

The Independent

# Elie Herald

Early autumn 2019 3rd edition

## Change



We have repeatedly, in this publication, forecast change and how it is catching up on us ..well

### 1. Elie Letting and East Fife Letting

Sally Patullo's extensive and highly successful business and Sue Griffiths' similar enterprise letting properties in the villages and surrounds have been taken over and put together into a separate organisation -

#### East Fife Holiday Homes

and they have premises in the High Street (SandsofElie). They have been working alongside Sally P for a few weeks. Nice to see that shop being used again and traffic congestion in Bank Street being a thing of the past (irony) We wish them success and Sally a happy retirement though we shall miss her early morning cycle rides checking on her empire ! Our researches shows that this company is backed by considerable experience of property management being a close relative of James Gibb the Edinburgh factoring business which has been in existence since



the 1900s. Obviously it is hoped that the professionalism and expertise of that business is communicated to this new venture and it continues the traditions of Sally and Sue in providing a comprehensive service to both owner and holiday maker. And we see the other shop in Bank Street is now "air b and b" management and seem to be specialising in short breaks. That's probably welcome ..



The Staff

..

### 2. Houses and changes

The sale of Forthside (that's the house in Liberty behind the stableblock) will no doubt result in demolition and a rebuild. FourWinds at the end of Earlsferry High Street (the EH orchard for those old enough to remember it) has been granted permission to demolish and rebuild. We have Chapel Green House passed for similar demolition and re-build and no doubt there is more to come. Are these good things - is this progress It really doesn't matter whether you agree or disagree, it's going to happen. Elie Estate plans are still waiting to be dealt with at the E Fife Planning committee and the earliest it could be is October. Expert opinion is that it will be much later- there is such a back log. We are in limbo.

### 3. Phone Mast

Some of us will be pleased to know that planning permission has at long last been granted to erect a mobile phone mast. The chosen and permitted location is on the western verge of Park Place just as you leave the village. It Certainly will be noticeable and hopefully not too intrusive but it will solve many connectivity issues we hope and will pave the way for 5g being available here.



### 4. Margaret Smith Retirement

After very many years of keeping the Elie Library and its readers in alphabetical order Margaret has hung up her ..now what do librarians do when they retire - And in recognition of the



work she has put in for so many years the History Society presented her with a small token of their esteem and also a David Thomson Award given to people who have made a significant contribution to the villages. All changes are good but we hope her successor/s are as popular as she.



## 5. Barrier at Ruby Bay

Most will have seen that Fife Council have erected a shiny barrier to be deployed across the entrance of Ruby Bay car park. It seems that Fife Council suddenly found some spare money and erected this barrier without much consultation. It is thought that it would have been better at the mouth of the car park rather than the road and there is a rumour that it may be deployed shortly and locked. So if you are camper vaning in Ruby Bay you may find yourself locked in until the next bin lorry appearance - always assuming the bin lorry men can find the key!

## 6. Chapel Green

It is nice to see that the owners of the Chapel Green wall which was deteriorating badly have initiated repairs - not so easy with the high tides this week!



## 7. Toll Green Hall (See Special Supplement)

It has come to our notice that the Church has decided (again) to sell Toll Green Hall. It had been mooted as a convenient venue for a small heritage/ museum centre, drop in coffee shop, meeting place, IT centre and community hub and much more. It would be exciting if a community buy out vehicle could be formed to explore taking it into community ownership before it is converted into a room and kitchen for summer let! There is a difference between a community buy out (CBO) and community asset transfer (CAT) as presently being pursued by the Town Hall Group. First and foremost the vehicle for the CBO only needs 10 permanent residents whilst the CAT needs 20. But over and above that there are totally different regulations and the way it works is that a community vehicle is registered with the Scottish Office and once accepted, it acts as a red flag for any property the owner of which wishes to put on the market. Expertise is available from the Scottish Office regards valuation and to canvass the residents and that seems to be free. Thereafter the community have a 'right of pre-emption' and this means that once the property is exposed on the market anyone else wishing to buy it has to give preference to the CBO. There could be funds available for a CBO and no doubt initially there would be enthusiasm for such a project but the on going maintenance and caretaking of the building may be more problematic. It is thought however that by generating some income and getting continuing grants it would be a viable proposition. Whatever its multi functions may be, people will

