

# BURGH BUZZ



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## **BURNTISLAND COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER -2011**

### **Mrs. Aneris Grant**

This year's winner of the Community Award is Mrs. Aneris Grant. The award of the honour was announced on New Year's Day by the Community Council. Aneris was recognised for her tireless work with several groups in Burntisland; notably, the Youth Theatre, Air Training Corps, the Parish Church, Heritage Trust and the Community Council to name but a few. "She has proven to be a dependable person who makes things happen without fuss and often without personal recognition," said Alex MacDonald, Chairman of the Community Council.

Praising her further, he went on to say, "In my view her particular strength is her attention to detail. Her work enabled the Remembrance Day parade to run smoothly as well as ensuring that the Bonfire Night was a success when responsibility was first transferred from Fife Council. Aneris was born in Peebles and has lived in Burntisland since she was a child. On hearing of the award, she confessed to being 'Astonished'. "I believe that if you are doing a job, it must be done properly." She has been involved with the local committee for Cancer Research and is an elder and treasurer of Burntisland Parish Church. This led her to become involved with a group of children with learning difficulties. They meet monthly in the Solid Rock youth cafe. She says "My involvement in the organisations has just evolved over the years and it's something I get a lot out of. You don't expect any reward, you just want to do a good job." Aneris will be presented with her award in the Burgh Chambers on February 4th at 7.00 pm.



*".....an outstanding role model"*

## **FOR WHOM THE BELLS WON'T TOLL!**



The arbitrary and misconceived action by Fife Council to summarily cut off the town clock's chimes between 10 pm and 7 am without any public consultation or even notice to the town residents, has caused a furious public outcry from the townsfolk. The reaction to the council's decision to cut off the clock chimes, which have been sounding for over a hundred and fifty years, based on the complaint of just ONE resident, has been one of anger and disbelief and has seen the issue raised in local papers and national television and has evoked a massive reaction. A petition containing over 1100 signatures was gathered, a facebook page dedicated to saving the chimes has been started and at 7.30 pm on December 30th a large crowd of over two hundred people, all carrying bells, gathered at the town hall to noisily demonstrate their objection to the 'gagging' of the town clock.

Local councillors, George Kay and Ron Edwards have urged Fife Council to reconsider their actions and have written to the Fife Free Press to express their opinions. George Kay summarised the issue neatly, "If we lose our chimes then there is not a clock or church in Fife or Scotland which would be safe from being closed down for the same reason." In this period of financial stringency how much has this shambles cost cash strapped Fife Council in man hours and financially? A return of the chimes would end this fiasco.

### Editorial Comment.

Firstly, many congratulations to Aneris Grant on winning the 2011 Community Award which recognises decades of dedicated service to a wide range of organisations within the town.

It has been a very eventful three months, dominated by the unseasonal heavy snow and wintry weather. Our thanks go to the Fife Council workers who have toiled hard in the foulest of weather to clear and grit our main thoroughfares and enable essential services to continue to operate. A common complaint has been the icy and dangerous state of pavements. However, there are insufficient resources to treat every pavement in every town. We must employ that old commodity – self help and common sense. Clear the pavement in front of your house or shop. When walking in snow and ice, take care and use a walking stick. It was also very encouraging to hear so many accounts of people assisting their less able neighbours, in clearing paths, doing essential shopping and generally checking that they were OK. A sure sign of a healthy and caring society.

Not so healthy however, was the community's response to the Fife Council consultations exercise on the new Primary School. This could partly be blamed on the poor publicity given to the exercise. However, the final outcome is that the Toll Park has been accepted by Fife Council as the preferred site for a new build school – contrary to 60% of the respondents to the Buzz survey last summer!

The other issue dominating Burntisland news has been the high-handed removal of the chimes of the town clock by Fife Council – based on one complaint. There has been a predictable public outcry in the town at the silencing of the clock after some 150 years of uninterrupted chimes. Over 1,000 residents signed a petition and over 200 people attended a "bell ringing" protest outside the Burgh Chambers on the Thursday evening before the New Year. This was reported nationwide on TV and in the Press. It is emphasised that the protest was not against the complainant's right to complain but against the totally arbitrary action by Fife Council without consultation whatsoever with the Community Council or the community at large. Meetings with Fife Council are ongoing to resolve this issue and the outcome is anxiously awaited not only in Burntisland but also by communities elsewhere. Is any town or church clock in Fife safe?

Finally, please note that in my absence on holiday, the next issue will be edited by Paul Briscoe whose contact details are in the box opposite.

**Bill Kirkhope**  
(Editor)

## Community Council Bullets.....

The Community Council holds its regular meetings on the second Friday of each month at 7.00 pm in Burntisland Burgh Chambers. Members of the public are welcome to attend and listen to discussion or to raise matters of interest to them. The full minutes of these meetings are displayed in the Library. A summary of issues raised during the last three meetings is set out below.

- Early intervention by Police (e.g. through alcohol seizures) ensured the bonfire and fireworks ran successfully with no anti-social behaviour and no arrests.
- Contact details are available if there is a desire to set up one or more "Neighbourhood Watch" schemes.
- Burntisland Development Trust awarded £30,000 towards the renovation and conservation of the War Memorial. Other funding sources are also being pursued towards the overall cost of about £120,000. After discussion, the landscaping design will involve trimming, but not removing, the existing trees.
- The possibility of dedicated bicycle parking bays on the High Street is under review.
- Strong concerns were relayed to the Director of Education about the poor quality of consultation in finding a preferred site for a new school.
- Following a unilateral decision by Fife Council to silence the clock chimes at the Burgh Chambers overnight, arrangements were made for press publicity, a petition and direct representations. A reversal of the decision is awaited.
- Additional seats are being obtained for the Links.
- Police will be addressing inappropriate parking near to the school. New speed guns have been issued and training is under way.
- In the light of the exceptionally bad weather in December, the placement of grit bins is under review. There are often mutually conflicting requests from local residents and some areas are well-supplied but others are not.
- Similarly, ExxonMobil decided on safety grounds to cancel the planned pantomime for senior citizens, which was scheduled for December.
- Attempts will be made to enlist the help of residents and shopkeepers to clear snow from High Street pavements during intense wintry weather.
- Action will be taken to review the financial arrangements for leasing Common Good property used by Fife Council. Steps will be taken to consider the possibility of setting up a Trust to manage the Links.
- New Christmas lights were bought and erected successfully, through partnership working between the Community Council and Fife Council.

**Elected Councillors' Availability****George Kay**

Telephone 01592 874920

Email: [Cllr.George.Kay@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.George.Kay@fife.gov.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Susan Leslie**

Burntisland Surgery - Second Friday of the month

6.15 - 6.45pm in the Burgh Chambers

(excepting public holidays)

Telephone 01592 643703

Email: [Cllr.Susan.Leslie@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Susan.Leslie@fife.gov.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ron Edwards**

Telephone 01592 891330

Email: [Cllr.ron.edwards@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.ron.edwards@fife.gov.uk)**The Burgh Polis**

By

**Sergeant Scott Murray**

Since the last edition of the Buzz we have had a very busy period with the Bonfire Evening, the festive season and of course, our wonderful weather.

On Bonfire night we worked closely with the event organisers to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all who attended. Just prior to the event starting, we received information that youths from outside the town were intending to visit Burntisland to cause trouble. In addition to your local officers, I had already enlisted the services of our Town Centre CCTV, officers from Fife Constabulary's "Operation Laser" and from the British Transport Police. A close working partnership was then formed between Police, organisers and the community. By working together we seized a sizeable quantity of illegally held alcohol thus reducing the likelihood of anti social behaviour and looking after the welfare of our young people who were intent on consuming it. There were no arrests nor complaints of anti-social behaviour as our pre-emptive action had prevented potential confrontations. From a Policing perspective it was a great success and again demonstrates the Town's ability to organise and undertake Community based events to a very high standard.

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011 we held one of our Community Engagement Meetings where issues were discussed in an open forum. A number of points were discussed in detail but we still need more input from the residents of Burntisland. If you have any issues of concern that you wish to air then please attend our next meeting which is to held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 at 7.30pm within the Toll Centre. All are welcome.

Finally, I wish you all a happy, prosperous and safe New Year.

**Non-Emergency Contact Number – 0845 600 5702**

Sergeant Murray's tips for driving in winter conditions are on page 7.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

There have been several changes to the membership of the Community Council since the last issue of the Burgh Buzz. At the last election several people decided to stand down, namely Gordon Ritchie, Aneris Grant, Sam Purvis, Ron Blanchard and Gillian Lowe. We're all very grateful for their efforts over the years.

One new nomination was withdrawn and at the same time Fife Council increased the number of available places. The overall result is that we started November with John Russell and Peter George as new members, plus 4 places available for co-option.

John has since been appointed Treasurer and Peter will focus on environmental matters. They've both been very active for several years as members of the public attending Community Council meetings, so it's good to welcome them on board as full members.

Since then, we have also co-opted Dr Zoë Williamson, who is a lecturer in Education at the University of Edinburgh and has lived in Burntisland for the last 15 years or so.

At the time of writing, we have three places available and two people who have volunteered their interest. Our aim is to ensure that our members represent a broad cross-section of the community. The essential requirement is that candidates must have lived in Burntisland for at least 12 months and / or be registered as an elector in Burntisland.

We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who meets those requirements and is keen to volunteer their time in the interests of making Burntisland a better place to live and work. Please feel free to contact me ([alex\\_mac@btinternet.com](mailto:alex_mac@btinternet.com)) or our Secretary (Isabel Smith, at 4 Laburnum Grove) if you'd like to be considered.

Alex. MacDonald.  
Chairman

**THIS IS YOUR BURGH BUZZ.** Your comments, letters, articles and photographs are welcome. These can be submitted typed, handwritten or by e-mail to [paulbriscoe1@googlemail.com](mailto:paulbriscoe1@googlemail.com) or to Paul Briscoe, 1 Lammerlaws Road, Burntisland. KY3 9DT (Tel: 01592 871300) Items for the Spring 2011 Issue by 15th April at the latest. Advertising enquiries should be addressed to Morag Douglas, 73 High Street, Burntisland, KY3 9BD (Tel: 01592 871313 ) or e-mail [morag.davidson@btconnect.com](mailto:morag.davidson@btconnect.com). For Community Council matters, please contact Alex Macdonald, Chairman ( Tel: 01592 873314).



