

BURGH BUZZ



Published by Burntisland Community Council

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BURNTISLAND COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER – 2012

Mr Ian Archibald

The identity of the 2012 Burntisland Citizen of the Year was announced to a packed gathering of revellers at the Golf Club Hogmanay Ceilidh, as the surprised winner Mr Ian Archibald emerged from the wash room to join his wife Dorothy and a large circle of his friends to bring in the New Year. He was well and truly flabbergasted!

Ian has been recognised for his invaluable contributions to the community through a number of organisations but primarily, the Burntisland Heritage Trust.

Hailing from the Langtoon, Ian settled in the Burntisland in the mid eighties, and took a keen interest the community from the start. A lover of the outdoors, his first active contribution was providing the professional expertise to the local Rotary Club to design and erect the splendid viewfinder on the top of the Binn. Soon after, as an experienced diver, he led the team which formalised the ongoing search for the wreck of the “Blessing of Burntisland”, the Royal barge which sank with its precious cargo off Burntisland in 1633.

Ian has been Convenor of Burntisland Heritage Trust since its formation in 1994. Under his stewardship, the Trust has grown from strength to strength and he has motivated and inspired other Trustees and Friends of the Trust, to assist him to complete many worthy projects. He has personally researched and documented numerous aspects of Burntisland’s history which is now readily accessible within the Trust’s archives, a veritable mine of information. He was responsible for the research, design and fundraising for two splendid commemorative plaques featuring famous people including Royalty, who have had past connections with the town. These impressive tablets have been permanently sited at strategic points in the High Street. **Continued on Page 8**



New School for the Toll Park

On Friday 13th January, elected Fife Councillor George Kay announced to the Burntisland Community Council that the Children’s and Education Committee of Fife Council had the previous day, confirmed the proposal to erect the new Burntisland Primary School on the East Toll Park. The planning process will start immediately with the completion date scheduled for the start of the new academic year in August 2014. The decision had been made in the light of the results of a recent consultation exercise conducted by Fife Council which indicated that there was a strong two to one majority of people in Burntisland who favoured the proposed site. This assertion however, was

strongly challenged from within the Community Council. The consultation figures have since been discredited as they are known to have been boosted by the inclusion of “pro votes” of extended families who do not live in the town. Additionally these figures are in complete contrast to those of the Buzz poll in the summer of 2010 which indicated a three to one majority against the Toll Park.

In the discussion that followed, representatives from the Parents’ Council strongly supported the decision and called on the community to support the plan and ensure that Burntisland had a new, state of the art school as soon as possible. A lengthy discussion ensued during which it was apparent

Continued on Page 5

Editorial Comment.

We started the New Year with the traditional announcement of the winner of the Community Award. Once again we have a most deserving recipient in Ian Archibald, a modest individual who has done more than most in recent years to publicise the town and its historic past.

Additionally, he has inspired others to volunteer their own services to assist him to ensure that modern traditions such as Civic Week and Bonfire Night go from strength to strength.

It never ceases to surprise me that the Burntisland community manages to produce such high quality winners, year after year. But cast your eye over the names of the late citizens after whom the Scots Verse Trophies are named and you will realize that this tradition goes back many, many years.

Sticking to the topic of volunteers, local groups and organisations such as the Toll Centre Committee, Civic Week and Events Groups, the Floral Enhancement Team, the Ecology Centre and youth organisations are constantly appealing for helpers. This issue of the Buzz contains an unusual appeal for volunteers to transcribe the history of Burntisland School from old school logs and minute books dating back to the nineteenth century. This will be a painstaking task and will take many hours but could be a rewarding distraction during those long winter evenings. An additional bonus for volunteers will be a personal meeting with the Citizen of the Year!

As I will be visiting my extended family overseas during the months of February and March, the next issue of the Buzz will be edited by my deputy, Paul Briscoe whose contact details are in the grey box at the bottom of the opposite page.

Finally, on behalf of the editorial committee may I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

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.

- The War Memorial project is now estimated just under £100,000, with £22,000 already in place. Plans are in hand to obtain listed building, planning and conservation area consents.
- Fife Council have decided to proceed with a new school on the site of the Toll Park and say there is no appeal to the Scottish Government. The evidence available is that most people are opposed to that site. We have said to the Director of Education and the Scottish Government that the Council failed to deliver a credible consultation process, raising fundamental questions over trust, integrity and competence.
- We plan to collect evidence of flooding and odour escapes around in the town over a 3 month period, so that we can confront Scottish Water with indisputable facts in due course. In so doing we will make full use of media options.
- Work continues in monitoring the loudness of the overnight chimes from the Town Clock, so that they can be set to the maximum agreed level.
- Scots Verse presentation and Remembrance Day events both went smoothly and were appreciated by all concerned.
- We have objected to a proposal to change the UK parliamentary boundaries which relate to Burntisland. The proposal would mean Burntisland becoming part of Dunfermline East, rather than having a parliamentary connection with Kirkcaldy.
- Deveron Homes attended several meetings to outline their plans for Grange Road and agreed to modify the scope in the light of feedback. It was agreed to offer no objection in principle to the final proposal, subject to review of the technical details.
- We have objected to some of the content for the proposed Grange Park Holiday village. Our concerns relate to the lapse of time since the original application, which means the context is now substantially different; the design, number and positioning of lodges; the phasing of environmental remediation; and overall traffic flows at the A909 junction.
- Storm damage to the Christmas lights in the High Street has been referred to Fife Council. Whilst the existing lights are much appreciated, plans are in hand for different lighting arrangements for 2012.
- The condition of the path over the Binn is being reviewed by Fife Council, following a collapse of the footway as a result of flooding. Temporary closure notices mean that walkers have to deviate from the normal route.
- Plans are in hand for the presentation of the Community Award 2012 to Ian Archibald.

Elected Councillors' Availability**George Kay**

Telephone 01592 874920

Email: 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

Ron Edwards

Telephone 01592 891330

Email: Cllr.ron.edwards@fife.gov.uk**Your Community Council**

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

Chair	Alex MacDonald	
Vice Chair	Bob Smith	
Treasurer	John Russell	
Secretary	Isabel Smith	
Minutes Secretary	Ed Pybus/Zoe Williamson	
Members	Christine Dewar	Tim Hailey
	Neil Millsop	Peter George
	Martin McDonald	Morag Douglas
	Gary Cummins	

Burgh Buzz is on line at
www.burghbuzz.org.uk

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

Editorial Committee

Editor	Bill Kirkhope	
Dep. Editor & Graphics	Paul Briscoe	
Advertising	Morag Douglas	
Distribution	Linda Briscoe	
Members	Patsy Killin	Ed Pybus
	Amy Dickson	Kieran Psyl

The Buzz is distributed throughout Burntisland by a team of dedicated volunteers. We are always on the lookout for new recruits.

Contact Linda at **01592 871300** for information.

The Burgh Polis

By

Sergeant Scott Murray

The past few months have been pretty good for us down at the Station. At the time of writing this article, last year's heavy snow falls have not materialised again this year. Other than a few days of heavy wind in which we have seen some trees down and some property damage we have not even seen very icy roads. I will however, probably end up eating my words before the winter is out.

Back in November your local Community Officer, PC Gibb, was one of the very few Scottish Officers chosen to represent the Scottish Police Service at the Remembrance Parade in London. He performed a duty as the Queen's Guard of Honour and was positioned adjacent to the cenotaph. This was in recognition of all the hard work that Keith does to the benefit of Community Policing and in particular to the public of Burntisland, Kinghorn and Auchtertool.

Just as an update on the Community Speedwatch project - we have submitted an application for funding to the Fife Community Safety Partnership in order to purchase the equipment required for this scheme. PC Jen Forbes is the project co-ordinator for your area and if you wish to find out more or volunteer for the training please contact her on the contact details listed below.

Over recent months we have seen a very slight increase in crimes of dishonesty in the Central Fife area. As a general awareness, I would encourage you not to be complacent with regards the security of your property. Scrap metal thefts and bogus workman type crimes continue to be prevalent in Fife and again I would encourage you to remain observant with regards suspicious vehicles / persons in and around our streets.

Our next Community Engagement Meeting will be held on the Wednesday 14th March 2012 at 7.30pm. Normally it is held within the Toll Centre, Burntisland but for a change we are moving the venue to the Community Centre, Kinghorn. This is not a permanent move but if it proves successful in terms of numbers attending, then we will consider meeting alternately between Kinghorn and Burntisland.

As always irrespective of where the meeting is being held all the Communities of Burntisland, Kinghorn and Auchtertool are invited to attend.

Non-emergency contact number : 0845 600 5702

E-mail : burntisland@fife.pnn.police.uk

THIS IS YOUR BURGH BUZZ. Your comments, letters, articles and photographs are welcome. For the next issue, these can be submitted typed or handwritten to Paul Briscoe, 1 Lammerlaws Road, Burntisland. KY3 9DT or by e-mail to paulbriscoe1@googlemail.com (Tel: 01592 871300) Items for the Spring 2012 Issue by 12th 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.

For Community Council matters, please contact Alex Macdonald, Chairman (Tel: 01592 873314).

