

BURGH BUZZ

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BURNTISLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL WINS NATIONAL 'FIRST LIGHT' AWARD

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Budding film makers from our local primary school are enjoying national success with their live-action animation film "Granny Mac's Meringues."

The project, managed last year by sixty-three primary three children centres around the Queen's visit to Hisland Island to find a suitable hat for the Royal Wedding. Fun and Games ensue before she arrives at Westminster Abbey with the most unlikely headgear.

The children, now in primary four, were involved in developing new skills such as: creating characters, set design, voice-overs, storyboarding, camera work and how to animate. Dot Rossburgh (teacher/co-producer) said "This was a fantastic experience for all the children. Everyone realised their potential and had a special moment to shine."

Six children flew down to London to receive the "Best Film: Under 11s' award at the First Light Film Awards ceremony on the South Bank. Liz Whatmore (teacher/producer) added "This was a wonderful day for everyone. For a group of eight year olds from a small town in Fife to go down to London and win an award is just amazing. It's put Burntisland on the map."

Film maker Chas Whatmore not only documented the whole process but produced the live-action scene for the film. Both teachers agree that this experience would not have happened without the valuable support of Briggs Marine, Martin Ferguson, Kenny Reid, Joanne Briggs, Dale Jones, Mark Kisby, Kenny Duncan and all the parents.

Winning this award is not only an accolade for the school but a recognition of the many talents our pupils and staff have. To see the achievements of the children on film is something we will all treasure for years to come.

WINDMILLS ON THE BINN?????

A well attended meeting of the Community Council on Friday 13th April heard a proposal for 3 wind powered turbines to possibly be sited on Tournament Hill, which is located to the rear of the Binn. Alan Hobbett of OYO, which is a charity concerned with relief work in Namibia and an acknowledged expert of wind turbines made a well presented case for the turbines, which would be located on farmland owned by Steve Wylie. There were several well researched and reasonable responses from the public who objected to the development on the grounds of intrusion on the landscape, noise issues, loss of amenity and the general inefficiency and dependability of wind turbines.

The arguments both pro and con were effectively put in a reasonable and orderly manner and it was pointed out that, so far, this is only a proposal. Several factors had to be considered before any further progress could be made. The public were assured that the turbines could not be seen from Burntisland itself and that a community benefit would be payable of around £35,000 per year. The profits would benefit both OYO and The Ecology Centre, both of which are charities. George Kay pointed out that there were already 26 turbines in the area. All of the various points raised by both sides can be found in correspondence on the Community Council website at: burntislandcc.org.uk

Editorial Comment.

Once again, I have taken over the Editor's role for this issue, whilst Bill is away in Oz on family business.

I think that the Buzz we are now producing for the community, is certainly more attractive nowadays with the use of selective spot colour throughout the publication. This has been reflected in various positive comments that I and the other members of the Buzz team have received. We are always looking for more people to help us produce an all round publication and to this end we would like to see more of the younger people in the community become involved.

Now that Spring seems to be firmly on its way with early bulbs and blossoms on the trees it is time to consider the coming year. Obviously, almost everyone is impacted by the economic situation and we all have to pull in our horns a little. However, we are disturbed to hear that Fife Council is intending on closing ALL public toilets in Fife (Except St. Andrews !) This could mean the loss of our facilities on the Links. The shows, beach visitors and the general public will all be drastically affected by such a closure. It would also mean the almost certain loss of our Blue Flag Beach status, as public toilets are a requirement of this award. Such a move would be a disaster for Burntisland and our summer visitors. The Council are stating that they will find alternative host facilities in pubs, cafes, hotels etc. This doesn't strike me as the least bit acceptable, as the public, including children, may have to use licensed premises, which may not be the most suitable premises for visitors. The council have said that provision of such facilities is a loss making exercise. We feel that profit and loss factors of such a public service must be balanced against the income that is derived from the shows and visitors to our Blue Flag beach and is generally distributed throughout our local economy.

We would urge everyone to write, petition, post on social networks, and to contact all these councillors seeking re-election to make known our opposition to such a move. If nothing is done, the coaches and buses will soon find alternative, more amenable locations and the lifespan of the traditional Links fairs will soon expire unless a solution to these pending closures is found.

Paul Briscoe
Acting 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 has been awarded £5,000 from the Common Good Fund, meaning that one third of the funding is now in place. An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is in progress.
 - Concern was expressed to Fife Council about inconsistencies in the award of other grants from the Common Good Fund. Fife Council have been reminded that the purpose of the fund is to support projects which benefit the local community as a whole. It is not simply a general purpose fund for worthy causes.
 - Plans are in hand to demolish the former play centre at 215 High Street, which is believed to be in a dangerous condition. However, the building is landlocked so negotiations are under way to enable access.
 - The clock tower of the Burgh Chambers is being inspected with a view to essential maintenance being carried out.
 - There is a proposal to erect three wind turbines at Longloch farm, which may present visual intrusion but which will provide financial benefit for charities and local projects. Detailed information is being gathered now, though there is no immediate decision to be made.
 - Gary Cummins and Ed Pybus are leading action to clean up part of the Fife Coastal Path, in response to an initiative from Fife Council.
 - Repairs have been carried out to the telephone box at Aberdour Road and also the handrail at the Palais Steps.
 - Monitoring forms have been distributed in order to record incidents of flooding and odours which are the responsibility of Scottish Water.
 - A planning application in respect of the new school is expected in April but the relevant Fife Council committee will not meet until after the local government election. Fife Council propose to acquire the land from the Common Good Fund and the Widow's Trust at a total price of £49,000. The land may be re-valued after planning consent has been obtained. The Community Council will consider the full terms and conditions of the land acquisition before deciding whether to support the transfer.
 - Ian McKenzie has been co-opted to fill the remaining vacancy on the Community Council.
 - Fife Council are carrying out cosmetic repairs to the frontage and roofs of properties in the High Street, at no cost to the owners.
 - Clarification is awaited on the local impact of proposals to close public toilets in Fife.
- A new group has been formed, independently of the Community Council, but with our support, to continue the work done previously by Burntisland Blooms.
 - Concerns about parking at drop-kerbs and long delays in repairing metal covers will be reported to the Police and Scottish Water respectively.

Elected Councillors' Availability

Due to the pending council elections we are unable to publish contact details in this issue.

We would urge all our readers to exercise their vote. Apathy is not part of the democratic philosophy.

The Burgh Polis

By Sergeant Scott Murray



We have recently seen a change of management in the Kirkcaldy area. Chief Inspector Crawford has now retired and as such we now have a new Chief Inspector, Gordon Mitchell, in post. Indeed the Chief Inspector, as a young Constable, was previously stationed at Burntisland Police Station and as such holds fond memories of the Burntisland, Kinghorn and Auchtertool areas. We also welcome our new Community Inspector, Dave Latto, to the area. As well as both being very experienced Officers, they have worked this area before and have extensive knowledge of the local issues

In addition to our change in management we also welcome an additional new Community Officer to the Station. PC Tony Kinsell is our newest member of the team and comes to us from Kirkcaldy, where he worked in Team 5 Response. Tony is an ex- Forces man and brings to the Police his enthusiasm and commitment. He is particularly keen at working in his new role as a Community Officer and will regularly be seen walking his new beat getting to grips with the issues. PC Kinsell joins your existing team of Community Constables – PC Gibb and PC Graves.

With the arrival of the lighter nights and the “slightly” better weather it means only one thing – the arrival of the Summer events calendar. This is a particularly busy time of year for us with the arrival of all the summer tourists and the planned events. As per previous years, we are very much looking forward to working closely with the organisers to ensure both the smooth running and safe enjoyment of the attractions. If your group or organisation has an upcoming event, please let us know early, and we will assist in any way we can. Contact details below.

On the safety theme, local Officers - PCs Gibb and Graves, have joined forces with colleagues from the British Transport Police and will shortly be undertaking a series of talks to local Primary School Children on the subject of “personal safety and responsible behaviour”. It will include inputs on road safety and the dangers of playing near the railways. This is a continuation of the “Child Safety Scheme” that we launched locally last year in the run up to the summer holidays.

Our last Community Engagement Meeting was held on Wednesday 14th March in the Kinghorn Community Centre. Both PC Gibb and I were present to listen to any issues that the public wished to raise. Some concerns were voiced and these are currently being worked on. An issue that had been raised at a previous CEM meeting was parking on Kirkton Road and at the junction between Kirkton Road and Aberdour Road. A successful discussion subsequently then took place between Local Officers, Fife Council Transportation Engineers and local residents. With the support of the local residents themselves, there has been a noticeable improvement in the parking situation, which in turn has led to improved safety for all roadway users. Your next Community Engagement Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th May 2012 at 7.30pm within the Toll Centre. I would like to re-iterate that regardless of where the meeting is being held, it is for the residents of Burntisland, Kinghorn and Auchtertool to come together and to express their concerns. I look forward to meeting you there.

