

NORTH BERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the new look North Berwick Community Council newsletter! We have given the newsletter a fresh format with more information on what is happening in your community, how you can get involved or have your say, and a little about what we have been up to. We hope you like it!

Of course it's not just the newsletter that has a 'new look', your Community Council has also gone through some changes. With over half of the Council being completely new to the role, and myself as a newly appointed Chair, it's fair to say that the last few months have been a pretty significant learning experience! So a big 'thank you' to all my colleagues - old and new - for their contributions and invaluable support.

This is also a time of change for North Berwick itself. The town is going through considerable growth and development, bringing in many new people to live, work and play here. We extend a very warm welcome to you all.

Change often brings a variety of new opportunities, but it can also bring challenges. It is part of our role as a Community Council, to help address these challenges. We will work with others, particularly in our local Area Partnership, to identify where and how our town and its services can be improved. In this newsletter you will find information on how you can help or get involved, give us your ideas or suggestions - and we hope many of you will. After all, this is all of our community and we want to make it work for everyone.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. It has been designed so that the central pages giving information on where you can receive help and support can be pulled out and kept as a handy guide.

Don't forget to give us your feedback! A reminder is on the back page, letting you know what we need from you.

Hilary Smith
Chair, North Berwick Community Council

What is North Berwick Community Council?

North Berwick Community Council is elected every four years and is made up of twelve volunteer councillors. The main purpose of the Community Council is to find out the views and wishes of the community and to express them clearly to the local authority and other relevant organisations, while also taking a view on what is best for the community as a whole.

What happens at the monthly meetings?

We have a packed agenda every month. For example, we discuss all the planning applications lodged in the previous month and decide whether or not to object, support or comment on behalf of the community. Similarly, we consider any applications for changes to licensing hours. We have a monthly report from Police Scotland, who keep us fully informed of all offences or incidents that have occurred in the area. We also consider issues or concerns raised by local residents. The local East Lothian Council (ELC) councillors regularly attend our meetings, which gives us an opportunity to ask them to raise things on the community's behalf. Sometimes, we have presentations from local groups or others - for example, we have recently had the pleasure of hosting a group of P7 pupils who were learning how to be community activists! The minutes of the monthly meeting are published on our website and displayed on the notice board at the bottom of Law Road.

Where can you find us?

We hold our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Fire Station. Our meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. You can also keep up with what we're doing online or contact us on: Facebook (North Berwick Community Council); our website: www.northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk; or by email: secretary@northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk. We have also placed suggestion boxes around the town which are checked regularly.

And we are involved with other groups and organisations, namely.....

North Berwick Children and Youth Network • **Christmas Lights group** • *Stella Moffat Trust* • **North Berwick Golf Club Community Fund** • Russell Bequest • North Berwick Business Association • *East Lothian Partnership* • Community Rail Partnership • **Friends of the Edington** • North Berwick Environment Trust • *North Berwick Trust* • Community Centre Management Committee • Law Primary School Parent Council • Tyne and Esk LEADER • Resilient Communities • **Community and Police Partnership** • **Calder and Crawford Cups** • Law and Traprain Advisory Group • North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership • Dementia Friendly East Lothian • *Law Residents' Association* • St Andrews Kirk Ports project • *Association of East Lothian Community Councils* • **North Berwick Coastal Communities Museum**

Your Community Councillors



Hilary Smith
Chair



Claire Mackenzie
Vice-Chair



Kathryn Smith
Secretary



Judy Lockhart
Treasurer



Sue Northop



Bill Macnair



Gordon Moodie



Tommy Todd



Ian Watson



Olwyn Owen



Lesley Kay



Peter Hamilton -
co-opted on to NBCC
for Law Residents'
Association

How are we funded - and how do we spend it?

Community Councils receive their funding from local authorities. In East Lothian, each Community Council is granted money under the Local Priorities Scheme.

This is how North Berwick Community Council plans to spend the money it has available in this financial year (5 April 2017 to 31 March 2018):-

Income

Monies carried forward	£3,481.32
ELC grant 2017/2018	£8,380.00
Poppy wreaths	£62.00
Total Income	£11,923.32

Planned or actual expenditure to date

Honorarium	£456.00 (payment made to Minutes Secretary)
Poppy wreaths	£62.00 (paid for but refunded by ELC)
Law Race donation	£100.00
Raft Race donation	£500.00
Fireworks donation	£500.00
Planning Aid	£50.00 (one-off training session)
Newsletter layout & printing	£3,000.00
Newsletter distribution	£600.00
Planning application (Kirk Ports)	£101.00
General admin (contingency)	£250.00
Website admin	£120.00
Total Planned Expenditure	£5,739.00

Remaining Funds Available £6,184.32

**How do *you* think we should use the rest of our budget to benefit our community?
We have some ideas already - organising a big, free, community event or maybe improving an area in the town - we would love to hear from you!**

Tell us your ideas (big or small) through Facebook, our webpage, email, or by dropping a note into one of our suggestion boxes.