Scots Verse Competition

The Scots Verse competition was started in 1986 to mark the 700th anniversary of the death of King Alexander III. He died after falling from his horse near to Kinghorn and a monument to him is located between Burntisland and Kinghorn.

So why commemorate him in this way? He was renowned for bringing peace and prosperity to the people of Scotland. In particular, he believed strongly that disputes should be resolved through debate and negotiation, rather than war. A common language was crucial to such discussions. So the Scots tongue was strongly promoted.

He became King at the age of eight and was married at the age of 10. However, his full powers as King were only exercised when he reached 21, from which time he skilfully balanced the threat of war with the need for dialogue.

The Community Council may not be at war with other bodies, but like Alexander III we seek to resolve disputes through argument and debate. We also like to encourage such skills among our young people. To that end, the Scots Verse competition recognises excellence among those who have taken the time and trouble to learn the language of their forebears and to use it to maximum effect. Every year the Community Council presents a cup and a medal to the winners in each of Primaries 1 to 6.

Each medal bears the Arms of the Community Council. Awarded by the Lord Lyon King of Arms in 1997, the Arms are the legal property of the Community Council and can only be used with its permission. By presenting these medals today, we acknowledge our respect for each of the winners. The cups are held for one year at a time and are named in memory of people who are important to the Community Council and to Burntisland as a whole.

The people after whom the trophies have been named are a very mixed bunch. However, they all have one thing in common. They believed firmly in the value to the community of debate and discussion rather than conflict. They got results through respecting the opinions of others, without necessarily agreeing with them.

The winners of this year's Scots Verse competition have doubtless learned some new words and learned the importance of a first-class presentation. But what matters more than anything else is their willingness to stand up in front of an audience and say what they have to say. Today it's someone else's words. In years to come it will be their own words. Their teachers and families have played a key role in stimulating their interest and encouraging them to do their best. All of them deserve congratulations on an excellent performance.



Primary 1 – The Marshall Memorial Trophy -Winner: **Billy Salters**

Jock Marshall was the first Chairman of the Community Council in 1978. He was one of a small band of 7 people who formed the original Community Council in Burntisland. He always exercised great care to ensure that everyone who wanted to speak would be able to do so. He was courteous at all times but forthright when occasion demanded. It is fitting that the first trophy should reflect the first Chairman.

Primary 4 – The Gilbertson Memorial Trophy - Winner: **Mia Wilson**

The Gilbertson family have played an important role in the community for generations. Christine Dewar represents the family today as a member of the Community Council, but her parents were both active in the life of the town. Margaret, for example, was also a member of the Community Council. Both Margaret and Christine are former winners of the Community Award. Christine is a strong supporter of Burntisland's young people through the Youth Theatre Group, where the performers' delivery is vital to their success.

Primary 2 – The Macdonald Memorial Trophy - Winner: **Lucas Carmichael**

Margaret Macdonald was a long-serving Secretary and Vice Chair of the Community Council. Her attendance record at meetings was unparalleled. A former Policewoman, she was instrumental in ensuring excellent relations between the Community Council and Fife Constabulary. She was firm in seeking fairness for all, and being courteous in all of her dealings. She also, in years past, helped to judge the Scots Verse competition. Her diplomacy earned her great respect and this trophy is an excellent tribute to her skills.

Primary 5 – The Horn Memorial Trophy Winner: **Ciaran McTee**

Derek Horn was a long-service Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Community Council, whilst his wife Betty was also a member for many years. Derek founded Burntisland Youth Theatre and first attended a meeting of the Community Council in that capacity. He encouraged us to support an application to the Prince's Trust for funding to buy stage lighting – and those same lights are still in use today. Skills in presentation and performance were the stuff of Derek's life and it is particularly appropriate that he should be commemorated through the presentation of this trophy.

Primary 3 – The MacDougall Memorial Trophy - Winner: **Liam Smith**

John MacDougall represented Burntisland on Fife Council and later became Leader of the Administration and Provost of Fife. Born and bred in Burntisland, he moved away in his later years when he became MP for Glenrothes. A strong supporter of an inclusive community, John excelled at bringing people together. One of his lasting legacies to the town was the Beacon Leisure Centre. He was a key player in negotiating land transfers and finding the £3m needed to build the centre. This trophy continues his interest in supporting our young people.

Primary 6 – The Kerr Memorial Trophy Winner: **Owen Thomson**

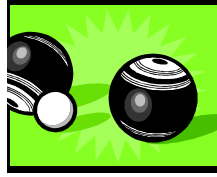
Douglas Kerr was the inspiration behind Burntisland Community Council and the Scots Verse competition itself. He organised public meetings and galvanised support to set up a Community Council in Burntisland. At the time, he was Burntisland's member on the Kirkcaldy District Council and fought tirelessly for the town's interests. It was his proposal to mark the 700th anniversary of Alexander III's death through a Scots Verse competition. He lived to the grand age of 95 and throughout his time in Burntisland was never known to lose his temper or be rude to any person. Douglas was an inspiration and an example to all of our young people today.



Burntisland School News

By
Victoria Dolatowska

As always, last term was a busy one in the lead up to Christmas. In October the first of our P7 groups started their course of bowling at the local bowling green. All of our Primary 7 pupils will have the opportunity to complete an eight week block of bowling lessons kindly offered to them by our friends from the bowling club. The children enjoy this immensely and all will receive a certificate at the end of the year.

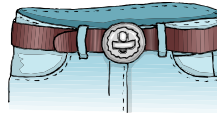


In November we held a charity event to support "Kilts for Kids" Formally the RSSPCC, CHILDREN 1ST has been working in Scotland for over 125 years to help build a brighter future for Scotland's vulnerable children and families. Kilts for Kids Day always takes place on the Friday closest to St Andrew's Day and is a great way to celebrate our national day, while raising money for children in Scotland. The children all dressed in tartan and donated money to this worthy cause, around £500 was raised.

We decided this would be a great opportunity to hold our Scots Verse Competition on the same day and as always the standard was excellent. The winners were all invited to attend the Burgh Chambers on 2nd December to perform their recitation and receive a trophy from the Community Council. Details of the competition and the winners are on the previous page.

P7 will participate in our annual Burns Competition in January which is held in partnership with the Rotary Club.

A further charity event was held in support of Jeans 4 Genes, the charity that supports children born with genetic disorders. The children and staff all dressed down in denim and raised £184.10. Well done to everyone.



In early December the Parent Council organised a Christmas Fayre. Visitors enjoyed arts and crafts, cake and candy and a chocolate tombola amongst other activities. Santa even made a special appearance and a great time was had by all. Around £1200 was raised and we are very grateful to the members of the Parent Council who worked so hard on behalf of the school.

On 14th December we held an open afternoon for parents and friends of the school to enable them to come in and see the children's work and the kind of activities that they participate in during a school day. This was a great success and parents were able to see the children singing in French, playing musical instruments and performing tunes from a specially produced Christmas CD.

On the last Sunday before Christmas the school choir participated in a Community Carol Service at the Erskine Church. The children performed and behaved beautifully and received many compliments on their performance. Our thanks to Miss Bell and Mrs Donnachie who give so much of their time and effort to work with them.



School Choir at the Erskine Church

As always December was filled with parties for all of the children from Nursery to P7 and everyone had a great time. As well as this the children from Nursery to P3 performed the nativity of "It's a Baby", everyone agreed they were all stars. The older children held a traditional Carol Concert this year and enjoyed the opportunity to learn a number of Christmas Carols which parents enjoyed joining in with too.

Another very successful term at Burntisland packed with great learning opportunities for the children. We now look forward to Spring Term and all of the exciting learning that lies ahead!

From page 1 - The New School

that strong divisions on this issue continue, both within the Community Council and the town as a whole. Councillor Kay then revealed legal advice, which he had received that afternoon from the Fife Council legal team, that had indicated that there was no official avenue of appeal to the Scottish Government in this particular case. As the debate closed, there appeared to be a reluctant acceptance of the decision amongst several of the "doubters".

So where do we go from here? There are two options.

Firstly, unite as a community to ensure that the new school is of the best quality design and construction and that the communal facilities within the school can be made available to community groups; that the football pitches within the proposed design can be used by local teams outwith school hours; that the provision and regulation of parking facilities is adequate; that bureaucratic red tape is not allowed to restrict access by the

community. Burntisland people can become involved by commenting at the various planning stages.

Secondly, continue to oppose the location of the new school on the grounds that the consultation and selection processes for the Toll Park site were seriously flawed. Inevitably, this would cause delays which are unacceptable at a time when the present school is bursting at the seams and projected increases of 50 pupils per year are forecast for the next couple of years.

If you should opt for the first of these choices there are other considerations. What of the green space lost? Support the Sports Group in their efforts to provide synthetic pitches at the Round House car park; call for the provision of new usable green space - the Red Pond (Seamill site) is ideally suited for landscaping into an attractive public park.

Last, but not least - what about the old school? It should not be allowed to deteriorate like the Palace Cinema site. Early plans must be formulated for a tasteful redevelopment. I feel confident Fife Council will welcome your suggestions.!

