



Support 'THERE  
BUT NOT  
THERE' for Crail



www.crailmatters.com



# CRAIL MATTERS

W/C 4 June 2018. No 64 Free - donations welcome

Suggested hard copy Donation 40p

*Crail, The Jewel of the East Neuk*

## FIRE DANGER WARNING

After the recent large fire on East Lomond and another smaller fire on West Lomond, please be extra vigilant when out in the countryside. The picture opposite is of a fire found at Kilminning.

There is currently a fire danger warning in place in the North East, South East and central Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) have warned of very high fire danger conditions. Mark Wrightham, SNH's Recreation & Tourism Manager, said: "It's great news that the recent warm, dry weather is encouraging more people to get out and about and enjoy our beautiful Scottish countryside. But it's important to bear in mind that fires can spread quickly in these conditions and do lasting damage to nature and wildlife.

In this weather, we advise people to be careful when lighting fires, or consider using a camping stove instead.

Be particularly cautious when disposing of cigarettes – even a cigarette butt can easily start a wildfire.

One of the biggest risks is disposable barbecues. These should be taken away and disposed of safely in a bin. You may think the barbecue's no longer a risk, but the lingering heat could cause vegetation to smoulder and catch fire.

A few simple tips can make all the difference in making sure as many people as possible can enjoy our countryside safely."

SNH advice is:

- < Whenever possible, use a stove rather than light an open fire.
- < If you do light a fire, keep it small and under control, and remove all traces before leaving. Avoid lighting them during prolonged dry periods or in forests, woods, farmland, peaty ground or near to buildings as fires that get out of control can cause major damage.
- < When using a disposable barbeque, put it on a heat-proof surface, such as sand or stones before you light it. Make sure the barbeque is cold before you take it away with the rest of your rubbish.
- < Dispose of cigarette butts in bins.



### School Fair

Our fair is to be held on the 23rd June in Beechwalk Park, weather permitting. If it's inclement weather then we will be in the Community Hall. From 2-4pm there will be a variety of fun activities such as splat the rat, coconut shy, tug of war etc! There will also be plenty of refreshments and lots of exciting stalls old and new, including home baking, crafts, plants and of course our fabulous raffle!

### Crail British Legion Womens' Section

A reminder to all ladies who are pre booked for our High Tea at Monturpie on Wednesday 6 June that the bus will be leaving the Town Hall at 3pm sharp.

I look forward to seeing you all next Wednesday.  
Marion

### Crail and Kingsbarns Branch RNLI

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our fundraising last year it is always very much appreciated.

Our Committee is now far less than previously therefore anyone interested in helping out at events would be very helpful.

**Coffee mornings** Saturday 16th June and Saturday 22nd September.

We also have a stall selling Lifeboat souvenirs at the **Harbour Sunday** afternoons June-July and August which always raises a substantial amount to our fundraising. It is always a very enjoyable afternoon and a lovely venue.

If anyone has a couple of hours to spare and interested in helping out please contact

Jenny Henderson 01333 451 152 or

Lesley Handley 01333 450 508

### Crail Mobile Post Office Service

Location - Along High Street

Opening times: Monday 1400-1600

Tuesday 1430-1630

Wednesday 1400-1600

### Senior Carers Respite Fife

Senior Carers Respite Fife are pleased to introduce our great new service - Senior Carers Respite Fife.

This is for carers 60 plus. We come to you and lend a helping hand. At a time that's convenient to you. This is a FREE service. For more information email Moira or Adele at [respite@disabilitiesfife.org.uk](mailto:respite@disabilitiesfife.org.uk) or call on 01592 203993

### Jamie Morris's Glasgow 10K

I'm going to run(!) the Glasgow Men's 10K for Scottish Association for Mental Health.

Please help me to raise funds for The Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) when I run the Glasgow 10K in June - this will be the longest distance I've run and I'm taking on the challenge in support of SAMH's work to reduce the number of suicides in Scotland.

