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Forth Estuary Forum E-Bulletin May 2016

Forth Ferry officially launches following successful trial



Seafari Adventures and the Scottish Seabird Centre officially launch the Forth Ferry for the 2016 season, following a very successful trial of the service in 2015 and in conjunction with VisitScotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design.

The Forth Ferry offers a unique passenger service between the popular seaside towns of North Berwick, East Lothian and Anstruther, Fife. Each crossing takes approximately 45 minutes on board the 55-seat Catamaran, and allows visitors to enjoy days out in either location. The aim of the Forth Ferry is to forge closer tourism links between East Lothian and Fife, offering locals and visitors alike opportunities for great days out on both sides of the Forth.

Colin Aston, Managing Director of Seafari Adventures, said: “The trial of the Forth Ferry in 2015 was a great success, with lots of demand for the service and really positive feedback. There were also some really insightful comments from passengers and we have used these to make the Forth Ferry the best that we can.”

Tom Brock OBE, Chief Executive of the Scottish Seabird Centre and a Director of the Forum, said: “With a long and rich history, this crossing was previously the ‘Pilgrim’s Ferry’ dating back over 1,000 years and used by pilgrims on their way to St Andrews. It has been wonderful, not only to reinstate this historic route, but to experience a demand for it to continue.

“This innovative service will benefit locals, visitors and communities on both sides of the Forth. In the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design it is great to be able to officially launch the Forth Ferry for 2016 with the first sailing on Saturday 14 May.

“We have been working in partnership with Fife Council, East Lothian Council, the Scottish Fisheries Museum, East Neuk Tourist Association and North Berwick Business Association on visitor itineraries and will be looking for locals to give their top tips for days out with #FFRecommends.”

Manuela Calchini, Regional Director at VisitScotland, said: “We are delighted that the Forth Ferry is to return and the opportunities it will bring for tourism in the area. From the majestic Tantallon Castle in East Lothian to the beautiful seaside village of Anstruther in Fife, this innovative service will make it even easier for visitors to explore the many attractions on both sides of the water. We hope more visitors will take advantage of this unique travel experience and journey between Fife and East Lothian this season.”

The Forth Ferry Excursion is the latest addition to a wide variety of popular boat trips offered by Seafari Adventures and the Seabird Centre. Full details and bookings for all boat trips: www.seabird.org.

First Forum Beach Clean of the Year



The Forum carried out its first beach clean of the year on May 20, at Wardie Bay in Granton, Edinburgh. The beach was thoroughly cleaned by a team from the Edinburgh office of Cundalls Engineering Consultants as part of 'Give and Gain Day', an initiative set up by Business in the Community Scotland. The Forum would like to extend its thanks to both organisations.

The beach was so well cleaned, it will be interesting to see how long litter takes to accumulate there again. Two local residents kindly took the time to thank the team for their efforts.

More details on Give and Gain Day can be found at <http://www.bitc.org.uk/programmes/give-gain-day>.

Cruise Ship season starts in the Forth

Cruise ship spotting has started again with the first international cruise liner arriving in South Queensferry on Tuesday, 17th May and the first into Rosyth on Saturday, 21st May.

The Caribbean Princess berthed on Tuesday at South Queensferry bearing more than 3,000 international passengers. The passenger list highlights the majority of visitors come from USA and Canada, but also includes guests from Japan, Australia and the UK.

Peter Wilson, who runs the Cruise Forth project to develop tourism business with the cruise ships, will, for the first time, join the passengers on board the ship before they arrive. The new welcome process has been introduced this year by Princess Cruises to provide a personal greeting before the ship anchors beside the Forth Bridge. Peter joined the ship in Greenock and spent time talking to passengers about tourism opportunities across Fife and East Central Scotland. He said:

"We know that cruise passengers are very diligent about researching their destinations and deciding what they would like to visit before they even get on board. This new welcome has been introduced to offer a personal touch, some individual anecdotes and comments that help visitors to connect with Fife, Edinburgh and East Central Scotland in a more memorable way. Other volunteers from the Cruise Forth project will share this role, too."

The Astor will arrive in Rosyth on Saturday 21st and the Cruise Forth volunteers will be on hand in the terminal to assist visitors explore the area.

Cruise Forth is now in its fourth year and has won two tourism awards. See more at:

<http://www.fifetourismpartnership.org/news/cruise-ship-spotting-new-season-of-cruise-ships-arrives-in-the-forth-this-week>

Historic Anster Fair to return in June

An historic market day will be revived next weekend at Anstruther's Harbour Festival.

Anster Fair was immortalised in the epic 1812 poem of the same name by local writer William Tennant. The relaunched event on June 4 and 5th will include street entertainment, live music, children's activities and art workshops.

It will form part of the wider Anstruther Harbour Festival, also on June 4 and 5, which will see festivities in and around two waterfront marquees. Scores of boats will take part in the annual Anstruther Muster, which will include a classic boat rally and skiff races by St Ayles Rowing Club.

Historic drifter the Reaper will bring in the new Anstruther Lad and Lass for their naming ceremony, before welcoming the public on board for free tours. Entertainment will include a performance by the country dance troupe Dunedin Dancers, a ceilidh and a fireworks display on Saturday evening.

The festival will open at 10am next Saturday with a parade led by the City of St Andrews Pipe Band. More details can be found [here](#).

Closing Romers Gap near North Berwick

Interesting articles on palaeontological work carried out near North Berwick on Romers Gap, where there is little fossil evidence to explain how vertebrate life stepped from water to land, can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

An exhibition of these fossils is open until 14 August at the National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh.

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Our mailing address is:

Forth Estuary Forum
Exmouth Building
Port of Rosyth, Fife KY11 2XP
United Kingdom

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