



CRAIL MATTERS

W/C 5 August 2019. No 120 Free - donations welcome
Suggested hard copy Donation 40p

Crail: The Jewel of the East Neuk.

Crail Museum & Heritage Centre

Coffee Morning



Saturday 10th August 2019

10am

British Legion Hall

Home Baking, Preserves, Raffle.

Admission £2

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity No. SC023505)

Crail Folk Club

We have a Singers' Night featuring a whole bunch of singers and musicians from Crail and beyond - well Cupar, St Andrews and Edinburgh anyway. The last few Singers' Nights have been really successful with lots of performers and lots of listeners. We are in Crail Town Hall on Thursday 8th August 8pm BYOB and only £1. What's not to like?

Our next guest night is selling out fast. It features two of the greats of the UK folk scene JEZ LOWE and STEVE TILSTON. They will be performing together and separately. August 22nd is the date again in the Town Hall. Tickets sales so far guarantee this will be a sell out so don't miss out. Give a call to 01333 450572 or book on-line at: www.craifolkclub.org.uk

Missing sign

During many visits to Crail over several years I observed that lots of walkers coming from Anstruther on the Fife Coastal Path went straight past the entrance to Hens Ladder, thereby missing the chance to rest on the two benches in front of Bishop's Cottage and take in the wonderful view.

So I made a ceramic sign saying "Hens Ladder and path to harbour" and asked the community council for permission to put it on the pavement by the wall near the Helen Main bench. I placed it there at Easter. On Wednesday 24th July we finally moved to Crail for good. No sign of my sign. My daughter said she had noticed it lying in four pieces a week previously, and had seen it again the next day, mended and replaced. Can anybody tell me where it is now?

Lesley McBride-Augustin:
mcaugustin912@gmail.com

Wee Crailers

'Wee Crailers' is an art, craft, and lunch club for all ages of tiny humans and their big humans too! Our arts and crafts have a nature and science theme to them and are, most importantly, fun! Held in Crail Kirk Hall, 2nd Friday of the month, 12-2 pm.

With our coffee morning we hope to raise funds to help us get up and running; buying some art and craft supplies and providing a nutritious lunch for our wee crafters. Come along and enjoy some lovely homebakes, win some unique prizes in our raffle, and try your hand at some Wee Crailers arts and crafts.

Wee Crailers can be contacted at dawn.wallace.100@hotmail.com

Crail Matters Holiday

There will be no publication of Crail Matters on 26 August and 2 September.

WILD CRAIL

Will Cresswell,
with Photographs by John Anderson



Ten days ago I was skulking around one of only bits of freshwater on Crete looking for a rare crane when another tourist bustled up and demanded “are you a twitcher?”. I denied this – I am a birder, not a maniacally obsessed lister determined to see as many rare birds as possible, travelling anywhere at anytime to get that new bird added. Well, I fell off my puritanical birding – “enjoy the birds around you regardless” - wagon on Sunday the 28th and went twitching again. To cut a long story short, twitching is bad for a birder because it sets you up for disappointment. You might not see the bird. And there are far too many good birds out



Aquatic Warbler

Langlois

there at any time for any bird watcher to see to ever be disappointed. But that Sunday it all ended well. A proper military style twitch involving complicated logistics coming together and some team work to get views of a reluctant, skulking rarity. The bird – an aquatic warbler. Found on the May Island on Saturday the 27th and one I have wanted to see nearly all my life. I have looked unsuccessfully for aquatic warblers in Africa – they are a legendary migrant. A very low world population breeding in a few Eastern European countries (like the Ukraine), perhaps heading for extinction, and known only from a couple of wintering sites in Africa. They have very specialised habitat requirements for breeding and wintering, which creates a problem for the juveniles each year as they head for Africa and have to locate the relatively few patches of this shallow flooded grassy wetland habitat. Far better not to be fussy and to be able to make do with whatever scrubby habitat you find, which is the strategy for most migrant species. Aquatic warblers solve this – I think – by having an uncharacteristically precise migration strategy. In late summer (about now in fact), they head for Africa, but they don’t go south, they head almost due west. They hit the Atlantic coast of France (and some then pass through England where they are regular in very small numbers every August). Then they change direction and head south, following