A Spring Miracle

by
Hamish Brown



After the death of Jesus his mother Mary used to wander through the Garden of Gethsemane, weeping sadly and finding little comfort. Eventually she found a spot shaded by almond trees and perfumed by roses and took some strength from its peace and beauty.

Blue flax flowers grew on the slope and sometimes she watched the ants collecting the petals and marching along with these waving like sails of fishing boats on the Lake of Galilee. The ants carried them down a hollow into their nest.

Mary often wore a bracelet which was made of tiny butterfly wing-like shells which were arranged in dainty clusters that made them look just like flowers. There were twelve of these. Mary had counted them often enough and they reminded her of Jesus' twelve disciples as they all wandered the country.

One day when she threw herself down on her favourite spot her bracelet snagged on a thorny bush and to her horror pieces of bracelet flew in all directions. Despite several searches for the scattered pieces, she found only eleven. This set her crying again for she was all too aware that Jesus' disciples were now only eleven. She rethread what she could and wore the bracelet again all through that first sad winter.

What Mary hadn't noticed was that when her bracelet broke, one of the pieces popped straight into the hole of the ants' nest. She didn't even think for a minute that that had happened.

In the new year before the garden blossomed with the pink and white of the almond trees she was sitting on the bank feeling rather lonely. Winter had been hard and the disciples had started to scatter abroad. As she sometimes still did, she glanced round on the unlikely chance of finding the long-lost part of her bracelet – she let out a cry of joy. There it was!

Or was it? The delicate thing seemed to be dangling on a thread, the almond shaped shells spread even more like the petals of a flower. When she bent closer from where she knelt she discovered it wasn't shells but a real flower.

A miracle.

Mary took comfort from the sight, a lesson that showed that loss could turn into gain; and as Jesus' disciples spread across the world so too did this first flower of the year, this dainty white flower that speaks of the resurrection and hope to which we have given the name snowdrop.

As Others Saw Us

Daniel Defoe is largely known as the author of Robinson Crusoe, based on the real life of Fife adventurer Alexander Selkirk. However, he was also a spy sent by London to report on the Scottish feelings in the unhappy first decades of the 18th Century. In 1720, he came to Burntisland writing “a very good harbour which enters as if it had been made by hand into the centre of the town; this is built round it, and the ships lay their broad sides to the very houses.” Despite that, “the place is unhappy and must decay yet farther, unless the trade revive, which I do not yet foresee. Here, however, is a manufacture of linen. The Star Tavern had been established in 1671 and is still there, with the same purpose and name today”.

In 1827, Chambers reported “a thriving seaport, remarkable for the best harbour in the Firth of Forth. The town is much resorted to as “sea-bathing quarters” – despite the bathing machines being near a ‘dung deposit’ at the end of a ‘refuse gutter”.

No Blue Flag Beach then!!

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“ Old School Days”

by Bill Kirkhope

Following several queries from readers regarding the records of the Dux medal winners at Burntisland School, we have discovered the existence in the school, of old log books and minute books dating back to Victorian Times. Head Teacher, Brenda McCormick has kindly allowed members of the Burntisland Heritage Trust access to these valuable records. The Trust is now embarking on a project to photograph the contents of these books and to transcribe them into a format that will be readable and accessible to visitors to the Trust office.

The first log book to be transcribed related to the last years of the Free Church School in Leven Street between 1869 and 1876. Its' contents offer a fascinating insight into the contrasts between operating as an independent Church School and as a mainstream school under the Burntisland Burgh School Board. This change followed the Education Act of 1872 which made Primary School attendance compulsory. Conditions in the classroom at the time were basic, to say the least; – 300 plus pupils served by two certificated teachers and four “Pupil Teachers”, in accommodation where some pupils had to sit on the floor, the number of desks being insufficient – and we complain about class sizes over 25 today!



This simple Log also gives a captivating insight into the social history of the town; two successive small pox epidemics hit the town in the winters of 1872 and 1873; holidays for “The Queen’s Birthday” – but it was Queen Victoria!; absenteeism caused by the attraction of daily, holiday excursions from Edinburgh and Leith (up to 3,000 people) and the shows on the Links; punishments of “flogging” and being “kept in” for misdemeanours such as truancy, insubordination, fighting and throwing snowballs; the numerous half holidays that seem to have been granted because of some unforeseen event – it couldn’t happen today because of working mothers, dangerous traffic crossings and the imagined threat of lurking paedophiles!

However, the most startling reason for a half holiday being granted is set out below in a verbatim transcription from the log book:-

“An alarming accident occurred this afternoon. Helen McIntosh is supposed to have been handling a dynamite cap when an explosion took place. Her hands were much scorched; the forefinger of the left was blown off from the first joint; the thumbs were much lacerated. Mary Pitkethly who sat next to her, was slightly hurt upon the cheek And her fingers were bleeding freely. The girl, so severely hurt was immediately sent to the Doctors who were quickly in attendance and dressed the wounds. No blame can be attached to any scholar as these caps seem harmless looking; many of them are used at the building of the Docks in the neighbourhood and unfortunately too easily obtained. The work of the school was much interrupted this afternoon, the children, through fear could not work”.

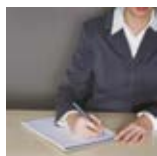
Where was Health and Safety in these days?

But in all seriousness, to properly transcribe and document all of these books will be a mammoth task. The Heritage Trust needs volunteers who are willing to give up some of their time during these long winter nights to assist in transcribing these books. Volunteers must be computer literate and should have an interest in the history of the town. Basic instruction will be given on taking care of such valuable documents and of the transcription and indexing required during the course of the exercise. This is a wonderful opportunity to dig into the past and contribute towards the valuable work done by the Heritage Trust. Those interested in helping should contact Ian Archibald on 01592 873557.

Should this transcription exercise progress as planned, it is intended to publish in the Buzz a regular column on “The Old School Days”. Also, we are hoping to discover the records and identities of all the former Dux Medal winners.

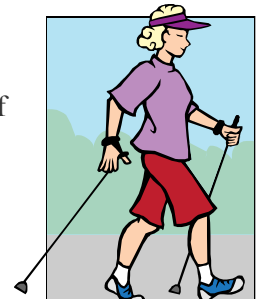
Short Story Competition

It is now over 2 years since the current editorial team accepted responsibility for producing the Buzz. This is our ninth Issue and a popular feature of almost all of them has been a short story, primarily supplied by Hamish Brown, and often adapted to the Burntisland environment. Now it is your turn. Over the next few issues we intend to run a short story competition, open to all our readers. Your story should be between 600 and 900 words and may be on any topic, provided it is non-political and tasteful! The author of any story published will receive a voucher for £25.00.



SUNDAY STROLLERS

The Sunday Strollers are an informal group of walkers, who do a local walk on the last Sunday of each month, except in June and December when the date is varied. The group are made up of men and women of varying ages and would welcome anyone to come and join us. The walks are easy, take in many local landmarks and range from 3 to 6 miles. They are a good way to find out more about the locality and to get some exercise in good company. The start time is usually 2.00pm, unless otherwise arranged, and is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



The programme of walks is included in the Burgh Buzz diary section and individual walks are notified in the Burntisland Local News section of the Fife Free Press. Anyone interested in joining a walk or who wishes further information should contact Alan Smart (873929).



veterans and youth organisations as they processed proudly along the High Street and up the Kirkgate to be welcomed at the Parish Church by the Rev. Alan Sharp. Following the packed Remembrance Service, the parade reformed and marched smartly behind the pipe band to the War Memorial at the East Port. A short service conducted by the Rev Sharp and assisted by the Rev Maureen Storzaker of St Serf's Church, included the traditional 2 minutes of silent reflection. Following the laying of the wreaths by the dignitaries, the parade reassembled and marched back to the town chambers where it was dismissed prior to attending a reception in the Burgh Chambers.

Lest We Forget

On an overcast but fair November morning, the Remembrance Day parade assembled in Harbour Place. Under the command of Squadron Leader Ian Wallace and impressively led by the Burntisland & District Pipe Band, the parade marched off at 10.30 sharp. There was a strong representation from the Armed Services, the Emergency Services, Fife and Community Councils,



From page 1 - The Community Award

He has designed and published a very attractive leaflet on two Heritage Walks around the town – the Outer and Inner Heritage Trails. Ian planned both routes which between them cover virtually every aspect of the social and industrial history of the town. During the summer months, he supervises guided tours of both these walks and personally acts as the guide when required.

Ian has been closely associated with the production of a number of publications produced under the auspices of the Heritage Trust; "Dishes to Dive For" a book of recipes from prominent personalities, specifically published to raise funds for the shipwreck project; "Burntisland Voices" and "Burntisland a Social History", two publications by Iain Sommerville; and two editions of "Burntisland Fallen" by John Burnett covering both World Wars. Although he did not write these publications personally, he was the catalyst behind their inception and supervised all aspects of their compilation, publication and marketing.