## New School Site

By

*The Editor*

A new school site consultation exercise was conducted by the Buzz in the April. The results from over 100 respondents were published in the summer edition and revealed that 60% strongly opposed the location of a new school on the Toll Park. The findings were passed on to Fife Council (the cross service group enquiring into the suitability of new build site options).

At the beginning of November, this group published an appraisal of six new build site options in the form of a paper for the Education and Services Committee. This paper requested the Committee to approve the Toll Park as the preferred new build site option. This site would be the new build option in a business case evaluation which would also include a case for refurbishment and extension of the existing school as an option. This paper claimed that the recommendation had been made after an impartial appraisal of facts which had been converted into an objective evaluation matrix. It also claimed to have conducted extensive consultation with groups such as the Parents Council, the Sports Group, The Toll Centre and the Community Council as well as the general public. The content of this paper was so compelling that the recommendation was passed by the Committee of 15 elected councillors by a healthy majority.

It is the view of the Buzz that this appraisal paper was seriously flawed in that the evaluation matrix was subjective, conflicting and duplicitous. It completely ignored the Buzz consultation results and placed little or no weight on its own public consultation exercise – possibly because it was thrust upon the community with little advance notice and received minimum publicity during the one day consultation.

Given the paper presented to them, it is not difficult to understand why the Councillors approved the Toll Park as the

preferred option.

But where are we now? The business case is proceeding with the following three options under consideration:

- Maintain the status quo – do nothing
- Refurbish and extend the existing school
- A New Build school at the Toll Park

The present school building is not fit for purpose so option one is a non-starter and we are left with the remaining two. According to the Buzz survey, rebuild on the current site, with or without an annex on the Toll Park, was the second preferred option (after Lammerlaws Road). However, we remain in the lap of Fife Council and given the thrust of the appraisal paper, a new build school on the Toll Park seems to be the most likely outcome of the business case study. This option is not without support within the community and is the preferred option of the School Parent Council. In the event that our prediction is correct, what can we do?

To continue to press for a rethink by Fife Council would be pointless and could lead to delays which could jeopardise the whole project. Regrettably, and notwithstanding the undemocratic manner in which this decision has been forced upon the community, we may be forced to accept it. But that should not end community involvement.

The plans for a new school must be published for consideration by the community. That will be the time when you should make your views known – not just on the design and content of the new buildings but also on the way in which the facilities can be shared by the community. Will the Toll Centre continue to function? If not, how will the services it currently provides be replaced? How will the recreation facilities be replaced? It is difficult to imagine how a full size grass football pitch, a synthetic sevens football pitch, school buildings and associated parking can be provided on the Toll Park. Will an alternative pitch with associated changing and club rooms be re-provisioned at an alternative site (Rossend Point?).

These are all questions that need to be addressed. Only by expressing your views loudly, collectively and in numbers will the bureaucrats in the Fife Council administration be forced to sit up and take heed.



## BURNTISLAND SCHOOL NEWS

By

*Victoria Dolatowska*

The term leading up to Christmas is always hectic in schools and last term was made even more so by the disruption caused by the dramatic weather conditions.

Staff and pupils however, pulled out all the stops and managed to produce two lovely Christmas services, numerous parties and had an exciting visit from M and M Productions to perform the pantomime “Sleeping Beauty”.

Pupils from Primaries 1 to 6 took part in our annual Scots Verse competition and, as always, the standard was excellent. The winners, who will perform at the Burgh Chambers later this term, were:

P1-Joseph Wintour	P2- Jack Davidson
P3-Kate Hoy	P4-Joe Buchan
P5-Norrie Edwards	P6 Katie Friend

Our pupil council has been busy working with the Sustainable Communities Initiative to carry out improvements to our playground. We will be creating a quiet area and adding grow-boxes in the near future.

All of the children from P4-7 took part in “A Right Blether”, the consultation by the Children’s Commissioner for Scotland to find out about what is important to our young people. The results of the audit will be published nationally within the next few months.

Unfortunately our St Andrew’s Day celebrations and Christmas Fair both had to be cancelled due to the snow but we hope to hold some alternative events between now and the summer term.

Finally we wished a fond farewell to Anne Trigwell, Depute Headteacher (infants) who has taken up post as Headteacher at Saline Primary School. Congratulations to her and best wishes for the future.





## The Sting

(Letters to the Editor)

Dear Sir,

### For Whom the Bell Tolls

Let me first congratulate the environ**MENTAL** health on the efficiency at silencing the town clock. I would now hope that they will resolve the flooding at Haugh Road with the same vigour.

Why on earth can one person be allowed to cause such a furor. Fife Free Press 25<sup>th</sup> February -

Under the heading **Green Space**, Fife Council has concluded in a recent survey that **Kirkcaldy** has **good** parks and green spaces. Access, space and quality of the parks and greenspaces around the town were found to be **much better** than other places in Fife. **Burntisland** was deemed to be "**below average**". The survey showed that 40% of the population in Fife have "below average" access to green space.

Bearing this in mind, why has Fife Council swallowed up the **Toll Park**? The alternative sites on offer were just a smoke screen.! Why was no mention given to the free land at Collinwell? Because of the proviso that the landowner gets permission to build houses. Blackmail, I hear you shout! But there are only two ways that Burntisland can expand – towards Aberdour or Cowdenbeath. Fife Council have left it so long that it seems that the Toll Park was all that was available. Why was the old Alcan site not considered?

There is no argument that Burntisland needs a new school. But there are a number of questions still to be asked. Why was the community engagement exercise not more widely advertised instead of being carried out by a couple of suits from the education service hiding under the stairs of the library, and no sandwich board outside to make the public aware? And the bribe of the football pitch – will it be full size? Why now? - when Fife Council has had many years to develop the Toll Park as a proper sporting site? What will become of the old school? Lastly, in the years to come when your children's children complain about lack of play space, remember and tell them who was responsible for the plundering of the **Toll Park**.

Yours etc.,  
Sammy Purvis

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Sir,

### Use Your High Street

In the deep snow period I went round the corner to one of the Burntisland grocers and found it packed, the shelves rapidly emptying of vegetables, bread and milk. It didn't take me long to realise this was because all the punters couldn't drive off to various parts of Kirkcaldy to reach supermarkets as they obviously do normally. Goodness knows why, spending more on petrol and on that most precious and valuable commodity, time!

I timed myself the other day: from the front door into the Post Office for stamps, into the baker, greengrocer (who also gets pinhead oatmeal in bulk for me), library and butcher then the grocer for a few things. I was home again in twenty minutes – probably less time (and less distance) than a visit to any supermarket, not counting travel there and back and all the frustrations involving cars and shopping. Is it possible that a few of those snow-snared lemmings might have learnt a lesson – that shopping locally is far more pleasurable, as cheap and quicker than the supermarket?

Burntisland is surprisingly well served with shops along the High Street. There really is no need to drive those bad miles for the normal, useful needs of good living. And do not confuse needs

with wants, though there are plenty of good treats too (try the butcher's Moroccan spiced sausages), with shops selling craft and luxury items, hairdressers, and a whole range of cafes and carry out options. The most recent addition of an ironmongers saved me a trip to Kirkcaldy the other day. Burntisland is so lucky. I am so lucky.

Back your town then and keep more pennies in your purse and serenity in your shopping.

Yours etc.

OAP (Name and address supplied)



### Broomhill Gardens Allotments.

By  
Elly Kinross

The snow has held us back a little but we are still making progress, all of the infrastructure work will be completed by the end of January unless the weather gets a lot worse again.

In February and March the community garden will hold regular work days to establish the plots, planting this years crops and putting in fruit bushes and other perennials. The first meeting for the community garden was scheduled for the morning of Saturday 15th January. The management of the site will be by the Broomhill Gardens Association which will hold a meeting soon to officially adopt the constitution and elect office bearers. At present Fife Diet is applying for further funding and hopes to continue to supply staff to help organise workdays, events and a community education programme of workshops relating to food growing, horticulture and sustainable gardening practices. We will be holding a grand opening event at the end of February so please look out for details in posters and on our website [www.fifediet.co.uk](http://www.fifediet.co.uk). All the individual plots have been allocated and we have a waiting list - if you would like to go on it get in touch. Contact for any questions or suggestions:

[elly@fifediet.co.uk](mailto:elly@fifediet.co.uk)

### American Tribal Style Bellydance

Weekly beginners classes at the Space Upstairs,  
Burntisland, Tuesdays 7-8pm, £5.50.

A fabulous and fun way for women of all ages (16 & over) to keep fit, with great costumes and lots of attitude!  
Phone **07854 856573** for more details or just turn up on the night!



## On the Ball

By

*Hamish Brown*

David Gough was down in the dumps. Again. Right scunnered. He banged his boots against the back step to get the grass and mud out of his studs, then tiptoed through the kitchen to have a shower. He tried desperately hard to make the team, practised and practised till exhausted and it just wasn't enough. Old Speedie Smith, the maths teacher who coached them Tuesdays and Thursdays after school at the Toll had said Gough had played, as if his laces were tied together. David was angry and ashamed at hearing this in front of the rest but what really put him down, in his heart of hearts, was that he knew it was true.

Take the beacons. Eight cones were lined up and everyone, in the three teams competing, dribbled in and out of them and back. His team were ahead until his turn. He made a mess of two cones and fell over the last one and the team never made up the lost ground. Then, shooting at goal, his first shot, right foot, flew away over the bar, first shot left foot, made Speedie duck (standing away to the side), his second shot, right, went straight to Chick in goal. Everyone paused to see what idiotic thing he would do with his left foot. In a rage he belted the ball. Chick threw himself sideways but the wrong way and the ball cannoned into the net. There were yells of surprise and mock congratulations. Andy beamed "Great shot, Dave". Only it wasn't; he had actually aimed for the other corner! His pal Andy was the only person who did not seem to girn about him. Even Irish Joe once hissed at him. "Is it feet or fins you have?" There were times when he hated the very thing he loved most in this world.

Next day Brilliant (that's Mr Crawford) gave them an essay to write, the subject "How we lost the match". What a wicked subject. Trust Brilliant. Grinning at them. He knew it was hard. Mr Crawford had his nickname because he was always saying, "Wasn't that brilliant?" after reading them something. Often it was David thought. When Brilliant read them the story about the monkey's paw half the class had nightmares afterwards.

