

# BURGH BUZZ



**BURNTISLAND - Fife's First Fairtrade Town**

*Newspaper of the people of Burntisland, by the people of Burntisland for the people of Burntisland.  
Sponsored by the Burntisland Community Council.*

December 2008 - Issue 33

Online only issue

## What the thingummyrig.....?

### Winter Issue

#### Contents

Community Council .....	3
Burntisland Blooms.....	4/5
Web Visitor Comments.....	5
First Aid Update.....	6
Heritage News.....	7
Fife Elderly Forum.....	8
Scouts.....	9
Golf Club.....	10
..	

Read the Burgh Buzz  
online at :  
[www.burghbuzz.org.uk](http://www.burghbuzz.org.uk)



Photo Courtesy of David McAllister

Looking south across the Firth of Forth, you cannot miss the oil support rig sitting just a mile or so off the coast of Burntisland .

The rig, **'Safe Bristolia'** is owned by Prosafe Offshore, who operate accommodation modules for oil rigs. Having finished operation in the North Sea in September, Safe Bristolia is anchored in the Forth awaiting new deployment. Prosafe's Derek Thomson, who is in charge of the vessel told the Buzz:

**"...the vessel could be there two to three months or more, while**

**we are actively seeking contracts."**

While in lay up essential maintenance, repairs and upgrading are being undertaken on board by about fifteen mariners, five catering staff and up to twenty contractors.

Originally a drilling rig deployed in the far east, Safe Bristolia underwent refurbishment in China in 2006. This included installation of living quarters on top of the semi-submersible platform to be used as accommodation for those working offshore in the gas or oil industry. It is

referred to as a "Flotel" a combination of the words 'floating' and 'hotel'. The vessel has potential to sleep 300 - 600 on board depending on the standards required in the part of the world where it is being used. Following refurbishment it was contracted in a Russian oil and gas field at Sakhalin Island before being deployed in the North Sea.

Though by day it rather spoils the view of the Edinburgh skyline, the rig is prettier lit up at night. This year Burntisland has its own floating Christmas tree. **Isabel Carr Smart**

## Burgh Buzz Editorial

What can I say? Here we are again hoping and planning to start afresh after a two year absence. Abject apologies to all our regular readers and thanks to those who told us how much they have missed the Burntisland Burgh Buzz.

While Kevin has fully recovered his health and is extremely busy again, I am still suffering a relapse of my ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome following a couple of difficult years dealing with my Mother's failing health and her death in May 2008. However I am Improving slowly and getting back into harness.

Fiona and some of the other team members have moved on to pastures new in the intervening time; however we have a new team member ready to start. We had a response from David McAllister to the call for extra team members put out in the last Buzz and again more recently by the Community Council. We will introduce David in the next issue, though he has provided the excellent front page photograph for this issue.

Inevitably Burntisland itself has undergone many changes: the long awaited demolition of the Palace cinema; the building developments at the east end of the High Street; some shops come and others gone; the new houses at Islandbridge. In the next issue Andy Wight-Boycott will describe for us some of the waterfront developments and we hope to get the usual updates from local Councillors, particularly on the plans for the Primary School.

This issue is an abbreviated online one to get us started again. In addition to the online version we plan to produce two paper issues a year in future: spring/summer and autumn/winter. These will be delivered to Burntisland houses by the Scout Group as usual – though they will have a bigger job with all the new houses in the town. **Please let others know where to find us online and also print off copies for those you know, who do not have access to the web.**



**Isabel Carr Smart**  
Co-ordinating Editor

### Burntisland Community Council

*The Burntisland Community Council (BCC) is elected every 3 years to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to local and public authorities the views of the community which it represents and to carry out other functions in the interests of the community.*

<b>Chair:</b>	Alex MacDonald	873314
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Bob Smith	873226
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Aneris Grant	872494
<b>Secretary:</b>	Gordon Ritchie	873370
<b>Minutes:</b>	Heather Leuchars	870323
<b>Members:</b>	Ron Blanchard	872309
	Tim Hailey	874430
	Gordon McGregor	874085
	Sheila McGregor	874085
	Christine Dewar	
	Morag Douglas	
	Gillian Lowe	
	Sam Purves	
	Cheryl Spears	

### Burgh Buzz

We are now online at [www.burghbuzz.org.uk](http://www.burghbuzz.org.uk)

Co-ordinating Editor: Isabel Carr Smart  
Team: Kevin Thompson  
Iain Sommerville  
David McAllister

Distribution: David Mitchell/Scouts  
Articles: Community contributors  
Isabel Carr Smart

Published by Burntisland Community Council. The Burgh Buzz has editorial freedom and any views expressed therein are not necessarily those of the Community Council.

