



NORTH BERWICK NEWS



**NORTH BERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL** Photo by Ian Goodall

Back Row Peter Hamilton Deborah Ritchie Hilary Smith Jake Scott Bill McNair Ian Watson  
Front Row David Kellock Kathryn Smith Sheila Sinclair ( Chair ) Elma Danks Malcolm Baker

As Chair of the Community Council, I am sometimes asked “Who are the Community Councillors and what exactly do you do.”? We are all North Berwick residents and volunteers (a mix of elected members and those who stepped forward to fill vacancies) and between us we represent a wide cross section of the community by dint of the organisations to which we belong, as well as our own extended families and social networks. We deal with all problems brought to our attention by identifying and, where necessary, personally contacting the appropriate person in a position to solve them. We take direct action on issues which affect us all, like the future of the Edington when we held a survey and public meeting and subsequently commissioned plans for a possible extension to the Health Centre (still under review). In the case of major planning applications such as Ferrygate to which we objected, we organised petitions and held public meetings before feeding our concerns back to East Lothian Council and the Scottish Government. In this instance the wishes of the Community Council and residents were overruled by the Scottish Government. To find out more about what we do on your behalf, come along to one of our monthly meetings in North Berwick Fire Station at 7.30 on the first Tuesday of every month (Minutes are posted on the notice board in Law Road). Alternatively check out our new web page. (See details on page 6) or look at North Berwick Community Council Facebook.

## **NORTH BERWICK ROTARY**



Ken Gordon (pictured) was inaugurated as President of the North Berwick Rotary Club In July replacing Dave Portway. Earlier that month 7 Rotary members from North Berwick and 3 from the Dunbar club joined over 20,000 cyclists from other Rotary clubs and raised £500 for Prostate Scotland. In August The Club raised £7000 which was later split 50/50 between the RNLI and local charities when 112 players took part in the 21st Annual Charity Golf Competition at the Glen Golf Club. The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) project seeks to develop leadership qualities and team working amongst young people. For many years, the Club has sponsored a boy and a girl from North Berwick High School to take part. Unfortunately, the boy who was selected this year had to withdraw, but the school was represented by Lucy Patrick.

After local TESCO manager, John McLennan, asked for suggestions for suitable recipients for excess stock of discontinued lines a few weeks ago, club members delivered 15 boxes of food to Leuchie House, the Abbey Care Home and the Edington hospital.

The club was delighted to honour June Douglas Hamilton a few weeks ago with a service recognition award which is given to a local person who has provided outstanding service to the community.

North Berwick Rotary Club would like to invite anyone who would like to be involved in activities to help support their local communities and those in need abroad whilst enjoying some fun and friendship to join us. Just contact Bruce Wilson on 890555 for more details.

*Douglas Shiell*

## **COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP**

The newly constituted Community Rail Partnership,( CRP) under the Chairmanship of Harry Barker, [harry@barker4074freeserve.co.uk](mailto:harry@barker4074freeserve.co.uk) is working hard with Scotrail and Abellio to improve services and passenger experiences on the lines and stations between Edinburgh and North Berwick and Edinburgh and Dunbar. Regular travellers will already have spotted that the iconic mural at Prestonpans station (which included an image of the recently demolished towers) has been removed for renovation while painters are at work sprucing up all the stations along the line. Service issues such as the vexed question of turning trains at Drem and the late start of trains from North Berwick at weekends will be closely monitored and improvements sought where operational constraints allow.

The lengthening of the platform at North Berwick has been postponed indefinitely and a close watch will be kept on this as well as any progress which can be made towards provision of toilets. The Partnership is grateful to the Westgate Gallery for allowing rail passengers to make use of their toilet facilities and to North Berwick in Bloom for provision of the free book exchange and the tireless work of the volunteers keeping the station looking colourful.

### **COASTAL COMMUNITIES MUSEUM**

In March 2016, the Coastal Communities Museum will open a new exhibition, entitled '**A History of the Coastal Communities in 99 Objects**' which will reflect the Coastal Ward through its most interesting objects and artefacts. The title of the exhibition was inspired by the British Museum/BBC series "A History of the World in 100 Objects", in which Neil MacGregor, the BM Director, explored world history from two million years ago to the present day. Of course, we do not have the fabulous objects displayed at the British Museum, but there are many local treasures, such as the Anglian decorated bone comb from Eldbottle, a Pilgrim badge stone mould from the Auld Kirk in North Berwick, a Trebuchet ball from Tantallon, an Edwardian beach hut and a bomb fragment dropped on Ferrygate in 1940. The spectacular optics from the Bass Rock Lighthouse will be reassembled and form the central focus of the exhibition. The exhibition will also embrace objects still in-situ across the Coastal Ward. There will be a specially designed trail encouraging visitors to go forth and explore. We hope this will help to make the exhibition truly a Coastal Communities one, with the museum building serving as a signpost to the other significant objects. We are steadily building up to our '99 Objects' and would welcome any further suggestions. A team of dedicated volunteers is researching each object selected to illustrate aspects of our history across time. We would still like to hear from anyone who knows of an object that should be included. Objects need not be of great value but must be engaging, have a local connection and a story to tell. They could be items in a museum collection or ones that someone might be willing to lend. Please get in touch with suggestions, (not objects) or email: [hello@coastalmuseum.org](mailto:hello@coastalmuseum.org). *The Museum in School Road, North Berwick is open Saturdays and Sundays, from 11am to 4pm, until 13 December, 2015. The current exhibition is **Rigs to Riches**, which highlights the agricultural traditions of East Lothian.* Ailsa Fortune