David scribbled away. At least writing was something he could do. What he saw he could put down. Not like football. At football he always knew exactly what he wanted to *do*, he knew a great deal about tactics, had everything in his head, perfectly clear – then it all fell to bits at his feet. He hardly felt he'd begun writing when the bell went. "Oh sur, I'm no finished. Can I tak it hame tae dae. I'll bring it the morn."

There were cries of "Swot!" and "Sook!" but a couple of others made the same request,

"Request granted"

"He wisna daft," Andy said to Dave as they wended home down by James Park. If anybody noticed the irony of David Gough writing about losing a match they failed to comment. Some went over to the Links to have a kick about, Dave sat at the kitchen table to finish off his essay. His mother worked round him getting the tea ready, quite used to the lad scribbling away or having his nose buried in a book. Not just football books, but had he a chance in one of those TV football quizzes, he'd have wiped the floor with them.

Come Saturday, the school were playing Levenvale (the semifinal) and Dave went along to watch. Andy was there. A few others. Most couldn't be bothered if they weren't playing but Dave always went along. You could learn plenty just watching. Find new ideas. "If only I could put them into effect," he sighed after the opposition made a neat three-man passing move that saw the ball centred perfectly for a shot at goal. Fortunately it went wide: well, just wide. No score at half time.

A few adults were watching the game and one man started chatting to Dave and Andy, asking about some of the players and who coached them and such like. "Did you see Speedie Smith got his nickname playing for Hearts way back?" They didn't but everyone would know by Monday.

Levenvale were good but not as good as they were. The visitors began to make unforced errors and then became wild as panic set in. 3-0 was about right but Dave found it hard to echo Andy's delight. There were ways he would have done things, in the first half especially, that would have had a scoreline of 6-0. If only he could make the team! Put his ideas over.

Everyone had training every afternoon the next week, except Friday, and in one of the practice games Dave had actually tried out a feint, it worked, he passed to Irish Joe and he ran into the goal with the ball nae bother. He tried the same trick in the second half, tripped over his own feet, was robbed of the ball and watched the resulting move end in a goal for the opposition. Afterwards, that error was thrown at him. Nobody praised him for *making* a goal.

So next Saturday, the match was the big one. County cup. Most of the lads turned out to watch this time. The man from last week said hello and asked Dave what he thought. "I told him," he reported to Andy later.

The score was 1-1 at half time and the second half was not going well. If Chick hadn't been on form there would have been a couple more goals. When his team's captain Jimmy Kirton, passed him Dave screamed "Feed the wings you ijit! Feed the wings!" Speedie heard and gave Dave a frown but interestingly, five minutes later he was roaring out the same order. Almost in shock Jimmy did so – and the move ended in a goal. 2-1 And that was that. The school cup for 1994.

A smiling Brilliant then set them to write an essay on "How we won the cup" When some objected, "Sir, I wisna there!" he said he hadn't said which cup or when or where. It was for them to use their imaginations. Dave certainly used his but not in the way Brilliant perhaps intended. He reported their cup win, he analysed it, used a scalpel at times, poured out words and handed in four jotter pages of essay. Andy managed a page and a half.

The man they'd seen and talked to at the matches came to watch them practice on Thursday. Word spread that perhaps he was a talent spotter. Jimmy said he'd seen the bloke coming out of Stark's Park and not on a match day either. They played their best. Hard.

Dave made a bigger ass of himself than usual. It was infuriating to know what to do but to be so incapable of carrying out the ideas. Invariably he'd lose the ball, trip over his own legs, run into touch, send passes wide yet, to every ones astonishment, when they

were pulling on their tracksuits to get off home the man came up and said, "Dave, can I have a word with you?"

Some lads went home, others keeked from behind the Toll Centre. Andy sat on the steps while the man and Dave made a couple of circuits of the pitch, deep in talk, Dave, while, waving his arms and having a lot to say. Then the man slipped something into Dave's hand and went off. Dave neared his pal with a dazed look on his face. "What is it Dave?"

Dave shook his head and held out a ticket. Andy took it. Gaspd. "The Cup! It's a ticket for the Cup on Saturday. How?.... What?.... You jammy dodger. Why it's brilliant!"

Dave let out a squawk at the last word. "Aye, Andy, an I can thank Brilliant fir it tae."

"Whit dae ya mean?"

"He showed ma essay tae yon mannie. Dae ye ken who he is?"

"Naw."

"He's Goalposts in the Press. The football reporter."

"So?"

"He swapped the ticket for a promise I had tae gie him."

"Promise?"

"Three hunner words tae be in tae him on Sunday. Three hunner, less mebbly but , definitely nae mair or he'll skin me – an...."

"Whit are you on aboot?"

"He wants *my* report on the match! Tae analyse Raith and Celtic. Me! At Ibrox!"

"You'll gang?"

"Try an stop me!"

"You jammy dodger," Andy repeated. What wouldn't he have given for a ticket for what proved to be such a nail-biter.

"Dae you see whaur this could lead?" Dave whispered.

"Nup," Andy answered. He just saw Raith getting a real hiding. I mean, Celtic....I wonder if Dave saw? Perhaps he did for there was a gleam in his eye as the pair wended down James Park that afternoon. Of course Raith won the 1994 League Cup – on the eleventh shot at goal in a penalty shoot out after a 2-2 draw at the end of extra time.

And now, these years on, we all know who is the sharpest, most popular, most read football reporter in Burntisland, Fife, Scotland, Britain, Europe, the World and the Universe!

## COASTAL BUS LINK TO EDINBURGH RETURNS



By  
**Paul Briscoe**

Residents in Burntisland, as well as Kinghorn and Aberdour will soon be served with a direct bus link to Edinburgh. From the 21st of February, **Service 57** will operate an hourly service from Kirkcaldy to Ferrytoll Park & Ride - Monday to Saturday. Peak week day journeys will then extend to the Capital as **Service X57**.

The move has been welcomed by councillors George Kay and Ron Edwards who have been instrumental in seeing the bus service return after a five year struggle. However, they have warned residents that the service is NOT a subsidised one and must pay its way. Simply put: **USE IT OR LOSE IT!** is the message.

One local resident stated, 'I'll definitely be using it. It will be great for the older folk and bus pass holders as they can simply get on at the bus stop instead of going down for a train, which will only take them to Inverkeithing, where they will need to change to a bus or pay the full rail fare to travel onto Edinburgh.

## *Winter Driving*

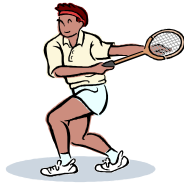
By  
**Sergeant Scott Murray**

Drawing on my experience in Road Policing, I would offer the following advice on driving in winter conditions:

1. Ensure that you have good tread on your tyres and that they are at the correct pressure.
2. Ensure screen wash bottles are filled and mixed to avoid freezing
3. Drive in a higher gear than normal. Tyres are more likely to retain grip on low engine revs.
4. Use gearing to assist in slowing you down as firm braking sometimes causes a loss of traction and eventual skidding.
5. When driving on snow and ice make sure your braking, acceleration and steering are as smooth as possible. If you imagine you have a glass of water sitting on your dashboard and you drive in such a manner that little is spilt, then you won't go far wrong on snow and ice.

**I would also like to take this opportunity to raise awareness of the fact that certain unscrupulous individuals are taking advantage of the recent bad weather and are cold calling at doors telling the occupants that their roofs or gutters need repaired / replaced. I would urge you all to make sure that you are dealing with reputable tradespersons and leave the "cowboys" well alone.**





## BURNTISLAND SPORTS GROUP

by  
**Gillian Lowe**

**B**urntisland Sports group was established in 2008 as a continuation of an earlier community sports group, with a view to developing sporting facilities in the town. Questionnaires were distributed throughout the town to determine what sort of facility was required and where it should be sited. 150 householders returned questionnaires; the response was very supportive of the project. A range of indoor and outdoor sports requirements were suggested by those who responded.

The preference of the group was to endeavour to construct a sports hall, perhaps at the Toll Park. However deliberations on the site of the new primary school prevented any decision on a site for a sports hall being finalised.

The group decided to concentrate its first efforts on developing an outdoor pitch facility using land at the Beacon. In October 2010 a series of meetings were held with Fife Council officials and Beacon management representatives to progress the project and all were very supportive. It was considered that an outdoor all-weather ball court giving two 5-a-side sized courts at the Beacon. The preferred facility would be managed by the Beacon, would operate through a booking system and would have some free use for Youth Diversion activities.

Planning permission and a grant for £125,000 as match funding had already been approved by Fife Council for the development of a sports pitch in 2006 on this same site. Around this time a group known as the ball court project group led by Councillor Ron Edwards had applied for funding and planning for a ball court project at the Beacon. The project became embroiled in the unsuccessful proposal for Business Incubator Units adjacent to the site and could only proceed once more in 2008.

It was confirmed by Fife Council officials in October 2010 that the original fund of £125,000 remained in place but Burntisland Sports group were urged to move forward to a new Planning Application as soon as possible. Site plans were drawn up but the project has now hit another obstacle.

There would appear to be an intention by some In Fife Council to "redirect" the money previously allocated to the ball court project to supplement the funding for a new school. This is resisted by the group who have requested clarification from Fife Council officials. It is clear that we need to apply sustained and urgent pressure to keep the project moving as the town would like; not to suit the agendas of others.

Anyone who would like to help out in bringing these facilities to Burntisland or groups/individuals interested in using the outdoor pitch facilities should get in touch with Gillian Lowe at:

[BurntislandSports@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:BurntislandSports@hotmail.co.uk).

We really need your help and the more people/groups involved the greater the likelihood of the project succeeding.

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### BURNTISLAND LIBRARY 'DROP IN'

**I**t almost a year since the 'Drop In Job Club' Service 'opened its doors' at Burntisland Library and during that time 35 local residents have used the service regularly. As Development worker, Alison Hamilton, explained 'Some come every Friday morning to check on vacancies and discuss their job search plans, for others it has been a couple of sessions sorting out their CV or funding options. It's always great when someone pops in or phones to say they've been successful in gaining employment or a place on a course. As the Library is a public area, I can also make separate arrangements to see clients who prefer some privacy.'

A number of Job Club members have mentioned that a First Aid or Food Hygiene Certificate would be useful and might improve their job prospects. Therefore it is hoped that in the next couple of months there will be some free, short courses running locally. Anyone looking for practical job search support or careers advice is very welcome any Friday from 10am to 12.30pm in a section of the Children's Library. Alison can also be contacted on 07507668239 or by email [Alison.hamilton@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.hamilton@fife.gov.uk). Visitors to the Library can, of course, use the computers for on line job search at any time.