Over 700 people die by suicide every year in Scotland and in the UK suicide is the biggest killer of men under the age of 45. One of the goals of The Scottish Association for Mental Health is to help the estimated 260,000 people in Scotland (enough to fill Hampden Park 5 times over) who may be thinking about suicide at any one time - people who feel they can't keep going, for whom life is too painful or who can't see a solution to their problems.

Thanks very much for any donation you can give, no matter how small - every bit helps!

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jamiemorrisglasgow10k>



### Scottish Fisheries Museum *Boats, fish and folk...*

#### EVENTS

#### DEMENTIA ACTION DAY

Thursday, 7 June, 10AM - 5.30PM

Included in admission/annual pass

During Dementia Awareness Week 2018, we'll be showcasing the facilities and activities we can offer visitors living with dementia.

#### SFM @ CRAIL FOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday 9 June, 10AM - 4.30PM

Suitable for all ages

Drop by our stall at the Crail Food Festival and say hello to our staff who'll be running activities and crafts suitable for all ages.

### Staff Wanted

Julias Tearoom is looking for a local summer "boy" or "girl" helper.

Duties to include serving and taking customer orders, cleaning and preparation of dishes.

A pleasant and friendly personality rather than experience required as full training will be given.

Contact John at Julias or telephone 01333 450 415 if interested.

### Planning Applications

#### Listed building consent for installation of replacement windows and doors

18 Westgate Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3RF

Ref. No: 18/01477/LBC | Received: Mon 28 May 2018 | Validated: Mon 28 May 2018 | Status: Registered

Installation of replacement windows and doors

18 Westgate Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3RF

Ref. No: 18/01476/FULL | Received: Mon 28 May 2018 | Validated: Mon 28 May 2018 | Status: Registered

# CRAIL FOOD FESTIVAL

## The waiting has ended ! Crail's Food Festival is on next weekend, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June.

**Venues – Crail Community Hall, Beechwalk Park and Crail Harbour on both days from 10.00am until 5.00pm. Ticket covering all venues and including car parking and shuttle bus is £6.00 for adults and children up to 14 are free.**

The Food Festival Committee would like to thank the residents of Crail for their patience on this one weekend of the year when Crail is centre of Scotland's culinary world! We also hope that you will come and join us at the Festival and enjoy all that we have to offer. It will be a fun weekend. Full details of the programme are on our website – [www.craillfoodfest.co.uk](http://www.craillfoodfest.co.uk)

We are extending the time for Crail residents to pick up their free harbour entry wrist bands until Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June. at mid-day from the Pharmacy. Suitable access arrangements are being made for harbour users at the Shoregate pay point where tickets will be available for the whole Festival. One of the importances of wristbands is that it helps us to deliver a safe event. We have to be aware of the number of folk in any venue at any given time.

You will be aware by now that the Festival relies on a number of local volunteers. While we have most things covered, a few more local folk from Crail would certainly lighten the load. If you feel that you could offer a couple of hours on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June, or both, the prize is a bright yellow Crail Food Festival polo shirt and free entry to all the venues! You also get the opportunity to talk to our visitors and extol the virtues of Crail. If you would like to help, please call Pat on 01333 451063. Your help will be appreciated.



**Dementia Awareness Week is supported by the Alzheimer's Society. The Alzheimer's Society is a UK charity which provides support and research for those affected by dementia. In the UK, there are about 800,000 people with dementia; it is estimated that around 400,000 people have dementia but do not know it. By raising awareness about this condition, it is hoped that more people will be diagnosed earlier, giving more time for them to come to terms with future symptoms.**

### Understanding Dementia

Dementia is not a disease. Dementia is a term given to a group of symptoms from certain diseases which affect the brain. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. A diagnosis of dementia is often devastating to the person concerned. Other serious diseases, such as cancers, offer hope, however small, of treatment success. The symptoms of dementia are progressive and on an unknown time scale (*which can be hard for people with dementia to accept*). It could be months or many years before the symptoms become advanced. On a positive note, many people with dementia can live full lives with little or no as-

sistance. Living in the present, doing the fun things now which were planned for later in life, is a strategy which helps some people cope with this condition.