### **ARMY CADET FORCE**

The 34 Platoon Kohima Company Army cadet force is currently recruiting new members. Meeting in the newly refurbished hall in Dunbar Road North Berwick on Mondays and Wednesdays 7 – 9, cadets are taught a whole range of life skills providing valuable training in teamwork and discipline while being given opportunities to participate in a wide variety of sporting activities. Contact [7570gra@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:7570gra@armymail.mod.uk) or just come along one evening.

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

East Lothian Car Club is delighted to announce the launch of their eagerly awaited , new, all-electric vehicle in North Berwick. The Renault Zoe is easy to drive, automatic, smooth and has zero emissions. Better still, the Co-wheels members pay no mileage charges on electric vehicles. The new car joins the Toyota Yaris Hybrid already available in North Berwick, helping our members in the local community to save money, reduce car ownership and create a cleaner environment.

Co-wheels is currently running an offer of £10 off the joining fee plus £10 of free driving credit for North Berwick residents, making it an ideal time to consider joining.

For more information visit [co-wheels.org.uk/eastlothian](http://co-wheels.org.uk/eastlothian), call 0191 375 1050 or e mail [cowheelseastlothian@gmail.com](mailto:cowheelseastlothian@gmail.com) and ask about North Berwick '10'

### THE BEACH WHEELCHAIR PROJECT

Beach Wheelchairs has been celebrating the success of their pilot summer season in North Berwick providing paediatric and adult beach wheelchairs for loan, free of charge, from the beach hut located at North Berwick Harbour. Alison Brown from the project said 'Despite the dreich weather the beach wheelchairs were hired out on over 40 occasions over the summer. We were really delighted that we were able to help so many individuals to access our beautiful beaches. The benefits are huge, not just for the individual but for the whole family who can all be together rather than having to watch from afar. For many this is a new and unique experience helping to make precious and lasting memories. Janice McKee from Belfast used the Hippocampe beach wheelchair with her son when she was on holiday in North Berwick. They were able to use the beach wheelchair to explore rock pools, nip about on the sand and have ice cream on the beach. All experiences that they had never been able to share as a family before. Beach Wheelchairs will now operate year round with the beach wheelchairs available every day during daylight hours. Bookings should be made in advance by phoning 07494 600954. Robin Black, Chair of the project said 'We are really grateful to all our volunteers who helped to hire out the beach wheelchairs this summer. If you would like to be one of our beach hut volunteers we would love to hear from you. Full training is provided. For further details see '[www.beachwheelchairs.org](http://www.beachwheelchairs.org)

### PREPARING FOR WINTER

NBCC in conjunction with the emergency services has prepared a resilience plan to deal with major unexpected events such as severe weather or a power failure which could bring the community to a halt. Should such an event occur, action geared to help the most vulnerable will be instigated immediately. The plan can be found on Community Council web page.

We should all, however, be preparing for Winter **now** by stocking up on basic provisions, such as tinned food, candles, batteries etc. Remember that neighbours - especially elderly ones - may need help with tasks such as clearing snow or being provided with hot food etc.

For further advice on preparing for Winter see [www.facebook.com/ReadyScotland](https://www.facebook.com/ReadyScotland) or contact Ralph Throp Community Resilience 0131 244 5911 [ralph.throp@gov.scot](mailto:ralph.throp@gov.scot)

### NORTH BERWICK IN BLOOM

At the recent Britain in Bloom awards ceremony North Berwick was awarded Silver Gilt. Rosie Oberlander, Chair of the In Bloom team, commented "It was disappointing for the town and all our supporters to have missed an overall Gold award but the feedback from the judges was very encouraging. We attained Gold standard for our horticultural achievement, conservation and diversity activities with the extensive range and excellence of planting in the Lodge receiving special mention. The judges praised the year round programme of our volunteers and drew attention to the benefits which the community gained as a result of the close working between In Bloom and ELC colleagues.