In recent years, Ian has personally organized themed exhibitions during the summer months in the Trust premises. In so doing he strives to include other organizations in the town, in particular those involving school children. He has regularly instructed pupils at Burntisland Primary School in the outdoors and map reading and "Pirate Treasure Maps" drafted by primary school pupils, was an unique feature of last summer's exhibition. Also in connection with the school, Ian compiled the maps contained in the Rotary Rambles route cards for the walks around the town. As a result of the regular advice and assistance that he has afforded to the Rotary Club, Ian has been made an Honorary Member.



Congratulatory Drink with the Wanderers!

He has also compiled a couple of DVDs containing pictures of the town (old and recent) set to music which can be played on a loop for the entertainment of visitors to the Trust.

Although the Trust is Ian's main sphere of activity, it is not the only one. Over the years he has chaired the Civic Week Committee and the Events Group and has motivated others to give of their time and effort to ensure that local traditions are maintained. The outstanding success of November's Bonfire Night is a direct result of Ian's drive, persistence and motivation.

Despite all these activities, Ian still finds time for a weekly excursion into the outdoors with the Binnend Wanderers, the locally based hill walking group within which he is most popular and a constant source of amusement.

In summing up, Ian captures the very essence of the Burntisland Community Award. He voluntarily gives of his time and considerable effort and is an inspiration to others. On behalf of the community we offer our most grateful thanks and sincere congratulations.

The Kingswood Hosts RNLi Christmas Fundraiser

The Kingswood Hotel owners, Kathryn and Rankin Bell celebrated 25 years at the hotel by staging an exciting Christmas shopping event, in aid of the RNLi.

The hotel was transformed for the occasion and featured 17 stalls offering a wide variety of gifts including jewellery, handbags, beauty products, chocolates, handmade gifts, and children's party clothing. There were also flower arranging demonstrations and a raffle. The hugely successful event was attended by over 200 people who were treated to wine and canapés and one lucky guest won the star raffle prize of dinner, bed and breakfast at the Kingswood, donated by the Hotel. A magnificent total of £3,351 was raised for the Kinghorn Lifeboat Station.



Leanne Fisher (Kinghorn Lifeboat) with Kathryn, Rankin and Joanna Bell

Kinghorn lifeboat fundraising committee member, Gina Fisher said that the funds raised will go towards new lifejackets for the crew at Kinghorn. These new lifejackets are being introduced across the whole country, and have been designed by the RNLi and the manufacturer. They have incorporated new design features which will aid volunteer crewmembers at sea.



Burntisland First Aid - update

By **Alex. MacDonald**

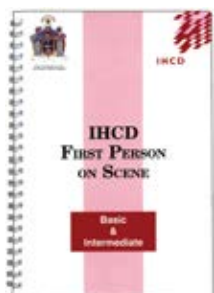


ce, school pupils, radios and volunteers take pride of place as we go into 2012.

For the first time, our busy season is now extending all year round. Since September, we've had volunteers providing first aid cover at all of the Fife Flyers ice hockey matches in Kirkcaldy. In addition, we've been teaching first aid to every second year class at Kirkland High School in Methil. Both of those ventures are very new for us and provide rewards and challenges alike.

At the same time, we have now completed our Basic first aid course, with 14 people passing with flying colours. Three people performed exceptionally well and will receive trophies for their efforts. In the question paper, Clare Slater and Gordon Brown shared the honours. In the practical part, top marks went to Kerrie Hullahd.

In the background, our project to raise funds for new radio equipment is now complete. We were delighted to receive grants from Comic Relief, the Co-operative Membership Community Fund, ExxonMobil at Mossmorran, and the Voluntary Action Fund. Their generosity means that we have been able to place an order for new equipment which will be ready for use in the next few weeks.



We will soon be ready to offer the Community First Responder Scheme, in which a volunteer will respond to selected 999 calls at the same time as an ambulance is sent. It means that essential skills will be on the scene faster in Burntisland, Aberdour and Kinghorn at the time when it matters most.

For that scheme the required skill level is our Intermediate course, which will start at the end of January. We always welcome enquiries from people who are interested in volunteering as a Community First Responder. Anyone who already has a Basic (or equivalent) certificate in first aid is welcome to ask about joining Intermediate course and more information is available on request.

Enquires are welcome on 873314 or via our website www.bfast.org.uk



Burntisland Speakers Club

By
Fraser Reddick

Since the beginning of the present session in September, and unlike most other clubs, our membership has continued to increase, as has the average attendance at our meetings in the Burntisland Sands Hotel – we must be doing something right! We put this down to the combination of an excellent venue, a welcoming ambience and a high standard of speaking within a structure which is neither too formal nor too threatening for newcomers to the club.

Speeches at our meetings this session have ranged over a diversity of subjects both serious and amusing including investigating suicides in Hong Kong, the "Private Eye" magazine, childhood indiscretions in Glasgow, exploring caves in Holland, the strange extinction of a flightless New Zealand bird and even how to cope with retirement from Fife Council employment! Topics sessions, in which members are invited to speak on a given subject for two minutes at short notice, as usual have presented a mixture of challenging and serious topics along with opportunities for a humorous response.

The club's annual Ladies Night, held as always on the last meeting before Christmas, saw over 40 members, wives, partners and guests welcomed warmly by president John Millar, treated to an excellent meal by the hotel, and finally thoroughly entertained by two speeches and a good-going topics session.

Men of any age are welcome to join us – you won't get a three-course meal at every meeting, but you will be provided with tea, coffee and biscuits and the chance of a chat at the interval! Sorry ladies – Burntisland Speakers Club is a men only club (apart from Ladies Night), but Kirkcaldy Ladies Speakers Club is always looking for new recruits!



Museum of Communications

By
Dorothy Brankin

All Washed Up....

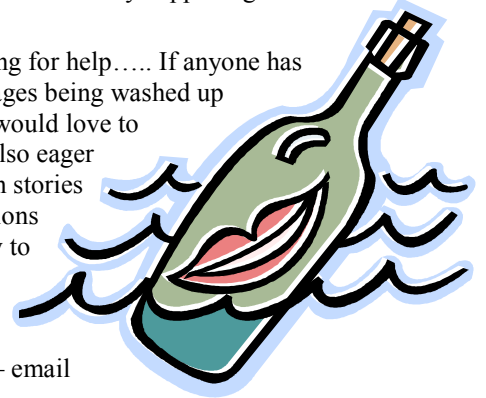
Regular visitors to the Museum of Communication will know that although the doors are closed, there's still plenty going on inside the building... In addition to the necessary maintenance and decorating, plans are being drawn up for next year's exhibition, which will open in the Spring.

When choosing basic exhibition themes, we often work to a formula of anniversaries or special dates. Next year is a classic example of this: it is the centenary of the *Titanic* disaster.

This could be a very popular Project with schools, and as we're always keen to involve young people in our work, the *Titanic* story will feature in the exhibition. This led us to decide on a general theme of Maritime Communication and we knew that the physical situation of the Museum in Burntisland would provide a very good local slant.

A chance, flippant remark about a Message in a Bottle made us realise that the odds of this actually happening in these parts were high.

So we are appealing for help.... If anyone has any information of messages being washed up around these shores, we would love to hear from you! We are also eager to hear from anyone with stories of maritime communications – anything from Sat-Nav to carrier seagull!



If you can help, please – email

dc_brankin@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01506 823424.



Rotary Club of Burntisland & Kinghorn

The Club continues to meet at the Sands Hotel, Burntisland and to provide services and support for the local community and worldwide.

Proceeds from a concert by The Scottish Cooperative Brass Band in the Adam Smith Theatre, a sponsored "Big Stride" walk round Burntisland's Gold Medal Route, the annual Charity Shop in the old Post Office Delivery Hall in Burntisland High Street, and the club's monthly Fifty Friends For Foundation Prize Draw, added up to a very creditable £6000. The club is very grateful for all who have supported these ventures..

Two Shelterboxes (each with tent and equipment to sustain a family of up to 10) and 2 Water Survival Boxes (to ensure purification of water supply) were provided for the recovery action following the earthquakes in Turkey. Donations of £1000 were passed to the McMillan Nurses and to Burntisland Branch of Cancer Research UK, £1000 went to other UK Cancer Charities, and £300 was passed to Children in Need.

The Rotary Rambles scheme continued at Burntisland and



From the Black Rock

Kinghorn Primary Schools, and the Youth Theatre and other community groups have been supported.

But it's not all work. Rotary involves lots of Fun and Fellowship as well. The Curling League continues at Kinross Ice Arena,

golf has continued at Dodhead and other courses, a new venture involved Lawn Bowls at the Burntisland green, with a superb meal at the Sands Hotel, the 10 Pin Bowling was repeated at the Duloch Centre, with fine Italian repast at Bella Italia, and the year was rounded off with an excellent Christmas Dinner at the Sands Hotel.

The club was delighted to recruit 4 new members, David Kelley, Martin Fotheringham, Trish Petrie and Ros Moffat, all getting involved in club activities .

The club meets at 6.30 pm every Tuesday at the Sands Hotel, Burntisland, with excellent dinner and a fine programme of speakers. Why not come along and join in? Contact: Joe Smith 01383 727853.