The bigger picture

The Community Council doesn't work in isolation. On the contrary, we work closely with many partners to explore, develop and bring together ideas about how the town can work better.

We are proactively working with the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership and we thought it would be useful in this newsletter to explain exactly what the Area Partnership is and what it does.

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Area Partnerships are how East Lothian Council is involving the community in local community planning.

The logo for the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership is a rectangular box with a dark grey background. Inside the box, the words "North Berwick Coastal" are on the top line and "Area Partnership" is on the bottom line, both in a white, sans-serif font.

The North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership covers North Berwick and the surrounding villages: Dirleton, Gullane, Drem, Aberlady and Whitekirk. It is made up of East Lothian councillors, community councillors, tenants and residents' groups, parent council representatives from the cluster schools, and representatives of community groups and other organisations, including North Berwick Community Council, which has two representatives on the Area Partnership. All the Area Partnership and sub group meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.

The North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership has set up sub groups to take forward the priorities identified so far. These are the 'On the Move' group; the Health and Wellbeing Network; the Children and Youth Network; Support from the Start; the Arts Centre Group; and a group looking at a possible community asset transfer of the Lime Grove site.

The Area Partnership has a budget of £300,000, although this money is ring fenced: £50,000 for general items; £50,000 from the ELC Roads budget; £100,000 from Amenity Services (although this is paid in labour and machinery, rather than cash); and £100,000 to raise educational attainment and achievement.

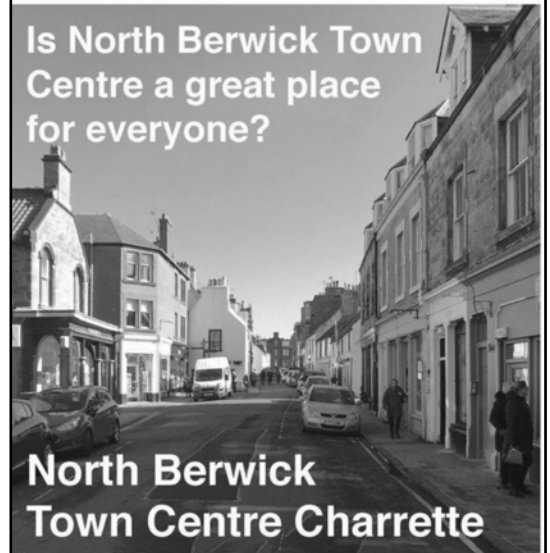
One of the tasks given to the Area Partnership was to put together an Area Plan. An initial Plan has been completed and can be accessed at the link below.

Over the last couple of years, the Partnership has achieved a great deal, including refurbishing the kitchen in the Hope Rooms and the North Berwick Youth Project premises; provision of digital equipment at the Day Centre; supporting the Dementia Friendly Business Scheme and the Beach Wheelchairs project; and supporting *NB The Club!* - a chance for people from across the community to come together. The Partnership has also initiated and supported improvements such as a new pavement by the Recreation Grounds, a cycle-way from North Berwick to Gullane, new benches and picnic tables at the Recreation Park and the installation of cycle racks. The Partnership has also created and made two new appointments: a Family Support Worker and a Mental Health Youth Worker.

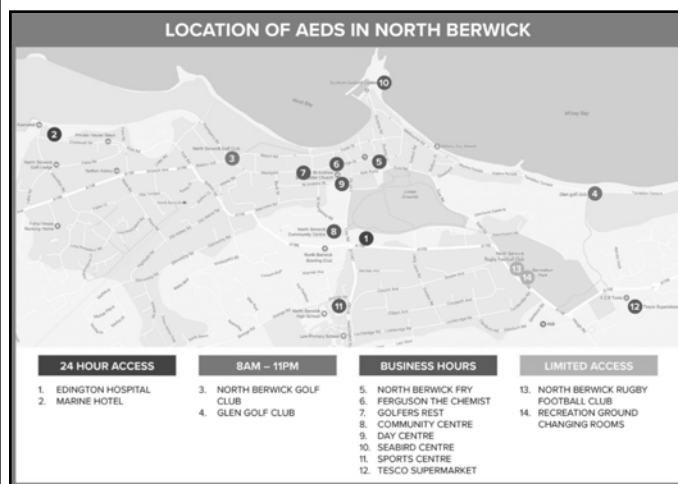
Further information about Area Partnerships can be found on the East Lothian Council website: <http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/areapartnerships>.