If you wish to speak to any of your local Community Officers, they can either be contacted at Burntisland Police Station, or by e-mail : burntisland@fife.pnn.police.uk or by phone (non-emergency) on 0845 600 5702.

Non-emergency contact number : 0845 600 5702

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

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
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| Vice Chair | Bob Smith | |
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| Minutes Secretary | Ed Pybus/Zoe Williamson | |
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| | 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

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|
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| Dep. Editor & Graphics | Paul Briscoe | |
| Advertising | Morag Douglas | |
| Distribution | Linda Briscoe | |
| Members | Patsy Killin | Ed Pybus |
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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.

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 Bill Kirkhope, 39 The Wynd, Dalgety Bay KY11 9SJ (Tel: 01383 822023) or by e-mail to billvida@sealscraig.plus.com Items for the Summer 2012 Issue by 14th July 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).

Climbing the Binn – 13 January 2012

G. Christie, Burntisland

In the lower field, slowly and quietly, a large brown hare disappeared into the hedgerow as two muntjac deer glided over a broken fence. A buzzard flew out from a small woodland, calling. Up-hill a kestrel hovered, head down, eyes scanning the vegetation.

On the small lochan, a perfect reflection of willow and reed. Air still. Pausing its swim, a single widgeon preened. Two pair of moorhen, awkwardly projecting their heads, drifted past. Rustling the reeds, another unseen bird.

Towards the top of the ridge, the low winter sun burst through a tangle of trees, beaming silver, creating tiny prisms on the wet grass. On hitting the ridge face, a gentle updraft dried the sweat on brow.

Below, the town bustled. The vista of the Forth Estuary offering a shining sea as a thin mist hung lightly over the islands and sandbanks. From a distance, the call of the curlew and oyster catcher.

Walking down through the easterly wooded slope, the first snowdrops gleaming in shafts of light. Before that, the old mining village, resting amongst the strands of winter vegetation and cover of ivy.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

On the evening of 3rd February a Civic Reception was held in the Burgh Chambers to honour the 2012 Citizen of the Year, Ian Archibald. Over forty guests including former Award Winners, Community Councillors and Ian's relatives and friends witnessed the presentation and of the Citizen's Shield and a magnificent hand crafted certificate.

In his presentation address, the Chairman of the Community Council Alex MacDonald described the long traditions of the award and the diverse nature of the winners over the past 31 years. They had included young and old, male and female and even groups but had one common, distinguishing quality - they voluntarily gave of their time and individual expertise for the benefit of the community of Burntisland. Ian was no exception and Alex described at length the valued contributions Ian had made in exploring, documenting and displaying the town's rich past through his stewardship of the Heritage Trust ; his involvement with the Events Group and Civic Week Committee and his unique ability to motivate others to join in and help.

In his amusing reply, Ian expressed his pride at receiving the award and thanked his proposers (whoever they were) and the Community Council for having selected him. He explained the pleasure which he derived from living and participating in the local community and expressed his desire to continue to do so for the foreseeable future.



Alex MacDonald presenting Ian with the Shield and Certificate



Burntisland School

News

By

Victoria Dolatowska

This term has been busy as always with the staff and pupils participating in a wide range of learning experiences and community events.

Pupils from Primaries 1 to 7 took part in our annual Erskine Church for the ladies group. Contributions ranged from poetry to singing and all agreed it was fabulous entertainment that also raised money for the ladies' chosen charity.

The local Speakers Club held their annual competition for P7 pupils. Everyone agreed that the standard of entries was exceptionally high this year. The final was held at the Sands Hotel on 1st March and was won by Charly McKinnon who gave a really interesting talk about her experiences as a scout.

We have held several successful events to support charities including a dress yellow day in support of the Marie Curie Cancer Foundation.

The Fife Festival of Music was attended by our instrumentalist' from P5 and P6. The children performed very well and received high praise for their performances.

During the week beginning the 12th March, all of the children from Nursery to P7 participated in a Science/Eco week which was supported by our friends from the SCI Ecology Centre. Learning activities included Creative Waste Workshops, walks with the Fife Ranger and learning how magnets work. Thanks to all of the parent helpers who helped to ensure the children were able to participate in all of the activities.

Primary Six have had a very busy term with teams attending the Big Brain Book Quiz at the Rothes Halls and also The Euro Quiz at the Auchterderran Centre in Cardenden. Our children did not win but staff were complimented on their outstanding behaviour and attitude by teachers from other schools. We are immensely proud of them. Children have also



been working hard in their knitting club and are very proud of their finished items.

Congratulations also to Louise Lindsay, P6K, who has been chosen as this year's Summer Queen.

Primary One children held a special afternoon recently to celebrate their mums being "one in a million". The mums were invited in to school and were sang to and fed specially iced cakes by the children. P1 children have also been working very hard to produce their own book called "The Magic Carpet", our budding authors have written some fantastic stories along with super illustrations.

P1N and P1H recently visited the Links View Nursing Home where they entertained the residents with a variety of Easter Songs.

Classes P3/4, P4K and P4/5 have been learning about the wider world of work as part of their Health and Wellbeing curriculum this term. They would like to thank all of the busy parents who took the time to come into school to tell the children about their jobs. The talks were enjoyed immensely by pupils and staff alike and everyone learned something new!

Primary three children enjoyed a trip to the Ecology Centre this term where they all learned about the ways in which they can help look after our environment. Watch out for Oscar winning performances next term as they start work on their show "Eddie the Penguin"

Primary 2F enjoyed a visit from a librarian recently and were treated to a reading of three books nominated for the Scottish Children's Book Award, the children voted for "Dear Vampa" and eagerly await the results!

Children from P7 have been performing their show "Pirates of The Curry Bean" for their fellow pupils, staff and also parents and friends of the school. The children have worked extremely hard to learn lines, design sets and props and also to perform the many musical numbers. Everyone has agreed it is a huge hit and the learning experiences involved for the children have been hugely worthwhile. Thanks to Mr McGourty and Mrs Donnachie for all of their hard work in producing the show.

Finally we enjoyed a special Easter Service at the Erskine Church for pupils only on the last day of term.

FAB - Floral Action Burntisland



Floral Action Burntisland (FAB) is the new name of Burntisland in Bloom. A new committee has been established and a constitution adopted. FAB's main objectives are -



- To support and encourage residents and businesses to value and improve their local environments
- To identify areas for developing into attractive green and floral public spaces
- To encourage local pride through enhancement of local spaces
- Take responsibility for fundraising, purchasing and maintenance of floral features and areas in Burntisland
- To liaise and work with all interested people, agencies and parties to improve the natural environment of Burntisland as a whole town and shall be non-political in its activities.

The plan for the year ahead is to maintain what has already been established such as the hanging baskets on the High Street and the planters outside the Library and the Burgh Chambers. Next year we plan on expanding on this, including looking at ways in which we can improve the entrances into the town.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with planting and watering especially over the summer period. We are also looking for companies who might be interested in sponsorship opportunities. This additional income will allow us to ensure Burntisland is attractive for both its residents and visitors.

If you are interested in volunteering, sponsorship or just want to find out more about FAB please email us on

floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk OR CALL ;:07500134920

Scott Sweaton -Chairperson
Floral Action Burntisland

A TOWN DIVIDED?

By Morag Douglas

It has been a hot topic for the last couple of years. Will there be a new school and if so where will it be? Now it seems set that there will be a new school but the choice of site has split the town down the middle. Some think that the Toll Park is ideal and is hardly used while others worry about traffic issues and the loss of more already scarce green space. The debate rages on in the playground, the streets the pubs and cafes and even every month at Community Council meetings.

Unfortunately amongst the heated discussions around different sites in the town, people seem to be losing sight of the fact that there is unanimous support for a new school and just because some people don't agree with the preferred choice of site, it doesn't mean they don't agree we need a new school. Everyone has their own concerns whether they are to do with the speed and ease of delivery of a new school or the long term future of the town and its environment.

Through all this it would be a shame to lose sight of the fact that everyone has the same goal and perhaps it would be better to try to accept the differences and try to work together to achieve the best outcome for everyone rather than leave an acrimonious split in the town. How to do that, however, is the difficulty. In the next few months there will be proposals for land acquisition and planning consent, each of which will have to be considered on their merits. Whatever the aim, and whatever the outcome, a continuing dialogue will be essential if the views of the community are to be accurately reflected.