The Burgh Buzz welcomes articles and advertising. To contribute articles email [editor@burghbuzz.org.uk](mailto:editor@burghbuzz.org.uk) or contact Isabel, Tel: 01592 873929 and to advertise email [adverts@burghbuzz.org.uk](mailto:adverts@burghbuzz.org.uk) or contact Kevin, Tel: 01592 874471.

If possible, please provide copy by email attachment in word document or richtext format in Arial 11 point and include photographs in JPEG format.

**Spring publishing copy date will be notified in Press**

# Community Council Highlights



The Community Council has never been more active than in recent months and the results - or at least some of them - are there for all to see.

- Burntisland won the “Best Kept Town Centre” award for the second year running. We also won a new “Best Community Floral Award”. These are a tribute to Sheila McGregor and a small band of helpers, supported by Fife Council.
- Christmas lights continue to delight High Street shoppers, thanks to Gillian Lowe, Gordon McGregor and others who did much of the hard work behind the scenes.
- Bob Smith, Gillian Lowe, Gordon Ritchie and Alex MacDonald visited the Shell and ExxonMobil plants at Mossmorran to receive a briefing on recent and planned activities.
- Christine Dewar has been busy distributing tickets for the Lochgelly Centre Christmas pantomime, thanks once again to the generosity of ExxonMobil.
- Aneris Grant, Morag Douglas and others organised the Armistice Parade and service which was attended by nearly 200 representatives of youth and other organisations.
- Tim Hailey has been pulling together information on the Common Good Fund and also selected planning applications. A dedicated meeting on the Common Good Fund proved to be exceptionally productive and warmly welcomed. Plans for flats on the former Alcan site at Kirkton Road were also welcomed for their sensitive and imaginative design. A proposal for the former Palace cinema

site drew criticism of the design, which was considered inappropriate for the site.

- After 4 years, the consultation process on the Core Paths network is now drawing to a close. Thanks to Bill Davidson in particular, we were able to have debates which were lively but productive. We have now agreed where the key paths should be, together with how they should be signposted and maintained.
- Early in the New Year we will be able to celebrate more of Burntisland’s successes by presenting the Community Award for 2009, together with the school trophies for excellence in Scots Verse.
- It looks like a very productive start to 2009. However, we also support the calls from the Burntisland Events group and the Civic Week committee for more helpers. We would strongly urge volunteers to come forward and continue the excellent work that has been done up to now.

**Alex. MacDonald**  
Chairman

*Meetings of the Community Council are held on the second Friday of each month, in the Burgh Chambers, from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate in debates. Topics for the agenda should be with the Secretary a week beforehand.*

Councillors' Corner  
**Councillors' Corner**

**There are no reports from Councillors  
this issue.**

Councillors' Corner  
**Councillors' Corner**

# Burntisland Blooms

On completion of Burntisland Community Council's community project to supply sustainable planting for the 13 floral enhancement containers in Burntisland High Street, responsibility for their future maintenance was taken on by Fife Council's Community Services. The combination of the sustainable planting and the spring and summer bedding displays has greatly enhanced the appearance of our High Street. The high level of co-operation between Community Services and the Blooms Team ensured that the overall planting programme ran smoothly and also resulted in the untidy and overgrown roundabout at the top of the Cromwell Road being cleared out by the council gardeners and replanted with evergreen cotoneasters.

## AWARDS

We were delighted to win the **Best Kept Small Town in Central Fife Award** for the second year running plus a second discretionary award for the **Best Community Floral Entry Category**. The residents of St Andrew's Court again won the **Best Kept Patio Award** for Central Fife.