Burntisland Shipyard AFC

By Andrew Beveridge

Since the last issue of the Buzz again, sadly the same as last year, not a lot of football has been played. Indeed it could be argued that the main talking point surrounding the club is the storm damage to the perimeter fence at the East end of the ground. Three times damage has been done due to the severe weather we have had to endure. However, hopefully we have seen the last of the storms and the repairs can be made.

On the football front the club was progressing well in the Scottish Amateur Cup, having beaten Cabrera Athletic in the second round at Recreation Park, we were paired with Braehead from Stirling in the third. On a quagmire of a pitch in Stirling the team fought out a creditable goalless draw which ensured a replay at Burntisland the following week. Another fantastic tie ensued with the Shipyard running out winners by two goals to nil, which was a fine achievement given that Braehead were one of the best teams to visit Recreation Park for several years. Being drawn at home against St Mungo AFC from Kirkintilloch the club was hopeful to progress again, sadly this was not to be the case as the team turned in one of their poorest performances of the season and lost out by one goal to nil. The first game of the New Year saw the team bounce back to form when Balgonie Scotia were thrashed by eight goals to two.

Looking forward, there are still several cup competitions to play in, including the Fife Amateur Cup after both Dysart and St Monans Swallows were defeated 2-1 and 5-1 respectively. The club is now committed to achieving an SFA club license which will hopefully see the standards of coaching, clubhouse facilities and spectating facilities improve over the next few years.

New Venue for the "Drop in Job Club" & More - The Toll Centre



At the beginning of December, we bid a sad farewell to Burntisland Library which had been the very welcoming host to the Drop In Job Club for almost two years. In response to the needs of job club members, it was decided to move to the Toll Centre which is able to provide a wider range of facilities. Every Friday between 10 and 12.30 there are now two development workers, Alison and Ian, on hand to offer support to local residents in their search for work, training and also career planning. Local job seekers now have access to seven computers and additional space to check out job search materials and information on courses and funding. Individual appointments outwith these times are also available.

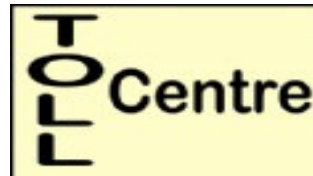
'As increasing numbers of firms use the internet to recruit staff, it is extremely important that people not only have access to computers but they also feel confident using them' commented Alison Hamilton.

To meet this need Sarah, an ABE tutor, is now running a computer class at the Toll every Tuesday from 10 until 11.45 specifically for job seekers who want to build up confidence in using I.T. Meanwhile Burntisland and Kinghorn Libraries continue to have internet access available during their opening times with staff on hand for support.

Anyone wishing more information on what is available can contact :

Ian Bowles (Drop In Job Club) Mob. No. 07904303688

Alison Hamilton (Drop In Job Club) Mob. No. 07507668239



– Where community comes together

In December the Toll Centre held its own mini consultation with user groups on the upgrade of the garden facilities. It was a very successful process that led to some great ideas and plans to make the outdoor area bigger, safer and more accessible to people in the town. Some suggestions for the new design include – raised beds for growing flowers, herbs, a community garden area, bbq and seating, eco friendly and sustainable play structures and an outdoor classroom/workshop. We are planning on a final design day and would love to hear your ideas and for more of you to become involved.

As part of the updating of facilities the playgroup have added to the wish list a new direct access to the garden area from the main hall. This would benefit many of the user groups as well with access during their time at the centre to a safe and friendly outdoor space. Over the coming year we will be fundraising and applying for grants to make these projects happen and would really appreciate your support by getting involved and helping bring them to fruition. An outdoor space to play and learn and socialise for all ages in the community is important for growth, development, general health and being able to have fun together in a natural environment.

We are very pleased that the children's club has been able to continue thanks to the recruitment of a new youth worker and some enthusiastic volunteers. We look forward to adding a new member of staff this month as well. The club is a lively group with lots of games, baking, arts and crafts and imagination. If your child is looking for something extra to do on a Tuesday evening then do bring them along to try it out.

If you or someone in your family is looking for something extra in your life then do visit our website to keep up to date with the various clubs and classes that run on a weekly basis. If you don't see anything you fancy then why not get in touch with your own idea and we'll see what we can do to make it happen.

Get in touch via email – tollcentre@gmail.com



Flooding & Pong !

In response to the increasing concerns of the community, Burntisland Community Council has decided to focus in 2012 on the situation in the Town with regards to Scottish Water. In particular we are interested in the Haugh Road flooding and the smell in Cromwell Road/ Broomhill Avenue. In order to be able to present a complete picture of the problem we are looking for volunteers in the affected areas to help collect information. Volunteers will be provided with a simple form and asked to note down the dates and times of flooding/smells. Anyone who is willing to help can contact Alex McDonald at :

alex_mac@btinternet.com.

Bonfire Night

The Best Ever!



On November 5th, bonfire night, a crowd comprising both young and old, and estimated at over 8,000 enjoyed a magnificent evening of spectacular entertainment. Radio Lollipop entertained the throng before the main festivities commenced with the arrival of Burntisland & District Pipe Band, the Summer Queen, Robyn Anderson and her entourage. In the flickering glow from flaming torches the band paraded proudly round the perimeter of the dark mass of the unlit bonfire, with the sinister effigy of Guy Fox sitting on top. At 7.00 pm, flames emerged from the inside of the bonfire which was soon a blazing inferno of flames, sparks and heat. At 7.15 precisely, after a well orchestrated count-down, the magnificent fireworks display commenced; Roman candles, golden rains, star bursts, and flares in every colour of the spectrum, accompanied by sudden and spectacular explosions was the climax to the best, free display ever witnessed in the town.

“Over Seventies Christmas Treat”



The second Over 70s Christmas treat of 2011 was held on Saturday the 3rd of December in the Kingswood Hotel. Fortunately the weather was kind to us year and we were able to go ahead as planned and have the Christmas Treat at Christmas. The over 70s of Burntisland turned out in record numbers and enjoyed an afternoon of excellent food and entertainment which was topped off by the arrival of Santa with goodie bags for all.

The event is made possible mainly by the hard work of the committee who fundraise tirelessly all year round and the icing on the cake is provided by donations from sponsors who include; Briggs Marine, Fife Council, Esso Petroleum, The Corkies, the customers of The Star, Kinghorn Bowling Club, The Ladies of Burntisland Bowling Club and private donations. This year the guests were also treated to a Christmas miniature of whisky or Baileys courtesy of Dunearn Lodge. Once again the committee would like to thank all who attended and all who helped throughout 2011 to make this fabulous event possible.



Sleeping Beauty

by Amy Dickson

The Burntisland Youth Theatre certainly pulled out all the stops at the end of last year as their adaptation of Norman Robbins' pantomime “Sleeping Beauty” was a complete sell out before the show began. And the show itself didn't disappoint. With the energetic singing, dancing and comic timing, the youngsters of Burntisland produced a great performance. The whole audience loved it, especially the children, who reacted to every part of the panto. It felt almost like you were on stage with them. After four months of piecing the show together the cast (and crew) deserve a pat on the back for all the hard work they put in. It won't be long until preparations begin for this year's show and I can only hope the community continues to support our young people.



The Cast and Crew



Fair Trade Blog

By Bruce Stuart

Thought I would start by letting you know about Fairtrade Fortnight 2012. The dates run from 27th February to the 11th of March and the push this year is to "take a step" for fairtrade. Hmmm I hear you say.... What am I meant to make of that?

Well it is quite simple really. If you already buy fairtrade products why not add another one to your regular shopping list? If you don't buy fairtrade products please buy one regularly. In these times of uncertainty it is well worth remembering that there are a huge number of people – families like yours and mine – around the world that have next to nothing and by comparison we have a standard of living that they can't even dream of having. I'm not saying that we are having an easy time of it; far from it – we are allegedly coming out of a deep recession, growth is pretty near stagnating, jobs are few and far between, debt is a huge problem. Bearing this in mind it may come over as a little cheeky to ask that you consider fairtrade at this time although I would hope not. I would argue that it is exactly because of the situation we are in that we should not just consider fairtrade but should step up our commitment to it.

It is one of the few areas in our lives that allow us to show that we care about people we will probably never meet, from the far corners of the earth and you know there is an old adage: what goes round comes round! A positive decision you make here in Burntisland to buy fairtrade products will have an effect totally out of proportion to what you have done on someone and their family somewhere in the developing world. (You too can be a rebel with a clue without leaving your High Street!!)

On a slightly lighter/higher note the Fife Fair Trade Forum are looking at the possibility of literally taking Fair Trade to new heights by having a picnic on top of the West Lomond on the middle Saturday of Fairtrade fortnight. So dig out your walking boots & take a really big step for fairtrade! (Not all details are finalised yet but when they are I will put up posters locally.)

As ever we are looking for new members for our small Fair Trade Town Group.

If you are interested in becoming involved please contact Bruce info@fairshares-shop.co.uk or pop into Food for Thought and leave your details with Sarah.



Burntisland Community Arts Group.....