need to maintain it, clean it, man/woman it and it would need to be able to generate sufficient income to at least wash its face. Do we have the willingness around to take this on Preliminary inquiries are being made and a group has been set up to explore and hopefully fast track the establishing of a vehicle for a CBO. This is likely to be urgent because if the property in which the community is interested in put on the market before the CBO is approved by Scottish Office it makes it more difficult to become involved. It seems that the Church has listed its buildings and have graded them as must-keep, dispose-of-if-convenient and dispose-of-now. Our Church and main church hall are in the dispose of if convenient category. It is going to be very interesting to see what if anything can be done with a 1<sup>th</sup>



Century church and grave yard

## Telephone Box

BT are doing a consultation about static telephone boxes in the area. The one at Toll Green and one at the 1<sup>th</sup> tee seem not to be the subject of closure consultation.

## HISTORY SOCIETY

### Postcards

We have received a welcome donation of a number of old postcards in pristine condition from Linda Grant whose late father collected them. They are a very useful historical source and much appreciated.

### Autumn programme

At 7.30 Church Hall unless otherwise noted.

10<sup>th</sup> October " Fife to America" by Angela Montford. Not a long distance swim but a biography of a Scottish Surgeon.

14<sup>th</sup> November AGM followed by History of Ardrross with Fiona and Claire Pollock - the answer lies in the soil (obviously)

2020 24<sup>th</sup> January Quiz night in Pavilion with usual format and valuable prizes.

13<sup>th</sup> February Memories of childhood in Elie and Earlsferry with Irene Stevenson and guests

12<sup>th</sup> March Earlsferry's contribution to the American War of Independence. Aye Right - but wait- Graham Johnston

15<sup>th</sup> April Hercules Ladies Curling Club history. Pat Hughes

Other things to look forward to this autumn.

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. Film in Town Hall " Viceroy's House - a tale about Mountbatten and India perhaps not dealing with recent revelations but 5 pm



### Kinneuchar Inn

After what seems like a lifetime or two the Kinneuchar Inn is in its final stages. The sign is up and the opening date Keep looking at facebook



And while we are on eating out ...



We recall speaking to Bruce Sangster after a few years of holding his Michelin star. He said its award was a boon and also a burden. The boon was that within 4 hours of announcing the award his restaurant bookings had multiplied many fold which meant instead of the occasional day off he was tied to the stove for ever. Another burden was that whilst consistency was his watchword to get to the level he did, at times it was hard work to maintain that standard. The last thing a chef wants is to lose his Michelin star so whilst it boosted the takings it meant anxiety for the next twelve months. But Michelin stars have become almost the bench mark of fine dining although there have been attempts by the proprietors of the mark to widen its coverage. The award of the star is a mark of achievement for the chef and his team.

### Starred Fife Restaurants

So it is in Fife that we have two of the nine in Scotland. Peat Inn the pioneer and now the Cellar taken over by Billy Boyter after the tragic death of Peter Dukes. But there are many knocking hard at the door of that accolade whether they desire it or not. Jamie Scott at Newport Hotel, Craig Millar at St. Monans and the Grange Inn and Seafood Ristorante in St. Andrews. We are spoilt for quality. Further afield of course Dundee has very much up and coming culinary venues like Castlehill. Whilst they may strive for the award what is more important is the satisfaction of the customer after his or her dining/lunching experience.