### Symptoms of Dementia Include:

**Memory Loss** - problems with short term memory is often the first sign of dementia.

**Communication Problems** - linked to memory loss, communication problems often arise when a person is unable to recall a particular word or phrase in conversation.

**Changes In Mood** - dementia symptoms can have a profound effect on a person's life; this can give rise to mixed emotions (sadness, anxiety, anger).



## **Grit Bins**

Fife Council has in excess of 4,000 bins and intends to reduce this number. Bins scheduled for removal have been endorsed with a yellow circle. Appeals for those to remain should be made as soon as possible. Fife Council would continue to refill bins. Fife Council will not supply grit bins for new housing developments, these must be provided by the developers.

## **East Neuk Community Emergency Plan**

Former Councillor, Mrs. Elizabeth Riches, attended the last meeting and provided an update on a proposed East Neuk Community Emergency Plan led by Gillian Duncan of First Responders and Michael Bruce, Coxswain of the Anstruther Lifeboat. Anstruther already has a designated emergency hub at Waid Academy and it is hoped that Crail will follow suit. Information will be required on a local map, including key relevant locations; 2 local community emergency plan contacts; the need to identify emergency resilience resources requirement & storage area; refuge centre with key holders details. Crail Community Council agreed to support the initiative which would be invaluable during a major incident such as the severe weather which affected the East Neuk in March.

## **Litter Bins**

The issue of litterbins was again raised at the last meeting. The current bins are unsuitable, as food debris is regularly pulled out and scattered around by seagulls. Councillor Docherty advised that the cost of each compactor bin was over £1000, so it would be unlikely that Crail could have any. Because of this, the Community Council didn't proceed with the request. It was suggested that local businesses could sponsor this type of bin and it was agreed that enquiries would be made for bins with flaps in the meanwhile. Crail Community Council would like to thank the public spirited gentleman who takes a litter picker on his morning walk, collecting rubbish and putting it into the bins on his way around.

## **Coffee Morning**

Crail Community Council will hold a coffee morning on Saturday, 23 June at 10am in the British Legion Hall, Nethergate. All proceeds will go to the "There But Not There", Crail initiative.

## **Parking**

Inconsiderate parking around Crail continues to be an issue. Recent complaints regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking on St Andrews Road in particular, will be considered at a review. The problems will also be raised at the East Neuk Forum, the next meeting would take on Thursday 7 June and a representative from Crail Community Council will attend.

## **Location of Post Van**

Following suggestions that the Post Van may encounter problems parking along High Street during the summer, it had been suggested that the van could use the same location as the RBS Mobile Bank and Library. Communication had been made with Mr. Graham Turnock, Area Network Change Manager for Fife. Their policy is for the van to be located as close to the former Post Office as possible and that good mobile reception was necessary. The RBS bank van uses satellite technology so locating the Post Van on Marketgate may not be suitable. The Post Master who operates the service will consult customers and, if they are in agreement, a trial period on Marketgate will follow, assuming that the mobile signal there is acceptable.

## **Entitled Parking In Crail**



There has been quite a bit of discussion about illegal parking in Crail these days, in fact, many drivers enjoy illegal parking for around 363 days a year, apart from when safety restrictions are imposed during the annual Food Festival.

The introduction of yellow lines and absence of patrolling officers is deemed ineffective, well, that's certainly what the driver of this vehicle thought.

