The Ferry News

Issue 113
February
2026

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
11 March	Devilla Forest	C	1.5-5 miles	Very level on good paths in sheltered woodland, with options on distance.
25 March	Aberdour Daffodil Walk	L	3 miles	Starting at Dalgety Bay Sailing Club, take the path along to Braefoot Bay. All on good paths with terrific views.
08 April	Lochore Meadows Country Park	C	3.5 miles	There are numerous walks here, but the most popular one is the circular walk around Loch Ore itself. With a well-stocked café on the shores, this is one of the most popular walks.
22 April	Loch Leven	L / C	2-5 miles	Starting from the car park at Loch Leven's Larder, there are various walks to suit all with fantastic views over the loch. Eventually having a light lunch and possibly a bit of shopping.
06 May	Limekilns	L	3.5-4 miles	Starting at the harbour car park, you'll pass the 14 limekilns and then head inland around the Elgin Estate. Some parts of the route can be muddy.
20 May	Bo'ness	L	2-5 miles	Walk starts at the Steam Railway Station and takes you along the foreshore.
03 June	Powmill to Rumbling Brig.	C	4 miles	Starting at the Milk Bar and along a quiet road, then down between open fields to the Crook of Devon with views of the Ochil Hills. Follow the River Devon to Rumbling Bridge and return. All mainly on good paths.

Key: C—circular walk / L—linear walk

Go-Flexi

Fife Council has started the trial of a new on-demand local bus service - **Go-Flexi**

To use **Go-Flexi:** book your journeys in advance, nominating pick-ups and drop-offs at selected bus stops across the area. In NQ this means getting the Go-flexi bus to and from Ferrytoll Park and Ride or the Square in Inverkeithing. The pick-up / drop-off points in North Queensferry are Battery Road turning circle and Ferryhills Road, by the railway station.

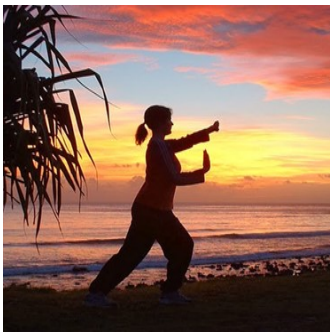
The service operates Monday to Friday, 08:30 am to 5:30 pm (not at weekends).

There is a **Go-Flexi** app which can be downloaded to your mobile phone. Once you have set up your personal details (name, mobile number, email address), you can book your journeys (at least one hour and up to one week ahead), nominating your pick-up and drop-off points. You pay the fare as you board, with card of cash (or show your Fife concession card).

Alternatively, you can book by phone at **01382 540 624.**

Information and the guide to using the Go-flexi app are online. Search for 'Go-flexi Fife' or type the address: **https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/roads,-travel-and-parking/bus-travel-and-public-transport/go-flexi-west-fife**

Tai Chi in North Queensferry.



Millions of people across the world, practise Tai Chi every day: it is becoming one of the most popular exercise methods in the world. It originated in China and is known for the health benefits it can give if practised regularly. Tai Chi involves a pattern of postures and movements which connect and flow into each other and is seen as a form of moving meditation.

There are five separate styles of Tai Chi with the Yang style being the most popular and widely practised as anyone can do it since there are no physical or mental barriers to learning. The best way to practise is methodically and slowly, understanding each movement and building the sequences gradually. When learning Tai Chi, the focus is not on speed but on a comfortable pace with the emphasis on the accuracy of the postures. It is an enjoyable and effective way to improve mobility, flexibility and balance, as well as reducing stress and tension.

Although Tai Chi is slow and graceful to watch, it has a strong martial tradition with each movement being either offensive or defensive in nature and designed to develop awareness and anticipation of an opponent's intentions and to use their energy and power against them. Central to Tai Chi are the traditional Chinese beliefs in the interdependence of Yin and Yang in the body and mind. These apparently opposing forces, in fact, complement each other and are often seen as being opposites working in harmony, for example light and dark and soft and hard.