PETER GEORGE, a member of Burntisland Community Council says:

“DOG FOULING IS A BLIGHT ON THE TOWN”

Such is the level of concern in the community that people regularly stop him in the street to ask 'What's being done about it?' Peter is calling for a crackdown on dog owners who fail to take responsibility for cleaning up after their pets.

Peter says, 'Most dog owners in Burntisland do the right thing and dispose of dog mess responsibly, but there is a minority that don't and it has become a blight on the town.' 'It's an issue in every area, from the High Street to the housing schemes on the edge of the town and the Links. Fife Council used to provide over one million bio-degradable bags a year to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets, but that service was withdrawn. I'd like to see more of Fife Council's dog wardens but there are only four covering the whole of Fife making their role extremely difficult. I think that it is very important that we create a culture where it is completely unacceptable for dog owners not to clean up after their pets.'

Anyone not cleaning up after their dog could receive a fine of £40.00

You can report someone who fails to clean up after their dog by phoning 08451 550022 or alternatively report the offence at your local police station.

If the people of this community are united in ridding us of this unsightly, unhealthy scourge we have a chance of dealing with this problem once and for all.



To get in touch with Peter George about any environmental issues please call 01592 870001

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Hamish Brown

When living in Kinghorn, I was always amused by the church's shop-cum-tearoom being called 'The Glory Hole'. Over the years I've noted many other business establishments where puns enliven shop names. One of my favourites was in the S.W. Of England where a second hand shop was called 'Junk & Disorderly'. Some might be unintentional like the Belfast bookshop-stationers 'Reade and Wright. Here are a few more, local and otherwise.

Hair O Drome - Kirkcaldy Hairdressers
Lounge About - Furniture store - Pittenweem
Shear Perfection - Hairdresser - Bridge of Allan
Tanerife - Tanning shop - Edinburgh
Atholl Browse - Bookshop in Blair Atholl
Eatiquette - Restaurant - Edinburgh
Jac O Bite - Restaurant - Kintail
Curriemuir Cuisine - Indian Restaurant - Kirriemuir

Grate Ideas - Fireplace shop - Perth
Bread in Heaven - Bakers - Perth
Aqua Holics - Diving Shop - N. Ireland
Creased Lightning - Ironing Shop - Bristol
Vinyl Resting Place - Record Shop - Croydon
Floral and Hardy - Florists - London
Stains - Drycleaners in Staines
The Vital Sparky - Electrician on Skye

My own favourite was seeing a brass plate in Sligo, Ireland for a firm of Solicitors: 'Argue and Phibbs.'

Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club Scoop a First in Fife

By Yvonne Coull,

BASC were the first club in Fife to be awarded the swiMark by the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association demonstrating good practice and a commitment to athlete, volunteer, and coach development. This shows the great strength of the club and the commitment of the committee, volunteers and swimmers.

What is the swiMark?

Scottish Swimming recognises the important role clubs can play to increase participation and improve the quality of sporting opportunities for the benefit of the local community.

swiMark is Scottish Swimming's quality aquatic development programme for clubs. The aim of swiMark is to provide a nationally recognised standard that will enable clubs to:

- Develop safe, effective and child friendly environments, based on good practice.
- Improve swimmers, teachers, coaches and volunteers
- Encourage lifelong participation through sustainable swimming development pathways



BASC swimmers are improving all the time. Since the beginning of the year the club has undertaken Timed Swims and participated in the following galas: Ayrshire Meet; East District Challenge Meet; Fife, Novice and League Events; Carnegie Opening Gala and the Glenrothes Spring Meet. During this time many swimmers have improved their personal best times and the club records were broken twice in March by Claire Thomson, Rebecca Turner and Greg Turner. Greg qualified for seven events at the recent Scottish National Age Group Championships held in Sunderland. Congratulations also go to Claire Thomson who won overall girl at the Glenrothes Spring Meet.

Over the coming months swimmers will participate in the Commonwealth Pool Opening (test) Gala, a first 50m swim for some, Burntisland Civic Week Sprints, Incas Distance Meet, Carnegie So Long Meet (as Fife Institute at Glenrothes closes) and the Fife Novice and Leagues continue.

The club has commenced a Masters lane and there are five swimmers of mixed ability. Some of these swimmers wish to compete in galas, triathlons, open water swims or just to keep fit! Good luck to you all!

It is not all train, train, train. Swimmers also took part in an Easter fun night, where Bob's special birthday (which number Bob?) was celebrated with cake after the waves and flumes. The Easter Bunny managed to drop off some eggs too!

Spaces are available for new swimmers and those finishing swim courses along with masters. Volunteer poolside helpers are also always welcome. For further details of all the above, see the web site www.burntislandswimmingclub.co.uk



2012 SUMMER QUEEN

This year's Summer Queen is **Louise Lindsay** supported by **Tess Hadoke** as First Attendant, **Joana Barron** as Second Attendant, **Alice Stark** and **Morgan Stewart** as Flower Girls, **Ellie Wilson** as Posy Girl and Trainbearers **Adam Willcox** and **Lennon Jones**. They were announced by the Primary School headteacher, Miss McCormick, at the inaugural Summer Queen disco held in March at the Parish Church Halls. This family event was tremendously successful and also raised over £700; it will be repeated, by popular request, in the evening of 16th June to mark the start of Civic Week and the Crowning of the Summer Queen. Anyone interested in helping with the Summer Queen, especially with donations of time and energy, would be very welcome; please see Jo Hadoke or Cristina Davies, and many thanks too to all those who have already contributed in ensuring this event continues to feature in the town.

Also essential to the Summer Queen is the painted backdrop for the Crowning Ceremony. The unique design of the backdrop is the winning entry of the competition for all the primary school pupils - entries can be handed into the School Office on a sheet of A4 paper. Please include on the reverse side your name, age, contact details (phone number especially) and base the design on this year's Civic Week theme '2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games'. Try and include Maisie the Cat and any Burntisland features. Closing date for entries is Friday 18th May.

In addition to the Summer Queen piece can you also run a piece on a competition for Civic Week for the design of medals for Civic Week races. These will be made in ceramic and will be the first ever such medals. The competition is open to all school pupils - primary and secondary. Again entries can be submitted via the Primary School Office, on a sheet of A4 with contact details on the reverse. Closing date for these entries is also 18th May.

TREASURE IN THE SANDS

My favourite book as a youngster was “Treasure Island”, and the film was great as well. Mind you, that’s going back a bit. There’s even a king’s lost treasure buried in the bed of the Forth near Burntisland. It’s down there somewhere.

So it really caught my interest to hear that there will be a Treasure Hunt in Burntisland this May. It’s being put together by the Sands Hotel and friends, and it’s involving treasure-hunters in looking round some of the town’s nooks and crannies, with a prize of £50 for the winners.

Valerie Linton of the Sands, has decided to raise some funds for a super group called “Action Medical Research”, the leading UK-wide medical charity dedicated to helping babies and children. So keen is Valerie to help this charity that she and colleagues will later this summer also climb Toubkal, the highest peak in Morocco’s Atlas Mountains. Excellent stuff! But for the rest of us there’s the Burntisland Treasure Hunt – details are set out in the poster opposite. If you’re interested at all in joining in call the Sands Hotel on 01592 872230 to have a chat about what’s involved and book a place on the hunt. Numbers are limited, so get your booking in early. Look forward to seeing you there.

Barnacle Bill Davidson



Treasure in the Sands

**BOOK NOW FOR
BURNTISLAND'S TREASURE HUNT
SUNDAY 13th MAY.**

**A SUPER FUN-DAY FOR FAMILIES, GROUPS AND
INDIVIDUALS, WITH PRIZE OF £50 FOR THE
WINNING TREASURE-HUNTER(S).**

The Treasure hunt starts at Sands Hotel from 1.00pm. Treasure hunters will be given a map to follow which takes in streets, shore and sands. There are twenty questions to be answered and a few wee treasures to be collected and found.
Book your place right away at the Sands Hotel 01592 872230

Entry fee of £5 per team (maximum of two adults per team).

**THIS IS A FUND RAISER FOR
"ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH"**
For children, for life - the leading UK-wide medical research charity dedicated to helping babies and children..

Robyn's Blog

Hi all, as you may already know my partner and I will be embarking on a trek to Kilimanjaro in September in order to raise £3750 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. So far donations have been extremely generous, which I am very grateful for. The charity Nia dance classes raised a total of £276 so a huge thanks to everyone who participated in that.

Never much of a sportswoman, training has proved a challenge in itself. Nevertheless, it is going really well. This Easter my weekend was spent in the Lochaber area climbing the UK’s highest mountain, Ben Nevis. Taking a total of 6 hours up and down I would say it was a success, despite the exhaustion! Not only was it great for training but the views were astonishing.