**L**ocal group 'Mirth of Forth Comedy' (MofF) have been organising monthly stand-up comedy events in Burntisland since last April, attracting some star names and up and coming comedy talent, and entertaining a growing fan base.

On 29<sup>th</sup> December last year, The Star pub was packed to the rafters for a show called Fife's Turkeys and Trimmings, where stage time was given to any Fife comedian who wanted to perform. The performance standard was high, but the audience were still invited to vote for the 'turkey' of the night. Jim Sheehan received that dubious accolade, but Maggie's Care will receive nearly £50 from the 'cash for votes' system which was used.

The next MofF event will be in Potter About café on Saturday 29th January (8pm start), and the headliner will be JO CAULFIELD. Jo has had her own show at the Edinburgh Fringe since 2001, and has appeared on TV programmes such as 'Michael McIntyre's Roadshow', 'Have I Got News For You' and 'Mock the Week'. The compere will be VLADIMIR McTAVISH.

Tickets are £8 for this event, but you can 'byob'. Refreshments will also be on sale. Even a month in advance, a quarter of the ticket allocation had already been sold so it's recommended you buy tickets in advance (from the café) to guarantee entry on the night.

And then there will continue to be the ever-popular free Sunday evening comedy events in The Star pub, with strong line-ups already booked for 20<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> March.

For further details of events you can join 'Mirth of Forth Comedy' on Facebook, or email [mirthofforth@googlemail.com](mailto:mirthofforth@googlemail.com) to request monthly updates. Also, look out for our distinctive smiley-face logo on posters around the town.

**Note for guidance that all MofF shows are over 18's only.**



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APRIL 3rd - Mothering Sunday High Tea treat.  
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EASTER SUNDAY Traditional Roasts with all the trimmings  
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29th APRIL - Royal Affair - Wine & Dine to celebrate  
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## Burntisland Speakers Club

By

**Fraser Reddick**

**B**urntisland residents may or may not know that, every second Thursday from September to March, in the Burntisland Sands Hotel, a group of men of variable age meet for the purpose of speaking to one another! Burntisland Speakers Club is affiliated to the Association of Speakers Clubs, a body whose objective is to give people the confidence and ability to speak in public. The Burntisland club, however, has another two aims which possibly are even more important, namely enjoyment and entertainment!

The format of the meetings is quite simple. During the first half, two speakers talk on a subject of their choice, usually for somewhere between five and ten minutes, and are evaluated by two members chosen for the purpose. The evaluations are positive and encouraging -- Burntisland club does not believe in a pass or fail system!

So far this session speech subjects have been wide-ranging. Strongly held views on budget airlines, the importance of spelling and grammar, and the effect of the "nanny state" have contrasted with reminiscences of 1940s Glasgow and 1960s Kirkcaldy. Historical themes have included Winston Churchill, Robert Owen, William Wallace, and the true story of the Battle of Rorke's Drift. More unusual talks have covered Tai Chi, Dundonian inventors, and shopping in Asda! After the interval comes the topics session, during which six members, at short notice, are asked to speak for two minutes on subjects provided by the topics chairman, usually with opportunities for a humorous response! The meeting is rounded off by the general evaluator, who gives his personal view of the evening's performances, and any suggestions for improvements where necessary!

Burntisland Speakers Club is a thriving one, and welcomes new members. Why not come and join us, gentlemen -- there is no age limit!



## Museum of Communications

By

**Dorothy Brankin**

**M**embers attending the Museum of Communication's Annual General Meeting in November experienced a rare treat! It is customary to follow the AGM with a special Lecture, dedicated to the memory of the MoC Founder, Harry Matthews and round off the day with a cheese and wine buffet lunch.. This is a very popular event that requires careful planning! Until this year, things have always gone smoothly but two days before the event the speaker, very reluctantly, had to withdraw.....Panic!

No, not really. Enter Winnie Stevenson, wife of the Museums Chairman, Prof. Tom Stevenson. Winnie owns a Magic Lantern and is one of the tiny handful of Lanternists operating in the 21st Century. Instead of a worthy and thought provoking talk we were encouraged to hiss and boo in true Victorian fashion.....and we did! A Wonderful experience which will long be remembered (specially the bit when the heads fell off...)

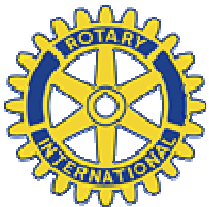
Readers will be pleased to learn that the popular series of evening lectures at the MoC will resume in February. In 2010 the Goudie lectures (named after the late Dr George Goudie, great friend of the Museum's founder Harry Mathews, and its most generous benefactor) attracted a total audience of almost 600 people and generated some much needed revenue. Topics ranged from Alison McLure's scientific work in Antarctica to Maralyn & Johnathan Starling's look behind the scenes at the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo. Local interest was catered for with talks on Mary Somerville, the Linoleum Industry and the Burntisland Railway Ferry.

Likely topics to be included in the 2011 programme are:

- (a) Learning about Sounds of Animals - Peter Slater of St Andrews University Wed 16th March 7.30 pm.
- (b) Talk on a tour of the Esk Valleys - Neil Grubb.
- (c) Defending the Forth 1914-45—Geoffrey Stell.

The Museum will take part in the National Science and Engineering Week in March this year and a series of workshops for Schools and Educators is planned.

Contact 01506 823424 for details.



## Rotary Club of Burntisland & Kinghorn

**T**he local Rotary Club continues to thrive under the stewardship of President Joe Smith. In November, Club members donated 44 shoeboxes of goodies as part of a large shipment which was delivered to needy families in Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. Additionally the Club has provided Burntisland Primary School with 100 empty shoe boxes which, once filled, will be despatched before Easter.

The Rotary Rambles programme for 2010 was completed in November when Club members led Kinghorn Primary School pupils on four local walks, all completed in perfect weather. The winners of the respective Burns poetry competitions at Burntisland and Kinghorn Primary Schools performed before a large gathering of Rotarians and guests at the Club Burns supper on 25<sup>th</sup> January at the Sands Hotel. President Joe presented both winners with their trophies and Burns books after their performances. Members are hoping that the recent severe weather has not adversely affected the 12,000 purple crocuses which are due to sprout at various locations in both towns in early February. The next Club fund raiser will be a Rock and Roll Disco at Kirkcaldy Rugby Club on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. At about this time club members will begin the planting and growing of a large variety of plants in preparation for the annual Plant Sale/Coffee Morning to be held in Kinghorn Parish Church Hall in early May.

Walk to the Black Rock



**BURNTISLAND EVENTS / CIVIC WEEK**

by  
**Carol Kirk**

**BONFIRE NIGHT**



Despite the damp night this did not deter folk from turning up in their thousands for Burntisland's traditional bonfire and fireworks display held as always on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. Entertainment, fun and amusement were there in abundance from Radio Lollipop, supported with fairground rides and the arrival of the Summer



Queen with Burntisland Pipe Band. The bonfire took a while to get going but once it did, it lit up the Links as did the spectacular cosmic fireworks display. The event was organised on a purely voluntary basis by the Events Group and all the hard work and planning was well worth the effort. Our thanks go out to everyone in the community who assisted and made it all worthwhile.

**CIVIC WEEK**

Last year we captured all the highlights of Civic Week on dvd – the Parade and Crowning ceremony and the many events held in the Marquee. We would like everyone to have the opportunity to see this and have arranged a special showing at the Sands Hotel on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February from 2-3pm. Everyone is invited to come along and refreshments will be served.

For the past two years, the Events group has organised Civic Week, taking on responsibility for the event as a short-term measure when there were insufficient people willing to form a committee. However, in order to access all available funding, an independent Civic Week committee will have to be re-formed for 2011. In addition, a number of long-serving members are standing down, although they will be available to advise and support any new group. New members are therefore urgently required to carry Civic Week forward and in particular ensure that the Parade and Crowning ceremony at least go ahead. There will be ample opportunity at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb to ask any questions or discuss what is involved and we would encourage anyone interested to come along.

**TOLL CENTRE PROGRAMME 2011**

(Term time)

MONDAY	9.30am– 12 noon 10 am – 12 noon 3 pm – 6 pm	PLAYGROUP COMPUTER CLASS OUT OF SCHOOL SERVICE
TUESDAY	6.45 pm – 8.45 pm 9.30 am – 12 noon 10 am – 12 noon 1 pm – 3 pm 3 pm – 6 pm 6.15 pm – 7.45 pm 8 pm - 9 pm	SENIOR YOUTH CLUB S1+ PLAYGROUP COMPUTER CLASS COMPUTER CLASS OUT OF SCHOOL SERVICE CHILDRENS CLUB (P2,3&4) ZUMBA
WEDNESDAY	9.30 am – 12 noon 10 am – 12 noon 1 pm – 2 pm 3 pm – 6 pm 7 pm – 9 pm	DAFC MINI KICKERS (3years +) OUT OF SCHOOL SERVICE WEDNESDAY SOCIAL CLUB (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> weeks of each month)
THURSDAY	9.30 am – 12 noon 3 pm – 6 pm 4 pm – 4.45 pm 4.45 pm – 5.45 pm 6.30 pm – 8 pm	PLAYGROUP OUT OF SCHOOL SERVICE GYMNASTICS Ages 4+ GYMNASTICS P2 – P7 JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB (P5,6&7)
FRIDAY	9.30 am – 12 noon 1 pm – 2 pm	PLAYGROUP DAFC DRIBBLERS (18 ms -3 ys)

3 pm – 6 pm  
7 pm – 9 pm

OUT OF SCHOOL SERVICE  
MUSIC PROJECT

SATURDAY 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm TAEKWON – DO

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The Toll Centre can accommodate a range of activities. Bookings can be made for a variety of activities including Private Functions/ Discos, Birthday Parties, Family Events, Fundraisers, Group Activities. Meetings. We have a Large Sports Hall, Meeting Rooms, Kitchen facilities.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Toll Centre is owned by the people of Burntisland and run by a Management Committee. The Management Committee is looking for community minded people to give up some of their spare time to join them. They would help promote leisure and learning opportunity's within the centre, join in fund raising activities and help oversee the running of the Centre. Anyone interested in joining the committee should phone the Toll Centre on 01592 872854. Or look on our Website: [tollcentre.org.uk](http://tollcentre.org.uk) to learn more about the centre.

