



Course Closed

## Editorial

A spell of cold bright and frosty weather thwarted the golfers of the village. But the photographic opportunities abounded.

We started off last edition's Editorial anticipating the lodging of Elie Estates' application for planning permission for the developments at Wadeslea and Grange Road. We had heard that it had been lodged mid December but it has yet to appear on the validated weekly lists. We had hoped in this edition to give it prominence but the delays in validating the application are stretching beyond our preferred publication date. We therefore will issue a special supplement to this edition once the application has been validated and we have had the opportunity to evaluate it.

## Precautions



We sometimes think that in this lovely little corner of the world contemporary problems or issues tend to pass us by. We were somewhat rudely reminded this month that we are just as vulnerable as those elsewhere. The first event was a full scale emergency in the Forth off Ruby Bay where an over loaded inflatable dinghy type craft had been spotted and remembering the hiatus in the English Channel it was thought that this could contain refugees trying to make landfall in the East Neuk. It was a little difficult to conjecture whence such a boat could have come but nevertheless a full scale emergency was instituted. It did occur to us that it might have been some renegades from East Lothian fed up with the inflated property prices in North Berwick seeking calmer havens but when the price of property here was noted the occupants fled back to where they had come...well who knows. After a thorough search no trace was found of this alien craft or its asylum seeking occupants but it did bring home to us that we are not immune from current day crises. The second was a cautionary tale that front doors should be kept locked even when we are at home. There seems to have been a spate of opportunist thefts from hall tables (where we all keep our car keys?) etc. in Crail. So a yale lock suitably snibbed from the inside would deter such would be opportunists.



## Elie History Society Boards

Some sharp eyed folks have spotted what seems to be a geographical error in the information board facing Kinraig Point (Thank you David Leitch (aged(?)) There is an arrow pointing to what was intended to be Largo Law but actually is more like the Lomond hills above Dunfermline. We have explored the possibility of moving Largo Law but it was thought easier just to point out the error in case you are planning your next expedition using it as a starting point - be warned.



## Beach Regeneration



You may have seen that the ivy growth outside Siward has been removed and marram grass replanted. The area has been fenced off to allow

the grass to take. Similar work is in progress outside Earlslea where the extensive ivy there has been removed and will be replanted later this year. There has also been a fresh planting of marram grass outside East and West cottage at the bottom of Castwell Wynd. All replanting has been done by the students of Elmwood College under direction of Victoria Pendry and it has been done for no cost other than a couple of boxes of chocolates. Lottery funding helped the work.



## Phone Mast

You may recall that for about 18 months we have been exercised with the location of a phone mast for the village. This mast is essential to improve the 4G coverage and eventually the introduction of 5G. If you are in doubt as to what this is all about do some research. Anyway an attempt was made to seek permission first to have it outside the Church. That did not go down well and subsequent discussions focused on an area alongside the 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway of the Baird course behind the telephone exchange. To our surprise this was vetoed by the planners and there then became a stand off between the planners and the proposers. Eventually thanks to the intervention of Councillor Bill Porteous a meeting was held recently with the Community Council, Elie Estates and the proposers and a site to the east of the railway bridge coming into the village from Leven was fixed upon and there is some hope that this site will be approved by the planning department. We have done a mock up of what it may look like and it will be partially obscured by the trees on the east side of the road.



## Charette

The Chairman of the Community Council, Mark Dickson, has provided us with an update in the following terms:

“The Community Council has secured £25,000 from the Scottish Government’s “Making Places” Fund to undertake a Char(r)ette. A Char(r)ette is a consultation that involves getting the public and stakeholders together with a professional design team to generate a community vision for the future of a place. The process is endorsed by the Scottish Government as a way of ensuring local communities have a say in the future of their area. Fife Council have already expressed that they are keen to incorporate the output of the Char(r)ette. into the Community Place Plan for the town.

There are a lot of large scale developments affecting small towns in the East Neuk and we believe it’s vital for local communities to be involved in the planning process. We welcome the opportunity to understand better what our villages need and ensure that any future projects or development are in the interests of the community. Elie and Earlsferry recently conducted a village-wide survey regarding the vision of the town. This received a high response rate with 374 surveys representative of 987 people completed. This shows that people are passionate and have a great interest in the future of our villages. The Community Council is very grateful for the engagement and encourages everyone to continue to be involved. It’s only by people working together that we can move forward in the right direction.

