



## NORTH BERWICK NEWS

**North Berwick in Bloom is a Winner.** While it was a special evening at the superb Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen on 14 September as Beautiful Scotland celebrated its 50th anniversary, it was a fantastic evening for North Berwick in Bloom. At the awards ceremony, In Bloom was lauded as best overall entrant in the 2016 Beautiful Scotland competition. The team of volunteers was awarded not only a Gold Medal and the Dave Kerr Coastal Award but was acknowledged to be the highest scoring entry across the entrants in all twelve categories which range from Wee Village to City. The judges praised the excellence of the horticulture and the team's responsible approach to the environment and were impressed by the level of ongoing community participation. Rosie Oberlander, Chair was delighted with the awards. "Our success reflects the work of the volunteers, with the help of ELC and different sections of the community such as Rotary and Men's Sheds plus the strong links with Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools. It is also great to see more local businesses getting involved as they appreciate the benefits that Bloom brings to the town. We are a friendly group, always ready to welcome new volunteers on a "drop in if you are free" basis" at the Lodge car park on Monday mornings at 9am.



Pictured Clockwise: Baskets in the High Street Station Planter, The Rosebowl Trophy, War Memorial Gardens

### NEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Welcome to Lauren Cowie, Lesley Kay, Claire Mackenzie, William Macnair, Gordon Moodie, Susan Northrop, Olwyn Owen, Hilary Smith, Kathryn Smith, Tommy Todd, Eric Wales & Ian Watson who make up the new Community Council. Full details of all members will appear in future publications.

### **ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH BERWICK**

Richard Rogers took over as President of the North Berwick Rotary Club at the end of June. Richard is frequently asked “what exactly is Rotary”? so in this Newsletter we thought we should find out. Indeed, the Rotary Club here in North Berwick is hosting a Rotary Awareness Evening at the Marine Hotel, North Berwick, on the 17<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm, to help do just this.

Richard says “Rotary is a group of like-minded people who want to put something back into their communities in and around North Berwick whilst also supporting needy projects abroad. It’s also about having some fun together whilst doing so”. Richard joined Rotary 4 years ago having returned to Scotland after working abroad. He says “I found it a great way to gain new friends and I’ve had a lot of fun along the way too”.

The Rotary organisation itself was formed in 1905 and has 1.2 million members across the world. The Club in North Berwick was formed in April 1967 so next year will see the Club’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Richard says “There are a lot of misconceptions about Rotary”. He has been asked whether it is a secret society like the Masons. He says “No! The only thing members keep secret are their trouser waist and dress sizes”! This brings us onto whether Rotary membership is just for men. Again, Richard says “No! There are female members in the Club and we would love to see more”. Ah yes, but isn’t Rotary just a club for the older generation? Richard says “members can be in their 20s to their 80s. In North Berwick the youngest members are in their 40s and the oldest in their 80s. This does not detract from the sense of fun we have together but I do recognise that the Club needs to attract younger members to survive in the longer term”. Of course, people are struggling for time these days especially if they are working. Richard says “Yes the Club does meet every week between 7 pm and 9 pm for a meal, friendship, to enjoy some humour, to hear a speaker or to update ourselves on what is happening in the Club. However, the Club appreciates that not everyone can attend each week. If someone can come along, say, twice a month and get involved in some of the outside activities, then they are likely to be just the sort of person who will make a great Rotarian”. Over the last few months the local club has been very busy. Richard explained “In July we organised the car parking at the Muirfield Riding Therapy Summer Show; in August we organised the car parking at the North Berwick Highland Games; in September we completed the refurbishment of seats near Elcho Green; in October we helped with the Dunbar Choral and North Berwick Sings Concert. Members have also enjoyed a group BBQ and have had a day out at the Royal Yacht Britannia. We have put to good use some of the monies we have raised to help individuals and groups in need locally whilst also funding two Shelter Boxes for families in disaster areas abroad. Two of our High School students have been funded and attended a Rotary Youth Leadership Award week which included giving presentations to their fellow students about what they got out of this as well as coming to talk to Rotarians. There are many other things we have been up to but we are running out of space!” Richard says “Come along on the 17<sup>th</sup> November to Rotary’s Awareness Evening. See if it something that you may like to become involved with or go away with a greater understanding of what Rotary in North Berwick is all about. For me, joining Rotary was one of the best things I ever did.” If you would like to attend the Awareness Evening then please contact either Bruce Wilson on 01620 890555 or Liz Martin on 07795 109920 or make contact through the Club website at <http://northberwickrotaryclub.org>

### **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

If you are available to drive someone less able than yourself to doctors’ appointments, Roodlands etc. please contact Colleen on 01620 894942. Help once a week or even fortnightly would be much appreciated. New drivers are always very welcome. To request a journey please contact Colleen on above number between 9.00am and 12.00 Monday – Friday.

