks from 11- 3pm

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### **RIGS TO RICHES – FARMING THE COASTAL COMMUNITY**

East Lothian has a rich agricultural heritage from the days of the runrigs when subsistence farmers toiled for food to the innovations and improvements of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries right up to the present date.

What happened in our local area was an integral part of the driving force for great change in Scottish farming. The evolution and, in some cases, the revolution, in farming practices directly impacted on the lives of Scottish farming folk and indirectly on others dependent on their output. People felt the impact of these changes across the full social spectrum, from the well-to-do landlord to the humble seasonal tattie picker.

Rigs to Riches helps you to find out about the traditional practices regarding the enclosure of land, methods of ploughing, crop rotation 200 years ago and farm workers' earnings in the 1790s. Also, see how farming practices have changed through the ages.

Find out how the humble turnip revolutionised agricultural practice and determine who the Bondagers were and critically, what they did with an 'ugli'!

"Rigs to Riches" opens on Saturday 27 June at 11.00am in the Coastal Communities Museum, School Road, North Berwick. Thereafter, until mid-September the Museum will be open from 11.00 till 4.00 Wednesday - Sunday each week. If you would like to find out more check out our website [www.coastalmuseum.org](http://www.coastalmuseum.org). *Nick Hunter*

### **CO-WHEELS EAST LOTHIAN CAR CLUB**

Co-Wheels East Lothian introduced its first vehicle for North Berwick residents in April 2015. The membership is growing steadily and the car – a manual transmission Kia Rio – is regularly used for short journeys (less than an hour) as well as longer trips. The benefits of having access to a car club in places like North Berwick, Haddington and Dunbar are plain to see. Many North Berwick car owners do not use their vehicle every day and some of these vehicles remain parked on the streets or in car parks being moved infrequently, sometimes because owners think that there might be no parking space upon their return. Some families own two cars with the second one only being used occasionally. Experience shows that occasional users who have easy access to a club car (20-25 members per vehicle) have no need to own a car. Not owning a vehicle encourages people to walk or bike for short distances thus helping them to stay fit while saving money from the elimination of the fixed costs of owning a car. From the community point of view, fewer cars on the streets cause less traffic congestion and less air pollution. Car club membership is available to anyone (for business or private use) who has held a driving licence for one year. Membership allows access to Co-Wheels vehicles at other locations in Scotland and throughout the UK. Co-Wheels East Lothian is waiving a joining fee for the first 20 local residents – e-mail [cowheelseastlothian.nb@gmail.com](mailto:cowheelseastlothian.nb@gmail.com) for a promotional code. Please visit [www.Co-Wheels.org.uk/EastLothian](http://www.Co-Wheels.org.uk/EastLothian) for more information.

### **SCOTTISH POPPY APPEAL**

There is a vacancy for an Area Organiser with the Scottish Poppy Appeal in North Berwick. The post which is voluntary involves organizing a team of volunteers to distribute the poppies to schools and other outlets. For more information ring 0141 338 6585

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### **THE BEACH WHEELCHAIR PROJECT**

By the time you read this, The Beach Wheelchair Project - the first of its type in mainland Scotland - should be up and running from The Beach Hut at North Berwick harbour.

Co-founder and Chair of the Beach Wheelchair project, Alison Brown, said "As a mum of a six year old boy with a physical disability I know firsthand what a difference these wheelchairs can make. We had the opportunity to use one in France last year and this allowed us to move about freely rather than carrying him to one fixed spot on the beach."

Co-founder and Secretary, Jackie Tagg, added: "Since starting the project about a year ago we've been blown away by the support we have had. We've met individuals who have never been on the beach and families that no longer go to the seaside as they can't go onto the beach together. This scheme will help to change that and our ultimate aim would be to replicate it in other parts of the country so more people can enjoy more of Scotland's beautiful beaches. It is amazing that the group has been able to raise the money so quickly thanks to the support of the local community, volunteers, East Lothian Council, North Berwick Community Centre and North Berwick Community Council.

The Big Lottery Grant of £10,000 was fantastic. Grants have also been awarded from The People's Postcode Lottery, The Rotary Club of North Berwick, Support from the Start and Law Road Residents Association. So many individuals have donated their time, expertise, advice and funds to the project and it is impossible to mention them all but we know who you are and you have our heartfelt thanks."