The results from the survey will be factored into the upcoming Char(r)ette which is expected to take place over March and April. In addition to running a number of open workshops which people will be welcome and encouraged to attend, the consultation will look to engage with the school, church, local businesses, care home, sport and sailing clubs and all the various organisations and interest groups in the village.”

READYSET  
CHARETTE  
READYSET  
CHARETTE  
READYSET  
CHARETTE  
READYSET  
CHARETTE

## Gum and fag ends ?



A message has been received via the Community Council Website complaining about the state of the pavement outside the Station Buffet, Braids or whatever names it goes under now. It seems there is a large deposit of old chewing gum adhering to the pavement and cigarette butts on the ground. We are sure the licensee provides suitable receptacles for the detritus but encouragement to use them might help.

## Bank ATM



We have had problems with this in the past but current anxiety was expressed that when withdrawing cash there was a message appearing on the screen showing the card of one called Peter Richards and inviting the user to remove his or her card from the machine. There is a thought that this card should not be displayed since it could lead to the association of the card numbers by fraudsters. The ATM helpline conveniently situated in Dublin advised that no card details should ever be displayed on the screen. But it turns out this advice is misleading. Indeed there is a card intended to appear on the screen to remind the user to remove his or her card - but it is of little consequence apparently because whilst it contains the name of the owner of the card and his bank details it shows the start and expiry dates as 00/00 and 00/00. One user claimed that the card on the screen was her card and vowed never to use that machine again. Whether you accept the advice or not it is a pity that the advice was not given properly the first time.....storm in a tea cup ?

## Empty Chairs at Empty Tables



Very much in vogue just now, Les Mis, but this refers to the large board room type table which had two additional leaves, the eight to ten old fashioned chairs which surround the table. The table and chairs were in the back room of Earlsferry Town hall and had been used for many years as the meeting place of Earlsferry Town Council. You will recall that about two years ago there was a creche being run from the Town Hall and the then owner had plans to expand it. Sometime during the time of this creche or shortly thereafter the table and chairs disappeared. They have not been seen since. We seek information as to anyone who may have any knowledge of the whereabouts of this table and these chairs. The table was very large and would not have been easy to remove from the hall through either of the recognised entrances. The table was similar to the one above with ornate carved legs and the chairs were so far as we can recall like this. In addition there were two carver type chairs and they were all upholstered in red buttoned leather. Did anyone see them leave either under their own or someone else’s steam? Please tell the community council if you have any information - Large conspicuous items and yet not hide nor hair been seen.



## Fireworks



We have appealed in the past for restraint in the use of the firework display at New Year. We remind readers that fireworks after 1130 in some circumstances is illegal. Anyway it was a shame that there was so much detritus on the beach and bents after this year's heralding. If people are happy to spend four figures on fireworks the least we suppose we could expect them to do was clear up afterwards. Oh and whilst we cannot ban bonfires on the beach or alcohol consumption there is no excuse for leaving bottles and cans strewn all over the sand - Perhaps a charge on the beachside proprietors who are always shouting about how they own and are entitled to control that land to the high water mark would be appropriate.

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## Christmas - New Year



At times in the past we have been somewhat unsupportive of the week enders/renters and occasional visitors not contributing to the atmosphere of the place and perhaps we have been over critical but it would still be nice for the local businesses to have a few more permanent residents. We have to say that it was good to see so many people enjoying our facilities over New Year and the extra detritus on the beach, whilst irritating, was not such as to set us against these visitors. They keep our economy just afloat and the buzz around Xmas was nice even if car parking was the usual nightmare. Maybe we have reached the optimum balance between permanent residents and occasionals (for want of a better word we were criticised for using "renter" before) And a word about Elie Fayre Day's initiative for advent windows - a great idea and seems to have been successful. What other events have they up their sleeve. Scarecrow Festival is in May.