the coast all the way down, bypassing the Sahara before heading due East into the right wetland habitat just inland in Senegal. You can imagine the genetics of this is not too complicated: two time dependent changes of direction, rather than simply fly south at a particular time. But what came first? The habitat specialisation that requires a precise migration strategy, or the precise migration strategy that allowed a habitat specialisation? These questions – why are aquatic warblers such an exception to the rule of migrants just flying south and hoping for the unfussy best? – and is this the reason why they are at such risk of extinction? – are part of my professional, rather than simply my local birding life. So an aquatic warbler turning up on my local patch in Crail – this mysterious migrant, possibly heading for extinction – was something I had to see. So the twitch was on.

Ten of us, including the May Island warden (unluckily visiting St Abbs Head for the weekend) hired the Osprey rib from Anstruther. £350 in total if you are interested in doing the same sometime. It was then only a 20 minute bumpy, wet ride across to the island. A quick walk up to the top of the island and the usual nail biting 20 minutes or so until the bird was seen well by everyone. Aquatic warblers are fairly skulking and keep to dense vegetation. The bird was only in short rank vegetation but it was quite enough to hide a small bird. It was also fairly tame and didn’t fly unless its bit of vegetation was approached within a couple of metres. Then it would fly a few metres, perch briefly in sight before disappearing again. In 90 minutes it was clearly in view for about 25 seconds. But each view gave up enough to see the bird properly: a very pale sandy brown bird with thick black stripes on its back and head. Very distinctive and unmistakable – if you had a clear view of it – and that I suspect is the trick in ever tracking down one. I don’t feel too bad now missing them in Senegal – truly a needle in a haystack, and a needle that dives down to the bottom of the haystack (a haystack with *Bilharzia* which is also a significant factor to consider when wading through their habitat in Africa). And then a quick dash back to the boat for us all and the same rapid journey on the rib. Back in Anstruther in less than 3 hours as if it had never happened.

Was it worth it? Absolutely. Well, it worked out, and I may never see an aquatic warbler again unless I seek them out on their breeding ground, when singing males at least should be obvious. Number 230 on my Crail list – the May Island is firmly within the 10km radius of my house that defines my patch. I have always known that I will need to do some twitching on the May to get my list up to the target 300 before I take up birding in the afterlife, and I would have gone after an aquatic warbler even if hadn’t been local. I can actually see the patch of vegetation where the aquatic warbler is from my house in Crail, so perhaps I should also put it on my garden list, but that might be taking it too far.



Painted Lady Butterfly

The other exciting thing last week was much more accessible. A huge invasion of painted lady butterflies. You can’t have failed to notice the tens of butterflies on every flowering plant and then later sunning themselves on every wall around Crail. There has been a huge invasion all along the East Coast and this week Crail is still full of painted ladies. On the May Island it was really noticeable. Hundreds of butterflies outnumbering the puffins – it is usually the other way round.

The fulmars that nest on the cliff below Castle Walk are never very successful at breeding. Some years several pairs sit all summer and don't get off a single chick. This year there is still one well grown chick, at least, on the lower cliff below the viewpoint sign. Even though it is a very big ball of fluff, it will be another month before it fledges. There were no adults about at all when I had a look at it on the 31st. They will have been far out to sea collecting fish to be regurgitated in a very oily soup when they visit the chick again in a few days. Fulmar chicks can be left alone because they are so big, but also because they defend themselves by projectile vomiting at any intruders the same oily fish soup that their parents fed them – but much more digested and nasty smelling. It is a great defence. I have been vomited on by a fulmar and it still makes me cringe in memory: our very own sea skunk.



Letters to the Editor

All letters to Crail Matters must supply names and addresses. If requested we will withhold names. All letters are published as received, and reflect or represent the views of the author, not the Editors.

