



www.crabpublishing.co.uk



CRAIL MATTERS

incorporating About Crail

W/C 3 April No 9

Free

Crail Graveyard

Fife Council Workers drive over graves

Mourners visiting Crail Cemetery seeking to place flowers on the graves of loved ones were horrified on Mother's Day to find deep tyre tracks across graves.



Council and to Crail Community Council. It seems that a grave was dug opposite but as a visitor to the graveyard said, whilst it is understandable that vehicles need to be manoeuvred 'surely care and respect for existing graves should be a high priority and basic steps taken to avoid damaging them.' Fife Council have apologised to the persons concerned, and assurances have been given that it will not happen again. However, more general concerns have been raised about the care and maintenances of the Graveyard, and the deteriorating conditions of the pathways



Unfortunately, as can be seen in the picture to the side, as of Wednesday last week what might be best described as 'carelessness' continues. Judging from the tracks over graves, this damage is presumably the result of grass cutting. Perhaps what is most concerning about this isn't so much the extent and nature of the damage (which can be easily remedied), but the lack of concern and respect for the location it seems to indicate.

Formal complaints about this have been made to Fife

Crail Matters Short Story Award and Prize

Crail Matters has established a Short Story Award and Prize to encourage creative writing in Crail and the East Neuk in general; if this initiative is successful, we hope it will be offered on a regular basis. The award will consist of a cash prize of £50 and a certificate. In addition, selected entries will be published in Crail Matters, and may also be included in a collected anthology which may be published as an ebook by Crab Publishing. The Editorial decision in all matters is final.

Stories can be on any theme or subject but must be original and written in English, and should not be longer than 3,000 words. They must also be for adult or young adult readers; non-fiction and fiction written for children under 13 years is not eligible. Entrants must be 16 years or over. Work should be submitted by 9 June 2017 to crailmatters@gmail.com. Authors should be resident within the East Neuk, or be able to demonstrate significant association with the area. Conditions for entry can be found at www.crabpublishing.co.uk

RBS to close Branches in Anstruther and Cupar

Royal Bank of Scotland has announced that it is to close its branches in Anstruther and Cupar in October. These closures are part of a wider range of branch closures which will also include Cowdenbeath, Dalgety Bay, Leven and Kirkcaldy High Street.

Crail Community Choir

The Choir will next meet on 17th April 7.30 pm in The Town Hall

Everyone will be made very welcome.
There is no obligation to attend every week.

Crail Scouts

Our Scouts are going to Ireland this summer and we are looking for Kilts to fit boys & girls aged 12-14 along with socks and plain sporrans, if anyone has any of these items that they no longer require and would be happy to donate them to the scouts please contact Lisa or Alastair on 450035.

Crail in Bloom

Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th April
open at 10.00a.m.
Legion Hall

All proceeds go towards the floral enhancement of Crail.

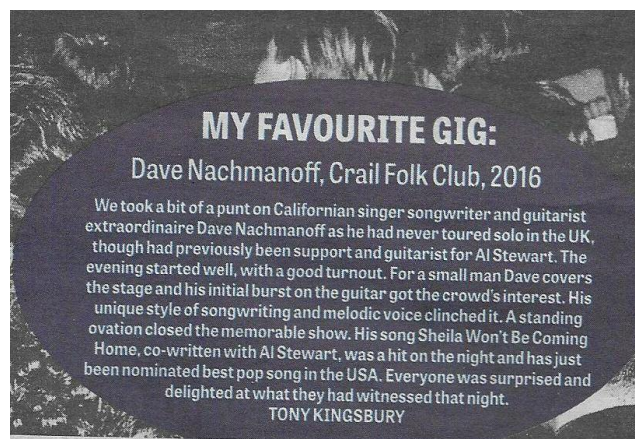
We hope that all are enjoying the spring flowers now starting to show themselves in Crail's street tubs and troughs. These were all planted in autumn by a wonderful band of volunteers. As with everything, the cost of plants continues to rise so we rely a great deal on the generosity of residents and visitors. We hope that many will show their support by attending the fund raising coffee morning. Hope to see you there.