Tai Chi is seen as a soft or internal martial art using the energy generated from within the body, which means that it involves yielding and not using unnecessary force to overcome an opponent. The internal strength comes from correct body alignment, opening the joints and relaxing the muscles. Although there are five styles of Tai Chi, there are many similarities across each and even within these individual styles there can be variations in the number of movements and sequences and how they are executed.

Classes for beginners are now being run at the Community Centre on **Monday mornings between 11:00 and 12:00 pm .** These focus on the Yang Style long form of 108 movements, which is taught in three separate sections, progressively focussing on an increasing range of movements. The classes will also cover a range of Qi Gong exercises to run in tandem with the Tai Chi practise and provide a greater understanding of body mechanics and further ways to improve health and wellbeing.

**SSSS

What's on at the Community Centre?

Saturday 28th March, 2026 get your teams together for our next pop-up bar and quiz night .

Classes currently running at the Centre.

Monday - Tai Chi 11-12p
Pilates Circuits12:30 -1:10pm
Nacho's Yoga 7- 8.30pm

Tuesday - **Arts and Crafts** 7-9pm
Wednesday - **Nacho's Chair Yoga Class,** 11 -12pm. If you know anyone who would benefit from this please share with them, The class is very popular, just turn up on the day and pay as you go.

Chill and Chat cafe 12-2pm . Straight after yoga, so relax and have a chat with a cuppa and a biscuit.

Laura's Pilates , Buff Bones Gym 1 -2pm

Energy Group meeting - regular meetings will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. February-November 2026

Thursday - **Toddlers** 9.30-11.30am

Mini kickers 3.45-4.30pm (Small hall)

Pars Kids Football 4.45-5.30pm (MUGA)

Laura's Pilates 6.15-7.15pm

Youth Club (P4-P7) 6-7.30pm, (P7 onwards) 7.45-9pm

Community Council meeting, (public welcome) 2nd Thursday of the month

Friday - **Laura's Pilates** 9.30-10.30am

Monthly Advice Surgery (Annabelle Ewing, MSP) 12.40-1.20pm

Saffi's Dog Classes continue throughout the week, Monday-Sunday (excluding Fridays)

Remember, we have two fantastic halls which are ideal for an event, such as a birthday party, ceilidh or wedding reception..

Enquiries to **Facilities@nqcommunitycomplex.org.uk**

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

If you want to guarantee your slot on the MUGA you can book a place by emailing :-

Facilities@nqcommunitycomplex.org.uk

Follow our Facebook page **'North Queensferry community complex**' for up-to-date information.

We look forward to seeing you!

Community Orchard Planting

Saturday 7th March 10am-1pm

- Meet at North Queensferry Community Complex
- Come and help plant fruit and other trees around the community complex
- Bring gardening gloves if you have them and warm clothes
- All other equipment and hot drinks provided!

North Queensferry Community Complex

NORTH QUEENSFERRY C.A.N

FIFE COAST & COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

NQ Climate Action Network (NQCAN) meeting with local councillors

On 11 February, NQCAN held a public meeting with local ward councillors to discuss the climate crisis and related local issues. Councillors David Barratt, Dave Dempsey and Sarah Bruce Neal attended, with Councillor Patrick Browne sending apologies. Twelve residents participated, raising questions on transport, biodiversity, pollution and community energy.

Transport.

Speeding on Ferryhills Road remains a serious problem, with a recent council survey showing 87% of northbound vehicles exceeding the 20mph limit. Residents reported cars mounting the pavement at a narrow pinch point. Although £5,000 has been allocated to address the issue, options are limited. A vehicle activated speed sign was suggested, though some doubted signage alone would change behaviour. Road narrowing or priority signage was ruled out due to space constraints.

