

North Queensferry Floral Enhancement Group – Spring 2026

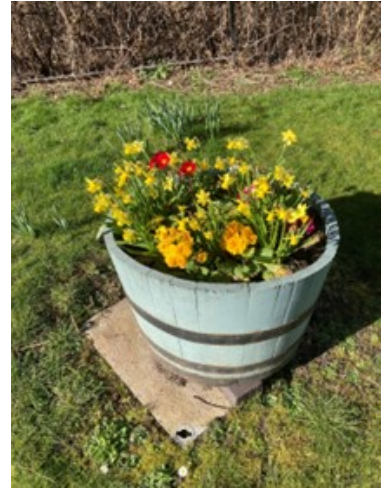
The Floral Enhancement team has had a lively start to the year. Several tired barrel planters have now been replaced, and most of the village planters have been smartened up with a fresh black finish and striking red banding.

Work is well underway at *The Brae*, where new planting is being introduced alongside the installation of the new viewpoint bench. A matching barrel planter and new flower beds are being added and hedging is going in to create a natural boundary around the site.

Looking ahead, we'll complete the repainting of the remaining barrels and, in the second half of May, plant them up for the summer.

The station platform will also get a tidy and replant where needed.

We'd also like to offer a sincere thank you to everyone in the village who helped water the barrels or donated plants - your support makes a real difference to how the village looks and feels.



We meet every Tuesday at 10.00am at the village war memorial, and new volunteers are always welcome. If you'd like to get involved, please contact **Eileen Donaldson** on **07767 407671** or **eileenwwoodburn@gmail.com**

[illegible]

The Bridges Play Park, Brock Street---Update



Feedback from the Primary School pupils is the refurbished play park is a big success. We still await a bench to be located adjacent to the toddlers play equipment and the official sign has yet to be installed.

However, the park is open and appears to be very popular.

The formal opening of the play park was deferred due to the Scottish Elections (you may ask, why?), but we are now just waiting on confirmation from Fife Council on a proposed date.

Apologies to all for this delay.

Spend 15 minutes
in a sunny spot

Use this chart to note how
many of each species you see



Small
Tortoiseshell



Large
White



Small
White



Speckled
Wood



Painted
Lady



Common
Blue



Comma



Scotch
Argus



Holly
Blue



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MAGAZINE

Please note: Images not to scale. Males and females of some species vary and are not all illustrated on this chart. Please refer to the Big Butterfly Count app or website for more information on how to identify butterflies and moths correctly.

Submit your sightings at
bigbutterflycount.org

Or download our free app
by scanning the QR code.



Peacock



Green
Veined White



Red
Admiral



Ringlet



Small
Copper



Meadow
Brown



Six-spot
Burnet



Silver Y





Riverwoods

Twenty people aged from about nine to over ninety came to the Community Centre for NQ Climate Action Network's (NQCAN) presentation of the beautiful film 'Riverwoods'.

The film traces the life of salmon from when they spawn in a forest river and then die to when the next generation returns to where they were spawned.

Along the way it shows how closely salmon are entwined in the forest beside the river and how much tougher that environment has got for them, largely because of humans.

Once they have spawned, parent salmon become food for birds of prey whose faeces nourish the forest floor. The salmon carcasses rot into the forest soil and feed it. Old tree roots spread into the river creating hiding places for the salmon fry.

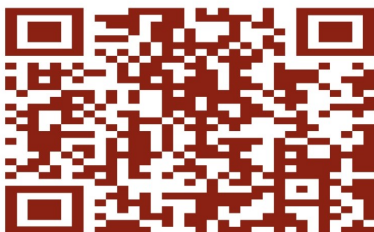
When they are big enough to tackle their journey downstream to the sea, the juvenile salmon have to make their way past all the obstacles humans have created such as dams. As the river reaches farmland, any rivers running along straight artificial channels with no pools or trees at the sides to hide under are a hazard. You can imagine the birds and otters lining up for a tasty meal.

Scotland's Atlantic salmon is a key building block in a complex ecosystem. Our unnatural, deforested landscape is a massive problem.