A recent visit to the Cellar on a Friday evening (tasting menu only) was an eagerly anticipated birthday present. And how it did not disappoint from the gentle and friendly reception to the final act everything was impeccable as it should be we suppose. The tasting menu consists of courses (if you include cheese) and amuse bouches. From the smoked mussel and dabberlock (that's seaweed to you and me), lovely parmesan and tongue mouse with shaved truffle, heritage potatoes with Arbroath smokie and loveage, monkfish, beef and two sweets including Hay Cream. Of course we all know what that is but in case you don't here's what you do. Take some hay - there's plenty about at the moment, burn it to ashes, mix with fresh seasoned cream and hey presto muy sabroso. I never had a petit four as a minaturised doughnut. It was too small. Each dish

is exquisitely decorated and the most important kitchen implement is obviously the tweezers. The 'jefe' and two others team up in the kitchen and two front of house staff. Works like a well oiled machine. At £10 per head it is not cheap but artistry of this nature seldom is. And there's a married wine list at an extra £55.



And for a light bite/lunch have you tried **The Press Bistro** in Cupar - it is hidden behind Crossgate immediately behind the Shenai and was the old printing shop. It's good value, clean and tasty. Excellent soup and wrap there.

The **Elie Herald** welcomes feedback constructive or destructive and we can be contacted at [info@grahamjohnston.scot](mailto:info@grahamjohnston.scot) or if you want to look at previous editions <http://www.elieandearlsferry.net>

## Blast from the Past



James, Albert, George, Elie and Joseph Manders, Glasgow, with the Manders and Elie Caravan 1914. Front: Albert Jr.

1<sup>st</sup> August 1860 - ELIE. - Friday last week, a menagerie visited this town. its entry by the north road [now Park Place] the whole population of the district turned out to see the grand procession of caravans -Maccomo within his carriage containing the band, drawn by two huge elephants and two camels taking the lead. caravans of less description continued to arrive during the day. which completely occupied the High Street on both sides, from the toll to the Vennel such a large collection was never seen in Elie on any previous occasion. In the afternoon the scholars belonging to Kilconquhar and Earlsferry, headed by their respective teachers, entered the town in regular order and proceeded onward to the exhibition. This was very interesting sight to see so many joyful young faces, and it does great credit to Sir Coutts Lindsay, Bart., to make so many young people happy. The collection was well patronised, and was greatly admired. The other establishments were also well attended, instrumental music of every description was not wanting, and notwithstanding the great multitude of onlookers the greatest order was maintained throughout the evening. Dundee Advertiser



*\*Maccomo was a well known lion tamer and used whips, pistols and knuckledusters during his act. While performing at Great Yarmouth in 1860, a lion attacked Maccomo and his pistol was accidentally fired into the audience, resulting in a piece of wadding becoming lodged in the eye of a local carpenter named Gillings. In the resulting case of Gillings v. Manders, the carpenter was awarded £150 in damages. [Wikipedia]*

One in the eye or shot in the dark - you choose.

So now you know !

## Fayre Day July 13<sup>th</sup>

The weather for once played ball and Toll Green was thronged with burgereaters, beer suppers, facepainters, bookbrowsers and associated ladies, gents and kids for an enjoyable few hours letting the hair down. The Fayre Day Queen was snapped just before tucking into a well earned burger or is that a champagne bottle in the foreground .she deserved it anyway.



# Summer's Over ?



Yes the autumn of "mellow fruitfulness" is upon us. So what did you think of this summer's influx. The good, the bad and the ugly

## The Good

The weather although changeable was probably as best as we could expect. The heavy downpours certainly made the flowers and weeds grow and the heat thereafter stimulated us all. The beach was packed when the sun shone.



It was nice to see. The increased number of beach huts adding to the traditional ambiance of Elie and Earlsferry.



The golf course looked in peak condition and most of the small bus tours of foreign visitors seemed to enjoy the challenge of the course. The children as usual had a ball - we counted bicycles parked at the pav one morning and although busy the car park was not often full. The villages traditional provision of leisure facilities were well used and Angus seems to have acquired a few more grey hairs running his Watersports business. It is most encouraging to see so many people making use of what is a very valuable tourist draw.