Crossing on Main Road/Hope View leading to the Forth Road Bridge was also discussed. A feasibility study concluded that a signalised pedestrian crossing is not viable because of cost and power supply limitations. There is only £5,000 available for improvements. Potential lower-cost measures include extending the pavement on the north side and relocating the dropped kerb closer to the village to improve pedestrian safety.

Bus services. New bus services are out for tender from August 2026, including two16-seater shuttle buses operating every 20 minutes between Ferrytoll and the village. The Go-Flexi pilot scheme is ongoing, though usage data is not yet available. Some residents expressed concern about waiting times after booking, while others reported good uptake for the service in Limekilns. There were calls to retain the 87 service to Inverkeithing and explore smaller buses using the Brae, for example to connect Rankin's and the railway station.

Active travel and path connections. Councillors support improving links between North Queensferry, Inverkeithing and Rosyth, particularly given the new school development. A feasibility study is expected on opening the coastal path via Admiralty House, and discussions continue with Network Rail about reopening the disused railway line between Inverkeithing and Rosyth as an active travel route (this is also being considered for freight train use).

Environmental concerns included:_

V**erge mowing and pesticide use.** The council is open to reduced mowing trials, though the use of glyphosate for weed killing is still considered necessary due to cost constraints.

Nurdle pollution was highlighted after volunteers collected around 70,000 plastic pellets in 30 minutes during the Great Nurdle Hunt. Councillors encouraged collaboration throughout the Forth and engagement with INEOS (Grangemouth) who produce nurdles through their community meetings.

Light pollution and its negative effect on nature was raised. LED lights and lamp shielding can help and requests for this in specific locations may be considered.

Continued on next page

NQCAN) meeting continued

Community Energy. Councillors were not aware of any plans to develop district heating plans in North Queensferry, though local opportunities may exist if the community pursues them. Councillors encouraged promoting the Warmer Homes Plan through community hubs. Finally, discussion of the Green Freeport noted uncertainty about its environmental and community benefits.

Overall, the meeting was constructive and wide-ranging, with both councillors and attendees stating they had benefitted from hearing the various concerns and ideas for solutions. The councillors encouraged the group/ residents to submit specific, practical proposals for actions which they will be happy to look at taking forward..

Please Support Our Cambodia 2027 Expedition

We are Ava, Ben and Elsie - three pupils from Inverkeithing High School who live in North Queensferry. We have been given a life changing opportunity to travel to Cambodia in summer 2027 with Camps International**. www.campsinternational.com**

What We Will Be Doing:-

The three of us will spend a month in Cambodia, with others from our school, working directly with local communities on projects that make a real and lasting difference.

These will include::-

Community Work - supporting local schools and building vital facilities.

Environmental Projects - planting trees and restoring natural habitats.

Humanitarian Support - helping to build wells and improve living conditions.

Animal Care - assisting with small livestock and conservation tasks.

How You Can Help:-

We have a challenging fundraising target to meet (£4,990 each) and we would be incredibly grateful for any donations toward the cost of our expedition.

Your support will help make this expedition possible!

Giving Back to North Queensferry:-

We have each pledged to do **monthly litter picking around the village.**

We are also **offering our time in exchange for donations**: helping with gardening, watering plants, small pet care, and light household tasks.

If there's anything else you think we can help with please let us know. We'd be happy to consider if it's possible.

We also **aim to put on some fun events to help raise funds**, so keep an eye out for information once we get our plans confirmed.

Get in touch;

nataliesteen2011@hotmail.co.uk - **07506689254**

Mjm_macraild@yahoo.co.uk - 07525338071

taylormuschamp@talktalk.net - 07500277577

Thank You for Your Support

Your generosity brings us closer to an experience that will help us make a difference - both here at home, in Cambodia and in the future.