There was a discussion after the film. The Forth is fed by salmon rivers. Young salmon leaving those rivers and mature salmon returning to spawn need to eat on their way through the Forth. What will they find? Sadly, plastic pollution, which remains dire as last year's Great Nurdle Hunt in North Queensferry showed. Nurdles are lentil sized pellets used as the raw material for nearly all plastic products. When they spill into seawater they absorb toxins. Nurdles look like fish eggs to other fish. Fish in the Forth will eat nurdles, take in toxins but no nutrition, and the pellets may well block their guts.

NQCAN have already had members go to meetings about pollution with Ineos and associated factories that process nurdles. We plan to contact Restoration Forth to see if they have any local projects we could get involved with. Please contact us if you would like to get involved.

North Queensferry Climate Action Network



The Village Show is at 2pm on Saturday 29 August in the Community Centre

Update on Forth Bridge World Heritage and Forth Bridges Tourism

Forth Bridge World Heritage Site Management Plan

The consultation on the draft Management Plan closed on 31st March. The draft plan is now being updated to reflect the comments and feedback .

The Forth Bridge has teamed up with Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature for a short creative residency on the topic of the sights and sounds of the Forth Bridge. Over 50 writers applied to take part, with South Queensferry writer Esa Aldegheeri being selected.

The Forth Bridge Collections and Research group is reforming after a break of several years. The group has had one meeting so far at the Dunfermline Carnegie Library and Galleries and is hoping to share more details of Forth Bridge collections around the world later this year.

The Forth Bridges website has regular updates on its News and Blog page, with events and activities promoted on the Forth Bridges social media channels.

Fife Art Trail

There is a new map published for exploring Fife through its creative expressions, including the Forth Bridge centenary mosaic at North Queensferry station. Find more details on the **Welcome to Fife website**.

Inner Forth Bike Bus

Cyclists and walkers can explore the inner Forth area between Alloa and the Forth Road Bridge using a free minibus on Sundays. Two minibuses operate in the clockwise and anticlockwise directions on the route. This year, there will be a tour guide on each bus to provide more information to passengers. The nearest stops for North Queensferry are at the Port Edgar Marina and at Charlestown. **(See the next page for the timetable)**

Events

'Welcome to Fife' arranged a networking event for tourism and hospitality businesses at the DoubleTree Hilton on 12th May. Over 40 businesses from the Dunfermline and south Fife areas attended to share knowledge and ideas. There were presentations from the DoubleTree Hilton, Deep Sea World and the Forth Bridges.

The Forth Bridges Creative Trail is back on 30/31 May. In its second year, there are 37 artists and makers taking part in venues near the Forth Bridges in South Queensferry and Bo'ness.

Barnardo's Your View raises vital funds for children in Scotland. Tickets for this year's event go on sale on the Barnardo's website on Thursday 18th June at 10am. This year's event will take place 18th – 20th September.

Meanwhile, the Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland (CHSS) abseiling event is back on **Sunday 4th October**. Sign up to raise money for CHSS or a charity of your choice via the CHSS website.

Details for this year's Doors Open Day at the Forth Bridges at the end of September will be announced nearer the time.



The Inner Forth Bike Bus is back from 17th May! **ARE YOU READY?**



Timetable

Sundays only

until 27th September 2026

Clockwise Service

STOP & What3Words Location	TIME	TIME
Port Edgar Marina Car Park ///correctly.district.requested	09:25	13:20
Bo'ness Bus Stance 1 ///summit.loudly.pixel	09:55	13:50
Linlithgow Blackness Road ///comic.impulse.vies	10:10	14:05
The Kelpies Kelpies Hub Coach parking ///riches.change.fleet	10:40	14:35
Alloa Train Station ///muddy.incomes.clouding	11:08	15:03
Kincardine East End of New Row ///hails.tubes.prepped	11:32	15:27
Newmills Near Newmills Bridge ///overture.sleepy.aviators	11:52	15:47
Charlestown In front of the Inn at Charlestown ///stocked.lads.swim	12:15	16:10
Port Edgar Marina Car Park ///correctly.district.requested	12:40	16:35

