

BURGH BUZZ



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Autumn Contents

Section	Pages
Editorial	2
Community Council Bullets	2
Police report & Councillors info	3
B'island Primary School	4
Boss & Parent Council	5
Castle-ites	6
Community 7, 8, Heritage	9
CC Comms.	10
Starley Hall	12
FAB & 1st Aid	13
Clubs & Sport	14
Clubs & Award	16
Crossword	18
Events Diary	19
Guides, Brownies & Rainbows	20
Ecology	21
The Churches	22

BiFab's Bright Future!

During the current period of economic uncertainty, one bright light on the horizon has been local engineering firm Burntisland Fabrications Limited. Earlier in the summer, it was widely reported that Burntisland Fabrications Limited won two major contracts to design, procure and construct mammoth structures for the off shore oil industry giving them orders through to April 2015. These projects will involve BiFab's manufacturing facilities in



Burntisland, Methil and Arnish on the Isle of Lewis and could increase the companies total work force by as many as 350.

Burntisland is the head office for the three manufacturing sites, and will continue to play a major role in the company's operations, concentrating on the manufacture of modules for the off shore oil and gas industry. The company as a whole, currently employs over 400 personnel which is expected to increase to 600 – 700 after Christmas. Some 80% of the work force comes from Fife and there are plans to expand the company apprenticeship scheme which has already trained some 70 young workers since its inception. These young workers who were recruited through the local college network are now either fully qualified tradesmen or have gone on to further education.

The Burntisland Bifab Facility from the Air

The BiFab Management team are to be congratulated on their ingenuity and foresight in establishing a skilled workforce, operating within facilities that are mutually compatible and ideally placed to take advantage of the expected expansion in the renewable energy field.

MAJOR REPAIRS TO CLOCK TOWER

Following a routine inspection of the Burgh Chambers clock tower by Fife Council, it was revealed that the structure had serious cracks and other problems. Fife Council called in independent conservation specialists to confirm the extent of the damage. These experts found severe weathering, cracking and open joints in the sandstone faces of the tower, which will now have to be partially dismantled to below the clock faces to allow the tower to be reconstructed and repaired using as much of the original stone as possible.

The experts have confirmed that the work needs to be carried out as a matter of urgency. The tower was dismantled in October so that basic the repairs could be completed before the onset of the worst of the winter weather.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that the whole structure including the Burgh Chambers, and the Exhibition rooms may have to remain closed and out of use until possibly Christmas, under the provision of Health and Safety considerations.



Up, Up and Away!

Editorial Comment.

The lead article on our front page contains some welcome news for Fife and for Burntisland in particular. Local traders should reap the benefits of the busy local "yard" over the next three years and hopefully beyond.

On page 10 Alex McDonald, the Chairman of our Community Council (BCC) summarises a number of controversial issues which have concerned the town over the past few years. Some have led to heated public argument and acrimonious exchanges in the mass media, particularly social networking sites. Recognising the need for more meaningful communications between BCC and local residents, Alex set up a sub-committee to examine the problem. In his column he expands on the measures that BCC now proposes to implement in an attempt to improve dialogue with the public at large. For this initiative to succeed there must be a two way exchange of ideas between the BCC and all sectors of the community. To cease communication because of disagreement achieves nothing.

The Buzz, which is under no obligation to support BCC, should be an important component in this initiative. Use us! Give us your views, opinions and ideas and we will publish them, to be read by every household in the town and beyond.

On a completely different tack, Burntisland Shipyard AFC have made an encouraging start to the season in the East of Scotland League. Of particular note however, have been the impressive performances of the Under -14s who are unbeaten after four games and sit proudly at the top of Division 1 of the Fife Football Development League.

It is completely unacceptable that during the winter months, the senior and junior players will have to travel to Cowdenbeath for training because of lack of facilities in the town.

A substantial sum has been set aside for a multi purpose, all-weather sports facility adjacent to the Beacon Centre. When will this project become a reality? In this period of austerity, if the money is not used it could be diverted to a project elsewhere in Fife.

Finally, I would draw attention to the announcement on page 17 in respect of Remembrance Day services on 11th November.

Plans are at an advanced stage to refurbish the war memorial and its surrounds. Hopefully this refurbishment will be completed by the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War in 2014.

Nevertheless, the memorial remains a stark reminder of those brave soldiers from Burntisland who gave their lives in the service of their country.

We have a duty to attend and remember them.

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 on the town notice board and in the Library. A summary of issues raised during the last three meetings is set out below.

Community Council bullets

- Bruce Stuart has been elected to fill the vacancy on the Community Council arising from the resignation of Martin McDonald.
- The Binn footpath from Cowdenbeath Road has been repaired and re-opened.
- An objection was lodged to the planning application for an Eco Village at the Widow's Land. The reasons were poor access from Kirkcaldy Road, possible impact on ground stability, and the visual impact of the proposed design.
- The balance of funding for the War Memorial project is being sought from Fife Environment Trust and also the War Memorials Trust. The rough tarmac area next to the War Memorial will also be landscaped and significantly improved if funds permit.
- Advice and information on issues relating to older people can be obtained from the Fife Elderly Forum (www.fife-elderly.org.uk).
- ExxonMobil will sponsor the attendance by local senior citizens to the Lochgelly Centre for this year's pantomime. They will also sponsor a Burns Lunch in January.
- Fife Council have denied that they need permission from the Court to use Common Good land for the site of the new school. They also appear to have disregarded guidelines which say that the intention to grant planning consent must be notified to the Scottish Ministers. According to the guidelines, the Community Council and other bodies will be able to make further representations to Fife Council and to the Scottish Ministers before a final decision is taken.
- There is concern over the condition of land at 147/149 Kinghorn Road, which is in private ownership and is an eyesore. Communication will be opened with both Fife Council and the landowner.
- There are concerns over safety and environment at the Palais Steps, the Shipyard Steps and the Rossend archway. All will be referred to Fife Council.
- The Police have reported a high rate of detection on crimes such as assault and vandalism. Police attention has also focused on High Street parking, speeding and underage drinking.

Elected Fife Councillors' Availability

Councillor George Kay

Telephone 01592 874920

Email: Cllr.George.Kay@fife.gov.uk

Councillor 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

Councillor Peter George

Telephone 01592 583101

Burntisland Surgery - Last Saturday of the month
10.00 - 10.30 am in the Toll Centre

(excepting July)

The Burgh Potts

By Sergeant Ross Davidson



Where does the time go? In the last Buzz I spoke of plans for the summer activities and the like and we are now looking at Autumn initiatives, plans for bonfire night and the forthcoming Christmas market.

We are currently focusing on youth disorder and underage drinking in the town and although not yet a major problem, we are tackling it on two fronts. All the off-license premises in the town have been visited and proprietors reminded of their responsibilities regarding the sale of alcohol. They were advised of potential Test Purchase operations in the area. Both plain clothes and high visibility patrols have been deployed in areas highlighted to us by members of the community. In the first weekend alone, over of 15 youths were found in possession of alcohol and a substantial amount of drink was seized. Warning letters have been sent to the parents of these youths.

With the clock change at the end of October we would advise residents not to leave their homes in darkness as it is a clear indication that the premises may be unoccupied. To raise awareness of simple crime prevention measures, over the next few weeks, local community Officers will be present at the Beacon Centre to offer advice.

A security marking clinic at the Police Station over the Christmas holidays will allow local kids to have their bikes, mobile phones etc. marked with a security code to deter potential thefts. Details of this will be circulated through the local schools prior to the Christmas break.

We continue to act positively to problems raised at Community Engagement Meetings. These have primarily concerned Youth Disorder/Anti-Social Behaviour and Road Traffic Issues.

Youth Disorder/Anti Social Behaviour:

Positive inroads have been made in tackling drinking and social disorder by youths at the Broomhill Viewpoint and surrounding area. We would urge you to report any similar problems so that we can take appropriate action.

Road Traffic:

Parking and speeding continue to be areas of concern in Burntisland. Local Community Officers and Community Traffic Wardens have conducted speed surveys in problem areas and numerous fixed penalty tickets have been issued in respect of dangerous/inconsiderate parking. If you have any traffic related problems that you feel we can assist with, either contact the Police Station or come along to your next Community Engagement Meeting which will take place as follows:

Wednesday 12th November 2012 @ 7.30 pm – Toll Centre,

I hope you will take the opportunity to come along and give us your views, concerns and ideas on how we can assist you in making your local area a safer more pleasant place in which to live.

Non-emergency contact number : 0845 600 5702

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 Secretaries	Gordon Langlands/Zoe Williamson	
Members	Christine Dewar	Tim Hailey
	Neil Millsop	Bruce Stuart
	Morag Douglas	Gary Cummins
	Ian McKenzie	John Bruce
	Ed Pybus	

**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	

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: billvida@sealscraig.plus.com

Items for the Winter 2013 Issue by 15th January 2013 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).
e-mail: alex_mac@btinternet.com



Burntisland School News

By Carolyn Bell

Burntisland Primary School has had an action-packed start to the new academic year. Our Primary 7 pupils have begun learning Modern Languages with teachers from Balwearie High School. They come out once a week to teach French and Spanish.