North Berwick Town Centre Charrette

You may have heard about the recent North Berwick Town Centre Charrette. This was a design consultation process commissioned by the Area Partnership and funded by the Partnership and the Scottish Government. The Charrette focused on the question of whether North Berwick town centre is a great place for everyone to access and get around. Through an intensive series of sessions and workshops, the consultants gathered a multitude of views and opinions from residents, business owners and representatives of organisations such as East Lothian Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and Police Scotland.



A date for your diary: The results of the Charrette will be presented at the Area Partnership AGM on Tuesday 19 September 2017 at 7pm at North Berwick High School.



Defibrillators

Every minute saved in getting to a defibrillator increases the life expectancy of someone who has suffered a cardiac arrest by 10%. There are 14 emergency defibrillators (AEDs) in North Berwick just now, but only two are accessible 24 hours a day and their locations are not widely known. Councillor Tommy Todd has been working with the Friends of the Edington to make more of North Berwick's external emergency defibrillators accessible 24/7.

We have put together a map showing where each defibrillator is located (above left) and, we plan to mount four more defibrillators in external boxes at strategic places to give comprehensive coverage for all residents. If you have any suggestions for suitable locations, please let us know.

FEEDBACK BOXES

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to get in touch with us! We have placed a number of feedback boxes around the town for suggestions and questions. If you would like an individual response, please remember to include your contact details.

You will find the suggestion boxes in:
the Library; *Why Not?* on the High Street; the Community Centre; the Day Centre; Law Primary School Office; North Berwick High School Office; North Berwick Nursery School Office and the Health Centre.



Christmas lights

The Community Council is responsible for the Christmas lights in North Berwick. A great deal of work behind the scenes goes into making the town look sparkly and bright throughout the festive period.

From the teams of people who put up the lights, to the teams of people who organise the switch-on celebrations - it's no mean feat! We are always looking for suggestions as to how we can improve the experience for the town and would also welcome offers of help from anyone who would like to get involved. Again, please get in touch on Facebook, by email or by posting in our suggestion boxes.

The Calder and Crawford Cup

The Community Council organises the Calder and Crawford Cup, which is an annual putting competition for adults (the Calder Cup) and children (the Crawford Cup). This is held in July on the putting greens by the tennis courts. It is a very historic event with the first recorded play being in 1920! The competition has only taken a break during the war years and for a year in the 1970s. This will be the 87th year of running the competition.



Resilience planning

What happens if North Berwick is cut off by snow or flooding, or if there is a lengthy power cut? How would our community respond to a major incident with serious consequences for daily life? How would we cope - and how would we support people who, for whatever reason, may need extra help?

To ensure we are prepared, the Community Council, in partnership with East Lothian Council, has developed a Community Resilience Plan. This lists the risks we might face and sets out how we will respond so that we are better able to cope. We are currently updating the Plan and would very much welcome your input on what you see as the risks to our community, how we should respond and how you can help. Recent events across the UK have highlighted the role a community can play in supporting those who are worst affected. North Berwick already has a strong community spirit and that is what we want to reflect in the Plan. You can see the current version on our website: www.northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk.

If you are interested in getting involved in any way, or can offer skills that might be of help, please contact us on Facebook, by email or by posting in our suggestion boxes.

Key contacts

Health Centre appointments:
01620 892169; from 8.30am

Health Visitors: 01620 897038

Chemists:-

Boots 01620 892911
Smiths 01620 894650

Community Centre:
01620 893056

Day Centre: 01620 890906

Youth Project: 01620 893939

**Law Primary School and
Nursery School: 01620 893755**

North Berwick High School:
01620 894661

Community Warden: Keith Tait -
01620 829917

East Lothian Council:
01620 827827

Sports Centre: 01620 820730

Smell Gas: call 0800 111999

Scottish Water: 0800 0778778

Police: in an emergency, dial
999; for a non emergency,
dial 101

Are you looking for funding for a project in North Berwick?**Stella Moffat Trust**

This Trust was created with funds left by the late Miss Stella Moffat for the benefit of the townspeople of North Berwick. The Trustees are the community councillors.