Anticlockwise Service

STOP & What3Words Location	TIME	TIME
Port Edgar Marina Car Park ///correctly.district.requested	09:25	13:20
Charlestown In front of the Inn at Charlestown ///durations.ideals.defend	9:50	13:45
Newmills Near Newmills Bridge ///overture.sleepy.aviators	10:08	14:03
Kincardine East End of New Row ///hails.tubes.prepped	10:33	14:28
Alloa Train Station ///muddy.incomes.clouding	10:52	14:47
The Kelpies Kelpies Hub Coach parking ///riches.change.fleet	11:25	15:20
Linlithgow Blackness Road ///comic.impulse.vies	11:50	15:45
Bo'ness Bus Stance 1 ///summit.loudly.pixel	12:10	16:05
Port Edgar Marina Car Park ///correctly.district.requested	12:40	16:35

Please note that not all Bike Bus stop locations display "Inner Forth Bike Bus" signage. Exact locations of the Bike Bus stops are indicated using What3Words coordinates. More information about the service and about the Climate FORTH project can be found at innerforthlandscape.co.uk/climate-forth/inner-forth-bike-bus.

– Toilet facilities nearby

8 June 1942—1 April 2026

John was born in Lancashire. He came to North Queensferry via London, where he earned his doctorate, and Edinburgh where he continued his studies, coming to Brae Cottage in the 1970s. He worked as an analytical chemist for Diageo until the firm greatly reduced this section. Thereafter John freelanced, mainly in IT. He was an excellent squash player, earning five full Scottish caps and “innumerable” Masters International caps. A keen ‘Munroist’, he completed them all by his 40th birthday.

The Carlingnose SSI and local beaches benefitted from John's conservation work. But he was probably best known in the village for his ornithological contributions: leading regular birdwatching walks and, for many years, providing reports of sighting for the Ferry News. Throughout his life he was fascinated by birds and seemed to be always attuned to their presence. To the end, he maintained excellent hearing, breaking into conversations to ask if such or such a bird had been heard. When ill health required the move to Murrayfield Care Home, it was a comfort that its grounds and the surrounding private gardens encouraged bird life.

John brought great deal to the village and we are very grateful to have shared his life here.

[illegible]

A Rare Arrival at Deep Sea World

At the end of last year, the team at Deep Sea World celebrated a very special arrival, the birth of a Critically Endangered Common Eagle Ray (***Myliobatis aquila***), believed to be the first of its kind born in the UK.

The Eagle Ray pup was born on 3rd November following almost ten years of dedicated care, observation and research by Deep Sea World's aquarium and veterinary teams here in North Queensferry.

Common Eagle Rays are a remarkable species found in parts of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, but their numbers have declined significantly in recent decades due to overfishing, habitat loss and accidental capture in fishing gear. The species is now listed as Critically Endangered in parts of its range.

While visitors often see the finished exhibits and the animals on display, much of the work at the aquarium happens behind the scenes. Aquarists carefully monitor water quality, nutrition, animal health and behaviour every day, with some conservation projects taking many years before results are seen.

The birth of the eagle ray pup reflects the patience and expertise of the team and contributes to wider international efforts to better understand and protect vulnerable marine species for the future.

The young ray continues to do well and the team are looking forward to sharing updates as it grows over the coming months.

Deep Sea World would like to thank everyone in the local community and all visitors whose support helps make conservation and education work like this possible.

NQCAN Transport Group

The North Queensferry Climate Action Network (NQCAN) transport group has had a busy few months liaising with Fife councillors and officials to discuss how to improve the quality, sustainability and safety of getting around the village, in particular making routes safer for walkers and those cycling.

Improved and safer walking and cycling routes into and around the village first appeared in the North Queensferry Action Plan and this group are taking a number of the identified priorities forward.

Speeding at the entry points to the village (Ferryhills Road and Main Road) remain a concern. A recent speed survey showed the majority of drivers were going over the 20mph speed limit. We believe this is partly due to the inadequate speed humps at the entry to the village, and are liaising with Fife Council to discuss options for improvement. In recent months there have been reports of cars mounting pavements at speed, especially along Ferryhills Road, so it is imperative that speeding is tackled before there is a major incident.