As part of our fundraising, Peter and I organised a family ceilidh night last month at Pettycur Bay Hotel in Kinghorn. However, my current drive for funds



On Nevis Summit

relates to the famous ‘soup in a bag’ from Lynn’s Fruit and Veg. For one week in May she will be doing a special charity soup whereby all the proceeds will go towards my funds for Marie Curie! So watch out for more details either on Facebook or in the shop.

All donations are welcome and much appreciated, no matter how small. Thank you for continuing to read my blog.

Robyn MacNeil

Mirth of Forth Comedy

Did you know Burntisland has its very own comedy club? Mirth of Forth Comedy (Moff) has been running regular comedy events in the town for over 2 years now. Our Sunday evening events at The Star have proved a hit, both with the regulars and with the comedians, and our first curry and comedy night at Potter About in January was a sell-out. We’re often able to bring in some big name headliners from the Scottish circuit, such as Janey Godley and Raymond Mearns, and some of the best rising new talent as well.



Why not come along to one of our next comedy events?

Saturday 28th April - a Comedy and Curry night at Potter About café, with headliner Michael Redmond (Father Stone in TV’s Father Ted), Harry Garrison (Loaded LAFTAs finalist) and MC Patrick Rolink (tickets from Potter About).

Sunday 15th May – free event at The Star. With headliner Susan Morrison and MC Bill Dewar.

Friday 22nd June – ticketed event at The Jubilee for Civic Week. With Patrick Monahan (winner of ITV1’s Show Me the Funny) and comic magician Reg Anderson.

Please note most events are over 18’s only, and not for the easily offended.

For further details, you can visit our website
www.mirthofforth.co.uk

Alternatively, you can join ‘Mirth of Forth Comedy’ on Facebook, or email us on mirthofforth@googlemail.com to join our circulation list.

THE BLACK DOUGLAS By Paul Briscoe

Sir James Douglas was known by his fellow Scots as 'James the Good'. However to his enemies, notably the English under Edward I, he was known as the 'Black Douglas'. This was due to the ferociousness of his attacks along the borders and into northern England, which became the stuff of legend. His name was even used to 'frighten' young children into behaving. More notable contemporaries such as William Wallace and Robert the Bruce have always had a much higher historical profile than James Douglas and his important role in the success of the Scots to win their freedom is often overlooked.



He was Robert the Bruce's right hand lieutenant, devoting his life to the service of his king and the struggle against English oppression. His devotion to the Scottish cause was directly attributed to the mass murder of unarmed civilians at Berwick upon Tweed. Edward I had determined to teach the 'troublesome Scots a lesson' appeared before the town on 30th March 1296 with his army and for three days his men slaughtered over 15,000 inhabitants including women and children. James Douglas's father was the governor of the town and was subsequently imprisoned and then executed in London. His lands and estates were forfeited, thus leaving his son James Douglas literally impoverished and very bitter.

In my book, 'AFTER THE MANNER OF FOXES', I used a fictional story line to make the historical facts and figures more palatable.

However, in writing the book I did extensive research and visited several sites and places associated with the Black Douglas, including the remains of Roxburgh Castle where he dressed his 60 followers in capes to mimic night time grazing cattle so that they could steal right up to the walls to overwhelm the defenders. I have visited several places associated with him, including Bannockburn and his tomb at Douglas in Lanarkshire. I was recently able to visit the battlefield where he lost his life. This is located at Teba, 50 miles north of Malaga, where he was killed assisting the king of Spain in a battle against the Moors. He carried Robert the Bruce's preserved heart with him and seeing the battle lost, threw the locket, containing the heart, at the attacking Muslim forces. In the town centre a granite plinth has been erected to the memory of James Douglas and each year a steady pilgrimage of Scots visit this memorial to remember a valiant and devoted soldier who died there over 700 years ago.

CIVIC WEEK 2012

It will soon be time for our Civic Week this year and what better way to celebrate it than with an Olympics and Paralympics theme? The theme will support Team GB as they set out to win gold whilst hosting this year's Olympic Games. Commencing on Friday 15 June, Civic Week will as always have a lot to offer. Along with the usual festivities such as the Crowning of the Queen and the 5-a-side football tournament there will also be a few new additions to this year's events including music and hosting

Civic week Diary of events

- June** Fri 15th Shop window competition
- Sat 16th Opening of Heritage exhibition :- Scottish Fair and other works of Andrew Young.
- 1200 -1530 Crowning of Summer Queen. - Olympics and Paralympic Parade and fancy dress competition with Burntisland pipe band and local groups and individuals (all welcome)
- Free party on the links after the parade hosted by Kingdom FM with W3L Wrestlers sponsored by Briggs Marine, Sparky the clown, stalls, and other attractions TBC including the inaugural Burntisland Mini Olympics.
- 1600 Playgroup Disco at the Toll centre
- 1700 Summer Queen Disco with Rosie at the Parish Church
- Sun 17th Bike ride and picnic—5-a side football competition - Bowling Competition - Bingo at the Jubilee
- Mon 18th Pool competition - Sailing Regatta
- Tues 19th Domino Competition - Swimming club sprints
- Wed 20th Town walk from Heritage centre
- Thurs 21st Storytelling at library Darts Competition
- Fri 22nd Adult comedy night @ the Jubilee
- Sat 23rd Joe's Band at the Kingswood Hotel- shuttle bus available.
- Sun 24th Civic week quiz at the Sands Hotel

All events will be confirmed in the official programme to be released soon.

Anyone interested in holding events or having a stall on parade day please contact Wendy Hawthorne 01592 870131 ASAP so all can be included in official programme.



MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATION

By **Dorothy Brankin**

It's "All Hands on Deck" at the Museum of Communication, as we prepare for our latest exhibition which opens in May.

The Museum takes part in National Science and Engineering Week each March, and their chosen theme this year was 'Our World in Motion', so we decided that our 'Motion' would be shipping!

Entitled *Attention All Shipping!* the exhibition describes various methods of marine communication over the years, from the Admiralty's Optical Telegraph of the 1790s, through flags, speaking tubes, semaphore and lighthouses to wireless telegraphy and satellite technology..... and as always, there will be lots of 'hands-on' opportunities.

We always incorporate anniversaries or special dates into our exhibitions and, because of the centenary, this year's topic is the *Titanic* disaster. Many primary schools in the area are working on *Titanic* Projects and we're hoping to encourage school visits. One very positive outcome of the tragedy was that Board of Trade regulations were tightened: from that time on, all British shipping had to carry enough lifeboats for everyone and a round-the-clock radio watch had to be maintained. The recent sinking of the *Costa Concordia* strikes a chilling parallel with *Titanic*.....both ships were vast, luxury floating palaces, both holed below the waterline and immediately doomed by taking on several tons of water per second and both delayed informing their passengers and lowering lifeboats.

Attention All Shipping will allow us to display one of the most prized and extremely rare items in the Museum's collection – the Morse key from the German battleship *Grosser Kurfürst*, that was scuttled in Scapa Flow in 1919. The story of how this Morse key was salvaged and ended up in the possession of Harry Matthews, our founder, is an amazing tale in itself. Later in the year, we are hoping to take it to the Orkney Science Festival, in collaboration with the Orkney Wireless Museum.

The exhibition will contain details of shipping disasters, and include the latest state-of-the art multi beam sonar images of the *Koln* and *Royal Oak* shipwrecks in Scapa Flow as well as amazing maps of the ocean floor, using radar measurement of the sea surface from satellites.

On Tuesday, 22nd May, Ian Archibald of Burntisland Heritage Trust will present an Evening Lecture at the Museum on the topic of shipwrecks and protected wrecks of the Forth.



SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

The following Donors recently received a bronze award for 10 donations:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Kevin Friend | Frances North |
| Nicholas Brown | Sharon Heslington |

Donors were warmly thanked for their magnificent effort.

A total of 129 attended the session and 108 donated.

'News from the Fairway' - Burntisland Junior Golf Section

The new golf season has just got underway at Burntisland Golf Club and once again the number of junior members remains high. The juniors have had 2 social events over the winter which were well attended and also taken part in the Winter League in which they performed admirably against much older opposition.

In addition all Primary 5 pupils at Burntisland Primary School experienced 'Clubgolf' over four weeks in February into March. These sessions were delivered as part of the Scottish Government's initiative to give every Primary 5 pupils in Scotland the opportunity to experience golf ahead of the Ryder Cup coming to Gleneagles in 2014. The sessions at the school were delivered by Scott Gillespie and Craig Armstrong two of the professional golfing staff at the Golf Club as part of the partnership between the school and the club.