Speeding in Crail

Following the Community Council meeting on Monday, Police Scotland have spoken to Fife Council and have put in a bid for a speed assessment on Balcomie Green/Pinkerton Road. These strips were last put in 2010 and it is understood they showed an average speed of 23mph. Unfortunately there is a bit of a wait for them – perhaps three months.

Urgent Appeal

An urgent appeal has been launched for a stem cell donor for a 10 year old Fife boy, Jay Dalrymple, with a life-threatening blood disorder. Unless he receives a transplant within 12 months he will need to go on to medication which carries the risk of him developing leukaemia. If you want to help, go to www.anthonynolan.org, to join the register of potential donors.



St Andrews Citizen

'From '100 best gigs in Fife..ever'.

Planning Notices

- Two storey rear and side extension to dwelling-house (Non-material variation to 16/03749/FULL for two storey rear extension) - 30 Bow Butts Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3UR
- Listed Building Consent for internal alterations and installation of rooflights - 10 Rumford Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3SS
- Installation of replacement door, external lighting, re-rendering of building, formation of path and opening in boundary wall - Doocot Park Nethergate Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3TY

Crail Good Companions

The Good Companions Group will meet on Tuesday 4 th April in the Kirk Hall at 1:30pm

Easter Publication Crail Matters



There will be no issue of Crail Matters published over Easter weekend - April 17. Contributors or advertisers for events over the Easter weekend, and into Easter week, should let us have details to appear issue of 10 April.



We are proud to present on our website **crailfestival.com** what we are confident is a superb Programme for our 2017 Festival and would like to invite local residents to help us make the Festival a big success. You can do this either by making a financial contribution or by volunteering just a little of your time. You can become involved in the Festival in two ways:

1) **By becoming a 'Friend of Crail Festival'**. You can do this by sending a donation along with a copy of the donation form below. As a small *thank you*, Friends will be invited to the Art Exhibition Preview and reception on the 18th July at 7:30pm in the Town Hall.

2) **By joining our team of Festival volunteers**. Even if you can only spare a few hours (either in the months before or during the Festival itself) we would be very grateful for your help. Full details are on our website: just click on 'Volunteers'. Or contact Jill Bueckardt at jillianbueckardt@gmail.com or on 01333 450644 if you would like to join the team.

The website also has full details of our 2017 programme and details of how you can purchase tickets for events. **Early birds will have a first opportunity on Saturday 27th May at 10 am – 12 noon in the Town Hall.**

Many thanks in advance for whatever you are able to do towards the success of the Festival. We are sure that you will enjoy this year's programme.

The Crail Festival Committee

(The Royal Burgh of Crail Festival Society Trust (known as Crail Festival Society) is a Charity; Charity No SC020929)

To Crail Festival Society, c/o Ian J Brown,
17 Kirk Wynd, Crail, KY10 3TW

I wish to donate the sum of £..... and either
enclose a cheque payable to **Crail Festival Society** ()
or have donated by BACS to **Crail Festival Society**,
Account Number 00126738, Sort Code 83-17-19 ()
Please tick above as appropriate.

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

email:

Telephone:

Please forward your donation by Friday Wednesday 20 April so that we can include your name in the festival programme booklet. Donations received after that date may not be included in the booklet.

If you DO NOT wish your name published, please tick here ()

giftaid it

Please sign and date this section of the form if you wish to make your donation under the Gift Aid Scheme through which the Society can reclaim tax on the donation you make. This will increase each donation by 25% providing you have paid sufficient Income Tax.

Signature of

Taxpayer.....

Date

WILD CRAIL

Will Cresswell,

with Photographs by John Anderson



I have been away from Crail for the last week which makes it hard to comment on its wildlife. Spring has been advancing inexorably while I have been away and I was greeted by chiff-chaff song last Friday morning in St Andrews and really quite balmy temperatures. The wind has been streaming up from the south so we may even expect an early barn swallow and certainly a sand martin this week to join the ospreys of last week (one over Kirkcaldy last Thursday, for example).