The Trust awards small grants to individuals, groups and organisations - previous recipients have included the NB Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme community group, NB Youth Project, NB in Bloom, NB Scout group, NB Movies and Leuchie House.

The deadline for applications for the next round of awards is 21st October 2017. More information and details on how to apply are available from Edward Danks, Paris Steele W.S., 35 Westgate, North Berwick, EH39 4AG, telephone 01620 892138, email edanks@parissteele.com or through the Community Council website www.northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk.



Russell Bequest

The Russell Bequest awards grants to provide, extend or maintain sporting facilities and to benefit sport in the North Berwick area.

The fund is administered by the Russell Bequest trustees (two East Lothian councillors and one community councillor) and supports a wide range of sporting clubs and groups. Grants are made at the discretion of the trustees, but cannot be awarded to private clubs or to fund projects the local authority has a duty to provide.

New applications are always welcome and should be addressed to the Secretary, Russell Bequest Trustees, Whitelaw Wells, 15 Glenorchy Road, North Berwick EH39 4PE; telephone 01620 892090 or email: infonb@whitelawwells.co.uk.

North Berwick Golf Club Fund

This fund was set up to benefit organisations and people in the EH39 area for the common good of the community.

A maximum of £10,000 is available in total each year and a maximum of £2,000 may be awarded to any one recipient or group - although awards may be made to the same recipient or group for up to three years.

The grant application process is advertised and application forms are available on request. For further information, please contact: The Managing Secretary, North Berwick Golf Club; telephone 01620 897140 or email: secretary@northberwickgolfclub.com.



North Berwick Trust

North Berwick Trust came into being in the 1970s through the foresight of the then Town Council in purchasing land at Mains Farm, immediately south of the town. Much of this land is now being developed and the sale of the land has begun to establish a significant fund to be used for the benefit of the town and its residents, in line with the aims of the original Trust deed. The full proceeds of the sale, expected to be more than £16 million, will not be received until April 2019. However, the Trust carried out a pilot grant scheme in 2016, when it received the first tranche of funds from the developers. Last year it awarded grants totalling some £58,000 to 20 local organisations, ranging from Law Primary Gardening Club to the Scottish Seabird Centre and North Berwick Harbour Trust, and from North Berwick Pipe Band to the Bowling Club, Rugby Club and the Youth Project. In the light of its experience in 2016, the Trust is now developing formal criteria for awarding grants and finalising its application and monitoring processes. It will be inviting applications for grants once these arrangements are in place. More information about the Trust's vision and objectives, as well as its grants scheme, will be available in the autumn.

North Berwick Common Good Fund

East Lothian Council is the custodian of the North Berwick Common Good Fund and any applications to this fund should be submitted directly to ELC. The fund is open to anyone, but all applications must demonstrate how the funding would benefit the North Berwick community.

For further information, please telephone Tracey Brown, Finance Business Partner at East Lothian Council, on 01620 827295, or email: commongood@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Do you need support or help?

All the organisations on these pages can provide support or help for individuals or groups in the community. This can be practical help, advice or even just a friendly face!

North Berwick Day Centre

The Day Centre helps improve the quality of life for local older people, to maintain their independence and remain active members of the community. It's a place to be with friends, learn new skills, build confidence and, above all, have fun. It also provides excellent home cooked meals using local food and suppliers. You can read about what the Day Centre means to its members at www.nbdaycentre.org.uk.

The Day Centre has about 40 volunteers, but is always looking for more people of all ages to get involved, particularly in spending time with members. You can find out more at www.nbdaycentre.org.uk or contact the Day Centre Coordinator, Carol Wicker, on info@nbdaycentre.org.uk or on 01620 890906.



Dementia Friendly North Berwick



We want North Berwick to be a great place for everyone, including people with dementia, their families and friends. Dementia affects memory, communication and the ability to plan and work things out. This can mean that people may struggle with change or become disorientated. Understanding, patience and kindness makes a big difference.

Local shops and businesses show their support by placing a small sign in their windows. There are also befriending projects and we hold dementia friendly concerts and events, so that people with dementia can get out and about and have fun. If you want to know more about dementia or how to get involved, contact Sue Northrop by phone on 07727 883881 or email: sue@dfel.org.uk.

North Berwick Library and East Lothian Council's Customer Service Desk

The Library runs a number of services for all ages. These include Bookbugs, Lego and homework clubs and a home delivery service for those who are unable to call in. Contact staff for more details on 01620 820700 or email customerservicesnb@eastlothian.gov.uk. Opening hours are 9am - 5pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9am - 7pm Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 10am - 4pm on Saturdays.