Kerb Crawler

# WILD CRAIL

*Will Cresswell,*

*with Photographs by John Anderson*



There is a fundamental birding law – something equivalent to sod’s law – that if a family member has an important celebration in another country, that cannot be missed, then something will turn up on your local patch while you are away. I left Crail on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> as the easterly winds continued and I watched the text messages start to come in from the May Island on Thursday – a short-toed lark, icterine warblers, red-backed shrikes and a marsh warbler. David Steel the warden of the May Island has been a little down (and if you have met him you will know that it takes a lot to get Davey down) because of the lack of birds this spring. But this has all changed: his series of euphoric texts last week indicated that there might even be some migrants appearing at last around Crail. Sure enough, a red-backed shrike was found in the walled garden at Balcomie the following Sunday morning. I got a text about it as I was heading back to Crail, but got home too late to go and see it. Migrants head off early evening if they are going to continue their journey, so the fact that it was still around late afternoon didn’t mean very much (although better than nothing of course).

red-backed shrike



I headed down to Balcomie at 6 on Monday morning (the 28<sup>th</sup>). The aftereffects of the family celebration on the Saturday night before precluded an earlier start: first light is not really a realistic option at this time of year in any case (well before 4 am now). I consoled myself that shrikes like big insects and big insects like to get up late too, when its warmer and dryer. If it had been an isabelline or a woodchat shrike, and so new to my Crail list, perhaps. Even so I had Balcomie and the haar to myself. It was quite thick first thing with visibility down to about 50 meters. I think it probably worked in my favour. I entered the garden and straight away saw the shrike perched on a bit of dead bush in the middle about

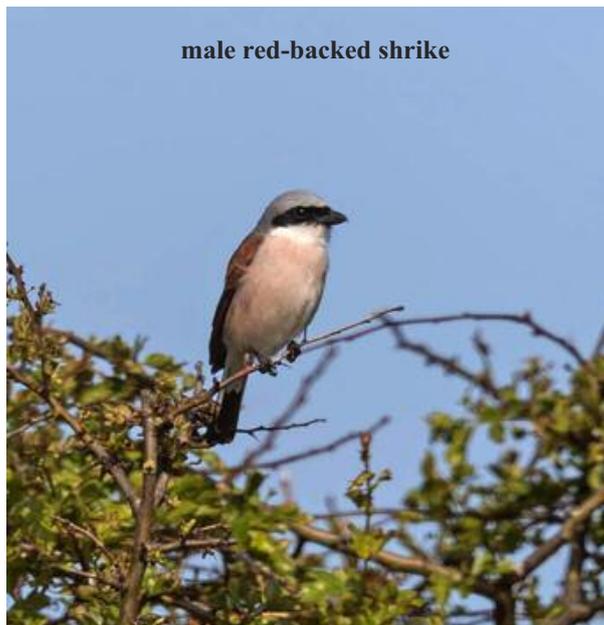
30 meters away. I watched it and it watched me moving slowly past it until I was about 10 meters away. It then stopped watching me and flew down to grab one of those late rising large beetles and resumed its perch. Not really bothered about me at all. I had one of my closest ever encounters with a shrike. Very close, but I was confident it wasn’t disturbed as it changed perches, sometimes closer to me, sometime further away, fully concentrating on feeding. It would pause between sallies, perched immobile on a washing line post or branch and I could fully admire every little crescent mark on its underparts and the slight mask and subtle shading on the head. A really special moment even if this hadn’t been the first Crail shrike for three years. I left with another happy heart, even with a day of marking students’ exams ahead. And the haar blew away as I reached Crail revealing a sunny, warm day. Perfect for a shrike to refuel in.