## The Bad

We still suffer from traffic problems not least of which is precipitated by inconsiderate parking. Blocking others in while you went to the Deli must be a no no - we refrain from publishing the picture of the Range Rover RE blocking someone in and then being nonchalantly rude when asked to move. The speed limit is still regularly ignored both 30 and 20 and the noise of high powered motor bikes as they fiercely accelerate leaving the limits (even before) but we are on the case. Four residents have been press ganged into taking training operating the police speed gun. We'll be out and about soon so watch your speed and a nod and a wink will not be enough to avoid a nasty letter from the constaboolary.



## The Ugly

Barbeques on the beach and the debris left still causes a problem and putting a barbeque in a waste bin without ensuring its properly out left some red faced and damaged.

Someone decided to take a fancy to one of the small conifers in the tubs beside the church and walked off with it .why why why Window in bus stop broken again. No doubt you will have seen other anti social behaviour but we suppose that if we are a popular holiday resort we cannot expect much more. Vigilance from the community members and courage to advise and counsel is required.

## H TS

Talking of beach huts (were we ) there is considerable doubt as to the ownership of the bents and foreshore areas in both Elie and Earlsferry. So far as Earlsferry is concerned the beach side proprietors in the main lay claim to the bents and beach up to high water mark adjacent to their houses. This is in most but not all cases probably correct. The history is that originally i.e. 200 years ago there were only houses on the south side of Earlsferry High Street and these properties were described as being " bounded on the south by the sea." Now at that time and earlier the tide regularly came right up to what is now the garden walls of these houses. As the sea receded and so the bents accrued these land owners benefit from that accrual. Fine - but not all because when the proprietors of the houses in the High Street sold off their gardens down to this boundary for building they may not have included the area beyond their wall. So there must be some cases where the beachside proprietor does **not** own this area. It would be worthwhile Earlsferry people checking their titles deeds. As far as Elie is concerned it is thought that the position is rather different. It is likely to be the case that the foreshore is owned by Elie Estates on the basis of acquisition from William Baird. Now obviously the erection of beach huts on this area of ground could be contentious and those of you who do so, need to be sure that they have the right by ownership, licence or whatever,

## Triathlon

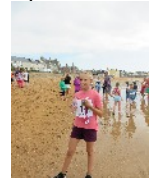
Great crowds for the iron men/women triathlons but the best was the youngster's one which seemed to be well attended. Pity the tide was the lowest it's been for many months as the walk to the start of the swimming was enough to exhaust most parents! But a cautionary note - the cycle component finished at Telford Wynd but the traffic chaos that ensued was very worrying. Fortunately none was injured but perhaps in future

the organisers might look to finishing the event at the Earlsferry end where the traffic tends to be lighter.

But for some just finishing and wearing the medal



was what mattered,







# Charette



So the results of the Charette exercise have now been officially made public. At a public meeting in the Town Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> August about 20 people turned up to hear a summary of the report. It was made clear that this was a list of aspirations of people in Elie but that because of the authority of the Charette process potential funders would look more favourably on applications for any of the projects. It is not clear where the charette goes now. The creation of a community trust to co-ordinate and oversee groups who may wish to adopt some of the suggestions was mooted. A suggestion that the community council draw up a detailed list of what the people of the villages might want to advise the planning department was received lukewarmly. It would be sad if nothing came of this exercise and it very much looks as if, unless some are prepared to form and promote groups to take on some of the suggestions, it will just gather dust on the library shelf. That does not mean to say that the money was wasted but unless something positive comes out of the process it will have been squandered. What however is more vital is what the charette did not do.

## Community Opinion

There was a view that the charette process would enable the council to gauge opinion in the community in relation to future developments of the community's infrastructure in addition to larger scale developments. There is but a fleeting mention of this in the Report. We had been advised that Fife Council were anxious to see the outcome of the process. At the moment both schemes proposed by Elie Estates are at the planning committee stage. The consultation period is therefore closed. The planning officials will be presenting to the committee their recommendations based on the application. Currently the structure of the planning procedure is that officials will give considerable weight to the views of the community expressed by way of being statutory consultees on any large scale development.

