

BURGH BUZZ

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October 2013 Issue No 49



Autumn Contents

| Section | Pages |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Editorial | 2 |
| Community Council Bullets | 2 |
| Police report & Councillors info | 3 |
| B'island Primary School | 4, 5 |
| Community | 6, 7 |
| Guy Fawkes Night | 8 |
| First Aid & Over 70s Christmas Treat | 9 |
| Organisation. | 10, 11 |
| Kirkton Church | 12 |
| Starley Hall | 13 |
| Clubs & Sport | 14 |
| Golf Club & FAB | 16 |
| Toll Centre | 17 |
| Letters, Events Diary | 18 |
| Churches | 20, 21 |
| Ecology | 21 |
| Crossword | 22 |

A Memorable Meeting with Malala

The wet overcast weather could not dampen the enthusiasm and the warm welcome given to the guest of honour, Malala Yousafzai, at the recent "Topping Out Ceremony" of the new Burntisland Primary School.

Malala is the inspirational teenager from the Swat Valley in Pakistan who survived a Taliban assassin's bullet, having been targeted as a result of her impassioned campaigning for the rights of girls to receive education in her homeland. After her amazing recovery, assisted by doctors in Pakistan and the UK, Malala has continued her education in England and has widened her campaign to establishing the rights of every child in the world to receive education. Malala was accompanied on her visit by her father and by two of her school mates, Kainat and Shazia, who were injured in the same incident in Swat and who have now joined Malala in her continuing campaign.



An Inspirational message

The ceremony took place in the drafty but dry atmosphere of the partially completed assembly hall before some 300 invited guests who included Fife Councillors and officials, Community Council members, parents, teachers, pupils and BAM Construction representatives.

In introducing Malala, Gordon Brown, former prime minister and local MP, described how Malala had emerged as a champion of girls education throughout the world and of her ambition to see new schools built everywhere. Burntisland Primary is the first new school that she has visited.

Malala then addressed the gathering in a strong, clear voice that needed no microphone assistance. She outlined her dream of every child being afforded the chance to read and write, to study maths and discover history and develop basic skills. She emphasised the importance of social skills such as good manners and hygiene and how children should learn to treat each other equally. However, her ultimate dream was a world in which every child would have the opportunity to go to school. Malala received a very emotional standing ovation.



The three girls then jointly spread a concrete lintel with wet cement and each inscribed their names on the beam which will be displayed prominently in the new building. Malala also unveiled a plaque for the school library to be named after her. She was then shown an example of a Malala's Desk, inscribed with "Every child has a right to an education, to be healthy, to grow up safe and to be heard." , a quote from the UN Charter on the Rights of the Child, and also with Malala's signature. One such desk would be placed in each of over 300 schools throughout Fife.

Burntisland Primary School pupils, Joana Barron, James and Connor Latimer, then presented the three guests with commemorative gifts which included UN

The Three Together Again

tartan shawls and a goodie bag containing local delicacies including tablet.

An informal tea party followed during which everyone was afforded the opportunity for a photo-shoot with the guests and a chance to speak to Malala and her class-mates.

Photos by Jenny Dingwall

Editorial Comment

The topic which dominates this quarter is once again, the Primary School - but on this occasion, for a number of positive reasons. It has been a privilege for the town to host Malala Yousafzai, that inspirational teenager from the Swat Valley in Pakistan. To read of her courageous efforts from childhood, to campaign for the rights of females to be educated in her native land is extremely moving. To carry on this campaign having survived an assassin's bullet, is truly inspirational and serves to focus our thoughts on how fortunate our children are to be given a free education in soon to be completed, state-of-the-art, accommodation. The acrimonious wrangling over the selection of the Burntisland school site pales into insignificance when considered in the context of the difficulties experienced by Malala's schoolmates back home in obtaining even a basic level of education.

Surely, the time is now right for all concerned to bury the hatchet and engage in a process of reconciliation. On the one hand, to accept the decision on the site and on the other, to cease engaging in expressions of triumphalism at every opportunity.