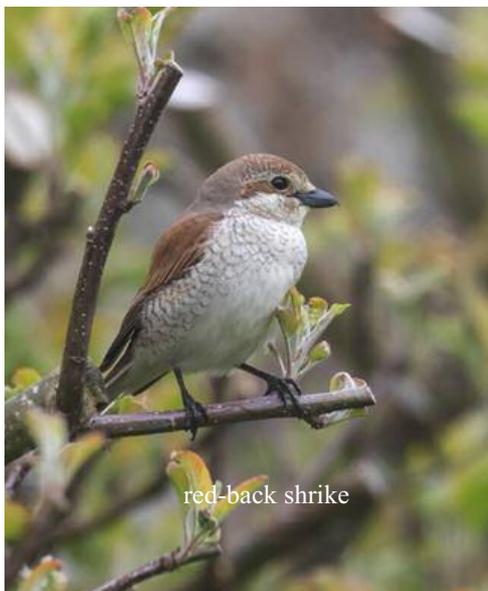
One hundred years ago red-backed shrikes were common in many parts of Britain. 38 years ago I saw my first red-backed shrike at one of its last nesting sites in the Brecklands of East Anglia. It was a Young Ornithologist’s Club – the old and stiff name for the RSPB’s young people section – trip out from Cambridge. The leaders got a telling off at the time for showing us such a rare bird. But I am glad they did. That this was the last nest in England of a bird that had once been a common made a big impression on me. I learned that you shouldn’t take things for granted on that trip. And the excitement of the unusual made me come back for others, reinforcing an interest that still brings me joy every day.

The red-backed shrike was still there the following morning. In the middle of the walled garden at Balcomie, with the haar even thicker than the day before. Again, but only by the afternoon, the haar cleared to bright shrike suiting sunshine. The shrike then moved out to the fence along the adjoining sheep field, flycatching into the long grass. It looked like it was catching St Marks flies – the big black long-legged flies that are everywhere at the moment. The local yellowhammer pair looked slightly put out to have this mini falcon on their patch and postured a bit on the fence beside it. Side by side you could see that the shrike wasn’t really very large – barely bigger than the yellowhammers. On its own and especially in the fog which makes everything look larger, it looked much more substantial. In the afternoon, in the sunlight, it looked like a bulky spotted flycatcher.

A second red-backed shrike turned up 300 meters away at Kilminning last thing Tuesday afternoon (the 29<sup>th</sup>). It only stayed for about 30 minutes and so I missed it. This one was a male. It likely moved to an insecty corner somewhere nearby. The two

male red-backed shrike





shrikes could have even ended up together. If they were both first year birds without existing breeding territories and mates to go to, and there were enough big insects like grasshoppers – which is the real deal breaker for Fife – they might even have stayed to breed like our yellow wagtails. Colonisation of new areas is much easier for migrants that end up in so many different places, even when they know where they are going, because of the vagaries of the weather.

But of course, instead, both shrikes left that night. The haar stayed out at sea and it stayed clear. Both are probably in Scandinavia now and back on course. But we have got eider chicks. The first broods from the May Island have made it across to Roome Bay. The light winds and fairly calm sea will have helped a lot. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, at least, there was a group of about eight females with 20 or so chicks pottering about the rocky shore. I hope many more are on their way.



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### LIBRARY NEWS.

I'm pleased to let you know that the library in Waid Campus will remain open in the school holidays at the usual time of 9am till 5pm, Monday to Friday.

I don't know how many of you use this library, but a few weeks ago I was interested to see a machine which allows the user to borrow and return books in a similar way that self service checkouts work in some supermarkets. Now, I'm of the age when operating these machines are a bit of a challenge but the person manning the counter gave me a demonstration. When I returned three weeks later, I returned my books using the machine and received a receipt without any problem. To borrow a book you have to scan your You Gov card, and somewhat smugly I had mine to hand. It wouldn't however work though I tried several times. I became aware of someone behind me waiting to use the machine and turning, I saw a senior Waid pupil. Clearing his throat he said, "Madam, I think things would be easier for you if you used your You Gov card instead of your driving license to scan for borrowing books." He was correct of course, and we both burst out laughing at the same time, but what a young gent. I only wish I'd asked him his name, but grateful thanks to him for helping me out and preserving my dignity.



### A CANINE DUVET FOR THE BIRDS!



Collect all the fur that your dog or cat is shedding anyway, or that you brush out, and fill a bird feeder with it. The birds come and take the fur from the feeder to make warm nests for their families. Please do not do this if you use topical medicines against parasites on your pets as this can be harmful to birds!