Primary 7D have been enjoying weekly session at the Beacon where they have had the opportunity to try different health and fitness activities. Primary 7M have begun their taster sessions at Burntisland Bowling club where they are developing new skills and enjoying learning in the community. Some of our Primary 6 pupils have been learning golf this term with Burntisland Golf Club and we are very much looking forward to this continuing.



This year we have several new after school clubs established in conjunction with Active Schools. We now have a Netball club on Mondays which has proved to be very popular. We have a Dance club every Tuesday and Hockey each Thursday. Mr McGourty and Mr Barclay are continuing the Football club every Wednesday. We have also enjoyed taster sessions of football and hockey provided by Active Schools and these sessions have inspired some of our pupils to try new sports. P4P will join other schools in October to participate in the Sky Community Games in Pitreavie. Pupils will have the opportunity to learn skills and try new sports such as volleyball, archery and athletics.



An Environmental Debate

We were lucky enough to have a visit from author Stuart Reid, who gave entertaining and motivating talks about his books. We are looking forward to working with him again later this year.

Our infant classes have taken a trip to Fairyland this term and some of our P1 and P2 pupils actually met three real fairies! They held a sing along and went on a fairytale hunt around the school. Next term our Primary 2's will be visiting Rossend Castle as part of their Fairyland project.



The Co-op Opening

the start of next term and will welcome back M & M Productions who will be performing Pinocchio for all pupils.

This term the whole school has had a reading focus, with each class choosing a novel as the basis of their class project. This has seen classes exploring the oceans in 'Why the Whales Came', investigating the environment and debating important issues through 'Stig of the Dump', researching Japanese culture through 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and much more. P5/6 had a very exciting visit from a chef who introduced them to some Japanese cuisine. We have also had our annual visit from the book fair in September and would like to thank everyone who came to help organise this event. The entries for our book fair competition this year were of a very high



A Patriotic Pirate Ship

Our P3 classes have been studying all their curricular areas linked to the theme of Pirates. In maths they have been learning co-ordinates and mapping while literacy work has been focussed on creating wanted posters, character descriptions and reading for information. They have also designed their own pirate ships.

P4B were invited to the grand opening of the new Co-op store in Dollar Road, Burntisland. The pupils cut the ribbon to officially open the new store and each pupil was gifted with a bag of goodies for attending.

Next term Primary 5 will enjoy global music sessions with the Youth Music Initiative. We will be having an Active Travel focus at



Early Start Club launched.

Do you ever need pre-school care for your children?

BOSS (Burntisland Out of School Service) is delighted to announce the launch of its Early Start Club. This Club runs from 7.45 – 9am on school days and is available for all children who attend Burntisland Primary School.

Our qualified, experienced staff provide fun and games at the Toll Centre then walk the children along to school in time for the start of the school day. Children can be booked into the Club on a regular basis or you can just use the Club when you need it – you only need to give us a couple of days' notice that you would like a place.

If you would like to know more about the Early Start Club then contact us via email, or our Facebook page, or pop into the Toll Centre any weekday afternoon for a chat with the BOSS Manager Morag Gall, or phone Morag on 01592 872854.

As a non-profit making organisation BOSS is always on the lookout for ways to raise funds so we can keep the cost of our services as low as possible for our users. We are currently joining forces with the Toll Centre and the Playgroup to produce a recipe book that is aimed at children cooking with their parents. The book should be available by the end of November. Children who attend BOSS and the Playgroup have helped with the illustrations in the book and so far it's looking great. We will advertise it when it's ready for sale – I'm sure it would make a lovely Christmas present!

The Parent Council

The Parent Council is made up of volunteer parents of any of the pupils who attend the Burntisland Primary School. At our meetings we also have local councillors, teaching staff and a representative from the community council.

Although one of the main aims of the Parent Council is fund raising, we also help out with school initiatives and local projects..

This year the Council is looking at;

- (i) Assisting the school to obtain its Fair Trade approval
- (ii) Implementing Bikeability (the new cycling proficiency) and assisting the school attain its Cycle Friendly School Award.
- (iii) Helping on the consultation for the new play park on the Links

The Council fund raising, through fares, sponsored events, and last year a quiz and comedy night and a zumberthon, goes towards providing additional activities for

the children. The Christmas Fare (see below) will be paying for a Christmas Pantomime to visit the school. We are also looking at Generation Science team to visit the school next year, to provide some fun and hands on learning.

The Parent Council is always seeking new volunteer parents, to engage in the local community and help where it can.

Approval of Planning Permission for New School

The parent council is obviously very happy that the planning application has been approved. We know that the East Toll Park was not everyone's preferred location, however everyone has agreed the need for a new school. Now is the time for the parent council, the community council and the Burntisland community to come together and deliver a school that is both fit for purpose and is aesthetically pleasing.

Ben Barron – Chair of the Parent Council

BURNTISLAND OVER 70'S CHRISTMAS TREAT

Lunch this year will be in The Kingswood Hotel on Saturday 8th December 2012, 12 noon for 12.30 start. Attendees MUST live in Burntisland and draw their pension here.

Anyone requiring transport should contact Frances Allan on 01592 872092 or The Star on 01592 871313 with their name, address and telephone number. Pick up points and times will be notified at a later date.

Precious Possessions are to raffle off a special edition of Monopoly which includes Burntisland Streets and Businesses. The proceeds will go to the Over Seventies Christmas Treat. Raffle tickets can be bought in Precious Possessions up to 20th December and the draw will take place on the 21st December, what a Christmas Gift to give.

The Christmas Treat is a long standing tradition in Burntisland running well on 90 years and over that time has evolved into the fantastic event that it is today. Unfortunately some of our committee have aged with this event and now attend in their own right rather than as a volunteer and our numbers are shrinking. With this in mind we are now looking for some younger blood with new ideas and enthusiasm to keep the tradition alive. If you are interested in joining us please contact Frances Allan on 01592 872092.



Burntisland Primary Christmas Fair

24th November 1-3

Meet Santa! Pic and present available


Christmas Hamper raffle

Biscuit Decorating

Cake & Candy

Nail Bar and Tattoos

Chocolate Tombola

Hook the 

Hoopla

Roll the 10p

Other Stalls



Tea, Coffee and Juice

50p entry for Adults/Kids Free

Re-Usable School Bags Available £3

Proceeds go towards a pantomime for the children

The Castle-ites

Peter George was born and bred in Burntisland. He was raised 'up the Castle'.

"The Castle", as it is known locally, is Burntisland's original council housing scheme. Fanned around Rossend Castle and built in phases from the mid 1920's to 1937, it consists of well built, spacious dwellings, many with bay windows, large gardens and most with stunning views. Big families, unlocked doors, a close and supportive community; the busy, noisy shipyard flanking the south side and on the north the productive Aluminium works, both giving regular employment. This was the culture Peter grew up in from the late 40's. when gas lighting was still the norm, electricity not reaching the Castle until 1950. Peter can still describe with absolute precision the replacing of gas mantles bought from Stephenson's at the bottom of the High Street.



Peter (2nd from left) & family

Childhood is remembered vividly as being divided into the seasons which dictated outdoor play. *Spring and Summer* - home from school, hardly stopping to change into play clothes or eat, in the rush to meet other Castle-ites at Rossend Point. Hours of football on the makeshift pitch, or cricket, until players peeled off in response to calls from mothers' for bed. On the balmy nights that prevailed women would meet at the Point, to gossip and watch over younger children. Peter and his 'gang' had an extensive playground. They learned to swim at Starleyburn and spent hours up the Bluebell woods on the south side of Easter Heughs. A game they called Levoy had two teams each trying to capture members of the opposing team and bring them to the home base at the Castle. The 'catch' area spread from Starleyburn round to the Golf course, Lammerlaws and home. Each game could last a week. Endless football included painting goal post on a high wall down from the Castle Stables. A plastic 'football' would be kicked to destruction where upon pennies and tuppences were pooled to purchase a replacement for 9d. There was always a half crown to be earned at the shows doing some job or other. Under the leadership of Provost Livingstone, boys from the Castle would load benches onto the local coal merchant's lorries, to and from the various church halls, to the Highland Games arena, earning another 2/6.

Harry Crawford of the Castle Tenants

Association would organise an annual mystery tour when six full buses including many eager children would inevitably end up in Alva and Anstruther.

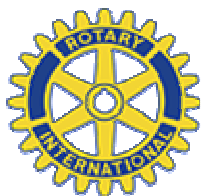
Winter - brought snow and dare-devil sledging on the 'Coo hill' to Haugh Road. Break-neck sledging was saved for the fearless on a custom made ice track from the Monk's Walk, down Dury Park and Rossend Gardens, packing snow into the few steps to smooth and speed the route. "How no one ever got seriously hurt....." Remembered too, the adult size see saw in the play park beside Rossend Castle (a hotel until the late 50's). Up to six children could fill each end of the board, with the one on the end clinging on for dear life to avoid being catapulted off when the other end thumped down on the unprotected ground. "How no one ever....."

Then there was the gang hut, down the slippery slope above the shipyard, where they had a pot belly stove and every comfort "short of wallpaper".

A spectacular bonfire at Rossend Point was zealously guarded against any rival area's attempt to torch before Nov 5th while they in turn tried to destroy the rival's.



Looking at the wildlife from Ross Point - today!