**Elma Danks** has been a member of the Community Council for over 30 years and Trustee of the North Berwick Trust for over 25. Elma is now looking forward to spending more time with her family which, as she says, has more than doubled in the last few years. Elma will continue to maintain her commitment to North Berwick through her various other interests which include Chairing the Day Centre Committee, serving as an Elder in the Abbey Church and being Treasurer of North Berwick in Bloom. Together with ex colleagues she will continue to be involved with this year's Christmas Lights Arrangements



**Malcolm Baker** has been a member of well as Chairing the North Berwick which he hands over the North Berwick the fruits of the decisions made over responsibilities means that he will have singing in local choirs which are often good of the community, travelling and



the Community Council for many years as Trust. Malcolm is justly proud of the state in Trust. He is now looking forward to seeing the last few years Release from these more time to devote to his passion of involved in fundraising enterprises for the visiting family abroad.



**David Kellock** joined the Community Council 4 years ago and Chaired it for the last 12 months. David has been involved in many of the consultations and committees which such a role necessitates. Additionally, he was a Trustee on NB Trust for the last couple of years. A former session clerk of St Andrew Blackadder Church, David will now spend his free time serving the community in other ways.

**Jake Scott** has been a Community Councillor for 8 years, the last 4 of which he served as Treasurer. During his time as a Councillor he assumed other roles including Chairman of the Christmas Lights sub committee, membership of the Law Group, a Trustee and Vice Chair of the North Berwick Trust. Jake is a regular traveller to South Africa so will be able to plan trips to see the family with rather less restrictions in future. Meanwhile, he will continue to support arrangements for 2016 Christmas Lights.



**Peter Hamilton** joined the Community Council two years ago and has been a faithful attender at CAPP meetings and a strong advocate for all North Berwick residents as well as his fellow members of the Law Resident's Group. Peter is a volunteer pony watcher on the Law and says that while he will miss being on the Community Council he will continue to watch out for the ponies and to look out for the interests of the Law Residents group as well as the wider community.

**Michael Ellis** joined the Community Council 8 months ago and from the perspective of local businessman and father of children at Law Primary contributed to several debates. Michael's other commitments meant that he could not always attend Community Council meetings so he has resolved that he will continue to support various initiatives in town but not as a Community Councillor.



**Sheila Sinclair** joined the Community which time she participated in many meetings and raised funds for the the last 12 Newsletters. Chairman for officio Trustee of the North Berwick compiling her well known fund raising the Lodge, Secretary of North Berwick Community Rail Partnership. She is also responsible for furnishing the fund raising model lighthouse and will again participate in this year's Christmas Lights arrangements. Christmas quiz on sale soon!



Council 8 years ago during consultations, organised public Christmas Lights. Additionally, she has edited 3 of the last 4 years and therefore an ex Trust, Sheila will devote her spare time to quizzes , her roles as Secretary of Friends of in Bloom and Secretary of East Lothian



### COASTAL COMMUNITIES MUSEUM LATEST NEWS

2016 has been the most successful season to date with over 7,000 visitors coming to the museum to find out more about '*A History of the Coastal Communities in 99 OBJECTS*'. While the largest number of visitors have been one-off, more people than in previous years and in particular, residents have returned a second or third time to take-in the wide range of exhibits. After all, ninety nine exhibits is a lot to take in all at once! Towards the end of September we were fortunate enough to be favoured with a visit from the Rev. Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, who was completing a modern pilgrim's walk from St. Mary's Church in Whitekirk to the site of the Old St. Andrews Kirk down by North Berwick harbour along with others. During his visit to the museum for a 'Pilgrim's Lunch' he was shown round the exhibition and took particular interest in the model and video of the Old St. Andrews Kirk. The presentation of this exhibit and accompanying video had been the culmination of a grand collaboration of various individual local people, North Berwick High School, St Baldred's Church Choir and Dunedin Arts, working in conjunction with the Museum. The Coastal Communities Museum is now open at weekends only, between 11am and 4pm until Sunday 27 November when it closes for a winter break.