We all enjoy being In Bloom and thank everyone for their encouragement and support. Our aim is now to reach what the judges called our "rightful place as one of top entries to Britain in Bloom" and are already working towards this goal. "

### **MALAWI 2016**

Gill Casson, Principal Teacher Guidance at North Berwick High School, is organising another trip for North Berwick High School (NBHS) pupils to Malawi in June 2016. The youngsters will be visiting their partner school Katungwiri Community Day Secondary School and kitchen shelters built by Mary's Meals and paid for by NBHS and its cluster schools. They will also be spending time at the Youth Resource Centre Ekwendeni Hospital. In order to defray costs they will be holding a number of fund raising initiatives including Music for Malawi Quiz Night on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 in NBHS hall at 7pm. Tickets, obtainable from Blues and Greens or by telephoning 07896339820 after 5pm, cost £20 for a table of 4. Additionally, there will be a North Berwick Postal Christmas delivery for 30p per envelope to North Berwick addresses only. Cards which can be posted at Greens and Blues, Lockets and Westgate Gallery between 21<sup>st</sup> November and 17th December will be delivered by 23 December.

### **CYCLEFORTH**

*cycleforth* is a not-for-profit voluntary organisation formed in 2014 for the benefit of cyclists and cycling in the North Berwick coastal ward. Its aim is to encourage cycling as an enjoyable, sustainable and healthy form of personal transport by working with existing organisations to ensure that, wherever "appropriate" the needs of cyclists are taken into account. By providing a cyclist's perspective, better provision can often be made when new roads or developments are being considered, without necessarily incurring any greater costs. An early concern of the group was the John Muir cycleway, where the designated route for cyclists heading from North Berwick to Gullane was mostly on the busy and fast A198, without any special provision to segregate cyclists or protect them from motorised traffic. We were particularly concerned at the poor safety for provision for cyclists having to turn right across the A198 into Dirleton at a point where traffic was fast and visibility limited. We produced a report for Community Councils and East Lothian Council which suggested upgrading the existing footway to allow shared pedestrian and cycle use and suggested alternatives for a more scenic and safe off-road route for cyclists which would be especially suitable for children and visitors. We encouraged the Council to apply for grant funding from the Sustrans Community Links programme to upgrade the pedestrian footway alongside the A198 for shared pedestrian and cycle use. Subsequently, ELC made a successful application to Sustrans for the upgrading of the existing pathway between the Dalrymple garage and Dirleton and between Archerfield and Gullane. We had stressed completion by this summer was desirable to improve safety during the busier period but this did not happen and we await a date for the work to commence. However, last March ELC themselves completed the first section just west of North Berwick alongside the A198. We rely on voluntary effort and support so, if you can help, please email us at [committee@cycleforth.org.uk](mailto:committee@cycleforth.org.uk), saying what form of assistance you might be able to provide or subscribe to our mailing list via website [www.cycleforth.org.uk](http://www.cycleforth.org.uk). The more members we have listed the stronger our arguments to improve facilities locally.

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### WEB PAGE

Our new web page is up and running at [www.northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk) so please visit it and give us your feedback and comments. Tell us what particular matters are concerning you and what you would like us to do. Chances are one of our sub groups is already working on it.

### FRINGE BY THE SEA

Great feedback was received on Fringe by the Sea 2015 which was judged by many to be the best so far. With a fresh variety of activities – and some old faces sprinkled throughout the week – the organisers were delighted with the audience response. John Shaw said “We seem to have struck the right balance with both visitors and the local community in providing entertainment that everyone responded to and could find something to their individual preference. The only major disappointment was the cancellation of Joan Armatrading for what would have been our biggest gig ever. Thanks to the ticketholders for bearing with us - we managed to refund them - but there was still a real cost to us in administration as well as finance.! If the event goes ahead in 2016 the dates will be announced around Christmas.”

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON ABBEY CHURCH

The Christmas lights will be switched on at 4.30 on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November following community carol singing from 4.00. Santa will arrive after the switch on and present the children with a gift while hot chocolate and shortbread will be served in the church. Please support us by making a donation or buying a quiz which is on sale in the usual outlets.

### DIARY DATES

7<sup>th</sup> November RNLI Coffee morning 10.00 – 12.00 Hope Rooms  
7<sup>th</sup> November North Berwick in Bloom Autumn Tea 2.00 – 4.00 Abbey Church  
21<sup>st</sup> November Christmas Lights switch on Abbey Church 4.30 (Carols from 4.00)  
3<sup>rd</sup> December Music for Malawi Quiz Night NB High School 7.30  
5<sup>th</sup> December North Berwick Pipe Band Coffee Morning 10.00 – 12.00 Hope Rooms  
12<sup>th</sup> December Seabird Centre Volunteers Coffee Morning 10.00 – 12.00 Hope Rooms

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**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 info? Ring 01620 894942 to request a lift or volunteer to drive  
Broken street lights? Ring 01620 827713 or use “report it” box on [eastlothian.gov.uk](http://eastlothian.gov.uk)

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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