This is also particularly relevant at a time when a new Head Teacher takes over the reins at BPS. The new incumbent is energetic, experienced, well motivated and has exciting ideas for the development of the school within the community. However, to be successful she will require the wholehearted support of all. It is up to all of us to ensure that she receives that support.

Another contentious issue is the threatened closure of the counter service of our local Police Station. It cannot be denied that the survey which examined the type and number of reports over the counter of Burntisland station was seriously flawed. It covered only 16 hours of a two week survey. However, communications and reporting practices have changed radically in recent years and regrettably, it seems likely that the counter service will be withdrawn.

What is more important is that the station remains operational and that it is manned by a full complement of community police officers. Burntisland is currently sharing a Sergeant with Kirkcaldy. That is an unsatisfactory situation which must be resolved before the state of law and order in the town deteriorates. Finally, Guy Fawkes night is almost upon us. Please obey the instructions which are clearly set out on page 8. Crucially, don't take your own fireworks or sparklers. They may seem harmless but the sharp end of a spent sparkler can inflict serious injury, if stepped upon by a child or an animal.

Last but certainly not least - it will be the most magnificent free entertainment since last November - Please be generous with your donations in the buckets. It will ensure more of the same next year.

Bill Kirkhope (Editor)

Community Council

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

Community Council Bullets

- Zoe Williamson decided reluctantly to stand down from the Community Council due to her current work commitments. Damian Purcell has been elected to fill the vacancy, taking us to a full complement of 15 members.
- Hazel McGraw has volunteered to act as joint Minutes Secretary.
- Re-surfacing has now been carried out on three of the four access routes to the town.
- A proposal to erect a spectator shelter at the Shipyard Park was supported.
- A proposal to erect a wind turbine at Balbie farm was opposed. It was considered to be in an inappropriate location and provided no significant benefit to the local community.
- A funding decision is expected imminently from Fife Council in respect of the rebuilding of the Clock Tower.
- A wide-ranging discussion was held with officials of Fife Council on the options for future management of the Common Good Fund. It may be possible to set up a Community Trust to manage all or some of the Common Good properties. However, a robust business plan would first be essential, identifying revenue streams and likely utilisation.
- A Community Emergency Planning team has been set up to help focus local action in the event of a major emergency. The team will liaise closely with Fife Council's Emergency Planning Officer and also with the other agencies – both voluntary and statutory – which already have a designated role.
- It has been agreed to go ahead with conserving and restoring the oak furniture in the Council chamber.
- Steps are in hand to improve the overall appearance of the Kirkton church and graveyard. As a scheduled monument, the masonry of the church requires lime mortar which is vulnerable to frost, so work is unlikely to start until spring. However, vegetation may be removed before then to allow a better overall evaluation to take place.
- A clean-up and survey of the beach and Links was organised jointly with the Parent Council.
- Morag Douglas and Hazel McGraw will attend an explanatory meeting about fracking, to help understand the potential local impact of any future developments in Fife.
- A contract has now been agreed for the conservation and restoration of the War Memorial. Work will start shortly after Remembrance Day and poppy wreaths will be moved temporarily to the enclosed garden at the Porte when work starts.
- The proposal to end the public counter service access at Burntisland Police Station is based on a survey which is of poor quality. The closure is not supported by the Community Council and feedback to that effect will be given to Police Scotland and to the Scottish Government.
- Proposals have been submitted for wind turbines at Dunearn, the Roundhouse car park and Kinghorn Golf Club. All will be highly visible. They are not yet formal planning applications and therefore not open for comment. It was noted that the proposal for the Roundhouse conflicts with the planned synthetic pitch at the same site, which is supported by the Community Council.