We all have our own Go Fund Me pages but for our joint fundraising please donate via the link below:

https://www.paypal.com/pool/9ILK3kPTWt?sr=accr

Brock Street Play Park Refurbishment---Update

The pupils of North Queensferry Primary School had a democratic vote on the re-naming of the play park and the result is that Brock Street Play Park will now be known as ‘The Bridges Play Park’. Quite apt really, as the theme for the park is ‘Underwater’!
The play park was completed just prior to Christmas and, as it passed all safety checks, is open to the public.

There are a few non-essential snags yet to clear, but once everything is in place, we fully intend to have an official opening ceremony.

Many thanks for your patience, especially the children, who have followed this journey over the past 3 years (yes, 3 years!) but it’s all been worth the wait.

RIVERWOODS

‘Riverwoods’- a film at the Community Centre on Wednesday 8th April at 7.30pm.

NQCAN will present a free showing of the film ‘Riverwoods’ at the Community Centre on 8th April at 7.30pm.

Three years in the making, the feature-length ‘Riverwoods’ film, produced by ‘Scotland: The Big Picture’ and narrated by Peter Capaldi, shines a light on the perilous state of Scotland’s salmon, which once thrived in and around Scotland.

Brilliant photography traces the complex and amazing lives of the species in and around the river systems, beginning with the extraordinary life cycle of the salmon.

In the 1950's salmon were bountiful along the Forth coast. From there they found their way up to their spawning grounds in rivers sheltered by forests. That ecosystem is now threatened. ‘Riverwoods’ tells the compelling story of a fish that once lived in the forest, in the soil that feeds the forest and the predators, scavengers and even herbivores of the forest. Scotland’s Atlantic salmon – the ‘King of Fish’ - is a key building block in a complex forest ecosystem.

Please come along and join us to see what is happening to the salmon, our rivers and our woodlands. How can we look after our ecology? How will it benefit us?

The salmon need the forest. The forest needs the salmon. Scotland needs both.

Support your local shop

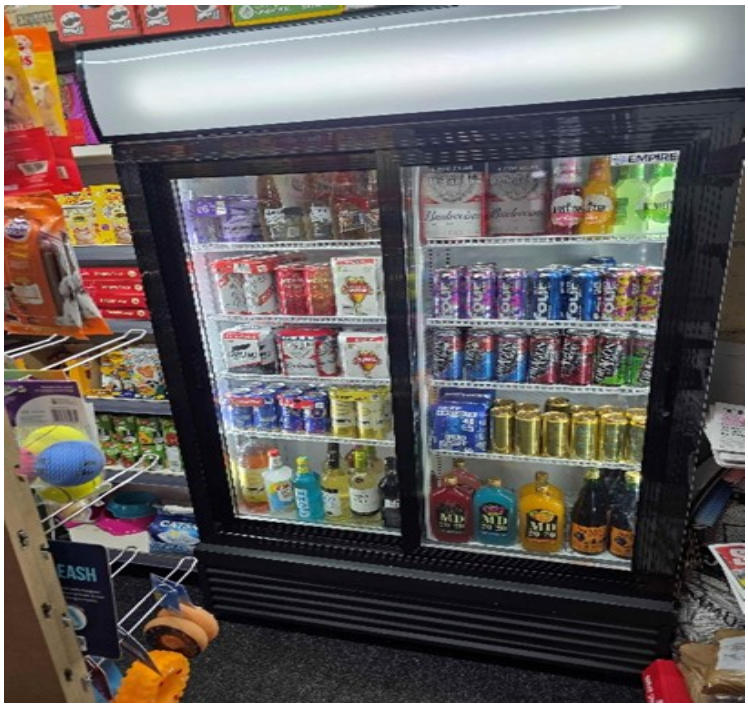
The village shop has been run by Ashad Ali since Alec moved away at the end of 2025. He has worked in the retail business for the last 25 years and has had shops in Edinburgh, Motherwell, Dunfermline and Hamilton and now North Queensferry.