Burntisland and Kinghorn Rotary Club

This year, the club celebrates its 30th Anniversary. Founded in 1982, its first president was Walter Anderson, who is still an active member. The Club meets on Tuesday evenings at the Sands Hotel. B + K is active in all areas of Rotary service - in the community, vocationally and internationally. Over the years, the club has distributed in excess of £200,000 to projects locally and worldwide. The traditional Charity Shop has this year again raised some £3000.

The award-winning 'Rotary Rambles' programme of walks with Kinghorn and Burntisland's Primary 4 children, starting in November and continuing in April, will be in its ninth year. As many as 90 children a year benefit from outdoor exercise, map reading and appreciation of their local environment and heritage. Concerts, plant sales, dinners and raffles all contribute to fundraising, and allow the club to continue supporting CHAS, as well as many other local and national charities.

This year alone, some £5460 has been disbursed in aid of the Primary Schools Quiz programme, the Burns Poetry Competition, Fife Young Carers, Gala Weeks and Senior Citizens' Christmas parties and many other deserving local causes. The weekly Speaker programme offers a platform for all organisations and individuals with an interesting story to share. The Club remains committed to service of all sorts both locally and internationally.



The Scottish Blood Transfusion Service has written to thank all those Burntisland donors who gave of their time (and blood) at the donor session in Burntisland on 3rd September. A total of 123 people attended the session of whom 104 donated. Six donors earned their bronze

awards for 10 donations whilst Jason Donovan was awarded silver for 25 donations.

It was a truly magnificent effort from Burntisland donors but according to the following letter, there appears to be a requirement for the Blood Transfusion Service to review its operating procedures or regular donors may become reluctant to continue to give their support:

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my disappointment with the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service. Myself and my wife attended the session on 3rd September in Burntisland.

On arriving, we had to wait in a queue thinking, this is great, a very good turn out. Wrong! We were advised that they were trying out a new system involving donors filling out questionnaires at home having received them beforehand by post. This system appeared to be slower.

Eventually we were seated but waited 45 minutes to give a sample. My wife was called first and eventually emerged to tell me that we could not give blood as we had recently returned from a holiday in Turkey where there had been an outbreak of Nile Flu.

We both appreciate the reason for this refusal but why did we have to wait for over an hour before we discovered we could not donate? Even a simple notice at the entrance would have been sufficient.

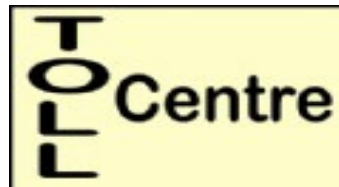
As for the new system, it does not work! A neighbour left her two young children with a friend and was really worried about them as she spent over an hour and a half giving blood.

In our opinion, eight donor beds are insufficient. We were also informed that by the end of the session prospective donors were being turned away. This situation is totally unacceptable and cannot be allowed to continue.

Name and address supplied.

The Blood Transfusion Service has been informed verbally of the comments contained in this letter and will be furnished with a printed copy of this issue of the Buzz.

Ed..



.....Update

The Toll centre has been alive with community these last few months with new faces joining in the variety of clubs on offer, building work and refurbishment, new staff members and many ideas and projects we hope to be initiating in the near future. Here is some of what is going on at the moment.

We would like to welcome Burntisland Shipyard Under 9's group who will start to use the Toll Centre hall as their winter training area from late October this year.

Tuesday Kids club is going from strength to strength. Come along if you're primary 2, 3 or 4 for some fun, games, craft and laughter. Cost is £1 per child with tuck shop available.

Junior Youth Club for Primary 5, 6, 7 children runs from 18:30 to 20:00 tonight. Cost is £1 per child, new members very welcome. Tuck shop available.

Friday night it is The Music Project for secondary school pupils from 18:45-21:15. Cost is also £1, new members welcome.

The Senior Youth club for secondary school pupils is at the Toll Centre on Monday evenings from 6:45pm to 8:45pm. £1 entry, tuck shop available - feel free to join in.

Have you signed up for the Toll Centre 50/50 club? Payments will be arriving in our account today from all those who have joined ready for our first months draw. Winners will be announced later in the month. This is a monthly cash prize draw so you can still join up for future months and to be ready to take part in our Christmas bonus prize draw.

The Opportunities Fife Job Club runs at the Toll Centre each Friday morning from 10:00 to 12:30 (access via the rear of the building). This is available to everyone so please do come along. You will find helpful, supportive and practical advice on jobs and opportunities. Support is available on CV writing, application submissions, information on training, newspapers and free internet access for job searches. Individuals appointments out with these times are also available. Contacts are Ian Bowles 07904 303688 or Alison Hamilton 07507 668239

We would also like to extend a big thank you to Archway Metals for the new gate to the garden, it was a very generous donation and gratefully received! Also a thank you to the builders who installed the new door in the hall, they kindly gave up their weekends to avoid any disruption to our usual program.

The centre is now home to a new Tai Chi class on a Tuesday afternoon 1.45pm to 2.45pm - cost of £4. Tai Chi is a low impact exercise that offers both mind and body benefits. Come along for some meditation in motion.

And lastly we'd like to let you know about a fundraising Recipe Book being organised jointly by users of the Toll centre. Perhaps if you have a favourite recipe you'd like to share - something local, something traditional or something to warm the cockles in winter you could email the tollcentre@gmail.com.

The Way We Were!

The Toll Centre is planning a trip down memory lane and wants to put together a display of photos and memories about times past at the Toll. If you have any photos, stories or information which would help then please bring this along to the Toll Centre or speak to Karen Allan.

Our own Author - *Hamish Brown*

Burntisland is the home to one of Scotland's most notable authors and photographers of non-fictional works, Hamish Brown. He has lived in Kinghorn and Burntisland all his adult life – when not roaming to the mountainous ends of the earth. Not that home territory is forgotten with his guidebooks, “25 Walks, Fife” and “Exploring the Fife Coastal Path”, full of information.

His other guidebooks in print (or available from him) at present are “25 Walks Skye and Kintail” and “Exploring the Edinburgh to Glasgow Canals”. More recently two lavishly illustrated books (he takes all the photographs) are fascinating in many ways. “The oldest Post Office in the World (and other Scottish Oddities)” – in which our nearest is the Kirkcaldy museum's collection of furniture made of coal and the furthest away a bus stop on Unst arrayed with couch, computer and other comforts. “A Scottish Gravestones Miscellany” covers all you could wonder about! Did you know, in West Wemyss, there is a stone to a boy who died on April 31st, or what about George Ramsay, near Montrose who was “born 1859 and died 1840”?



Relaxing in his Links Place home



A selection of Hamish's books

Hamish of course sprung to prominence with his first book, “Hamish's Mountain Walk”, the story of his first continuous walk over all the Munros. “Climbing the Corbetts” more simply describes days on those hills and Hamish's Goats End Walk was the first ever foot – link of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, Snowdon and Carrauntoohill, while walking the country end to end. All three have been stylishly reissued with great colour pictures.

“The Mountains Look on Marrakech tells the story of another epic trek of 96 days and a thousand miles from one end of the Atlas Mountains to the other, becoming an instant classic on everything to do with the Berber people of Morocco's mountains. Recently, the Cicerone Press have published Hamish's “The Atlas Mountains” which narrates experiences on the biggest and best in the ranges with superb illustrations.

Hamish has edited several volumes of poetry and had several collections of his own published (a small booklet, [Achnashellach](#) is still available) and is also known as a story teller (several have appeared in the Buzz of course). He edited two volumes from the 27 books by Scotland's first photographer naturalist: “Seton Gordon's Scotland” and “Seton Gordon's Cairngorms” and is now putting together a Tom Weir anthology.

Hamish maintains interests locally and is an honorary member of the Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club. His writings have brought him honorary degrees from St Andrews University and the Open University and his pioneering work in outdoor education an MBE. Most of his books are available from local libraries but Hamish says he will happily autograph and sell copies if he can be caught at home. Give him a call if interested 873546 and meet the Buzz author.

A Chance Encounter in the Greek Islands

Some 2000 nautical miles from Burntisland, Andy and Jinti Wight-Boycott (creators of the Buzz) and their Australian relations round a headland and prepare to anchor their yacht “Selkie Dancer”, port of registration – Burntisland, off the Greek island of Moni for lunch. The anchorage is crowded so they drop the anchor close to the stern of another yacht and drop back. The chosen yacht is Angeliki, Norwegian flagged and its port of registration – surely not – is Flekkefjord! Well before you know it the two yachts are alongside and the talk is of probability and town twinning. Although neither Andy nor Jinti have been to Flekkefjord, they are delighted to meet Arnt Ivar Bjorneli, Anne Janet Bjorneli, Michal Solli and Christina Omland. Arnt, Angeliki's skipper, is a ship owner (M/V Stina) and broker and has known Burntisland and Scotland for 20 years. His cargos include Flekkefjord granite to Burntisland, Swedish timber to Perth and Inverkeithing and marble from Spain to Montrose. Lunch over, the yachts part, crews delighted at the chance encounter and opportunity to make the twinning of Burntisland and Flekkefjord more personal.

Left to right on Angeliki, Arnt obscured by the bimini, Anne holding out the Norwegian flag; on Selkie Dancer, John Woodhead in dark glasses, Christina Woodhead behind the wheel, Andy Wight-Boycott holding out the Red Ensign and, not shown, Jinti Wight-Boycott behind the camera.



