

BURGH BUZZ

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Spring Contents

Section	Pages
Editorial	2
Community Council Bullets	2
Police report & Councillors info	3
School News	4, 5
A H o r n e r Remembers	6
The "Juck"	7
Starley Hall School	8
First Aid	9
Community Council Survey	10
Civic Week	12, 13
Sports Clubs	14
Presentation	16
The Beacon	17
The Crossword	18
The Churches	20, 21
Events Diary	22
Letters	22

The Slowing Heartbeat

The High Street is the heart of any town. Its pulse spreads out through the surrounding streets giving the whole community vibrancy and life, and any town with a busy High Street is a vital and successful community. Given this, any threat to the well-being of this, should be a cause for alarm for the residents it serves.

Unfortunately there has been a recent threat to the lifeblood of Burntisland High Street that seems to be largely slipping under the radar. There has been a planning proposal for a not insignificant group of retail units at the top of Kirkton Road that poses a threat the community seem to be largely unaware of. While more diversity and competition in the town would be welcome, do we really want this to have a detrimental effect on our High Street? We are lucky enough to enjoy one of the better served High Streets in our area and do we want to lose our soup bags from the friendly local fruit shop, our personal service from our local butcher, our freshly baked goods from our bakers, our fresh fish from our fish shop, our local post office that is much more, our bargain toiletries and household essentials, our wool and crafts, our fair trade goods, our cafes, our spiritual necessities, our books and most of all the friendly and personal service that comes with all of the above.

While cheaper prices would be fine for us all, would we get the personal service and diversity that we are used to? Would any new jobs created be at the cost of existing jobs on the High Street and how much of the money spent in the new shops would remain in the town? It is all too easy to say the new development would be more convenient and would superficially make life easier but after some more consideration of the potential consequences of such developments, is it really such a good idea? We only have to look as far as Kirkcaldy High Street to get an idea of what these consequences might involve and if we too end up with a ghost high street would that encourage people to invest in Burntisland, to move to the town or even to visit in the summer?

The Community Council voted to have no opinion and to let the planners decide but does the community place the same faith in the planning process? This is an issue that could shape the future of the town and deserves careful consideration. We at the Buzz would love to hear what you think and to share your thoughts with the community. So if you have an opinion on this issue and feel strongly enough to do something about it, please write to the editor at the usual address and share your views.



A busy High Street



Brown field Site !

New School Construction Commences

Exactly one year ago the Buzz carried an article appealing for a more rational dialogue in the continuing debate over the planning issues related to the construction of the new primary school. Regrettably, acrimonious exchanges have continued in the local Press, social media and to a limited extent within the Community Council.

Despite these divisions, the land acquisition of the Toll Park site and requisite planning procedures have progressed to the extent that work on the construction of

the new school is well underway.

So where do we go from here? The common ground between the two opposing factions, which has been emphasised time and again, is that new school facilities for Burntisland children are absolutely essential.

continued on page 7

Editorial Comment.

Numerically, the response to the Community Council Survey was disappointing but an in-depth analysis of the respondents' comments has been enlightening.

Dog fouling is a continuing blight on modern society and Burntisland is no exception. As the number of dog owners increases so apparently, does the problem. But it is not the dogs that are at fault it is the irresponsible owners. Formerly, the problem was blamed on a negligent minority but the growing magnitude of the problem suggests a wilful, couldn't care less attitude by a relatively large number of dog owners. Civic minded residents, without becoming confrontational, must report culprits to the authorities.

As the lighter nights approach, there may be an increase in anti-social behaviour by youths. Again, anyone witnessing such conduct should take careful note and report details to the police. In recent months, there has been a considerable movement in police personnel in the Burntisland area and new officers will take time to build up local knowledge - your reports will assist greatly.

With the site preparation of the Toll Park for the new school well underway, the acrimonious debate over the choice of the site has diminished. However, it has been replaced in the media and social networking by equally spiteful barbs of those holding opposing views over the plans which have been lodged for a shopping complex at the Kirkton. The Buzz fully supports the efforts of Burntisland Unlimited to oppose the development and to strive for the regeneration of the High Street as the central hub of the community. High Street traders are already bracing themselves for the effects on their businesses of the imminent opening of a major supermarket at the west end of Kirkcaldy. A mini shopping complex within walking distance of the High Street would have a further detrimental effect on business. Additionally, there are many residents of the Collinwell Estate who purchased properties to enjoy a quiet residential environment. Many, particularly those in the vicinity of the proposed shopping complex, are concerned that their newfound tranquillity is about to be destroyed by the noise of delivery vehicles and the cars and movement of shoppers.

Finally, at a recent Community Council Meeting, when commenting on the paucity of replies to the recent CC survey, a particularly vociferous member of the public stated that "Naebody reads the Buzz - it goes straight in the bucket!" Is this true? Is my small committee and myself wasting our time producing the Buzz every quarter?

If you happen to read this, we would like to hear from you.

Bill Kirkhope
Editor

Community Council Bullets.....

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

Community Council Bullets

- Efforts to stop or modify the closure of the Royal Bank branch in Burntisland were unsuccessful. Despite formal investigations and a joint meeting with Claire Baker, MSP, RBS did not change their original decision and declined to offer reduced hours. The Community Council is now transferring its business to Lloyds.
- Recent unplanned closures at the Beacon were discussed with senior managers at the Fife Sports and Leisure Trust. Advances in health and safety protocols mean that contamination takes longer to clear, requiring the pool water volume to cycle several times before it can be re-opened.
- As a broad principle, the Community Council endorsed two sites to the west of Burntisland as having potential for expansion for housing purposes in the long term. They are to the north of Aberdour Road
- Full funding has now been received for the conservation and restoration of the war memorial and work will start as soon as it can be scheduled by the contractor. At present, there is not enough money to carry out the planned landscaping on the adjacent site, but fund-raising will continue for that purpose.
- Audit Scotland has been asked to verify whether Fife Council has followed due process in acquiring Common Good land for building the new school. There is evidence that the local authority must provide alternative land as public open space which is at least equivalent in size. A reply is awaited from Audit Scotland.
- The cost of restoring the clock tower at the Burgh Chambers appears to be about £165,000. There is a legal requirement for Fife Council to complete the restoration.
- There have been several application from local organisations for substantial Common Good Funding. Against the advice of the Community Council, Fife Council approved grants which take the fund into the red for the next financial year.
- There were six nominations for the two recent vacancies on the Community Council. After a secret ballot, the successful candidates were John Bradshaw and Hazel McGraw. Both are now full members of the Community Council.
- The bowser which was originally used to water planters as part of the Burntisland Blooms project is no longer required for that purpose. It has been sold to Falkland in Bloom and the proceeds will be donated to Floral Action Burntisland.
- John Bruce has had several contacts with the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust to help ensure good maintenance of the Coastal Path in the vicinity of Burntisland.
- The Community Council will be working closely with the STAR Development Group to develop a Community Action Plan which will help to fund and deliver priority projects. The first step will be a widespread consultation throughout the community.
- A sub-group has been set up to review the principles for managing Burntisland's Common Good Fund and propose changes which will benefit the community.

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 - First Saturday of the month
10.00 - 10.30 am in the Toll Centre

The Burgh Polis



By PC Jez Graves

On 1st April, Fife Constabulary ceased to exist and "Police Service of Scotland" came into being. The local community should notice no change. The same Police officers will be based in the same building, driving the same vehicles and doing exactly the same job. Burntisland Police Station should also experience more stability with the Permanent appointment of Sergeant Stuart Davidson with effect from 12th April.

The past few weeks has been a challenging period for station personnel where a number of active enquiries in Burntisland and Kinghorn have placed a heavy demand on available resources. Despite this heavy workload, a successful parking enforcement operation took place in which 31 fixed penalty tickets were issued to offending vehicles. Despite this, illegal parking continues and will receive our attention when resources permit. Motorists should also be aware that a "Speeding Action Plan" is currently in operation.

A "Personal Safety Course for Woman" to be held in the Young Community Hall, Burntisland on three consecutive Wednesdays in April and May had to be cancelled. This will be held at a later date and will be publicised within the community.

The longer days and improving (hopefully) weather usually leads to an increase in youth disorder in both Burntisland and Kinghorn. It is important that members of the public who witness social disorder by youths, promptly and accurately report details to us. This type of information is a great help and ensures that resources are deployed to the right place at the right time. Your cooperation is essential.

A new national non-emergency number has been introduced nationwide. From now on, if you wish to contact your local Police in relation to a non-emergency, please phone "101". You will then be transferred automatically to your local Police Force. This is to be used for non-emergency situations only. In an emergency continue to phone 999.

Finally - **Community Engagement Meeting dates.** All these meetings will be held at Pettycur Bay Hotel at 7pm. The meetings will be held by your local Community Police Officers and are free for anyone to attend. Please come along and discuss your concerns in a relaxed, informal setting.

The dates are Wednesday 8th May, Wednesday 3rd July, Wednesday 4th September and Wednesday 6th November. Mark the dates on your calendar!

If you wish to speak to any of your local Community Officers, they can either be contacted at Burntisland Police Station, by e-mail or by phone (non-emergency).

Non-emergency contact number : 101

Email: BurntislandKinghornWesternKirkcaldyCPT@Scotland.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.