\*\*\*\*\*



# A WINTER WONDERLAND



Photographs courtesy of Roger Shivas and Ian Archibald





General Salute

## Remembrance Day Parade

A dreich November morning greeted the participants of the Remembrance Day Parade as they assembled in Harbour Place. At 10.30 sharp the parade commander, Squadron Leader Ian Wallace, gave the order and the parade, comprising of



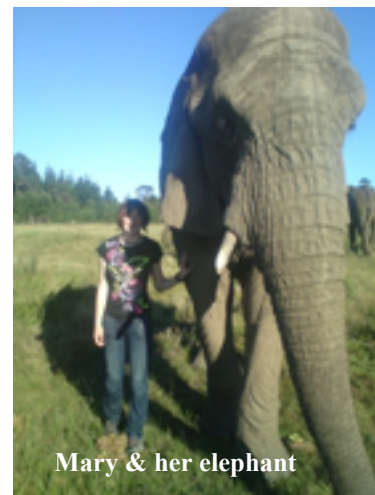
The Community Council Wreath

representatives of the armed services, the emergency services, Fife and Community Councils, veterans and youth organisations, marched off smartly behind Burntisland Pipe Band. After processing along the High Street and a solemn "eyes left" at the War Memorial, the parade marched along Kinghorn Road to the Erskine Church to attend the Remembrance Day Service conducted by the Rev. Jim Neil.

Following the service and in improving weather, the parade reassembled and marched back to the War Memorial for the traditional laying of wreaths. Rev. Jim Neil assisted by the Rev. Alan Sharp of the Parish Church conducted a short service of remembrance involving 2 minutes silence and a lone piper playing "The Flowers of the Forest". The parade then reformed and marched back along the High Street to the Burgh Chambers.

## MARY'S BLOG

**Mary Stuart, daughter of Burntisland's "Fair Trade" family and former pupil of Balwearie High, is spending a gap year in South Africa working within the local community under the guidance of Project Trust, a widely respected gap year organisation. Earlier in the year, Mary came through a rigorous 4 day selection process and subsequently raised almost £5,000 to finance her year's voluntary work at an outward bound centre in South Africa. Here is Mary's blog covering the first four months of her year away.**



Mary & her elephant

\*\*\*\*\*

Hello!

I've now been in South Africa for 4 months and thought it was about time I let everyone know what I've been up to...

My first month in SA was spent at the outward bound base in Sedgefield (near George). During this time, I completed my training and achieved my LOC's (level of competencies) in abseiling, rock climbing, high ropes activities, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, and water safety. Whilst there, I was lucky enough to meet the entire South African national cricket team, including the coaches and even their sports psychologist! They were at the base to complete a team building course. In my spare time I visited Knysna elephant park - I got to feed and walk with the elephants - and visit Bloukrans bridge - home of the world's highest bridge bungee jump, 216metres, 5 seconds freefall at 125kmph... Yes, I jumped!



Oh Boy - What a jump!

After completing my training I travelled up to the O.B base in Harrismith; 17 hours in a bus to Johannesburg, 5 hours waiting at the bus station then another 4 hours in a bus to Harrismith. It was pretty hectic travelling for someone who had no idea where she was going! Having arrived safe and well I got stuck into the work; I supported several courses in Harrismith. Working as support staff entails completing the set ups for rock climbing, abseiling etc and when there are water activities I 'shadow' the group in a kayak with the instructor, for safety.

Having spent about 3 weeks in Harrismith - where I stayed in a tent because there is no permanent accommodation - I moved to Potchefstroom which is roughly 2 hours south of Johannesburg. The main activities I supported there were rafting and abseiling. I later found out that the base is situated within the oldest and largest meteor impact site in the world! This made the area much more interesting as I spent a lot of time in the mountains that form the first ring of the shock wave. I spent about a month in Potch before travelling down to Sedgefield again for staff week. All staff in Outward Bound South Africa travelled to Sedgefield. For the week long course we were split into 2 teams and we completed a variety of activities including rock climbing, rafting in the sea and a 20 km mountain bike trail. In the end my team won, which was a nice end to the week.

I'm currently at the base in Grabouw, near Capetown and I will be working here until we break off for Christmas. I hope this gives you a good idea of what I've been up to. I'll send another update in 2011. Thanks again for all your help and support which got me here in the first place!

Mary

# Violent Video Games

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ByAmy Dickson

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## Our Children Need Protection !

Looking back, children were found roaming around outside for as long as they could with their friends until, sadly, it was time to go home. However, these days, children spend hours on end glued to their computer screens or latest games consoles playing a range of violent video games. They can include the likes of “Grand Theft Auto”, “Halo” and “Call of Duty”. Shouldn’t we ask ourselves if this activity is healthy? Do parents take a lazy approach to this excessive exposure to violence as long as their children are entertained?

Perhaps one of the most convincing arguments to prove that children need to be protected from violent video games is the case of Devin Moore, an 18-year-old boy who had no criminal history. He played the well known and highly rated game “Grand Theft Auto” day and night over the course of months and one day murdered three innocent people, including two police officers without a thought. Taking a closer look at “Grand Theft Auto” we see that concerns a depraved society parallel to what an acceptable society should be like and contradicts many of the most important laws of the U.K.

See a better car than yours? Simple, just punch the owner in the face and take it. Prostitute gets in your way? Knock her out and steal her money. See a police officer? Kill him with one of your expansive range of weapons. How someone (especially a teenage boy) could play this sick, sadistic video game without it having an effect on his behaviour is beyond my belief. The anti violent video games lobby argue that these games have a brainwashing effect on young minds. A quote from Moore stated:

**“Life is like a video game. Everybody’s got to die sometime.”**

Clearly, this boy had become addicted to the game and unfortunately fantasy wasn’t enough for him. The pro-game lobby claim this argument is weak as there has been little research on the subject. But surely the fact that children have the opportunity to act out violence (whether or not it’s virtual) is wrong? Any negative impact left on a child’s brain, no matter how small, should be prevented.

Those advocating that children need protection from violent video games suggest that parents should take a closer look at what kinds of games their children are spending hours on. Only 10% of parents bother to check the rating for the video games that their children insist on having. Parents should be more aware of what their children are getting their hands on instead of allowing video games to act as a pacifier for their own selfish benefit. Studies have shown that children learn by imitating and observing, so by allowing them to engage in virtual violence is technically teaching them how to express violence. Critics argue that there are other forms of media that also expose children to violence. This may be a valid claim but do children watching a horror film physically have the ability to kill the victims? The answer is of course no! The feeling of power that comes from personally killing and defeating people in video games cannot be gained from other media forms. This aspect is particularly worrying as these games effectively can become training programs – training children to maim, kill and steal.

Statistics indicate that the use of these savage games has doubled since 1999 and further suggest that children are being increasingly exposed to violence. Associated problems will continue to grow if something isn’t done about it. Extensive research claims that increased exposure to virtual violence is causing long term harmful effects on children causing nightmares, a fear of violence and a worrying desensitisation to violence. Do we really want to be the creators of an emotionless and frightened society?

Finally, although creators of these games argue that they make no suggestion that it is acceptable to start a fight or kill someone, we must realise that the only thing the companies care about is profit. And the profit from these brutal games is phenomenal.

Surely these so called “games” don’t even deserve that title? A game is something we associate with having fun. How we can even begin to associate murder, violence and theft with having fun absolutely sickens me. I’m not suggesting that we get rid of these games but I am pleading with anyone who cares about the safety of children to recognize these games for the savage and brutal dangers that they present and help to protect the innocent minds of our children.



# Nothing on the telly...

By

Corri Allen

The Fife Sports and Leisure Trust put together a plan to educate secondary school children about the benefits of healthy living. Scotland's first school based TV network was launched across Fife to promote their idea and this network to be shown to pupils on recently purchased plasma screen TVs situated in school cafeterias and some classrooms.

The FSLT manages the TV content and stated at the start of the autumn term that their intention was to feature cookery displays, video case studies showcasing pupils' active lifestyles, general public information films and newsfeeds.



Steve Donnelly, *Multimedia Coordinator, Fife Sports and Leisure Trust* stated, "Eventually, I hope that schools will encourage pupils to generate content for display, such as fashion shows, battle of the bands and school projects, and that the network becomes a catalyst for creativity which both young people and staff can enjoy."



Furthermore, Keith Breasly, *Hospitality Services Officer for Catering and Cleaning Services* said, "Although we are using the

screens prior to the FSLT's involvement, to display menu information and catering updates, we feel this initiative will allow us to engage far more effectively with pupils."

This plan should have proven successful—after all, the targeted age group have an affinity for television. However, in my experience, these (extremely expensive) plasma screen TVs are switched off or stored away somewhere for the majority of the time, thus making the FSLT's network and intentions completely redundant. Given the current crisis of obesity in the young people of Scotland, this scheme should have been introduced with vigour. Additionally, pupils have received no information on the purpose of the plasma screens or the TV stations, even on the rare occasions the televisions have been switched on. FSLT's failure to implement the TV network and the apparent waste of valuable resources, particularly in the light of the recent spending cuts that have been severe in the educational sphere, is unforgivable. The crisis of young Scotland's unhealthy lifestyle is still an unresolved problem, made all the worse by the drain on resources the failed scheme has cost us. We can only wonder if the blank, wasted TV screens intended to improve our children's welfare will be a reflection of their health in the future.



## Open Mike Evening by Kate McAuliffe

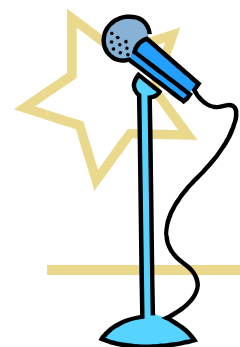
Attention all musicians and music lovers! Burntisland has branched out with a new performing venue. Every **first** Wednesday of the month "Potter About" are holding open mike nights, starting at half seven and onwards, that are available

to any musicians. But don't worry, even if you can't play you can still come down, sit with a coffee, food and cake, and listen to the various musical talents and genres Burntisland has to offer. The previous open mike night (on Wednesday 5th) kicked off with the musical stylings of Mike Delaitre. The reggae singer and guitarist brought a lot of diversity to the night as he modestly showed off his talents and



brought spiritual messages to the evening. Next was Ross Adams whose deep hearted original songs flowed with their acoustic and soft rock melodies. Later a two man band, Michael Allan and Daniel Nicol, both high-schoolers, introduced the rock and indie genres with covers of The Killers and The Fray. Next Molly Frawley, the youngest performer at age sixteen played the fiddle, entertaining with some Irish folk. Then more easy listening from Steve Harris, who sang and played guitar covering his favourite acoustics.