In addition to addressing vehicle speed on Main Road, the Group are also exploring options to provide a pedestrian crossing at the Forth Road Bridge access.

In regard to the cycling infrastructure, the group is investigating why the cycle rail at the Forth Road Bridge steps remains incomplete- two years after it was first installed. In addition, the Group will raise their concerns, and disappointment, with Fife Council having repainted the cycle lane on Hope Street, which was immediately obstructed by cars parked across it 24/7. This 'token' measure is an unsatisfactory gesture for what is a key national cycle route and the main way of getting into the village by bike from Inverkeithing.

Finally, we continue to liaise with Fife Council on future bus services for the village in light of future plans for the supported bus network.

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Our Library Service

The Mobile Library van is due from **2.20pm – 2.50pm: on June 1st, 15th* and 29th**. The schedule hasn't been published beyond that but if it continues fortnightly the mobile library will also visit on **July 13th and 27th, then August 10th and 24th**.

*June 15th is a scheduled mobile library visit even though it is World Cup Day, a bank holiday. If there is a trades holiday in July/August, one of those visits may not happen but the library calendar doesn't yet go far enough ahead to say.

The van carries a good range of books to borrow using your MyFife card. You can also join the library, return books and request any book from the Fife Library catalogue. The catalogue is viewable online at www.onfife.com/libraries-archives/librarycat/

If you use hearing aids you can get batteries at the van too, just bring your NHS Fife Hearing Aid and Battery Issue card.

Continues on next page.



The Mobile Library van is turquoise! It stops opposite the school on Brock St, you can't miss it.

BB

Go-Flexi Bus Service

The on-demand local bus service, Go-Flexi, continues, but if we don't use it, we'll lose it!
The North Queensferry zone covers the village itself as well as the Ferrytoll Park & Ride, Europarc and Inverkeithing.
Pick-up and drop-off points are at existing service bus stops.

Timetable:

Monday to Thursday: 08.15am to 5.30pm.
Friday & Saturday: 08.15am to 11.30pm.
Sunday: No service.

Best to visit the [fife.gov.uk website](http://fife.gov.uk) and search for "Bus travel and public transport."
There are far more details there about the service.
As with any service bus, you can pay on board with cash or card and the Fife Concession Card is accepted.
You can download the Go-Flexi App to make a booking or phone 01382 540 624 directly.

North Queensferry Rowing Club

The Rowing Club is taking part in some local events this summer ,however regrettably it cannot take on any new members.at present..



Fife Forthview Parish Church

A Letter from Your Parish Minister

As the seasons begin to change, it's lovely to see brighter days and more sunshine appearing. With warmer weather comes the chance to enjoy the fresh air, spend time at the beach, and make the most of the longer days ahead. Each season brings its own needs — warm coats, scarves, and heating in the winter; sunscreen, sun hats, and lighter clothes in the summer. And perhaps, if we're lucky, even the occasional need for a fan!

Life itself also has seasons. At times, life can feel difficult or lonely, and at other times it brings moments of joy and celebration. Whatever season you may find yourself in, it's important to remember that you do not have to face it alone.

Many people think a parish minister is only there for church members or those who attend services on Sundays. I would like to reassure you that this is not the case. A parish minister is here for the whole community — whether you are a member of the church or not, whether you have faith or not. If you would ever like someone to talk to, share a cup of coffee with, discuss a project, or simply find out more about the activities and services we offer, please do get in touch. Sometimes a simple conversation can make all the difference.

We would also love to welcome you to the village coffee mornings, held every second Wednesday at the church. Come along for a cuppa, enjoy some friendly conversation, and share your story if you wish.