The Burntisland Blooms project is now in its third year. Its plan for floral enhancement and eyesore improvements in the town is produced below for information. If you can think of any other town improvements or community projects, please inform me of them.

All the projects rely on volunteers. In the Floral Enhancement project, out of a town of almost 7000 people. I have just 5 dedicated volunteers to assist me – Heather Leuchars, (Colinswell), Mary Kay, (High Street), Sharon King (nursery railings), Gordon McGregor and Frank Park. The residents at Colinswell are very proactive at looking out for the containers at the Aberdour Road town entry but I still require a volunteer to look after the summer bedding in the window box at the Cowdenbeath Road town entry..

The Watering Project is staffed by just 2 volunteers, Gordon and Frank. This is not enough. Last year, we lost all the flowers in 4 containers because Gordon and Frank were on holiday at the same time. We need another one, preferably two, volunteers for this project.

## Completed or Continuing Projects

1. Amberol planters for High Street and town entrances	Completed 2006
2. Floral enhancement of Amberol planters	Continuing annually
3. Water bowser purchase	Purchased by grant 2006
4. Watering of Amberol containers	Continuing annually
4. Town clean-up at Lammerlaws	2006
5. Old diseased roses on Links	Removed 2006
6. Old diseased roses in flowerbed at east end of Broomhill Road	New shrubs 2007
7. Old diseased roses at flowerbed in Cromwell Road	Removed 2007. Spring and summer bedding to be planted annually
8. Bulb planting by Primary School children	High Street 2007
9. Town clean-up Ross Point area	2007
10. Clean up at Burntisland Station	2007
11. Best Kept Town Competitions	Continuing annually
12. Community project to plant up Fife Council's High Street containers	Completed 2007
13. Clean up of Forth Ports land	Scheduled for 2008
14. Roundabout at top of Cromwell Road	Weeds removed. New shrubs planted 2008

**Burntisland Blooms**  
**Areas identified as future projects**

1. Improvement to landscaping at traffic island at west end of the High Street.	Consultations with Community Services are continuing.
2. Improvement to landscaping at car park at west end of High Street	Consultations with Community Services are continuing.
3. Tidy up of area at Kinghorn Road railway embankment	Consultations with Community Services are continuing.
4. Bulb planting at Cromwell Road	Scheduled for autumn 2009
5. Consultations on ways to provide attractive planting and impact at the entrance to the Islandbridge housing development.	Pending

**Sheila McGregor**  
**Blooms Co-ordinator**  
**Burntisland Community Council**  
**Telephone: 01592 874085**

***Burntisland Blooms needs more volunteers, to continue its good work, so come on all you green fingered, community minded people, contact Sheila and let it grow...***



## Burgh Buzz Comments

Here are some of the comments from the Burgh Buzz Online Guestbook and Editor's mailbag.

**61. Carol Williams (Nee Scotland) - 2008-06-08 14:12:31**

Hello again, How I am missing the Burntisland Buzz, I so enjoyed catching up with the old town. I am still living in Dudley but spend lots of time caravanning around Britain. We especially enjoy Scotland and always call in to see Margaret Douglas (and also visit the cemetery for family reasons) when in the area. We are at the moment visiting Fareham and have just had a visit from Archie Robertson, who lives in Lee o n Solent. It was really nice recall past times and escapades. We both have really fond memories of our childhood days in the town. Would love to hear from old friends.  
Bye for now, Carol x

**60. linda bosch (nee michie) - 2008-05-15 01:12:32**

I was born in 64 high street I have many happy memories of growing up in Burntisland I came to Canada in 1977. I was very happy when I found this website my children and grandchildren now know where I come from

**59. Ivan Smith - 2008-04-27 04:33:26**

Hi there, I was given your website by a relative who knows I am desperately trying to gather information on my grandparents who came to NZ in 1904. Their names were John and Jane Ann Ford who lived at no 40 Links Place in Burntisland, I am interested in contacting any living relatives who may still be in Burnt island. Any suggestions you can give me would be much appreciated, I am yours, Ivan Smith.