Finally the night ended with Mike and Ross playing Marley's classic "No women no cry" which they each did true justice to.



## **Burntisland Playgroup**

By  
**Bridget Fraser**

**B**urntisland Playgroup was formed over 30 years ago, and provides a fun and nurturing environment to help pre-school children take their first steps towards formal education. Many people in the town will have children who have attended Playgroup - or may even have had fun there themselves!

So far this year the children have enjoyed making new friends, developing independence and building confidence. They have had opportunities for outdoor play, cooking, and joining in celebrations for Diwali, St. Lucia Day and Christmas. They have also been discovering ways to keep themselves safe on dark winter nights, and to help to care for the wildlife during the winter.

Fife Council provides funding for all children aged 3 and above. However, this is not sufficient to cover all of the costs involved in running the Playgroup. As a result, each year a committee made up of parents, along with the Playgroup Staff, work very hard to raise additional money in order to keep the Playgroup open. The amount of funds raised so far this year stands at just over £1300, and the Playgroup would like to thank all of the local businesses that have provided raffle prizes and/or made a direct contribution to the funds - as well as those who attended events such as the Christmas Party Night and Coffee Mornings for their support.

Events planned for the next few months include a Valentines Party Night, more Coffee Mornings and a Sponsored Sing-A-Long. The events are open to everyone, so if you would like to support the Playgroup (and have some fun at the same time) please look out for more information in the Fife Free Press and posters nearer the time.

The Playgroup is regulated by the Care Commission, and recently received another 'Very Good' inspection report. These reports can be viewed online at [www.carecommission.com](http://www.carecommission.com). For more information about the Playgroup, please contact the Toll Centre.



Learning Social Skills at Burntisland Playgroup



## **Burntisland Golf House Club News**

By  
**Alastair Maxwell**

**A**lthough the recent weather has curtailed the playing of golf, it has been a busy time at the Club as we plan for the coming season, and look to build on last year's success in attracting almost 50 new members.

We also have a new Social committee with many new ideas and a recent ABBA Tribute Night was quickly sold out, signalling that the right event will generate interest. A Burns Supper, a Race Night and a Beatles Tribute Night are all in the pipeline. Do you know that even if you are not a golfer, you can join us as a Social Member? For only £20 a year you can make use of the bar and catering facilities and of course, join in all these social events throughout the year. We want the golf club to be seen as a community asset – forget the stereotyping of golf clubs as male orientated bastions! Our ladies are at the heart of the club, both socially and on the course, with several competitions every week throughout the season, so come along and help us build on these aspirations.

### **Special Joining Deal – available until 28<sup>th</sup> February!**

During 2010 we recognised that we needed to market golf club membership more pro-actively, and we ran a series of radio advertisements and a targeted mailshot initiative along with a few special offers throughout the season. We managed to add 50 new members and although the current economic situation is putting pressure on many households, golf club membership is great value for money, especially if you play most weeks and make use of the facilities.

We want to push on from last year's membership increase and welcome many new members to our Club during 2011. To kick start the new year, we have a special new members deal.

### **“3 people join for the price of 2”**

If you have been thinking of joining a golf club, why not get together with 2 friends and join for 2011 at the special rate for your first year of membership of **£990 for the three of you?** The standard subscription for 2011 for a Full Member (Gents and Ladies) is £490, so the saving is £160 per person! You do not need a proposer and there is no additional joining fee, so we hope you might be interested in coming along. We offer direct debit facilities so an affordable payment plan can be offered for 2012 membership and beyond.



## **BURNTISLAND SHIPYARD AFC**

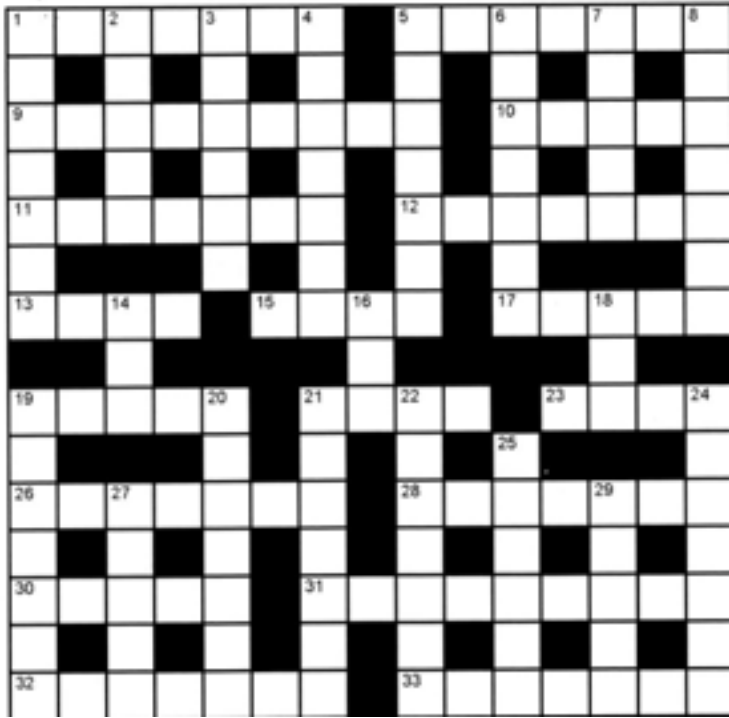
By  
**Andrew Beveridge**

**T**here is very little football to write about for this issue with there being no competitive matches played from the 20<sup>th</sup> November until the 8<sup>th</sup> January. Only a bounce match against Livingston FC under 19's has taken place in that period. Before the big freeze the club were on a bit of a run winning a league match and thrashing St Monans Swallows by 6 goals to 1 in the Fife Amateur Cup. The club have only played 12 competitive matches so far this season, such has been the amount of bad weather we have had. All of the youth groups are currently enjoying their scheduled winter break.

One event which did take place was the “Race Night” which was held in the Inchview Hotel. The event was a great success with everyone enjoying cheering on their horses, having a few refreshments and the delicious buffet supplied by Ellen and her staff. The club are currently researching the history of the club and are looking for any ex-players or supporters who may have some interesting or funny stories they may wish to share with us. Contact details can be found on our website.

The Club is delighted to come to the aid of the Beacon Runners, who have been made homeless while the Beacon Centre is being repaired, by giving them use of the changing facilities at Recreation Park.

**THE PRIZE CROSSWORD**



**ACROSS**

- 1 Comply with (7)
- 5 Strutting reindeer(7)
- 9 Fife Town (9)
- 10 Personnel rod (5)
- 11 Pancreatic secretion (7)
- 12 Fine oil (7)
- 13 Fife village (4)
- 15 .....bank (Fife town) (4)
- 17 Former Fife county town (5)
- 19 ..... Rovers (5)
- 21 A boggy fuel (4)
- 23 Garden measure (4)
- 26 Canadian Provence (7)
- 28 Former Dysart Colliery (7)
- 30 Pacific Island (5)
- 31 Schedule of events (9)
- 32 Mounted bullfighter (7)
- 33 North Fife Town (7)

**DOWN**

- 1 Famous Apache (7)
- 2 Annoys (Coll) (5)
- 3 Overtly (6)
- 4 Pop Star (7)
- 5 Fine or punishment (7)
- 6 Poison (7)
- 7 Town near 13 (5)
- 8 A more genteel industrialist (7)
- 14 "Last King of Scotland" (3)
- 16 Aberdeenshire River (3)
- 18 It comes in a pod (3)
- 19 Where Santa landed ? (7)
- 20 Ivy League University (7)
- 21 Become successful (7)
- 22 Insult (7)
- 24 Disagree? (7)
- 25 Justly (6)
- 27 Tabard (5)
- 29 Fife Snowdrop centre (5)

**THE SOLUTION TO THE PRIZE CROSSWORD IN THE SUMMER 2010 EDITION**

**Across:** 1 Besom, 4 Potluck, 9 Shotgun, 10 Rolltop, 11 Elms, 12 Sten, 13 Flue, 15 Triad, 16 Albatross, 20 Filmmaker, 21 Antic, 23 Lute, 25 Alba, 27 Imps, 30 Neutron, 31 Imperil, 32 Strides, 33 Names.

**Down:** 1 Broomhill, 2 Sage, 3 Monks Walk, 4 Porte, 5 Toll, 6 Until, 7 Kippers, 8 Ascent, 14 Edam, 17 Barbarian, 18 Teal, 19 Outsmarts, 20 Felines, 22 Castle, 24 Truer, 26 Links, 28 Prod, 29 Spam.

The winner of the £25 voucher donated by Shell U.K. Limited was

**Mr Robert Cunningham, 13 Aberdour Road, Burntisland.**

**ANSWERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BUZZ**

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

First correct entry drawn will win a £25 voucher donated by Shell U.K. Limited. Send completed entries by 15th March to:

**The Editor,  
1 Lammerlaws Road,  
Burntisland. KY3 9DT**

**Cancer Research Campaign**

**Burntisland Local Committee**

This Committee was first formed in May 1956 as part of the British Empire Cancer Campaign. From a small group of four ( Mr A Macpherson, Dr R Smith Sr., Mr H Lillico and Mrs Margaret Horton) it was expanded to accommodate new members representing the local churches and service organisations.

The Committee is still going strong and over the years has raised a commendable sum exceeding £350,000, with the continuous support from Burntisland residents and the wider community.

While Cancer research does not always make the headlines, it is vital in the constant search for treatments and cures for this disease which affects so many people. A recent visit to new laboratories in the Western General Hospital focussed Committee members' attention on the tremendous costs involved in acquiring basic equipment ranging from laboratory coats to sophisticated scanners.

A very successful year of fundraising in 2010 culminated in an informal gathering at the Kingswood Hotel where Richard Cowie, the area fund raising manager, presented long service badges totalling an amazing 240 years to 13 members of the local Committee.

Finally, sincere thanks to all those whose support and fund raising efforts give us the encouragement to continue in this valuable work.

**Aneris Grant**  
(Secretary)



**775 (Burntisland) Squadron**

2010 was definitely our most successful year to date with cadets excelling in all activities we offer. Throughout the year we took part in various camps and courses. Towards the end of the year cadets had taken part in the Remembrance Parade and 4 cadets were well on their way to completing their Communications course. Cadets are also taking part in the Corps Air Rifle Competition for 2010/11.