If you would like a blether at any time, please feel free to contact me:

Rev. Elané Sassneberg 07570 008670

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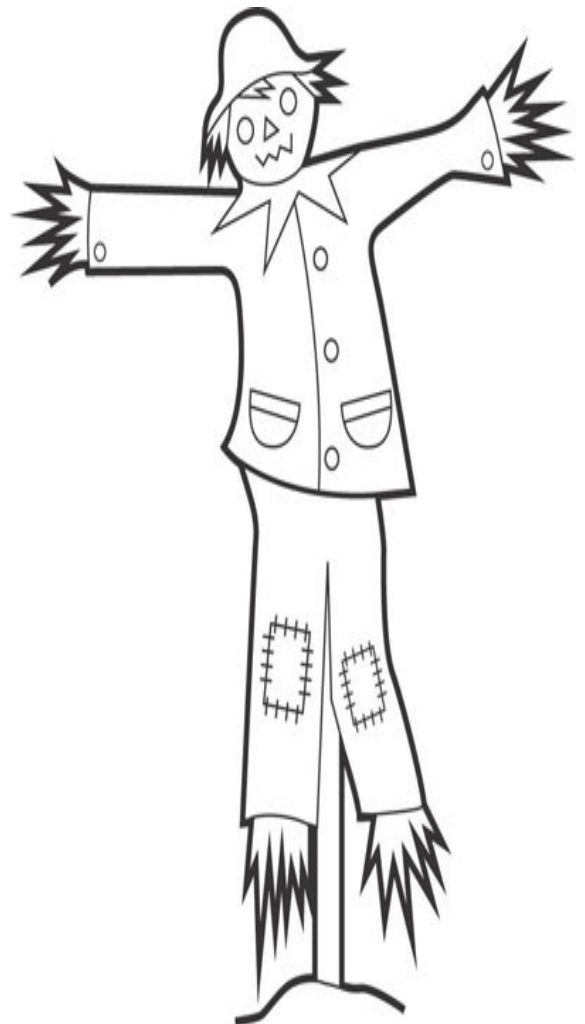
The Village Show

This year ,the Village Show is all about Scarecrows. There will be :-

A fancy dress 'Scarecrow' competition for children under 5 years old.

A Scarecrow Trail for villagers to put a Scarecrow in their garden/ balcony/etc. for everyone to see.as part of a **Scarecrow Trail**

The Show will have the usual entries/exhibits, so start thinking about recipes, making your craft items, getting out with a camera and of course planting and caring for your plants.





CREATIVE KIDS' WORKSHOPS

Free drop-in fun for kids.
Every Thursday in the holidays 1-4pm
Space to play, make and tinker about

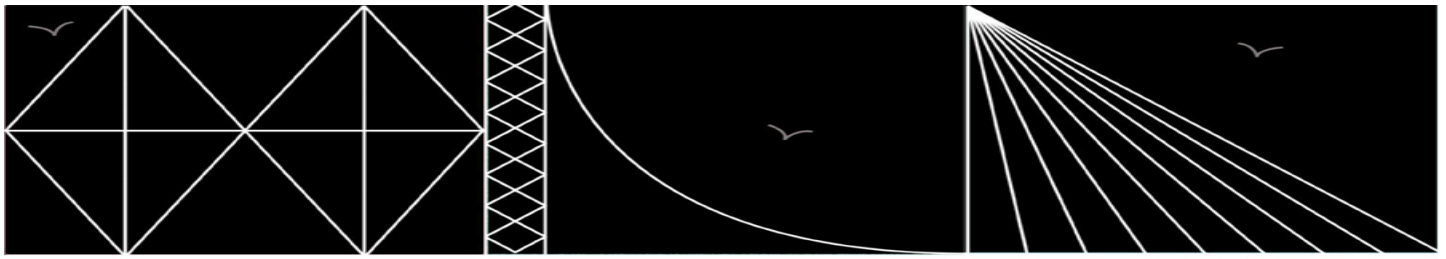
2ND JULY - MAKING TOYS THAT GO
9TH JULY - LEGO-A-GO-GO
16TH JULY - CODES, PATTERNS & SHAPES
23RD JULY - KNITS, KNOTS & POMPOMS
30TH JULY - CARDBOARD CREATIONS
6TH AUGUST - MAKING TOYS THAT GO
13TH AUGUST - MINI ROBOTS

FOR ALL AGES

PLEASE BRING A GROWN-UP

NQ HARBOUR YARD
OFF FERRY ROAD

KY11 1HW



North Queensferry Community Trust

As reported in the last edition of the FerryNews, the Trust was successful in its legal challenge to the Scottish Ministers' refusal of its application under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 for the Albert Community Group to purchase the Albert Hotel.