On behalf of Crail Festival Trustees I am writing to thank and congratulate the Committee, under the Chairmanship of Ian Mooney, and volunteers for putting on a wonderful Festival which clearly appealed to both residents and visitors alike. The eleven day event had something for everyone from an open air production of The Tempest, miraculously performed in glorious sunshine, to classical guitar, a comedy poet, a joint production with Crail Folk Club and much more. The Children's Programme was largely sold out with the Rock Stacking Competition, allegedly for children, being a standout new event. All bar a couple of adult events were sold out. Some thirty odd years ago the Festival started as an art exhibition, it continues with this year's being as impressive as ever. This does not happen by chance. Planning starts a year ahead with many people putting a lot of effort and imagination into the innovative programme.

Let's not forget the putting green, a community initiative under the auspices of the Festival which is open from mid-June until late-August. Over 40 volunteers oversee the Green during opening hours, and a group of intrepid mowers under the guidance of Crail Golfing Society's Head Greenkeeper make this a real community effort.

We are already looking forward to next year's programme.

*Tony Kingsbury
Chairman of Crail Festival Trustees*

Sirs,

I am pleased to know that I am not the only second home owner in Crail who objects in the strongest of terms to the uncalled for comments which second home owners have to tolerate from the editorial team of Crail Matters.

Not for the first time that I have found it necessary to write about this matter. Frankly some of the views expressed on a regular basis in Crail Matters on where and how people live their lives in the local community are quite unacceptable. The often biased and at times narrow minded comments are such that they could actively discourage people from wanting to live in the area at all. Perhaps this is the aim of those who seek to divide the community into two camps - permanent "model" residents and outsiders!

Another example was this weeks comments on the colour that someone had painted their newly erected garden fence in Fife Ness. Such comments are totally unnecessary and give the impression that Crail and its surrounding areas are someone's own personal private Fiefdom and that we all have to live by their standards and conditions instead of a free democratic society. Perhaps the Crail Seagull should take a long vacation to Soviet Russia, where he might find fences more to his liking!

Name and address withheld

Sirs,

The survey of Shoregate was done by two Shoregate residents with a life long association with this street. As residents we have a good understanding of how each property is occupied and used. The idea to assess the current status of Shoregate was triggered by the Scottish Government's research into the impact of Short Term Lets and the visit of Regina Serpa to the East Neuk. This research was notified in advance in Crail Matters for two weeks and people were invited to contribute.

Crail is a town and community that is very dependant on tourism and holiday residences, but for Crail to be a thriving community all year round we depend on residents that help keep shops, schools and businesses open. It is reasonable to try and understand what is happening within our community.

Currently neither Fife Council nor the Scottish Government can provide information that can accurately describe the current nature of residency and property use. Will it be acceptable to allow market forces to drive parts of our special burgh down to 10% residency or less? If we build 320 more homes in Crail North do we let properties that are built as affordable homes become holiday homes, and make it more difficult for young people to stay in Crail. Would it be acceptable to have Shoregate become predominately Short Term Lets?

We need to ask questions and discuss the future within our community.

Name and address withheld



Want to make a difference to the NHS in your local community?

Why?

The NHS impacts on everyone's lives at one time or another and this could be your chance to get involved in improving, sustaining and protecting the health of your local population. You could have a unique opportunity to help shape the future of the NHS and broaden your own skills and experience.

What's involved?

NHS Fife is looking for a new member to join its Board as a Whistleblowing Champion. This is a challenging, rewarding and worthwhile role which, on average, will take up around 8 hours a week. In return, you will be paid £8,416 a year.

Can I apply?

We want to hear from people with a diverse range of skills, backgrounds and knowledge. You do not need to be a health expert or have previous experience of being on a Board. You do need to have a commitment to helping us improve the health and wellbeing of the people living in Fife. If this is you, we would like to hear from you.

If you are appointed you will receive training and support to develop your skills and to learn any new skills you may require.

How do I find out more?