### NORTH BERWICK AIR CADETS (132 Sqn ATC)

Since its inception in 2008 as a detached flight of 297 (Musselburgh) Sqn, the North Berwick Air Cadet Unit has grown into a thriving squadron in its own right, under the leadership of the current Officer Commanding, Flt Lt Iain Edmans RAFVR(T). Every squadron has to have a Civilian Committee with responsibility for certain aspects of finances, accommodation and general wellbeing of the cadets. We are currently looking for new committee members. As ATC is first and foremost a youth organisation (and absolutely not a recruitment scheme for the RAF!), we are looking for new members who have an interest in youth development and community engagement. The aim is to assist the OC wherever possible in enabling the cadets to gain maximum benefit from what the ATC has to offer them. This includes fundraising to pay for transport for the many sporting opportunities open to them, or to help pay for attendance at camps, some of which are overseas. Additionally, anyone with experience of administration of funds, e.g. making funding applications and/or bookkeeping would be welcomed, but that would be an added bonus for us, not a prerequisite. Civilian Committee membership is not time-consuming and we would welcome enquiries from adults in the North Berwick area. Anyone interested can contact the squadron on Tuesday or Thursday evenings between 1915 and 2130 hrs on 01620 890266 and leave their name and contact details. Sue Oliver Civilian Committee Chairman.

### ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY

Congratulations to two local youngsters, Abbie Borthwick and Robert Lenk, who were awarded certificates of recognition from the Royal Humane Society earlier this year for their speedy reaction to an incident where Robert's knowledge of CPR and Abbie's clearly relayed directions from the emergency services were instrumental in saving the life of a local resident. The details of the incident were passed to the Royal Humane Society by Sheila Sinclair ex NBCC Chairman who presented the certificates on their behalf at a ceremony in the Council Chambers.



**Robert Lenk Abbie Borthwick**

### THE CRAWFORD & CALDER CUPS 2016

Around 60 competitors entered the North Berwick Community Council organised Crawford and Calder Cups. In a keenly contested final between brother and sister, Glen and Grace Crawford from North Berwick, Grace won the Crawford Cup for under 14's, beating her brother 5&3 and becoming the first girl to have her name on the Cup. Lyle Crawford, who had donated the Cup in 1994, presented the prizes. The final of the Calder Cup was contested by two former winners, Chris Low and David Warren, with Chris winning the closely contested final by 4&3. Competition Organiser and Community Council Secretary, Cllr Kathryn Smith presented the prizes and attributed the increase in entrants to the much improved state of the course and work done by East Lothian Council.

### NEWS FROM THE SEABIRD CENTRE

It's now the height of seal season and there are wonderful views on the Centre's live cameras of the seal colonies and the new pups on Craigleith and the Isle of May. ***Please remember do not approach any pups on the beach and keep dogs clear.*** The pups are often not abandoned but waiting for the next high tide. If you think that an animal is injured, please contact the Seabird Centre or the SSPCA.

The Centre is currently hosting an excellent exhibition by the Firth Forth Lobster Hatchery. Over 1,000 volunteers have now worked on the Centre's SOS Puffin project to control tree mallow on Craigleith and Fidra increasing biodiversity on the islands and helping the local puffin populations. The Centre's Puffling Rescue Service ran again in the summer to rescue disorientated young puffins. The North Berwick Wildlife Clubs remain very popular with children of all ages. Details of these, as well as school visits, are available from the Centre's Education Officer, Andrew Grieseson.

The Centre is continuing to look at how it can achieve more of its objectives as a conservation and education charity. In addition to seabirds, it is keen to cover more of Scotland's amazing marine wildlife as well as important marine environment issues by creating a national marine centre (working title). To help identify how it can best achieve this, the Centre has been running a public survey to encourage views, comments, recommendations and ideas. Details at [www.seabird.org](http://www.seabird.org)

Original architects for the Centre (Simpson & Brown) have recently been appointed to consider all options and consult locally. With the necessary funding support, it is hoped that the marine centre will open by 2020, creating an important education and conservation facility for East Lothian as well as Scotland as a whole.