Primary 6 pupils also benefited from having sessions delivered by David Gowans, a local Burntisland lad and Level 1 Coach alongside Lynne Bennett the Games Teacher at the school, also a Level 1 coach.

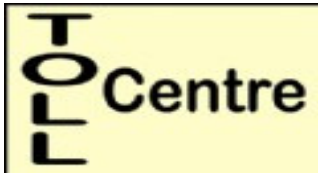
Application forms for membership at the Club were given out as were details of the coaching available from Scott and Craig. Membership for the year for juniors under 12 for example is very good value at only £10 and who knows it may set them off on a very successful career either as a player or in one of the many opportunities that are now available in the golf industry.

For details of membership please contact: info@burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk or telephone (01592) 874093 and for the coaching sessions which commence on Sunday 1st April: pro@burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk telephone (01592) 872116

This year we have been able to form a Junior Committee including youngsters, parents and one of the club professionals and we hope to have a range of social and fund raising activities over the season in addition to the weekly golf competitions. New members and ideas are always welcomed as is the support of parents and other volunteers either through their time, encouragement or financial donation as we aim to further improve the golfing experience for youngsters in the Burntisland and surrounding areas.

In the meantime keep them long and straight down the middle.

Graham Milne—Junior Convenor Burntisland Golf House Club



Toll Centre – where community comes the'gither.

The Toll Centre has been buzzing with a spring feeling this past couple of months. The Toll Centre reunion disco on 31st March was a fantastic night and all proceeds from the night went toward the daily running of the centre. Thanks to everyone who organised the event.

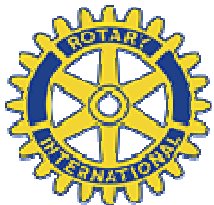
The playgroup, BOSS, Wednesday Social club and the children's club worked together on an application to Kanes Kirkcaldy – what was the community safety fund – and were awarded £3,500 to build a safe and friendly access point from the main hall into the back garden. Work on the patio doors and ramp should begin in the next month or so. This will be a major boost to the centre and the people who use it on a daily basis. The advantages and benefits of being able to socialise and learn in a natural environment and with a safe access to this space are massive. A huge thanks to everyone involved for making this possible!

Since the councils in-house changes last year the Toll has been without a centre manager. We are lucky to have the commitment of Susan Walker, who as well as doing her own clerical work has taken on many other jobs and provided a consistent friendly face and source of centre information in this time of change. The management committee have also taken on more day to day jobs within the centre while applying for funding for a new development worker. We are very happy to announce that we have just been awarded funding for a development worker post from the Robertson Trust, which will help to provide another level of support to the centre and all it's user groups. Yay!

The garden project is simmering away meeting with local groups and applying for funding from Awards for All to make the garden bigger to accommodate more sustainable play structure, raised beds and a bbq/social area. We'll keep you updated on the changes.

Toll centres very own treasurer Gillian McNicol has set up her own funding page in a bid to raise money for the children's club by taking part in local Triathlon events. Please do check out her page as this club needs to fund two youth workers to keep it running :)

The centre offers many clubs and courses to folk of all ages. Do visit the website and take a look at the programme to see if there is anything that takes your fancy, or pop into the centre and pick up a leaflet with what's on. If you have a bit of time of your hands why not come and get involved in the management committee, we are always open to new members and new ideas. You can also friend us on facebook, or become a Friend of the Toll and help us out with fundraising, gardening, volunteering. Get in touch for more details. Tollcentre@gmail.com OR www.tollcentre.org.uk



ROTARY CLUB OF BURNTISLAND & KINGHORN

Since the turn of the year, Club activities have continued apace and the Burns Supper Meeting in late January featured the winners of the Primary Schools Burns Recitation competitions. Natalie Sellar from Burntisland and Sophie Clunie from Kinghorn recited their chosen pieces with commendable ease and passion and were presented with their trophies and Burns books by President Elaine Bowie. The internal curling competition held regularly at the Kinross Curling Arena has been the main extra mural activity during the winter months. Weekly meetings, with many interesting speakers on diverse topics continued at the Sands Hotel and the Club reacted positively to requests for financial assistance from many local individuals and organisations. These included the Burntisland & Kinghorn Youth trip to Malawi, the Diamond Jubilee Flower Festival organised by St Josephs Church and a local girl who will be taking parting the World Mongolian Challenge later in the year.

The Club is about to enter a very busy period in the annual Rotary calendar. Arrangements have already been made for the local heats of the Primary School Quiz and two youths from the local ATS have been selected to attend the week long Rotary Youth Leadership Camp at Abernethy in the summer. The Spring programme of Rotary Ramble Walks by pupils of Burntisland Primary School commenced in late April and the Club will provide stewards for the Black Rock Race in Kinghorn in early May.

In order to finance Club activities, preparations are already in hand for a couple of important fund raising events which rely heavily on the local community for support. Dedicated growers are already providing round the clock TLC for young plants which will be on sale at the annual coffee morning/plant sale at Kinghorn Parish Church Hall on the morning of 12th May. We will also have stalls selling "cake & candy", bric-a-brac and tombola. This is the most convivial gathering and best value coffee and biscuits in the area.

The second event is the return of the Glasgow Phoenix Choir for a Diamond Jubilee Gala Concert at the Adam Smith Theatre on Saturday 16th June at 7.30 pm. This will be a magnificent evening featuring a wide range of choral entertainment. Like the Choir's last appearance at the Adam Smith, it is likely to be a sell out so book your seats (£10) early from Rotary Club members or from the theatre box office. Proceeds from this event will benefit CHAS, and other local charities. On this special evening we are hoping to invite couples celebrating their Diamond Wedding this year as our guests, so if you know of anyone in this category please get in touch, leave a message at The Sands Hotel, where we meet every Tuesday or email: ECardmaker@aol.com



By Ian Archibald

“A Scottish Fair,” painted in 1910 by Andrew Young (1854-1925) is well-loved among the people of Burntisland, as it is based on the annual Burntisland Links Fair. Everyone in the painting, 110 people in total, lived in the town at the time and the 11 fairground shows depicted are all genuine acts from that era.

After being exhibited in London and Dundee, the painting was purchased by the proprietor of the Crown Tavern in Burntisland. It was last known to have been exhibited in the Art and Antiquities Exhibition in Burntisland in 1956. Its whereabouts after this became a mystery, although it was rumoured to have gone over to America.

In October 2007 the painting then emerged and came to the attention of the staff at Kirkcaldy Museum when they were informed of its auction at Christies. They made an unsuccessful bid to bring the painting back to Scotland. The painting was bought by a private collector in London, who kindly loaned it to Kirkcaldy Museum for an exhibition in June 2009.

The Scottish Fair exhibition has now been revised and will be the main feature in this year's Summer Heritage Exhibition. As well as being a local artist who lived and worked in Burntisland Andrew Young was also a local historian and a professional photographer in the relatively early days of commercial photography. The exhibition will feature up to 50 examples of his art and photographic work.

The Exhibition opens at the start of Civic Week on Saturday 16th June. It will run to the 1st September at Burntisland Heritage Centre, 4 Kirkgate, Burntisland (just round the corner from the main door of the Burgh Chambers in the High Street). It will be open on Wednesday from 1.00pm to 4.00pm and on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11.00am to 4.00pm. There is also available for browsing a large collection of other types of historical material relating to the town's fascinating history. This includes a number of DVD's for viewing. The latest to be added to the collection is 'Then and Now' which has been produced from last year's successful 'Changing Landscapes'. Admission is free.

The summer exhibitions have been running every year with many different themes since 1994. Burntisland Heritage is a voluntary group and the exhibitions would not be possible without the support of volunteers. If you are interested in assisting and supporting the group please contact any one of us. - Ian Archibald 873557; Helen Mabon 873624; John Burnett 873419; Iain Sommerville 874933. Alternatively drop your contact details into 4 Kirkgate.

Andrew Young's painting 'A Scottish Fair' was reproduced as a print for a calendar in 1917 for a local grocer, Thomas Thomson.

(Use a magnifying glass to try to identify your fore bearers)

Davy Ferguson aka 'Ferguson's the Painters'

BY: Helen Mabon, extracted from a recent interview with Davy Ferguson, for the Burntisland Heritage Trust archive.

James Ferguson & Son, the Painters were synonymous with Burntisland High Street for over 6 decades. Long time residents like me and shorter tenure folks, might be surprised to know that the business was founded in 1898 in Cowdenbeath by the 1st generation, Alexander Ferguson & Sons. Premises in Bowhill were added and finally in 1937 a presence in Burntisland was established by the 2nd generation, which went on to become the hub. The Burntisland 'shop' serving the community, was familiar to generations, situated between Cameron the butcher and the baker shop.

