

50TH Edition BURGH BUZZ

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COMMUNITY AWARD FOR FRANCES

In the early evening of the 31st January, having completed a late afternoon stroll, Frances Allen and her husband John retired to the Star Tavern for some light refreshment. Whilst chatting amongst friends about their plans for a quiet Hogmanay, in strode Alex MacDonald, Chairman of the Community Council, not a regular patron of the Star. Even more unusually, Alex immediately approached Frances, shook her by the hand and congratulated her on having been selected as 2014 Burntisland Community Award winner – Frances was truly gobsmacked! (her words). Frances was almost overcome by emotion as she was showered with congratulations (and the odd G & T) from all of those present.

Frances has been honoured for her hard work and dedication over the last sixteen years as the driving force behind the organisation of the Burntisland Over 70s Christmas Treat. This task is a huge undertaking, involving fundraising throughout the year, liaising with sponsors, registering attendees, arranging transport for those who need it, drawing up the programme for the day, arranging entertainment and gifts for everyone, to name just a few. As Treasurer for the past thirteen years, Frances has kept a tight grip of the purse strings. The event itself has existed for many decades but in recent years, with the added support of local companies and the invaluable facilities and service of the Kingswood Hotel, it is a function catering for over 150, which is the envy of communities across the country.

Frances is a most deserving recipient of the Community Award but in her typically gracious and modest manner was quick to point out that the success of the “Over 70s” over the years was very much the result of a team effort.

Frances is a most worthy recipient of the Burntisland Community Award for 2014 and we offer our congratulations and best wishes for her year in office.



Giving Trees - A New Christmas Concept

You may have noticed some unusual Christmas trees in some retailers & businesses around Burntisland this Christmas. They didn't have normal decorations on them, they had gift tags on them – they were Burntisland

Unlimited's **'Giving Trees'**

The idea for the Giving Trees started last Christmas when we had some gifts left over from our Visit Santa stall at our Christmas Market. We contacted the health visitors at the Doctor's surgery and they said they would be delighted to distribute them to families in the town. The seed was planted and this Christmas we decided to do even more.....

We thought that if there were families who could afford to buy just one extra gift, those gifts could be passed on to children in the town whose families may be struggling in these austere times. After all, we all want Christmas Day to be a magical day for our children, full of nice surprises and treats.

So the call went out to the people of Burntisland when we launched the Giving Trees at the Late Night Shopping Event. The idea was simple; collect a tag from one of the many businesses who took part (which had

been written out with gender and age on it to allow the gift to be more personal) the gift was purchased, wrapped and returned with the tag attached, to our collection points.

The generosity was astonishing we sent out 86 tags and we received more than 95 gifts back! Burntisland embraced the idea wholeheartedly, with a huge variety of gifts donated, including train sets, clothes, art packs, fancy dress costumes, numerous toys and even a refurbished bike!

It's been a real privilege to have been involved with this, it has really highlighted what a caring, generous community we have in Burntisland. We had originally hoped we may get 20 gifts, so to receive almost 100 is fantastic, Burntisland Unlimited would like to thank everyone who took part and donated and to those who are already asking about Christmas 2014! If anyone has any ideas to help make it even bigger and better then please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can find us under Burntisland Unlimited on Facebook

Once again, thank you all so much, it's so nice to think that you may have helped make a child's Christmas just a little bit more special.



BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY PAPER

Featuring Local issues . organisations . events . people and more ..

From the Editor

As I write this piece in the 50th issue of this journal, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude - to the Community Council for supporting the original idea; to Andy Wight Boycott for his pioneering ideas and perseverance over 7 very productive years; to the many contributors, several of whom have re-emerged for this edition; to the advertisers without whose financial support the Buzz could not be published; to the loyal band of distributors who ensure that every household in the town receives it's copy and finally to my long suffering committee who ensure that it all comes together every quarter - very many thanks to you all.

The response to my pleas for contributions to this issue has been overwhelming - so much so that lack of space has forced severe editing of some articles and in other cases omission. Those pieces that have been omitted were not considered to be time critical and will appear in future issues.

The recent Police Community Engagement Meeting was the most productive that I have attended and demonstrated the value of these sessions. A group of ladies from the same residential area, very clearly articulated their concerns about the law and order situation caused by the behaviour of an influx of new residents to "scatter flats" in their area. This behaviour was not reflected in the excellent police statistics which were tabled, as no official reports had been made. After lengthy discussions amongst the complainants, police, and elected councillors, effective communications channels for complaints were identified, a meeting with the appropriate authority for allocation of scatter flats was proposed and the meeting concluded with a general feeling of satisfaction that action could be taken to alleviate the concerns of the complainants. The Buzz is optimistic of a positive outcome but will continue to monitor developments.

Finally, here's to the next fifty!

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Community Council Bullets.....

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

- We welcome the action group which has been set up to promote disabled access to the northbound platform at the railway station.
- Small wind turbines at Whinnyhall were approved by Fife Council without any notification to the Community Council. Other proposals may come forward for the Beacon and at Dunearn, as well as at Kinghorn golf course. We have already drawn attention to the conflict with existing land use and existing planning consent.
- Police Scotland have refused our request to keep the public counter open at Burntisland police station. However, we understand that when police officers are in the building the back door will remain available for public access.
- Funding is now in place for the all-weather pitch at the Beacon. Funding for the adjacent multi-use games area is still in progress.
- John Bruce and Hazel McGraw have attended a briefing by Friends of the Earth on fracking and will keep the Community Council abreast of any local implications.
- Changes in Police shift patterns have enabled a larger police presence on the streets at any one time.
- Work will start immediately on refurbishing the oak tables in the Burgh Chambers, which are stained and marked but otherwise sound and attractive.
- Some pathways on the Links will have their edges reinforced to protect them against vehicle damage during the summer months.
- Fife Council are inviting comments from the public about the path which goes from Bendameer westwards. To be a public right of way a path must join 2 public places, follow a defined route, must have been used openly and peacefully for 20 years and must be used frequently by the public. This route has been in dispute for the last 10 years, with the owner saying it is not a public right of way.
- An application from Floral Action Burntisland for Common Good Funding has been supported by the Community Council.
- We have approved a Community Emergency Plan and representatives are liaising directly with the Fife Council Emergency Planning Officer. Through a network of volunteers we will be better placed to respond to any local emergency which affects a large number of people.
- We strongly support a new Low Tide path between Burntisland and Kinghorn, extending from the Lochies Pier, as an alternative to the current route of the Fife Coastal Path which follows the main road.
- A litter pick will be organised jointly with Kinghorn Community Council to target the beach between Burntisland and Kinghorn.

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 / Hazel McGraw
Members:
Christine Dewar Tim Hailey
Bruce Stuart Morag Douglas
Ian McKenzie John Bruce
John Bradshaw Damian Purcell

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

Burntisland Surgery - First Saturday of the month (excepting July)

12.30 - 1.00 pm in the Burntisland Public Library

Telephone 01592 583101

Email: petergeorge@fife.gov.uk

Next Issue - May 2014

Copy Deadline: 14th April

**All contributions to the editor
by email or by snail mail.**

Birthday Buzz

In 1997 the Burgh Buzz was a twinkle in the eye of Andy Wight-Boycott. He was passionate about sharing information and aspirations across our community. He saw the Community Council – and a local newsletter - as the best way of taking his ideas forward.

After many discussions and some experimental layouts with draft content, the publication date loomed, along with a financial headache. How could the printing and distribution costs be covered? Advertising seemed to be the only solution, but with no track record the essential cash flow was very flaky indeed.

So the Community Council agreed to underwrite the costs and to keep a sum in reserve for that purpose. That remained the case until very recently. The Burgh Buzz now has an established track record of advertising revenue which ensures that its head will stay clearly above water for the foreseeable future.

However, in those early discussions the planned newspaper still had no name. There was no shortage of ideas and there was a fondness for alliteration. Burntisland Banter and Burntisland Bulletin were among many suggestions. At a meeting in my house, Andy and I discussed the possibilities with Aneris Grant, then Treasurer of the Community Council, and David Plant, then Vice Chairman. Andy’s wife Jinti had favoured the Burntisland Buzz. Aneris wanted to see the town’s history reflected in the title, and favoured the Burgh News. In a flash, we all realised instantly that “Burgh Buzz” had rather a nice ring to it, and so the name was born.

It was a time of some controversy locally – and all of it reported in the Burgh Buzz. Over those first few months

the town dealt robustly with a proposal to build huge silos at the East Dock, which thankfully came to nothing. Similarly, a proposal to carry out significant dredging in the Forth had serious implications if it had gone ahead. The water quality at our beach would be at risk and there was a likelihood of unwelcome traffic to transport the spoil. So the Community Council opposed the application.

More visible was the derailment on the Links. Though the railway line itself was quickly put back into use, it was many months before the retaining wall was repaired. The Community Council had had fruitless discussions with Railtrack officials in Glasgow so ultimately we escalated our concerns to Sir Robert Horton, then Chairman of Railtrack. That got it fixed, but it shouldn’t have been necessary.

On the brighter side, the town was still revelling in the delight of the newly-opened Beacon leisure centre. Coincidentally, the name of the Beacon was also a local inspiration. Primary schoolchildren had been invited by John MacDougall, then both a local councillor and Convenor of Fife Council, to come up with possible names. The Beacon was a clear winner, as it reflected both the design of the building and its figurative role in leading the way for tourism and recreation in Burntisland.

In the years that followed, the Burgh Buzz proved a key medium for exchanging information, to help ensure that the Community Council at all times reflected the views of local people. So a planned “theme park” at the Roundhouse car park came to nothing. Rights of Way were vigorously

supported. The Links water feature attracted much goodwill, as did the Christmas lights. However, controversies remain a way of life. Whether they are insensitive commercial proposals or clumsy actions by Fife Council, the Burgh Buzz plays a key role in capturing local opinion.

Now, the Burgh Buzz goes from strength to strength. It is published by the Community Council and proudly displays our Arms on its front page. The editor is appointed with our consent but has always had editorial independence. He or his deputy attends every meeting of the Community Council to ensure there is a balanced flow of information.