Since then, the Sheriff has granted an Order compelling the Scottish Ministers to pay the Trust the legal expenses it incurred in bringing its successful challenge. The Trust has now, as ordered by the Sheriff, made further Submissions to the Ministers in support of its Application and the Ministers' decision is awaited. We are hoping for a positive result this time, so that we can all press ahead with the purchase and get started on the restoration works.

Away from the excitement surrounding the Albert, the Trust has been getting on with its normal business, including the management of the West Bay. To hear more about this and the other things which the Trust is doing, members are invited to the Trust's AGM, which will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 May at the Community Complex. If you are not yet a member, you are still very welcome, though will not be able to vote, unless you join. If you would like to join, please email nq.community.trust@gmail.com for an application form.

The Trust is always looking for new Trustees, and if you are interested in volunteering, please also let us know using the above email, or by speaking to any of the existing Trustees.

Annual General Meeting **Wednesday 27th May 2026** **7.30pm**

North Queensferry Community Centre

All village residents aged over 16 can be members
You can join at the AGM if you are not already a member.

The Trust is working to secure the future of the
Albert via a Community Buy-out.

It manages the harbour at West Bay and runs
Community Workshop spaces there.

Please come along to find out more.

North Queensferry Community Council

The Community Council has continued to be kept busy with the many matters concerning the village. Most of these are issues which may appear unspectacular but are of importance to the quality of life in the village and its residents, such as traffic issues, buses, police liaison, floral enhancement, comments on planning applications and similar matters. Indeed, in relation to floral enhancement, the Community Council facilitated the acquisition and installation of a new bench on the Brae, with associated planting. The seat is already proving a popular place to sit and take in the view, and grateful thanks are due to the volunteers on the floral enhancement team who made it a reality.

The Community Council is also engaged in looking out for the interests of the residents in a number of more high-profile matters. We reported in the last issue of the FerryNews on the investigations being undertaken by Network Rail and its regulator, the Office of Road and Rail, (ORR) into the flaming item which had fallen from the Forth Bridge. The ORR's investigation formed part of its wider enquiry, (brought about in part by concerns expressed by the Community Council) into the management of the works being carried out on the bridge. At the time of writing, the ORR's report is awaited, but preliminary indications are that the item was allowed to fall due to an unfortunate lapse in following established safety procedures. Network Rail took steps to address this, including an enhancement of its procedures. The full details will be in the final Report, which the Community Council will share as soon as it becomes available.

Another issue concerning the Bridge is the unacceptable level of noise generated by works to remove and replace an old bitumen coating on the deck. This can be done only when trains are not running, which effectively means at night when ambient noise levels are low. The drills used are inherently noisy, and the structure of the deck acts as a sounding-board. These factors operating together produce entirely unacceptable noise levels. Fife Council Environmental Health Department became involved, and Network Rail suspended the work until a solution could be found.

Possibilities include various technical measures and even the possibility of closure of the bridge to allow works to be done during the day, though closure is likely to meet considerable resistance from Transport Scotland. The Community Council is actively engaged in those discussions. In the meantime, if anyone has any particular complaint to make regarding noise or other issue we encourage the making of a formal complaint directly to Network Rail at **<https://communications-crm.custhelp.com/app/ask?var=complaint>** well as raising the complaint with a Community Councilor so that it can be addressed in the regular meetings with David Boyce of Network Rail.

Another matter of concern is the failure of the barrier at Battery Road Car Park. The problem which arose shortly after the installation of the barrier was motorists who forced the barrier open to 'rescue' vehicles trapped in the car park after closing time. It rapidly became clear that the barriers were inadequate to resist such interference, although it may have been possible to have undertaken modifications at a relatively low cost to address this deficiency. Local residents and the Community Council urged Fife Council for months to put this in hand, warning of the likelihood that the barrier would eventually fail, but nothing was done, resulting in the predicted failure.

The Community Council is now pressing Fife Council now to install a new and properly-engineered barrier.