Chair	Alex MacDonald	
Vice Chair	Bob Smith	
Treasurer	John Russell	
Secretary	Isabel Smith	
Minutes Secretaries	Gordon Langlands / Zoe Williamson	
Members	Christine Dewar	Tim Hailey
	Bruce Stuart	Morag Douglas
	Gary Cummins	Ian McKenzie
	John Bruce	John Bradshaw
	Hazel McGraw	

**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	Jennifer Robertson	
Distribution	Linda Briscoe	
Members	Patsy Killin	Amy Dickson
	Bruce Stuart	Morag Douglas

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 2013 Issue by 14th July at the latest. Advertising enquiries should be addressed to Jennifer Robertson, Cromwell Road, Burntisland, KY3 9BD (Tel: 01592 871313) or e-mail jengord@sky.com For Community Council matters, please contact Alex Macdonald, Chairman (Tel: 01592 873314).

Burntisland School News

By Carolyn Bell



Our Primary 7 pupils took part in the annual Burns competition in January. The final was judged by the Rotary Club who had the difficult task of deciding on a winner from a very talented group. Jack Wallace was ultimately declared the winner following his entertaining rendition of 'To a Louse'.

Primary 7s also spent part of this term preparing for the Speakers Club competition. There was a wonderful range of topics and this was a lovely opportunity for us all to hear about the wider interests and talents of our pupils. Burntisland Speakers club invited our finalists to present their talk at the Sands Hotel where Louise Moffat, who spoke about Labradors, was the overall winner.

We had the opportunity to celebrate the success of two other P7 teams this term. Our Enterprise team competed at the Rothes Halls and were the overall winners of the competition. It was noted that they all worked particularly well in a team and that this contributed to their success. This year the Rotary Quiz was hosted by Burntisland Primary and one of our two teams came in first place after a very close competition. The winning team will now move forward to the next

round of the quiz which is to be held in Kinross in April.



P7 Rotary Quiz Winners

In February a gruesome atmosphere developed at Burntisland Primary as we were subjected to a Zombie Invasion! Our P6 and P5/6 classes have been reading books by author Stuart Reid and we were invited to take part in a new book launch. The pupils (and teachers!) dressed as zombies for the day and took part in lots of slimy and disgusting activities as part of this. Stuart Reid joined us in the afternoon where he judged the fancy dress competition and shared his ideas on writing and books.

Primary 6 pupils also celebrated their love of reading with many other schools from across Fife at the Big Book Brain Quiz.

This was transmitted to

schools on GLOW so we were all able to watch and join in with the quiz. The author Linda Strachan visited P2 pupils, and our P7 pupils attended a film event at the Adam Smith Theatre where they watched the film of 'Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' as part of their WW2 project.

The after school dance club, organised by Miss Steele and Miss Brown, performed at the Adam Smith Centre as part of the Fife 5,6,7,8 dance festival. They really enjoyed the experience of performing to such a large audience.

Primary 4 pupils had a wonderful day out to the botanical gardens in Edinburgh as part of their topic work on the Rainforest and they would highly recommend it to others, whilst Primary 2 pupils enjoyed a fun and educational trip to the Falkirk Wheel.

The whole school raised money for Comic Relief by dressing in red or in pyjamas on the 15th March, while some of our pupils held a cake sale and did a sponsored silence.

Last term was concluded with an Eco/Outdoors week that involved all of our pupils getting outdoors and exploring various natural environments. P7 classes spent the week at Ardroy completing a 'Lost at Sea' challenge, while back at school, classes went on visits to the beach, local forests and Craigencault Ecology Centre. The MOC bus visited the school with an interactive exhibition about sustainability and we also participated in Energy Awareness workshops provided by Fife Council's Energy Team.

A Zombie Invasion

P5R Forest Trip

Alcan Kids Support Comic Relief

Comic Relief was a very busy time for neighbours Sarah Conroy and Janelle Lindsay of Kirkton Drive, Burntisland. Along with Janelle's children Oscar and Edward, Sarah's children Liam, Ceryss and Mia - their friends Jaime, Anna and Mya they ran a cake and candy stall for the charity. Together, they carried their large garden table to the end of their street in the Alcan Estate and made numerous trips back and forth with tubs of cakes and biscuits. The stall proved a huge success with people queuing before the stall had been set up and everything being sold out within 40 minutes. A couple of customers used the stall as a drive through, stopping their car and buying some tablet from their car window! They raised £150.20 which would not have been achieved without the hard work of their helpers and many friends, Dafyd, David, Maureen, Kelly, Else, Sharon, Ian, Angie and Hamish who donated baking. They would also like to thank all their neighbours and friends who came to the stall to support Comic Relief. We hope we can do this again and raise even more next time for charity.



Burntisland Playgroup

Recently we were lucky to secure funding from the CSNG Outdoor learning fund to allow us to take the children on a visit to the Ecology Centre. They were extremely excited to be going on Lee's minibuses. Grace said "the road was bumpy lumpy"

At the Ecology centre the children were encouraged to use their senses by the two leaders, Claire and Sam. The best part for the children was crawling through the tyre tunnels, especially as they were getting very muddy. Charlie said "it was dark and muddy in the tunnel."



After the Ecology centre

Whilst we were looking for mini beasts, they found a toad, which the children were very excited about and wanted to have a closer look at.

After the Easter break the children are going to have some musical steps sessions with Inga and practice football skills with Davie as a result of funding we received from The People's Postcode Trust.

People's Postcode Trust is a charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery. You can find out more about both of these on the following websites:

www.postcodetrust.org.uk and www.postcodelottery.co.uk

Fundraising News

At our recent quiz night we raised £367. We would like to give an enormous thank you to Davie Henderson for the use of the Jubilee and Peter George for being a super quiz master. Our next event will be a spring fayre on Monday 6th May at the Parish Church Hall between 10am – 12 noon. There will be games, face painting, crafts, home baking plus a nearly new stall selling babies and children's clothing. Tickets will be available at the door.

A big thank you to all our Friends of Burntisland Playgroup, who are currently on our roll of honour list displayed in the foyer of the Toll Centre.



Parent Council News

The Parent Council will be holding a School Fun day on the 18th May 1-3. It is free entry and we would love to see the whole community come along and join in. There will be lots going on and Police Scotland will be property marking on the day. We are looking for donations for tombola which can be handed into the school office, also cake and candy which can be handed in on the day.

The winner of our logo competition was Shawnie Jones, 2nd place was Kirstin Armstrong, 3rd place was Jade Gurteen. Runners up where Jodie Cusack, Ewan Penman, Renee Davies and Sophie Lewis.

We are very excited seeing the work on the new school start, and look forward to the new play park in August this year. I would like to thank everyone for their support and help over the years to arrive at this point.

Ben Barron, our Chairman, accompanied by his wife, kids and dogs will take part in a charity walk on May 19th to raise money for Scottish children's charities. He is hoping to raise £300. Anyone wishing to sponsor him can do so on the link below.

www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Barron

Sponsor forms will also be available on Burntisland Primary School Parent Council noticeboard



Parent, Toddler & Baby Group

Mondays-9.30am –11.00am
Tuesdays-1pm—3pm
Thursdays-9.30am –11.00am



IN THE MUSIC HALL, THISTLE STREET

Very friendly atmosphere with lots of quality toys in a large hall. Come and meet other families and have a coffee while the kids play. All welcome!

First visit **FREE**. £1.50 per family per visit thereafter.
Tea/Coffee/Biscuits/Toast included

On Easter Sunday the **Parent & Toddler Group** held a Funday at the Parish Church, which was a big success. Lots of fun activities, including face painting, Egg hunt, Easter arts & crafts, stalls, egg painting as well as an appearance from the Easter Bunny! Teas and coffees were available for the grown ups.

The Funday raised £344 which will go to group funds and towards their annual outing, which this year will be to Camperdown Park in Dundee. Times and facilities are displayed above. We will be holding a Bingo Night at the Jubilee Tavern on Saturday, 25th May at 7pm. Details available from Rosie @ 07850425902



It's been a busy and fun packed few months at Burntisland Out of School Service. Most recently the children enjoyed the Easter holiday play-scheme, with trips to the Beacon, local parks, the beach, and even a day-trip to the Museum in Edinburgh.

Both our early-start and after-school sessions are doing well. We always welcome new faces, and anyone who would like to enquire about childcare, please pop into the Toll and see Morag, the BOSS manager, any weekday afternoon.

A date for your diary - the BOSS AGM will be held on **Sat 8th June 2013**, 4pm to 6pm at the Toll Centre. We have organised a Disco so that children can have some fun while parents take part in the meeting. It would be wonderful to have as many interested parties come along as possible, to support the valuable service BOSS offers to the local community.

The current chairperson and treasurer intend to stand down at this year's AGM, and so we are particularly interested in anyone who would be prepared to take on any of these roles.

However, we're a very friendly group of working parents, and all input is valued, no matter how big or small. Please do consider coming along and supporting us on 8th June.

If anyone would like more information on the committee and what we do, please have a word with Morag at BOSS or email us at Bossmanagementcommittee@yahoo.co.uk.

School Fun Day
Burntisland Primary School 18th May 1-3
FREE ENTRY!
Tea, Coffee and Juice

Activities include:
Nail Bar and Tattoos
Roll the 10p
Hook the Duck
Biscuit Decorating
Seed Truck, Flamenco Dancers and Beat the Goats! TBC
Face Painting
Splat the rat
Tombola
Hoopla
Run by the Parent Council

Other Stalls: AVON, Spiritual Gifts

Proceeds go towards numerous projects of the Parent Council

50s Shades of Burntisland

(A Horner remembers)

I picked up a copy of the "Burgh Buzz" in the Sands Hotel following a recent visit to my native Kinghorn and was delighted to read of the award to Bob Main in the piece by the Editor Bill Kirkhope. Both were great rugby buddies of mine at Kirkcaldy High School in the 1950s. Reading this reminded me of Summer holidays with frequent bike trips from Kinghorn to "Burntisland Bathing Pool and Tearooms" as it was known then. Our trips had an almost ritualistic structure; 3 or 4 of us would meet up at the War Memorial complete with shiny bikes. Polished drop handlebars and racing gears were much to be admired and envied. An oval shaped saddlebag stuffed with swimming gear and sandwiches was mandatory. 30 minutes later the iconic Bathing Pool and Tearooms were in sight.