A Town in Contrast

A new DVD based on the theme of the 2011 Burntisland Heritage Exhibition has been produced. The exhibition had as its subject the old Burntisland contrasted with the present day town. The displays had much to interest and catch the imagination. Now many of the images used in the exhibition have been incorporated in a DVD, complete with a musical soundtrack.

Over 150 images are included, with many black and white photographs of old Burntisland. The locations shown in the old black and white photographs have been re-photographed in colour from the same vantage point and these new images are also on the DVD. The old and new images together show many changes in the Burgh. Alcan has been completely cleared; the docks are bereft of cargo vessels and acres of new housing have been built since the Second World War. Then again the view east along Kinghorn Road from the Bowling Green has hardly changed in 100 years, give or take a few motor cars. There is much to stir memories. The final five minutes give a snapshot of Burntisland as it is today. Its coastline and views from the Binn provide an attractive backdrop for a town with a rich and diverse heritage combined with proud community spirit.

The DVD was originally intended for use in the summer exhibition; however, by popular request, it is now available for sale. All proceeds from the sale of this DVD will be used to further the Trust's work in protecting and promoting Burntisland's heritage.

The DVD and many other Heritage publications are available from Burntisland Heritage at 4 Kirkgate. See below:

A Worthy Campaign

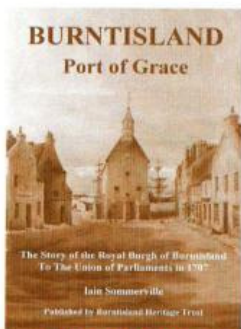
Caroline Cunningham, an employee of the former David Sands Store at the Kirkton, has recently embarked on a campaign to raise funds for two young Kirkcaldy relatives, Rebeka (12) and Megan (10) Rae who had suddenly developed rare forms of cancer. Through her fund raising activities which included a raffle and a fun day in Buckhaven, Caroline has raised almost £3,000.00 for the family.

The St Colm Cork Lodge, the "Corkies", a side degree of Freemasonry held in the Burntisland Lodge donated the proceeds (£300) from a "Fun Night" to Caroline's campaign.

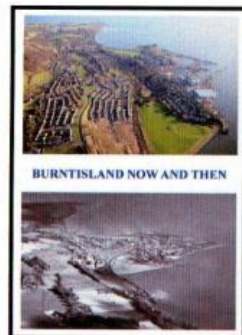
The sisters are both reported to be responding to treatment.



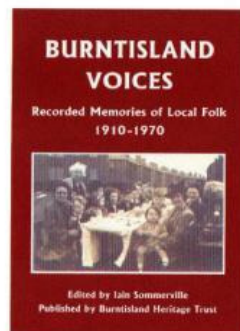
"Corkie" John Stevens presenting a cheque to Emma Tough of Davis Sands Store



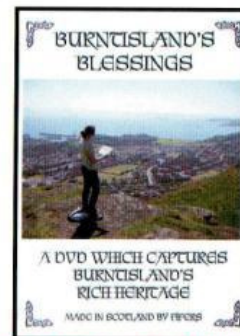
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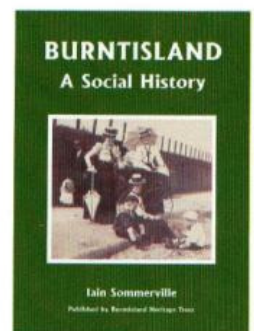
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First produced in VHS in
2001 now re-mastered as
a DVD **£6**



£11.95

Burntisland Heritage were hoping to be open prior to Christmas for sales and the final opportunity to see the 2012 exhibition featuring the work of Andrew Young. Unfortunately this is no longer possible due to the closure of the Burgh Chambers and on-going works.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF HERITAGE BOOKS AND DVDs,

Burntisland Christmas card and calendar

All items available from Spiritual Oasis

113-115 High Street

Burntisland

For further details on items available please see www.burntisland.net/heritage-trust-publications.htm.

Your voice ...

The furore over the Toll Park as a site for the new school is not going to go away.

The silent chimes of the town clock exposed a fiasco at the heart of decision-making.

The clock tower of the Burgh Chambers is suddenly found to be dangerous.

Common Good properties were once protected by formal leases which have been allowed to lapse.

Planning guidelines from the Scottish Government appear to be ignored.

In the Community Council's view, public consultation should be full and frank. When it's done properly, we should all be able to see the result and accept it, even though we may disagree with the outcome.

We're convinced that proper consultation on each of the above topics would have avoided much anger. Even better, it would have allowed all of us to look positively to the future rather than spend fruitless days, weeks and months trying to undo the errors of the past.

We can't force Fife Council or other agencies to consult in a meaningful way. However, we can set an example ourselves. With your help and co-operation, we will do exactly that.

We welcome people who have a view to express, whether at our regular monthly meetings in the Burgh Chambers or occasional public meetings in the Parish Church Hall.

However, we want more. We want to capture local opinion quickly, clearly and often, so that our own decisions can be responsive to the changing circumstances which surround us.

So here's where we need your help.

In addition to monthly or public meetings, we will hold surgeries where two members of the Community Council will listen to your views. You can have a discussion, away from the formality of an open forum, knowing that your comments will be taken into account in the more formal debates. Location, times and dates will be published in the Burgh Buzz.

We will also ask questions from time to time of everyone in our community. We will pose those questions through the Burgh Buzz and we ask for your support in responding fully.

We will ask the same questions via our website and in other ways so that people can respond in a way which suits them.

We will do what we can to analyse the responses from all of these different sources and present an overall picture. In so doing, we will take steps to ensure fairness and accuracy.

This is only a starting point, but the process will begin with the next issue of the Burgh Buzz.

We'll be asking a series of questions designed to capture your views. However, we'd also like to have your comments on any topic at any time. So if there is a topic right now which is important to you please let us know. Contact details are below.

Alex MacDonald alex_mac@btinternet.com or Tel 01592 873314

.....

Closure of Toilets will Damage our Town

By Amy Dickson

With the possibility of the public toilets on the Links closing, Burntisland is just one of many towns in Fife to lose a vital public service which Fife council should provide. So we find ourselves asking – what will be done to compensate the loss of these crucial facilities? The council believes that a 'Comfort break' scheme would work. This is where local businesses are paid a small fee from the council to allow the general public the use of their toilets. This is supposed to encourage visitors to use the businesses facilities such as having a sit down meal in a café or a few drinks in a pub. This scheme may sound beneficial to all but why should local businesses allow a lot of tourists say on a busy summer day to use their loos and make a mess without paying to use those facilities?

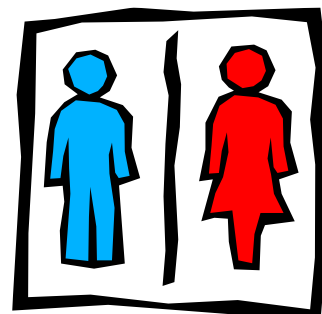
Not only does this scheme encourage people to use the toilets without paying for what the business provides but it will also encourage children to trudge in and out and mothers to bring in toddlers and babies to the facilities when there are perfect working order toilets just one minute from the town's High street.

This would also bring us onto the fact of the toilet building that is currently in use – a perfectly working and clean and sanitary toilet building. The building is in great condition so wouldn't it be an extreme waste to leave it sitting abandoned when it could still be used?

I would understand if the condition of the toilets was in great disrepair and it would cost too much to bring it back to required standards but it is not so I don't see why Burntisland should lose such a valuable feature from our bustling tourist industry from the fair and the coastal path trekkers.

Fife Council given an assurance that the public toilets will not be closed until other arrangements have been made.

However, I believe that the provision of public toilets by Fife Council is a public service similar to bin collections for which we pay rates. This essential amenity should not be withdrawn.



BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED

If you are interested in promoting Burntisland as a destination for local and tourist visitors to spend time enjoying all of our amenities and local organisations please join **BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED**.

Plans are well under way to hold a **Christmas Market** in Union Street on the 2nd of December. Come and enjoy carol singers, trader's stalls, hot chestnuts, mulled wine, Santa's grotto and much, much more. Take up the opportunity to sell and demonstrate your business or organisation on the day and at future events by becoming a member of **BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED**.

Membership of **BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED** is open to any shop, business or organisation based in Burntisland. Individuals can become *Friends of BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED*.

THE BENEFITS...

For businesses

- Entry into the **BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED** Directory
- Shared promotional events and advertising
- Membership Logo sticker
- Have your say. Businesses are required to attend at least three of planned bi-monthly meetings.

For organisations

- Take part in community events
- Raise funds
- Raise profile in the community
- Have your say. Organisation representatives are required to attend pre-event meetings.

For *Friends of BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED*

- Membership e-letter giving advance notice of events and offers
- An opportunity to give something back to the community by volunteering at events and taking part.

On the 4th of September the **BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED** committee was elected and constitution drawn up. The committee is as follows:

Chair: Tracy Mckendrick, Vice Chair: Bruce Stuart, Secretaries: Bruce Stuart, Sarah Stuart, and Lorna Duffin, Minute Secretary: Iain Mckendrick and Fundraiser: Morag Douglas.

Application forms to join **BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED** can be obtained from Lee Christie at the Post Office.