Elected Fife Councillors' Availability**Councillor George Kay**

Telephone 01592 874920

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

Councillor Susan LeslieBurntisland Surgery - Second Friday of the month
6.15 - 6.45pm in the Burgh Chambers**(excepting public holidays)**

Telephone 01592 643703

Email: Cllr.Susan.Leslie@fife.gov.uk

Councillor Peter George

Telephone 01592 583101

Burntisland Surgery - First Saturday of the month
10.00 - 10.30 am in the Burntisland Public Library**The Burgh Poliz****By Acting Sgt David Snowdon**

Since the establishment of the Police Service of Scotland the effect on local policing in Burntisland has been minimal. All the officers who worked on the Community Teams and Response Teams in Burntisland on April 1st remain in post. The only change of note is that of Sergeant Stuart Davidson who has been moved elsewhere on a temporary basis. He has been replaced by Acting Sergeant David Snowdon, who has previously worked in the town as a PC.

There has been much publicity regarding the potential closure of the front counter at Burntisland Police Station after it was identified as one of 65 public counters that will be closed across Scotland. A consultation on the proposals will run for four weeks. The counter at Burntisland will remain open for the time-being and further information regarding its future will be made public when it becomes available. There are no plans to close Burntisland Police Station altogether, and so the local officers will remain there for the foreseeable future, delivering on our promise of keeping people safe.

We have continued to host our bi-monthly Community Engagement Meetings at Pettycur Bay Caravan Park where we take time to listen to your views on how best to serve the area. Policing priorities have been identified through these meetings and in agreement with the Multi Member Ward Plan. Burntisland's priorities are Road Safety, Anti-Social Behaviour and Substance Misuse.

Road Safety – Burntisland's Officers have continued to build on the work they have carried out over previous months and years by ensuring a firm but fair approach is adopted towards road traffic offences. As well as continuing with enforcement, we have maintained our commitment to educate motorists in an effort to prevent further indiscretions by using warnings where appropriate. A number of drivers have been issued with fixed penalty notices for speeding offences, which automatically includes the endorsement of licenses with penalty points, but a few have been dealt with for more serious offences. Several individuals have been reported to the procurator fiscal for driving without insurance, and one person has been caught driving over the legal drink/drive limit.

Anti-Social Behaviour – We are aware that anti-social behaviour can cause terrible distress to those living in the Burntisland area, and that is why our local officers strive to deal with any issues quickly and effectively.

Continued on page 6**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 |
| | Gary Cummins | Ian McKenzie |
| | John Bruce | John Bradshaw |
| | Damian Purcell | |

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

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

Editorial Committee

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
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| Distribution | Linda Briscoe | |
| Members | Patsy Killin | Amy Dickson |
| | Bruce Stuart | Morag Douglas |

The Buzz is distributed throughout Burntisland by a team of dedicated volunteers. We are currently looking for additional volunteers.

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

THIS IS YOUR BURGH BUZZ. Your comments, letters, articles and photographs are welcome. For the next issue, these can be submitted typed or handwritten to Bill Kirkhope, 39 The Wynd, Dalgety Bay KY11 9SJ (Tel: 01383 822023) or by e-mail to billvida@sealscraig.plus.com Items for the Winter 2014 Issue by 14th January at the latest. Advertising enquiries should be addressed to Jennifer Robertson, 81 Cromwell Road, Burntisland, KY3 9EL (Tel: 01592 874324) or e-mail jengord@sky.com For Community Council matters, please contact:

Alex Macdonald, Chairman (Tel: 01592 873314). Email: alex_mac@btinternet.com
or Isabel Smith (Tel: 01592 873226). Email: jisabelmsmith@btinternet.com



Burntisland Primary School News

By Carolyn Bell

Our pupils had an energetic, fit and healthy start to the new session with opportunities to take part in many different sports during after-schools clubs. These have included; Dance, I-Fit, Netball, Swimming and Football. P6 pupils started swimming lessons at the Beacon, accompanied by Mrs Bennett, and P7 started multi-activity sessions also at the Beacon. P6/7 pupils enjoyed weekly hockey coaching with Mrs Frame. The school has been invited to take part in several sports festivals this year in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games and will have teams participating in Hockey, Netball, Football and Swimming.