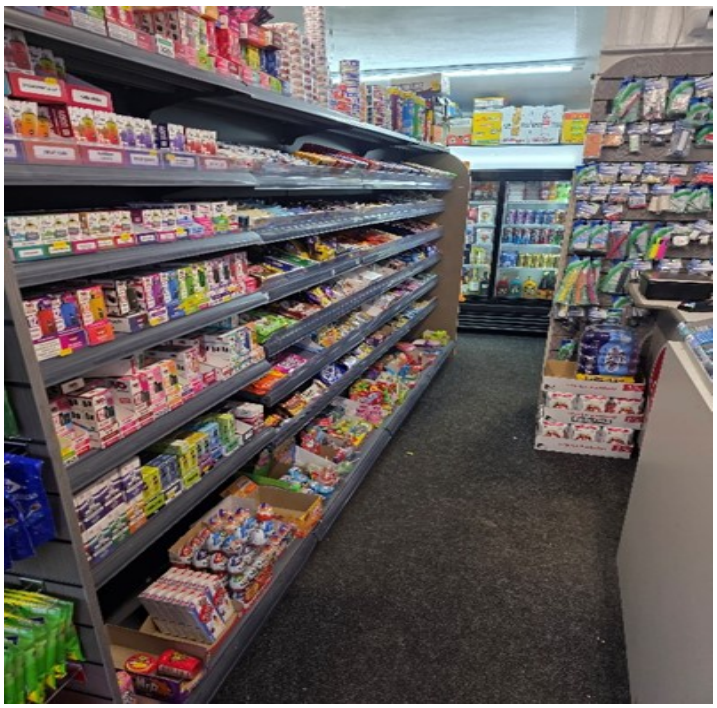
Ali has made many changes both to the interior and exterior of the shop including: new front windows and a new layout with plenty of new lines. It is now fully stocked with milk, bread and groceries, including frozen foods, confectionary, soft drinks, crisps, ice-cream and pet food. There is a well-stocked Off-Licence

The shop also provides a Post Office Service to the village and surrounding aea.

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:7:30am till 7:00pm.
Saturday and Sunday:8:00am till 7.00pm





Warming Our Homes, Decarbonising, Reducing Energy Bills

The Warming-up Workshop held at the Community Centre on 20th November was a follow-up to the earlier presentation by Home Energy Scotland. The workshop was a round-table discussion arranged by North Queensferry Climate Action Network (NQCAN) and supported by Home Energy Scotland and Greener Kirkcaldy. It enabled residents to exchange information and experience and ask questions about the costs and benefits.

You can find out about insulating your home or installing solar panels, batteries of a heat pump or arrange for an individual (free) home survey and report at the HES web-site **www.homeenergyscotland.org**

For a one-to-one conversation with a North Queensferry neighbour who has made the changes and has experience of what is involved and the benefits, you can email:- **nq.climate.action.network@gmail.com** and someone there will get back to you.

Financial support

In January the UK government announced a £15 billion 'Warm Homes Plan' in support of insulation, and installation of solar panels, batteries, and hear pumps. There is much else in the plan, and NQCAN will be watching to see how this fresh initiative is rolled out. See:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/warm-homes-plan for more details.

Scottish Government financial support is also available through the 'Warmer Homes Scotland' programme with eligible households able to access support of up to £10,000 or more. To check availability you can call **freephone 0808 808 2282** or go online using the 'Warmer Scotland' self-assessment form at **www.homeenergyscotland.org/warmer-homes-scotland**

North Queensferry Community Council

The Community Council has continued to be kept busy with the many matters which are of importance to residents – the Battery Road car park, road traffic issues including parking in general, public transport, policing, commenting on planning applications and working with our four excellent Fife Councillors to engage with Fife Council on seeking to articulate the village's needs and concerns and to promote its interests.

However, two 'ticket' items have occupied a lot of time recently – the first the Edinburgh Airport draft Airspace Change proposals and, second, the ongoing works on the Forth Bridge.