My mum's first boyfriend came from Burntisland as did (does) one of my first boss's. And so, when it came to choosing our first place to live out of the city, the romantic and slightly quirky notions I had of Burntisland ushered us across the Forth in sand-shoes, on a rainy, haar-stricken day. We were wooed immediately by its' inviting land and seascapes and friendly open faced residents and moved across the following month.

I love telling people I live in Burntisland because almost everyone has some remembrance or family memory of the town and can't wait to share it. It's these three

degrees of separation type of stories that led the Burntisland community arts group to choose a kind of creative story collecting as their second project.

The idea is that we collect some memories or stories or can't quite remember remembrances of Burntisland from the folk who live here, and then embellish upon them. The local Blethers writing group are already on board willing to craft a short story or a poem or two. We also hope to engage with folk of all ages who are up for sharing a story or getting creative with one. The end product being an exhibition featuring interpretations of memories in the form of drawings, songs, short stories, performances, traditional storytelling, sculpture....

If you or a group you are in would like to get involved then please do get in touch. Over the next wee while, some of us will be walking around wielding tape recorders and microphones so please don't be shy and come and share a story. Alternatively we'll make space on the website to get involved and perhaps some paper and pencils scattered around the usual high street haunts with a post box to pop them into. For more information email us -

marylouanderson@hotmail.co.uk

or visit the website -

www.burntislandcommunityarts.wordpress.com



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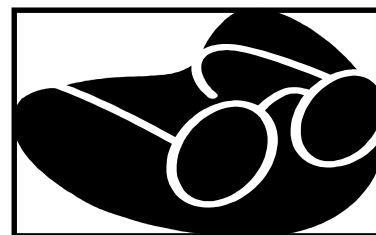
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NEWS AT THE SANDS

Well Christmas and New Year are well and truly over but we have lots of exciting things to look forward to... We hope you have a fantastic time!

NEW

We now have our new wine menu available

Starting mid January!

New additions to the menu. Spicy, saucy and sweet!!

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"Mothering Sunday"

24th March '12
Car Boot Sale/Coffee Morning
(Tables £10)

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www.burntislandsands.co.uk

OR

Telephone 01592 872230



My name is Alice Arnott; I am a fourth year student at Aberdeen University studying Hispanic Studies. Ever since leaving school just over 4 years ago, I have been busy fundraising for various different projects. When I was 17, I raised nearly £4,200 to enable me to volunteer for a year in a school set up for Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic. While I was there, I taught English in a primary school from 5th grade to 8th grade however the ages ranged from 9-18. I was also involved in many extra-curricular activities such as a summer football school, building a new library for the school, helping out with the weekly youth group and acting as a translator when American doctors came over to offer free surgeries. When I returned I started studying at Aberdeen University where I became involved with Childreach International and have been ever since.

2 years ago I did a sponsored trek up the Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and the highest free standing mountain in the world (where I raised nearly £2,500). I have decided to once again try and raise as much money as I can. Childreach International have projects all over the world which try to provide children with their basic human rights. Our main aims are to improve children's access to food, clean water, shelter and reliable healthcare; access to education; the right to live in a loving environment for just over 3 years and have seen first-hand the impact that they have and I truly believe that this is a fantastic cause. This August, I'm doing a sponsored week-long trek in Peru where I will climb Machu Picchu, which I'm really excited about despite all of the beasties and the fact that apparently, Peru has more species of snake than anywhere else in the world!

My target is £2450 but my personal aim is to try to double that sum. When I was in Tanzania I was lucky enough to visit a couple of the projects set up by Childreach International in which they gave the people the tools to help themselves. The organisation visit needy communities and let people suggest what they need and how they could implement and manage it and Childreach oversees and funds it. So at the school, all of the teachers were locally employed and it was built by locals. The projects are not only a necessary lifeline to the kids but a source of employment. For more information on Childreach International, or to see the staggering stats of the children that they have helped, visit <http://www.childreach.org.uk/who-we-are/our-impact>.

I am currently heavily into fund raising - bag packing in Tesco, busking in Glasgow, pub crawling in a fundraiser in Edinburgh. I am hoping to have a ceilidh in Aberdeen as well as a charity calendar. Anyone can donate online at <http://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/aliarnott1> All donations are welcome no matter how small, they are all gratefully received. Advice, raffle prizes, venues to hold fundraising events are also very helpful and all are appreciated.



Alice on Kilimanjaro



Well, it certainly has been an eventful 2011 for the air cadets and staff of your local squadron. Last year was definitely one of our busiest years to date with the cadets attending and completing a wide variety of events, activities and courses.

Since our last update cadets have been flying, gliding and shooting to success. Over the last six months 9 cadets have completed their Air Experience Flights at RAF Leuchars. AEF flying gives cadets the chance to fly around the surrounding area in a powered light aircraft and even take control. We also had 8 cadets take control of our own launched glider, the Viking. The cadets had to complete various manoeuvres in the glider at increasing levels of difficulty. On completion of 3 levels, cadets can take advantage of the cadet gliding scholarship which 2 of our cadets completed last year. The scholarship enables cadets to get more training on flying gliders with the opportunity to one day become glider pilots! Our squadron has a major advantage in having its own flight simulator which gives cadets the opportunity to sharpen their flying skills before taking to the skies.



As the squadron has its own air rifle range, we are always looking to improve our shooting skills, so cadets undergo vigorous training and shooting practice to enable them to score for badges. Most of our cadets are now qualified as Corps Marksman which is the highest level attainable. Our cadets were once again the only Scottish squadron to be asked to the NSRA Open, which is a major amateur shooting event held every year at Aldersley where 10 of our cadets attended. Recently Burntisland squadron played host to 16 cadets from Grangemouth squadron who were trained and shot on our specialised range. Although the cadets do enjoy air rifle it's great experience to handle more advanced weapons. So when the cadets completed their training on the L98A2 rifle, which is much like the weapons used by the forces, they were able to fire it at the range on RAF Leuchars air base scoring high and achieving the top level.



Grob Tutor being checked before take

The cadets at 775 (Burntisland) Squadron have also trained in First Aid with 10 cadets achieving one of 2 levels of First Aid training offered by the St John's Ambulance Service.

Despite the busy schedule, the cadets managed to fit in visits to Grangemouth squadron for lectures from seasoned pilots, to build robots for the Scottish championships and to be trained in radio procedures. We also managed a visit to the Museum of Flight - not a

continued on next page

bad way to spend a year.

The Squadron took part in the traditional Armistice Day Parade under the command of Squadron Leader Ian Wallace. All cadets and staff attended the service in the Parish Church followed by the parade to the war memorial for the laying of the wreaths.

Towards the end of 2011 fundraising was organised to enable the purchase of various new pieces of equipment. With bag packing at ASDA and M&S, the cadets raised healthy sums of money which will definitely be useful going into another year.



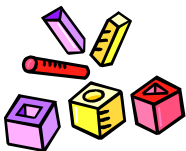
Pre-flight check

Let's hope the New Year proves to be as successful and action-packed as the last. For up to date information and details of how to join the squadron as a cadet or adult volunteer contact our website: www.air-cadets.org.uk



A Robyn Appeal

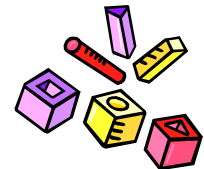
Welcome all, my name is Robyn MacNeil, daughter of "Lynn's Fruit & Veg" owner, Lynn MacNeil. I am currently in 6th year at Balwearie High School, and soon to be faced with not only the experience of a lifetime but with an arduous challenge. In September 2012 my partner Peter Wombwell and I will be embarking on a trek to Kilimanjaro in order to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Situated in Tanzania, Kilimanjaro is not only Africa's tallest mountain but one of the tallest freestanding mountains in the world, towering 5,895m. In total the trek will take us 7 days, 4 days going up and 3 coming down. The terrain varies from sub-tropical vegetation through cloud forest, to bare rugged mountain slopes. As you can imagine, we have a tough challenge ahead! I bet you are wondering why I am telling you all this? Well in the next three editions I will be writing a blog on my adventures of training, fund raising and finally my actual trek! I am hoping that you will follow my journey and hopefully help towards raising a total of £3,750 by September. A sponsored swim, a celidh/charity night, the black rock race and car boot sales are just a few of my ideas to raise the money. In December, there were two very successful Christmas Nia dance classes held in "The Space Upstairs", with another being planned for some time soon. So watch out for further details on the "The Space Upstairs" noticeboard! I also have a Just Giving page- www.justgiving.co.uk/robyn-macneil where more details are available and donations can be made. Thank you for taking the time to read my first article. **Robyn MacNeil**



Burntisland Playgroup

Local Mums Raise Vital Funds

by **Nicola Backler**



It's been busy first half of the year for the Committee of Burntisland Playgroup, who've managed to raise nearly £2,500 to ensure children and families in Burntisland continue to benefit from the excellent pre-school education the Playgroup offers.

The Committee are mostly mums of the children attending as well as a few long term members who continue to give up their time year after year. They have organised an array of fun filled activities since September, including a Halloween Disco, various coffee mornings, a Christmas party night featuring Fife's legendary "Joe's Band" and carol singing in the High Street.