What about a Kite flying week end say in June there could be various categories like under 12s home made kites, high flyer best stunt etc etc. Might take off!! You heard it here first. **Elie Scarecrows Festival on 3rd-6th May 2019**



## Nature

Our nature correspondent is taking a little sabbatical but sent us this ode and trailer

## To the weather

Dirty days hath September, April, June and dull November. All the rest have dirty ones, excepting February alone. The second month is never lucky. Its\* twenty-eight are dull and mucky. And once a year in every four, the twenty-ninth's the same, but more.....\*Our correspondent is a stickler for the apostrophe and he put one here but the editor took it out.....arguments on a post card please to the usual source

Coming soon - the strange tale of the mouse and the banana.

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Elie & Earlsferry History Society

Get to know your local history

## Blasts from the past

History Society Quiz - this was the local quiz at the History Society Quiz night (slightly edited) at the end of January. Did you know any of the answers?

Quiz night 2019 Rating - Hard to impossible !

1. The Earlsferry Town Council Elections in 1903 went wrong – do you know why ?
2. What was the name of the boat whence came the periscope at the golf club?
3. In 1929 the whole village of Earlsferry and it seems Elie turned out to welcome home which golfer ? .....for an extra point - why?
4. According to the newspapers in 1892 Montrose had only 1, its last return being 56. Perth has 161, compared with 167, and St Andrews has reduced its total from 51 to 10. The following burghs have had none for four years -Anstruther Wester, Crail, Cromarty, Dornoch, Earlsferry, and Nairn. What were they?
5. In the context of Elie and Earlsferry what is VIPER?
6. What macabre item was washed up on the beach in 1832 that caused a bit of stir?
7. Where did the Gourlay Family live ?
8. Formerly "The Recreation Park" became what ?
9. What is the name of the lane leading from the Toft to Wadeslea ?
- 10 Who used to practice their 'descents' behind the Golf Hotel ?
11. Earlsferry has two assets in the common good fund – the first is the right to play golf on Earlsferry Links what is the other one ?
12. Of the 8 roads that lead from the main streets of both Elie and Earlsferry direct to the bents and beach there are two odd ones out – what are they ? for bonus why prior to 1929 was there only 1 odd one out?
13. What is the emblem on top of the weather vane of Earlsferry Town Hall ?
- 14.....and Elie Parish Church ?
- 15 .What was the use of Sahara Park before the houses were built?
16. What was the name of the Marine Hotel Annex ?
17. What do the initials EESC stand for ?
18. What connection is there between Elie golf course and the game of cricket ?

Answers if you need them are on website

<http://www.elieandearlsferry.net>

And don't forget the *History Society* app. Google play store or Apple App store just search elie and earlsferry - it's free

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## CHAPEL GREEN DEVELOPMENT ?



### Planning applications and developments

Have you had a chance to look at the planning application for Chapel Green house? It involves complete demolition of the existing building and replacement with a modern edifice. This is the proposal looking from the beach reproduced as best as we can with Photoshop. It seems to provide for a swimming pool, double garage and extensive living accommodation on the whole site. The Community Council were divided on whether this was a development that should be questioned and ultimately the majority took the view that no objection should be voiced. But there are it seems many objections from the surrounding owners. This is an iconic site and its sky line is one of the most frequently photographed in the whole village. It will not be easy to accommodate a building of this size and extent to fit in with the traditional landscape. We are used to ostentatious use of buildings in this area and it seems a pity that there have been many similar type of angular and sharp-shaped contoured buildings allowed in the village. We remain to be convinced as to its suitability but perhaps more to the point - is this not one with which the community council as representing the community should at least have some involvement. Even more so since Historic Environment Scotland have voiced concerns about its suitability.

### Prosecution



The owner of the area of ground to the south of Todburn at the top of Chapel Green and bordering Chapel Green Road, is being prosecuted for removing the trees from that area of ground. The removal of trees from a conservation area without consent of the local authority is an offence. The trial is set for April.