**58. Ann McHardie - 2008-04-05 10:40:56**

Found the Burntisland site doing family research. My father James Brooks, butcher - lived in Somerville Street with his first wife Mary Hunter from Boness and child James 1925-30? Hope to visit soon.

**57. Robert Shand - 2007-12-20 11:34:46**

Born at 103 Dick Crescent on 6th December 1928 and still going strong. I live in East Sussex and miss the old town.



## First Aid Update

One of the high spots this year was when the members of Burntisland First Aid were asked to provide the ambulance and a crew of two to cover a prestigious and demanding event in Mull. We responded to the challenge and spent 3 days supporting competitors who tackled a gruelling combination of mountain biking and hiking across many miles of Mull's outstanding scenery.

It's a task we were able to take on not only because of the excellent facilities we can provide but also because of the level of training to which our members have access. In the past few weeks, we have moved into Burntisland fire station as the key venue for our training. From there, our current public course is under way. In the New Year, we will be offering refresher training to our existing members and also to others who are thinking of joining us and who are already qualified in first aid.

The Mull event reflects the growing demand for our services. We've had several requests to cover both motocross and quad racing in Duns. Our regular events in Fife – from national motorsport at Knockhill to horse racing and cross country events in North East Fife – remain the main focus of our work and we have bookings up to April and May of 2009.

We like to do what we can to respond to requests for new courses. For example, we have run several one-day courses in emergency first aid for both voluntary and commercial organisations. Every course is tailored to the needs of our customers and we will gladly discuss opportunities for training and / or volunteering with individual members of the public and with organisations.

Fuller information is available at any time from Alex MacDonald on 873314, or though our website at [www.bfast.org.uk](http://www.bfast.org.uk).

# Heritage News

Burntisland Heritage Trust have had a very busy year with several projects coming to fruition and good progress on others.

In February 2008 a proposal for a commemoration panel for "**Burntisland's People**" met with a good response from a consultation exercise. We are grateful to everyone who took the trouble to let us have suggestions. As a result the proposal was taken forward for two bronze panels. Planning permission was applied for and has been granted. The project will be financed by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The panels will be erected in Union Street and at the entrance to the Links by spring 2009.

An **Inner and Outer Heritage Trail leaflet** was also compiled by the Trust and this was published at the start of the summer season thanks to a grant from the Burntisland Development Trust. The leaflet is available from the library and Beacon Leisure centre. A further grant from the Development Trust has also been awarded for the publication in 2009 of a new book, "**Burntisland: A Social History**".

By popular request the "**Schooldays**" exhibition was retained for a second year. Although the number of visitors was lower than on previous years, everyone who visited commented favourably on the display. A big thanks to all of the Friends of the Trust without whose support the exhibition would not have been possible.

At the end of August, members and friends of the Institution of Civil Engineers and of Burntisland Heritage Trust gathered in the Burgh Chambers, Burntisland, for the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate William Bald, who was born in Burntisland around 1788. William was a pioneering surveyor, cartographer and civil engineer who amongst his many achievements built the Antrim coast road, one of the world's great scenic routes. The plaque is now in its permanent position on the railway viaduct at the western end of Burntisland High Street.

The theme for the 2009 summer exhibition will be "**Old Burntisland Industries, Businesses and Families**". As part of the preparations for the exhibition and also for the planned new book, the Trust is looking for old Burntisland photos to add to our collection. We are particularly keen to locate interesting photos from family archives,

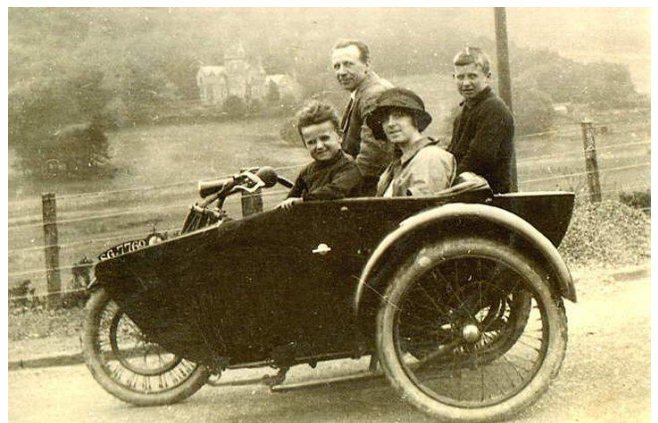
which might be of workplaces, buildings, streets, shops, sports, people, etc. We'll be happy to collect your photos from you, and scan and return them quickly. If you can help, please contact Ian Archibald (873557), John Burnett (873419), Helen Mabon (873624), or Iain Sommerville (874933).