## Statutory Consultees

It is for this reason that the Statutory consultee procedure should have been invoked by the Community Council. We suspect that Fife Council were keen to see the charette to gauge whether the community had a position about the developments. However, that the charette has not addressed. Craill carried out a similar exercise shortly before Elie and it has produced a note specifically directed at the planners indicating the conditions under which the community would like to regulate large scale developments. We earnestly suggest our community council adopt a similar approach. We have the charette. Was it worth it

## Consultation

At the conclusion of the last seminar just as the organisers were winding up the proceedings in front of some 15 members of the public, questions were raised as to why at no time, so far as the participants then present could remember, was the question of the developments of Elie Estate the subject

of discussion. There was a hesitation from the organisers who obliquely hinted that it would not have been right to use money provided by the Scottish Government to criticise the plans of Elie Estates. But in any event they said a lot of what people talked about was relevant to the plans e.g. water supply traffic congestion and sewerage treatment. The result has been that there has been no dissection and discussion about these proposals. So gauging of the views of the villagers. We had been led to believe that having rejected the idea of further public meetings about the developments the community Council had commissioned the Charette to gauge that public opinion. Well it failed to deliver. and what is of greater concern is that it seems that the Community Council have not registered themselves as statutory consultees in the planning process. Why that has not been done may hopefully at the end of the day not matter but it is clearly the case that as statutory consultees the views of the community of the area where these developments are expected to take place are of considerable persuasive force in the planning committee's deliberations.

## Planning Permission in Principle

Of course the applications are for Planning Permission in Principle and the more detailed plans and layout could be the subject of more in depth examination and criticism once lodged pursuant to any grant of the permission in principle. Hopefully at that stage at least the Community Council will wake up to the fact that as statutory consultees they have more clout and can mould the proposals more in line with the community's thinking.

## Comment

Perhaps the lines in the Community Council have been somewhat blurred by the majority of the current council also being members of the Elie and Earlsferry Action Group (EEAG). The two hats do not sit happily on the same heads. On the one hand (head) the council is supposed to represent the majority of the views of the community and the other hand(head) the EEAG group does not represent the community not least because its members have not been elected by the community and have community empowerment as a result. Its constituency being rather narrower. For example it seems that a Participation Request had been submitted to Fife Council on behalf of the Community Council to have input into the planning process presently being undertaken. But so far as we can see there is no reference in the Minutes to such an application being approved by the Council. We wonder whether it had been discussed and approved by the members of EEAG who also sit on the council. The Community Council is supposed to be transparent hence its meetings are held in public and the decisions it reaches must also be made public. The official record of these decisions is the minutes of each meeting and in the absence of a reference in a minute the Council has no authority to act. These crossed wires and lack of formal minute authorising such an application is worrying. We anxiously wait to see what will happen.

## Environmental Action Group

We are getting towards the end of the season, The hanging baskets have stood up really well this year. Perhaps the frequent heavy downpours have given more sustenance than the bowser watering manages to do. We are looking at next year. Perhaps we can afford to put hanging baskets between Toll Green and Baird Place. We will try to do the same as this year but the entrance from St. Monans needs some work. The large display as you enter the village at Park Place seems to have been well received and we may try to build a similar display at the St. Monans entrance. We need to keep the vegetation trimmed down and we think that the display should be in front of the "welcome to" sign - of course we would really like that error to be corrected. The Burgh of Elie and ROYAL burgh of Earlsferry rather than promoting Elie to Royal status by association. It would be nice to look at a similar arrangement for the entrance to Earlsferry but there are land ownership problems. Elsewhere we are conscious of some criticism of Chapel Green but we think it is much appreciated judging by the number of people we see sitting midst the flowers. We will perhaps change the displays to a bit more manageable type flower - the nicotiana are rather large as are the cosmos. The pav display augmented by Pathhead nursery have kept going for most of the summer. The boats have kept afloat but some need some TLC. We will replant the boxes and planters with spring bulbs for an early display next year. Can we also thank the village and visitors who have contributed most generously to the donation tins in the various shops. We need that kind of financial as well as spiritual support. But we remain always open to suggestions and advice. We retained the Silver Gilt status at the Beautiful Fife Awards on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We were two points short of the gold so next year. And we also received a special Heritage nomination award for our work at Chapel Green - great news. Well done all.