### Out of Hours Medical Service

This problem rumbles on - the Health and Social Care partnership in Fife decided that the provision of three out of hours medical centres (i.e. post midnight) in Fife was uneconomic and they decided to close Glenrothes and - St. Andrews Hospital. This means that for any medical assistance required after midnight the patient has to travel to Ninewells in Dundee, Kirkcaldy or Dunfermline. The decision seemed to ignore the students of St. Andrews University and the demographic and road communications of this part of the world. Various attempts have been made to make the organisation review its decision. To date there has been to say the least a marked reluctance to do so but pressure is still being applied via the community council and a specialist Out of Hours group fighting to keep St. Andrews open. It seems that the partnership have at least agreed to look at the issue again but have indicated that they will use the same criteria to reach their decision which seems strange but whatever... The group put in a participation request. *(Participation requests are a way for people to have their say about what improvements they would like to see made to public services they use. Community groups in Scotland have been able to make them since April 2017, when they were introduced as part of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act)* but we think this is ground breaking in this part of the globe. The request has been granted which means that any further decisions have to be made in consultation with the Our of Hours Group However as the chair of the Fife Health Board says "it doesn't mean that the decision to close St. Andrews will be reversed...." Nothing like being open to persuasion....

## Scott Reekie (otherwise Sydney)

February 1926 to January 2019



We wanted to publish a fuller obituary of Sydney Reekie to highlight his considerable influence on the recording of the history of Earlsferry but being the modest man he was he requested no formal obituaries but his family has approved the following.

*Early Ferryman, Scott (Sydney) Reekie, recently passed away in the United States. To remember his exploits and honour his life, the family requests you visit his website at [www.scottishheritage.net](http://www.scottishheritage.net). The site chronicles his life and exploits in an earlier Earlsferry and Elie, and his later life in the States."*

*Inserted at request of the family.*

## Earlsferry Town Hall Regeneration Group



The Earlsferry Town Hall Steering Group is progressing with its plans for Earlsferry Town Hall. The next step is to try to secure funding for the purchase and renovation of the hall. The putative plans for the alterations have previously been on display. In the meantime, thanks are due to everyone who contributed to the Projector Fund at the film screenings over Christmas and New Year and at the Nip & Nibbles on Burns Night. It is hoped that there are now sufficient funds to buy a projector for the Earlsferry Town Hall Cinema. The next screening is Jumanji on Sunday 17th February.

## The Pav Spring events



**17<sup>th</sup> March St. Paddy's**

**Carvery** celebrating Ireland's Patron Saint

- not quite sure what to expect here - roasted spit and Guinness we'll have to suck it and see

or according to Wikipedia Irish stew (made with lamb, mutton, or goat), skirlie - bacon and cabbage (with potatoes), boxty (potato pancake), coddle (sausage, bacon, and potato), colcannon (mashed potato, kale or cabbage, and butter).

**23<sup>rd</sup> March SAFA**

Charity Quiz Night. Start 5.30ish with your favourite and ours George as the quizmaster. Supper by pav pay as you go. £5 per skull



**30<sup>th</sup> March** the now "famous" -at least so the



blurb -says **Curry Night** serving authentic dishes. Looking forward to that.

Prior booking advisable.

**History Society** - 14<sup>th</sup> February The History of Postal Services in Elie - Graham Meacher

14<sup>th</sup> March The surrender of the German fleet in the Forth in 1918 by Andrew Kerr.

11<sup>th</sup> April Steve Liscoe on Archaeology in the East Neuk

All 7.30 Church Hall

## Golf Club Makers of Earlsferry

N. MEECH.  
When on ELIE LINKS look up  
**GEORGE FORRESTER**  
for Best Golf Clubs in Scotland.  
ESTABLISHED 40 YEARS.  
The Elie and Earlsferry Golf Course is unsurpassed. Its putting greens are the joy of every player.

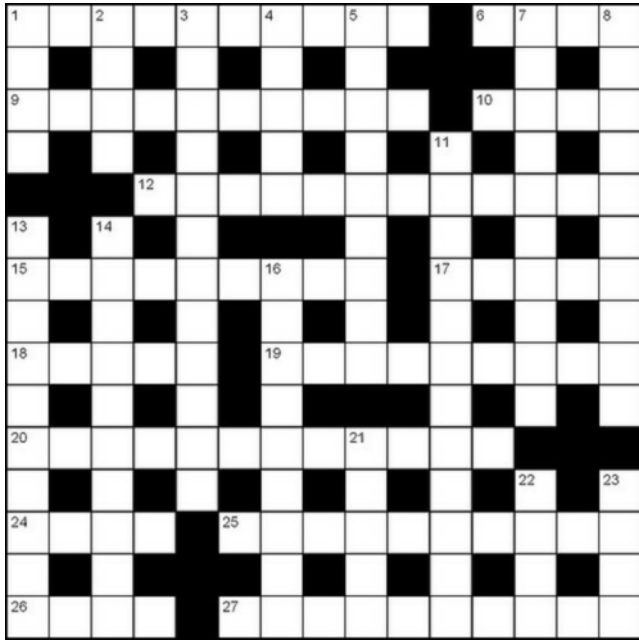
**JAMES FORRESTER**  
GOLF PROFESSIONAL  
With 20 years experience,  
Can be engaged to teach daily  
at Elie and Earlsferry Links.

