

ELIE HERALD

SPRING EDITION - APRIL 2016



CUTS CUTS AND MORE CUTS

It will not have escaped notice that local authorities budgets are being seriously squeezed and Fife is no exception. Whatever the political ramifications there is bound to be an impact in the villages. We were fortunate enough to retain our library pro tem but the maintenance of the villages so long expected of Fife Council is more than likely to be reduced. What does this mean for us ? Should we just accept that it may be later

rather than sooner that improvements are made to our infrastructure or should we be looking to be proactive in doing maintenance things ourselves to assist the Fife Council in their budget restrictions.

There is a school of thought that since we pay community charge we have a right to expect that the receiver of the charge will employ it for our benefit and that we should expect that to happen. There is a further school of thought that if we start to undertake matters previously left to the council ourselves then if (ever) budget restrictions are lifted Fife Council is most unlikely to accept back that particular maintenance. We should be prepared to undertake matters of maintenance ourselves, even if this means a modest outlay in materials. We have enough person (gender neutral) power to be able to accomplish many things ourselves. We need enthusiasm and hard work. But we are not afraid of that - are we ? The Environmental Action Group which is a sub group of the Community Council have a list of items which they would hope that Fife Council would attend to.

Perhaps it is pie in the sky We could do a lot of this ourselves.

We need helpers - please tell Ian McIntosh of the newsagents if you are prepared to help - your initiative will be much appreciated. Whilst we are on that we have mentioned Chapel Green before but it is highly probable that the council will be reducing their grass cutting regime. The History Society want to take this on and maintain it but there is a bureaucracy which needs to be tackled. Historic Scotland have indicated that they have no objection but the problem is that it is not clear who owns the area. Originally it was part of what was known as the Commony and it was held in trust by the Magistrates and Councillors of Earlsferry for the ratepayers of Earlsferry. Presumably in 1929 when the two council were joined it passed to the ownership of the joint council and again, presumably, in 1970 it vested in Fife Council with the abolition of the local councils. We need to find out - any digging would again help.



CONCERNS ABOUT BEACH CLEANING

The winter build up of seaweed in the harbour Bay especially in front of the Ship Inn has caused problems last year. You will recall the infestation of St.Marks flies and the smell which prevented dining al fresco.

At a meeting with the Council and FCCT it was made clear that the council budget cuts put the clearing of the beach in jeopardy. Fortunately thanks to the work of Graham Bucknall at the Ship it seems that by taking the beach cleaning into our own hands some progress can be made to keep it clean

and clear of the noxious seaweed. Of course this means an outlay but it is hoped that grants may be available to defray some of the costs.

Whilst on the subject of Sand it looks as if at long last Martin is almost ready to open his new premises at 41 High Street and he has called it Sands of Elie which seems very appropriate. He is reluctant to say when - but its getting there - we are getting hungry already, Martin.



SAND AND MORE SAND

This winter has brought its usual or unusual crop of sand into every nook and cranny within sight of the beach. Frequent attempts have been made to clear it but it soon returned.

The residents of Fountain Road now have sandpits in their porches. To that end you will have been aware of the Beach Project - an initiative by the Community Council initially under the auspices of Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT) to find out what is happening to our bents and dunes and to see if there was anything that could be done about it. At a meeting of the CC in February it was agreed to submit an application for funding to employ an expert to review the beach and dunes and find out what we can do to improve the retention of the sand especially at the west end.

It was decided also to include in the general plan an examination of the harbour beach and area. Advice was received that the expert engaged for the main beach dunes ecology is not able to look at the harbour beach so a phase two has been instituted whereby the harbour beach area will form part of a separate study. We need the views of the Harbour Trust, Sailing Club and contiguous proprietors as to what the problems are. Not least is the difficulty of know who owns the bents areas lying to the west of the harbour causeway.

The suspicion is that when Baird of Elie House built the causeway linking what was then Ardross island to the mainland he probably retained the ownership of the ground and it has now fallen into the hands of Elie Estate.

Again Ideas and solutions urgently sought.

Produced April 2016 by: -
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We are also now on Facebook - visit us and see what's going on at:-
"Elie and Royal Burgh of Earlsferry Community Council"



From Greenlands Icy Mountains to . .

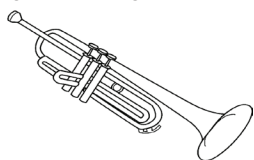
Having been smitten with a desire to become proficient at playing the trumpet (previous experience – nil) and not wishing to be accused of a breach of the peace I took the opportunity and aforesaid instrument on an expedition to Greenland's vast open spaces (as one does Ed).

Since my days were always filled with mundane activities normally associated with the exploration of unknown lands, it was only in the evenings that an opportunity presented itself for musical pursuits. Ever mindful of my dependence upon my comrades to escort me home at the end of our stay I walked some way to the rocky shore of a remote fjord before rising a note or two on my new toy. My confidence grew, as did the range and volume of the notes emanating from aforesaid instrument until, at last, - breathless – I paused to admire the magnificent view that stretched in panoramic splendour all around me. Something caught my eye. There – not more than a hundred yards (we'll go metric next year Ed) away sat an Arctic fox in a posture indicative of alert curiosity. Thus it remained for the second half of my performance, departing at the close, its life obviously enriched by the experience.