An excellent medium of communication

Most importantly, the statutory role of the Community Council is “to ascertain, coordinate and express the views of the community”. The Burgh Buzz is a key factor in enabling us to do that. We don’t direct its content, but we do have the certainty of an excellent

medium of communication whenever the need arises.

The Burgh Buzz is a lively and energised publication which accurately reflects controversies and celebrations in equal measure. Its success is down to a stalwart but largely anonymous band of volunteers. They include contributors, editorial staff and distributors – as well as advertisers and avid readers. Its presence adds immeasurably to the richness of life in Burntisland. The 50th issue of the Burgh Buzz is a major and most welcome milestone on what I hope will be a very long journey.

Alex MacDonald

Chairman, Burntisland Community Council

Civic Week - Royal Party Selection



It's this time of year again, already! Children and families of Burntisland will be thinking about the Summer Queen and King, and the Royal Party of course! To announce this year's party there will be a fundraising disco in the Parish Church Halls on March 22nd- it's always a sell out so please organise your tickets



as soon as they are available from Rosie (lollipop lady on Cromwell Road) or Cristina Davies. Details will be on the Burntisland facebook page as well. All are welcome to attend to see who has been drawn out of the hat to be this year's Posy Girl, Flower Girls, Attendants, Trainbearers, and of course the Queen and King.

The Crowning of the King and Queen marks the start of the annual celebration of Burntisland's Civic Week. The date for this year's event is yet to be confirmed, and letters to invite primary school children to apply for selection will be issued once this important date has been confirmed.



The Burgh Polis

By

Sergeant Neil Ewing

Another edition of the Burgh Buzz and another new Sergeant based at Burntisland Police Station. I move to Burntisland with over 12 years experience in the police, having spent the first 5 years in response policing, followed by 5 years in road policing and the last 2 as a Sergeant based in Kirkcaldy. I join an already established Community Team consisting of PC Jez Graves, PC Tony Kinsell, PC Andy Pearson and PC David Snowdon, who recently covered Burntisland as an Acting Sergeant.

On 9th January 2014 the Community Team shift pattern changed, resulting in the 4 officers and myself all working the same hours. This will enable us to target community issues such as anti-social behaviour, road safety and substance misuse, all of which have been highlighted at recent Community Engagement Meetings. It will also allow us to target known individuals and detect reported crime. Response officers will continue to provide a 24 hour presence in the town.

I can confirm that the front office at Burntisland Police Station will close later this year but the timing is still to be decided. Although the counter service will be removed, the police station will remain open and we will continue to provide a service to the public.

We continued to host our Bi-monthly Community Engagement Meetings at Pettycur Bay Caravan Park. The priorities appear to centre around Anti-social Behaviour and Road Safety. New dates for 2014 are listed below and will also be posted on Twitter.

Anti-social Behaviour

Recently we have seen an increase in anti-social behaviour, whether it be drunken behaviour around the town centre or vandalisms to cars. As we move forward I will ensure that community officers are clearly visible, either walking or cycling around the town. This presence will provide reassurance to the public and hopefully deter individuals from committing crime.

Road Safety

Parking and speeding in Burntisland continue to be areas of concern. Working in partnership with Fife Council Traffic Wardens, we will monitor the areas identified, educate drivers, and where necessary enforce legislation. Officers will also be tasked with conducting speed surveys in the problem areas and again where necessary will issue fixed penalty tickets.

Substance Misuse

Since starting at Burntisland in November, I have identified substance misuse as a key priority that requires attention. During December two separate drugs warrants were executed with positive results. This will continue to be a priority and I ask everyone to contact officers at Burntisland Police Station or contact Crimestoppers to pass on any information regarding substance misuse.

Recently in Burntisland a couple of properties have been broken into and property taken. Although these incidents were detected with help of members of the public, I do ask that any suspicious activity is reported by phoning 101 or Crimestoppers. I also ask that descriptions of appearance and clothing of suspicious individuals be noted and also a direction of travel, should they leave prior to police attendance. Please also take relevant precautions should you leave your house for a period of time. Leave a light on or set timers and be careful who you tell if going away for a lengthy spell, especially if using social media sites.

Community Engagement Meetings

Community Officers and I will continue to host the bi-monthly Community Engagement Meetings at Pettycur Bay Caravan Park. I encourage readers to attend so we can listen to your views and concerns, and move forward with local priorities directly influenced by you, the residents of this area.

Your forthcoming Community Engagement Meetings are on:

Wednesday 5th March @ 7pm – Pettycur Bay Caravan Park

Wednesday 7th May @ 7pm – Pettycur Bay Caravan Park

Twitter

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Volunteers Needed!



Call for volunteers

The Community Council are looking for several volunteers to help in different ways.

Firstly, Gary Cummins has reluctantly decided that he has to stand down following a recent change in his working arrangements. So there is one vacancy for a new member of the Community Council. To apply, it simply takes a brief note to our Secretary with some background information. The vacancy will be filled by secret ballot among the other members at our February or March meeting.

Secondly, we're looking for people who have the desire and energy to flesh out plans for the future of Burntisland. We wish to sponsor the development of a Community Action Plan, which needs a Steering Group to take it further. In principle, we need about half a dozen people, representing different interests across the town, to join a few members of the Community Council, plus one of our elected members of Fife Council. Their initial brief will be to refine the scope of the plan. Already, we know that the broad areas of interest will be:

- Townscape, heritage and the natural environment

- Leisure, sport and culture
- Family, neighbourhood and community
- Business, tourism and sustainable development.

However, each of those topics has about 20 sub-headings, so they need to be prioritised. Some of the prioritisation will be done by the steering group, based on local consultations which they will drive. Those consultations may include open sessions, meetings with stakeholder groups, surveys and one to one interviews.

Why do we need to go through this process? Quite simply, the various funding agencies need to see solid evidence of demand before they will finance anything. It doesn't matter how strongly we think we know what local people want. The evidence has to be there in a form which will win funding in the face of stiff competition. In addition, it greatly strengthens our case if we can demonstrate that a series of proposals will work well together as a co-ordinated set of projects, perhaps over a 5-year timeframe.

It is likely to be an iterative process, with the consultations being progressively refined and focused on the topics of greatest interest and greatest benefit.

The steering group will also be interested in receiving input from earlier surveys which we know were carried out among different groups across the town. It's a very ambitious task but we'd love to hear from people who could join the steering group and / or help in some other way.

If you can help, please let us know via the Secretary or Chairman (contact details for both are on page 2).

Cancer Research UK

The Burntisland Branch of Cancer Research UK have had yet another successful year due, in the main, to the local community's continued invaluable support.

"Stroll at the Toll" held on Sunday 28th April 2013, raised £1,105.37. Mary Brownlee and Alison Wardlaw raised £109.46 by rattling a cancer research fundraising bucket around Burntisland on Games Day and a fundraising event was held in Burntisland Bowling Club where tea, coffee, rolls and home baking were served on Saturday, 27th July 2013 and we raised £474.00. "Swing at the Golf Club" in Burntisland with The George King Trio and Friends was held on Saturday, 9th November 2013. We would like to thank everyone involved for organising such a great night and to all the performers who were absolutely fantastic and helped to raise £486.40. Last but

not least, Carol Singing in the High Street raised £138.36 on Saturday, 7th December 2013.

These events were well supported by our local community whose enthusiasm and generosity does not go unnoticed. In the past year we've sent the impressive sum of £4,500 to Cancer Research UK.



Fife's Positive Birth Support Group

The group, which has been meeting since October 2013 was organised by two Burntisland women, Bonnie Ewan and Karen Small. Both draw from their own empowering birth experiences, a passion to help spread the word and encourage other women to prepare and look forward to a good birth.

Bonnie has been teaching HypnoBirthing to pregnant couples for eight years, after using the technique with her second baby. Karen teaches the holistic fitness technique Nia which encourages you to become more in tune with your body. A positive birth does not have to be 'natural' or 'drug free'. It is about making informed decisions before, during and after birth and ensures that the couple is in control and comes away from their birth with no regrets.

Coming along to the group means you get the chance to meet and talk to real people who have a different story to tell - and it

won't be a horror story. Each month we have a special guest. It could be a new mum with a birth story to share, a midwife, doula, pre-natal yoga teacher or other health professional connected to pregnancy and birth.

Maybe you have a positive birth experience you'd like to share? Or maybe you're pregnant and have questions about birth, and are feeling scared. Would you like to meet other mum's-to-be and hear women share their positive birth experiences?

We welcome everyone who has an interest in positive birth. The meetings are in the Space Upstairs on the third Sunday of every month. You can come to just one meeting, or come to them all. This is a non-profit group and we ask for a small donation to cover the hall hire. You can also join the group on Facebook Fife Positive Birth Support Group.

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School News

By Carolyn Bell

The first term under the leadership of the new Head Teacher Julie Anderson, has been most successful with pupils at all levels excelling in a wide variety of activities. In October the P7 team returned from the Enterprise Challenge at the Glen Pavilion in Dunfermline as winners for the second year in a row. The pupils were required to take on different roles in a fictional company and use their imaginations to invent a new product. They competed successfully against five other teams.

P6 and 7 have also delved into history, visiting the Mary Queen of Scots Exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland in November and later working with the local Heritage Trust and visiting the War Memorial to learn about the Great War. They also managed to visit Kirkcaldy Ice Arena to watch an ice show which even featured some of their fellow pupils. P6 pupils ventured outdoors with Sophie of the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust exploring the habitat of squirrels and the different kinds of trees which exist in the local environment.

P5 became engrossed in a "Titanic" project which involved fact finding, model making and creative writing. They also were introduced to a world music project which offered stories, games, songs and experience with musical instruments from Africa.

Primary 4 pupils were also outdoors and climbed to the ruins of the old Binn Village which brought to life stories that Granny Mary had told them about her early life in Burntisland. P4 enjoyed an outing to Lochgelly to see "Peter Pan" and visited different churches in the town to witness how they celebrated Christmas.

P3 embarked on a bus trip round Burntisland as part of their transport project and listened intently to advice given by visiting, local police officers, on how to keep themselves safe.

P2 classes made very colourful and unusual

shakers which they used in their Nativity play in December. This term they are looking forward to taking part in the RSPB Birdwatch programme.