Bikes were hurriedly parked at the side of the building as we were anxious to see the blackboard propped up against the clanky turnstile as it proclaimed the latest air and water temperatures. Anything over 65F was positively tropical. Then the race was on to see who could be first in the water. Clothes were haphazardly thrown into the rickety wire baskets and hurriedly given to the attendant who shouted after us to remember our numbers as we raced to dive in. We quickly remembered to remove our watches first!

The pool being of championship size had special aura and atmosphere about it. The laughter and shouting echoed all around the pool and competed with Elvis and Jailhouse Rock blaring from the prominent loud speakers. Sometimes we were able to have our special requests played. It was a favourite place for meeting up with the girls and many a romance was kindled over a shivery conversation or a quick cuddle upstairs away from the crowd. We had some fun trying to attract the girls attention with our antics and funny dives but mostly they showed supreme indifference!

The cavernous tearoom upstairs with its large iron framed doors, heavy tables and chairs was a welcome place of refuge when the temperature dropped. We would noisily scrape tables and chairs in a group and sit huddled together with our coffee and sandwiches talking about important teenage matters. Apart from these gang meetings I well remember Gala Days and in particular a day when the Pool was packed to see a diving display by Peter Heatley, the British Empire and Commonwealth High Board Champion. I also remember "Bathing Beauty" competitions and one in particular which I watched in goggle eyed amazement and admiration, won by my old Primary School teacher Moira Ritchie

After our gang days there might be a walk in groups or couples around the Lammerlaws or a walk through the Shows on the Links to spend what was left of pocket money on the waltzers.

The journey home to Kinghorn was usually quite a wearisome 3 miles but there was always the next trip to the Pool to look forward to. It is good to look back perhaps with a little poetic licence and a touch of the rose tinted spectacles -- but ---tell you what --

We had the best of times
We had great fun --and
I have great memories

Bill Mathewson



FAB's plans for the year ahead have been moving forward over the winter period. These will become more apparent over the next few weeks. Planting will take place at the beginning of June. No more said – watch this space!

We were very fortunate to have secured funding of £2000 at the Kirkcaldy Kanes event and our appeal letters have given us a small amount of additional income. Our fundraising efforts will continue with bag packing at Asda in Dalgety Bay and we will be holding our yearly coffee morning in October. We also aim to have our website up and running later this year.

We have entered the Beautiful Fife competition this year as well as Beautiful Scotland. This will be the first time Burntisland has entered Beautiful Scotland so fingers crossed we have a successful year.

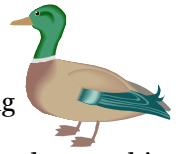
As always we are looking for local people to assist us with our group. We currently have 19 volunteers and we are specifically looking for people to help us with watering and general maintenance over the months of June to September. If you can spare a couple of hours twice a week every 4-6 weeks we would love to hear from you. This is mainly to help with watering the hanging baskets on the High Street.

If you want to make Burntisland fabulous please contact us either by email on floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk or by calling us on 07500134920.



The Juck'

by John Burnett



is the local nickname for steep part of the A909 Cowdenbeath Road leading through the Dunearn gap.

A while ago my friend, Jim Black and I were sitting in a local hostelry discussing various matters, when the subject of local names came up. How did the 'Juck' or whatever spelling you like, get its name?

We know that sometime ago a local historian had written in the press it was so named because there was a stagecoach post at the top of the hill called the Duke of Wellington. However, a search of the records here and in Edinburgh did not produce any information on a Duke of Wellington place. (Tip—do not google stagecoach Fife as you'll end up with endless timetables!) Interestingly, there was a celebrated coach which travelled between Edinburgh and Inverness in the 1840's, crossing the Forth by the Queensferry passage, but the 'Waterloo' and 'Saxe-Cobourg' were the principal coaches landing at Burntisland, (Edinburgh-Burntisland-Kinross-Perth) At a somewhat later time the 'Loch Leven Castle' ran between the Kirklands Hotel in Kinross and Burntisland.

What we discovered in the National Archives in Edinburgh was a: 'Precognition against Kelly Lyon for the crime of assault with danger to life.' This was dated 1840. The accused was a spirit dealer whose address was given as Lofthead, West End, Dunearn Hill, Burntisland. In the document, one of the witnesses states he was on the turnpike road leading from Burnisland to Perth near to the public house kept by Kelly Lyon, commonly called the Duck Inn.

The Ordinance Survey name book for the area lists Lofthead and next to it Duck Inn. They are listed as being about 68 chains east of North Balmuto. The description is 2 cottage houses on the Great North Road through the property of the Earl of Morton.

Other references that Jim Black found which may settle the query are :-

Dundee Courier 12 Dec. 1861 in an article headed 'Female Imposter' 'During the past fortnight several impudent acts of swindling have been perpetrated in the neighbourhood by a stout, middle aged woman. The woman made calls and represented that she was badly off and that she resided with a relative at the Duck Inn, a house situated about 2 miles to the west of Burntisland where her daughter lay at the point of death. The story was found to be a swindle when a local Minister called on the supposedly dying daughter.

Fife Herald 3 Sept. 1868 in an article about a Sheriff Court case:- James Stocks, a pilot or fisherman, residing in Burntisland was charged with assaulting a named widow near the Duck Inn on a public road from Cowdenbeath to Burntisland.

Evening Telegraph 20 April 1914 in an article headed Fife Charabanc Incident :- The Duck Inn brae between Cowdenbeath and Burntisland was yesterday the scene of an accident which might have had serious repercussions, but for the driver's presence of mind.

Duck Inn appears in the valuation rolls up to the 1930's

As the Duck Inn was situated on the stretch of road known as the Juck and the Scots word for a duck is Deuk (pron. dy(e)uck) - is this how the stretch of road got its name? (NB The Scottish National Dictionary also gives: *deuck, dewk, djeuk, dyook, all meaning duck*)

Now does anyone know how Black Jock's Hill, next to the school, got its name?



The Ivy covered, stone ruin of the old "Duck Inn" as it stands today

continued from front page

This will be achieved in eighteen months time and it is crucial that the community now pulls together to ensure that the new complex, including the adjoining sports facilities, operates smoothly.

During the construction phase of the new school, parking in the surrounding area will be restricted. Parents who normally drive their children to school will encounter severe congestion and a lack of suitable parking spaces in close proximity to the old school.

Perhaps now is the time to radically change the manner in which our children travel to and from school. There are very few pupils who live more than a 15 minute walk from the Toll Park. All pupils should be encouraged to walk. Even nursery children are capable of walking reasonable distances. "Walking trains", a popular system employed in other towns, whereby parents take turns to escort to and from school, groups of children who live in close proximity to each other, should be formed. Parents who cannot avoid using a vehicle should be directed to park a reasonable distance from the school gates. The Parents Council, in close cooperation with the school, should take the lead in establishing new practices and educating parents as to their responsibilities. Once established, these practices would continue naturally when the new school is occupied.

Another problem which must be addressed, sooner rather than later is – what happens to the old school site? This is centrally located and cannot be allowed to decline into a vermin infested eyesore like the old cinema site on the High Street or the old factory buildings in Kirkcaldy. Fife Council - what are your plans for the old school site?

STARLEY HALL SCHOOL BURNS CELEBRATION



On Friday 25th January, the pupils and staff of Starley Hall School and invited guests celebrated the birthday of Scotland's national bard in traditional style. The pupil's lounge had been decorated in a Scottish theme and with participants dressed in traditional Scottish attire and with saltire - painted faces, the proceedings began. The haggis carried by "Pousie Nancy" was piped in by Jim Forbes and addressed by the "Bard" himself, portrayed by staff member Stuart Jarvis. There followed live recitations and songs by the pupils and pre-recorded video recordings of presentations by others. Further entertainment was provided by a lively display of Highland Dancing from Christina Morris, a regular performer at the school, and by noted folk singer Maggie Lauder who sang to her own accompaniment of the small Scottish pipes. A lively Gangnam Dance was performed by the "dynamic duo" of Lee Ogilvie and Yasmine MacAllister. However, the highlight of the entertainment came from guitarist Marcus Jefferson, who sang a popular Oasis song followed by a very melodic composition of his own. Marcus was later presented with the "Pupil of the Week" award.

Following the entertainment, the very efficient waiting staff served a traditional lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties and delicious dessert, all prepared in house.

It was a celebration of which Burns would have been justly proud.





First Aid update

By Alex. MacDonald.
Chairman

Our training season has been exceptionally busy. To our regular courses in Burntisland we've added two 1-day courses in Kirkcaldy and a new course for some of the second year pupils at Kirkland High School. We delivered short courses in East Lothian covering first aid essentials. Our Intermediate course proved popular and attracted several people who had completed a simpler class elsewhere.

As a result, we have a number of new members, taking our total membership to around 40. They remain far-flung, with one of our latest recruits being a native Burntislander who now lives in Arbroath.

We continue to make progress in raising funds for a new defibrillator. A recent fund-raising event at a craft fair, coupled with a very generous offer of £1,000 from the Mary Leishman Foundation, takes us to around the half-way mark.

The ice hockey season has now ended but we'll be following through by providing training for some of the staff at the Fife Ice Arena. Over the next few weeks, we will be travelling widely to cover outdoor events such as the Fife Show, the Central Fife Show, cross-country horse trials and British Superbikes. Local events of course remain important, and include the Black Rock Race in Kinghorn and Burntisland Highland Games.