Earlsferry between say 1880 and 1930s was a mecca for golf club makers. Such names as Forrester, Crowley and Scott became world famous and indeed Scott held a royal warrant. Mindful of that heritage the Golf House Club under the tutelage of Ronnie Sinclair has amassed a very valuable and historically important collection of golf club inter alios by these manufacturers. It is intended to build a suitable display cabinet with proper mounting and legend to have them on public view. The History Society has undertaken a project for an exhibition in 2020 celebrating sport and leisure in Elie and Earlsferry and will concentrate a lot of effort on the golf club manufacturers of that time. It is hoped to produce a film detailing their exploits and if anyone has any information or is prepared to help the History Society would be most grateful. [www.eliehistory.com](http://www.eliehistory.com)

**SCOTT'S**  
**"IMPERIAL CROWN"**  
**CLUBS**  
are of One Quality—THE BEST.  
THE "MONARCH"  
Aluminium Putter, Latest and Best.

SOLE MAKER—  
**A. H. SCOTT**  
**ELIE, SCOTLAND**  
GOLF CLUB MAKER TO H.M. KING  
GEORGE V.  
Tuition a Speciality. 30 Years' Experience.

And a little diversion to while away these dark nights until spring. (Or Until we see the planning application!)



Across

1. Somehow a tree bark was first to make the dam. (10)
6. He leaves the spans in bits of a circle (4)
9. Gap a bit east before the Channel Port but too late (6,4)
10. He's got to get part of it. (4)
12. The substitute at the union ? It's a bit of a crush. (8,4)
15. Leering with university politician inside but outbidding (9)
17. Somehow 4 is a trafficker. (5)
18. Fabric back in negatively (5)
19. Scraped a greeting somehow for this sect. (9)
20. The perfect celebration for the goodies ? (3,6,3)
24. Denials from the horses' mouth (4)
25. Hatbands given prominence ? (10)
26. Arrange the type (4)
27. Just recall your encounter with a Kodiak? (4,2,4)

Down

1. Bakery product - the graduate has an afterthought (4)
2. The direction in which you would find the asteroid (4)
3. Packet oilman collected ? he did so clandestinely (12)
4. Footsore from a tree ? (5)
5. Balancing for a night out and awake (7,2)
7. Road with regret somehow backwards (10)
8. Attack troops on the Beaufort scale (5,5)
13. Painful relations are here to help (5,5)
14. Nearly ooze – mixes the atmospheric shield (5,5)
16. At home because about to be not genuine. (9)
21. Supporter for broadcast drink ? (5)
22. Food point I led back (4)
23. Dues somehow pre-owned ? (4)

Answers and explanation thereof if you need them at

<http://www.elieandearlsferry.net>

## Forthcoming attractions



**The Guild** : Wed. 6th Feb: Rev Daniel Pollin,  
Coastline Church Pittenweem 2.30 p.m. Elie Church Hall

20th.Feb: Roger McAuslan, The Fisheries Museum

6th March Guild Project - Teenage Mothers in Zambia

20th March AGM



### East Neuk Trinity Church

**Women's Group**: Thursday 7th Feb: Professor Ian Finlay  
- Providing Healthcare for the 21st Century 7.30 p.m. Elie Church Hall

Thursday 7th March St Monans Community Choir

Thursday 4th April AGM, Quiz and Supper

Thursday 2nd May Outing



### *The East Neuk Flower Club:*

Tuesday 5th March - Amy Annand from Newport

Tuesday 2nd April - Easter Workshop

Tuesday, 7th May - Lunch - TBA

Church Hall 7.30

### *Saturday 9th March - Charity Coffee Morning 10 - 11.30 Elie Church Hall*



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 or get the answers to the problems see

<http://www.elieandearlsferry.net>