The following evening found us both back in our respective places – I to continue my pursuit of perfection the fox, I imagined, in its role of enslaved audience. No sooner had I let loose the first strident discords of my recital when – to my amazement – another, perhaps even less musical cacophony rent the tortured air. My erstwhile listener had joined the orchestra! Nose to the sky, eyes closed in ecstasy, the fox gave voice with a range and volume that equalled my best. He continued in like manner for the rest of my (our?) recital, then trotted off, honour satisfied.

And so it continued for the rest of the stay beside Greenlands fjord. Each evening our strange duet would be enacted. But all good things must come to an end, and finally the expedition broke camp and headed for home. Looking back, I often wonder if there is still some corner of a foreign land where my foxy friend continues in his evening recital of "When the saints go marching in....!"

(Unaccompanied this time, of course - Ed)



MOBILE HOMES IN RUBY BAY . .

Caravanettes etc at Lighthouse Car park – we have railed against this before but the decision was made that to enforce (if it was possible) the ban on overnight stays at Lighthouse car park would harm local businesses. But really it has already become a joke – someone counted 8 vans there a week end or so ago and that was not yet the height of the season - someone spotted a facebook entry in these terms – "I have just read on fb [facebook] someone saying they had spent a "wee overnighter in Ruby Bay". Well you should not and no doubt once this becomes even wider spread we will be inundated again.

Do we tolerate this or do we try to do something about it- the community seems divided.... Please let us have your views.. are we correct just to cast a blind eye or should we be trying to enforce the rule prescribed by Fife Council...does anyone care ?

THREE YEAR RULE

EARLSFERRY.

DISPUTE ABOUT GOLF CLUB TROPHY.—The Earlsferry Thistle Golf Club sued Mr David Simpson, 22 Abbey Street, St Andrews, in the Small Debt Court, Cupar, yesterday for delivery of the gold cross known as the "Glover Cross." Mr J. E. Grosset, who appeared for the defender, said that Simpson had won it twice—in 1888 and 1889—and that it would be his absolute property if he won it three times. Defender had received no notice of any kind of the last competition at which the cross was allowed to be won, and was thus prevented from coming forward. It was averred that the Club was not the same as that in 1888, and it was held that defender had a right to retain this medal. The Sheriff suggested that the action take the form of a reduction. Mr W. T. Ketchen, W.S., appeared for pursuers, and agreed to produce the minute-book of the Club, and the case was adjourned for proof. 1896

It used to be the practice that anyone who won a trophy three years in a row retained the trophy as his/her own property. Good way round this was to hold the competition and make sure the winner in the preceding two years did not know about it! The trophy would have been one presented by T. Craigie Glover of Earlsferry House – for his involvement with Elie.

See - www.eliehistory.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

* **Boootiful gardens & window boxes** Trophies for the best garden (which can be seen from the road) and windows boxes (ditto) - get planting and hoping.

* **Elie Fayre day** – all the fun of a day whatever the weather. Due to be held on 16th July – watch for posters etc.

BROADBAND AGAIN!

You will have seen the openreach vans about recently – so far as it is possible to find out (apparently BT for commercial reasons do not tell anyone) it seems as if those properties lying to the West of the telephone exchange in Park Place will get superfast fibre optic broad band. They are apparently served by a Green Box linked to the exchange so it makes it easier to enable fibre broadband. However for the premises to the East of Park Place (and the exchange) it is unlikely that they will be included in the superfast broadband scheme from BT. Fine because there is a community initiative via COINEF (don't ask what this acronym means)to bring superfast broadband to those areas not covered by BT superfast. But here is the rub – apparently BT have not yet decided whether to link the east-of-Park-Place properties and because of that those properties cannot participate in the COINEF scheme until they do.



SCARECROWS 2016 29th April - 2nd May

See facebook page [eliescarecrows](https://www.facebook.com/eliescarecrows).

LOOKING AHEAD

April

- 5th East Neuk Flower Club - Dawn Weaver demo Church Hall, 7.30
- 7th Woman's Group AGM etc Church Hall 7.30

- 15th WRI Church Hall 7.30
- 16th Coffee Morning Church Hall

May

- 3rd East Neuk Flower Club member's night
- 5th Woman's Group outing
- 6th SSAFA – Armed Forces Charity Quiz night 7pm in Pavilion. Tickets at Elie Newsagents.

- 11th Guild outing.
- 14th Coffee morning in Church Hall in aid of Christian Aid
- 22nd Plant Sale 10.30 on Toll Green
- 28th Coffee morning Church Hall for the Environmental Action Group

June

- 18th Coffee morning Church Hall - St.Michaels

July

- 13th Coffee morning Church Hall

Thereafter caffeine withdrawal clinic . .

Golf and tennis throughout the summer details from Pro Shop or at: <http://www.eliesportsclub.co.uk>