All of the nursery children have settled in well and have been practicing basic routines such as washing hands and brushing teeth. We had a visit from Childsmile who showed the children how to brush our teeth properly. They have learned about the machines that collect the harvest and how wheat can be turned into flour and flour into bread. They themselves have harvested carrots, beetroot, potatoes and rhubarb from their own garden and eaten them during snack time.

P1s have had a very busy first term. They have been involved in everything to do with fairy tales! From a Fairytale Hunt around the school to a fabulous shoe parade linked to The Elves and the Shoe Maker. In term two, P1s will learn about their own country, Scotland, through the lovely stories of Katie Morag. They will look at the traditions of Scotland, learn Scottish poetry and take part in Scottish Country Dancing. P1 classes also visited the BAM construction site of the new school as part of their 'materials' topic and they really enjoyed seeing how their new school is developing.

P2H worked together to design and create a Pallet Garden which was entered into The Fife Flower Show at Dobbies, Dunfermline. The garden was based on the theme of Natural Scotland and the children designed a Scottish woodland containing two of the 'Big 5' animals - a squirrel and an otter. A variety of Scottish plant materials including Scot's pine, cones, heather and berries was used to create a woodland. The garden won First prize in the



Bag it!



"Best in the Show"

under 12's and commendably, best exhibit in the Show. The children have a fine trophy to show for their hard work.

Primary six classes have researched Africa as part of their project work and taken turns to deliver 1 minute talks on related topics of their choice.

Primary 7 and Primary 6/7 classes have been involved in a beach and park clean-up in Burntisland and have filled more than 20 black bags full of rubbish! Despite the unexpected rainfall, the children maintained their enthusiasm in this project under the

guidance of the Coast and Countryside Trust. They were also appalled at the amount of rubbish collected and at the types of items they found.

This term, the whole school will have a literacy focus with individual classes selecting a key novel as the core of interdisciplinary learning. These novels include: Kensuke's Kingdom, George's Marvellous Medicine, Stig of the Dump and The Butterfly Lion. The Book Fair also came to school, and P6 classes had a visit from Val O'Connell of the library service who delivered sets of books to begin training for the Big Book Brain Quiz later in the year. P7 pupils also started learning French or Spanish with the assistance of the Modern Foreign Languages teachers from Balwearie High School.

On Friday 20th September, the whole school celebrated Jeans for Genes day by wearing jeans for the day instead of school uniforms. A total of £350 was raised.

The school Harvest Service was held on Thursday 3rd October, with the nursery children performing 'Dingle, Dangle Scarecrow' and classes from P1, 2 and 5 all sharing harvest themed songs. P3G shared a super acrostic poem that they had composed as a class, and P6/7 and P3D displayed a basket of fruit they had made out of recycled materials.

The collection was for Mary's Meals, chosen by P6 classes who had been studying Africa as part of their class projects. We are delighted to be able to donate almost £400 to this organisation.

This term we sadly said goodbye to Miss Brenda McCormick who has retired from her post as Head Teacher at Burntisland Primary School. She was given a very fond farewell as all pupils and staff gathered in the playground to sing 'You are a Star' in her honour and presented her with gifts to remember her time here at Burntisland. We are now looking forward to giving a warm welcome to Miss Julie Anderson who joins us as Head Teacher after the October break!

Parent Council News

By Benjamin Barron

It's been a busy few months for the Parent Council. We have organised fund-raising events for the next year, including the Christmas Fair on the 30th November 1-3 and a Comedy and Quiz night on the 15th March 2014 (time tbc).

The Parent Council are working closely with the Community Council to tackle the issue of dog fouling. We have carried out a survey of Burntisland, started the Green Dog Walker Scheme and will be getting the kids to design posters to encourage people to scoop the poop.