East Lothian Council's Customer Service Desk at North Berwick Library is open every weekday from 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm (4pm on a Friday).

Citizens Advice Bureau and advice on benefits

The Citizens Advice Bureau runs a weekly drop-in session every Wednesday from 10am - 12 noon, in North Berwick Library, School Road. A Welfare Officer from the Department of Work and Pensions is also available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 2pm - 4pm.

North Berwick Community Centre

North Berwick Community Centre is a hidden gem within our community. The building, located on Law Road, is home to 31 groups which use the Centre regularly. Through these groups, around 460 people use the Centre every week. There is a wide range of classes available, along with invaluable support through the Stepping Out and Support from the Start projects. Find out more by calling in to the Centre at Law Road, phone 01620 893056 or visit the website at www.northberwickcommunitycentre.org.uk.

Support from the start

Support from the Start is a network of parents and services working to help children (pre-birth to 8 years old) and families get the best start in life. Support is offered to help parents become more confident and learn about boundaries, routines, healthy eating, promoting play, social skills, building resilience and child development. This is done through a variety of courses and 'pop up' events such as the successful 'Take your Chalk for a Walk' day. For further information on the courses, or just to talk to a family worker, please contact Katie Nevans at North Berwick Community Centre on 01620 893056.

Community Centre Kindness Co-Operative

The Kindness Co-operative aims to help families in immediate financial crisis. It has a Kindness Fridge and Cupboard providing freshly made meals and other essentials, including fuel top-ups. The weekly Kindness Cafe also offers a safe and welcoming space for those who might need support with form filling or other practical help. Contact the Co-operative at the Community Centre, phone 01620 893056 or just drop in.

The Men's Shed

There is an active Men's Shed group in North Berwick. Here members share the tools and resources needed to work on projects of their own choosing, at their own pace, in a safe, friendly and inclusive venue. As everyone works together on projects, it's a great way to pass on and pick up new skills from other members of the Shed. So far the Shed has produced work benches, seats, a chicken coop, the new Community Centre sign and planters.

The North Berwick Men's Shed can be found at North Berwick Community Centre on a Wednesday from 1.30pm-3.30pm, or contact Mark Coull at STRiVE Wellbeing on 01875 615423 or 07415 960749.

Stepping Out

It is estimated that 1 in 3 people in Scotland will be affected by mental health issues at some point in their lives. Stepping Out works with adults in our community who are experiencing mental health problems. The project offers support to people in gaining confidence, independence and a better quality of life through helping them to create their own programme of activities and interests. The project is also committed to the advancement of public education and understanding of mental health issues.

To get in touch with Stepping Out, contact Nicky Fox, the Project Manager, at the Community Centre or call Nicky on 07966 535514.

The Rotary Club of North Berwick

The Rotary Club of North Berwick is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organisation with 1.2 million members. Rotarians stand for 'Service above Self', putting something back into the community. In North Berwick the Club provides invaluable support to many local events and organisations, including the Highland Games, the classic car tour, the Primary School Gardening Club and even helping Santa and his sleigh! In the Club's 50th anniversary year, they raised an amazing total of £34,000 that can be used to support individuals and projects here and abroad.

For more information on the work of the Club, their activities and how you can get involved, please visit their Facebook page or website www.northberwickrotaryclub.org. Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7pm at the Marine Hotel.

Health Visitors

North Berwick District Health Visitors and Staff Nurses work out of the Health Centre in St Baldreds Road. They provide support for families with young children. They can be contacted on 01620 897038.

Supporting Accessibility in North Berwick

Several organisations in North Berwick help to make life easier for people who may find it difficult to access services or our beautiful open spaces.

Beach Wheelchairs

Beach Wheelchairs is a registered charity that provides specially adapted wheelchairs for use on the beach. This free service enables wheelchair users to access our beautiful beaches with their families, friends and classmates.



There are currently three different wheelchairs and a beach walker available to meet a range of needs, as well as a hoist to allow people to transfer safely between their own wheelchair and the beach wheelchair.

Since the charity was set up two years ago, nearly 200 people have used beach wheelchairs. The charity is also investing in improving ramp access onto the beach at North Berwick - for a small charity, we have big ambitions! You can contact Beach Wheelchairs by phoning 0300 111 2112 or by email: info@beachwheelchairs.org.



Blue Badge Spaces

There are a number of blue badge spaces throughout the town.