Business membership costs £30, Organisation membership £20 and *Friends of BURNTISLAND UNLIMITED* £5.

To book your stall for the **Christmas Market** contact Tracy Mckendrick at Tikasam.



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Starley Hall's Generous Donations

The Buzz's own Linda Briscoe was privileged to attend a recent function at Starley Hall School. Here is her account of a wonderful experience.

We were invited to attend a special assembly at Starley Hall, where the pupils were presenting money they had raised for two of their chosen charities. Ann Murray welcomed us and explained how the young people have an ongoing programme of sponsored activities to raise money for a variety of causes, to which they all contribute in different ways, by sponsored bike rides, swims, a walk over the Forth Road Bridge, baking, jam-making and any other ideas that they come up with.



Pupil of the Week

She then introduced John Halliwell to tell us a bit about Mary's Meals. He gave some examples of individual children in India, Liberia and Malawi who have been supported by the provision of a daily school meal. He then showed us a photo of his grand-daughter, who it transpired is Martha of the famous 'No Seconds' Blog which has raised such amazing amounts of money for Mary's Meals. He used her story as a clear example to the young people of how a simple action can have such positive results for so many people in need. He was then presented with a cheque for £300, which he told us would be enough to provide a school dinner for 30 children for a year. The young people also handed over an impressive number of backpacks containing basic items to support children in attending school and giving them an opportunity to improve their lives.

The next guest was Ken Hunter from the local Rotary Club, who explained the work done to provide Shelterboxes for any part of the world where natural disasters leave people homeless and unable to provide everyday necessities for their families. Each Shelterbox contains a tent, a stove, basic tools and cooking implements, water purification kits and essential emergency items to help people survive in desperate situations. Starley Hall had previously collected enough to provide a box and the young people were able to trace where it had been used. They now presented a cheque for £500, almost enough to fund another Shelterbox.

The assembly was concluded with a lively and entertaining address from Provost Jim Lieshman, who took the opportunity to praise the hard work and caring attitude of the young people and to encourage them to make positive choices as they faced whatever challenges lay ahead. He also presented a 'Pupil of the Week' certificate to a rather embarrassed young lady. His talk was very well received and his 'blingage' (Lord Provost's Chain!) was closely inspected.



Ken's Thanks



A Group Presentation



Provost's Lawn Bowls Technique!

It was most heartening to see the young people, who have not had an easy start in life, so responsive and eager to make a real effort to help others and to see their efforts recognised and encouraged. Starley Hall currently has 16 resident pupils, and others who attend as day-pupils. They have three houses in the local community where ex-pupils, at college or in work-experience, are supported by fulltime staff whilst they find their feet and learn the skills they will need for independent living within a community.



by **Scott Sweaton**

Our floral displays peaked at the beginning of August but by mid-September they had had enough of one of the wettest summers ever on record! Our volunteers continued to water and dead head them once a week but the hanging baskets on the High Street were taken down in early October. The soil and plants have been taken to the Broomhill Community Garden to be converted into compost for use next year. There will be some winter planting carried out in the remaining planters within the town during November.

You would presume that now the summer is over our volunteers would get a bit of a rest, think again! We have lots of bulb planting going on, starting with the boat at Cromwell Road. Pupils from P2-4 will be coming to help us plant daffodil bulbs. This is the start of a link established between FAB and Burntisland Primary School and it is envisaged that the Cromwell Boat Project will continue into the spring when bedding plants will be ready for planting. FAB volunteers will also be helping the pupils with winter planters in the school grounds. At the end of October the Scouts will be planting daffodil bulbs on the grass area between Kirkcaldy Road and Leith Avenue.

Great news! - our volunteer numbers are up to 15. We held a successful coffee morning at St Josephs Church on Saturday 6th October raising £446. It was a very enjoyable morning which included a tombola and guess how many bulbs were in the jar? In addition there was a hand-crafted jewellery stall and a cake demonstration by Mrs Attie's cakes. Thank you to all of those who supported us on the day.



Anyone for Tea?

Also, we have already won an award this year through Beautiful Scotland. We have achieved a 'Developing' result within the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' scheme. Two of the volunteers from FAB will attend the awards ceremony in Stirling at the end of October.

Next year FAB will be entering competitions, including Beautiful Fife and plans for improving the entrances to the town are moving forward.

As always we can only achieve our vision with the ongoing support of our volunteers. If you can spare a couple of hours a month we want to hear from you. Contact us via email or phone on

floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk or 07500134920.



First Aid update....

By

Alex MacDonald

It has been an interesting summer. We saw fairies dancing at the side of Kinghorn Loch on a glorious day. We also saw riders trying to stay mounted as their horses coped with the wind, rain (and sometimes sunshine) atop a hill at Glenfarg.

However, that was then. We're now into our winter season. So our current schedule of events includes ice hockey, fireworks and student balls, as well as regular and one-off training.

It's tempting to focus on the here and now, but we also have bookings for events far ahead as next September. It's great to be in demand, but that means we also have to consider what equipment we need in order to do the best possible job.



We'll shortly be launching a fund-raising campaign to raise money for a new defibrillator.

It's a life-saving piece of kit, which is the only way of re-starting a heart which has stopped beating.

Our ambulance is always fully-equipped – including defibrillator - when it's attending an event. However, there have been several occasions in recent months when our members have covered up to 5 or 6 events in a single weekend. Clearly the ambulance can't be at all of them, but we still have to match the resources to the risk.

So we want to have a second defibrillator, which can be deployed with our second set of emergency kit. At around £2,500 it's not cheap, but it's the only thing that will work when it matters most.

Using a defibrillator is a key skill for all of our members and is taught in most of our public courses. It's a simple skill to learn and can be enhanced (in our Intermediate course) by the use of airways and oxygen. The latter are key topics for our January course, which is open to people who are already qualified in first aid but want to learn more. Enquiries – whether for courses or events - are always welcome to

alex_mac@btinternet.com or on 873314.





By

Dorothy Brankin

We've been fairly busy at the Museum (MoC) recently!..... A couple of years ago, we decided that we needed to raise general awareness of the MoC's presence in Fife. We have successfully achieved this, via our continuing outreach activities and very popular lecture programme, along with regular press releases and our new website – not to mention our own Facebook page and Twitter feeds.

In early September, MoC Chairman, Prof. Tom Stevenson and I (Dorothy Brankin), gave a very well received talk in the University of Aberdeen, as part of the prestigious British Science Festival. After a quick dash across town, we boarded the ferry for Kirkwall, where the Orkney Science Festival had been opened earlier in the day, by the great Jane Goodall.

A hectic week followed, during which we presented two Talks: '*Sun, Clouds and Inspiration*', that told the story of the great 19th century Orcadian scientist, Prof. Balfour Stewart and '*Dots, Dashes and Links through Stormy Seas*' which traced the progress of maritime communications from the 1780s to 2012 – with particular emphasis on Orkney's role in events.

Two of the items we took with us were of very particular interest to our audience in Kirkwall: an amazing 'World's First' horizontal hologram of the wreck of the *Royal Oak*, sunk in Scapa Flow by U-boat in the early days of WW2 and a Morse key salvaged from the battleship *Grosser Kurfurst*, scuttled in Scapa Flow in 1919. (The German Fleet was mustered at Inverkeithing, prior to being interned in Scapa Flow and after the salvage operation in the 1930s, many of the ships were broken up in Inverkeithing).

We displayed the hologram in Kirkwall Museum for several days and photographed the Morse key in the Stromness Museum, which has a large collection of relics from the scuttled German High Seas Fleet.

Back at the MoC in Burntisland, our 2012 exhibition '*Attention All Shipping*', officially closed at the end of September, after a successful summer run.

Our exhibition may be closed, but we're still 'Open for Business' in Burntisland!

- Our very popular Lecture Programme continues with the welcomed return visit of Geoffrey Stell, with '*Maritime Observation and Communication in Wartime Scapa Flow*' (Saturday, 17 November, 11.30 am.)
- '*Christmas Special*' with Prof. Aubrey Manning (Saturday, 15 December, 11.30 am)

For full details and to book a place at these events, please contact or phone 01506 823424.



News from the Fairways

by Alastair Maxwell

The 2012 season is coming to an end, but the usual, event filled Winter Season will keep the keen golfers swinging though those dry, crisp days (we hope!).

The growth area for golf in recent years has been the value seeking "nomadic" golfer who is looking for cheap deals of around £15-£20 a time. This puts pressure on golf clubs to recruit and retain members and here at BGHC, we feel strongly that we would like to restore the balance, and provide the best value for our members.

Accordingly, we have started a recruitment drive that offers new and existing members the opportunity to pay just £375 a year for membership. The offer is shown

The golf club is a community asset with excellent coaching facilities for juniors and adults alike so why not join/rejoin your local golf club and help to maintain its status as a prime leisure facility in the town?



Shipyard Football

By Andrew Beveridge

The club is now well into its first season in the East of Scotland League and things are going relatively as expected. The step up in standard is there for all to see with maybe one or two of our opponents not as good as the rest. In the League Cup section, the team gathered four points out of a possible twelve with the defeat of Gala Fairydean in our very first match being most notable. The 1-1 draw against Edinburgh City at Meadowbank Stadium was also a fine result and performance.