Davy Ferguson, the 3rd generation, reluctant to 'blow his own trumpet' describes himself as "only a painter" – *I don't think so.*

A five year apprenticeship; three nights a week at night school; City and Guilds certificates in gilding, graining and sign writing and years of learning from Jimmy Johnstone, a master craftsman/artist who worked for the firm. Result - an artisan at the highest level whose skills could be used to paint fairground rides, give a realistic painted imitation of any wood grain, coachwork lettering on undulating surfaces, gilding, which enabled work to be done in a list of ecclesiastic buildings including Dunfermline Abbey, Culross Abbey and the likes of Falkland Palace.



To have someone with his ability in Burntisland, when this town's historic Parish church was being refurbished under the careful gaze of Historic Scotland, must have seemed like 'a marriage made in heaven'. Every bit of knowledge and expertise came to the fore in peeling back years of over painting and grime to uncover the ornamentation and patterns that had been applied by those craftsmen of yore. Painstaking stripping, tracing and piecing together; recognising traditional patterns and referencing from old books, then re-drawing.



Section of the decorated Ceiling in the Parish Church

Something like 2½ miles of lines, drawn free hand, looking straight to the naked eye but actually compensating the inherent curves in the build. Scaling and matching to balance every set design in a building that is not evenly matched. Clever, clever stuff. And then there's the gold leaf....lots of it. Each 4"X3" 23.5 carat sheet, air-mail paper thin. Its finicky application is the equivalent of several Michelin stars and will last forever. Weeks and months of nights were spent alone, up scaffolding painting the ceiling. (Shades of that 16th century Italian ceiling painter?) What a legacy! Few people know that on the roof of the Magistrates Pew is a painting of the original Burgh coat of Arms. If you have never seen the inside of the Parish Church, I urge you to make a visit. "Only a painter".... ?

That 3rd generation took the business into new areas. As trends and markets changed he diversified taking on contracts to paint for blue chip companies throughout Britain and abroad, employing a large workforce. A well deserved active retirement is just reward for such a career.

Although there is no longer a presence on our High Street the 4th generation, who 'did his time' in the family firm in Burntisland, now continues the Ferguson name - running his own painting business in Australia. Quite a dynasty.



"Mebbe yon windmills might blow the haar away, eh Hen?"



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Our High Street is rich in diversity – no clone she. Visitors who happen upon our High Street are complimentary and appreciate its variety of individual shops. When was the last time you visited? There is so much on your doorstep, convenient to walk to, with competitive prices and a range of shops that will surprise you. From **A-Z**, Arts to **Zumba**, and most things in between. You will find DIY, fish, fowl and meat, sweet delights in bakers and cake shops a plenty; there are general stores, coffee shops, flowers, cards, fine wines; you can pamper and groom yourself or your pet the list goes on. There are **FREE** car parks at either end of the High Street.

The more we use our High Street the better it will get. Save fuel, shop locally. Combine your shopping with a visit to the Library and its wide facilities, look deeper and you can even find a knitting pattern library in one of our more unique shops. Take a moment to rest on one of the benches situated along the street, admire the floral displays and watch the world go by. Or have break at a local hostelry, a beer garden or a coffee and cake at a table in the sun.

If you are mindful of where and how you spend your money and concerned with climate change, food miles and the effect your behaviour might have on all this, make **OUR HIGH STREET YOUR PLACE** to shop. Fair Trade, Local produce, Organic products all have their Burntisland outlets. The more the High Street feels your presence the more it can react and meet your expectations. If a shop doesn't have what you want, don't grumble, no harm in asking if it can be obtained. Your High Street forges personal relationships. Use it or lose it.

Burntisland High Street and its surrounds are more than simply a collection of shops and businesses. It is a community brought to life by your visit. In what could become increasingly isolating lifestyles you can speak to friendly staff in shops that are happy to see and cater to your needs.

Your High Street needs you and your needs are in the High Street.

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Jinti Wight-Boycott on behalf of the as yet unnamed Burntisland Promotional Group - see page 19 bottom

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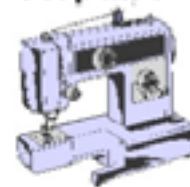
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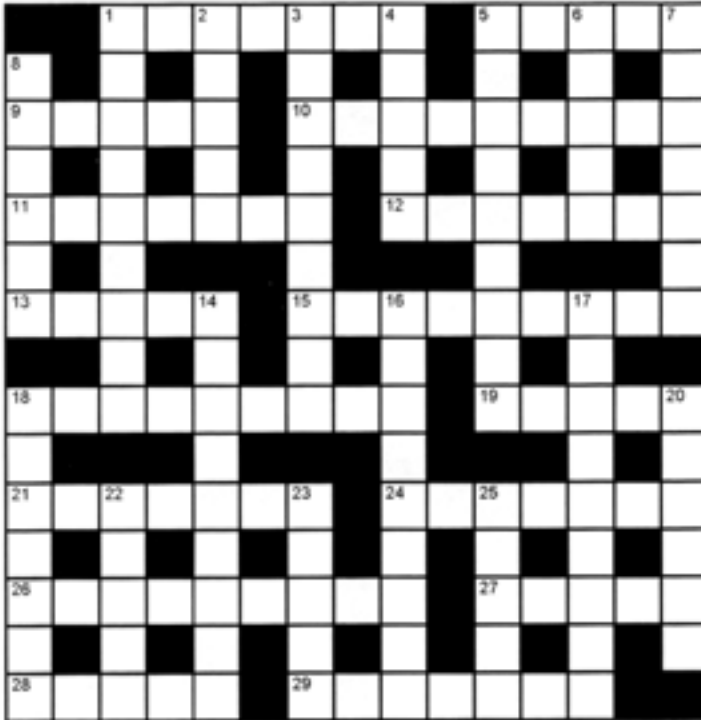
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DON'T DO BEER GARDENS, BUT IF THEY DID IT WOULD BE AT THE JUBILEE!



THE PRIZE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Measure of noise intensity (7)
- 5 One who looks after horses (5)
- 9 Unrehearsed (2,3)
- 10 Intermediary (2-7)
- 11 Wine from Tuscany (7)
- 12 Very old (7)
- 13 Kingdom (5)
- 15 Thick yellow fog (3-6)
- 18 Strewn (9)
- 19 Slumber (5)
- 21 Dressed (7)
- 24 Prisoner (7)
- 26 G & S Japanese opera (3-6)
- 27 Female relative (5)
- 28 Answer (5)
- 29 Rapture (7)

DOWN

- 1 Tibetan religious leader (5,4)
- 2 Room on a ship (5)
- 3 Roller coaster (3,6)
- 4 Former Gadaffi country (5)
- 5 Communicate successfully (3,6)
- 6 Grossly overweight (5)
- 7 Watch carefully (7)
- 8 Fourth sign of Zodiac (6)
- 14 Motherhood (9)
- 16 Brazen (9)
- 17 Exactly (9)
- 18 First course (7)
- 20 Bits (6)
- 22 Bind (3,2)
- 23 Francis -----, naval hero (5)
- 25 Edinburgh new arrival(s) (5)

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BUZZ

Name.....
 Address.....
 Telephone.....

First correct entry drawn will win a £25.00 voucher donated by Shell U.K. Ltd. Send completed entries by 15th July to:

The Editor - 39 The Wynd, Dalgety Bay Ky11 9SJ

January Winner is: Mary Watson
 7 Allan Court - Burntisland

Solution to January's crossword :

Across: 1 Doublebass, 6 Spin, 9 Cordial, 10 Arbiter, 12 Rugs, 13 Tae Kwon Do, 15 Titular, 16 Salty, 17 Arc, 19 Local, 20 Aseptic, 23 Prominent, 25 Trio, 27 Eminent, 28 Reeking, 29 Eyed, 30 Bridgehead
Down: 1 Decorate, 2 Upright, 3 Loin, 4 Bilateral, 5 Space, 7 Potency, 8 Narrow, 11 Bewilder, 14 Black Ice, 16 Scattered, 18 Act of God, 19 Leonine, 21 Terrine, 22 Sphere, 24 Enter, 26 Cede



The Sting
 (Letters to the Editor)

Dear Sir -

As I live in Burntisland, I thought I would bring this to your attention, assuming it hasn't been already. Properties in Harbour Place - and likely other areas - have been receiving plastic sacks from 'Clothing Collection Team Ltd'. I just wanted to let people know that this organisation is a private limited company and not a charity, as I suspect they would like people to think.

I should, in the interests of fairness, say that they are not breaking any law here. However, I believe that there are dubious ethics at work: the methodology is that used by charities and the bag looks remarkably similar to those distributed by the British Heart Foundation. My advice would be for people not to give anything to private companies such as this.