There is one on Forth Street and another at the east end of St Andrew's Street. There are also spaces in the town's car parks and blue badge holders can also park on single and double yellow lines.

Volunteer Car Scheme

The North Berwick Volunteer Car Scheme helps North Berwick residents who find it difficult to get to important local appointments. Volunteer car drivers can provide transport for a return journey, door-to-door, and presently carry out over 1,300 journeys a year. If you are resident in North Berwick and find it difficult to travel to essential local services, then the Volunteer Car Scheme may be able to help.

To arrange a lift, please call between 9am and 12 noon, Monday to Friday. The more notice you give, the easier it is to arrange - the drivers are all local volunteers. The suggested donation for a return trip within North Berwick is £5, and for a return trip to Haddington or Dunbar is £12.

The Car Scheme co-ordinator is Colleen who can be contacted by telephone on 01620 894942 Monday to Friday between 9am and 12 noon.

The Car Scheme is always looking for more volunteers, so if you have a little spare time and a car, please also contact Colleen (at the contact details above).

Public Transport

North Berwick is well served by public transport.

There is a train service that operates hourly Monday to Friday (and more frequently in the rush hour) and on Sunday; a half hourly service is operated on a Saturday.

East Coast Buses runs the 124, X24 and the X5 services between North Berwick and Edinburgh. You can also use this bus service to get around North Berwick as it covers the area from the west end of Dirleton Avenue right up to the bus stop at Tesco.

Keeping North Berwick beautiful and clean!

North Berwick is famous for its appearance and it draws tourists from all over the world. We want to thank and pay tribute to people who work so hard to keep it looking lovely.



Stuart Pryde, Head of Amenities Services: "There are around 130 bins in the town alone and the team of gardeners and street sweepers empty most of them every day, Saturday and Sunday included, leaving the town looking nice and tidy for its daily influx of visitors by 8am every morning. The team uses almost 10,000 staff hours per year, and approximately 100 tons of litter is collected from the bins and pavements, together with around 170 tons of waste picked up by the mechanical street sweepers. Because a lot of the waste in the bins is very light and bulky food packaging, this equates to over 2,000 cubic meters a year - enough to fill an Olympic swimming pool. Some 98% of this is now separated out for recycling, meaning that only 6 tons of waste on average now ends up in landfill sites, saving £17,000 per year in landfill tax, as well as reducing the long-term effects of litter on the environment".

Local street sweeper Jamie said: "Any of your readers who are familiar with the film *Groundhog Day* will know that the lead character, Phil, wakes up morning after morning to the sound of Sonny and Cher's 'I Got You Babe' on his alarm clock. While cleaning the streets in North Berwick, I often have that song going round in my head as litter picking and bin emptying is a bit like *Groundhog Day* ... I have though noticed a big reduction in the amount of litter in the town, with much less dropped on the pavements and far more being put into the bins. Our problem is the capacity of the bins to handle the volume of daily rubbish".

Stuart adds: "The Local Amenity Services team know just how important it is to the community to have the town looking beautiful, so that more visitors are encouraged to visit and return year after year. That *Groundhog Day* feeling aside, the team take a lot of pride in the town and will always work hard to keep the streets at gold medal standard."

North Berwick in Bloom



North Berwick in Bloom is a local voluntary organisation. They look after 130 barrels and planters and over 20 flower beds all year round. They also provide the town's 90 hanging baskets which they feed and water all summer.

The volunteers meet up every Monday at 9am in the Lodge and work for a couple of hours before a cup of tea. Weekly turnout varies and it is always fun! Over the years they have won many awards, both in 'Beautiful Scotland' and the 'RHS Britain in Bloom' national finals - the results can be seen on the slate 'Wall of Fame' in the High Street. As well as great support from the local East Lothian Council squad, they work with other groups in the town, such as the Rotary Club, Law Primary and Nursery School, and the Scout and Brownie packs, amongst others. The Men's Shed has helped with joinery work and a recent call for help on Facebook brought even more people to help out.

Anyone can come along on a Monday to lend a hand or you can help by keeping your own garden neat and picking up litter. You don't have to be a gardener - help is also welcome from people to fundraise and organise events. For the most up-to-date information, follow North Berwick in Bloom on Facebook or Twitter. You can contact the group by email: secretary@nbib.org.uk or by phoning the Chairperson, Rosie, on 01620 895046.