There is a great deal of information, news and other material, including Minutes of previous meetings, available on the Community Council's website.

The Community Council meets at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Community Complex, and the AGM of the Community Council is due to be held prior to the start of the regular June Meeting on 11th June. Meetings are open to the public and it is also possible to attend remotely by using the link on the website-<https://www.nqcc.co.uk/>

What's on at the Community centre?

Saturday 6 June. Race Night, opening at 7 for 730pm start until 11pm.to raise funds for three village children who are fundraising for a trip to Cambodia.

Saturday 20 June Get your teams together for our next pop up bar and quiz night .

Saturday 29th August: Village Show.-

Classes currently running at the centre...

Monday - Tai Chi 11.00-12.00
Pilates Circuits 12.30-1.10pm
Nacho's Yoga 7-8.30pm

Tuesday - Arts and Crafts 7-9pm

Wednesday -Nacho's Chair yoga class 11-12pm
Chill and Chat cafe 12-2pm
Buff Bones Gym 1-2pm
NQCAN regular meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month February-November)

Thursday - Toddlers 9.30-11.30am
Laura's Pilates 6.20-7.20pm
Youth Club (P4-P7) 6-7.30pm (P7 onwards) 7.45-9pm
Community Council meetings: second Thursday of the month

Friday - Laura's Pilates 9.20-10.20am

Saffi's dog classes: Monday-Sunday (excluding Fridays)

Remember: there are two fantastic halls if you're planning an event, such as a birthday party, ceilidh or wedding reception.

Enquiries to Facilities@nqcommunitycomplex.org.uk

The warm space sitting area can be used by the community whenever the centre is open.

Wednesday Chair Yoga class is still going strong and we get excellent feedback from everyone who attends. If you know anyone who would benefit from this please share with them. Just turn up on the day and also pay as you go.

The Chill and Chat cafe is on straight after Chair Yoga so you can relax and have a chat with a cuppa and a biscuit.

To guarantee your slot on the MUGA, make sure you book a place by emailing Facilities@nqcommunitycomplex.org.uk

If you are on Facebook, follow our page 'North Queensferry community complex' for up to date information.

We look forward to seeing you!

North Queensferry Walking and Strolling Group 2026

The meeting point is NQ Church car park every alternate Wednesday at 10.00am.

Volunteer drivers will take walkers to minimise the use of cars. In most cases, there will be the opportunity for a coffee or light lunch.

For further information please contact Eileen Donaldson on 01383 412874.

Date	Walk	Type	Distance	Details
17 June	Dollar Bank	C	Up to 3.5miles	From the car park at Castle Road there are numerous walks including the steep walk to Castle Campbell.
01 July	Preston Island	C	4 miles	Originally an island but now joined to the mainland with the ash residue from Longannet Power Station. Remains of the salt pan industry is now a nature reserve. All walks on good paths.
15 July	Townhill Loch, Dunfermline	C	3 miles	Starting at the car park this walk takes you around the loch and then into Townhill Park and Woods. A mixture of surfaced and unsurfaced paths.
29 July	Aberdour Silver Sands to Burntisland	L	4 miles	Part of the Fife Coastal Path taking you along the foreshore with terrific views over the Firth of Forth.
12 August		C	2.5 miles	This is a short easy walk on good paths, starting from Dysart Harbour. The Walk includes Ravenscraig Castle.
26 August	South Queensferry to Dalmeny	L	4 miles	Starting out from the Co-op in South Queensferry, then down to the front. Undulating along the foreshore on good, mainly sheltered paths passing Barnbogle Castle.
09 September	Pat-tiesmuir	C	2-4.5miles	This is a figure of eight walk and can be done as one of two short walks or one long one. To the North up through open farmland with views to Dunfermline Abbey etc. To the South is over the Coffin Road to Rosyth Old Church ruin (actually Limekilns), then return along the foreshore.
23 Sep'26	Blairadam Forest	C	1.5-4 miles	A large choice of walks in the forest on good wide paths.

L—linear C-circular

Please send your contributions for the next FerryNews to lin@ferrynews.org.uk by Thursday 13 August 2026



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