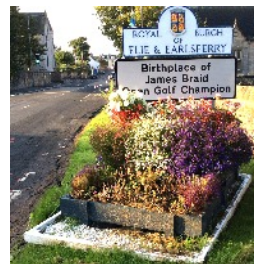
## Golf Heritage Centre

We have spoken of this before but a note has been submitted to the Golf Club asking if they would be interested in taking part in such an exercise. There is such a rich history of golf, golfers and golfclub makers in this area that needs to be acknowledged and preserved. Also 2025 sees the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GHC and the Thistle. What better celebration than the setting up of such a centre. We hope the GHC committee look on it favourably enough to at least open discussions. This could be one use for Toll Green Hall. Another possibility is the small shed behind the Ladies clubhouse which was originally the professional's shop (see Herald *passim*)

## Open Doors Day

The History Society took part in Fife Open Doors day on 1<sup>st</sup> September by offering guided walk round Earlsferry. Preparations included many poster on lampposts, the What's on app and facebook. Previous such occasions have gathered about 15 maximum. This time the walks were from 10 am through to 3 pm and the response was overwhelming. We think there about 50 people who took part and each guide (2) did four circuits of the walk. One health phone app says 14,000 steps. Thanks to all those who turned up to enjoy the fine weather and chat and hopefully it was well received. The History Society is happy to do walks in both Elie and Earlsferry on request. Just

contact them at [gjeliehistory@btinternet.com](mailto:gjeliehistory@btinternet.com) telling them when you want to do the walk. Here is a group photographed by Albert Lawrie enjoying the sun and the history.



## Harbour pier jumping

This seems to be a growing sport and the addition of wetsuits has obviously helped. It needs little to caution people that



thrill seeking it may be but it can also be hazardous. The Harbour Trust do not want jumpers to use the static pontoon moored at the bottom of the steps. So throw yourself all over the place just don't use the pontoon.

## The Pavilion

The Pav restarts the Sunday Carverys 1<sup>st</sup> of October but every Second week! And Thai night 21<sup>st</sup> of Sept- Guest chef Bee Mitchell.

## Crisp Wrappers

Shona (Carols Shop) is collecting crisp wrappers for the Air Ambulance Service. You'll have to ask her but we assume there is some value in them for re-cycling. Is there no end to this lady's enthusiasm and energy. Does she ever sleep.

## New Flag



At a small ceremony on Merchant Navy Day 3<sup>rd</sup> September the Red Ensign was hoisted at Toll Green. Photo Shelagh McKay





*The Independent*


Special Supplement

# Elie Herald

Autumn 2019

## ***POSSIBLE COMMUNITY BUY OUT***

As forecast in the last edition the Church has resolved to dispose of the Toll Green Hall. Some of us have been looking at the possibility of acquiring this property for the community use by means of a Community Buy Out. We, that is representatives of Elie History Society, Elie Fayre Day committee, Environmental Action Group and the Community Council, have formed an interest Group to investigate the preliminary steps and you will have seen, we hope by now, the poster that is being distributed throughout the village.



**SAVE THE**  
**TOLL GREEN HALL**  
*and bring into community ownership*

**The Church of Scotland has intimated the imminent disposal of the Toll Green Hall (TGH).** This property has been categorised as 'C' under the Presbytery review of buildings in response to the General Assembly Radical Action Plan 2019. Category C means "...the building is expected to be disposed of as soon as possible."

In response to this, an Interest Group (IG) has been formed to explore the feasibility of transferring the TGH to the community and assess the level of support for doing so. The IG comprises of (so far) reps from the History Society, Environmental Action Group, Fayre Day & Community Council.