Jenny Robertson, one of the mums on this year's committee said "I volunteered to be Secretary as it's probably the role closest to what I'm trained in and although it's been really busy, I feel like I'm giving something back to the community and it's also a great way to meet other mums and to really feel part of things".

There are already a number of events being planned for this year, including a Burns Family Ceilidh at the Toll Centre on Saturday 21st January and a Bingo Night at the Jubilee Tavern on Friday 24th February.

Burntisland Playgroup has been running for over 30 years and is highly regarded in the local area with excellent inspection reports. This year over 20 children attend every morning and five dedicated staff are employed.

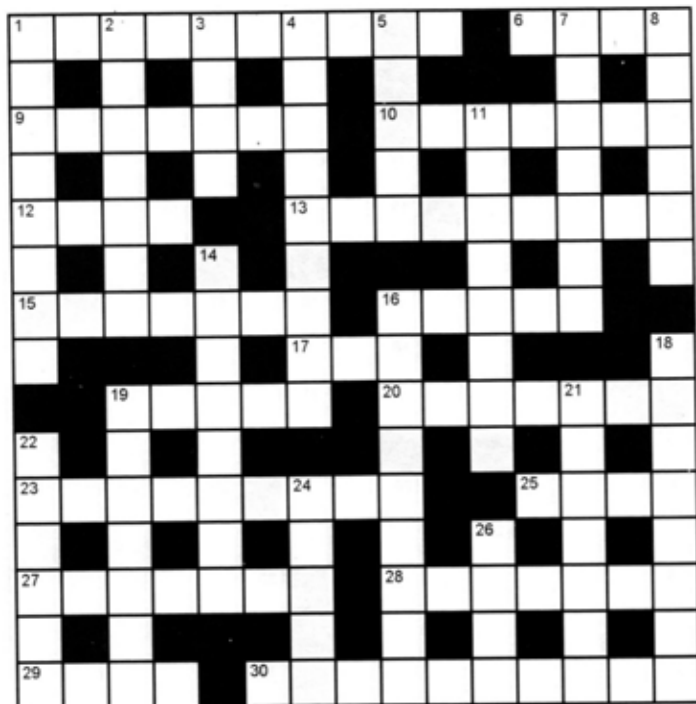
Emma McConville, Chair of this year's Committee is delighted by how much has been raised so far "We are a voluntary sector organisation and unfortunately the funds we receive from the Council are not sufficient to cover our expenditure so we rely on additional fundraising by the parents of the children attending. We still have a long way to go but everyone has put in a huge amount of effort to ensure the events we've organised so far have been well attended and an overwhelming success. The fact that people are doing this on top of their already hectic day jobs shows the level of dedication and enthusiasm there is for the Playgroup and the wonderful service it provides", she said.

We would like to thank various local businesses for their support this year so far, including David Sands, Boho Chic, Briggs Marine, Burntisland Sands Hotel, The Bay Hotel and Billy Browns. To find out more contact Emma at emmamcconville01@yahoo.co.uk or find us on Facebook. To enrol your child in Playgroup, pick up an application form from the Toll Centre.



Evie, Elizabeth and Ryan enjoy a music lesson

THE PRIZE CROSSWORD



The Editor apologises for omitting clue number 25 down in the crossword in the last edition of the Buzz. As only three responses were received, it has been decided to carry the prize forward to the next puzzle.

The solution to the crossword in the Autumn edition was:

Across: 1 Titanic, 5 Element, 9 Crab Apple, 10 Ultra, 11 Inhabit, 12 Enthral, 13 Gaff, 15 Knot, 17 Rotor, 19 Amigo, 21 Arid, 23 Abba, 26 Adapter, 28 Exposes, 30 Oxlip, 31 Dietician 32 Embassy, 33 Gastric.

Down: 1 Tacking, 2 Trash, 3 Nearby, 4 Capstan, 5 Everest, 6 Equator, 7 Enter, 8 Trawler, 14 FBI, 16 Oar, 18 Tab, 19 Abalone, 20 Octopus, 21 Acridly, 22 Iceberg, 24 Arsenic, 25 Optics, 27 Ad lib, 29 Skier.

ACROSS

- 1 Stringed instrument (6,4)
- 6 Rotate repeatedly (4)
- 9 Friendly drink (7)
- 10 Adjudicator (7)
- 12 Floor coverings (4)
- 13 Korean martial art (3,4,2)
- 15 In name only (7)
- 16 Silly (5)
- 17 Curve (3)
- 19 Pub close by (5)
- 20 Germ free (7)
- 23 Outstanding (9)
- 25 Group of three (4)
- 27 Distinguished (7)
- 28 Giving off a smoky smell (7)
- 29 Looked at (4)
- 30 Forward position (10)

DOWN

- 1 Adorn (8)
- 2 Vertically honest (7)
- 3 Titled cut of beef (4)
- 4 Two-sided (9)
- 5 "The final frontier" (5)
- 7 Power (7)
- 8 Descriptive of a canal boat! (6)
- 11 Perplex (8)
- 14 Winter hazard (5,3)
- 16 Strewn (9)
- 18 Miraculous happening (3,2,3)
- 19 Like a lion (7)
- 21 Earthenware cooking dish (7)
- 22 Orb (6)
- 24 Enrol (5)
- 26 Yield or give (4)

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**



Mums to be in Burntisland and district are welcome to join the Pregnancy Yoga class at *The Space Upstairs*, which restarts on Tuesday 10 January 2012 and runs from 5.30 till 6.45 pm. No experience is necessary - pregnancy is a great time to begin doing yoga, as we cover all the basics, but adapt them especially for growing mums and babies. Each class includes breath work, postures to help women adjust to their changing bodies, information and advice, and – the best bit – relaxation.

Much has been written about the benefits of yoga, but perhaps the most important one is that in pregnancy, yoga is designed to help women to cope more easily with one of the biggest life changes they will ever experience. New members are always welcome – either come to *The Space Upstairs*, 253b High Street, in time for the class on any Tuesday, or contact for details Lesley on 01383 734914, text 07752 235393 or email

lesleymilne63@yahoo.co.uk

Cup of tea anyone?

Two teenage laddies went into a café which advertised:

“Tea, pie and a wee kind word £1.50, all inclusive”

Their order for two teas and two pies was planked unceremoniously on the table in front of them by a waitress who was quite abrupt and off-hand in her manner. The bolder of the two laddies then asked, “an whit about the wee kind word?” The reply was certainly wee and possibly kind, “Dinna eat they pies!”

Thankfully, this did not occur in Burntisland.



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I have been a member of the Burntisland Parish Church Pastoral Care Team for a number of years now and can honestly say that I enjoy every minute. Perhaps the lady that I visit has a great deal to do with this. I feel very privileged to say that she is both an inspiration and a very special friend. Her name is Jenny Robertson who is a bundle of joy to visit and her stories about the Auld Kirk are fascinating.

Among her many attributes to the Kirk, Jenny was regarded as a supreme Pancake Maker and she also made and embroidered the Communion Tablecloth which is still in use today. I take care of it as a gesture of thanks to her. Here is just one of the little stories that she has told and amused me.



Jenny's Communion Cloth

“The story of Andrew Carnegie and the Auld Parish Kirk Organ.”



Jenny Robertson and the Organ

Andrew Carnegie was in Burntisland opening the new library which he had just donated to the town when he noticed that there was a crowd of people walking up to the Kirkgate and asked where they were going. He was told that a wedding was being held at the Auld Kirk. He mentioned that he would like to attend the wedding and to see around the inside of the historic Kirk. This was agreed by all parties.

After the ceremony the Minister asked him if he had enjoyed it and Andrew replied that the ceremony and singing was lovely but was spoiled by the creaky, wheezy old organ. He thanked everyone before he left and went about his business. A few months later the newly wedded couple Mr & Mrs Philp received a beautiful ceramic bowl which was displayed proudly in their home.

The Auld Kirk got a New Organ to replace the old one. Andrew Carnegie paid for the dismantling of the old and installation of the new one. We all know where the organ is today but it would be nice to know what happened to the Ceramic Bowl.

Thanks for reading my wee story and hope to provide more in the future.

Dorothy Kettles nee Kirkhope

As always there is a lot happening at the parish church. Sunday morning services are at 11am in the church hall and we are looking at what it means to follow Jesus as we go through at Marks Gospel. As always the biggest challenge facing the church isn't maintaining the historic building, or finance, or even attracting young people it is Spiritual, knowing God, helping others to discover God, and being a church that is all that Jesus would have us be.

Sunday evenings we are in Solid Rock at 6.30pm for a more contemporary service. On Wednesdays at 10.30am we have a short service and tea, coffee (indeed there is a cuppa after all our services). We have had quite a number of new folks coming along, some new also to the town and they are enjoying the services and finding that is a great way of getting to know other people. Children are very welcome at all our services and on Sunday morning they have their own activities in Creche and young church and discoverers. Plus there is a strong youth fellowship (joint with Kinghorn) meeting on Sunday nights.