The most important people, however, are our patients. In recent weeks one man fractured an arm and dislocated his shoulder after his horse rolled on him. A party-goer found her heels rather too high and fractured her ankle when she fell down stairs. Most other patients required less dramatic intervention but some were still referred to hospital.

In between times, we have had a very relaxed presence in lovely countryside at events in Bridge of Earn and also the National Equestrian Centre at Oatridge.

Despite this level of activity, we still have room in the diary for some extra events and / or new training. So we are happy to take enquiries by e-mail to alex_mac@btinternet.com or by phone to 873314.



A few of our Basic class from 2012



Some of our regular ice hockey volunteers

Scotland - A Fair Trade Nation

On the 25th of February 2013 Scotland became one of the first Fair Trade Nations in the World as announced by Humza Yousaf MSP, at the start of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight.



Humza Yousaf MSP, Minister for International Development, and Martin Rhodes, Director, Scottish Fair Trade Forum just after the announcement

Burntisland should be proud to have played a leading role in this achievement.

Since 2004 Burntisland has led the way in Fife when it became Fife's First Fair Trade Town. The Scottish Fair Trade Forum in

which we are actively involved, was formed in January 2007. The Fife Fair Trade Forum which worked towards Fife becoming a Fair Trade Zone (or as we prefer Kingdom) has been working quietly in the background and with our assistance, numerous towns, schools and other organisations have achieved Fair Trade Status. All of this has played its part in allowing Scotland to become a Fair Trade Nation.

The positive impact that Fair Trade has had on our partners in developing countries is the reason our work exists and makes it worthwhile. Whether you are a stalwart campaigner, a policy maker, or a Fair Trade consumer, you have all contributed to the success we celebrate today and we look forward to the day when Fair Trade is the norm.

Brilliant as this news is, please do not think that we can allow this to be the end of the story. There is still a huge mountain to climb until we have a fairer trading system. In the meantime please continue to look out for these logos in local shops and continue to buy and promote Fair Trade products



Community Council survey – what you said

The last issue carried a survey in which we asked for people's views on a range of topics. This was not a tick-box exercise - we wanted to hear people's unprompted comments and that's exactly what we got.

In all we received 69 comments – far too few for numerical analysis to be meaningful, but so rich in content as to be hugely valuable.

To put the numbers in context, around 40 people previously attended a meeting to discuss a proposal for wind turbines on the Binn. About 70 attended a public meeting about proposed changes to the High Street. Many hundreds ticked a box or added their signatures to ready-made statements about the school site. Somewhere in the middle are the few hundred who attended public meetings on topics where there is widespread passion – such as the swimming pool or the school site.

What we received amounted to 18,000 words. I've read every one of them, as have my colleagues who helped to set the questions and review the findings. There are lessons in the results for the Community Council, Fife Council, Police, traders and indeed for every person in the town who sets foot on our pavements.

So here's what people said.

Woe betide anyone whose dog is seen to be fouling the pavement. It was easily the most widespread concern. If it's your dog, then be prepared for a hefty fine and also a lonely life as your friends desert you. If you're a responsible dog walker, perhaps you could carry a spare bag and offer it where it's needed. If you see an irresponsible act in progress, remember your mobile phone has a camera. Don't get into a confrontation – just pass the picture to the Police or to Fife Council's dog wardens.

"We counted 46 poos between the Erskine church and the school."

Nearly as unpopular were people who leave paper, bottles, cans or other litter for someone else to pick up. Similar guidance applies – get the evidence and pass it on.

"Burntisland has a fruit shop, fishmonger and butcher – that is more than Kirkcaldy currently offers on its High Street."

There is clearly a huge affection - and also concern - for the High Street. At the moment it's a jewel in Burntisland's crown, but some of the sparkle has been lost. The variety of shops is excellent, but too many are currently empty. People who welcome the proposal for additional shops at the Kirkton still see the High Street as more important and that's where their loyalties lie.

"The Beacon is a great facility with a good running club and cycling group. The late opening hours are fantastic."

The Beacon is hugely popular – even people who don't currently use it recognise the value that it brings to the community. There is strong support also for the proposed Multi-Use Games Area. In comparison, the Toll Centre is simply not recognised as a sports facility.

People's love for the High Street is tempered by inconsiderate parking. Regulations are ignored. Sight-lines are obstructed. Streets become bottlenecks. Elsewhere, speeding remains a concern, particularly on Kinghorn Road.

"Time restrictions on parking are rarely enforced."

"Parking on the High Street isn't great - I counted 7 cars on double yellows the other day."

"Prefer the Toll Park as a green space. Once lost we will never get it back."

There is no sign of any change on local views about the school site. Opinions remain polarised, with residents united only by the numerous comments that the current school "is not fit for purpose".

"Our children are more important than the green space by which we are surrounded."

There is significant support for the provision of children's play equipment. However, opinion is mixed over its scale

"We need to win back our title "the playground of Fife.""

and location. Broadly, people opted for quality over quantity.

"The town would benefit from two or three good play parks rather than a smattering of small uninspiring ones."

Other topics were well down the order of priority, but there were important messages in all of them.

For example, there is substantial unanimity about the desire to restore the clock tower at the Burgh Chambers.

"It's a symbol of the community and it adds to the general feel of the town. Part of our history."

Local people have established their own preferred way of keeping in touch with members of the Community Council – either through personal contact, attending meetings, e-mail or via the Burgh Buzz. However, a common comment was that "this survey is a step in the right direction".

On the downside, there are topics which are considered at length by the Community Council but which are not more widely known or understood. So we have a lot of work to do in spreading information about the facts of the Common Good fund and the potential of a community trust. Those who are "in the know" are passionate about how Burntisland can benefit but we need to widen that circle significantly.

A final important lesson arose from this survey. On some topics we received very different views from those who responded online compared to those who responded on paper. It's clearly not enough to do one or the other. If we are to capture accurately the views of our community we need to increase the number of responses and also keep open as many different channels as possible.

So it was a very worthwhile exercise and there are follow-through actions to be taken. However, there are also more questions to be asked – so watch this space for how to ensure that your views can influence our collective future.

Alex. MacDonald.
Chairman



Busy times at the Museum of Communication

By Dorothy Brankin

As many people know, one of our main objectives is to involve young people in our work, show them that science is fun and encourage them to consider careers in science and engineering.

This was the motivation of Harry Matthews, when he founded the Museum way back in 1973.

Since coming to Burntisland in 2003, we've welcomed school visits to the Museum and also reached out and visited them. We found that the best time to do this is

March..... The British Science Association (BSA) holds the annual National Science and Engineering Week (NSEW) during the month, and March is also the date of the annual Fife Science Festival.

This year we again visited Primary schools across Fife with our latest Roadshow, '*Inventions that changed the world of Communications*' – with particular emphasis on Scottish inventors. During NSEW, we travelled many hundreds of miles and gave eleven sessions to hundreds of children as well as an evening Lecture in the Museum..... One of the schools actually performed a concert at the end of our sessions, with singing and poetry – this was a very moving experience and made us realise what a worthwhile job we are doing!

In addition to all this, we gave two lectures down in the Borders at Peebles High School. This happened in freezing snow, which turned a journey of about 90 minutes into a nightmare of three and a half hours – but all in a good cause!

No time to sit back and relax after all this activity – we're now hard at work, preparing our latest exhibition, which is due to open in May.

Our monthly lecture programme continues. In the pipeline are 'Inspirations and Inventions – the development of Photography' (Thursday, 23 May); 'Kite Aerial Photography' (Tuesday, 18 June). This should have great local appeal, as most of the material is being filmed from a kite at about 50 feet, here in Fife! !

The photograph shows young Tom Aitchison discussing the new Forth River crossing, with Presenter Alistair Chisholm, at a recent lecture at the Museum.



Enterprise by Young Burntisland Model

By Amy Dixon

A young model from Burntisland has put together her years of experience with two other professionals in the industry to open their own modelling school in Fife. The school opened in Donibristle Industrial Estate, Dalgety Bay on April 1st and lasted the duration of the Easter holidays as a taster before reopening in the summer.

Becky Weatherly (21), Nikki McLeod (photographer) and Emily Sim (makeup artist) launched Central Scotland Modelling School (CSMS) after meeting each other at various jobs.

For Becky, the school is also a way to reach out to young people who may feel pressured or unsure of themselves. As well as giving the teen hopefuls vital advice about the modelling industry, the professionals aim to help boost their confidence and give them support.

Becky suffered with eating disorders when she was younger and grew up knowing people who suffered from either anorexia or bulimia. After learning that her studies of dance could no longer go ahead due to the damage caused from her illness, she gave modelling a try when she was just 14 and believes that it is the best thing she could have done.

The aspiring model ensures that you don't have to fall into the usual pressures surrounded by the modelling industry and that you can have a successful career no matter who you are. "You meet a lot of people who also suffer from eating disorders and it inspired me to set up this school with Nikki and Emily to teach young people about pressures and how to be more confident in themselves. "Anyone can model; they just need to find the confidence to achieve what they want."

CSMS is the only modelling school in Scotland that offers what these three professionals have in store. You can enrol in either a taster day or a full four day course. A taster will give you an introduction to the world of modelling, a full hair and makeup session, and a professional photo shoot.

The four day course provides an introduction to modelling, health and well-being, skincare and makeup, posing, direction and catwalk tuition, professional hair and makeup application. You will also be part of two professional photoshoots and at the end of the course you will get the chance to be part of a catwalk show for friends and family.

Although, the Easter sessions have come to a close, you can book online for the summer sessions. Course dates begin from July 16th and are available to 12+ years.