The TGH Interest Group has been in touch with the Community Land Team (Community Right to Buy) at the Scottish Government to seek advice on how best to proceed. The information received is being digested. Work has started on creating a suitable Community Body as the vehicle to purchase, renovate and manage the TGH for community use.

***The next stage of the process is to assess the level of support within the village for purchasing the TGH as a community asset, rather than it being sold to become another holiday cottage. Members of the IG will be delivering a letter to homes over the coming days. Those registered on the Electoral Roll as eligible to vote will be able to pledge their support. Those not on the Electoral Roll will be able to support this initiative in other ways. Please keep an eye out for the letter with return slip, then complete and return as advised.***

## Community Buy Out

The procedure involved in this process is defined *inter alia* in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The steps are broadly as follows:

1. Create an entity ('Community Body') which represents the community (e.g. a company limited by guarantee).
2. Register the company at Companies House and with the Scottish Executive.
3. If the application is successful an intimation will be sent to the Church of Scotland. The CofS cannot then sell the property to the highest bidder without giving the community the right to buy it at that price.
4. Once that is triggered we have up to eight months after a suitable offer has been received to decide whether to proceed with the purchase.

At the moment we are preparing the vehicle for the first stage. We have drafted the necessary documents to create a company limited by guarantee. We have identified the required 10 subscribers to the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

### Supporting information

There are various other preliminary requirements, the most important of which is support from at least 15% of those on the Electoral Roll for Elie and Earlsferry. So, we will be seeking your support for this initiative in principle. There will be no commitment at this stage about funding or efficacy of the project. We require only support for the possibility of taking the TGH into the community ownership and for residents to sign a petition to that effect.

### How you can help

**You will be receiving a notice through your letter box in a few days and it will contain a slip for you to complete and sign if you support the idea of a community buy out.**

**Please hand in to Carol's Shop on Elie High Street (or post through letterbox if closed) as soon as possible. This does not mean at this stage that the acquisition itself is supported but only the actual concept of investigating whether it would be a good community asset.**

### Next Steps

The next stage will be registering the petition and various other documents which we are currently assembling with the Community Land Team and if satisfactory a notice will be sent to

the Church of Scotland indicating community interest in buying the property.

### First Stage only

It is stressed that this is merely the first stage and at any time in the subsequent procedure we decide either we cannot afford it or it is not a viable project we can pull out. Of course, there are many issues with the property and its potential use, but we must stress that all we seek is a mandate to register an interest in a community buy out. Before we can proceed to actual purchase the community will be polled again and asked to approve (or otherwise) the purchase. Again, funding is an issue which doesn't enter into the equation at the moment.

### Membership

Whilst members of the Community Body are restricted to those who are on the Electoral Roll, we plan to have a category of Associate Membership aimed at those who have holiday homes here and anyone having a genuine interest in the future of Elie & Earlsferry.

### Potential use of the Hall

Some uses we have already been mooted and we are sure there are more ideas out there:

- Meeting Place for formal/informal meetings of community groups.
- IT hub and silver surfers' centre with high speed broadband and free wi-fi.
- Community Cafe and reading room - with small resource library.
- Young people's space, youth club, junior café.
- Educational facility for a range of adult and other education classes.
- Hobby Centre
- Heritage Display centre local history and family archive and research . . .
- Visitor Information Centre.

*We should also mention that this initiative is in addition to the Earlsferry Town Hall Group, which is working hard to acquire the Town Hall as a Community Asset Transfer from the Local Authority (a different beast). more information or answer any questions email*

us at [gjeliehistory@btinternet.com](mailto:gjeliehistory@btinternet.com)

Others involved at this early stage are Graham Meacher, Shona Jones, Graeme Dickson and Shelagh Mackay. We welcome other volunteers to help deliver this project. We are seeking ideas about potential uses of the building for the benefit of the community as we also have to provide an outline of our potential plans for the Hall.