Now to 2011, Burntisland Squadron wish to make this year even better than the last with events starting early. We start off with our Parents evening on 20<sup>th</sup> January. Cadets will take part in the Wing Netball Competition, Senior Hockey, Senior Football and Junior Rugby trials, all these events taking place at RAF Leuchars on either the 16th or the 23rd January. On the 13<sup>th</sup> February cadets will participate in the Wing X-Country Tournament, this year being a big change for the cadets as they travel to Livingston. On the 19<sup>th</sup> February the cadets will travel to RAF Leuchars to undergo flying training. This is a chance for new cadets to experience flying and also allows them to take control of the aircraft. Our last event for February will be the Wing 5-A-Side competition which will take place in Dundee. All in all the beginning of the year is looking very promising for us.

To get in contact with the Squadron please visit our new Website at <http://www.air-cadets.org.uk>. This website holds all the information about the squadron and the Air Cadets.



## BURNTISLAND CURLING CLUB

From its formation in the 1880's Burntisland Curling Club played matches against neighbouring clubs. When the weather was cold enough, telegrams would be dispatched to Aberdour, Raith, Dunearn, Crossgates, Inverkeithing, Thornton and even Torryburn and the "Iceman" contacted to prepare the ice. Curling stones would need to be transported by cart and to pay for all of this, annual subscriptions were raised from the members. Gentlemen paid £1 per annum and in 1907 I find the first reference to annual subscriptions from Ladies who each paid 15 shillings. A photograph is shown below which may date from this time. It was taken by "J.W. Jackson", photographer, Burntisland, and any help in identifying the venue would be appreciated. The photograph surfaced in the papers of Mr. Martin whose son David now curls with Raith and Abbotshall Curling club.



Between October 1905 and February 1908 donations amounting to almost £140 were accepted towards the construction of an artificial curling pond at the Recreation Grounds, where the Bowling Green is today. Mr. Gilmour, Solicitor, Mr. Crow, Plumber, Mr. A Jackson, Builder, Mr. Johnston from Kingswood, and Mr. Smart from the Royal Hotel all contributed.

An annual fee was always paid to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club to cover the expenses in the event of a Grand Match taking place and curling clubs in Scotland continue to do this in the present day. The "Iceman" in 1908-1909 was paid £5, presumably for the winter months and in 1909-1910 Mr. Flanders [the Iceman] received £1 per month. If anyone can contribute to the history of Burntisland Curling Club please get in touch and for more Information about Curling today with Aberdour Curling Club please phone 01592 872308.

## The Parish Church



By  
Rev Alan Sharp

Burntisland Parish Church is coming back to normal after all the snow. Unfortunately we had to cancel a lot of events and services during December, though the Sunday morning service kept going throughout and we are very grateful to the folks who managed to come, even in the worst of weathers, especially those who came to our Nativity, Christmas Eve service and Christmas day service.

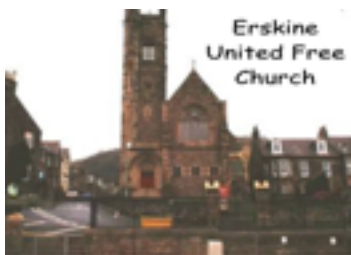
In our main service on Sunday mornings in the church hall at 11am we are working through Luke's gospel, looking especially at Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit who is God's love and presence with us. Sometimes we think about God as being "up there" but in Jesus we discover God down here with us. The mid week service has now restarted, every Wednesday at 10.30am in Solid Rock. It's a short service, followed by tea and coffee. We are also meeting in Solid Rock again for our informal Sunday evening services with the praise band at 6.30 on Sunday evenings.

We are very grateful to the ladies who organise the Friday tea/coffee morning in the church hall (top of the Kirkgate) from 10-11.30am. As well as providing a welcoming cuppa and chance to meet and chat with friends, they raised £3000 for church funds last year.

We continue to have a lot of interest from journalists about the King James Bible, including Scotland on Sunday, and the Glasgow Herald. In celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible, there will be a special service on Sunday 6th March at 11 am. The preacher will be Elaine Duncan from the Scottish Bible Society. All are welcome to join us at this service, which will be followed by lunch and a talk from Elaine. This promises to be a very special and interesting event which we would like to share with the community of Burntisland. Please also be on the lookout for the other special events later in the year.

Finally everyone in the church is delighted at the nomination of Aneris Grant as Burntisland's Citizen of the Year. Aneris continues to serve very actively in the church as an elder and treasurer, alongside all her other work for the Community Council and for charities. This is a very well deserved award and we offer her our congratulations.

\*\*\*\*\*



By  
Rev Jim Neil

The Mime and Drama Team from Pennsylvania which spent 10 days in November working with local churches and schools had a most successful tour: they appeared before 2,500 young people and took part in 25 events besides being guests of Raith Rovers Football Club and featuring in the supporters news bulletin!

The 'white out' at Christmas was just about a 'wipe out'! Severe conditions caused several events to be cancelled or adjusted. However the biggest event, the Candlelight Carols on the 19th December, had over 100 attending despite a near blizzard outside. The Christmas charity appeals did well with £343 collected for Bethany Trust and Women's Aid, the latter receiving many toys as well. The Women's Association filled 35 backpacks

with school equipment, clothes and useful items – these went out to Malawi.

Looking to the year ahead the Christianity Explored Course planned for the start of February has been postponed. This is in order to concentrate on a new programme called E100 (Essential 100 bible passages) aimed at Linking Sunday Sermon with home bible reading. Eighteen are already signed up to engage in this new Bible reading challenge and others are expected to join them.

The after-service lunch at the Burntisland Sands Hotel following the Communion Service is always greatly enjoyed and brings out smiles and humour to chase away the winter blues.

There will be concerts this side of the summer, some to make up for those cancelled. Details will follow later. The Erskine Women's Association continues to meet every week on Mondays at 7pm and the Erskine Association with its monthly speakers (last Thursday in the month at 10am) is a popular stop for both men and women who like to listen to stimulating accounts and anecdotes.

Services at 11am, with evening services normally at 6.30pm on the last Sunday in the month.



## St Serf's Scottish Episcopal Church

by  
**Canon Val Nellist**  
 Rector

It seems a while ago now, what with the snow and ice in December but at the beginning of November I was away for a week to visit the Diocese of Calcutta. This is the Diocese with which our Diocese is in the process of forming a companionship link. Companionship links are special relationships between Dioceses in the Anglican and Porvoo Communions for mutual support and encouragement in our Christian mission. There are already many links between Calcutta and Scotland, historically through the East India Company and currently with the churches that came together forty years ago to become the Church of North India; Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Brethren and Anglicans.

We had a very busy time there as Bishop Ashoke and his people wanted us to see as much as possible of the work they do; in education, social welfare and health care. Canon Dominic Ind, Rector of St Saviour's, Bridge of Allan was my companion for the trip. Both of us had been to India before and Dom had spent time in Bishop's College, Calcutta when he was a student preparing for ordination. So we had some understanding of India and the Church of North India but we were deeply impressed by the scope of the work the Church does with people of all faiths. Most moving was the Arunima Hospice for people living with HIV/AIDS. The hospice cares for both adults and children, providing education too for these children who are not always accepted in main stream schools. An important part of the work is in advocacy for these people, helping the wider community come to a better understanding of HIV/AIDS.

On the Sunday morning it fell to me to preach in the Cathedral whilst Dom was invited to participate in the prayer of consecration over the bread and wine for communion. All very Anglican though the Revd Andrew Simick, Vicar of the Cathedral is also Minister of St Andrew's Kirk where governance and the practice of worship are in the Church of Scotland tradition. Andrew manages both with aplomb. He and his wife are from the hill country and it turned out that they know our Revd Tembu Rongong's parents; Andrew had visited them in Edinburgh.

That evening we were taken to the Duff Memorial Church, named after the great Scots missionary Alexander Duff. This time Dom was the preacher but I was still expected to say 'a few words'. The service was in Bengali and so our words were translated but it was quite clear that most of those present understood our English. There was a youth praise band and the Women's Fellowship choir so lots of cheerful Bengali worship songs in a service that went on for two hours. Then there was dinner outside in the garden. It was quite challenging to come back to the worst December weather for many years but the warmth of that Bengali welcome will stay with me for a long time.

Bishop David Chillingworth will go to Calcutta in February to make the link an official one and we hope that Bishop Ashoke Biswas will be with us again in the summer to reciprocate the official ceremonial in our Cathedral in Perth.

At St Serf's we are looking forward to welcoming the Revd Maureen Stirzaker at the end of January. Maureen will be joining us from the Diocese of Manchester as a non stipendiary assistant with the Aberdour, Burntisland and Inverkeithing Group. She arrives in plenty of time for our Lenten observances which begin with a service of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. The ABI Singers will be with us that evening to assist in worship fitting for the beginning of the penitential season; preparation for the solemnity of Holy Week and the joy of Easter.



The Arunima Hospice

## Humpty Dumpty had a great fall

By  
**Patsy Killin**

That's the way the story goes, but this winter's Youth Theatre production of Humpty Dumpty proved to be a triumph of dedication, hard work and sheer talent over the adverse weather conditions. Despite cancelled rehearsals the show went on, and it



went on in style! The staging and the sets were impressive, the music was superb and the choreography was brilliant.

This was a superb production with so many first class

performances that I cannot possibly name them all. I have paid good money to watch less well produced shows in the professional theatre.

Some people, though, must be mentioned... Liam Bell as Dame Dobb and James Lyon as Humpty Dumpty had the audiences crying with laughter; Rebecca Paterson as the baddy, Grim, had all the kids 'booing' with gusto; and the chorus produced the extremely high standard we have come to expect from our youth theatre.

The annual Derek Horn award was given this year, for her outstanding contribution to the Youth Theatre, to Carol Anne Paterson. Carol Anne has been designing and painting fantastic stage backdrops for The Youth Theatre and the Junior Youth Theatre for as long as I can remember! It is well deserved.

Audience numbers were lower than usual with about 500 people attending over the four nights, but considering the conditions underfoot 500 is not at all bad.

Burntisland Youth Theatre is one of the real jewels in our community, please continue to support our young people! Send your children along to get involved (they will never look back), and come to see the shows. There will be something happening in the spring – so watch this space.