North Berwick Conservation Area

The historic core of our beautiful town is a Conservation Area. This means that North Berwick is recognised as a place of special architectural and historic interest. It is not only our wonderful beaches and open spaces that deserve to be looked after, but also the historic environment - the buildings and streets where we carry out our daily lives.

Towns are not static places - they grow and change with each new chapter over the years. The long story of North Berwick stretches back at least 1200 years, when it was a small settlement supporting pilgrims on their way to St Andrews. It was a thriving royal burgh by medieval times, and flourished and grew again in the Victorian era. Each period has left its mark - and this gives our town its special character and charm.

The Conservation Area covers the original core of the town and most of its later Victorian and Georgian development. The challenge today is to conserve that special character, while also enabling the town to continue to flourish. East Lothian Council manages change in the Conservation Area in line with guidance in the Local Development Plan. The aim is to ensure that any changes do not harm the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. This means that any works affecting the outside of a building or impacting on the appearance of the area require planning permission, such as adding signs, changing windows or installing satellite dishes.

Your Community Council fully supports this approach, because it really makes a difference. Looking after historic North Berwick pays rich dividends - it not only conserves the heritage, but also contributes much to the success of the town as a lovely place in which to live and work and attracts visitors from far and wide.

By the way, did you know that beneath your feet in parts of North Berwick, there are rich archaeological deposits and features? You'd be amazed at some of the discoveries we've made over the years - but that's a story for another newsletter!

Coastal Communities Museum



The Coastal Communities Museum is a place where curiosity welcomes you!

The current exhibition, 'Treasured Memories', includes artefacts and recollections relating to the history and heritage of our local area. Featured prominently in this exhibition is a section devoted to the young Robert Louis Stevenson, a frequent visitor to North Berwick during the 1860s. From 1 July, the museum will be open five days a week (Wednesday-Sunday), from 11am-4pm each day. It is housed above North Berwick Library in School Road. Check out www.coastalmuseum.org for further details.

The museum would also welcome anyone interested in becoming a Friend or Member, or to volunteer their help in its running - they have no paid staff. Please refer to the website for more details, or call in to School Road during opening hours.



Hidden Gems

We asked various 'well kent' faces around the town what they love about North Berwick.... Here are their answers!

I love our old ruined kirk at Kirk Ports - an unsung and neglected hidden gem! The tower used to have a lovely bell-shaped roof, but it was removed when it became unsafe. In 2011 the Community Council set up the Kirk Ports Working Group, which is working to consolidate the ruin and replace the tower roof, as well as interpret the old kirk and its graveyard for residents and visitors alike. A new information board will appear there very shortly and a new leaflet about the kirk was published in May - so it may not be a 'hidden' gem much longer! Olwyn Owen, Community Councillor



My favourite view is Yellowcraigs from the 13th green on the West Links. In my opinion, it's the best view in golf. I always stop to have a look. It changes every day and *looks* fabulous in all kinds of weather. It's also where my Great Dane's ashes are spread, so I always think of my lovely boy. Tommy Todd, Community Councillor

We also asked Craig, Amenity Services, East Lothian Council. We caught Craig when he was out in the pouring rain, helping to keep our town clean and beautiful. We asked him which was his favourite place in North Berwick and, for him, it is the Lodge Grounds. He loves the huge number of things that kids can do here. Thanks Craig, for doing what you do!



North Berwick - Community Spirit

A number of annual events in North Berwick stand out during the year. These events are great fun and help to bring the community together, either as participants or spectators.

Raft Race

This event usually takes place in June, but has been postponed to August this year due to bad weather. A different theme is set each year and teams are encouraged to enter in fancy dress. The course takes the rafts out into the West Bay and then along to the harbour and back to shore. It can be a gruelling event and provides much hilarity for the hundreds of spectators that come to watch!



Law Race

The famous annual dash up North Berwick Law usually takes place on the first Wednesday of August. The race starts at the harbour at 7.30pm and the course takes runners up through the Lodge Grounds and then up the Law and back down again, to the finishing line at the harbour. The race attracts hill runners from all over the Lothians, as well as a strong local field.



Loony Dook

This long-standing tradition sees hardy residents and visitors run into the sea at midday on New Year's Day! It's a wonderful way to welcome in the New Year with friends and neighbours.



North Berwick Triathlon

We are very lucky to be home to the North Berwick Triathlon, which is organised by the East Lothian Triathlon Club. This is a novice triathlon and a great introduction to the sport. You can enter as an individual or as part of a team. Full details of this event can be found here: www.eltcuk.com.