There was a major disappointment in the Scottish Cup losing heavily at Turriff United. It must be said though, what a fantastic set up they have with excellent modern facilities, a hard working committee and great backing from the local community.

The undoubted highlight of the season so far was the deserved 2-0 victory over an experienced Cowdenbeath side in the Fife Cup. The team played some great stuff that night and now play East Fife in the semi-final.

The Under 14s have started their season in great style winning three Scottish Cup ties and also remain unbeaten in the league. Great credit must go to the boys and the coaching team as not just the results but the quality of football has been first class. They are certainly setting a high standard that everyone at the club is very proud of.

Now that the dark nights are upon us, training has been switched to the Astroturf facilities in Cowdenbeath. It is really disappointing that we, Burntisland United and the 100+ youngsters that are attached to the Shipyard all have to move out of town to find suitable training facilities.

It is disgraceful that a town the size of Burntisland has no all weather pitches or for that matter grass pitches with floodlights, for the teams to train on especially with the Shipyard youth set-up close to gaining a prestigious "Quality Mark" standard.



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or

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BILL BAGS A PRESTIGIOUS BUSINESS AWARD

A young Burntisland businessman has recently scooped a prestigious award. Bill Hawthorne (25) was celebrating winning the runner up prize in the Fife Prince's Trust Youth Business Scotland Awards. Bill, who only 18 months ago, set up the successful and highly regarded BH Plumbing and Heating recognises the value of the local community. He regularly contributes towards and sponsors local events and organisations such as Civic Week, The Burgh Buzz, Floral Action Burntisland (FAB) and others. He has recently taken on an apprentice and hopes to expand his local business customers. More information can be found on his website:



bhplumbingandheating.co.uk

“Guy Fawkes Night on the Links”



Burntisland Events Group are hoping to eclipse last year's display by staging one of the largest fireworks events ever seen in Fife. The bonfire and fireworks display will take place

on November 5th, the 407th anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot. The event will feature the Radio Lollipop Family Roadshow, the lighting of the bonfire by the Summer Queen, Louise Lindsay, a performance by Burntisland Pipe Band, fairground rides and stalls selling glow sticks and refreshments.



The programme will start at 6.00 pm with the bonfire at 7.00 pm followed by the fireworks at 7.15 pm

A collection will be taken on the night to support the costs—please give generously.

Also note that sparklers are not permitted at the event for safety reasons.



Swimming Club Celebrates Double Success

Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club Girls gained 1st place in the Novice Leagues and the Boys came 2nd overall. Then recently, the annual friendly meet was held with Cardenden Amateur Swimming Club in which BASC retained the cup. Three cheers were given at the start of the friendly meet in memory of Bob Greenlees who passed away earlier in the year. Our best wishes go to CASC in growing their club and good luck to all their swimmers. We look forward to going to Cardenden next year.

In other competitions Callum MacDonald swam at the 'Stars of the Future' Meet, we also had swimmers at the Carnegie

Mini Sprints meet where almost all of the 8 swimmers (Andrew Thomson, Claire Thomson, Eireann Comrie, Catherine Comrie, Hayley Nimmo, Callum MacDonald, George Mansfield, Grace Mansfield) achieved PBs. Claire Thomson was placed 2nd in the 50m breast, while Catherine Comrie came 2nd in three of her races and came 3rd in the other three. Club records were broken by Andrew Thomson and Catherine Comrie while Claire Thomson broke 3 club records. PBs were achieved by Craig McLure and Hayley Nimmo at the Aquanauts Graded Meet. Eight club records were also broken at the Dunedin Meet and again another eight club records broken at the East District Time Trial all by Catherine Comrie and Claire Thomson, fantastic! Congratulations to all swimmers who took part and gained PB's.

The Novice League swimmers finished off the season at the Geordie Wotherspoon and the Fife League swimmers at the Fife Championships, both this year held at the Carnegie Leisure Centre due to the closure of the Fife Institute at Glenrothes.

Our masters section is continually expanding and there are now seven regular swimmers. Andy was the first BASC swimmer to complete the Forth Swim from south to north Queensferry, at one point finding himself right under the rail bridge. Yvonne completed the Clyde Swim from Kilcraggan to Greenock Esplanade for the sixth time in perfect sunny weather and flat calm! Three masters swimmers also regularly take part in triathlons.

Our swim camp at Stirling was a great success. Ten swimmers attended, staying at Stirling Youth Hostel. This was the first time for some swimmers in an olympic size pool - twice as long as normal! Five swim sessions were held over the weekend with some filming of swimmers which was then shown in a lecture room later. Stroke technique was discussed and Fife Performance Squad coach, John Dougal, took a session in the classroom and the pool. Free time allowed swimmers and helpers to see round Stirling Castle and I have heard that some shopping was fitted in too!

It is not all about swimming, the club had a Sunday morning at the Bowlplex in Dunfermline in September. A great time was had by all! At the time of writing we are close to the end of our year, Club Championships and the Presentation Night. Meanwhile, swimmers continue to enter competitions and break club records. Indeed, it has been a record year for breaking club records. We have some places across all age groups - drop us an email through the club web site if you would like to join us: if you are an ex club swimmer, join our masters section;

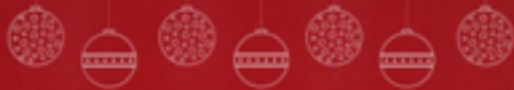
www.burntislandswimmingclub.co.uk/



Club captains Adam Shepherd and Laura Dow holding the cup after BASC won the Cardenden friendly gala.

Christmas at the Sands!

Bookings are now being taken for our festive menus



Christmas fayre starts Mon 3rd December until Sun 24th December 2012

Christmas Fayre Menu

Lunches served between 12:00-2:30
Evening served between 5:00-8:30
Two course meal: £18.75 (small £13.75)
Three course meal: £22.00 (small £18.50)

Christmas Eve

Food service 12-6pm

Christmas Day Luncheon

Service between 12-3pm, bar closes at 6pm
Adult: £35.00
Senior: £32.00
Child: £21.00 (8-15 years) £9.95 (up to 8 years)

Boxing Day

Bar 12-5pm (NO FOOD SERVICE AVAILABLE)

Hogmany

Bar 12-10pm, food 12-8:30pm

New Years Day

Food service - Hangover buffet breakfast 12-3pm, bar 12-5pm

All meals require a booking to secure a place, a non refundable deposit is required for parties of 12 people or more. Confirmation of numbers is required 24 hours before.

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Community Council**



Remembrance Day Ceremony

11th November 2012

Ex-Servicemen and Youth Organisations are requested to muster at the Fire Station at 10.00am and will parade at 10.15am to Erskine United Free Church.

Service will commence at 10.45am followed by the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the War Memorial at 12 Noon approximately.

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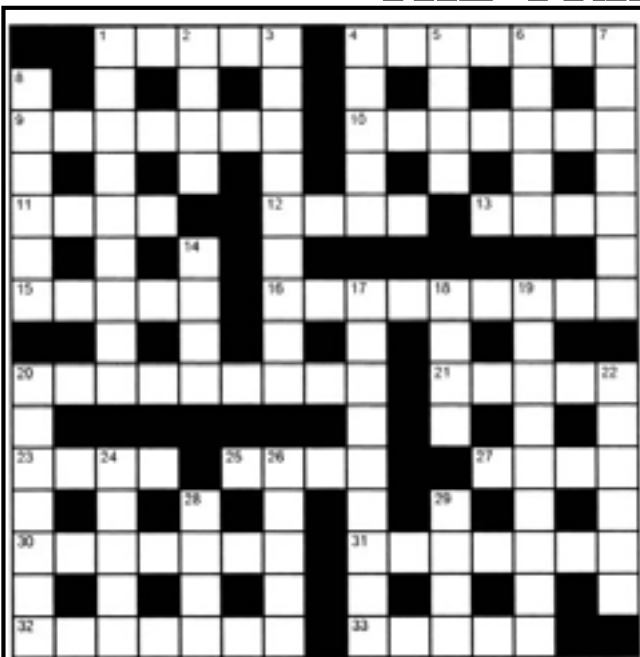
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Proprietor: Steven Marr

THE PRIZE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Staple (5)
 4 Devilish (7)
 9 Flourish (7)
 10 Conflagration (7)
 11 Very enthusiastic (4)
 12 Mountain goat (4)
 13 Feeble (4)
 15 Go in (5)
 16 Stripped (9)
 20 Leave-takings (9)
 21 Stalks (5)
 23 Domesticated (4)
 25 Measure of medicine (4)
 27 Jumping insect (4)
 30 One of the Great Lakes (7)
 31 First Russian satellite (7)
 32 Table game (7)
 33 Actions (5)

DOWN

- 1 Lawyer (9)
 2 Look for (4)
 3 Uninterrupted (9)
 4 Grab (5)
 5 Nob (4)
 6 Coolness (5)
 7 Not straight (7)
 8 Burning fiercely (6)
 14 Forehead (4)
 17 Scattered (9)
 18 Requiring little effort (4)
 19 Young plants (9)
 20 Inane (7)
 22 Casual trousers (6)
 24 Paris underground (5)
 26 Smell (5)
 28 Arduous journey (4)
 29 Summer Month (4)

The solution to the Prize Crossword in the SUMMER 2012 edition

Across: 1 Cheese, 4 Cautious, 9 Aurora, 10 Daughter, 12 Edge, 13 Gone, 14 Lion, 16 Luddite, 17 Swede, 20 Blend, 21 Chirrup, 24 Ewer, 25 Spin, 27 Inst, 30 Take Away, 31 Choose, 32 Ninepins, 33 Uranus.