We have a lot activity during the week - the Guild meet in Solid Rock on Tuesdays at 2pm. We have a number of house groups meeting during the week. Our halls are very heavily used by different organisations, and Solid Rock is also available for community use. The youth cafe is open on Friday and Saturday nights in Solid Rock. The church shop has a good selection of gifts and cards, as well as bibles and Christian books. We have a pastoral care group in the church making weekly visits to some 60 people, mostly housebound. We also run a CAP centre (Christians Against Poverty) for anyone with financial troubles.

As always everyone is welcome at our services. The minister (Alan Sharp) will always help anyone in Burntisland if we possibly can with weddings, baptisms, funerals, or pastoral visits (you do not need to be a member - the church is here for everyone).



The Parish Church

It's a while now since I returned from my world travels but it was good to exchange email greetings with friends old and new in New Zealand over the Christmas season. Old friends in Gore, Southland and new ones on Stewart Island and the Scots colony that is the Waipu district in Northland. In church at



Inverkeithing on Christmas Day I asked how many of the congregation were going to SKYPE friends and family overseas when they went home after the service; it was quite a number. There are connections with the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Dubai, Russia, South Africa and Tanzania from the three churches I serve. It's good to have those very personal links to help us see that we are part of a worldwide community; a very diverse community yet sharing the same humanity and dependent on each other for the wellbeing of all. This is something that we should reflect on as we move into this New Year.

At St Serf's we will be celebrating the Festival of Candlemas with a Choral Evensong led by the ABI Singers on Sunday 29th January at 5pm; all are welcome to join us for that.

Revd Canon Val Nellist
Rector

I'm writing this on a unseasonably warm January afternoon, but by the time the Buzz is dropping through your letter box, I'm sure a more usual winter freeze will be upon us. Unfortunately, the bumper fuel bills will soon be dropping through the letter box too and with rising gas and electricity prices they are unlikely to contain many pleasant surprises.

Reducing you energy bills can help save you money and your ecological foot print and the Energy Saving Trust are currently offering grants, loans and discounts on energy saving measures such as insulation as well as energy checks. One scheme, the Scottish Government funded Energy Assistance Package, offers a range of assistance - from advice and help choosing the best options for new boilers and heating systems. The scheme is open to both tenants and home-owners, to find out what assistance you are eligible for call the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012 or visit their website energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland

Following on from a successful 2011 the **Ecology Centre** are recruiting additional volunteers. They're looking for budding gardeners to help with looking after their site next to Kinghorn Loch and also run tools refurbishment workshops which recycle tools that are then donated to local community groups or sent out to projects in rural Africa. Throughout 2012 they are also running weekly skills development workshops, where more experienced volunteers pass on their knowledge and technical skills to new volunteers and, for a more creative opportunity, a regular mosaic workshop. For more details visit the website www.theecologycentre.org or call them on 01592 891567



Fife Diet are promoting local eating by continuing to run a series of cooking work shops. Last year saw bread making, local vegetarian and home made pasta workshops. Their next event is a local cooking special in Potter About on 6th February with chef Eadie Manson.

Why not cook something special this Valentine's Day? Come along to Burntisland's Potter About Cafe and watch Eadie create dishes before your very eyes! Eadie, whom you may know from TV's The Hour, lives locally and has previously worked with the Seafood Restaurant in St. Monans. He will give a hands on demonstration using seasonal, local ingredients, allowing you to see and smell all stages of the cooking process. You'll also have the chance to ask any questions and learn how to adapt recipes to suit your vegie box. We will be sharing a meal following the demonstration. Try an exciting and inspirational menu and take home recipes and memories that will enliven your dishes at home and impress your friends!

For more details of cooking workshops see the events diary or contact: meg@fifediet.co.uk or call 01592 871 371

Growing workshops:

Tuesday 21st of February 7.30 – 9.30pm Introduction to Seed Saving at Community Meeting Room (Old Station House). Learn how to get your best produce year after year. Protect old varieties and grow varieties that are most suited to your garden.

Sunday 4th of March 11 – 1pm Food for Free at Broomhill Gardens. How do you find the tasty free food growing in and around your town? We will walk from Broomhill Gardens around Burntisland exploring and discovering what wild food is on offer in the early spring.

The Earthship at Kinghorn Loch, run by Sustainable Communities Initiatives (SCI) is the only example of a working earthship in Scotland. The earthship is open for groups and individuals to pre-book tours but at the end of last year SCI began opening for drop in visitors to give more people of a chance to experience the earthship and see how a modern efficient building can be built from recycling other people's waste. This was a success and although closed during January, it will be open again during the spring. Keep an eye on the website www.sci-scotland.org.uk

By
Ed Pybus



Broomhill Garden's and allotments have quietened down a bit over the winter although plot holders are still harvesting sprouts, leeks, kale and some delicious fennel. Now is an ideal time to begin

planning your garden for the coming year. A measure of the success of the gardens has been the increased interest in allotments in Burntisland. The management committee have decided to make three new half plots available at the Broomhill site. There is already a waiting list and these plots will be offered to the top names on the list. Due to the demand for plots the management committee is looking to develop further allotment sites in Burntisland. If you're interested in registering for a new plot or getting involved then get in touch:

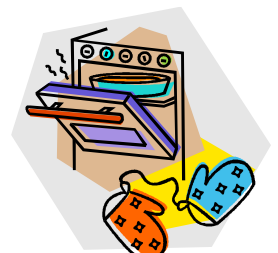
secretary@broomhillgardens.org.uk or call Fife Diet.

Thanks to funding from Fife Diet, fruit trees were planted in the community gardens in December and, in association with CLEAR Buckhaven, they are running a free 9 week course on caring for fruit trees. The course starts in February and if you're interested call Elly at Fife Diet 01592 871 371. The popular garden's kids club starts again after school on the 9th February, all kids are welcome.

Fife Diet's Winter Recipe:

Potato, Bacon and Kale Bake.

10 medium potatoes
a head of winter greens or kale, bacon,
300ml/ 1/2 pt full-fat milk,
small carton of cream,
nutmeg,
salt & pepper,
2-3 cloves garlic, crushed



Peel and slice potatoes (slightly thicker than a pound coin), set aside. Pour a jug of milk in to a large pan and add a generous sprinkling of salt, pepper and nutmeg. Turn to a very low simmer. Add two or three crushed cloves of garlic. Do not let it boil over. Add the potatoes and simmer for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, grill about six rashers of bacon until crispy (but not burnt). Chop/shred a head of winter greens or kale - de-stalk if you find them too tough. Then flash-boil for about 1-2 minutes. Taking a deep casserole dish, layer the ingredients; starting with the potatoes; then the bacon; then the greens. Continue to layer and top with a final layer of potatoes. Pour the milk/cream mixture over the layers. Bake for about 35 minutes in the oven at 190C/ 375 F/ Gas 5.

Events Diary

FEBRUARY

Mon	6th	Fife Diet Workshop at "Potter About" (Cookery demo with Eadie Manson) -free	6.00—8.00 pm
Fri	10th	Community Council Meeting	7.00 pm
Sun	19th	Mirth of Forth Comedy at the Star Tavern	8.00 pm
Tue	21st	Fife Diet Growing Workshop - Community Room, Old Station House	7.30 -9.30 pm
Wed	22nd	Ash Wednesday - Sung Communion Service at St Serf's with ABI Singers	7.30 pm
Fri	24th	Bingo Night in Jubilee Tavern in aid of The Playgroup	7.30 pm
Sat	25th	St Serf's Coffee Morning in Church Hall, Manse Lane	10.00 am
Sun	26th	Sunday Strollers - Kilmundy Hill - from the Links Car Park	2.00 pm start
Mon	27th	Fairtrade Fortnight begins	

MARCH

Sat	3rd	Fairtrade Picnic - West Lomond - Look for posters!	
Sun	4th	"Food for Free" at Broomhill Gardens by Fife Diet—explore Burntisland in early spring	11.00-3.00 pm
Thur	8th	Fairtrade Meal at "Food for Thought"	7.00 pm
Fri	9th	Community Council Meeting	7.00 pm
Sat	10th	Burntisland Blooms Coffee Morning - Parish Church Hall	10.00 am
Sun	11th	Fairtrade fortnight ends	
Wed	14th	Police Community Engagement Meeting at Kinghorn Community Centre	7.30 pm
Sun	18th	Mirth of Forth Comedy at the Star Tavern	8.00 pm
Sun	25th	Sunday Strollers - Prom, Lammerlaws, Docks Monks Walk & Broomhill Viewpoint	2.00 pm start

APRIL

Thurs	5th	Maundy Thursday Communion Service at St Serf's	11.00 am
Fri	6th	Good Friday—Taize meditation at St Serf's followed by sung Compline (ABI) singers	6.30 pm
Fri	13th	Community Council Meeting	7.00 pm
Sun	15th	Service of Easter Carols at St Serf's with ABI singers	6.00 pm
Sun	29th	Sunday Strollers - Bluebell Woods, from Haugh Road, Burntisland	2.00 pm start

The Events Diary is a great way of publicising your forthcoming events. Think ahead. Let us know what functions and special events you are planning for the May, June and July. Copy deadline for the next issue is 12th April. The Buzz is delivered to every household in Burntisland, is available in local libraries, hotels and sports clubs and on the website burghbuzz.org.uk

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