So far as the Airspace Change proposals are concerned, the community council fielded an excellent team who liaised closely with neighbouring Community Councils, particularly Blackness and Dalgety Bay Community Councils as well as engaging directly in a face to face meeting with the senior management of Edinburgh Airport before formulating the response, which you can find on the Council's website.

Under Edinburgh Airport's preferred option, known as GULLY/BERRY, aeroplanes will overfly the village at a minimum height of 5,000 feet, and the Community Council's principal concern is to ensure that this can be effectively enforced, though we also expressed some concerns as to how thorough and properly thought-out were the proposals as they relate to the RAMSAR area – this concerns effect on wildlife. The Community Council is concerned to ensure ongoing constructive engagement on these matters, and as part of that engagement Gordon Dewar, the Chief Executive of Edinburgh Airport attended the Council's January meeting along with Aaron McKeen, the airport's communications officer. This enabled a full and wide-ranging discussion of the proposals.

Edinburgh Airport has also committed to regular attendance at future Community Council meetings, and has also accepted a proposal from the Community Council to place a noise monitor in the village to monitor existing aircraft noise

The main causes for concern in relation to the Forth Bridge are the noise caused by ongoing works on the bridge and the recent alarming incident, which was featured in the press, regarding a flaming item falling from the bridge.

These are matters which the Community Council has raised directly with Network Rail itself, with Fife Council (which has responsibility for noise issues) and with Network Rail's Regulator, the Office of Road and Rail (ORR). The ORR has taken this into account in their present review of Network Rail's work on the bridge (a review which North Queensferry Community Council had been instrumental in obtaining). The ORR is expected to produce its Report shortly.

It is, however, fair to say that Network Rail takes the matter of the falling object with the utmost seriousness, and is also carrying out its own investigation, has put mitigation matters in place and has suspended that part of the work until the investigation report is available

These concerns sit alongside the other Network Rail issues with which the Community Council is also engaging. There are regular ongoing Zoom meetings between Community Council office-bearers and David Boyce, head of Community engagement at Network Rail,

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North Queensferry Community Council—continued

David regularly attends Community Council meetings Chief amongst these matters is the ongoing problem of dirty water falling from the bridge. Network Rail is developing proposals for a permanent solution. In that regard,
David Boyce attended the Council's February Meeting along with two members of the Network Rail engineering team: Kenny McAlpine, Network Rail's Regional Asset Manager (Structures) and Mark Wilson. Programme Manager, to give a presentation on how the mitigation plans are progressing – the full presentation is available on the Community Council's website: **www.nqcc.co.uk**
Meantime, Network Rail has continued the cleaning payments scheme to proprietors affected by the dirty water issue and by the time the Ferry News is published most will have received their 2026 payment.

In the meantime, if anyone has any particular complaint to make regarding noise or other issues we encourage the making of a formal complaint directly to Network Rail at https://communications-crm.custhelp.com/app/ask?var=complaint as well as raising the complaint with a Community Councillor so that it can be addressed in the regular meetings with David Boyce.

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

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Albert Hotel Update

Shortly after the Scottish Ministers' refusal in March 2025 to give consent to the North Queensferry Community Trust's Application under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 for the Albert Community Group to purchase the Albert Hotel, the Trust exercised its right of Appeal to the Sheriff.

There was inevitably a delay as Ministers prepared their written answers, the Trust responded and evidence and written arguments lodged in court. However, the appeal was first put out for a Hearing in September, 2025, but this did not proceed due to shortage of Court time and a re-fixed hearing, set down for 18th November likewise did not proceed.

The appeal was finally heard in Dunfermline Sheriff Court on 13th January. The Trust was represented by a strong legal team headed by Tim Haddow, Advocate, with counsel representing also the Scottish Ministers and the owners, Festival Inns Ltd. SSAS. The Trust's counsel put forward a clear and hopefully compelling argument in support of the appeal, but the Sheriff adjourned the case to enable him to consider his decision.

There matters stand as the FerryNews goes to press.