More information on this role can be found at the public appointments website: www.appointed-for-scotland.org or by calling 0300 244 1898 (Freephone). Completed applications must be received before **midday on Monday 12th August 2019.**



LOTTERY SCAM

The National Lottery Community Fund is warning Twitter followers that fraudsters have been posing as the organisation on Twitter, contacting people to say they, or their organisations, have been chosen to receive large sums of money from the fund. Social media users are urged not to respond and to contact Police on 101 to report the scam.

ONLINE SCAMS ADVICE Citizens Advice has a new telephone helpline, funded by Facebook, to help people who have been scammed online. In serious cases face-to-face meetings with Citizens Advice will be arranged where someone falls into debt or mortgage arrears, for example. Facebook also has a new tool to report fake adverts. Facebook users can click three dots in the top corner of every advert to see an option to "send a detailed scam report" to report a misleading advert.



Scottish Fisheries Museum

Head down to The Scottish Fisheries Museum at 1pm on Tuesday 6th of August for "Gala Days Gone By"! On Gala Days in the East Neuk, bunting decked the streets, flags were flown and sashes were worn!

Help The Scottish Fisheries Museum mark their 50th Anniversary by adding your very own design to their bunting garland and make some Gala Day gear.

There is free, drop-in activity for families. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/855995704781828/> for more information.

Painted Lady Butterflies

Many of you will have noticed and wondered at the masses of painted lady butterflies in our gardens last week. They have been a wonderful sight, hundreds of them fluttering in the air and landing in particular on buddleia and hebe bushes.

You may be interested to know that this appears to be a mass migration on this butterfly's incredible route from Africa to the Arctic. Apparently they appear in these huge numbers about once a decade, the last being in 2009.

When I checked online, there is a butterfly count in which you can participate. Most of the recorded sightings seem to be in the South of England, so I thought I'd let them know we have them too. You can log on to bigbutterflycount.org and pop in your post code to record the sighting on the map.

It really has been a wonderful privilege to see these beautiful butterflies in great clouds fluttering through the air, knowing we won't see such a sight again for at least another 10 years.



Chiggers!

Everyone has suffered from that incredibly itchy bite that keeps you awake at night. Although some people seem far more susceptible to being bitten and suffer spectacular reactions; it is a fact of summer that we will all get nibbled by something and it won't be pleasant!

Chiggers are almost invisible horrible little mites that are commonly found on meadows, golf courses, woodlands, parks and in grassland around lakes and rivers. They are members of the Trombiculidae family and are tiny mite like spiders. They are also known as berry bugs or harvest mites.



Symptoms of chigger bites include intense itching, and flat or raised red bumps on the skin that sometimes appear blistered.

Antihistamines and topical anti bite and sting relief creams. Some folks also love the click-it itch relief clickers and swear they work brilliantly.

Chiggers most commonly bite areas of thinned skin such as wrinkles and warm folds of skin such as the crotch and groin areas, armpits, and behind the knees. The ankles and calves are also common sites for chigger bites.

When the chigger bites, it inserts its feeding structures and mouth parts into the skin. They inject enzymes into the host skin that destroy the tissue around the bite and it is these that frequently provoke reactions. The area around the bite then hardens, and they insert a feeding tube, called a sylostome, further into the bite area. If chiggers are not disturbed, they can feed on the skin through this structure for a few days if they are not disturbed.

Crail Festival Putting Green

**2019
Season**

**The Putting Green will be open
1.30pm - 7.00pm**

22 June - 25 August

East Neuk Book Group

We meet 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 6pm but pop in from 5.30pm and have a chat with us over coffee or hot chocolate.
£1 payable on the night.

Thursday 5th September
Barbara Kingsolver
Unsheltered

Thursday 3rd October
Danny Scheinmann
Random Acts of Heroic Love

If you would like further information or would like to join our mailing list, please contact Coral coralnapier@yahoo.co.uk

An Appeal

As noted in earlier Crail Matters, the Community Council agreed a proposal to place a second Memorial bench at the War Memorial at the Kirk Gate. The second bench would be placed at the opposite side of the gate to the existing bench. Readers will recall the last Memorial Day Service, when the memorial bench was presented.