Down: 1 Crane-fly, 2 Enraged, 3 Sort, 5 Again, 6 Toga, 7 Outline, 8 Serene, 11 Agreed, 15 Lime, 17 Second, 18 Evil, 19 Spotless, 20 Break In, 22 Rangoon, 23 Beaten, 26 Plain, 28 Damp, 29 Char.

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

Mrs J Wise, 22 Somerville Street, Burntisland.

Answers in the next issue of the Buzz

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

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

**The Editor,
 39 The Wynd,
 Dalgety Bay. KY11 9SJ**

“Hickory dickory dock
 Burntisland has no clock,
 A stranger came to town,
 Now it’s being pulled down!”

There are a number of questions that have to be asked:

1. Why was it allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair?
2. When were inspections carried out?
3. Were they carried out at regular intervals?
4. What were the results of these alleged inspections?

The clock is not alone, the Arches have bushes growing in them, the roots will force their way into the masonry. With winter approaching, ice will cause even more erosion and help make the structure more unstable. There’s also damage to the railway bridge parapet at the Arches. What about the Shipyard stairs? Now they’ve been closed off, how long will we have to wait for them to be repaired? Recently, the potholes at the junction of the Kirkgate and Somerville Street were patched, yet when I went to Kirkcaldy I found that they are resurfacing a section of Oriol Road. Did we just get some left-over tarmac?

When you enter Burntisland, a sign proudly proclaims a *FAIR TRADE TOWN* – how about changing it to a *FAIR SHARE TOWN*!

There are probably a lot more questions that need to be asked, I’m sure you can think OF SOME. The most important question is: Who is responsible for the overall decline in the fabric of the town – Us or Fife Council?

Yours, as always,
 Mr. Grumpy

Have you lost a ring - or two?

During the summer, a resident of St Andrews Court was weeding his pot plants in a common open area within the complex when he found a 9 carat gold ring resting on top of the soil of one of the pots.

Residents are the only people with access to the area and nobody amongst them claimed to have lost a ring. The ring itself bears the initials H.G.S. and has another distinctive feature which only the owner would have knowledge of. It is possible the ring has been dropped by a bird.

Coincidentally, a couple of months ago, another ring was found beside the sink in the kitchen of St Serf’s Church. Local enquiries within the congregation have also failed to locate the owner.

Both rings were handed in to Burntisland Police Station where they remain unclaimed. If the owner of either of these pieces of jewellery happens to read this article, he/she can claim back their property from the local police station in the High Street.



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Events Diary

NOVEMBER

Friday 2nd (and every Friday of the month)	- Opportunities Fife Job Club at the Toll Centre.	10.00am - 12.30pm
Monday 5th	BONFIRE NIGHT ON THE LINKS	from 6.30pm
Friday 9th	Community Council Meeting	7.00 pm
Friday 9th	"Ladies' Shopping" Kinghorn RNLI fundraiser at Kingswood Hotel	6.30pm - 9.30pm
Saturday 10th	BCT Community Quiz Night at the Golf Club (see page 22)	7.30 pm
Wednesday 12th	Police Community Engagement Meeting at the Toll Centre	7.30 pm
Saturday 17th	MOC Lecture - (Maritime Observations and Communications in Wartime Scapa Flow)	11.30 am
Saturday 24th	Christmas Fayre in St Serf's Hall	10.00 am - -12 noon
Sunday 25th	Sunday Strollers - Dells Woodland, Archers Field and Monks Walk from Sands Hotel car park	2.00 pm

DECEMBER

Saturday 1st	Christmas Fair in St Serf's (Sustainable Communities)	1.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Sunday 2nd	Advent Carol Service at St Serf's Church	6.00 pm
Sunday 2nd	Christmas Craft Fair at the Toll Centre	12 noon - 4.00pm
Sunday 2nd	Christmas Street Party in Union Street by Burntisland Unlimited	
Saturday 8th	OVER 70s CHRISTMAS TREAT AT THE KINGSWOOD HOTEL	12.00 for 12.30 start
Friday 14th	Christmas Concert - East Fife Ladies Choir at St Joseph's Church	7.30 pm
Saturday 15th	Christmas Special Lecture at MOC Professor Aubreu Manning	11.30 am
Sunday 16th	Christmas Party with Disco and Santa for primary school age at the Toll Centre.	Time to be arranged
Sunday 16th	Sunday Stroller - Starleyburn Circular from the Links Car Park	2.00 pm
Monday 24th	Christmas Eve - Midnight Communion Service with carols at St Serf's	11.30 pm
Christmas Day	Family Communion Service with Carols.	

JANUARY

1st Burntisland Guides have had a busy year again with their weekend away at the Carmichael Centre, Balmullo in March and the Fifetastic County camp at Fordell firs in June.

The girls have been working towards the County Challenge 2012; our theme was "From little seeds....". This has been an interesting project involving support for Floral Action Burntisland (Formally Burntisland in Bloom) serving teas at their coffee morning and planting and caring for the on street planter outside the library.

The Guides have also just completed their First Aid badge; this has involved support from Burntisland First Aid (many thanks to Fiona, the girls really enjoyed her training sessions).

3rd Burntisland Brownies started the year by tackling their Gardeners Badge, in August and September. The girls learned how to plant and care for various types of plants, and spent an evening at Broomhill Gardens where local wildlife gardener, Elspeth Killin taught them how to identify, use and care for a variety of gardening tools. Health and safety in the garden, including the use of gloves, was a major focus.



Working in the Garden

Running with the Olympic Flame



Games in Ancient Greece. The girls will be presented with their badges when we start back after the October break. Between times the girls have also gained their Diamond Jubilee badge, and celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a very British tea party, with sandwiches, tea and scones!

Now the girls look forward to tackling new challenges, including a Mexican Challenge – and something to do with Penguins! And there is, of course, the Christmas craft day coming up.

In December we were joined by the Kinghorn Brownies for our traditional Christmas craft day, when the girls spent a really fun day making cards, decorations, gift tags, calendars ... to name but a few!

After the spring break we embarked on the mammoth Olympic Challenge and have had many fun evenings learning about what the Olympic rings stand for, the different types of events that are included, the different challenges that par Olympians face. The girls have been running relay races, making Olympic torches, and learning about the original Olympic



A very British Tea Party



The 1st Burntisland Rainbows have been very busy this term celebrating their 25th Birthday by completing the Big Birthday Challenge.

We had to complete at least one activity from each of the four Rainbow jigsaw sections – Look, Learn, Laugh and Love. And also complete a special Celebration section.

Look Look Rainbows enjoyed a very messy night making beautiful pictures using marbles, which we had dipped in paint and then rolled round our paper.

Learn Learn This was a night to remember! The 'easy to make' origami boat was a bit of a challenge for both Rainbows and Leaders. But once we all got the hang of it we had a great night making the boats and challenging each team to see how many pennies it took to sink their leader's boat. The Rainbows then took their boats outside to sail them in a paddling pool.

Laugh Laugh We drew a huge Snakes and Ladders board on our hall floor!!! And using giant dice the Rainbows had a great night climbing the ladders and sliding down the snakes.

Love Love The Rainbows made Love Bugs from card and decorated them with love hearts and a special message and gave them to someone they loved.

Celebrate Celebrate And to celebrate we had a wonderful cheeky monkey cake with a sparkler candle and the Rainbows made their own party outfits using black bags and bits and pieces of crafty stuff. At the end of the night they each had a twirl on the stage to show off their creation.

The new Rainbows made their Promise and we said goodbye to two of our Rainbows who are moving up to the Brownies. A fun-filled and very successful term was had by all.

The **Broomhill Gardens** are winding down for the winter after their Halloween party celebrating the harvest. The free Kid's Club will start again in the spring. Broomhill Gardens are also looking for new members of their committee, if you're interested in getting involve the email secretary@broomhillgardens.org.uk or call 01592 870363.

Sustainable Communities will be holding their Christmas Fair on 1st December, 1-4pm at St Serfs Hall, Manse Lane. There will be lots of stalls and activities: wreathmaking, storytelling, gingerbread making and lots more.

Can you spare a few regular hours a week or month to help SCI with the visitor centre? Full training will be provided. The Earthship Fife Visitor Centre is a fully autonomous, self-sustaining building which uses renewable energy, such as wind, water and solar power, catches its own water and treats its own sewage. It was built in 2004 with the help of volunteers. We are now looking for volunteers to man the Earthship, serve teas and coffees, give guided tours or do some light maintenance work. If you would like to help, please contact Louise at Sustainable Communities Initiatives on 01592 891884 or inquiry@sci-scotland.org.uk.

THE ECOLOGY CENTRE

Tool donation for Tanzanian Project

The Ecology Centre is preparing to send a toolkit containing 46 high-quality refurbished tools and one completely serviced and fully functioning sewing machine to a project in Turiani-Mvomero, Tanzania. The tools, which were donated to the Centre's Tool Shed project, have been fully renovated by volunteers and will now be donated to Tools for Self Reliance which gives people in Africa the skills and tools to get them out of poverty and into work.