Even while away in England I was frequently reminded of Crail and the area because I was at the British Ornithologists Union (perhaps better labelled as Global Bird Researchers) annual conference. This was themed this year on how tracking birds leads to understanding ecological and conservation problems: a lot of the talks concerned seabirds and so to the Crail link, some of these involved tracking gannets from the Bass Rock and shags from the May Island. It is always quite nice to sit in one of these conferences and be shown slides of home: the talks are interesting but always that bit more interesting when describing the things that you see everyday on your doorstep.

There is a lot of interest at the moment in measuring where seabirds go and how they get there because we intend to put thousands of wind turbines out in the North Sea. There is a huge offshore windfarm planned at the entrance to the Firth of Forth. Crail is right in the middle, albeit the turbines will be at least 25 km out at sea. A long way from us – we will barely be able to see the tops of them, but as the seabird flies, this is right on our doorstep. We know this very well now because if you put GPS tags on a gannet breeding on the Bass Rock you can track them flying out hundreds of kilometres there and back into the North Sea, crossing the footprint of the proposed wind farm daily if they are feeding chicks. Clearly there is a lot of potential for the 170,000 gannets to hit the turbines if they are not paying attention. And with the tags you can also see how high the birds are flying so in conjunction with their tracks, you can see how often they would intercept with (hit) a turbine, if of course, they take no evasive action. When you do the maths this works out at about 560 potential collisions a year, which is a very large number. But gannets have great binocular vision and turbines are not inconspicuous, particularly in our light Scottish summer nights, so they are unlikely to plough



Gannet

on into a turbine at random. They will fly above or most likely below them. But of course gannets are out there looking for fish, so they may well be dis-



Gannets feeding

traced and looking down at the crucial moment. And it gets more complicated because the wind farms may also be avoided by fisherman – who don't want to hit turbines either – so the wind farm may well make, in effect, a protected marine reserve where fish numbers may be higher. So attracting more gannets into the area and increasing collision risk particularly as they form up into their spectacular diving frenzies to catch the fish.

What will happen with these turbines is hard to call – I think there will be collisions but the gannets will probably adjust their behaviour. There are always hazards to avoid, particularly for a species which specialises in diving into dense aggregations of fish, cetaceans and other individuals, where split second agility makes the difference between hitting another gannet or getting the fish. So gannets should be able to respond very quickly to avoid a collision threat: I hope so because regardless of the collision risk, these wind turbines will be put into place. But even if the collision risk is high there may be many ways to deter birds from collisions and we know also that for land based turbines, many bird species such as geese, soon adjust to the risk and life goes on normally in places like Denmark with the geese feeding reasonably happily in the farmland below the

Gannets going out to forage



Wild Crail cont.

turbines. Perhaps the worse thing about the turbines being out there is they might be out of sight and out of mind. You can always count what hits a land based turbine; it is a bit harder out in the sea, especially during the winter storms. Again tracking birds should give us some of the answers: and of course I haven't mentioned the 110,000 puffins also shuttling back and forth from the May Island.

Denburn Dispatches

In Eira's absence due to work commitments, this month's write up is brought to you by Erica. It seems like quite a few had other commitments – or perhaps April fools? - as we were down to a mere five volunteers this month.



While some of the larger daffodils are coming to an end, many of the smaller narcissi are still looking very



bonny. Blue seems to be the colour of the month with the blue anemones still looking good, the more unusual vivid blue pulmonaria bringing a startling touch of colour to a dark corner and the first bluebells just starting to come out. Still plenty of shades of yellow from the pale prim-

roses to the deeper daffodils and the pinky red of the flowering currant adds to the palette of colours. The trees are starting into leaf and the birds are busy making their nests and singing to their mates (and rivals) – Spring has well and truly arrived.

We continued clearing the burn and planting up and weeding the new bed from last month and are already considering rescuing the patch surrounding the white

willow, which seems to have some nice planting now rather overwhelmed by ground elder and nettles. However, for the foragers out there, the ground elder and young nettle tops are at their tastiest just now and we don't mind you taking a few ;-) although don't forget to avoid those closest to the path where dogs may have done their worst. Water mint and wild garlic are also tasty but wash anything taken from the burn very thoroughly before sampling.



