



## Threatened Butterfly at KinCraig



The Northern Brown Argus butterfly although perhaps not high on the list of beautiful species has been seriously threatened by the wanton vandalism in October when flaming bales of hay were set off down the hill of KinCraig Point setting fire to the brush. This area, the habitat of this butterfly which is rare in Scotland, has been razed to the ground but it is hoped that the species will recover.

## The Beach

At a well-attended meeting of the Community Council in January Angela Johnston gave a presentation along with Fife Coast and Countryside Trust in which she explained that the beach dunes in Elie and Earlsferry beach were changing and with climate change, increased tides and wind the contours of the dunes were in jeopardy. She explained that the bents area also was suffering erosion in various places such that some concerted effort was required to reduce the erosion, stabilise them and reduce the amount of sand being blown by the prevailing southwesterlies onto

the break water and adjoining properties. She invited those proprietors who bordered the beach and any other interested parties to join a group to study the dunes and bents and workout best practice towards their preservation and repair. Quite a number of concerned residents have come forward and volunteered to be part of the group and an initial meeting is scheduled for early February. Anyone who wishes information about the working of the group should contact Angela at:- [angela\\_as\\_anderson@btinternet.com](mailto:angela_as_anderson@btinternet.com).



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



## Nature Notes

(from our special correspondent - JR)  
Living, as I do in the boondocks of an estate near you, is much like having a ringside seat in a safari park. There is always plenty to see if you have the patience and an ability to blend in with the surrounding landscape. One of my favourite animals in this environment is the squirrel, be it red or grey. Since the beginning of November I have recorded 13 sightings of these fascinating creatures, 9 of grey and 4 of red. Of course they are territorial, so the statistics can be slightly skewed by the foreknowledge of where to look for them. Much has been written of the conflict between red and grey with the former, bushy tailed poser a favourite on the front of greeting cards and like, whereas the latter is portrayed as pugnacious invader,



spreading squirrel pox and eating the red out of house and home. In fact the grey prefers mixed woodland whereas the red favours coniferous trees, under which you can often find the remains of the cones that have been consumed. As for the squirrel pox, I suspect that the reds are beginning to gain a level of immunity. Time will tell. As it is, there is nothing quite so entertaining as watching squirrels performing their acrobatics in the trees above. "Tweet tweet"

## Weather vane saga

The absence of the weather vane on the top of Earlsferry Town Hall has been a bone of contention for some time. It disappeared when Fife Council did some renovation to the spire a year or so ago. If anyone knows where it is - we would be delighted to hear from them, but in the meantime we are trying to source a

replacement, but it will not be as iconic as the original - it should look roughly like this:-



## Bus Stops

With the permanent withdrawal of the bus service through Earlsferry there are still a number of bus stops. It is understood that Fife Council do not propose to remove the current bus stops, so, if you see anyone standing hopefully at one, please tell them they will have to wait until the service is restarted - if ever!

## The Pavilion

Substantial alterations are underway in the Pavilion with the installation of new windows and porch. It should be open again mid February.

## Remembrance Day

The Remembrance Day ceremony is still causing some disquiet. The CC have decided to investigate the possibility of them organising the ceremony at the war memorial rather than having to go along with the church's plans.

## Blast from the Past

### *Fife Herald 1857 - "Earlsferry"*

*The annual state of the public accounts of our good old burgh was on Wednesday last submitted to the inspection of a full meeting of the council, and it must be gratifying to everyone connected with the place to witness how steadily and triumphantly our old "Ferry boat" is now improving since she cleared the dangerous rocks and breakers, amongst which the expensive winds of the law\* had almost overwhelmed her, and we congratulate her brave commanders and gallant officers for thus conducting her safely to port without even the assistance of the Ten Pounders\*\* which government graciously bestowed for the protection of the larger and more highly favoured burghs. Her pumps have been all repaired this season, and so soon as her main deck gets a little improvement which is already ordered by the council she will again be as able, ready, and willing to Ferry over another Earl as she had the honour of doing to McDuff in 1091.*

\*This is reference to the litigation about golf on the links which started in the 1830s and involved Sir James Malcolm the proprietor of the Grange and the right to golf on the links. It lasted some 20 years or so. It restarted in 1878 under a different complaint about the golfers removing grass from the golf course. It was set down for proof but I have not been able yet to find how far the case actually went.

\*\* Ten Pounders were those who owned property worth ten pounds or more enough to be able to vote members to parliament. Earlsferry was unable to muster any so its influence waned. And all this because they balanced the books...will such sentiments be similarly expressed with our current local councillors ?

## Look forward to:-

### History Society

**Thursday 12 March** - Law and Disorder in the East Neuk by David Affleck

**Thursday 9 April** - Tay Rail Bridge Disaster by Ian Nimmo White

**Thursday 15th May** members presentations on various interesting aspects of Elie's History.

Coffee mornings continue Wednesday fortnightly, 11th, 25th, Feb. Mar 11th, 25th. Do come along and meet us. Lots of chat at The Pavilion – 10.45am.

### Guided Walks

The History Society is planning a number of guided walks this season with concentration on Chapel Green and surrounds.

### Ship Inn

Plans have now been lodged showing the alterations for which the new owner's are seeking building warrant. They include an extension of the existing bar into what was the back area, the building of new toilets out the back of the building and incorporating the current toilet spaces into the main part of the bar. It is hoped that the work would be finished end of March but the extent of the alterations suggests that it might be much later. We wish them luck. Plans at <http://planning.fife.gov.uk/online/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=NHFSXLHF K1300>. Both the Ship and Golf Tavern have applied for extension of licensing hours from 10 am for 19th and 11 am for Ship to midnight and 1 am on Thursday Friday and Saturday.

### Facebook and Updates

The CC is now reaching into the 21st Century with a Facebook page for you to keep in touch. We are also intending to update the graphic representation of the villages in the glass case outside the church.

### What should your Community Council do ?

The Community Council is keen to find out from the members of the community what improvements could be made to the villages and village life. For example would you like a community centre

of some sort to meet and chat ? Would you be interested in meeting for lectures or discussions or further learning? Are there any facilities which could be improved or instigated to make the villages a better place to live and visit ? Have you any ideas or suggestions as to what we should be doing? Email the secretary at [gjellecc@btinternet.com](mailto:gjellecc@btinternet.com).

### Elie Skiff

In association with Elie & Earlsferry Sailing Club, it is hoped to get interested parties together to build a skiff for Elie. Anyone interested please get in touch with Steve Blaney on 01333 330564.

### Scarecrow Festival 2015

The Fayre Day Group have started planning for this year's Festival, which will once again be held over the May Day Holiday week-end (1st-4th May). Entry forms will be available soon, but it is hoped that we will see another fantastic display of creative imagination and fun across Elie and Earlsferry – get your thinking caps on.

In previous years we have seen a number of additional events being organised during 'Scarecrow' week-end – a School Fun Run, an art exhibition, a coffee morning, and stalls on Toll Green. If anyone wants to organise an event to entertain or take the opportunity of additional visitors to the town, please let the Fayre Day Group know and we will help to promote it.

One event already being planned for Sunday afternoon (3rd May), is a Pantomime Horse Dressage Competition. Yes, that's right, two people dressed up as a pantomime horse (either hired or home-made) competing with others in a dressage event. There will be prizes for technical skills, best dressed 'horse', and for the freestyle element. We very much hope that local businesses and fun individuals of all ages will join in the fun. No need to be embarrassed – no one will know see you under that costume. For more information please contact Peter Wilson ([greenmount12@btinternet.com](mailto:greenmount12@btinternet.com)) or Carol Birrell.



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