P1 had a very Scottish flavour to their studies last term and invited parents to view their Scottish Country Dancing, listen to Scots verse and a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne. Continuing the school involvement with different sections of the community P1 pupils entertained the residents of Links View care Home with a selection of Christmas Carols.

Nursery children have developed a link with the British School in Bahrain, exchanging Teddy Bears, emails, traditional culture, Christmas cards and stories. Even children so young have enjoyed sharing their experiences with children of the same age overseas and experiencing how modern technology can easily link us with the rest of the world.

In sports, the swimming team competed against tough opposition at Glenrothes but excelled in the relays. BiFab have offered to sponsor the strips for our football team which has been doing well in the cluster leagues.

However, the highlight of the term occurred just before Christmas when the entire school and nursery, with a large number of invited guests, was transported in 15 coaches to the Alhambra Theatre in Dunfermline to the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk". It was a spectacular event which passed without a hitch and was enjoyed by everyone who was lucky enough to be there.



Thoughts from the New Head

As the new Head teacher at Burntisland Primary School, I have been delighted with the support and encouragement I have received from pupils, parents and members of the local community.

It has been an incredibly busy term as Miss Bell's comprehensive report shows and I'd have to say the highlight for me was seeing the fifteen coaches leave from the Links to take us all to Jack and the Beanstalk for our Christmas treat, what an adventure!

Inside the school there is a real sense of excitement with us getting ready for our move into the new building later this year. As the year progresses we will be entering a time of change and great opportunity. Many of us, myself included, as former pupils, will be sad to close the doors on the old school. It is my intention to ensure everyone who would like to, has the opportunity to be included in the events we have planned to mark leaving these historic buildings.

The new school gives the whole town something to look forward to and I will endeavour to keep everyone informed of our progress so that the whole town can be included. Parents of the school get text messages and newsletters informing them of school events and the school newsletter now appears in the

Community noticeboard so that every member of the community can see what's going on.

Details of our 'Name the New School Wings' community competition will be posted there too, so watch that space!

If anyone would like to get in touch with regard to any school issues, please feel free to do so at

burntislandps.headteacher@fife.gov.uk or telephone 01592 583414. The Parent Council and BAM (the School contractors) can also be found on Facebook, both sites have up to date news and photographs and then there's also the school website which is updated regularly.



Parents Council News by Benjamin Barron

A big thank you to everyone who assisted with the Christmas Fair which raised £1680 towards the Pantomime outing expenses. Our next fundraiser is a comedy/quiz night at the Jubilee from 7.30 pm on 15th March.

The Parents Council will be holding an information evening on the development of the New School between 6 - 7 pm on 3rd February. This will be followed by a Council meeting. We are always looking for new faces to join us on the Parents Council.

"Scots Verse Competition Winners"



The annual Scots verse competition, promoted by the Community Council amongst the pupils from the local Primary School took place on 29th November in a packed Burgh Chambers. The audience of Community Councillors, parents, teachers and members of the community were splendidly entertained by the rendering of a wide variety of Scots verse which included some new and some traditional—"My Wee Red Motor" and that old favourite "Ma sair fing'r" to name just two. Following the presentation of trophies everyone enjoyed a sumptuous finger buffet provided once again by the volunteer "Community Council Catering Corps".

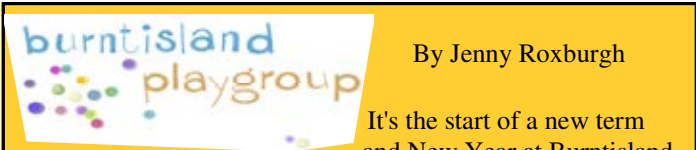
The winners of the various categories are pictured opposite. From left to right they are:

Magnus Reid (P6), Sophie Patterson (P5), Rachael Wallace (P4), Catherine Baker (P3), Greg Carcadden (P2), and Sam Johnston (P1)



BOSS (Burntisland Out of School Service) is a local after school club which provides play schemes during school holidays and in-service days. The service operates in the Toll Centre Mon-Fri during term-time, 7.45am-9am and 3pm-6.15pm.

During the school holidays we are open 7.45am-6.15pm. BOSS had a thoroughly enjoyable 2013, with numbers for both morning and afternoon clubs dramatically increasing. Activities featured trips to the National Museum of Scotland and the Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh and closer to home we visited the Kirkcaldy Galleries, Aberdour Castle, Kinghorn Lifeboat Station and Burntisland Fire Station to name but a few. Regular activities included swimming, and visits to the beach and local parks. Visiting teachers engaged the children in sports, baking and arts & crafts. BOSS is a charitable organisation which relies on fundraisers throughout the year - our most recent event was a pamper night held jointly with the Toll Centre in November, which raised £400. All local support is very gratefully received when we are holding fundraisers, and these are advertised locally and on the BOSS Facebook page. BOSS had a successful AGM in July, and the Committee now has a new Chair and Treasurer. Anyone interested in joining the Committee or having queries should contact us at bossmanagementcommittee@yahoo.co.uk. Looking ahead to 2014, we hope to have another fun and busy year. We're now taking bookings for half-term (12-14th Feb inclusive). The activity planner will be available soon, and if you would like to book your children in please contact Morag or Kirsty at the Toll Centre during BOSS's usual hours. New faces are always made most welcome!



By Jenny Roxburgh

It's the start of a new term and New Year at Burntisland Playgroup. The run up to Christmas was very busy and full of fun. The children discussed their ideas of the meaning of Christmas - Santa, presents and sweets! We learned about the Swedish celebration for Santa Lucia and enjoyed some Swedish biscuits. The children, along with a fantastic small brass band, performed their Christmas songs for their families and friends. The committee also worked very hard that day and held a Coffee Morning, which raised some much-needed funds.

Sadly our Manager/Play-leader has moved on to pastures new, so we are in the process of recruiting a new Manager. If any childcare managers are out there looking for a new job please call in or phone the Toll Centre office.



Over the next few months we have plenty of activities planned. We'll be celebrating Chinese New Year, Burns Night, Valentines Day, Pancake Day and Easter. We plan to take part in the "Little Schools Birdwatch" to discover facts about the bird population. Most ideas for activities and themes will come from the children, depending on what their own interests are. We will also be spending plenty of time outdoors in our garden and exploring on the beach.

The annual Open Day for the new intake in August will take place some time in March and places will be allocated shortly after that. Application forms are available from the Toll Centre.

There are also plenty of fundraising activities planned for the next few months including a family ceilidh, quiz night and spring fayre. Remember to 'Like' us on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest events and activities.

We would like to thank those local businesses who continue to support us, in particular Briggs Marine for their generous donation.

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The Hidden History of the Erskine Church

by **Iain Sommerville**

(Trustee, Burntisland Heritage Trust)

Burntisland's Erskine Church has a long and distinguished history, albeit with many twists and turns along the way. It began as the "Associate Congregation" which seceded from the Church of Scotland in 1738. Over the years, a series of splits and mergers saw it become the United Secession Church in 1820, the United Presbyterian Church in 1847, and the United Free Church (which it still is) in 1900.

In April 2013 I was given access to the old records of the Erskine Church, which are currently kept in a formidable metal trunk in the manse. Nobody really knew what was in the trunk, so I

volunteered to catalogue the contents. I was also given permission to digitally copy the older records and all of the newsletters to add to the Burntisland Heritage Trust local collections. The actual copying was done in the Heritage Centre. Some of the records were very fragile, so conventional photocopying was out of the question. We therefore used a system developed by Ian Archibald. It comprised a digital camera on a tripod and an angled lectern - simple, but quick and effective.

The main records which we were allowed to copy were -

- Kirk Session minutes from 1764 to 1913 (some gaps)
- Baptismal Registers from 1837 to 1918
- Church newsletters from 1888 to 2011 (some gaps)

We also copied a large number of other documents from the 18th century to the early 20th century. These include lists of church members, records of people joining and leaving the congregation, and a history of the Sunday School.

We ended up with a total of over 1,300 images,

representing about 2,500 pages of records.

One of the most interesting of the old documents is a renewal of the National Covenant and the Solemn League and Covenant. 169 church members subscribed to the document in 1749. The first to sign were eight elders - John Forrester, Robert Kirk, James Wilson, Alexander Lyle senior, John Piers, John Stocks, Alexander Lyall (sic) junior, and Henry Cant. The Session Clerk had to subscribe on behalf of the 80 members who could not read or write.

Family history researchers will be interested in the Baptismal Registers. In particular, the baptisms from 1837 to 1854 (the last year before civil registration

began) may well be the only records of birth/baptism for most of the people concerned.

The newsletters contain much of interest, including obituaries and advertisements for local businesses.

Serious researchers will also find interesting family stories in the Kirk Session minutes. The Kirk Sessions of all the Presbyterian churches took a keen interest in

the conduct of their members. In this respect they were in effect local courts which regulated the behaviour and morals of their congregations.

The minutes of the Erskine Church and its predecessors

contain details of a wide range of transgressions. Some involve relatively minor matters such as lapses in church attendance, swearing, brawling, drunkenness and theft. A frequent offence was "being late at one's bottle", namely allowing a Saturday drinking session to extend into the Lord's Day.

Irregular marriages were a cause of great concern, as was "unseemly carriage". Very stern rebukes were given to church members who consulted fortune tellers. The same fate befell anyone who participated in guising, such as one man who "had gone to some Houses drest in some pieces of

Female Attire".

However, the main preoccupation at many of the meetings was sexual immorality, and a great deal of time was devoted to examining alleged transgressions - most frequently, sexual relations before marriage. These examinations usually continued over long periods and



The oldest surviving photo from the Erskine Church archives, and titled "Burntisland United Presbyterian Church Session, circa 1880". Pictured are: back row, left to right - John Duncanson, John Connel, George Ferguson, Andrew Gilmour, Thomas Strachan; front row, left to right - William Inglis, John Roxburgh, the Rev James Parlane, George Paterson and Henry Baxter.