Willow leaves emerging

Your friendly Denburn diggers will be back clearing, raking, pruning and planting on the first Saturday of May at 10am, do come and join us if you like a spot of gardening or just like to get involved with looking after our community spaces.



The Editors were sent this photograph, apparently taken somewhere in Crail. Oddly enough, it arrived on the morning of the 1st of April. We are not quite sure what to make of it!

Springtime for You and Your Pet.

Birds are chirping, flowers are waking up and temperatures are rising at last, all of which makes Spring a perfect season for you and your pet, but there are hazards, starting with your garden.

Grass is Always Greener.

Spring brings lush growth to our grass. It's not a problem if your pet munches on it from time to time, though eating in large quantities can be a sign of an upset stomach, as dogs sometimes use grass as a natural remedy. If your pet does this with any frequency it's best to speak to your vet. Spring is the time to get your lawn into shape, but unfortunately many of the chemicals we use can be dangerous to your pet. Fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides usually are not meant for consumption. The rule here is to read the label on the product and take note of the waiting period before allowing pets back outside.

Flower Power.



While you're gardening pay special attention to poisonous plants which are accessible to your dog or cat. Rhododendron, and azalea are two common ones, but a complete list can be found

at RSPCA website. If you think your pet has ingested something unsavoury, it's best to contact your vet and if possible take a sample of the plant.

Birds are a treat in Springtime.

They are also a treat for your cat! Cats are natural hunters, and account for many fledgling deaths, but you can help stop undue carnage



or leaving you presents on the doorstep. Birds are at their most active around sunrise and sunset, so if you can keep your cat inside at these times it is a benefit. Also make sure that you use bird feeders rather than throwing food on to the ground.

Though cats are excellent climbers, the time delay in reaching birds can give them an advantage.

Preventative Measures.



In Spring insects begin to emerge. Make sure your pet is up to date on all preventative medications including flea and tick medication. Rabbits are now out and

about and if your dog has a fancy for rabbit droppings, it can cause worms so make sure to worm your pets regularly.

Out and About

When we go out for walks we often meet strange dogs. Kennel cough is a highly contagious condition as it is spread through airborne droplets produced by sneezing and coughing from infected dogs. It's not usually a life threatening condition unless your dog is elderly or infirm. It sounds much worse than it is and most dogs recover in time. If you find your dog meeting lots of others kennel cough is a good thing to bear this in mind. A vaccine is available but is not always successful as kennel cough is made up of many types of bacteria. If your dog does contract kennel cough it is a good idea to avoid contact with other dogs.



It should be noted that not all dogs you meet are friendly or well trained. My vet said that the incidence of unprovoked

attacks on pets by out of control dogs is on the increase, so be vigilant.

One last thing. When you're playing with your dog, please don't throw sticks for him. The damage that can be done is potentially very serious and distressing.

ROYAL BURGH OF CRAIL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES



Railway links

The StARLinks campaign (<http://www.starlink-campaign.org.uk>) have recently lobbied MSP's in the Scottish Parliament to reinstate a rail connection to St Andrews. Any such development would clearly benefit Crail, reducing the time to get to the nearest train stations at Leuchars or Cupar. However, the success of the Borders Railway, not just in terms of ease of access to train services but also in terms of improvements in local commercial activity, suggests that such investments can be very beneficial to local economies. It's probably too much to expect the East Neuk Service to be reinstated, but we look with interest on future developments.

Tree Charter

The Community Council at its last meeting agreed to join The Tree Charter movement. More than 70 organisations from across multiple sectors have joined forces to lead society in creating a Charter for Trees, Woods and People that will guide policy and practice in the UK, enabling a future in which trees and people stand stronger together. The Tree Charter will be launched at Lincoln Castle on November 6 2017, the 800th anniversary of the historic 1217 Charter of the Forest which established rights of access and use for the Royal Forests in England. Lincoln Castle is home to one of the last two remaining copies of this historic document, which will be joined by the new Charter for Trees, Woods and People. The Tree Charter will set out how people and trees should be able to benefit each other. The guidelines and principles it contains will be applicable to policy, business practice and individual action. The articles of the Tree Charter will set out practical roles and responsibilities for the people of the UK to ensure that the principles or aims of the charter can be achieved. The articles are being written by experts from the organisations involved in the call.