We also joined the BCC for a beach clean with other organisations collecting over 20 bags of rubbish.

With a new head teacher and the new school carrying on at pace, these are exciting times for the Parent Council..



Our New Head Teacher

By The Editor

It is with bitter sweet emotions that the Burntisland community welcomes Miss Julie Anderson as the new Head Teacher of Burntisland Primary School - bitter because we are saying farewell to Miss Brenda McCormick who has served the school so well for the past six years but sweet because we are welcoming a gifted and enthusiastic local girl to take over the leadership of the school at a time when the new school building is rapidly taking shape.

During her six years as head, Brenda has guided and motivated staff and pupils alike to achieve commendable results despite being forced to function in cramped and outdated school premises. We wish Brenda a long, happy and well deserved retirement.

Julie is the daughter of a well known Burntisland couple, Walter and Lilian Anderson. She was brought up in the town and attended Burntisland Primary School before moving on to Balwearie High then Aberdeen University where she obtained her teaching degree. Her early career involved teaching in all primary grades in a number of schools in Fife, eventually taking up the post of Deputy Head at Fair Isle School in Kirkcaldy which she held for 5 years. She was then appointed Head Teacher of Pathhead School where she has spent a rewarding and successful ten years.

Julie brings to BPS a refreshing enthusiasm, a wealth of experience and exciting ideas at a most crucial time in the development of the school. She firmly believes that for a town the size of Burntisland, the school should be the heart beat; that the teachers and pupils should engage with all age groups within the community and that the state-of-the-art facilities of the new school where appropriate, should be made available to the community at large. Living in the town has been a distinct advantage as Julie is acutely aware of the connections and contacts that already exist between the school and local organisations and she is determined to increase this engagement within the community through further developing contacts with youth organisations, family groups and particularly the more mature members of society.

As a former pupil, Julie is very sensitive to the emotions of those who may be saddened at the imminent demise of the old school which for many, including myself, was an essential element of our upbringing. Prior to the closure of the old school premises, Julie would like to see them opened to the public to afford a nostalgic last visit to those who so desire.

Julie can be seen frequently going about the town with her daughter Alice and welcomes approaches by townspeople who may have children or grandchildren at the school or who may wish to offer suggestions on how the school can engage more effectively with the community at large.

We wish Julie every success in her new appointment.



Learning Made Fun at Burntisland Playgroup

By Yvonne Ramsay

Another busy year has started at Burntisland Playgroup. As usual there have been a few tears at the start of term, but these are becoming few and far between as the children get to know all the staff and begin to make new friends. We have been making the most of the good weather and have been spending a lot of time outdoors in our revamped garden, thanks to a grant we received last year.

We plan to add raised beds to allow the children to plant and care for a variety of plants and we will be using our outdoor area to develop literacy, numeracy and science.

Over the past few weeks we have been learning about harvest time. We have also been following the children's own interests, which have been holidays and sharks/animals. The children were also very excited when the new play park opened in the Toll Park, so we have been for a few visits to try out the new play equipment as well as observing the changes in the building of the new school.

The next few months will be very busy. We will be learning about festivals and celebrations such as Bonfire Night, Diwali, Thanksgiving, St Andrews Day and of course Christmas!

We rounded the first term off by inviting the parents/carers in to listen to the Children sing their Harvest songs, accompanied by one of our parents Allan Munro, on his guitar. We also enjoyed a walk to the beach.

We are pleased that a new Committee has been established, which is turning its attention to arranging some exciting fundraising activities over the next year. These include a Halloween Disco on 26th October, Coffee Morning with family photographer on 1st November and a Joe's Band Party night on Saturday 7th December. Tickets are available from the Toll Centre, or find us on Facebook to keep up to date with forthcoming events.



Burgh Polis - continued from page 3

Officers have traced a number of individuals responsible for vandalism in several areas of Burntisland, including the graffiti damage to Burntisland Parish Church. Special Constables have been regularly deployed in the town at weekends to assist in reducing underage drinking and associated disorder. If you have any information or concerns relating to anti-social behaviour where you live or work, then please get in touch with us and we will do our utmost to deal with it.

