



NORTH BERWICK NEWS

Since the last issue of the Newsletter, North Berwick Community Council has seen various changes. Sheila Sinclair, (Editor of NB NEWS), called an Annual General Meeting - a first for this Council - at which she stood down as Chair, following a fairly hectic three years in the role. After a period of 3 years as a Community Councillor with responsibility for liaising with the Planning Department of East Lothian Council for the last two, I am delighted to take the opportunity to follow Sheila's lead in dealing with the many challenges which face us today. In other changes, Bill Macnair was elected Vice Chair in place of Elma Danks and Minute Secretary, Anne Turgoose, resigned after two years in post. Happily, both Sheila and Elma will remain as Councillors.

I am pleased to welcome Gordon Moodie, Chair of the Coastal Communities Museum, who joined us in November and local businessman and father of two children attending Law Primary School Michael Ellis, who joined us in February following the departure of Dr Deborah Ritchie. Deborah served on the Council for two years and led the development of the North Berwick Resilience Plan before resigning to pursue other interests.

Since taking the Chair I have become even more aware of the number of consultation documents that regularly come to us for comment. If you are concerned that your views are not being taken into account please contact us or respond directly. Over the past few months the Community Council has been concerned about matters which are affecting the town's attractiveness. It is down to all of us to take responsibility for looking after our own environment. If you see dog mess (and your dog was not responsible) phone the dog warden. If you see that a street light is broken or that a road or pavement needs repaired then report it. Money is tight but if East Lothian Council do not know that there is a problem it can't be fixed! See page 6 for contact details.

It has been suggested that in future this Newsletter should only be produced in digital format with just a few paper copies available in the Library, thus saving the cost of printing and distribution. We are well aware that not everyone has access to digital material so would welcome your thoughts on this. Do you find NB NEWS interesting / informative / useful? Do you think that it is a good thing that a paper copy is delivered to every home in North Berwick? What would you like to see included? Please use the contact details on page 6 and give us your feedback. *David Kellock*



David Kellock



Gordon Moodie



Michael Ellis



NORTH BERWICK ROTARY CLUB

Readers will be aware of the strong connection the North Berwick Rotary Club had with Rebecca Dalglish who sadly lost her battle with cancer just before Christmas. Becky was an inspiration to everyone who met her. In less than a year from the diagnosis of her cancer she raised a sum of money for CHAS (Children's Hospice Association Scotland) which now exceeds £67,000. For a number of years, the Club has presented trophies to various local sports clubs to be used in competitions on the understanding that a donation will be given to CHAS each time the trophy is presented. A new batch of trophies has been ordered and they will be renamed as The Rebecca Dalglish CHAS trophy.

In honour of all that Becky achieved, the North Berwick Rotary Club presented her mum Pam with a Rotary Club Certificate of Achievement. In accepting the award on Becky's behalf, Pam spoke movingly of the pride that she felt regarding Becky's work and success in changing people's attitudes. Rebecca has also been nominated for an award from the Rotary Club of Great Britain and Ireland, the umbrella organisation for UK Rotary Clubs.

In recent months, presentations were made to the East Lothian Food Bank, the North Berwick High School Music for Malawi project and the North Berwick Stroke Club. Additionally, Dunbar Chorale presented the Club with funds raised at a concert in St Andrew Blackadder Church.

Planting of crocus bulbs in St Baldred's Road continued and they should be in full bloom by the time this newsletter is published. The Club's annual "Santa (and six elves) down the street" parade was successful and, as usual, Club members helped to raise funds and supported Santa at the Christmas lights switch on ceremony.

The Club will present the third concert by "Shine" at St Andrew Blackadder Church on Saturday 23 April. Previous concerts have been a great success and are not to be missed. The ever popular shop run by the Club will take place in the St Andrew Blackadder Church Hall from Thursday 26 May to Saturday 28 May. Doors will be open from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm on Thursday and Friday and from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm on Saturday. At the last shop, a pair of Wemyss Ware candlesticks were identified and later sold at auction for around £200 so, for the eagle eyed, there may be some bargains!