Kirk Session - The moral police

are frequently recorded in great detail. Potential transgressions often came to light via local gossip. Evidence was taken from the alleged offenders themselves, from other witnesses, and from church elders who often acted as roving investigators. Those found guilty would typically be given a long lecture by the Minister, followed by public rebukes at as many as three subsequent Sunday services. Although this might make uncomfortable reading nowadays, those were very different times. The Kirk Session had to cope with



matters which are now dealt with by social work departments, schools, the police, the courts, and the social security system. On a practical level, their striving to maintain a strict moral code would almost certainly have deterred vulnerable young women from acting in a way that could have exposed them to years of grinding poverty and social exclusion as they tried to raise illegitimate children on their own.

In the 19th century, the Kirk Session continued to keep an eye open for moral lapses - but as the years passed the investigations became less intrusive. The Kirk Session was becoming first and foremost the Session, the

governing body of an organisation, with its main function being competent administration rather than the obsessive pursuit of sinners.

The minutes also record many instances of donations in cash or kind to named local individuals who found themselves in extreme poverty.

The digital images of the Erskine Church records will be available for viewing on the Burttisland Heritage Trust computer during the opening hours of our 2014 summer exhibition. Please note that some of the images are quite difficult to read because of poor

The current Erskine Church facing the Links dates from 1903. For the 160 or so years prior to that, the Church's home was in the High Street. In the photo, it is the building on the right with the external porch. The Public Library now occupies the site. Photo courtesy of Fife Cultural Trust (Kirkcaldy Galleries) on behalf of Fife Council.

handwriting or the fading of ink over time (although we will be trying to enhance the faded ones in time for the exhibition opening). There is no index, but the images are arranged in date-labelled batches. If you are looking for an event and you know the

approximate date, it should be easy to home in on the relevant documents. Family history researchers have found such records invaluable when trying to discover information about events such as a suspected illegitimate birth.

My thanks go to the Rev Alexander Ritchie and the Kirk Session of the Erskine Church for supporting this project.

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In the very first edition of the Burgh Buzz an article appears on page 5 and describes the work and status of the Burntisland Heritage group and refers to a lack of funding for the summer exhibition ***"In its present form the exhibition was always intended to be temporary. Negotiations which had been very promising were a major disappointment when they fell through at the last minute. Against that background it is by no means certain that the exhibition will open for a fifth year in 1998."***

Fortunately the exhibition went ahead and thanks to the hard work of many people over the years the work of protecting and promoting Burntisland's Heritage and the summer exhibitions has continued to the present day. A huge collection of archive material including every edition of the Burgh Buzz; thousands of photographs; browsing material; scrapbooks and DVD's have been compiled for reference and viewing. Our 'Time Line' gives an indication of what has been achieved from the creative and resourceful support of voluntary effort. A special mention needs to be made of the publications of three

books on Burntisland's heritage by trustee Iain Sommerville. All of which has helped us 'keep our head above the water'. Every year our exhibitions are manned by 'Friends of the Trust' without whom the doors at 4 Kirkgate would remain closed throughout the summer months.

A few years ago our most senior Trustee Jimmy Wilson was standing outside the door and entrance to the summer exhibition. A local and long time resident of Burntisland asked "What's in there Jimmy?" Jimmy's reply was brusque "Why do you no go in and find out". A blunt response perhaps but possibly deserving, as I suspect there are many people who live in the town who have yet to step over the threshold. So if you are one of those folk why not make a special effort this year to find out "What's in there?" Who knows, you might even find out something you don't already know about Burntisland. In 2014 our 21st exhibition features "Burntisland and the Forth at War". More details of this will appear in the next edition of the Burgh Buzz.

Burntisland Goes Totally Locally... for a £1.4 Million Boost

Totally Locally, the award-winning shop local campaign, will launch in February in Burntisland. "From the 8th of February for one week, many of our independent local shops and businesses will offer townspeople and visitors the best of local produce, and fantastic offers. It is our very own 'Fantastic, Fabulous, February, Fiver Fest!'" said Lorna Duffin – one of the Totally Locally Burntisland organisers.

Burntisland is the latest of many towns across the UK to take up the Totally Locally campaign. This free initiative supports Burntisland's traders to show the value of local shopping and its benefits for the local economy. Many of the shops, and businesses will have special offers - highlighting Totally Locally's message that if everyone in Burntisland spent just £5 a week in local independent shops, it would bring an extra £1.4 million into the town's economy every year.

"This is a chance for locals to discover Burntisland's great shops and businesses, and the real difference they make to our town. We want to find a way to celebrate all the good things happening and to help put Burntisland back on the map. There are so many good people in Burntisland who really care about their town, are proud of its heritage and want to be a part of its bright future. Burntisland is one of Fife's hidden Gems."

Totally Locally was created in West Yorkshire, in the UK in 2009 by brand expert Chris Sands and business strategist Nigel Goddard. It has seen successes in towns like Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, recently profiled by UK national press as one of Britain's most "independent" thriving towns, Leek in Staffordshire where "The Totally Locally Effect" was shown on National TV as having a huge impact on the economy of the town, and Brighouse,

recognised one of the top five most positively changed towns in the UK.

Totally Locally has had a big impact on the towns that have run the campaign. We are confident that it can do the same for Burntisland. We have a wealth of wonderful shops and businesses here that people may not even know about and Totally Locally will highlight the hidden gems right on our doorstep." continued Lorna.

"Totally Locally celebrates all local businesses, from Burntisland's florist to photographers, from cake shop to book shop. These small businesses support many other local businesses, which keep the local economy alive. It's what the whole fabric of a town like this is built on. The stronger the local economy, the better it is for the whole town".

"Totally Locally isn't anti-supermarket or anti-internet", said Totally Locally founder, Chris Sands. "There is a place for all these things in our lives. It's just highlighting how a small change in spending habits can make a huge change to Burntisland. We have a choice to make the place we live that little bit better by just diverting £5 of our weekly spend back into our local economy. And everyone wants their town to be great, don't they?!".

Totally Locally Campaign was released as a free kit for towns to download and use in 2012, after demand for it became so huge that the Totally Locally had to create a way for anyone to be able to use it. You don't have to be running a business to be involved: just someone who loves living in Burntisland, with some energy and a willingness to share your skills.

Local contacts for Totally Locally are:

www.totallylocallyburntisland.co.uk and <https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/totallylocallyburntisland>

Museum of Communications by Dorothy Brankin



Congratulations to everyone at the Burgh Buzz from the Museum of Communication!
We are delighted to be associated and affiliated with you for your Special Fiftieth Edition and look forward to contributing towards the next fifty!

People passing our closed doors in the High Street, Burntisland, may well think that we've gone into hibernation after a busy season – but how wrong they would be!!

Yes, our 2013 Exhibition closed its doors before Christmas - but the amount of work going on behind those doors is increasing week by week! For a start, there are the physical improvements we have to make, in order to comply with Health & Safety Regulations. The first of these is the installation of a stair-lift, running from ground floor to exhibition level. Great to say, this is almost completed!

We're doing lots of planning too. Our summer exhibition this year will concentrate on various aspects of WW1. This is quite a challenge, as communications a century ago were very different from today – relying heavily on pigeons and runners, rather than things electrical!

Our very popular lecture programme resumes on Saturday, 22 February at 11.00 am, with a Talk by Barry Sullivan with the intriguing title 'The Film Answers Back: Scottish Film Critics on World War II Propaganda'. This will be followed by a full buffet lunch. (Contact 01506 823 424 for details and to book a place)

March is going to be hectic again! We're once more taking part in National Science and Engineering Week and also Fife Science Festival, with visits to schools and talks and

workshops taking place at the Museum.

A few days ago, a phone call from the Television Licensing Authority in Glasgow started something of a chain reaction....They wanted to do a follow-up interview (to one given a year ago), about the current level of black and white TV licences and working sets.

A brief snippet appeared on BBC1's Reporting Scotland that evening, but by then, an interview with BBC Radio Scotland had already been broadcast!



Jim McLauchlan with John Beattie of BBC Radio Scotland ..

At this point, the Press joined in, and Jim, our intrepid Spokesman (who has forgotten more about television than most of us ever knew!), carried out telephone interviews with several newspapers, which resulted in coverage in all the major tabloids and broadsheets. A further interview is "in the pipeline" with STV.

In case you missed it, 710 black & white licences were issued in Scotland in 2013. Jim commented that the main reason for sticking with black & white was nostalgia – but an added incentive could be that the licence fee was only £49 – as opposed to £145 for colour!

The Top Ten 'monochrome towns' are:-- Glasgow (230), Edinburgh (81), Dundee (26), Aberdeen (14), Dunfermline (12), Clydebank (11), Motherwell (11), Greenock (9) and Kirkcaldy (9)

Limerick Competition

The Limerick Competition from the last issue of the Burgh Buzz, run in conjunction with Mirth of Forth at the Star was judged by the audience at a packed comedy night in The Star on Sunday 29th December. There was a wealth of poetic talent to choose from and a winner was unanimously decided on. Although it is a wonderful piece of poetry it is rather too colourful even for this special colour edition of the Buzz and we are unable to print it. Our congratulations go to Bob, Alan and Kenny for their entertaining composition which certainly made everyone smile and the £50 Amazon voucher is on the way to them. If you would like to use your imagination to fill in the blanks, it begins "A fifer who wanted....." and ends ".....nuts in a bowl". We would certainly like to see what you come up with and will let you know if you get close! Fortunately, the two runners-up are printable so here they are:

<p>This lass in Burntisland, ye ken She likes a wee bit, noo and then But she's come to a halt It's naebody's fault It's just that she's ran oot o' men"</p>	<p>There was a young guy called Paul Who went to the Burntisland Ball He decided to risk it To go as a biscuit But a dog ate him up in the hall</p>
--	---

Thanks to all who entered, it was good fun to read them all and who knew we had so much poetic talent in Burntisland??

Mirth of Forth Comedy



.....is a comedy club based in Burntisland. We organise monthly stand up comedy events at The Star pub, as well as regular events at Potter About and the Golf Clubhouse,

with monthly Thursday night events at Betty Nicols pub in Kirkcaldy as well. We always aim to put on quality shows, and some of the best stand ups in Scotland have now played Burntisland because they appreciate the set up and the appreciative audiences here.

So what's coming up in 2014? Well, we have booked the comedians for our next, ever-popular Curry and Comedy night, which is on Saturday 1st FEBRUARY at Potter About (tickets in advance from the venue), and we'll be involved in a fundraiser for the school at The Jubilee pub on 15th MARCH.