Beach Clean

This is advance notice that there will be a call for volunteers to participate in our annual Beach and Village Clean. Last year this was a very successful event, with an enormous amount of debris removed from Roome Bay beach in particular. This year the weather (at least so far) has been somewhat kinder, and there has not been the number of damaged creels washed up. However, this is an opportunity to clean and tidy up not simply the beaches, but also the village in general. We hope you will support this year's call when made.

Issues

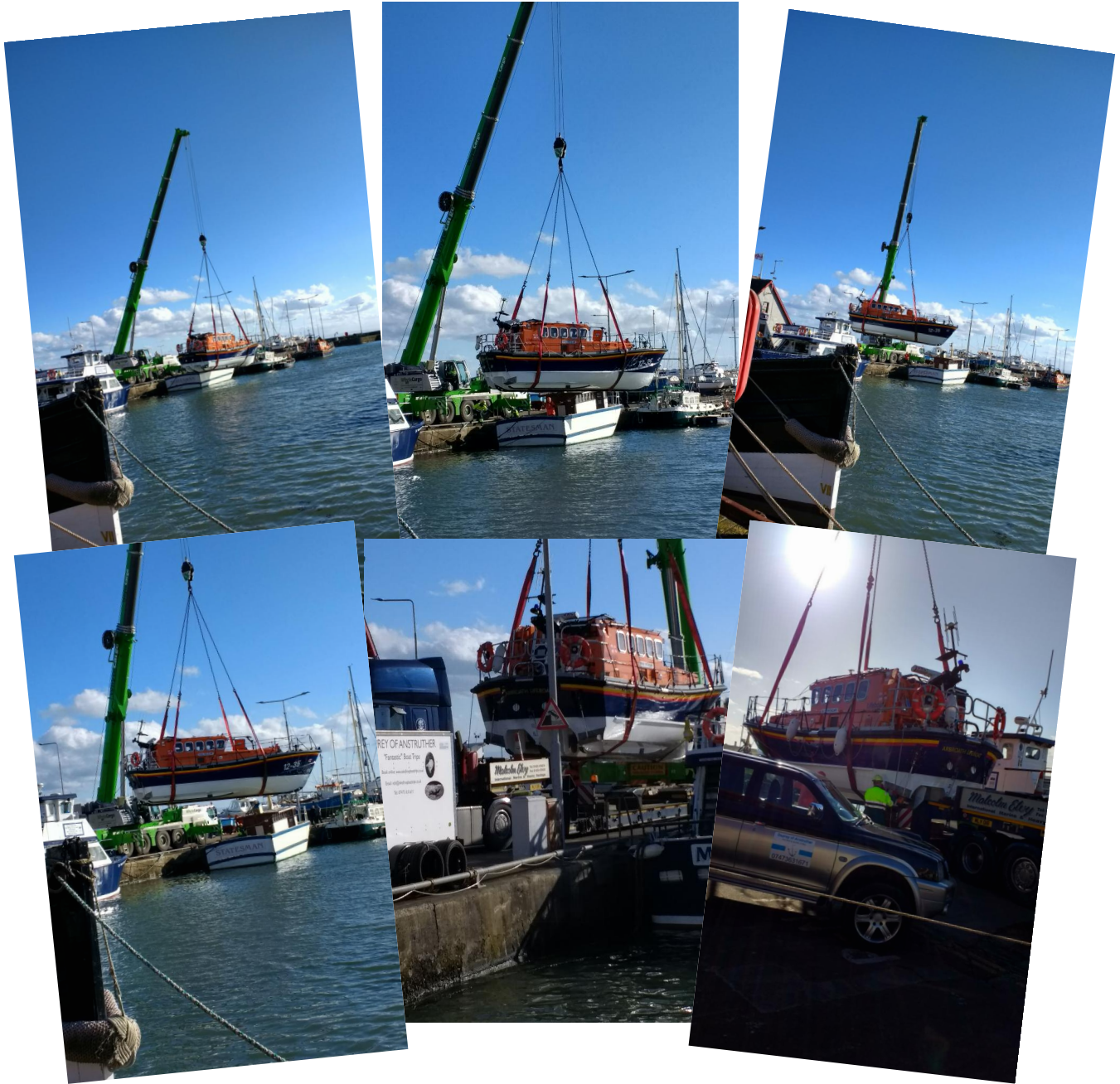
Complaints were received at the recent Community Council meeting about potential pollution problems in Denburn. This has been referred to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) who will undertake tests. Complaints have also been received about cars exceeding the speed limit, particularly in Marketgate and when passing through Denburn Dip. Police Scotland have been informed, and it is understood they will respond appropriately.