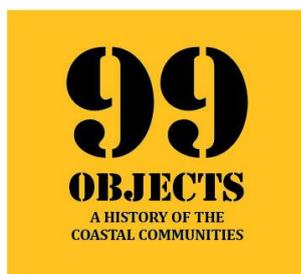
Anyone who has surplus items which can be donated for sale should deliver them to the Church Hall on Wednesday 25 May or arrange for collection by contacting Roy Symon at admin@westgate-gallery.co.uk or on 894976. Rotary are unable to accept white goods, large items of furniture or upholstery which does not carry a fire retardant notice. Funds raised from the shop will go to local charities and Rotary projects worldwide. Entry is free and there is usually a queue to get in on the first morning.

North Berwick Rotary Club invites 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. Contact Bruce Wilson on 890555 for more details.

Douglas Shiell

COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

The work to lengthen the station platform is now well in hand and will be completed in good time before the new longer trains are brought into service: see a mock up at Waverley Station. The Community Rail Partnership is keen to hear any ideas which would improve the experience of rail travel both for regular users and for casual tourists. We are constantly updating information concerning transport links and interesting sites easily visited from each station between Edinburgh and North Berwick and Dunbar. If you have any tips which could be included in our line guide – available at North Berwick Station – please contact Partnership Chair Harry Barker on hbarker@btinternet.com or Secretary Sheila Sinclair@ Sheila.sinclair@btinternet.com



COASTAL COMMUNITIES MUSEUM

The Coastal Communities Museum in North Berwick opens its doors to a new exhibition entitled 99 OBJECTS: a History of the Coastal Communities, this Easter. Each of the 99 OBJECTS making-up the exhibition has its own tale to tell inviting the curious visitor to examine and explore in greater depth the centuries of history or indeed pre-history of our local area. Visitors to the exhibition can chose to travel through time by opting to view objects from different centuries or

instead select objects with a common thread. From Numbers 1 to 99 there is something for everyone. Each visitor can determine their top ten objects.

One of the highlights of this exhibition is the spectacular display of the optics of the original Stevenson Bass Rock lighthouse (1902). These were dismantled and stored away on-shore when the lighthouse was de-manned in 1988. Now they have been reassembled for the first time and, along with accompanying material about the geology, history and wildlife of the Bass Rock, provide a key source of information about this famous local landmark.

The Exhibition and Cafe opens at the Coastal Communities Museum, School Road, North Berwick, EH39 4JU, 11.00 - 4.00pm on 25 March and thereafter every Wednesday to Sunday plus Bank Holidays until Sunday 4 September. See our website www.coastalmuseum.org.

Nick Hunter

AULD KIRK PROJECT

Anyone who knows North Berwick will be aware that a medieval church once stood near the harbour. Today all that remains are some wall-footings and the entrance porch which was added around AD 1520. These can be seen beside the path leading to the Seabird Centre.

Three years ago the Friends of North Berwick Museum, prior to its dissolution and the formation of the Coastal Communities Museum (CCM), decided to create a fitting acknowledgement to all who had worked with the Friends and other local groups to see a museum reinstated in North Berwick. The aim was to create a physical likeness of the Medieval Church of St Andrew's, North Berwick. Since then research has led to exciting revelations.

That the kirk was an important staging point on the pilgrimage route from the south to St Andrew's Shrine in St Andrew's Cathedral was known. That it was so impressive has taken many by surprise. By taking measurements, sifting through old records and maps, studying other medieval churches in the Lothians and Fife and seeking advice from experts, the team has discovered how the original 12th century church grew in response to the enormous pilgrim traffic passing through North Berwick.

Dunedin Arts was commissioned to produce a 3D scaled, architectural model of the exterior complemented by computer generated, visual reconstructions of the rich interior.

To enable everyone to appreciate its powerful physical presence, North Berwick High School students have used the latest technology based on site measurements to produce the landscape of Kirk Ness, the island just off shore on which the church stood.