My apologies for possibly telling you something that you already know, but I am hoping that you will be able to alert people to what I see as a scam. I also checked Companies House: this is a company that has not yet submitted any accounts and I - cynic that I am - suspect that they never will.

Thanks for your time
 Tom Locke

Hello!

My name is Kristin Eunice and I live in Columbia, South Carolina. My great-grandfather, James Robert Nicholson, was born in Burntisland on 22 November, 1862. He died in California in 1928. I believe that his parents were Robert Nicholson and Isabella Charles (Forrest) Nicholson. I am wondering if I may have any living relatives still in the area. I would like the information only in the interest of family history. This is my mother's side of my family. One of my great-grandad's children was my grandmother, Eleanor Elizabeth. I was wondering if you could run a tiny ad asking if anyone in the area knows of any family members. Again, I assure you, it's just in the interest of finding family and knowing more about where I came from.

A little info on me - married, female, 54 years old, and very proud of what little bit of Scotland runs in my veins.

My home address is:

Kristin Eunice,
 6530 Davidson Rd. Apt. E2
 Columbia, SC 29209 USA

My email address is: kristidumplin@sc.rr.com

Thank you very much for any help you may provide.

Sincerely,

Kristin Eunice

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have received two submissions from opposing points of view with regard to the proposed wind farm development on Tournament Hill. As both submissions were extremely lengthy, i.e. 7 full A-4 pages from one writer, we are unable to include either point of view in this column or indeed in the Buzz, due to size limitations.. However, the full content of both these 'letters' can be seen on the Community Council website

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONT'D

Dear Sir,

Re Fife Council's decision to locate the proposed new school on the Toll Park. This location, which is designated as protected green space in the local area plan, was selected after an inadequate review of alternative sites and a totally inadequate consultation process.

At a public meeting organised by Burntisland Community Council, close to 300 residents made very clear their dissatisfaction with the Toll Park location and the consultation process. Despite this, Fife Council proceeded with a vote which forced people to choose between a new school on the Toll Park or no new school, ignoring the fact that there are other viable alternative locations. The HMIE report, which considers the various possible locations for a new school, at no point states that the Toll Park is the only viable location.

It is extremely disappointing that councillors Kay and Leslie chose to ignore the views expressed at the public meeting which they both attended. Despite their personal preference for the Toll Park location, they should have ensured that the consultation vote included an option for a new school at a different location. There are two locations, the Roundhouse (adjacent to the Beacon Centre) and the Seamill which provide some significant benefits compared to the Toll Park.

The Toll Park is the most centrally located green space that is suitable for our children to play ball games and exercise. This a space which does not have to be booked and does not require parents to transport their children to it. It has been used as a playing field since the early 1950's. Given the current health concerns re overweight and unfit children, I find it incredible that not only do Fife Council and councillors Kay and Leslie think it is OK to concrete over the Toll Park but also there are no proposals to provide additional green space to compensate for the loss of this well used park.

An action group, Best4Burntisland, has been set up to fight to ensure that the location for the new school is the best for Burntisland.

Yours faithfully,

Ian McKenzie

JUBILEE

STREET FAIR



TUESDAY 5TH OF JUNE

HIGH STREET – BURNTISLAND

Community Based Stalls

(Sorry no commercial traders)

Face Painting— Musicians -
Tombolas - Pipe Band -
Competitions—Children's
entertainment - and loads
more to be announced.

Watch for posters.

Hosted by **BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED**
A newly formed group of Burntisland
Traders and shops

We Now have a name!

With such busy lives to lead, it's often easy to overlook the good things happening right on our own doorstep. That's why the local shop-keepers and business people of Burntisland have come together to help raise the profile of our High Street and surrounding areas to townspeople and visitors alike.

Burntisland Unlimited is a new organisation which aims to showcase the thriving diversity of our shops and businesses, and is looking to share ideas and bring on board the many community groups we all enjoy. While nearby towns are ever more blighted by boarded up stores and empty shopping malls, Burntisland continues to thrive.

"We all perhaps thought that the closure of Alcan was a fatal blow to the local economy", says Lee Christie, owner of the local Post Office and one of the many business people behind Burntisland Unlimited, "but in fact we've gone from strength to strength as new families have come to enjoy the benefits of our lovely town. We've got some great pubs and cafes, a huge bookshop, and some fantastic local produce is available, for instance in the fruit and veg shop or in the fish merchant, but sometimes I think people forget to stop and take a look".

As a first step, **Burntisland Unlimited** is hosting a Jubilee Street Fair on High Street on Tuesday 5th of June, and are looking for everyone to get involved and have a really great day. The group are now on Facebook, and the Burgh Buzz will play it's part too in what's hoped will be a strong marketing campaign to get the townspeople shopping locally more often. After all, we know the supermarkets are convenient for our monthly shopping, but isn't it nice that Burntisland's just a little bit different?

St Serf's Episcopal Church April 2012

At St Serf's, along with the wider Christian Church, we have been celebrating the great festival of Easter, preceded of course by the solemn observance of Lent, Holy Week and Good Friday. We have moved from the death of Jesus to the Resurrection in the startling suddenness that mirrors the Gospel accounts.



Accounts that tell of the women who came to mourn and do what was necessary for the dead body of Jesus, only to find that the great stone that had closed the rock tomb had been moved and the body was gone. This year we read the Easter Gospel of John and that moving account, first of bewilderment for the women and then for Peter and the disciple described as the one Jesus loved. The latter coming then to belief but both then just making their way home, what were they to do? Mary Magdalene was the only one left at the tomb and she was almost blinded by her grief. Yet she was given a vision of angels and then, immediately, she had that encounter with the risen Lord Jesus. She didn't know him until he spoke her name and, when she did know and began to understand, she was given no time for embracing or even for explanation but was sent urgently to give the good news to the other disciples. In his command to Mary, Jesus called them his brothers. Their feeling guilt at all their failures of Good Friday must have lain heavy on them but they had no need to fear. Here was new life and a new beginning for all of them. Their sins of betrayal were forgiven and they must soon take up Jesus' own ministry of bearing the message of God's great gifts of love, forgiveness and new life to all nations.

Revd Canon Val Nellist
Rector

Events Diary

Thursday 17th May - The Feast of the Ascension - Sung Communion Service St Serf's 7.30pm (ABI Singers)

Sunday 27th April - Pentecost - Sung Communion Service St Serf's 9.30am.

Saturday 7th July - St Serf pilgrimage beginning in St Serf's, Comrie then to St Serf's, Dunning, Culross Abbey and ending at St Serf's, Burntisland for a service of Evensong. Details to be announced nearer the time.

BURNTISLAND OVER 70's CHRISTMAS TREAT

A coffee morning was held on Saturday 7th April 2012 and raised £270.75.

Further fund raising events will be held throughout the year so watch for posters and advertising. All monies raised at these fund raising events go towards the lunch and entertainment provided for our senior citizens over 70 and we wish to thank all who help as achieve this.

St. Joseph's Flower Festival



Join us at St Joseph's
on the Jubilee weekend

Fri 1 June: 2-6pm
Sat 2 June: 11am-4pm
Sun 3 June: 11am-4pm

The 3 day 'fundraising event'
involves several
charities/community groups -
activities include:

Array of flowers in
seasonal splendour
Barbeque
Children's activities
Music
Stalls

Entry: £5 per adult (inc refreshments);

£40 for group of 10 adults;

Children (under 15) free

Queries to Nan Kelly: 01592 890398

see our website for directions

www.stjosephs-burntisland.org.uk

E: saint.josephs@tiscali.co.uk

T: 01592 872207

Cowdenbeath Road, Burntisland, Fife KY3 0LJ



A Jubilee Extravaganza

Members of the congregation of St Joseph's Church have worked tirelessly to organise a magnificent flower festival over the first weekend in June. Assisted by the Kirkcaldy Floral Arts Club, the inside of the church will be decorated by a series of ornamental, floral arrangements and displays depicting the lives of prominent Saints. These will include St Andrew, St Serf, St Columba and St Francis of Assissi.

The church grounds will be transformed to accommodate a number of stalls, activities for children and a delicious barbeque will be available on the Saturday and Sunday. Stalls will be manned by local charities including the RNLI and visitors will be able to purchase a wide range of bedding and pot plants. Those circulating in the Festival grounds will be serenaded throughout by a string quartet and on Saturday afternoon the Festival will be honoured by a visit from Cardinal Keith O'Brien, leader of the Catholic Church in Scotland.

Proceeds from the Festival will be used to boost the Church Roof Restoration Fund and individual charities will retain the proceeds from their own stalls.