The shows at The Star, now on every last Friday of the month, will feature more top names from the Scottish circuit as well as some rising stars (these shows are FREE entry, and all start at 8pm).

For up to date details of our events you can check out our website (www.mirthofforth.co.uk). You can also follow us on Twitter (@mirthofforth), and we post event details on Facebook (under Mirth of Forth Comedy). Also check Events Diary.

“LEST WE FORGET”



On a bright and crisp November morning, the Remembrance Day Parade assembled in Harbour Place. Under the command of Squadron Leader Ian Wallace and impressively led by the Burntisland & District Pipe Band, the parade marched off at 10.30 sharp. There was a strong

representation from the Armed Services, the Emergency Services, Fife and Community Councils, veterans and youth organisations as they processed proudly along the High Street up the Kirkgate to Burntisland’s historic Parish Church to be welcomed by the Rev. Allan Sharp.

The Rev. Sharp led the Service of Remembrance before a packed congregation which observed the traditional two minutes silence at the eleventh hour. This was followed by an emotional rendering of the “Flowers of the Forest” by a lone piper.

After the service, the parade reformed and

marched smartly behind the pipe band to the War Memorial at the East Port where a large crowd of local residents had already gathered. A short service conducted by the Rev Sharp and assisted by the Rev Maureen Stirzaker of St Serf’s Church, Rev. Alexander Ritchie of the Erskine Church and Father Paul Capaldi of St Joseph’s RC Church, included another 2 minutes of



silent reflection.

Following the laying of the wreaths by the dignitaries, the parade reassembled and marched back to the town chambers where it was dismissed and attended a reception in the town chambers.

The parades, the open air service and the wreath laying ceremony once again passed smoothly, with dignity and without interruption, due in no small measure to the professionalism and dedication of our local police officers. We offer them our appreciation and thanks.

GEORGE BRUCE MEMORIAL TROPHY

The George Bruce Memorial Trophy was presented to Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club in 1962 by the widow of George Bruce, in his memory. George had been Superintendent of Burntisland Bathing Pool from 1936 till 1953 and also for a short spell between 1959 and 1960 when he was forced to retire because of ill health. He died in 1961.

George is still remembered by many Burntisland residents who spent many a pleasant summer’s day at the old open air pool. Indeed, he may have taught you to swim. He was a devoted public servant who spent much of his time teaching youngsters and took great pleasure in monitoring their development and encouraging them to enter races. However, he was always quick to emphasise that it was participation that mattered more than winning.

Having been contested for over 50 years, the original shield lacks the space to add the names of new winners. The Bruce family have therefore donated a second shield which will ensure that senior boys will compete for this trophy in a 200 metres medley race for many more years to come.



**Frances Whitby ,the first winner and Greg Turner
Frances, most recent winner with John Bruce**

Guy Fawkes Night

For yet another year, Burntisland was the focus of attention on Guy Fawkes Night when thousands of spectators flocked to the Links to enjoy the most magnificent, free bonfire and fireworks display in Fife. The evening's entertainment kicked off early when Radio Lollipop engaged the gathering crowds with their unique brand of fun-filled music and frivolity.

Just before seven, the rousing music of the Burntisland & District Pipe Band heralded the arrival of Summer King and Queen, Caine Yeardley and Adele Shaw, accompanied by the Royal entourage. After being introduced to spectators from the stage, the Royal party counted down the lighting of the most impressive bonfire, complete with a symbolic replica of Guy Fawkes supplied by the pupils of Starley Hall School.

Once the bonfire had been fully established and the smoke and sparks subsided, the Royal party began a second count-down but this time for the launch of the first rocket of a magnificent fireworks display; loud explosions accompanied the multi-coloured starbursts, Roman candles, golden and silver rains for over twenty minutes, finally concluding with a spectacular crescendo of explosive colour and noise, high in the clear night sky.

The massive crowds, estimated at over seven thousand, many of whom had arrived by train, enjoyed an incident free evening and dispersed slowly and peacefully after another unforgettable Guy Fawkes night on the Links.

Spectators were slightly more generous in their



donations this year but our thanks and congratulations must go to the hard working members of the Events

Committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Their work includes fundraising, preparing risk assessments, arranging insurance, storing and erecting the security fencing, assembling pallets and erecting the bonfire, identifying, briefing and supervising the many stewards and clearing up after you have all gone home. Just a few of their tasks!

Special thanks however, must go to the Committee Chairman, Ian Archibald who will be stepping down after many years

leading the team. Ian will continue to make valuable contributions to promote Burntisland through his work as convenor of the Burntisland Heritage Trust. We wish him every success.

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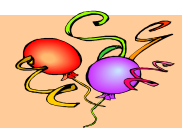
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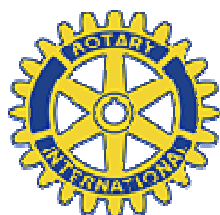
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Burntisland Shipyard Amateurs

By Andrew Beveridge

The team has kept up its good form from December and carried it into the New Year. The last seven matches including one friendly have all been against teams from higher divisions except for league matches against Hawick and Hibernian. However, with the players at their disposal Hibs can be as good as anyone in the East of Scotland Leagues. Although the team has suffered defeats in three of these matches the performances have been of a good standard. After a narrow cup defeat to Lowland League side Preston Athletic, it took a freak own goal to beat us, the one poor showing was the South of Scotland Cup defeat to Leith Athletic. However, the boys bounced back in style and were denied what would have been a marvellous victory over Hibernian had it not been for a late equaliser from the Edinburgh outfit. The following week saw the team travel over the bridge to play Craigroyston and in horrendous weather



Since the first issue of the Buzz appeared 16 years ago, The local Rotary Club has distributed more than £125,000 to charities, both locally and worldwide. Last year alone, £9205 was given to 43 charities. Among too

many others to mention, the club has contributed to Prostate Cancer Research, Ann Gloag's Freedom from Fistula campaign, Sick Kids, Victoria Radio Network, Fife Young Carers, Fife Festival of Music, Gala Weeks and Old Folks' Christmas lunches, as well as funding young people to go to Mongolia, Cyprus, Bolivia and Nethy Bridge (for the Rotary Youth Leadership scheme).

The traditional Charity Shop raised £3500 last year, due to the generous patronage of local folk. This, with concerts, plant sales, raffles and other fundraising activities, allowed the club to support Water Aid (in Africa), Shelter Box (for Syria and the Philippines – with the help of young fundraisers from Starley Hall), and End Polio Now worldwide.

The award-winning Rotary Rambles programme of four walks with local Primary 4s started again for the tenth year in Kinghorn in November and continues in Burntisland in April. As many as 90 youngsters a year benefit from outdoor exercise, map reading, compass use, and a detailed appreciation of their local environment and heritage. Every year, local Primary 7s compete in the national Schools Quiz and the Burns recitation competition.....this year's winner from Burntisland being Alicia Thomson and Kinghorn's was Max Roberts.

The Club remains committed to service of all sorts, particularly within the local community but at the same time, having some fun. We meet on Tuesdays in the Sands at 6.30pm. If you'd like a chance to 'put something back' into the community, or find out more about Rotary, come along to a weekly meeting, or visit www.b-krotaryweb.org.

conditions came away with a deserved 2-1 victory. Leith Athletic were back in Burntisland the week before Christmas for another cup tie but this time it was a much closer affair. With the match tied at 1-1 a poor refereeing decision, in denying the Shipyard a penalty kick proved costly, as the boys lost their concentration and conceded three quick goals. The first Saturday in January saw the club invited to play a friendly against the Spartans EOS side at Ainslie Park. Spurred on by the excellent facilities at the council ran venue the team came from 2-0 down to record notable 3-2 victory against their much vaunted opponents. Hawick Royal Albert were defeated 3-1 at Recreation Park with ex Hearts and Scotland star Colin Cameron, playing as a trialist, being one of the goalscorers.

The club has been asked to take part in the group being set up to try and find a solution to the lack changing facilities at the new Toll Park pitch. It is very disappointing that there was no provision in the new school building for changing rooms or that the Toll Centre removed the ones that had been on their premises for many years. However, it is now up to the community to find a way to accommodate all the local sports club's so that, particularly the young sportsmen and women can have the facilities that they and the town deserve.

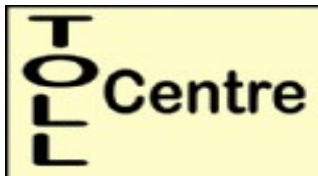


Burntisland Speakers Club

Like the Burgh Buzz, Burntisland Speakers Club has just completed a successful year, and has recruited several new members in the process. Although a gentlemen's club, we annually invite wives, partners and friends to a Ladies Night dinner in December, and 2013 was no exception. As usual the function combined a fine meal with some excellent speeches and topics, leavened with humour and wit, much of it informal. Without doubt a good time was had by all!

The second meeting of the New Year, on 23rd January, saw members enjoying our annual Burns Night (not quite a Burns supper, but with a Burns theme). Demonstrating that we are not misogynists, long-time member Fraser Reddick in his speech "The Lasses" praised the opposite sex, listed their finer qualities and pointed out that, compared with his counterparts in most other animal species, the human male is extremely fortunate!

There is one other club meeting in which the female sex grace us with their presence – the annual Burntisland Primary School speech competition, competed for in March by pupils in primary 7. Inevitably the five finalists include more than their fair share of young ladies, many of whom have carried off the trophy in past years. This occasion always provides a fitting climax to the session's speaking programme, with only the annual dinner to come until we break until September. The Burntisland Buzz, hopefully, will keep going into its 2nd half century of editions, and Burntisland Speakers Club members congratulate all concerned on its first fifty!



It's been a busy few months at the Toll Centre. We held our Children's Christmas Party in December, which was a sell-out.

The children had lots of fun and we even had a special visit from Santa. Our Christmas hamper was won by Sandra Francis, thanks to everyone who donated items and bought tickets.

Our regular programme of activities is now back and underway after the Christmas break, including Playgroup and the Out of School Service. On Wednesdays between 1.45 and 2.45 we are offering Tai Chi classes for just £4 – people should wear comfortable clothes and soft shoes, no need to book. Other activities include Taekwondo, football, and our youth clubs.