St Baldred's Choir has recorded a plainsong soundtrack to accompany the interior visuals.

The model, visualisations and documented account of the project will be on loan to the CCM for its forthcoming exhibition "The History of the Coastal Communities in 99 Objects", which is due to open in the former North Berwick Museum building in School Road this Easter.

Wilma Shaw

NORTH BERWICK TRUST

Since the North Berwick Trust was formed in 1974 with the purchase of 104 acres south of the town, the Trustees have put in a great deal of time and effort to safeguard the investment for the benefit of the residents of North Berwick.

After much deliberation, it was agreed that the optimum time to sell some of the property had arrived. Following the granting of planning permission by East Lothian Council in 2014, negotiations to sell a substantial part of the land to Cala, Walker Group and Crudens for a development comprising 420 houses and a community sports pitch were finally concluded in December 2015.

Construction work on approach roads and the first phase of houses began a few months ago and the first 3 houses to be completed are now occupied.

The sale of land will result in a gradual, phased, income stream to the Trust over the coming decade and the Trustees will shortly be meeting to consider investment options and plans, as well as considering future potential areas of spend.

SCOTTISH SEABIRD CENTRE

Great news for North Berwick: the Bass Rock has secured the title of BBC Countryfile Magazine's Nature Reserve of the Year for the second year running.

Nominated by nature writer Simon Barnes and voted for by the public, the Bass Rock beat off stiff competition from across the UK to win the title. A fantastic accolade for the town!

The Seabird Centre's Education Officer, Andrew, has been working with Law Primary School on an initiative to train Junior Tour Guides, giving them the opportunity to learn about the local wildlife and perform to other school groups.

Following last year's trial, the Forth Ferry between North Berwick and Anstruther will be operating an extended timetable this year.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has confirmed initial support to help work up ideas to create a National Marine Centre for Scotland by building on the Seabird Centre's work in conservation and environmental education. This initial support means that HLF believes the project has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for lottery money. The Centre now has up to two years to submit detailed proposals.

The key focus for the National Marine Centre (a working title) is to develop the conservation and education work enabling more people to access opportunities. This will build on the charity's existing activities which are currently limited due to lack of space and resources.

Some initial work has been undertaken to produce outline drawings and concepts (see www.seabird.org). The Centre hopes to develop these ideas with input from the local community.

EASTER ART EXHIBITION

The Annual Art Exhibition in St Andrew Blackadder Church will take place on Good Friday March 25th, March 26th, March 28th 10.00 – 5.00 pm. and Easter Sunday March 27th 1.00 - 5.00.

The Guest Artist this year is the widely acclaimed Scottish artist Pam Carter who is kindly supplying several of her paintings to the Exhibition which will feature approx. 350 original paintings by over 40 artists. Prices range from £60 to £3500 and a percentage of the profits will go towards the ongoing project of the refurbishment of the stained glass windows in St Andrew Blackadder Church. Entrance is free and tea coffee, cakes, soup, etc. is available at reasonable prices. Contact Hugh Trevor Tel. 01620-894924. htrevor@talktalk.net

FRINGE BY THE SEA 2016, August 8th-14th.

This year's programme is now taking shape, with the 'headline' evening performances in the 600 seat Spiegel tent just about finalised. The opening concert on Monday 8th August will be Elkie Brooks, the international recording star bringing her band to North Berwick for the first time. We have designated Wednesday 10th as Saltire Day and, with 'Scottishness' in mind, there will be a number of appropriate concerts to mark this. Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain join us again – bringing some special guests as part of their 30th Anniversary Tour. Also that night, Capercaillie will be playing. A full house is expected for jigging and general 'ceilidh' behaviour! On Thursday 11th, back by popular demand is Geno Washington and The Ram Jam Band. If anything like two years ago it will be one of the picks of the week: sensational music with a big band feel. The pace continues at a high tempo on Friday 12th with The Manfreds who have a huge following in North Berwick, so a sell-out gig is guaranteed with all the old hits and much, much more! As usual, we have high octane BIG comedy events – this year on Tuesday 9th and Saturday 13th – with at least three of the best of the Edinburgh Fringe performers coming down to the seaside on each night. These performances are not for those easily offended! The final gig on the Sunday will be the regular 'Tribute Night' feature. Bands are yet to be announced but the floor will be cleared for the audience to really let their hair down. Sprinkled in amongst these great offerings are plenty more gems of gigs. In a series provisionally dubbed 'Six O'clock Specials', there will be jazz from Quatro McJazz and The Classic Jazz Orchestra, the astounding musical talent that is Richard Navarro, the Heart and Soul Swing Band and internationally renowned poet Roger McGough. More events will be announced as the programme is finalised. Tickets will range from £6 to £35. A full listing will be published in both the printed programme and the website. www.fringebythesea.co.uk