Drug and Alcohol Misuse - Over the past few months Burntisland's police officers have carried out a number of drugs searches in the town, both in public and in private properties. Cannabis plantations have been closed down and controlled drugs have been seized. We continue to rely upon and develop intelligence provided to us by members of the public, and we further appeal for any information you may have to help us stop those individuals bringing drugs to this town. Licensed Premises are constantly monitored by our officers, particularly at weekends. We have a good relationship with local licensees and it is hoped that through partnership working we can reduce the effect of alcohol misuse on local residents.

As we approach Christmas we tend to find that crimes of dishonesty can increase due to the longer hours of darkness. Burntisland's officers will soon be deployed 24 hours a day, as opposed to the 19 hours a day as at present. This will allow for better and more local police protection round the clock. We request that members of the public do their bit to prevent thefts by ensuring their valuables remain out of sight, and that they keep their windows and doors locked when their property is unattended. For further advice on home safety, or on any other matter, please feel free to phone our new non-emergency number - 101.

Community Engagement Meetings

7:00pm - Wednesday 6th November @Pettycur Bay Hotel

7.00 pm - Wednesday 8th January @ Petycur Bay Hotel



By **David Philp**

It's been a busy few months for the Collinswell Park Residents Association over the summer. We have a number of community projects in the planning stages which will be a huge benefit to residents on the development as well as the wider Burntisland community. The RA is fundraising to purchase a community notice board. We hope to locate this at the beginning of the coastal path near the junction of Haugh Road and Kirkton Road. This will be a great focal point which will enable community groups to keep people informed. Another exciting project is the Collinswell community fundraiser. The finer details are under wraps for now, but residents should look out for the 'spooky' newsletter through their door. Finally we have now established a neighbourhood watch scheme which has taken some time to pull together but we know will be a huge benefit to the residents. Look out for the signs on the estate, hopefully you won't miss them.

Finally, a plea. The RA is a small group and could do with some new members. Do you have a couple of hours a month to spare? The main criteria is that you must be a resident of Collinswell Park, it doesn't matter which developer part you live on, only that you have some great ideas and a sense of community. If you are interested in becoming involved please contact the residents association on collinswellra@gmail.com or alternatively on Collinswell Park Residents Association Facebook page.

Limerick Competition

On the page opposite is a poem composed by a local lady who recalls childhood memories of Burntisland in the summer. This piece has prompted the editorial committee to seek out hidden literary talent within the community by promoting a "poetry" competition. The Star Tavern, in partnership with "Mirth of the Firth" comedy productions is offering a prize of £50.00 in vouchers to the winner of a Limerick Competition.

Entries must be in Limerick form, an example of which is as follows:

The limerick packs laughs anatomical
Into space that is quite economical
But the good ones I've seen
So seldom are clean
And the clean ones so seldom are comical.

This is a five line format with the 1st, 2nd and 5th lines and the 3rd and 4th lines rhyming with each other.

All entries should feature Burntisland in some way; either local landmarks, traditional events, local characters or developments within the town etc. Entries must be tasteful and not offensive to individuals or to sections of the community in general. In other words, they must be printable in the next issue of the Buzz.

Entries will be judged impartially by the headline act of the pre-Christmas comedy show at the Star.

Entries should be sent directly to Morag Douglas by email at

morag.davidson@btconnect.com

or by snail mail to: Morag Douglas, 73 High St Burntisland, Fife KY3 9BD. Mark the envelope "Limerick Competition".

A further Limerick example is as follows:

There's a town called Burntisland in Fife
Where you really can live the good life
The sun shines each day
As you work, rest and play
And forget all your troubles and strife.

A pretty tame attempt which will be easily bettered!

Best of luck!

Ed.