Our events calendar is very busy over the next few months. We have regular childrens discos planned, where the kids can enjoy games and dancing and carers can have a cup of tea and some homebaking.

On 1st February we are looking forward to working with Burntisland Playgroup and the Kingdom Ceilidh Band to host a Family Ceilidh, tickets are available now at the Toll Centre for

just £4. On Sunday the 9th February the Community Cinema will be showing 'The Croods' at 3pm, doors open at 2.30 and the usual popcorn and tuck shop will be available – tickets are £3 each or £10 for a family of 4. The cinema events are very popular so we strongly recommend getting your tickets in advance!

On Saturday 22nd February we will be holding a Quiz Night and a cash prize will be up for grabs. It's £5 to enter a team of up to 6 people, so give the Centre Office a call on 872854 to take on the challenge and register your team (a cash bar will be available at this event).

Activities for all

In March we will be holding another Community Cinema afternoon (film to be confirmed) on Sunday 16th, and our Spring Indoor Car Boot Sale will take place on Sunday 23rd, see our website and Facebook page for more information.

The 50/50 club is increasing in membership – members pay £5 per month and half of the money is paid out in prizes – if you'd like to join please see our website, www.tollcentre.org.uk for more information.

The Toll Centre is held in trust for the people of Burntisland and is a registered charity, so we need your support wherever possible. If you would like to help out and become a 'Friend of the Toll Centre' please contact us on 872854.

Toll Centre Youth Clubs

The Toll Centre has a long history of providing Youth Clubs and we are currently home to 3 different clubs which provide entertainment across all age groups. All the clubs are just £1 per session and if you haven't been before, the first one is free.

The Toll Kids Club is for children in P2-P6, and meets on a Tuesday evening from 6.15-7.45pm. We have free play, football, basketball, skipping ropes and trampolines in the hall, and we also make use of the pool table, quoits and the table tennis table. There's always an art table for drawing and painting and various games and puzzles. After tuck break (tuck is included in entry) we play team games, parachute, cat and mouse, space-hopper racing, and any other games that the children would like.

Burntisland Junior club is open to all young people from P7 to S2 on Thursday nights from 6.30-8.00pm. At this club we offer a variety of activities including arts and crafts, ball games, board games, pool table and quizzes. It is very much

up to you to decide what you to do at the club, but Carrie and Rowan are more than happy to help come up with ideas. Burntisland Music Project is open to all young people of high school age on Friday nights from 6.45 – 9.15pm. The staff and volunteers are all passionate about

Join in The fun

music. Bryce plays guitar in a band and is an experienced musician and tutor. Kelly is an experienced dance instructor, choreographer and



singer. At the club, you will have the opportunity to learn and practice playing an instrument, or just hang out.

Music and dance go hand in hand, so if you want to be a legend on the dance floor or a singer in a band, Kelly can show you how. We have music equipment including drums, guitars, amps and mixing decks, that you can use if you don't have your own. So, if you love music, come along and give it a try! For more information on any of our Clubs please call us on 872854.

Wednesday Social Club

The Wednesday Social club meets on the second and third Wednesday of the month at the Toll Centre between 7 and 9pm. 2013 saw the club celebrate its 10th anniversary, and we are happy to say that it is going from strength to strength. Last year's events culminated in our Christmas party which was held at Burntisland Sands Hotel, with entertainment provided by Gary Copeland from the Singing Kettle and as the photo suggests we all had a great night!!

We offer a varied range of social activities throughout the year from September to May, including cookery and dancing demonstrations, keep fit tasters and always popular is the various musical and vocal talents of local artists. We also organise a bus trip every year to mark the end of our programme – last year we visited Broughty Ferry for the day before heading back to The Bay hotel for a high tea. The Wednesday social club is a voluntary organisation run by a small

group of local people. Although we charge a token fee every week, currently just £2, we do rely on grants to be able to keep the costs to an absolute minimum.

We are always happy to see new faces so if you fancy getting out the house for a couple of hours and meeting new people, or just fancy a blether and a catch up over a cuppa then come up and visit us. And if transport is a problem for you don't worry – we can arrange for you to be picked up and taken home again.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming months – for any more info on our group just give the Toll Centre a call on 872854.





By Scott Sweaton

Plans for 2014 are already being discussed and decisions are being made to ensure FAB has another successful year. We will continue with our current projects which include the High Street hanging

baskets, floral displays at the entrances to the town and other displays throughout Burntisland.

Two of our projects for this year include improvements to the roundabout at the bottom of the High Street and also at the beach car park by The Beacon. We are hoping to secure funding shortly to ensure we can move forward with these plans.

To ensure we can sustain our planting for this year we need to fundraise. We will be holding a quiz night on Saturday 22nd March at the Burntisland Sands Hotel. We also plan on selling raffle tickets (prizes include 1st class rail travel throughout Scotland and a meal voucher for the Kingswood Hotel) over the next couple of months. We would appreciate your support by purchasing tickets or coming along to our quiz night. We will also be sending out appeal letters to local businesses asking for their support for funding for the year ahead.

As a group we have been involved in assisting with general

maintenance at the railway station, growing vegetables at the allotment with the Girl Guides, planting with pupils from Burntisland Primary at the boat on Cromwell Road and planting bulbs throughout the town this winter including outside Allan Court. We are also working towards establishing a community orchard within the town. All these activities have kept our volunteers very busy and it shows our commitment as a group to work alongside the local community.

Our AGM will be held on Friday 28th February 7pm at the Burntisland Sands Hotel which gives us an opportunity to reflect upon all that we have achieved over the past 12 months and gives you all an opportunity to come and meet us. Hopefully we will see some of you there.

As the year moves on we will be looking for people to help us with our projects and if you would like to get involved we would love to hear from you. Some key areas where we will need help is the watering and maintenance of the Cromwell Road boat and our plot at the Broomhill Gardens.

If you are interested in helping us please email me at floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk

2014 will see the Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow, the Scottish Independence vote and the new Burntisland Primary School opening. FAB wants to ensure 2014 is a year for Burntisland to remember too by ensuring FAB achieves its' ultimate aim - to make Burntisland fabulous!



Photos By Michael Boothe



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Fair Trade A Success Story

By Tom Locke

(With thanks to Bruce Stuart for additional info.)



The pineapple could hardly have been fresher. It had been cut from a plant less than 50 metres from the office in which we were sitting. Succulent and sweet, the only drawback was that it made one realise that the tropical fruit we buy in the UK could never match the taste.

The scene was a fruit farm just over an hour's drive along the coast from Ghana's capital, Accra. My role was as an IT advisor working with an exporters' association; with me was a colleague with expertise in business. Our job was to assist the exporters in whatever way we could and we visited a number of businesses in and around Accra.

These visits were revealing. I had always been aware of the concept of Fair Trade and indeed, had tried to buy Fair Trade products where possible. However, it was not until I had spent time with the Ghanaian producers that I truly appreciated how important not just the concept, but the reality of Fair Trade was. The stories that the producers told were profoundly depressing.

We heard of how long payments could take, if indeed they happened at all. One fruit exporter had to wait 18 months for payment on a consignment of fruit, and even then only received part payment. One common theme was that the exporters would be informed that their fruit had been rotten and had been destroyed. Very often, the exporters could simply not afford to pay for an agent to oversee the unloading of the consignment at its destination. It was often a case of trusting and hoping. There had to be a better way.

Thankfully, there is, and its influence is growing. The World Fair Trade Organisation (www.wfto.com) works on 10 basic principles which the vast majority of other Fair Trade organisations/businesses have already attained or are working towards. While there may not be a precisely agreed definition of Fair Trade, the accepted meaning is that producers and manufacturers receive not only fair prices for their goods, but also fair treatment to create a sustainable way of working and trading. As the name suggests, Fair Trade is all about fairness, the motto being 'people before profit'.

So successful has campaigning been, that around 70% of people in the UK now recognise the Fair Trade logo, the figure

Fair price for products & goods

Fair treatment for producers

in Scotland being even higher according to figures from The Scottish Fair Trade Forum. Most people will be familiar with products such as tea, coffee, bananas and chocolate as Fair Trade goods. However, Fair Trade encompasses just about anything that can be grown or manufactured. Craft items, furniture and fashion have Fair Trade producers. A growing number of these are now working with importer & retail members of the British Association for Fair Trade Shops & Suppliers (BAFTS), which is the national umbrella organisation for WFTO in the UK (www.bafts.org.uk).

Fair Trade products are obtainable in previously unimaginable places. The Co-op deserves some credit in leading the way among larger retailers. Prior to the Co-op committing to the cause, however, there were a number of 'World Shops', some of whom were instrumental in the formation of BAFTS). BAFTS shops showcased a large range of non-FT marked products alongside the more recognisable tea/coffee etc. – this helped raise local awareness & also helped the Fairtrade Mark campaign to exert consumer pressure on the larger organisations. The Co-op reacted to customer/people power demanding FT marked products, as did the other supermarkets eventually – sadly, none of the 'big players' take FT as far as it needs to go.

Towns and cities can attain 'Fair Trade Status'. This is determined by fulfilment of five criteria stipulated by the Fairtrade Foundation and includes an official commitment to Fair Trade and the selling of products in shops. For example, Burntisland achieved the status in 2004 and was one of the first in Scotland to do so. Currently, there are more than 50 towns and cities throughout Scotland that have attained the status.

Burntisland is a small town, but has a shop and café, Food for Thought, that is dedicated to selling Fair Trade products. The Co-operative store sells a substantial range of Fair Trade goods, including a good selection of wines, and the local primary school has a Fair Trade tuck shop. Several other shops and businesses either sell or use FT products too.

In a recent survey, the Fairtrade Foundation listed a total of 566 UK towns holding Fair Trade status and schools, universities and places of worship can also achieve recognition. It is about not only selling Fair Trade products, but also promoting Fair Trade and showing a continued commitment.

There is clear evidence that, despite difficult economic times, the sale of Fair Trade products is increasing each year. Almost everybody recognises the familiar Fair Trade logo on bunches of bananas and the Fairtrade Foundation's figures show sales of Fair Trade increasing from around £17 million in 2002 to a remarkable £242 million ten years later. Sales of chocolate show an even more astonishing rise, from 2002's rather modest figure of £6 million to 2012's £542 million.