# Water

By  
Helen Mabon,

from resource material of Burntisland Heritage Trust

Do you, like me, let the cold tap run unchecked while brushing your teeth, flush the loo for the least reason and bathe unnecessarily often? We are so fortunate to have access to unlimited clean fresh water. We can take it for granted.

It was not always so.....

Lets go back to 10 July 1633 - Charles 1 was forced to come through Burntisland to take that ill fated ferry, on his return south. It was decreed in advance of him entering the town, that no women and children should be seen and all middens cleared. The population of the town then would be around 1000 souls, emptying their refuse and effluent onto the street, to be uplifted eventually by cart. A foul smelling fetid place we would not recognise contained within the town walls. Water would be used sparingly, drawn from nearby wells and burns that also carried waste. Godliness and cleanliness had not yet met!

Cholera and diseases were prevalent as the result of tainted water. To begin to combat this, water was piped to part of the town in 1803. A sandstone plaque, where Craighkennochie Terrace meets Cromwell Road, commemorates this progressive move. It is weather worn and reads -

**"This water brought in leaden-pipes from The Bank Well Under the patronage and direction of the Magistrates and Council of Burntisland"**

Not all the town was served with clean water, as consistent references in the 'Letters Books of the Commissioner of Police, Burntisland 1861-67' show. This hand written record is a fascinating insight into the absolute integrity of the time. The language used is clear and direct. The book is peppered with correspondence relating to - applications for piped water from the initial main pipes - letters about tendering for a sewage plant and a profusion of letters back and forth over years, relating to the 'Gedes Mill Lade (mill stream), Dam, Nuisance. This was filthy water in the Lade causing infection and foul smell.

Some quotes from the book make me envious of the veracity of the Commissioner as portrayed by the writer

"I do not doubt he prefers keeping the Dam in its present pestilent state and cares not a straw for the health of the inhabitants of the Kirktion."

The Inspector of Nuisances - *bring him back please!* - was empowered to present a petition to the Sheriff of Fife. Many letters more led finally to a resolution in 1871.

On the 31 Oct 1924 the 1<sup>st</sup> sod was dug by Baillie Dempster's wife, leading to the creation of Stenhouse Reservoir. This water plus that from Cullaloe a couple of miles away, supplied clean water to the town. Burntisland town councillors had their annual 'waterworks outing' when Stenhouse and Cullaloe, the main pumping station, were inspected - details of which make entertaining reading as told by past councillor Charlotte Stenhouse (Haddow), in Iain Sommerville's book 'Burntisland a Social History'.

Today our water comes from Glendevon reservoir. It has first been filtered, had its pH adjusted to make sure the water is, neither too acid or alkaline, before finally being disinfected, usually with chlorine. The service reservoir, which is the sole supply for Burntisland, is held in a concrete tank to the west of the town.



The Craighkennochie Lane Plaque

Join me in raising a glass – filled straight from the tap – in thanks to those who've gone before, to give us this delicious water.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Burntisland 2020 Development Trust

Following notification from Companies House Burntisland 2020 Development Trust was dissolved on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The balance of 2020 funds (£1,3049) were transferred, as agreed, to the Burntisland Heritage Trust prior to the dissolution. This may be the last chapter in the history of the Trust but with the Community Council picking up the War Memorial project and other groups considering how to take forward uncompleted work, the development of Burntisland continues.

Alan Smart



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specifically tailored to provide volunteering opportunities for the over 50's who have more developed life skills than young volunteers. By volunteering you can pass on skills and knowledge and meet many other people. You may even learn something new. The satisfaction you will gain from putting something back into your community will have a positive impact on your own health and well-being. We provide opportunities to match people's skills, interests and time availability.

We are currently looking for someone to lead a healthy eating workshop once a week. This will involve training younger volunteers in menu planning, healthy eating and providing a light lunch for our Friday volunteers.

We also have a need for someone with experience in interviewing and recruitment skills to lead informal workshops for younger volunteers and help them create their own CV's. We are always interested in hearing from people with practical building or joinery skills, landscaping, teaching, publishing or website experience and anyone with contacts who can help to promote the work of the Ecology Centre.

If you are interested in a new challenge and would like to find out how you can become involved please call Jo at The Ecology Centre on 01592 891567 or e-mail:

[jo@theecologycentre.org](mailto:jo@theecologycentre.org)



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## Events Diary

### FEBRUARY

Wednesday 2nd	Home Herbal Health Care - St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy	11.00 -12.30 pm
Wednesday 9th	Making & Taking herbal preparations - St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy	11.00 - 12.30 pm
Friday 11th	Community Council Meeting - Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 12th	Playgroup Valentines Dance at the Sands Hotel	Evening
Wednesday 16th	Food as Medicine - Mike Small of Fife Diet, St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy	11.00 -12.30 pm
Sunday 13th	Events Group Reception and Meeting at Sands Hotel (All Invited)	2.00 - 3.00 pm
Sunday 27th	Sunday Strollers - Dells Woodland, Archers Field & Monks Walk from Sands Hotel	2.00 pm start

### MARCH

Wednesday 2nd	Police Community Engagement Meeting - Toll Centre	7.30 pm
Friday 4th	Rotary Club Rock & Roll Disco - Kirkcaldy Rugby Club	7.30 pm
Sunday 6th	Service in Parish Church to commemorate 400th anniversary of King James Bible	11.00 am
Friday 11th	Community Council Meeting - Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Wednesday 16th	Goudie Lecture at Museum of Communications (The Sounds of Animals)	7.30 pm
Sunday 27th	Sunday Strollers - Grange Hill & Kinghorn Loch from Doo Dells Car Park, Kinghorn	2.00 pm start

### APRIL

Friday 8th	Community Council Meeting - Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Sunday 24th	Sunday Strollers - Bluebell Woods, from Haugh Road, Burntisland	2.00 pm start

**The events diary this issue is very sparse—lots of things happen in the Spring so let's have all the details for the next issue !**

BURGH BUZZ IS NOW ON LINE AT [www.burghbuzz.org.uk](http://www.burghbuzz.org.uk)

The Burgh Buzz is published by Burntisland Community Council but has editorial freedom to express views that are not necessarily those of the Community Council

#### Editorial Committee

Editor	Bill Kirkhope
Advertising	Morag Douglas
Graphics & Typography	Paul Briscoe
Members:	Alex Killin
Corri Allan	Patsy Killin
Kate McAuliffe	Linda Briscoe

The Buzz is always looking for assistance: IT (for the website), articles and delivery agents. It is fun to be involved. Contact Paul on 01592 871300 or Bill on 01383 822023 (after April 1st).

### New Hardware Shop for the High Street

**A**t long last, we now have an ironmonger's in the town. No longer will we have to trek to the other side of Kirkcaldy for something relatively minor such as carpet nails, fuses, screws, and fittings or any of those small things that we always seem to run out of. There is no direct public transport to these large outlets such as B&Q., Homebase etc. I'm sure some of our senior citizens will appreciate having this shop right on their doorstep.

We welcome the arrival of MA Hardware and hope that the town will shop locally.



**G**ordon Ritchie, who died suddenly but peacefully on 21<sup>st</sup> November last, was a well-known and much respected member of the Burntisland community. Born and brought up in the town, he trained as a draftsman in the shipyard and as a young man played cricket, football and tennis for local teams. He was an exceptionally good swimmer and it was at Burntisland Swimming Club that he met his wife Elaine. They both represented the BASC at Galas and in interclub competitions and between them won many cups and medals. Although work took the Ritchie family away from Fife for a period, Gordon and Elaine eventually returned to the town with their three children. He retired 10 years ago as Chief Marine Surveyor for the Seafish Industry Authority for all of the UK. In his retirement, he became passionately involved in Burntisland affairs. He was an active member and past president of the local Rotary Club, a keen curler and with Elaine, a regular golfer at Dodhead. He was particularly creative with his hands and was an accomplished artist and valued member of the Burntisland Art Community.

Only recently, he completed a spell as secretary of the Burntisland Community Council and was instrumental in forming the current team which publishes the Burgh Buzz.

Gordon was a devoted and loving family man who believed in traditional values. He was strong minded and a shining example of the bedrock on which strong communities are built. He will be sorely missed.

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## The Kingswood Silver Anniversary

When we purchased the Kingswood in 1986, the hotel comprised of the restaurant, a small bar and 4 letting bedrooms (no en-suite in those days!) We were particularly taken with the building's character, its peaceful location and the wonderful views. 25 years and 3 children later, the Kingswood now offers 13 en-suite bedrooms, the Alexander Suite with a total capacity of 250, the Canmore Suite and Conservatory with a capacity of over 50, additional parking and landscaped gardens.

We hope we have succeeded in complimenting the hotel's original character, the peaceful location and wonderful views remain the same. In this, our Silver Anniversary year, we look forward to welcoming our loyal friends and customers as well as new ones.

*Rankin & Kathryn Bell*



**The Kingswood Hotel**

### HOLD YOUR WEDDING AT THE KINGSWOOD

For all 2011 & 2012 Wedding Receptions Booked and confirmed between January 1st to February 28 2011 we are offering **25% OFF** the cost of your Evening Buffet

### RESTAURANT CELEBRATION DATES

**FEBRUARY**—Look out for our fantastic **Valentines Menu**—Fri. 11th –Mon. 14th incl.

**MARCH**—Children eat for **£1.00** - Child must be under 12, and accompanied by one or more adults (Childrens Menu only)

**APRIL**—**Mother's Day Sunday April 3rd, 2011**  
Special Mothers deserve a special treat!  
Carvery Lunch—High Tea—Dinner  
(Reserve early to avoid disappointment)

**MAY**- Our **Silver Anniversary Month**  
A hint of Nostalgia, we will be serving dishes that appeared on our original opening menus

### Did you hold your wedding Reception at the Kingswood within the past 25 years?

If so, send us a wedding photo taken here with date and details. We will enter your name into a prize draw to be made on our actual anniversary in May.

**First Prize: Dinner and overnight accommodation incl. Breakfast in one of our Balcony Rooms.**

### Are you celebrating your Silver Wedding Anniversary In 2011?

If so, why not book a romantic overnight stay with us. To all couples who got married in 1986 we are offering a discounted **Bed & Breakfast** rate (Subject to availability) of only

**£25.00 per person**

For information on events to celebrate our Silver anniversary: visit our website: [www.kingswoodhotel.co.uk](http://www.kingswoodhotel.co.uk)

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