Further details can be found at the website: csmmodellingschool.moonfruit.com



“BURNTISLAND AT PLAY”



Preparation for this year's summer heritage exhibition is now well in advance. The exhibition 'Burntisland at Play' features many of the town's clubs, groups and organisations which have been active over the past 100 years. These include golf, swimming, cricket, drama, the pipe band, youth groups and many more. Our thanks go to everyone who responded to the appeal in the last edition of the Burgh Buzz. The appeal is of course on-going. We are looking for any material e.g. background notes, brochures, photographs anything at all that may be of interest that relates to a club and its activities. If you think you can help in any way please contact us at 01592 872121

As with some of our previous exhibitions we are working with the Primary School as the theme fits well with their Curriculum for Excellence. An area will be set aside for the children's contribution.

The Exhibition opens at the start of Civic Week on Saturday 15th June. It will run to the 31st August at Burntisland Heritage Centre, 4 Kirkgate, Burntisland (just round the corner from the main door of the Burgh Chambers in the High Street). It will be open on Wednesday from 1.00pm to 4.00pm and on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11.00am to 4.00pm. 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.

Exciting Civic Week Planned for June

On Saturday 23rd March, a very successful fund raising disco, the first in a long series of events organised by the Burntisland Civic Week Committee was held in the Parish Church Halls. This very popular function raised an impressive £900 but the highlight of the evening was the announcement by Brenda McCormick, Head Teacher of Burntisland Primary School, of the identities of the Summer Queen and King and supporting entourage. The crowning ceremony of the Summer Queen, and first ever Summer King will take place on 15th June, the commencement of Civic Week

It has been two years, since the formation of the new Burntisland Civic Week Committee. And I think we can all agree that under the leadership of our Chairman, Morna Beuzeval it has been a great success. The Committee has been joined recently by a keen local photographer, Michael Booth, who will be capturing all the Civic Week Events. Let us hope he can also capture some sun on the Parade Day.



The Royal Party from left to right
 Renee Davies (second attendant), Isla McNicol (flower girl), Leona Bruce (flower girl), Christopher Stenhouse (trainbearer), Adele Shaw (Summer Queen), Caine Yeardley (Summer King), Bronwyn Walker (first attendant), Akira Stewart (posy girl) and Callum Paton (trainbearer).

As always one of the biggest tasks is funding. However we are pleased that, thanks to a Fife Council Community Grant and local companies such as Briggs Marine, BiFab, and BH Plumbing & Heating providing early donations, the Burntisland community can expect a full and exciting, week long, line up of events. I do hope you will support us and attend these events.

Civic Week is starting early this year - along with the traditional Shop Window Competition, for the first time ever, we are having an Impromptu Comedy Evening on Friday 14th June. On Saturday, 15th June, 'Parade Day', the crowning of the Burntisland's first ever Summer King and traditional Summer Queen will take place. After the success of last year, we are hoping to hold this ceremony again at The Burntisland Parish Church. This year's theme for Parade Day is 'The Natural World', and I just know we will, once again, shall be

thrilled and entertained by the imaginative costumes that the children will wear ...the world is ‘certainly their’ oyster!

Although all times are provisional, we plan to have the crowning ceremony of the Summer King and Queen at 12.30pm. Then the New Summer King, Caine Yeardley and Summer Queen, Adele Shaw will lead the parade with street performers and entertainers through Burntisland High Street and onto the Links Car Park for the ‘Party on the Links’, this year hosted by Kingdom FM Roadshow. We must also thank Kingdom Kilts, Kirkcaldy for sponsoring the new Summer King attire. And once again we have the ‘Children’s Choice’ on the centre stage, W3L Wrestling at 1.30pm, kindly sponsored by Briggs Marine.

A full week’s programme of varied and entertaining events will follow Parade Day - Here is a Taster - the Summer King and Queen Disco, Saturday 15th June at 6pm, Des and The Dingo’s, Sunday 23rd June at 3pm, Burntisland Heritage Summer Exhibition opens. Other events include the Adults Comedy Evening, Joe’s Band at the Toll Centre, Curry ‘n’ Comedy Evening, Food for Thought – Taster, After School Story, Burntisland Sailing Club Races, Bike Cycle & Picnic, 5-a-Side football Tournament. Have a look at the provisional Events Diary below. A full programme will be available in May.

We want this to be a real community event so please support our efforts - the Civic Week Committee is made up entirely of volunteers. Everyone in Burntisland can play a part – by volunteering to help out with stewarding or collecting, by encouraging children to dress up for Parade, by attending as many events as possible, by putting some money in the collection buckets, by buying raffle tickets, by keeping your fingers crossed for good weather!!!

Should you wish to join us and help with any of the above events...Please Contact Wendy Hawthorne, Publicity on 01592 872893

Provisional Civic Week Diary

DATE	Day	TIME	Event	Venue/Location
14th June	Fri	3-4pm	Shop Window Competition	Burntisland High Street
	Fri	8-10pm	A-Z Improv. Comedy (over 18’s only)	Burntisland Museum of Communication (tbc)
15th June	Sat	11am	Burntisland Heritage 19th Summer Exhibition opens	Kirkgate, Burntisland
	Sat	12.15pm	Burntisland Pipe Band	Parade from Pipe Band Hall
	Sat	12.30pm	Highland Dancers	Burntisland Parish Church (TBC)
	Sat	12.30pm	Crowning of the Summer King & Queen	Burntisland Parish Church (TBC)
	Sat	12.30pm	Fancy Dress Competition (The Natural World)	Burntisland Parish Church (TBC)
	Sat	1pm	Street Parade to the Party on the Links	Burntisland High Street/Links
	Sat	1-3pm	Kingdom FM Party and entertainment	Burntisland Links
	Sat	1-3pm	W3L Wrestling (The Wrestlers are back in Town)	Burntisland Links
	Sat	1-3pm	Fife Falconry Exhibit	Burntisland Links
	Sat	4-6pm	Playgroup Disco	Burntisland Parish Church Halls
	Sat	6-11pm	Summer King & Queen Disco	Burntisland Parish Church Halls
	Sat	8pm	Adult Comedy Night (over 18’s Only)	Burntisland Golf Club
16th June	Sun	10am	5-A-Side Football Tournament	Burntisland Shipyard Park
	Sun	1-4pm	Burntisland Unlimited Summer Street Market	Union Street (TBC)
	Sun	1.30pm	Bowling Competition	Burntisland Bowling Club
	Sun	3pm	Pool Competition (over 18’s Only)	Jubilee Tavern
	Sun	9pm	Civic Week Quiz	Burntisland Sands Hotel
17th June	Mon	7pm	Sailing Club Races	Breakwater, Burntisland
18th June	Tue	6.15pm	BASC Civic Week Sprints	The Beacon Leisure Centre
	Tue	8pm	Dominos Competition (over 18’s Only)	Burntisland Bowling Club (TBC)
19th June	Wed	2.30pm	Burntisland Inner Heritage Walk	Heritage Trust, Kirkgate, Buntisland
20th June	Thu	3.30pm	After School Story (primary 1-3)	Burntisland Library
	Thu	7pm	Food For Thought Evening	Food For Thought, High Street, Burntisland
	Thu	8pm	Darts Competition (over 18’s Only)	The Golf Tavern
21st June	Fri	7-9pm	Young Bands	The Toll Centre (TBC)
	Fri	8pm	Curry ‘N’ Comedy	Potter About, High Street, Burntisland
22nd June	Sat	8-12pm	Civic Week Dance with Joe’s Band	The Toll Centre, Burntisland
23rd June	Sun	10.30am	Family Bicycle Ride & Picnic	The Links Car Park
23rd June	Sun	3-6pm	Des and The Dingo’s	The Star, Burntisland

Please note all of the above events are to be confirmed and events will be added to the official Burntisland Civic Week programme.

Highland Games Appeal

The AGM of Burntisland Highland Games, the second oldest in the world, was held in the Burgh Chambers on Wednesday 20th March. The committee elected for this year is Dave Jeffrey Chieftain, Keith Johnson Treasurer, Joyce Kelley Secretary, and Eric Kelley as Vice President. The committee is very small and would welcome new members who are enthusiastic about keeping the 360 year old games running in Burntisland. There are only about 5 meetings a year. However, the main assistance is needed just before, during and after the games. We set up the arena the day before. On Games Day, starting at about 8 am, we mark out the running track (a bit of an art), we erect huts, the marquee and dancing platform so being handy with tools would be helpful. We also need stewards, people to take money on the gate or help in the hospitality marquee. Then at the end of the day, we dismantle the arena and take everything down to the storage containers. It is quite hard work but very worthwhile. This year the 2013 games will be held on Monday 15th July.



The next meeting will be Wednesday 8th May at 7 pm in the Burgh Chambers High Street Burntisland. Prospective volunteers should contact for further information.



Swimming Club has Honorary Start to the Year

By Yvonne Coull

Bob Main (Chair) and Olive Grayson (Honorary President) have been selected as the 2013 Burntisland Community Award winners for their outstanding contributions over the years to Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club. It was a great surprise to both of them. We send the congratulations from all the swimmers and family members in the club. Some of the club supporters and parents went along to the Burgh Chambers recently to watch the Award Ceremony and it was lovely to see them both almost speechless for once! Both have been involved with the club for around thirty years, many years after their children left and both have held numerous positions on the committee. This is our way of saying thank you for all your support over the years! Both received a certificate and will take on various duties in the town throughout the year. To show our support for them we will be taking part as a club in the Civic Week Parade in June. Our usual Civic Week Sprints will be held that week too. This competition is open to all BASC members and each swimmer that takes part receives a medal.