The 2009 exhibition will run from Saturday 20th June to Saturday 29th August at Burntisland Heritage Centre, 4 Kirkgate, Burntisland (just round the corner from the main door of the Burgh Chambers in the High Street). It will be open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11.00am to 4.00pm. *Admission is free.*

The **free guided historic walks** will take place every Wednesday in July and August 2009 at 2.30pm. The walks include visits to the Parish Church and the Burgh Chambers. The tour can be extended to include Rossend Castle by prior arrangement.

A guided tour of the **Burntisland Outer Heritage Trail** was also introduced this year and will be repeated in 2009 at 1.30pm on the last Friday of the month from April to September. Contact Bill Kirkhope (01383 822023) for further information.

**Both walks start from Burntisland Heritage Centre at 4 Kirkgate, Burntisland.**



*This 1923 photo of the Aitken family with the Binn House in the background sent to us by Keddie Law, is a good example of the sort of photo which might be lying forgotten in family archives.*

**Ian Archibald, Convenor,  
Burntisland Heritage Trust**

Fuller information on the work of the trust is available at the web site [www.burntisland.net](http://www.burntisland.net), which is owned and managed by Trustee Iain Sommerville.

**FIFE ELDERLY FORUM  
EXECUTIVE**

**ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR  
OLDER PEOPLE**

If there is something happening in your life which is causing you concern and you are not sure what to do, it's good to know that you can call on Fife Elderly Forum's Advocacy Service to try to help you resolve the issue.

**What do we offer?**

Independent support, information and assistance:

- You may be looking for more information before making a decision or feel you would benefit from talking over your concern with someone independent.
- You may feel that it would be helpful for you to have some support to deal with a matter which is concerning you, perhaps by someone making a telephone call on your behalf, by writing a letter for you or attending a meeting with you.

**It doesn't have to be a big problem – we can support you to deal with any matter which is causing you concern.**

**How do you contact us?**

If you feel that we could help you or someone you know, please give us a ring on **01592 643743**

**This service is FREE**

**FIFE ELDERLY FORUM EXECUTIVE**

There are approximately 68,000 people of pensionable age living in Fife, making around 21% of the total population. Research has shown that older people do not always feel that their views and opinions are taken into account and that as a result the services provided for them do not always meet their needs.

In an effort to address this, Fife Elderly Forum Executive was established in 1990 to provide a platform for older people to campaign for better rights, services and facilities for older people in Fife. There are now 8 groups meeting on a monthly basis throughout Fife, tackling issues such as housing, transport, home care, poverty etc. The Forums also participate in local and national consultation exercises and are provided with information and advice by the Executive. Funding has also been secured for an Advocacy Service for Older People (see below).

If you would like to know more about the Forum in your area, please contact the Co-ordinator, **John McKendrick, on 01592 643743.**

**Food for Body, Mind and Spirit**

Do you long for quiet space in your day, your week, your head? Time for reflection and renewal? Or do you thrive on discussion of big ideas, exchanging views and having authentic conversations about spiritual matters, without being judged weird?

75% of British people still call themselves Christian, but 80%+ do not attend church. Many people have left the traditional church in order to save their faith. God can be found everywhere offering inspiration and renewal.

If you are interested in taking part in Christian meditation, and/or Sunday brunch, inspiring table talk and other activities, watch out for a new happening in Burntisland, coming your way soon.

**For further information contact:  
isabel@thesmartsolution.org**





## Scout Christmas Post

The Scout Christmas Post has been operating in Burntisland since 1992 and has proved to be both popular and successful. Following on from previous years, the Scout Group will be working with other Fife Scout groups Fife so that Christmas cards can be delivered to a wide range of towns and villages, but we'll also be continuing the post to allow later deliveries to Burntisland addresses.