The second year of the Forth Ferry between North Berwick and Anstruther proved successful and it has now been confirmed that it will run again next summer – vouchers for this and the other boat trips are currently available at this year's prices. Nick Crane (BBC Coast) is talking at the Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and the Centre's first ever Members' Week takes place 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### NORTH BERWICK TRUST

As reported in the last newsletter applications for grants from the North Berwick Trust totalling £50k were invited from organisations in North Berwick by September 30<sup>th</sup>. 25 organisations, covering a wide spectrum of interests, submitted applications for 29 projects totalling £215k and provisional awards for sums amounting to £58k are under consideration. Awards depend on certain conditions including projects must be for, and in, North Berwick, and ready to proceed before a grant is paid. Approved grants will be required to conform to the objectives set out in the Original Trust Deed of 1974 which can be summed up as Recreation, Education, Provision of parks and gardens in North Berwick and the relief of need and suffering. The Trustees have been impressed with the quality and variety of applications received and hope to resolve very soon the situation which has now arisen with the enforced change of trustees resulting from the Community Council elections. Applicants who are deemed unsuccessful and those who did not apply will get another chance in 2017 as there are likely to be rounds of applications in the Spring and in the Autumn.

### **NORTH BERWICK GOLF CLUB**

The North Berwick Golf Club has made the first round of awards since announcing their scheme for supporting worthy local causes. Grants totalling £8760 have been paid and 11 organisations have benefitted. Managing Secretary Chris Spencer said “we were delighted with the response to this initiative and very pleased to be able to contribute to such a wide range of local requests. We intend to make awards on an annual basis if possible”. For details see [northberwickgolfclub.com](http://northberwickgolfclub.com)

### **COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP**



Following a successful well attended Annual General Meeting last month the committee of the Community Rail Partnership are redoubling their efforts to ensure that passenger comments are taken seriously by the proper authorities. All our stations now boast an information board featuring information about the line. An order is about to be placed for updated line guides for next year. In addition, plans are in place to develop a user friendly website. Following our success in securing an early morning train from North Berwick on Sundays we are pursuing the case for a later weekday train from the city, as well as constantly reviewing connectivity issues. At our request outline planning permission for a toilet at the station is being submitted. Watch out for Michael Portillo at the end of January when his TV program visits East Lothian.

### **THE COOLEST FESTIVAL UNDER THE SUN!**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Fringe By The Sea took place in August and by general agreement was one of the best in the history of the event. Perhaps with an accent on performers ‘of a certain age’ – with Elkie Brooks, Paul Jones, Geno Washington and Roger McGough all well settled in their seventies – nevertheless they all provided unforgettable gigs, as did many of the more youthful artistes! A great eclectic mix of genres through the week provided something for everyone, and feedback seems to suggest that most tastes were catered for. The Outcome Report has put a figure of £1.49m as the net additional impact of event goes as a result of the Festival, translating into the sustaining of 28 tourism jobs. So a real economic benefit to North Berwick as well as being a week of fun and entertainment! Well done Eric, Jane and John and your fabulous team of volunteers.

### **DIARY DATES (NB Please check times and dates of events mentioned here. Details can change)**

Lifeboat Coffee Morning 12<sup>th</sup> November Hope Rooms !0.00 -12.00

Remembrance Sunday St Andrew Blackadder Church and War Memorial 13<sup>th</sup> November

Switch on Christmas Lights Abbey Church Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 4 for 4.4.30

Horticultural Society Plant Hunting in Patagonia 24<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 Community Centre

Leuchie Christmas Fair 26<sup>th</sup> November

North Berwick in Bloom Christmas Tea Abbey Church Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2pm

Seabird Centre Volunteers Coffee Morning 10<sup>th</sup> December 10 – 12 Hope Rooms

North Berwick in Bloom AGM 19<sup>th</sup> December 1pm in Library. All welcome

### **THANK YOU and GOODBYE**

This is the last Newsletter which I have compiled, formatted, edited and arranged to print before taking to Perth Central Post Office for delivery to all NB households. I would like to say a huge thank you to all contributors and to those of you who have taken the trouble to thank me by telling me how much you have enjoyed reading the Newsletter. It is now time to pass the baton on to others so thank you and goodbye. *Sheila Sinclair*

### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Details of where and when to send future contributions will appear on North Berwick Community Council webpage ([Northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://Northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk)) in due course.

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