The more awareness there is, and the more outlets selling Fair Trade goods, the more these figures will continue to increase. This is a truly public campaign, and it is one to which every single person who goes shopping can contribute.

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Why Choose Burntisland ?

A view from Helen Mabon, Trustee of BHT, where change can be tracked in our archives

Those of us who have an emotional ownership of this place spanning decades and generations, have found recent changes to 'our territory' difficult and painful. It is easy to adopt the 'aye been' and 'in my day it was....' mantra. STOP, look around, listen, take heart.

In 1811 the population of Burntisland was 1,934 persons. In 1911 - 5,305. Now, over 6,000.

An octogenarian friend of mine returning in the 1950's from some years working abroad, was shaken to see swathes of council houses on Kilmundy where he'd left open fields. Change is constant.

We cannot ignore problems of housing and jobs, even though there are two substantial wealth creating companies in the town employing locally, between them 300+ skilled people.

Share with me some of the views of the growing influx of new blood, bringing positive changes and a fresh outlook.

The Beach - the Binn - the Beacon - the High Street and the quality of its shops - the education - the history - the community - its amenities - transport links - family ties, were the shared reasons to choose Burntisland.

When **Gordon and Bernadette Jenkins** retired after 28 happy years in Yorkshire their decision to return to Scotland was driven by family ties. Originally from Fife they researched along the coast gradually homing in on Burntisland, which kept meeting all their requirements. A new build sealed the deal. Golf for Gordon, plenty of walking routes with stunning views for Bernadette. Together they're involved in the FAB project, BHT and much more.

A beautiful, vibrant place to put down roots



Stunning walks & golf as well!

I found **Judy Kisby** with a knitting group in Potter About - a friendly group of all ages, who are part of Ktog (Facebook) and tied in with Tikasam. Judy and her husband Mark moved here 10 years ago from Edinburgh, choosing Burntisland to start and grow a family, where children could be free and safe. Mark, a keen sailor, joined the sailing club and moved his business to Fife, where all the skilled employees are Fifers.

Michelle Cahill is a local girl who returned after 10 years in inner London, when children's education became a priority.

Her well travelled husband Kevin, originally from Cork "loves Burntisland". Education brought them back again after two years in Switzerland. She is committed to shopping on the High Street, likes living in a town steeped in history, loves being by the sea and having "great coffee" in Food for Thought.

Have you swum in the Beacon pool looking up to the Binn? That exquisite setting captured **lain Yuile** and featured in he and his wife Louise's decision to choose Burntisland. Coming from a background in education, they wanted their children to benefit from the recognised quality of teaching in our primary school. High Street shops and community also met their criteria.

But it's **Tania Savage** I must thank, for restoring my emotional ownership. An artist who came here from Glasgow 11 years ago. Her route to work takes her along the beach to her studio in the stunningly resurrected Old Platform Buildings at the station, where she produces a plethora of art, including fine water colours and runs various classes. She describes living here as a "luxury", where every glance is a feast to her eye - mixed architecture, views, the sea, the colours....., she is part of the allotment group and wider 'community'.

Not one of this small 'survey' plans to leave, one adding that "not even if we won the lottery!". They and increasingly, others, see Burntisland as a beautiful vibrant place to put down roots - and they are making it just that.

Burntisland & District Pipe Band



Happy New Year to everyone and congratulations to the Buzz on reaching 50 editions.

The band has been practising hard over the winter and hope to lift some major prizes this year. Last year, we had the benefit of a grade 1 drummer assisting our drum corps and towards the end of the year we also obtained the services of a local grade 1 piper who has tutored the pipe corps. Sadly, we have lost a few players who wanted to try something new with other bands and we wish them well. On the plus side however, we have welcomed back a few players who started out with the band as Novices and then Juveniles.

We are looking forward to a busy year with the introduction of a new major competition in Ireland, and the UK Championships, which replaces Cowal Highland Gathering. The band plans to compete in all of the 5 majors as well as a number of minor contests over the summer. We will continue to support local events including Civic Week and the Highland Games.

As ever the band is keen to accept new members. We are especially interested in teaching pipes and drums to young people in the community. Anyone interested should get in touch with Denis Johnstone or Stewart Birrell or come along to the band hall on East Leven Street. The band have a beginners class on a Tuesday evening from 18:30 and have full band practises on Mondays and Thursdays 19:00 - 21:00.

Youth Organisations



11th Fife - 1st Burntisland Scout Group

Over the past year all sections of the Group, the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers have worked closely together to attain their International Badge, part of which involved collecting coins in jam jars to assist children and families in poor areas of the world.

Closer to home, all sections assisted in entertaining the



Scout group entertained the pensioners



Scouts with the swimming trophy

Wednesday pensioners. They attended a Group Halloween Party and individual units took part in District activities, a District Swimming Gala, visits to the Transport Museum and School Museum of Scotland, and a Fitness Challenge. The Scouts had a Christmas sleepover in the Church Hall and the Explorers developed their skills in First Aid, navigation and cooking.

On Remembrance Day an impressive number from all sections took part in the Church Service and traditional parade to the War Memorial. Finally all sections assisted in the Christmas post deliveries raising essential funds for the Group.



775 (Burntisland) Squadron Air Training Corps

The past 3 months has been a busy time for the Squadron with cadets and staff taking part in courses, a wide variety of activities and gaining awards. The active pursuits included fieldcraft and marksmanship at residential camps and First Aid and Health & Safety training. Having attained the required standards, several cadets have been awarded certificates which in the case of Health and Safety are recognised by industry.

Cadets and staff have raised commendable amounts of money for Squadron funds through two bag packing sessions, assisted in selling programmes at RAF Leuchars air show and in selling poppies in support of the Poppy Scotland appeal. The Squadron took part in three parades, the last of which was the local Remembrance Day ceremony.

2014 is promising to be extremely busy with places already booked at summer camp, the Regional Activity Centre at RAF Leuchars and various other training establishments. In February cadets will take part in Air Experience Flying at RAF Leuchars and Gliding Induction Courses at RM Condor.

The Squadron is currently recruiting cadets and staff. Anyone interested in finding out what the Air Cadets have to offer is welcome to visit us at Squadron HQ at the Unity Hall which is at the Junction of Links place and East Leven street. The Squadron parades on Monday & Thursday evenings between 19:00 and 21:30 hrs.



Cadets enjoying field-craft!!

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View from Erskine

"Each age has deemed the new-born year the fittest time for festal cheer" (Sir Walter Scott). Would it be curmudgeonly of me to dare to say

I'm a bit weary of wishing people a Happy New Year? That's not to say it isn't good to mark the passing of time from one year to the next, to wish those we know and meet a time of health and happiness as the calendar moves on. Of course it is!

But perhaps your resolutions are looking a bit vulnerable already, the January days are short, the bills keep coming in and life just seems the same as it was before. Let me suggest a good alternative - I wish you a Faithful New Year. More of that shortly...

I enjoyed our Christmas services around the town. Thank you for raising the excellent total of £400 from the carol & watchnight services on 15 & 24 December respectively in Erskine Church. This has been shared by Kirkcaldy Foodbank & Christians Against Poverty, both excellent and deserving causes. It was also good to meet

people at my first Christmas treat lunch; the fund raising to support this every year is a real tribute to local community spirit.

2014 promises much in Scotland - politically as the nation decides its future, but also in terms of the world's attention focusing upon the Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow. Life is about making the most of the opportunities presented to us, that's a wise way of tackling the issues we all encounter every day.

Elsewhere in the pages of this anniversary Buzz, you'll find an article about the past of Erskine congregation. That reminds us of our shared heritage as a community, but the church still has the same hope to offer people today. Please keep in touch with our current programme of events & services at www.facebook.com/Erskine-Church-Burntisland.

Back to a Faithful New Year. Certainly lives are enriched by faithfulness in our relationships with family and at work, in the decisions we make and the way we treat others. Faith itself is a positive thing, the Bible defines it thus, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11.1, NIV). A happy 2014 will be much more likely if we approach its challenges supported and sustained by God in faith.

Rev. Alexander Ritchie



Burntisland Parish Church

In January we are presenting long service certificates to two of our elders, Tom Allan, 50 years, and Jim Harvey, 65 years as an

elder. In February we will be fixing a plaque in the top hall in memory of Ian Motion, former elder and church caretaker who passed away last year. Ian gave outstanding service to the church, in particular to all the organisations that use our halls. Ian left a legacy to the church which is being used to renovate the Halls. The top hall, corridor and kitchen have been completed and we are pleased to see how well the halls are now being used throughout the week.

In February The Guild in Burntisland celebrates its 125th Anniversary, a very special occasion indeed, to be marked with a lunch at the Kingswood Hotel in recognition of years of outstanding service by many women in the church.

We are encouraged by the number of folks who joined the church last year and who are now joining us for Sunday worship. During the weeks leading up to Easter we will be looking at the life of Jesus on Sunday morning. On Sunday evenings and Wednesday mornings we are focused on "Going Deeper" in our experience, love, and service of Christ.

The Church has a "Christians Against Poverty" worker, Pat Hanson, helping folks in the Burntisland/Kirkcaldy area who are really struggling at this time. See the green box on the opposite page.

Joint ventures with Kinghorn, such as the shared Youth Fellowship and the family-oriented Messy Church, continue to be well supported. The YF and the 2 congregations recently had the joy of a visit from an amazing and inspirational lady they met on their trip to Malawi. Mphatso, who works in AIDS education under the auspices of EMMS International, supports many orphaned children. YF study evenings in preparation for Year 4 and 5 national exams have restarted on Wednesdays in Potter About.

Rev. Alan Sharp



St Serf's Episcopal Church

Firstly, congratulations to the Burgh Buzz on this 50th edition, quite a landmark. This set me thinking about the various landmarks throughout our lives and the ways in which our lives change.

Last summer our Rector left leaving us wondering who would come next, and what changes they would make. A time of uncertainty can, if we are not careful stifle us, and hold us to the spot not wishing to attempt anything new. But we have not let that happen at St. Serf's, as you may have seen in past editions our services have not only continued as normal but there have been new initiatives, one of which has been afternoon tea and prayers once a month, the group has grown on a monthly basis enabling those no longer able to make it to the Sunday services to meet with old friends and to join with others in worshipping and praising God.