### Listed Delivery Towns

Aberdour, Backmuir, Blairhall, Bowershall, Burntisland, Cairneyhill, Carnock, Charlestown, Comrie, Cowdenbeath, Cowstrandburn, Crombie, Crossford, Crossgates, Culross, Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline, Gowkhill, Halbeath, High Valleyfield, Hill-Of-Beath, Hillend, Inverkeithing, Kelty, Kincardine-On-Forth, Kinghorn, Kingseat, Limekilns, Lochgelly, Low Valleyfield, Lumphinnans, Newmills, North Queensferry, Oakley, Pattiesmuir, Rosyth, Saline, Steelend, Torryburn, Townhill, Wellwood.

**N.B. Delivery Areas DO NOT include Kirkcaldy or Glenrothes**

**To improve the service within the town - cards for delivery to Burntisland addresses ONLY can continue to be posted until the last collection on Friday 19th December at 5pm.**

It takes time to collect, sort, distribute and deliver the cards, so please be patient – deliveries will normally be at weekends with the last delivery during the weekend Saturday 20th – Sunday 21st December.

**How does it work ?** - Post your Christmas cards for delivery to any of the listed towns at the

special Scout Christmas Post boxes in Dickson Newsagent, Castle Stores and Burntisland Library from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 5:00pm. The cards will be collected, sorted and passed to Scout Groups in the delivery areas, or to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to deliver in Burntisland. Christmas is an expensive time of year, so at a cost of **20p** per card this is your chance to save some money and help the Scout Groups raise funds at the same time help us to raise funds for the youngsters in the group !!!

### The Scout Group

*All sections of the group meet in St. Serf's Church Hall*

### **Beaver Colony** (from 6 – 8 years old)

*Thu 5:45-6:45pm*

The Beaver Scout Motto is "Fun and Friends" and the weekly program includes a variety of games, activities and craftwork.

### **Cub Pack** (from 8 - 10½ years old)

*Mon 6:45-8:15pm*

The Cub Scout Motto is "Challenge and Adventure" and the program includes games and activities as well as badgework including first aid, country code, mapping and other scouting skills.

### **Scout Troop** (from 10½-14½ years old)

*Thu 7:00-9:00pm*

As well as weekly meetings, one of the main scouting activities is camping and the scout troop generally camp once a month throughout the whole year (January to December)

### **Explorer Unit** (Age 14½-18)

*Thu 7:00-9:00pm*

Explorer Scouts provide support to all of the other sections and are encouraged to take part in the Kirkcaldy District Explorer Unit Program.

**For more information contact –  
David Mitchell 01592 873714**

*The Scout Group also deliver the Burgh Buzz to your doorstep, so let us give them some support – and a big Thankyou!*

# Burntisland Golf Club

## Presentation of Prizes

The Annual General Meeting and Presentation of Prizes of The Burntisland Golf Club was held on Friday, 28th November within the Clubhouse at Dodhead. Club Captain George Gibson (pictured centre) welcomed the members and presented the prize-winners with their trophies.

The main prize winners for 2008 were: Williamson Trophy - Alan Anderson; Seniors Competition - John Mitchell; Inchdairnie Trophy - James Hayton; Wallace Medal - Alistair McLeod; Handicap Quaich - Graham Turzynski; Old Silver Medal - Bill Beveridge; Jubilee Trophy - David Galloway; Club Medal - Robin Farnan; Jackson Cup - John Mitchell; Visitor's Medal - Brian Hunter; Connel Trophy - Brian Hunter; Kirke Medal - Bruce McLaren; Old Gold Medal (Club Champion) - Scott Brownlie; Hampton Trophy (Golfer of the Year) - John Mitchell; Ferrier Trophy (Handicap Matchplay) - Joe Scally; Macrae Forbes Trophy (Scratch Matchplay) - Brian Mooney; Double Century Cup (Handicap Foursomes Matchplay) - David and Gordon Pratt.