The Tool Workshop has been a huge success for the Centre with hundreds of items already refurbished for use on the site or donated to local projects and schools around Fife. The Centre is always grateful for donations of tools, particularly carpentry or old manual sewing machines as these items are in great demand. We also welcome new volunteers to our workshops who are willing to share their skills, learn new ones and make friends along the way."

Get involved

To donate your tools or get involved please contact: Jo Hobbett, The Ecology Centre, e-mail jo@theecologycentre.org, tel. 01592 891567 or visit our website www.theecologycentre.org

Workshops currently run on a Monday & Tuesday 1pm to 4pm, and Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm. There is also a specialist sewing machine workshop which takes place every other Tuesday from 1pm to 4pm.

Get Crafty this Christmas!

Why not personalise Christmas this year with some fantastic hand-made Christmas decorations and presents?

The Ecology Centre is holding its annual Christmas Craft Day where local artist Claire Reid will be on hand to demonstrate how you can create beautiful Christmas decorations such as wreaths, table centrepieces and tree ornaments – all made from natural materials. You can also create stunning mosaics made from recycled slates to give as presents or to bring an individual festive touch to your own garden.



The event takes place on Saturday 8th December from 10.00am until 3.00pm at The Ecology Centre's Kinghorn Loch site. All materials will be provided and everything you make can be taken away. The cost for the workshop is £25 per person which includes soup with roll, mince pie and glass of mulled wine. Book early as places are limited for this sociable, festive day. Please contact The Ecology Centre on 01592 891567 or email admin@theecologycentre.org



Hard at it in the Kids' Club

INVASION OF THE FLAT WORM

by Ed Pybus

I'm generally the sort of person who likes all creatures great and small, my bathroom in a haven for spiders as I can't bring myself to destroy their webs. However there are a few creatures that I would happily get rid off, usually ones that have been unwittingly imported and have no native predators and so can run riot destroying local ecosystems. One such imported invasive species is the New Zealand flatworm. Originally it arrived on imported plants in the 60's. It is spreading across the UK and has arrived in Burntisland. The problem with this worm, which eats the humble earth worm, is that it's main predator is the New Zealand Kiwi and there are not many of them in Fife!



Earthworms are vital to a healthy soil, they breakdown plant material and other organic matter, aerate the soil and produce rich and nutritious compost. Without them the soil becomes compact and less fertile. Flatworms can all but eradicate a population of earthworms. Whilst the flatworm is never likely to be totally removed it's spread can be slowed and we can make our garden's a welcoming place for the earthworm.

Flatworms are easy to identify - they're errr...flat rather than round like the earthworm! They are dark brown on top with a light band round the edge and a light underside. They often curl up like a Swiss roll and like hiding under objects close to the soil so regular checking under stones, bricks, pots and bits of wood can be the best way of discovering if they are in the garden. If you discover you do have a flatworm invasion check regularly under suitable hiding places, pop any you find into a jar and pour on boiling water. The Crop Research Institute are tracking their distribution so if you find any you can contact Dr Boag at the Institute (01382 562731 bboag@scri.sari.ac.uk).

Encouraging earthworms is even easier – a simple way is to start a compost heap. Compost heaps can become a great breeding ground for earthworms, and they'll soon spread out from the compost heap across the garden. If you don't have many, ask around and some one will, I'm sure, be happy supply you with a few to get you going.

A basic compost heap can be little more than a pile of grass clipping with some old newspaper or torn up cardboard mixed in. Almost everything that's organic can be composted so you can add food waste, plant cuttings, cardboard, sticks and chicken poo! There are as many different recipes for compost as there are gardeners but to begin with you don't have to worry about the exact mixture too much. If you have any problems then most gardeners will happily give you some tips, you could contact the Broomhill Gardens or the Ecology Centre in Kinghorn and more info is available at www.tinyurl.com/compostfife.

Earthworms can also be encouraged by leaving an area of the garden 'wild'; avoiding pesticides and over use of fertilisers and make sure the ground is too compacted.



The Parish Church

(tremendous value) we will feed 100 children for a year; this also helps long term development by encouraging children to attend school and boosts their performance at school. Mary's Meals is supported by other churches in Burntisland and by an increasing number of organisations and schools in Scotland. See also page 12

From 14 October the Kirk Session have decided to move the Sunday morning service into the church hall for the winter, though we will use the church for Remembrance Sunday and a few other occasions. While this was done initially to save on heating costs, we actually find that the fellowship is warmer in the hall because people are closer together. The singing is also better and we can use the projector and powerpoint for children's talks and occasionally for the sermon as well. In the church building 80 people (a good congregation in the Kirk these days) leaves 400+ empty seats, can be discouraging as well as being cold! In the hall 80 people is a fine crowd! Do try us on a Sunday morning, you can be sure of a warm welcome. Tea and coffee are available for everyone after the service.

The Parish Church would like to extend a very warm welcome to Rev. Alexander Mitchell and his wife and family as he is to be inducted as Minister of Erskine Church. We look forward very much to getting to know them and working together in the future. Congratulations to Erskine Church on the arrival of their new minister.

Burntisland Churches Together (BCT)

Churches Together in Burntisland is an association of all the local churches that started in 2000 and is still going strong. BCT supports the churches to work together for occasions such as the Palm Sunday Walk, Easter Sunday beach and Binn services, Remembrance Service and the World Day of Prayer Service, and to produce leaflets and posters to publicise Christmas and Easter Services and events, some of which are held jointly. We are pleased to be able to foster good relationships between the churches in the town and to be able to encourage and support one another.

BCT are supporting Mary's Meals by running a Community Quiz Night on 10 November at 7.30 pm at the Golf Club. To enter, sign up with Sadie Edwards from St Serf's, Sandra Bradshaw from St Joseph's, or at Chapter and Verse in the High Street. The cost is £5 per team of 4 and all proceeds on the night will go to Mary's Meals.

Alan Sharp, minister



In January this coming year, along with two colleagues, I have the privilege of leading the first group from the wider Diocese of St Andrews on a visit to Kolkata. It will be a mixed group of clergy and laity from all parts of our Diocese, some are seasoned travellers and for some this will be their first venture beyond Europe. They will find that the Diocese of Calcutta is very different from our own and yet there are important similarities and strong

historical connections.

The Diocese retains the name Calcutta for legal and constitutional reasons, going to law in India is a protracted and expensive business, but there is also a strong feeling of identity with that older name among the church people. They are part of the Church of North India (CNI) which is a united church, a coming together of Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists and others. The congregations are still recognisably attached to their roots in the way they conduct worship but they are all part of the one church with their Bishop. I have much admiration for the clergy there for having the flexibility to serve in any of these diverse local churches within the Diocese of Calcutta. This then will be an interesting experience for our people and one to share on their return. There will be important ideas to feed back into our own Casting the Net Diocesan programme for growth and to share with our ecumenical partners. The Church of North India is very strongly and actively involved in matters of social concern. We will of course be offering our own Scottish experience of the way of Christ to our friends in Kolkata.

Revd Canon Val Nellist Rector



In the Summer we were happy to be able to report on a wonderfully successful 3 day Flower Festival - "A Weekend To Remember" A wonderful turn out of visitors were overwhelmed with the beauty of the Flower

arrangements throughout the Church and the historic/educational context in which they were set.

Since the Festival was conceived not just a Parish venture but one with as much community involvement as possible, we offer our thanks to the various organisations, local churches and individuals who supported us with donations of finance and equipment.

The highlight for the Parish and the community that weekend was the visit from the Cardinal who planted a commemorative tree in the gardens. The substantial sum of money raised was passed on to the Church Building Fund.

To build on this success and to further enhance community involvement we are producing a Flower Festival Calendar for 2013 which features the wonderful displays of floral arrangements during the Festival. The Calendar goes on sale next week at the bargain price of £4.99 and will make a lovely Christmas/New Year present. It can be obtained at the Church of St. Joseph, also from congregation members and hopefully from some local businesses.

We are also pleased to announce A Christmas Concert by East Fife Ladies Choir at St. Joseph's Church on Friday 14th December 2012 at 7.30 p.m. The Choir will be joined by a group of instrumentalists from St. Andrew's High School, Kirkcaldy.

The performance will be followed by refreshments of Mulled Wine and Mince Pies (included in the ticket price) in the Church Hall. Tickets priced £8 will be available from 17th November. For further information please phone 07743691149

Some further news to report is that the parish will be involved in "A year Of Faith" that starts on the 50th anniversary of the Vatican Council wherein the Holy Father Pope Benedict is calling all parishes to renew our faith. Parishes will be organizing various services throughout the year.

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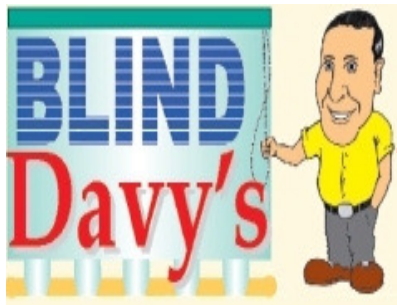
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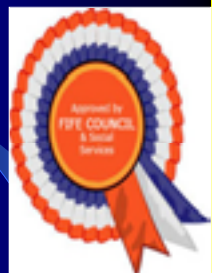
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