All the money raised will be needed to run the free hire scheme and hopefully help other areas set up similar schemes. To book a beach wheelchair ring the Booking Line: 07494600954 if your call can't be answered leave a message and someone will ring you back. For information see [www.beachwheelchairs.org](http://www.beachwheelchairs.org) or Facebook – Beachwheelchairs. If you would like to volunteer please ring Jackie on 07779302 [info@beachwheelchairs.org](mailto:info@beachwheelchairs.org)

### **EAST LOTHIAN FOODBANK**

The East Lothian Foodbank is part of a national network helping individuals and families to cope when they do not have enough food to feed themselves or their families. With the help of the Trussell Trust the bank operates using a range of supporters from East Lothian Churches, Rotary Clubs and other voluntary organisations. Sadly, demand across the county for the emergency service to alleviate extreme food poverty remains. On average 125 food parcels feeding 242 people, one third of whom were children, were distributed in each of the last three months. An encouraging statistic is that most people only use the foodbank once. All clients have to be referred by a Doctor, Social Worker or other recognised Agency. Key reasons for referral include benefit delays, redundancy and family breakdowns. Based in Tranent, the organisation has a part time manager but is dependent on the continued support of those who provide, sort and distribute the food. A big food raising event is planned across the three East Lothian Tescos in the first week in July when shoppers will be asked to donate. At other times donations can be made to the Abbey Church and North Berwick Library. Please help by donating food items or by offering practical support in distributing food to families who need it NOW! For more information go to [info@eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk)



#### **GOLF MARATHON**

Community Councillor, George Johnstone, in contemplative mood after playing 9 rounds of golf on Midsummer's Day. George, together with two companions also playing for charity, was taking part in a 16 hour marathon to raise money for the Beach Wheelchair Project (see Page 4). Playing on the course at Seton Sands Holiday Park George raised an impressive total of £850 for the charity.

Photo (left) by Jackie Tagg

#### **JOAN ARMATRADING TO OPEN FRINGE BY THE SEA**

This year's festival in North Berwick will feature a headline concert by none other than international performing and recording star, Joan Armatrading, pictured below. She will appear on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, with the fabulous Blues Band wrapping up the programme on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>.

Anyone fortunate enough to have seen The New Rope String Band two years ago will be keen to go again, and also returning will be Phil Cunningham & Aly Bain [the jokes are old but the playing gets better and better], as well as one of the huge favourites of recent years, Eddi Reader. And stretching across to America, the 'modern bluegrass' band, Lindsay Lou & The Flatbellys, will be making a detour from their European Tour to perform for us. This year's programme also includes comedy with Alan Davies, Barry Cryer & Ronnie Golden and Sean Cullen and the wonderful Elaine C Smith.

There will be a special day on the Wednesday dedicated to all things Saltire - with a riding-out ceremony and parade through the town. A strong childrens' programme has again been prepared - with Funbox [rising from the ashes of The Singing Kettle] and evergreen Mr Boom, of course. A new thread to the Festival is the Homegrown



series; performances by some of the best entertainers in East Lothian - including Opera East Lothian, North Berwick Drama Circle and Arran Johnston [who is Bonnie Prince Charlie]. A great Food Day sees visiting chefs as well as an indoor food market on the Friday.

### **CYCLING AND RECYCLING**

Cyclists and pedestrians alike will benefit from the Community Links programme which is designed to develop a cycle network infrastructure. The programme, operated by the transport charity Sustrans and ELC, is providing a financial boost to help provide safer walking and cycling routes for everyday journeys between North Berwick and Dirleton and Archerfield to Gullane. The themes of cycling and recycling were brought together by North Berwick in Bloom earlier this year helping them to win a gold medal and attract the most public votes for their pallet garden at Beautiful Scotland. The team used recycled bicycle parts and accessories to create the winning horticultural display which can be seen outside Abbey Church. The pallet highlighted the work of volunteers who repair and recycle old and unwanted bicycles for use elsewhere. You may have noticed the second big belly bin at the seafront. What you may not know, is that this compactor bin uses solar power for 100% of its energy needs and, although taking up the same amount of space as a standard bin, it can hold up to 6 – 8 times the amount of waste. When rubbish reaches a certain level the built in sensors trigger the compactor. North Berwick in Bloom plays an active role in encouraging recycling and reducing litter by participating along with other organisations in regular beach cleans and litter picks resulting in recognition from Beautiful Scotland as being heroes. We are currently investigating the installation of water butts to use recycled rain water.

### **DIARY DATES**

Teas Sundays 2.30 – 4.30 July and August Abbey Church in aid of Abbey and St Baldred's  
East Lothian Tennis Championships 19<sup>th</sup> July – 25<sup>th</sup> Tennis Courts East Road  
Calder and Crawford cups putting 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July at the East Links  
RNLI Duck Race 26<sup>th</sup> July Children's Pond East Beach  
Day Centre Coffee Morning 1<sup>st</sup> August 10.00 – 12.00  
The Law Race 5th August 7.30pm. at the Harbour  
Highland Games 8<sup>th</sup> August 9.00 am Recreation Park  
Fringe by the Sea 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August Harbour area  
Raft Race and Sandcastle Building competition 15<sup>th</sup> August 1-30 – 5 at Elcho Green  
Bible Society Coffee Morning 12<sup>th</sup> September 10.00-12.00 St Andrew Blackadder Church

*Please note times of events can change and not all can be advertised here. Check the town diary which is kept in the library and the events notice board at the foot of Law Road.*

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS** Ring 0845 6018518 or e mail [asb@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:asb@eastlothian.gov.uk)  
**VOLUNTEER CAR DRIVER SCHEME** Ring 894942 to request a lift or offer to volunteer.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please send contributions for the next edition of NB NEWS to the Editor Sheila Sinclair  
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