An appeal to raise funds to purchase a second bench has now been launched. The target of the appeal is £1000. For further information please contact Victor Reynolds. Crail Matters will be very pleased to pass on any donations it might receive. The organisers wish to thank all those who have supported this appeal so far by their generous donations.

Related to this, the Community Council have established a group in co-operation with Crail Kirk, to develop plans for the War Memorial Service for this year, which will be held on Sunday 10 November. For further information please contact Bailie Hutchison at: crailcommunitycouncil@gmail.com.

CRAIL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE LIVE

Crail Community Partnership is pleased to announce that their website www.crailcommunitypartnership.org is now live and available to view. All three reports are available on the website with information about current projects that we are undertaking as a result of the Charrette. You will also be able to find all the latest news from the Partnership and sign up to become a member.

DROP IN CENTRE

As a follow up to our third and final workshop, Crail Community Partnership is holding a Drop In Centre where the Final Local Place Plan will be available to view. Trustees of the partnership will be on hand to answer any questions or queries you may have about what's in the report and what comes next.



The Event will be held in Crail Community Hall on Saturday 17th August from 10:00am to 12:00 noon.

Skeith Surgery

Routine GP appointments - appointments released Monday at 2pm for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning for the following week. Appointments released Wednesday at 2 pm for Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday the following week.

Nurse appointments can be booked approx 1 month in advance.

Greens of Crail - reusing plastic

The scallop tubs which are quite well made and are ideal for salmon are available if anyone would prefer a reusable tub instead of a plastic bag - please ask. Also if anyone wishes to bring in their own plastic tubs for haddock there is no issue as it can simply be tared on the scales. *thanks Clem at Greens`*

Mobile Library

The mobile library calls at Marketgate every 2nd Thursday.

Crail Bowling Club

Our club has now opened for the season and we welcome new members or anyone wishing to try bowls. Single game tickets are available.

**Singing for the Memory
and Music and Movement
for people with Dementia and their Carers at
Kilrenny Parish Church Hall**

1.30pm-4.00pm Wednesdays

Singing for Memory	Music and Movement
31 July	
28 August	11 September
25 September	13 November
30 October	11 December
27 November	

**Community Transport
Transport service for people with visual im-
pairments in the East Fife area.**

Royal Voluntary Service volunteers provide Community Transport for trips where mobility issues can make it difficult, if not impossible, for you to use public transport or if you live in rural areas with limited transport. Trips usually include getting to or from hospital or to a GP appointment but can also include trips to the shops or into town or to social activities.

Telephone: 0330 555 0310

Email: fifegnhs@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Or have someone do it on your behalf:

<https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/our-services/service-enquiry?serviceid=884>



Crail Matters

We continue to need funds. If you have already donated, then **thank you**. If you haven't, will you consider making a donation? You can make a bank transfer to sort code 83-26-28, Account No. 15518709, or by cheque payable to 'Crab Publishing' given to any member of the Editorial Board or posted to Crab Publishing, 1 Fife Ness, Crail, KY10 3XN.

Advert/Copy Submission to Crail Matters

The Editors are happy to accept material for publication in a variety of formats, but we prefer .jpg and .pdf copy. We would urge anyone submitting material to have regard to efficient use of space - we cannot guarantee to publish in original format large adverts designed as posters. We reserve the right to edit material.

**CRAIL MUSEUM
AND HERITAGE
CENTRE**

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

1st June - 27th October: Daily

Guided Walks: Wednesdays and Sundays

Monday - Saturdays: 11am - 4pm

Sundays: 1.30pm - 4pm

Admission to the Museum is FREE but donations are always gratefully received.

Guided Walks

It is not a difficult walk but there is a steep hill down to and up from the harbour.

Meet at the Museum 2.15pm for 2.30pm start, walks usually lasts 1.5 - 2 hours.

Adults £3.00 Children (10 - 17) £1.00

Contact your Fife Councillor?