The Timed Swims took place in February, having let the swimmers get back into the swing of things after the Christmas break. There were 72 PB's from Session One, 64 from Session Two and 36 from the Top Squad and Masters. Well done to all who took part. Some of our youngest swimmers took part in the Livingston Development Gala. This was great for new starts as there is a demonstration of each stroke by a professional swimmer before the races and it is good for them to see the stroke demonstrated properly. We also had a visit from the Fife Performance Squad Coach, John Dougal, who worked with swimmers in all sessions on Butterfly. We hope to have John back to help us work on other strokes throughout the year. A large number of BASC swimmers attended the Easter Camp held by Fife Performance Squad and came back very enthusiastic having had a great time.

All this hard work is bearing fruit with club records being broken at the Scottish Short Course Championships by Greg Turner, Carnegie Winter Meet by Hayley Nimmo and Claire Thomson, East District Meet by Greg Turner and Catherine Comrie. Great results and PB's in the Fife Novice and League Meets with Eireann Comrie and Alicia Thomson gaining Speed Flashes in the Novice and 42 PB's in the recent Fife Performance Meet.

Sunday morning swimming has started again at Stirling using the 50m pool. It is an early start for our Top Squad, Trialists and Masters leaving home at 6am for a 7am start! The swimmers also swim in the normal Sunday evening session. The pool at Stirling is great for practice at the 50m distance and gives the swimmers a good idea of

what is called a 'long course' (Olympic size) pool. Shame the shops aren't open at that time for the mum's though! We have a few places in some lanes and also the Masters lane so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you or your child are interested.

burntislandswimmingclub.co.uk or BASCsecretary@ymail.com



Burntisland Golf House Club

By Alistair Maxwell

The 2013 season kicked off with a bang on Saturday 30th March when the Captain's Team comprehensively beat the Vice Captain's in the traditional season opener. The following day, a special event was held to welcome many of the ninety (yes - ninety!) new members we have been encouraged to join BGHC since early winter.

Our new member offer with a subscription of just £375 has proved to be very popular. This sub. will apply for each of the next three years, and if anyone else fancies joining us then contact me on 01592 874093 or info@burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk

The Club also boasts a new catering partner, Jules Weir who brings great golf club catering experience to Burntisland. His Steak Nights, Carveries and Sunday Lunches have already generated excellent comments and feed back. A raft of social events is also planned.

Social membership is available to non golfers for just £20 at the above contact. Social members can take full advantage of the excellent club house facilities, catering and attractive social calendar.



Burntisland Shipyard Amateurs

By Andrew Beveridge

As the season draws to a close with only a handful of games left to play, now is a fitting time to reflect on our first season playing in the East of Scotland League.

After a promising start to the season with a resounding victory over Gala Fairydean and a well merited point against Edinburgh City at Meadowbank, results dipped and we found wins hard to come by. One highlight was the excellent 2-0 victory at Recreation Park over a strong Cowdenbeath side in the Fife Cup.

The team then went on a very poor run of form beating only Peebles Rovers (Twice) as we entered the New Year. As results still continued to be poor and in a couple of cases embarrassing, it was decided to change the management and take a different outlook as to the makeup of the playing side. In hindsight we maybe should have taken a more professional approach to assembling a squad capable of competing at senior level, signing players with greater junior or senior experience, though to be fair the players that started the season deserved their chance to shine.

The new management team of Myles Allan and Jason McCrindle certainly have the contacts in the junior and senior game and we were quickly able to assemble a squad at short notice after most of the players decided to leave with the management. Using our contacts saw local lads Mikey Couser and Ben Anthony arrive on loan from Alloa Athletic and Cowdenbeath respectively and several players also arrived from the junior ranks. The summer months will no doubt see more players come and go as Myles has time evaluate his squad that finished the season and bring in the players he wants.

Away from the pitch the club is moving forward in its quest for an SFA club license and over the next 12-18 months developments will take place to enhance our facilities.

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The Vulcan

As told by Mark Blyth to Andy Wight-Boycott

Sunday 6 January 2013 is a short but calm midwinter day. It is 12 noon and Mark Blyth of Burntisland's "Dive Bunker" has sped along the coast from the Beacon to the "East Vows" reef off the old Seafield colliery. A client needs an "open water" dive qualification and the wreck of the ADAM SMITH steam ship, run aground on Boxing Day 1884, provides a suitable venue for the dive.

Although the wreck lies in shallow water, a mere 6 meters, the underwater visibility is limited to 2 meters making the dive both interesting and challenging. The pair swim slowly along the wreck. Mark has been here hundreds of times before (perhaps 1500 times!) and knows it well but the sea bottom can always surprise. On this occasion he notes a pipe poking through the mud with the letters C, A, N inscribed. He notes the position and swims on determined to return and investigate further.

The following day provides the opportunity. With two companions, Mark returns to his pipe and gently runs his hands around it – a funny sort of pipe – short and with a bell mouth opening – surely not - could it be – it is – it is a ship's bell!

And now the confusion really starts. The bell has clearly got VULCAN 1875 inscribed on it and yet Mark thought he was diving on the wreck of the ADAM SMITH. Mark's edition of the "Shipwrecks of the Forth" has the VULCAN sunk off another "East Vows" reef by Elie, 12 nautical miles along the coast from this bell.

After some research the confusion is resolved, Mark's wreck off Seafield is the VULCAN. The Vulcan carrying 2000 tons of pig iron from Middlesburgh to Grangemouth was caught in a southerly force 10 storm on 15 October 1882. The crew of 14 had two lifeboats. The first, with 9 men, made it to the shore, the second was wrecked stranding the remaining crew on board – they perished before a rescue tug from Burntisland could get to them.

So where is the wreck of the ADAM SMITH? Well the ADAM SMITH did indeed run aground off Seafield and was a "total loss" in insurance terms. Unknown to Mark and the wider diving community, she was refloated and taken away for breaking up. Thus Mark has made some 1500 dives on the VULCAN believing it to be the ADAM SMITH – he will not be amending his log books! So why has the VULCAN's bell suddenly reappeared? In Mark's opinion the recent southerly gales have redistributed up to 2 meters of bottom silt revealing long buried details – he describes one wreck as having had a winch and an anchor but now having a winch and 3 anchors!

And what are the implications for Burntisland and the famous but missing treasure ship the BLESSING OF BURNTISLAND? Here Mark is a little coy – he now has a towed side scan sonar that 'photographs' the seabed in great detail. So if the recent gales have exposed anything of the BLESSING's wreck he should be able to see them. The problem, as ever, is knowing where to look. After all the VULCAN's wreck was 12 miles from where Mark thought it was and the ADAM SMITH wasn't there at all!

With reference to the last paragraph of this article, an authority on the 'Blessing' shipwreck project commented: "Given that the *Blessing* wreck did not run aground, the suggestion that recent gales have exposed anything of the wreck is completely wrong. The remains of the 'Blessing' lie buried deep in the seabed covered in 380 years of alluvial silt and mud".



Citizens of the Year Presentations

On the evening of 8th February a Civic Reception was held in the Burgh Chambers to honour the 2013 Citizens of the Year, Olive Grayson and Bob Main. A large number of guests including former Award Winners, Community Councillors and relatives and friends of both recipients witnessed the presentation of the Citizen's Shield and magnificent, individual certificates designed and crafted by local artist and calligrapher, Duncan Gilfillan.

In his presentation address, the Chairman of the Community Council Alex MacDonald outlined the history of the award and the diverse nature of the winners over the past 33 years. This was the third occasion on which the recipients had been associated with the Swimming Club. Alex then expanded upon the invaluable contributions made by both award winners over some three decades, towards the development of youth within the community through their association with the Club. Long after their own children had left the Club, Olive and Bob continued to work tirelessly in virtually every role to ensure that it continued to prosper.

Bob replied on behalf of both recipients and in his usual modest and unassuming manner. He explained how surprised they had both been when they were informed of the award but also how delighted and honoured they both felt. In expressing his thanks to the Community Council, he felt that it was recognition of the tremendous work done by the whole team at the Swimming Club rather than on Olive and himself as individuals.





By Bill Kirkhope

The Beacon Centre is a valuable public amenity and an iconic facility on the Burntisland beachfront which residents fought hard to establish many years ago. Some five years ago Fife Council entrusted the running of Fife's 13 sports and leisure facilities, including the Beacon, to a newly established company, the Fife Sports and Leisure Trust which also has charitable status. It was considered more efficient, both operationally and financially, to manage these facilities in this way. The company's income consists mainly of a management fee from Fife Council and revenue from the sports centres. Any surplus is ploughed back into the facilities or the company activities. The Trust's remit however, stretches far beyond the

management of these premises. It is also tasked with encouraging public participation in sport at all levels throughout the Kingdom, promoting health and education and assisting the disadvantaged in society by encouraging participation in recreation and physical activity.

In recent months there have been grumbles amongst regular users of the Beacon over frequent closures and speculation about possible consequences on the Beacon following the opening of the new swimming pool complex in Kirkcaldy. Following a discussion at the Community Council, the Chairman Alex MacDonald, seized the initiative and met with senior executives of the Fife Sports & Leisure Trust in an attempt to clarify the situation. This led to a further discussion between myself and operational officials of the Trust and based on the discussions at these two meetings, I will attempt to clarify issues which have been raised.

Routine maintenance - The Trust is conscious of the need to cause the minimum of disruption to facility users and schedules routine maintenance during traditionally slack periods. In respect of the Beacon, this was completed during December when attendances are seasonally down and when workmen and materials are available. As all routine maintenance has been completed, no further maintenance closures are scheduled for the near future.