Home Energy Scotland

A presentation by Home Energy Scotland was made to the Community Council. They are holding an event in the Community Hall on Tuesday 4th April, from 1.00pm to 3.00pm, at which advice on home energy efficiency and use will be made available. Speakers from Fife Council Planning, Home Energy Scotland, Green Homes Network members and the University of St Andrews will make short presentations, and be available for advice.

Signage at the Entrance to Crail

The road signs at the entrance to the Village are scheduled to be replaced; it seems however this has been delayed and will not commence until the new financial year. The Community Council has sought to ensure that the full name of the village (The Royal Burgh of Crail) is displayed on the sign. This is particularly appropriate, given that the Lord Lyon King of Arms has granted to Crail Community Council the rights to the Crail shield, ensuring continuity with our past.



Lifting the Arbroath Lifeboat at Anstruther Harbour, 31 March,



Crail Airfield

Alasdair Martin

Crail Kirk

Easter Services

9th April - Palm Sunday Service in Crail Church at 11:15am

12th April- Holy Wednesday Service in Kingsbarns Church at 6:30pm. (Cluster Event)

13th April- Maundy Thursday Sacrament of Holy Communion in Crail Church at 6:30pm

14th April- Good Friday Service in Crail Church at 6:30pm

16th April- Easter Day Early morning service at Triangle Park 8am followed by breakfast in the Kirk Hall.

16th April- Easter Day Service in Crail Church at 11:15am

Coffee Morning

The Easter Coffee Morning will take place in the Kirk Hall on Saturday 15th April, 10 - 12 noon. Baking stall and raffle. All welcome. Come and begin the Easter celebrations with us. (Donations of baking and/or raffle prizes would be very welcome).

14th – 17th April: Crail Art Group will be holding their Exhibition in the Kirk Hall times in the Magazine



Alasdair Martin

The Crail Seagull

An eye on our world



Cars really do sometimes whizz around Crail without much regard for seagulls, let alone people. And it seems to me that the biggest offenders are not the boy racers going to the Airfield, but middle aged to elderly men on their own in big cars! Is this called the Jeremy Clarkson syndrome? And one of the funniest (or saddest) thing I see are elderly men in sports cars whizzing around. I wonder how they manage to get out of such low down vehicles, given their age and infirmities?

My cousin who lives in Kingsbarns tells me that the dispute with Fife Council and the Golf Club over the Golf championship continues. It seems that Fife Council had conveniently forgotten that as a condition of the original approval of the Golf Course construction in 1997, a strict planning condition was imposed and agreed that no golf traffic may use the Back Stiles Road. The current proposal is, of course, to close Back Stiles Road for Golf traffic. Well well

I met a little mouse on Nethergate recently - mice are sneaky and gossip a lot, especially this one - and she (it was a she) asked me if in my travels around I had seen notices advertising the AGM for the Town Hall Committee and the Community Trust. Not seen anything I said - have you?

Material for inclusion in Crail Matters should be sent to 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.

© Crab Publishing 2017: Editorial Team this week: Graham Anderson, Julie Middleton, Isla Reid, Valencia Sowry, Max Taylor, John Wilson