# The Seagull

# Crail



I have to say, I am thoroughly fed up with this haar, so much so, that I've had to relocate temporarily to my summer nest in Crail. I have barely been able to see the golfers wheeching out to Balcomie only to wheech back again minutes later as the visibility's too poor to play.

I think Openreach workers must live down holes – every time I am sitting on the roof of the old RBS building, I see a man disappearing down the one on the corner. Are they 'The Borrowers'? I think we should be told.



Well, have you seen the new road markings on St Andrews Road at the bus stops? What a relief that Fife Council has not run out of yellow paint. They really are impressive so I hope that folks pay head and stop parking ther. A seagull needs somewhere clear to cross the road.

Gosh, I'm fast: I flew westwards the other day and where the traffic

lights used to be at Kilrenny, there is now a sign that flashes at you and tells you how fast you are travelling, bet you can't guess what speed I was doing! According to Stanford University "a gull whose most efficient loiter airspeed was **22 mph** could fly at anything **between 15 and 28 mph** without increasing its metabolic rate more than 15%." I wasn't 'loitering' and still within the speed limit!

## Do you know any young carers?

We are the respite care officers for Disabilities Fife. Carers that are actively looking for families to help. Do you know of any families that would benefit from our free service? If so the service is for young carers between 8 and 24 years. We can provide support for 2 hours per week. We are PVG registered friendly and helpful.

Please feel free to contact us anytime by:  
Phone - 01592 203993  
Email - [respites@disabilitiesfife.org.uk](mailto:respites@disabilitiesfife.org.uk)  
Website - [YoungCarersRespite.com](http://YoungCarersRespite.com)

## East Neuk Book Group

Meets in the Cocoa Tree, Pittenweem

Come along and join us

All welcome

We will be discussing the following books on the first Thursday of every month. Discussion starts at 6.00pm but pop in from 5.30pm and have a chat with us over coffee or hot chocolate

Thursday 7 June Daniel James Brown *The Boys in the Boat*

Thursday 5 July Martin Booth *The Industry of souls*

Thursday 2 August (venue to be confirmed) Gail Honeyman  
*Eleanor Oliphant is Absolutely Fine*

If you would like any further information or would like to join our mailing list, please contact Coral

[coralnapier@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:coralnapier@yahoo.co.uk)

## Crail Parish Church of Scotland (Charity registered in Scotland SC 001601)

**Food Festival:** The Fund-raising committee are having a stall with teas and coffees on **Sat. June 9<sup>th</sup> 10 – 4 and Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup> 1 – 4** in the church. Donations of baking would be gratefully received.

East Neuk East Cluster meeting for Office Bearers and Members of all Congregation **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June**, Anstruther Town Hall at **2.30pm - 4.30pm**. Rev Peter Neilson will be available after the service today if anyone wishes to discuss this.

**Session meeting:** there will be a Session meeting on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June** in the Kirk hall at **7.00pm**.

Intimations to be in by Thursday noon to Lisa 450035, Helen Armitage or email to

[\(intimations@crailchurch.co.uk\)](mailto:intimations@crailchurch.co.uk)

Interim Moderator: Rev Brian Oxburgh

Locum Minister: Rev Peter Neilson

(tel: 01333 310 477)

## Crail Community Choir



Crail Community Choir meets tonight (Monday 4 June) in the Town Hall at 7.30 pm

## Contact your Fife Councillor?

Cllr. Linda Holt [Linda.Holt@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.Holt@fife.gov.uk) 07725 223773.  
Cllr. Bill Porteous [bill.porteous@fife.gov.uk](mailto:bill.porteous@fife.gov.uk) 01333 730837 or 07753982311  
Cllr. John Docherty [john.docherty@fife.gov.uk](mailto:john.docherty@fife.gov.uk) 07718 66 89 96

Material for inclusion in Crail Matters should be sent to [crailmatters@gmail.com](mailto:crailmatters@gmail.com) and received on Friday midday before publication. We reserve the right to edit copy for length and style. Submission does not guarantee inclusion.

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Wilson