In a year when we have lost several lifelong members at St. Serf's we feel it all the more important to connect with those with whom we have lost touch. We are thinking about writing a history of the Church and the use of the Church Hall and would be interested in hearing your memories. All too often our history is forgotten and lost if not shared.

With Love and Prayers **Revd Maureen Storzaker.**

GEILDA'S SCHOOL OF DANCE

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Classes: Age 6 Upwards

Monday 5:30pm-6.30pm, The Space Upstairs, Burntisland

Contact : Nicki Taggart, A.S.D.T.A. on 07850 896311

Classes also available in - Dalgety Bay/Cairneyhill/Dunfermline/Kinross



New Year, New Home for The Ecology Centre

2014 is set to be an exciting year for The Ecology Centre as we go full steam ahead with plans for our new centre on the east shore of Kinghorn Loch.

As well as the construction of a new, environmentally sound building with stunning views of the loch, imaginative plans are being developed for the land to provide space for play, growing projects, exhibits, habitat development and outdoor education. This will be a vast improvement for this landscape which currently sits unused and largely unattended, and be a real asset for the community and other loch users. Building plans have been submitted to Fife Council for a modest size, single storey, timber clad building. Where possible, we will use natural and recycled materials and minimise energy consumption. You can view the plans and leave comments by visiting Fife Council's planning website

If you agree with our aim of creating a new Ecology Centre at Kinghorn Loch please let us know by using one of the

following methods by 21st February 2014.

- Email us at admin@theecologycentre.org with your name, postcode and message of support.
- Visit our Facebook page and leave us your message of support.
- Write to The Ecology Centre, Craigenfalt, Kinghorn, KY3 9YG.
- Fill out a slip at Burntisland or Aberdour library.
- Complete a short survey on our website www.theecologycentre.org

If your opinion is shared by other members of your household, you can also include their name(s) as well.

Thank you for your support and we hope you will visit The Ecology Centre site sometime soon.



Christians Against Poverty Centre

Christians Against Poverty is a national debt counselling charity working through a network of centres based in local churches. CAP offers hope and a solution to anyone in debt through its unique, in-depth Debt Help service. CAP's unique 'hands on' approach empowers people to help themselves out of poverty and be released from the fear, oppression and worry generated by overwhelming debts. We are providing sustainable poverty relief as our service teaches clients vital budgeting skills that will last a lifetime. The charity is now a fast-paced, growing organisation whose vision is to answer the national problem of debt in the UK by having at least one CAP Debt Centre operating in every major town and city to enable anyone to access its life-changing service.

The Burntisland centre, which covers as far afield as Leven, has been running for almost 3 years now, and Pat Hanson, the centre manager says "the service is unique because we take a holistic approach. Debt is very often just a symptom of larger issues and we try to support each client by providing them with a volunteer befriender".

The centre has been really busy in recent months as the benefit reforms have had a big impact. More and more people are struggling just to feed themselves, and turning to loans to get by.

A third of new clients had considered suicide by the time they called CAP, and 55% were suffering from mental health problems. Statistics show that 67% of clients wait over a year before they phone. Please don't wait. If you're in debt, pick up the phone and give us a call. We WANT to help you. 96% of our clients stay debt free after working with CAP.

One of Pat's clients said of CAP "You have given me a chance of new life."

Our freephone number is: 0800 328 0006.

TAKE A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST!



Come and join The Ecology Centre on a series of FREE workshops and walks that will take you back to a time when tropical seas, coral reefs, rainforest, volcanoes and earthquakes shaped Fife.

WORKSHOPS

Discover the amazing fossils that can be found in Fife! Learn how to ID rocks using scientific techniques, and discover the creatures that lived here in the carboniferous period. There will be fossil rubbings, ammonite sculpting and games for kids!

Saturday 15th February, Burntisland Heritage Trust 10 – 3pm
Saturday 1st March, Kirkcaldy Museum and Art Gallery 10 -3pm

GUIDED WALKS

Learn how to read the rocks around you and discover the remains of plants and animals that lived 350 million years ago!

Coastal adventures:

Sat 8th March, Kinghorn coastal path, 11am
Sat 22nd March, Seafeld coastal path, 10am

Binn scramble:

Sat 15th March: 10.30am

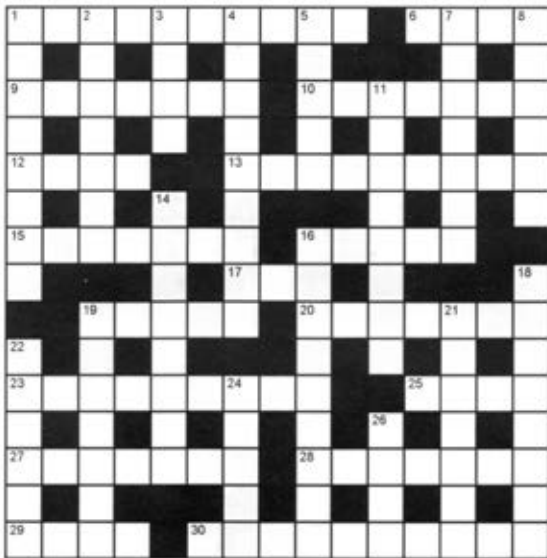
All walks will last approximately 2 – 2 1/2 hours. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult. For more details please visit our website www.theecologycentre.org To book your free place please call 01592 891567 or email admin@theecologycentre.org

Eco-village update

The planning application for the eco-village on the Widows Land site was submitted to Fife council by SCI in July 2012, and, after a considerable delay of 14 months, a decision was eventually made to reject the application in September 2013.

All the committee, staff and volunteers at SCI and the Earthship would like to extend a warm thank you to all those who helped our efforts with the ecovillage over the past 2 years. We would also emphasise that the work was not wasted. We have gained knowledge and skills, and importantly local enthusiasm for the project. We will rely on all of these when the project starts up again and we can tackle it with renewed vigour.

THE PRIZE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. LA Lakers play this (10)
6. This Mag? (4)
9. Roman general (7)
10. German Town (7)
12. Scottish Valley (4)
13. Seating etc. (9)
15. Round building (7)
16. Hold up (5)
17. James Bond? (3)
19. Stealing? (5)
20. Flood Protection (7)
23. "Kidnapped" author (9)
25. Alter (4)
27. Voter (7)
28. Kettle part (7)
29. Elephant tooth (4)
30. Child minder (10)

DOWN

1. Boaster (8)
2. Orange part (7)
3. Great Lake (4)
4. Big Meal (4)
5. Composer Franz_____ (5)
7. SA Country
8. East European Capital (6)
11. Major Railway (8)
14. Capital return (8)
16. Intestinal malady (9)
18. Troublemaker (8)
19. Minotaur slayer (7)
21. Convalescence (7)
22. State strongly (6)
24. Troubled Arab State (5)
26. Abominable snowman

Solution to Autumn Crossword

Across 1. Malefactor, 6. Odds, 9. Chateau, 10. Hearsay, 12. Iris, 13. Tarpaulin, 15. Anguish, 16. Early, 19. Chimp, 20. Estonia, 23. Costa Rica, 25. Gait, 27. Elected, 28. Odd-ball, 29. Mend, 30. Exasperate

Down 1. Michigan, 2. Loafing, 3. Fees, 4. Courtship, 5. Other, 7. Display, 8. Spying, 11. Alacrity, 14. Vigilant, 16. Elevators, 18. Bastille, 19. Cistern, 21. Niagara, 22. Scream, 24. Index, 26. Adze

Autumn Crossword Winner
Neil Hardie - 47 East Leven Street,
Burntisland.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE.....

Completed entries by 31st March to :

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

First Correct Entry drawn will win £25 voucher donated by Shell UK Ltd. Answers will appear in the next issue of the Burgh Buzz.

Events Diary

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1st	Vladimir McTavish comedy show at Potter About	Evening
Sunday 9th	Community Cinema at Toll Centre "The Croods"	2.30 pm
Friday 14th	Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 15th	Ecology Workshop at Burntisland Heritage Trust	10.00 am - 3.00 pm
Saturday 22nd	Messy Church at Burntisland Parish Church halls (free buffet lunch)	10.00 am - 12.15 pm
Saturday 22nd	Quiz Night at the Toll Centre	Evening
Sunday 23rd	Sunday Strollers—Burntisland circular from the Sands Hotel	2.00 pm
Friday 28th	Floral Action Burntisland AGM at the Sands Hotel	7.00 pm
Friday 28th	Stu Who comedy show at The Star	Evening

MARCH

Wednesday 5th	Police Community Engagement meeting at Pettycur Bay Caravan Park	7.00pm
Saturday 8th	Ecology Coastal Adventures Kinghorn Coastal Path	11.00am
Friday 13th	Community Council meeting in Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 15th	Ecology Bin Scramble	10.30am
Saturday 15th	Coffee Morning with hot pancakes - Erskine Church Hall	10.00 am - Noon
Saturday 15th	Messy Church at Kinghorn Church Hall (free buffet lunch)	10.00 am - 12.15 pm
Saturday 15th	Comedy Show School fund raiser at the Jubilee Pub	Evening
Saturday 22nd	Quiz Night at the Sands in aid of Floral Action Burntisland (FAB)	Evening
Saturday 22nd	Civic Week fund raising Disco in Parish Church Hall	
Sunday 16th	Community Cinema at the Toll Centre (film to be announced)	2.30 pm
Sunday 23rd	Indoor car boot sale at the Toll Centre - See Toll Centre website and facebook or (Tel 872854) for details	
Friday 28th	Mark Nelson comedy show at the Star	Evening
Sunday 30th	Sunday Strollers—Craigencalt & Rodan Braes from East Kinghorn Loch Car Park	2.00 pm

APRIL

Friday 12th	Community Council meeting in Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 19th	Messy Church at Burntisland Parish Church Halls (free buffet lunch)	10.00 am - 12.15 pm
Friday 25th	Bruce Morton comedy show at The Star	Evening
Sunday 27th	Sunday Strollers—Bluebell Woods from the Links Car Park	2.00 pm



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