NORTH BERWICK PIPE BAND

North Berwick Pipe Band are now practising hard for the coming season's competitions and galas. In June they will play at an international music festival in eastern Germany and, during July and August, they will be performing every Wednesday evening at the main entrance to the Lodge Grounds. New playing members and supporters of all ages are always very welcome and tuition is given. Practices for learners upwards take place on Wednesday evenings in St Andrew Blackadder church hall. There is also an after-school club in Law Primary School on Thursdays. The Pipe Band, which is sponsored locally by Anderson's Quality Butcher, can be contacted via their website www.northberwickpipeband.co.uk or via facebook.

Eddie Clark Secretary, North Berwick Pipe Band

VOLUNTEER CAR SCHEME

The N.B Volunteer Car Scheme takes about 60 house-bound people a month to the dentist, Health Centre, hairdresser, Day Centre, exercise classes, shopping, optician, church and Roodlands. BUT we don't have enough drivers. There are only 26 on the books driving once a week or every fortnight or less often. In one 4 month period over 200 trips were made but 7 requests had to be refused because no driver was available. Remembering that most of us may one day need the service ourselves, can we ask you to become a new driver now? Enquiries to Colleen (894942)

NORTH BERWICK IN BLOOM

Spring has officially arrived and North Berwick in Bloom volunteers have been busily tidying, planting, weeding and watering to ensure that our 2016 Tulip Festival will be as striking as those in previous years. Work is also taking place at all the various sites around the town which we look after for the benefit of North Berwick residents as well as the many hundreds of visitors including Beautiful Scotland and Britain in Bloom judges. Can you please support us by coming to our Tulip Tea, buying a copy of our latest fund raising quiz or joining our friendly group of volunteers who meet at 9.00 am at the Lodge on every Monday?



Details from Rosie Oberlander 895046

Spring colour in St Baldred's Road

DIARY DATES

NB Horticultural Society Bulb Show Community Centre 24th March 7.30
Art Exhibition St Andrew Blackadder 25th – 28th March 10.00 – 5.00 (1.00 – 5.00 on Easter Sunday)
Friends of the Lodge Easter Egg Hunt Lodge grounds March 25th 10.00
Scottish Seabird Centre Captain Flap Flies Forth 25th March – 10th April
NBIB Tulip Tea Abbey Church April 23rd 2.00 – 4.00
Rotary Fund Raiser Shine concert St. Andrew Blackadder April 23rd 7.30
Rotary Shop 26th – 28th May 10.00 – 4.00 (2.00 on the Saturday)
Puffin Fest Scottish Seabird Centre 20th – 30th May

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 IN LAW ROAD

CONTACT POINTS FOR EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

Comments, compliments and complaints regarding East Lothian Council services can be made on 01620 827827, via the council web page at www.eastlothian.gov.uk, by letter to John Muir House Haddington EH41 3HA or in person at North Berwick Library in School Road.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send comments, suggestions and contributions for the next edition of NB NEWS to the Editor Sheila Sinclair Fidra 1 The Heugh North Berwick EH39 5NP . Sheila.sinclair@btinternet.com
Tel. No. 01620 894666 or contact NBCC Chairman or Secretary via our webpage northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk

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