Fireworks Display

The annual fireworks display on 5 November takes place at the harbour. It is organised by East Lothian Yacht Club and supported by the Community Council. It is always a fantastic display.



RNLI Day

The RNLI usually hold a fete on Elcho Green in July. This is a fantastic family day out, as well as an important fundraiser for the RNLI.

Highland Games

North Berwick also hosts the famous North Berwick Highland Games. This event is now in its 22nd year and attracts around 15,000 visitors each year.



There is a pipe band competition that runs all day, highland dancing, traditional sporting events such as tossing the caber and dog handling. There is a great selection of fun things for children to do throughout the day, including fairground rides, as well as craft stalls and demonstrations for the grown-ups. More information can be found at www.northberwickhighlandgames.org.uk.



Fringe by the Sea

Fringe by the Sea was first launched ten years ago. This week-long arts festival is housed in two spiegel tents at the harbour and at various other venues throughout the town.

Visitors travel from miles around to see the world-famous singers and comedians who perform, as well as local talent. Fringe by the Sea is usually held during the second week of August. More information can be found at www.fringebythesea.com.

East Lothian Tennis Open

The East Lothian Open is one of the largest tennis tournaments in Scotland and has been running since 1927. It now attracts over 400 competitors annually and is played over seven days at the tennis courts in North Berwick. It usually happens towards the end of July.



And introducing...The North Berwick Majors!

Do you think you've got what it takes to complete the 'North Berwick Majors Challenge'? How many of these iconic local events can you complete in one year?

The Loony Dook/The North Berwick triathlon (individually or as part of a group)/
The Raft Race/The Crawford and Calder Cup/The Law Race

Watch this space for details of The North Berwick Majors' launch [#northberwickmajors](https://twitter.com/northberwickmajors)

The North Berwick Youth Project

The Youth Project aims to help young people develop their potential by creating opportunities to learn new skills, set and achieve personal goals and experience different ways of life.

The Youth Cafe runs the Cafe in the Lodge every summer, a social enterprise where young people can gain employability skills and training. The Cafe is in its 7th year this year and is open from July to mid August. If you have not managed along before now, there is still time for you to pop in and support the Cafe by buying a coffee and a piece of delicious cake!



Earlier this year a team of 13 young people from the Project travelled to Rwanda to volunteer in a range of projects including in a partner school supported by *Together in Hope Rwanda*. They also helped in a *Together in Sports* food programme, feeding more than 500 children! To fund the trip, the group raised an amazing £21,300 in 18 months.

We have also just launched an exciting heritage project called YOUTH Culture 1945-2015. Our young people will be leading in researching and creating a number of pop-up exhibitions and a final exhibition to be held at the Coastal Communities Museum.

Volunteering opportunities are available throughout the year on these and other projects. Find out more about how you can get involved by contacting lauren.cowie@northberwickyouthproject.org.uk.



Residents Groups and Associations

North Berwick has two Residents' Associations, covering the Lime Grove and Law areas. They represent the residents' views in discussions with East Lothian Council and other bodies and campaign on issues such as environmental improvements, footpaths and roads, anti-social behaviour, repairs and maintenance, planning decisions and more. Both groups are members of the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership and East Lothian Tenants' and Residents' Panel.

For more information on the work of the Lime Grove Association and Law Residents' Group and to find out how you can get involved, please contact lime.grove.association@gmail.com or lrgnorthberwick@gmail.com or East Lothian's Tenants' and Residents' Panel on tenantspanel@hotmail.com.



What shall we do about ...?

In every issue of this newsletter, we will focus on something we think could do with improving in the town. This month, we are zooming in on the fairly derelict telephone boxes on Westgate, at the west end of the High Street (by the old Post Office).

We think these are quite iconic and could do with a bit of love! It is over to you to send us some suggestions. One idea would be simply to paint them and restore the surrounding woodwork. Another idea could be to use them to house 'listening booths', which could tell stories about historic North Berwick.

What do you think? Contact us on our Facebook page, by email: secretary@northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk or by posting in our suggestion boxes.

What we need from you!

We have asked for your support and ideas on various things throughout this newsletter.

Here's a quick reminder:-

- How do you think we should spend our budget to benefit the town?
- Tell us how you think we can help make the town work for everyone.
- What do we need to have in our Resilience Plan?
- What should we do to spruce up the telephone boxes at Westgate?
- Like our Facebook page and keep up-to-date with what's happening in the town.
- Keep in touch! We ALWAYS want to hear from you.



Contact us on our Facebook page, by email:
secretary@northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk or by posting in our suggestion boxes.