This promises to be a unique event in the town which deserves the support of the entire community.

During early spring there can be a dearth of locally grown food – the winter crops are finishing up and this year's crops are still sprouting in the greenhouse. Aware of this, **Fife Diet** organised a wild foraging workshop earlier this year. Local wild foraging enthusiast Bob Messenger led a walk around Burntisland highlighting some of the best spots to find some of our edible weeds. There's currently a great variety of wild edible plants available to harvest – at the moment many of them taste best as young shoots and leaves rather than mature plants. Later in the year there's an abundance of fruits and nuts.



Many of the plants that are now considered weeds were once treasured sources of food. Plants like nettles, dandelions and plantain have only spread so widely due to the uses they provided for our ancestors. Even tenacious perennial weeds such as couch grass, ground elder and horsetail have their uses.

Much of this knowledge that was once widely known has recently been lost, or at least misplaced. However foraging has seen a revival of interest and many groups and websites have sprung up that provide a wealth of information for new foragers.

There are a few rules to remember when foraging. Firstly only pick plants that you are **100%** sure are edible – there are many plants that can be easily mistaken for toxic relatives. *If in doubt, don't eat it!* Be aware where you are collecting from – avoid collecting from next to busy roadsides, industrial sites, areas that have been sprayed with pesticides or herbicides and other sources of pollution. Only collect what you need and make sure you leave enough for others – and for the plant to survive. Make sure you have the land owners permission.

Many plants are edible and one of the tastiest is the stinging nettle – easily identified by its distinctive sting. The fresh shoots are best for salads – crush them first to remove the sting and mix with hawthorn leaves, dandelions, wild garlic and leeks, fresh mint and garnished with gorse flowers for a cheap and delicious salad. Here's another couple of recipes for them:

Nettle Barlotto

Heat 1 litre vegetable stock in a saucepan and keep it on a low simmer over a very low heat. Heat about 25g of butter and 1 tablespoon of oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add 1 onion, finely chopped, 1 garlic glove, finely chopped and a few sprigs of thyme, and sweat gently for about 10 minutes, until the onion is soft. In the meantime, cut 2-3 medium leeks into 2cm thick slices. Stir 300g pearl barley through the softened onions and cook gently for a minute or two. Add a good dash of white wine and let it bubble until all the liquid is absorbed. Now start adding the stock, about a quarter at a time, as you would for a risotto, stirring often and letting each addition be absorbed before you add the next. It should take about 30 minutes for the barley to cook to a tender texture with a hint of bite. While the barley is cooking, sweat the leeks in the remaining butter and oil in a small frying pan over a medium heat, tossing and stirring occasionally, until tender, but retaining a slight bite. Take a big bunch of tender young nettle tops, wash thoroughly and then wilt in a pan of salted water for 5-6 minutes until tender. Drain in a sieve, pressing out the water, then chop fairly finely. Take the finished Barlotto off the heat and stir through the leeks and nettles and 50g of grated hard cheese. Serve topped with grated cheese, and a grinding of black pepper.

Local Groups

The Ecology Centre along with Kingdom Housing Association recently won funding from the Peoples Postcode Lottery's Dream Fund to put a mobile classroom on the road that will visit school pupils across Fife, Tayside and the Lothians. The project will inspire pupils to learn about climate change and their local environment, using hands-on play in an outdoor setting. They're looking for volunteers for their spring and summer activities, if you're interested call them on 01592 891567 for a friendly, informal chat or email admin@theecologycentre.org.

Last term the **Sustaining Communities Initiative (SCI)** organised the very popular Eco-week at Burntisland primary school. Pupils from classes enjoyed a wide range of workshops and activities including recycled paper making, rangers walks and story telling in SCI's very own Mongolian yurt. If you fancy, visit the yurt, or SCI's earthship at Kinghorn Loch. It is open to the public every Friday from 11 – 2, or at other times by arrangement. Call them on 01592 891884 or email: inquiry@sci-scotland.org.uk to book a tour or find out more.

Thanks to the support of **Fife Diet** the **Broomhill Garden's Kids Club** is now running every Thursday afternoon after school – and throughout the summer holidays. All kids, and parents, are welcome to join in growing (and eating!) some fresh produce and a variety of natural and seasonal outdoor activities. More info from Fife Diet on 01592 871 371.

The aforementioned **Fife Diet** launched their new food manifesto last month. For full details along with information of their new food truck and all their upcoming workshops visit fifediet.co.uk

Nettle Beer

Rinse 1kg of nettle leaves and boil in 1 gallon of water for 15 minutes. Strain the liquid into a large bucket and 500g sugar, the juice and peel of two lemons and 1 tablespoon of cream of tartar (if available). Stir well and when cool add 25g fresh yeast/1 sachet of dried yeast. Keep the bucket covered



Courtesy of Linda Mellor Photography

with a towel and in a warm place stirring twice a day. After 3 to 5 days strain out the sediment and bottle in 2 litre fizzy juice bottles. It'll be ready to drink in about 8 days. This mildly alcoholic beer is very lively and if left too long the bottles may explode!

Nettle Rarebit

Heat a large glug of olive oil and add a bag of nettle tops, stirring until they have wilted. Drain off the nettles and roughly chop them before adding to a bowl with two teaspoons of wholegrain mustard, a cup of creme fraiche or plain yoghurt and half a good hunk of Anster cheese grated. Then spread the gooey nettle mix onto two slices of toast (two for each person, one won't be enough). Then sprinkle the remaining grated cheese before grilling and adding some pepper. Serve alongside the first salads of the year.

And A REMINDER!

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE SEAGULLS AS THIS CAN PROMOTE AGGRESSIVE ATTACKS ON PEOPLE

Events Diary

MAY

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| Thursday 3rd | Fife Council Elections | |
| Wednesday 9th | Police Community engagement Meeting at the Toll Centre | 7.30 pm |
| Friday 11th | Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers | 7.00 pm |
| Saturday 12th | Rotary Plant Sale & Coffee Morning at Kinghorn Parish Church Hall | 10.00 - 12.00 noon |
| Sunday 13th | Treasure Hunt from the Sands Hotel | 1.00 pm |
| Tuesday 22nd | Lecture at MOC - Ian Archibald on Shipwrecks of the Forth | 7.00 pm |

JUNE

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------|
| Friday 1st | St Joseph's Floral Festival—St Joseph's Church grounds | 2.00 - 6.00pm |
| Saturday 2nd | St Joseph's Floral Festival—St Joseph's Church grounds | 11.00am - 4.00 pm |
| Sunday 3rd | St Joseph's Floral Festival—St Joseph's Church grounds | 11.00am - 4.00 pm |
| Friday 8th | Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers | 7.00 pm |
| Saturday 16th | Diamond Jubilee Gala Concert by Glasgow Phoenix Choir at Adam Smith Centre (B&K Rotary Club) | 7.30 pm |
| Saturday 16th | CIVIC WEEK - Parade and Crowning of the Summer Queen followed by party on the Links | 12.00 noon onwards |
| | Opening of Heritage Exhibition—Scottish Fair and the works of Andrew Young | am |
| | Playgroup Disco at the Toll Centre | 4.00 pm |
| | Summer Queen Disco in the Parish Church Hall | 5.00 pm |
| Sunday 17th | 5-a-side Football at Shipyard Park, Bowling Competition, Bike ride and picnic, Bingo at the Jubilee | Various times |
| Monday 18th | Sailing Regatta at the breakwater—Pool Competition | |
| Tuesday 19th | Civic Week Sprints at the Swimming Club—Domino Competition | |
| Wednesday 20th | Town Walk from the Heritage Centre | |
| Thursday 21st | Storytelling at the Library | |
| Friday 22nd | Adult Comedy at the Jubilee | |
| Saturday 21st | Joe's Band at the Kingswood - Shuttle bus available | |
| Sunday 22nd | Civic Week Quiz at the Sands Hotel. | |

JULY

| | | |
|-------------|---|---------|
| Friday 14th | Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers | 7.00 pm |
| Monday 16th | BURNTISLAND HIGHLAND GAMES | |

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NEWS AT THE SANDS

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IS TO CONTINUE

w/end 11th May - "ITALY HERE WE COME"

w/end 1st June - "DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER"

w/end 27th July - "FROM THE SOUKS OF MARRAKECH"

EXTRAS ...

- * Pirates of the Sands -Treasure Hunt Walk (08/04/12)
(see poster)
- * Val's sponsored walk up Mount Toubkal (Atlas Mountains (04/07/12)
- * Market Day buffet (16/07/12)

DON'T FORGET ...

JAZZ NIGHT - First
Wednesday of every month!

ACOUSTIC NIGHT -
Last Monday of every month!



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