Contamination - The problem of contamination from ill or incontinent swimmers is a continuing problem which occurs in almost all swimming pools. A greater knowledge of contamination risks, in particular in relation to cryptosporidium, has resulted in the introduction in more stringent cleansing procedures. In almost every case occurring at the Beacon, the cleansing process involves 6 cycles of water change involving many hours of pool closure. These incidents are very expensive for the Trust and they have taken a number of steps to minimise their occurrence.

Prominent signs are on display in the pool, reminding swimmers of simple hygiene procedures and standards which must be adhered to by anyone entering the water. Disposable swim nappies are on sale at the Beacon and some parents do buy them. However, if users of the pool or their loved ones who have had a recent illness or for any reason feel that you may have an "accident" - **do not enter the pool!** Children and babies must

be closely supervised and appropriately clothed to guard against accidents. These are simple, common sense precautions which, if followed, would reduce the instances of closures considerably. **It is up to you!!**

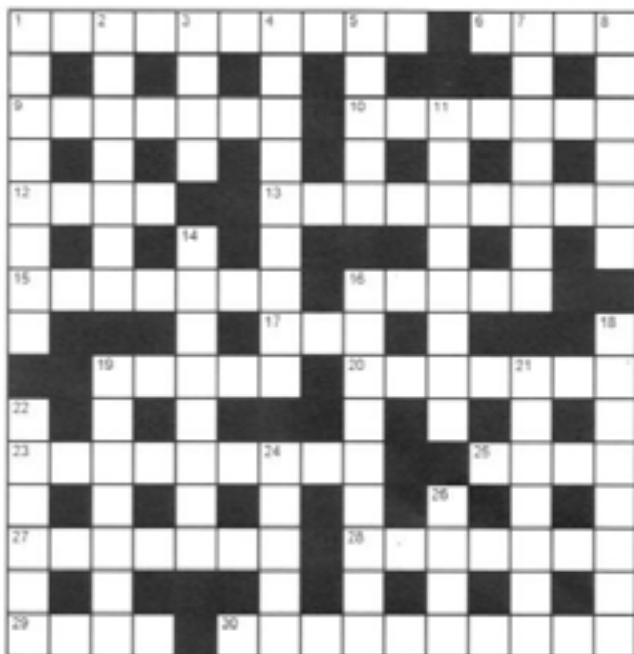
Kirkcaldy Pool – Based on past experience, the Trust feels that there may be a temporary shift in attendances from the Beacon to the Kirkcaldy pool when it opens. Opening times and shift patterns at the Beacon will be planned accordingly and may result in temporary changes to reflect short term demand.

The Café – The café at the Beacon operated by Fife Council catering services, recently closed without prior notification to patrons. After having been brought to the attention of Fife Councillors at a recent Kirkcaldy area meeting held in Burntisland, a decision has been made **not** to remove the kitchen equipment and to review the situation. The possibility of changing the operating hours or even offering the facility to local business to run is believed to be under consideration. In the meantime, I have been reliably informed that no changes will be made to the café's current status or to the equipment..

Overall, the management of the Centre by the Trust is efficient and professional. The facilities and ancillary equipment is maintained to extremely high standards and the introduction of innovative membership and pricing structures has made them accessible to virtually everyone in the community. As the Trust continues to strive to improve its services, the help and cooperation of those who use the facilities is absolutely essential. Restricting the number of enforced closures through the exercise of responsible self control would assist greatly.



THE PRIZE CROSSWORD



Solution to January's crossword:

ACROSS 1 Trojans, 5 Remedy, 8 Mains, 9 Admonish, 11 Logical, 12 Recluse, 13 Sepia, 15 Wisconsin, 18 Surrender, 21 Judge, 23 Acerbic, 25 Peckish, 27 Zucchini, 28 Ideal 29 Flange, 30 Altered
DOWN 1 Tumbles, 2 Owing, 3 Associate, 4 Shallow, 5 Remarks, 6 Manic, 7 Discussed, 10 Keen, 14 Perpetual, 16 Ire, 17 Objective, 18 Shad, 19 Deceive, 20 Replica, 22 Exhaled, 24 Bacon, 26 Inept.

The winner of the £25 voucher donated by Shell UK Limited was

**Mr James Page, Kinghorn Road,
Burntisland**

BURNTISLAND OVER 70'S CHRISTMAS TREAT

Fund raising events for this year will start with an Afternoon Tea on Saturday 11th May 2013 2pm – 4pm at the Music Hall

Further events will include a Quiz Night, Bingo Afternoon & Family Disco – dates to be confirmed so look out for local advertising.

Our popular calendars will once again be on sale from June. We are still looking for new recruits to be part of our committee and anyone interested should contact Frances Allan on 01592 872092

The Wednesday Club

Although we are shortly coming to the end of this year's programme of entertainment for the over 50s, we would like to invite new members to join us on 11th September at the Toll Centre for the new season of music nights, craft and cookery workshops, gentle exercise taster sessions and a blether with a cuppa. Why not come along to the Toll Centre on a Wednesday and see what we get up to!

Across

1 Darling (10)
6 Group of criminals (4)
9 Dig up (7)
10 Milan opera house (2,5)
12 Warmth (4)
13 Brazilian dance (5,4)
15 Endeavour (7)
16 Assent (5)
17 Receding tide (3)
19 Injure with hot liquid (5)
20 Expose (7)
23 Gobsmailed (9)
25 Opposed (4)
27 Underwater projectile (7)
28 North American falls (7)
29 Scottish dance (4)
30 Dumbfounded (10)

Down

1 Left hander (8)
2 Graceful & refined (7)
3 Mountain lake (4)
4 Put on display (9)
5 Regulations (5)
7 Fashionable (1,2,4)
8 _____ Green, novelist (6)
11 National emblem of Ireland (8)
14 Not fully developed (8)
16 Profusion (9)
18 Skilled workers (8)
19 Released (3,4)
21 Wine crop (7)
22 Quicker (6)
24 Wilt (5)
26 Foolhardy (4)

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 9SG

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St Serf's Episcopal Church

by Revd Canon Val Nellist
Rector

Back in January I wrote about the issues around universal birth registration, soon after writing I was back in India to visit our friends in the Diocese of Calcutta. This time I was leading a larger group from our Diocese and we were taken by our hosts to see some of the many social outreach projects that the church is engaged in there; both at congregational and diocesan levels. One of the questions I asked of our hosts was, is there universal birth registration in India. I was assured that, by law, this was the case. However, when later in the visit we went on to Kalimpong in the Himalayan foothills, we found the Scottish Universities Mission Institute (SUMI) and the Diocese of Eastern Himalaya were dealing with the consequences of child trafficking that so easily flow from the failure to properly record births in the remote hill villages. In the cities the police have begun to crack down on child labour and prostitution but when these children and young people are returned to their homes they are not always received with open arms. This is because the poverty amongst these subsistence farmers means the family may not be able to feed yet another person. Then there is the disgrace attached to prostitution and also the matter of the money that changed hands when the child was trafficked in the first place. I should point out that the families who let their children go to work in the cities were not necessarily aware of what would happen to their son or daughter, promises would have been made of work and steady income. The church in these hill areas does not stand in judgement of the families but rather seeks to help these returning children. We were taken to see the training workshops and hostel that are being built in Kalimpong. Here these destitute and traumatised youngsters will be helped to rebuild their lives and taught the skills needed to start up small businesses serving the known needs of these hill communities.



Kalimpong workshop construction site



Pipe band welcome at SUMI

Then the joy of travel, our hosts who are running this project were keen to know if we had been to North Berwick. It turned out that some of them had been there recently on a youth mission to their companion link partners at the Abbey Church and Dirleton Parish Church. It's a small world and good to know that we have such strong supportive links between Scotland and India. It was also good to learn soon after we returned from India that the government there is conducting a census that will digitally identify and record the whole population. The rural and urban poor have welcomed this opportunity to be counted and to count as citizens because it promises to give them better access to the government support that is available and so offers the hope that the exploitation that is child trafficking might be stopped at source. I see all these positive things as signs confirming our Easter faith in the new life and hope that comes from the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the way of reconciliation that is offered to all people.



Burntisland Parish Church

by Rev Alan Sharpe

Despite the cold, Easter morning was beautiful this year, especially at 8.00 am when 26 hardy souls climbed the Binn hill to celebrate at the top, while another 34 joined the ministers of Erskine and Burntisland Parish churches on the beach. It felt more like 7.00 am with the clocks going forward a few hours before, but no-one seemed daunted and we all enjoyed a delicious breakfast and warm fellowship in the Erskine Church afterwards. A few folks who had forgotten to put their clocks forward arrived an hour late for the 11am service but just in time to an informal Easter communion. It's been really good to see more parents bringing their children to church recently.

At a recent church wedding we also hosted the reception in the hall, with outside caterers coming in. Hotels these days are offering to have the service itself on their own premises, so it was good to see the tables turned. Many people think that a church wedding is expensive, but we recently discovered that some hotels and even the registrar are charging more just for the use of premises for a service, than we ask for providing the church building, minister, organist and church officer combined. So if you are getting married, why not consider having a church wedding, hiring the hall, decorating it yourself, and getting in an outside caterer.

Messy Church continues to be a really great morning, lots of mums, dads, grandparents and children, lots of fun and mess! It is held monthly, turn about in Burntisland and Kinghorn Church Halls. Dates for your diary are Kinghorn on the 18th May and Burntisland on the 15th June, 10.00 am until around 12.15.

Who would turn up to pray in church for an hour-long slot through the night? It's surprising how many folks do. At Easter and at different times of the year we hold days and/or nights of prayer and folks take time to come to the church to pray. Thought provoking prayer stations with creative ideas for prayer are provided as well as the opportunity to just pray quietly.