Cllr.Linda.Holt@fife.gov.uk 07725 223773.

cllr.bill.porteous@fife.gov.uk 01333 730837 or

07753982311

cllr.john.docherty@fife.gov.uk 07718 66 89 96

Crail Mobile Post Office Service

Location - Along High Street opposite the Beehive

Opening times:

Monday: 1400-1600

Tuesday: 1400-1600

Wednesday: 1400-1600

R.B.S. Mobile Branch Timetable

Tuesdays St. Andrews Road Car Park, Anstruther -

2.15pm -3.00pm; Thursdays North Marketgate, Crail -

10.20am 10.50am

Useful Emergency Numbers

Samaritans	116 123
Breathing Space	0800 838587
Social Work Out Of Hours Emergencies	03451 55 00 99
Adult Protection Phone Line	01383 602200
Child Protection or Social Work	03451 551503
NHS24	111
Police	101
CARF (Citizen's Advice & Rights)	0345 1400 095
Homeless Emergency Number	0800 028 6231

Crail Hospital Car Service

Crail is full of good neighbours and it is they who provide the Hospital Car Service. It's only when you can't drive because you or the car is sick, or it is too daunting to think of standing in the cold, waiting for a return bus from the health centre or the dentist, or you need to get to Kirkcaldy hospital that you wish for a bit of help. Maybe you're new to Crail and don't know many people yet. That bit of help is there and has been for 54 years in Crail. It's the Hospital Car Service. If you could do with that bit of help, ring. 01333 450096.



The Crail Seagull



Did you hear about the lightning strike on the big wind turbine at Leven? What will happen to my nest when they build the huge ones off Fluke Dub? Apparently, wind turbines are lightning magnets and strikes on these tall, spinning structures can cause significant damage. Blades explode; generators and control system electronics fry.

I'm worried - I may have to rethink my summer location at Fluke Dub!

I was on my way home earlier this week when I noticed something rather shocking. Just as I reached Constantine's cave which is near my home at Fluke Dubs, I saw, to my surprise a golfer going into the cave. Curious, I thought. I hovered a bit to see what was going on and out this golfer came, pulling up his shorts! Now, I'm no aerial Miss Marples but I worked out exactly what this man was up to. Sensitivity meant that I didn't investigate further!

Since this cave was tidied up and information notices placed outside, the general condition of the cave has been maintained, which makes me think that this was not a local golfer. As he was playing on Balcomie links he was obviously not one of the many competitors who attended the very prestigious competition being held on Craighead links. I for one, applaud the Golf Course holding this competition. There were lots of visitors and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

I felt quite sad that this visitor had treated one of our historic sights so carelessly. At least when us seagulls go in for some 'decoration' we try to be a bit artistic, though these efforts are no longer visible on the blue fence!

I've had several people asking who I am. I confess I have a certain celebrity status amongst our local seagull population, and even amongst the more thoughtful other birds (although some are just SO flighty). But who am I? And am I in fact more than one person (as we seagulls refer to ourselves)? Who knows?



Community Council Notes

Our new website is <https://crailcc.com/>

Next Community Council

Meeting 7.15pm 26 August in the Town Hall

Community Council Notes is taking a holiday until 19 August



**YOU NEED TO BE REGISTERED
TO BE ABLE TO VOTE.**

Make sure you are. Look out for your letter and reply by 8th August 2019.

You can respond on-line at:
www.hef-response.co.uk/fife-ecanvass



Crail Community Partnership and Crail Charrette

Crail Community Partnership invite all members of the Crail Community to join. An application form can be found here:
<https://crailmatterscom.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/membership-form-short.pdf>

Material for inclusion in Crail Matters should be sent to crailmatters@gmail.com and received on Friday midday before publication. Any views expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the author, and not of Crail Matters. We reserve the right to edit copy for length and style. Submission does not guarantee inclusion. © Crab Publishing 2019: Editorial Team this week: Helen Byres, Julie Middleton, Isla Reid, Valencia Sowry, Max Taylor, John Wilson