Commenting on the proceedings, Iain G. Mitchell KC, the Chair of the Trust, said: "Tim Haddow put forward a strong case for the Trust and he appeared to receive a very fair hearing from the Sheriff. Obviously, we don't know the outcome yet, and it is all a bit frustrating that it's taking so long, but I'm hoping that, in the end, it is all going to be worth the wait!"

North Queensferry Community Trust

Contact us: **nq.community.trust@gmail.com**

Website: **www.nqcommunitytrust.org.uk**

North Queensferry Community Trust is a charity set up by local residents to manage and develop activities and projects for the benefit and development of the village. Its current main projects are running the harbour and and an application for a community buy-out of The Albert pub.

If there is a project that you would like to see happen at the village then please get in touch. The Trust can operate as an umbrella organisation for small groups that want to make something happen so that you don't have to set up a new organisation with a bank account in order to fundraise.

Everyone aged over 16 who lives in the village can be a member (it's free!) and can vote for who will run the organisation. You can join by emailing or at our AGM. Please come along and find out what has been happening:

NQ Community Trust AGM

Wednesday 27th May

7.30 pm at North Queensferry Community Centre

HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

Proposed New Toilet Block at the Harbour:

Planning permission has been given to build a new accessible toilet block at the harbour. which will have public toilets, a shower, a First Aid room and outdoor seating looking out to the Forth. It will also have a small servery for offering food and drinks at events. Hopefully there will be some pop-up pub nights on summer evenings.

Craft Activities at the Harbour

The harbour is also home to two community craft workshops. One has regular craft sessions and classes and the other is a temporary home for Rosyth Men's Shed until they move into their new premises in the Spring of 2026

Knitting, Crochet and Sewing: 9.30 - 11.30am every Monday and Tuesday . Just drop in!

Bring a project or learn something new.

We have lots of free fabric and yarn to get you started.

A new Library of Things?

Once Rosyth Men's Shed have moved out of the second craft workshop it will need a new purpose. There are several ideas for what could happen in this space. One of them is to use it as an asset library of useful tools and equipment that could be borrowed by residents. For instance:

Gardening and DIY tools that you only need every now and again

Children's equipment if you have small family members visiting

A sewing machine that you don't have to service or find somewhere to store.

If you would be interested in borrowing or donating items then please get in touch at **nq.community.trust@gmail.com**

The Mobile Library Van

The Mobile Library van is due at Brock St opposite the school from 2.20pm – 2.50pm, March 9th and 23rd. The schedule hasn't been published beyond that but if it continues fortnightly the library van will also visit on April 6th and 20th, May 18th. April 6th is Easter Monday but that is not a Bank Holiday in Scotland so hopefully the Van will be here. May 4th is a Bank Holiday.

The mobile library van is turquoise! You can't miss it!

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 along your NHS Fife Hearing Aid and Battery Issue card.

Please send your contributions for the next FerryNews by Thursday 21 May, to:- lin@ferrynews.org.uk

The FerryNews is looking for local firms to advertise in the newsletter which is delivered to every household in the village.

Full page: £85 Half page: £50

Quarter page: £25 Sixth page: £20

To book an advertisement please contact: lin@ferrynews.org.uk

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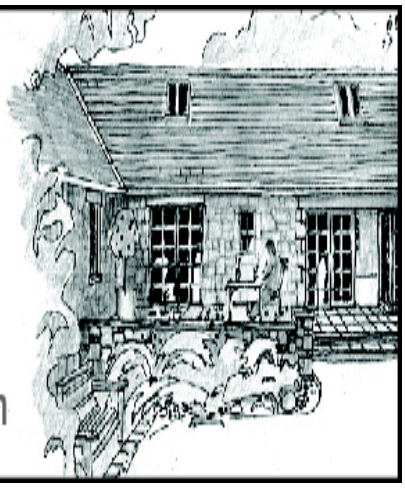

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