The 11am services moved back into the church building from Easter Sunday.



Some of the folks on top of the Binn, Easter Day

Erskine Church News

by

Alexander Ritchie
Minister : Erskine Church

bright morning.

The view across Burntisland is all-encompassing from the Binn. It gives a sense of our whole community in terms of how it has expanded from the harbour area right up to the Binn's shadow and all around. We are different people, yet we share the same living space. Equally one can see further afield, both to the other side of the Firth of Forth and along the coast from where we are. A perspective like that helps us to think about diverse needs right on our doorstep and also beyond in the wider country, and even world. It reminds me of the Biblical idea that the interests of our neighbour are of deep significance and should enable us to understand just a little more of God's loving concern for humanity as a whole.

Evening services will restart in Erskine as from **Sunday 28 April @ 6.30pm** in the church hall. It is hoped that things are going to be more informal and relaxed, and that there will initially be a service on the last Sunday in each month. Please do come and join us if you are free!

Please also put the dates **Monday 5-Friday 9 August** into your diaries. That's the planned slot in the school summer break for our kids' holiday club in Burntisland. This year it's taking place in Erskine Church each morning, more details should be available nearer the time. It is hoped that a team of folks from our local churches will be on hand to assist the UF young people leading the week-long programme.

It is now possible to keep in touch with what's happening at Erskine on Facebook. Our page will be regularly updated with the latest church news, as well as photographs and even a few wise words from the minister, if that's possible! Please like, follow and share with us at www.facebook.com/Erskine-Church-Burntisland.



News from St Joseph's by Catherine Gilfillan

We are very privileged in St. Joseph's Church to have 2 young men training for the Priesthood, one for the Missions and one in his 4th year at the Seminary in Rome.

Here is a short version of Jamie McMorrin's thoughts from Rome about the election of our new Pope. The full text was published in the Scottish Catholic Observer on the 22nd March.

"In 20005 watching T.V. while at University in Scotland and seeing the white smoke announcing the election of Pope Benedict I was discerning a vocation for the Priesthood but never considered that the next time I saw the white smoke ascending I would be making my way to St. Peter's Square in Rome as a student at the Scots College. When we were first privileged to see Pope Francis all of us watching were moved by his prayerfulness and unaffected simplicity. It has become very clear that he is, above all, a pastor, whose focus will surely be to bring all of us closer to Christ Jesus".

Back home in the reality of a never ending winter in Burntisland we have nevertheless managed to brighten the season with a busy and fruitful Lenten programme culminating in a joyful series of Easter Services. Palm Sunday saw us celebrate Jesus, triumphant entry to Jerusalem. Holy Thursday services commemorated the Last Supper leading to the beautiful but sad services on Good Friday and culminating in the glorious liturgy of the Risen Christ through Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday to its fulfilment on Easter Sunday.

NEWS FROM THE ECOLOGY CENTRE

The past year has been a challenge as we battled with the elements to keep our Kinghorn Loch site a safe and habitable area for people, plants and wildlife. Paths were washed away, buildings damaged, trees blown over but we are (surely) over the worst and emerging into what we hope will be a glorious late spring and early summer when the site bursts into life.

So much work is done on and around the site to maintain and improve the habitats that are home to a wide and varied range of wildlife and plants. The developing and mature woodlands provide a niche for shade tolerant plants with creatures large and small feeding and hunting in the undergrowth and in the trees.

Our gardens and meadows help sustain bird and insect life and some new woolly recruits, on loan to us from Scottish Wildlife Trust's 'Flying Flock', are doing their bit to help. These 4 legged lawn-mowers as they are affectionately known, are quietly doing what sheep do best - munching, plodding, generally lying around and top-dressing the soil with their droppings – and in doing so, are enabling and improving the meadow's biodiversity.

The loch itself is a haven for water-birds and the ponds and marshes on its western bank teem with tiny creatures which feed and shelter among the vegetation. Two volunteers from The Ecology Centre carry out fortnightly surveys to record the number of different species and volume of birds in and around Kinghorn Loch. This information, and other data collected from the site are fed into national surveys to help biodiversity monitoring throughout the UK.

If you haven't been to the site for a while, come along. There is range of walks to suit all abilities and plenty of interesting things to keep the kids entertained along the way. Keen bird spotters will enjoy spending time in the Hide, the perfect spot to view the local wildlife.

Volunteers welcome

The spring is a perfect time to come along to The Ecology Centre and find out about the many volunteer opportunities on offer. You can join our Tool Shed refurbishment project, create beautiful mosaics from recycled materials or help look after this beautiful site. For more information visit our website <http://www.theecologycentre.org/> or call us on 01592 891567



Events Diary

MAY

Monday 6th	Burntisland Playgroup Spring Fayre at Parish Church Hall	10.00 - 12.00 noon
Wednesday 8th	Police Community Engagement Meeting at the Pettycur Bay Hotel	7.00 pm
Wednesday 8th	Highland Games Committee Meeting in Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Friday 10th	Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 11th	"Over 70's Christmas Treat" Afternoon Tea at The Music Hall	2.00 - 4.00 pm
Saturday 18th	School Fun Day at Burntisland Primary School	1.00 - 3.00 pm
Saturday 18th	Messy Church, Kinghorn Parish Church Hall	10.00 - 12.15 pm
Thursday 23rd	Lecture at the MOC "The Development of Photography"	7.00 pm
Saturday 25th	Parents, Toddlers & Baby Group Bingo at the Jubilee Tavern	7.00 pm
Sunday 26th	Toll Centre Craft Fair	Afternoon
Sunday 26th	Sunday Strollers—Kissing Trees from the Doo Dells Car Park, Kinghorn	2.00 pm

JUNE

Friday 7th	Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 8th	BOSS AGM at the Toll Centre	4.00 pm
Sunday 9th	Sunday Strollers - Kinghorn Marches from the Doo Dells Car Park	2.00 pm
Saturday 15th	Messy Church at Burntisland Parish Church Hall	10.00 - 12.15 pm
Saturday 15th	BURNTISLAND HERITAGE TRUST EXHIBITION OPENS	11.00 am
Saturday 15th	BURNTISLAND CIVIC WEEK BEGINS (see page 13 for details)	
Tuesday 18th	Lecture at MOC "Kite Aerial Photography"	7.00 pm
Sunday 30th	Sunday Strollers - Burntisland Marches from the Sands Hotel	2.00 pm

JULY

Wednesday 3rd	Police Community Engagement Meeting at the Pettycur Bay Hotel	7.00 pm
Friday 14th	Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Monday 15th	Filled rolls, salads, cakes, teas and coffees served in Erskine Church Hall	all day
Monday 15th	BURNTISLAND HIGHLAND GAMES	
Sunday 28th	Dalgety Bay to Aberdour/Burntisland from St Bridget's Kirk (check bus times)	about 2.00 pm



Letters to the Editor

The Sting

Dear Sir

What ever happened to respect, common sense and perspective!!!!

When I was growing up, we called our neighbours Mr or Mrs, you gave up your seat to your elders, ran messages for them and your parents knew where you were. If you weren't home by the prescribed curfew they came out looking until they found you. Grounded!

If the police spoke to you, you listened. If someone was cheeky they got a clip round the ear or they were taken home and their parents dealt with them! Usually much worse than the police.

I can only remember one real act of vandalism by someone I was acquainted with when growing up. He was caught and paid for the damage and never committed another crime.

Sorry to sound like a grumpy old woman but where has all that respect gone? I truly believe if there was that same element of respect there was back then, we would not have the problems we have today.

I had a Saturday job from the time I was 13 years old and bought some of my own things. That brings it's own appreciation of possessions. If you work for it, you look after it. "Yes", I hear you say. "They aren't allowed to work at that age now!" – well maybe its time for a change. I held down two jobs, one in a shop on a Saturday and a couple of week nights and a Sunday working with horses, still managed 9 good O Levels in a year and Highers the following year.

Too much time is now spent hanging around street corners in gangs. The old adage is so true " the devil makes work for idle hands" All too many get whatever they want without ever working for it, easy come, easy go. If you have no respect for your own possessions, what hope is there that you will respect others' or the work put in to achieve those things?

As kids, we played in the paddling pool on hot days with our pet dogs having fun. None of us caught awful diseases. Most people I know, were nipped by a dog at some point growing up as they had usually tormented them. Maybe caring for something other than ourselves made us better people. We were not savaged by an animal. There were few bad animals just bad owners.

Can you see where my parallel thinking is going about irresponsibility?

Maybe it's time for a return to past values.

Karen Smith

Dear Sir,

It was with a heavy heart, I drove past the Toll Centre on Easter Sunday after seeing the chaos in the playing field.

As this was a very well used and loved piece of ground that was put use by many residents, it seems to me that the "Powers" have let us all down. I'm still at a loss to understand why a new school could not have been sited in the footprint of the old school.

I understand that there were health issues but those were not really the reason to move site and create chaos. Temporary accommodation can be made available for the limited time that it takes to make an old building safe for further use.

I'm still at a loss as to how the residents let this pass. Not only will the inconvenience prolong, but the loss of access for sports and other activities will never be replaced.

Yours truly
Dorothy A.Kettles
(former pupil and resident)

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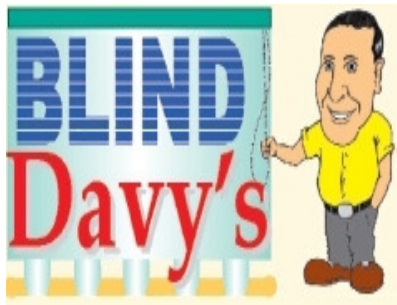
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