Tips To Avoid The Winter Blues

It will not be long until winter and the festive season is upon us again, bringing freezing temperatures and long dark nights.

Seasonal cold snaps can bring a host of troubles to your home, however a few simple tasks and household checks can ensure that you are fully prepared for the winter ahead.

To avoid frozen or burst pipes

- Insulate all external and internal water pipes remembering the tanks and pipes in your loft
- Know where your water stopcock is located (generally these are found under kitchen sinks or in a downstairs bathroom) and ensure you can turn it on and off
- If you are away on holiday remember to turn your stopcock off to avoid water damage from burst pipes
- Keep your central heating at a minimum of 12 to 15 degrees if it is forecast to freeze
- Turn off the water supply to any outside taps

To protect and prevent against central heating breakdowns

- Ensure that your boiler is regularly serviced and maintained
- Know how to adjust your heating time clock and room thermostat correctly to suit the weather conditions
- If your heating system is under guarantee or is covered by a maintenance scheme ensure you have the necessary phone numbers to hand

*All gas servicing and maintenance must be carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer. You can check the credentials of your tradesman online at – gassaferegister.co.uk

Finally some quick tips to keep your home energy efficient during the cold weather and hopefully save you a few pounds too!

- Insulate your walls, floors and doors - grants may be available for cavity wall and loft insulation, further information is available from – energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland
- Install thermal curtains or blinds
- Attach some tin foil to the back of your radiators to reflect heat back into your room
- Consider fitting a wireless room thermostat to regulate the temperature in your home

This advice is brought to you by Bill Hawthorne of

BH Plumbing and Heating, Burntisland

Mobile: 07500015124

Tel: 01592 872384

bhplumbingandheating.co.uk

Burntisland

*Driving on a cold grey day in December
Along the Kinghorn Road from Burntisland
Thoughts drift back to the long hot summer
Like the ones you had when you were wee
With never-ending days and a feeling of being on holiday.*

*The tall ships paraded up and down the Forth
And folk took days off work to spectate
Flasks of tea, wrapped up sandwiches, crisps, a chocolate biscuit and an orange
Meant you could stay out all day – and anyway it tasted better.*

*The shows were on the Links, as they are every year
But this time the atmosphere was different
Everyone looked happy – no felt happy, like in
The summers when we were wee
Punch and Judy played to an audience of enthralled
Children and adults seated on the grass
While other wee ones splashed about in the paddling pool
- time stood still.*

*The Erskine church had its arms opened for tea or coffee
And the view from James Park down across the
Town, was almost too much to take in
It was like being on holiday, you can't explain
But glad of the familiarity, like old friends.*

*The Binn framed the town like a cupped hand shielding if
from harm
You wanted to climb it, but you should be getting home
for tea.*

*The Kinghorn Road from Burntisland was choked with
cars,*

*People going home or following the tall ships up the
Forth.*

*The feelings of being on holiday when you were wee stays
with you*

*As you walk down the Kinghorn Road from Burntisland
and*

Through your front door home.

Greta Wood

Obituary

The Buzz recently heard of the death in Melbourne, Australia of Rosemary Malone, a former castle area resident who always regarded Burntisland as her home. Husband Jack served his time in Burntisland Shipyard and he met Rose whilst working in the shipyard in Barrow. They were married over the anvil in Gretna but had a second marriage ceremony in Burntisland Parish Church. Jack worked overseas for many years whilst Rose remained in the town to bring up her three daughters. She was very well known locally and was a life member of the Eastern Star. They moved to Manchester after Jack ceased working overseas, but enjoyed frequent return visits to friends and relatives, particularly at the New Year. They eventually emigrated to Australia to join their three daughters.

Rose will be sadly missed by her children and grand children.

“Guy Fawkes Night on the Links”

By *Richard Perry*

There is nothing like a traditional Guy Fawkes Night bonfire to dispel the November gloom especially when it is combined with a spectacular fireworks display. Burntisland Links is the place to be on 5th November to enjoy what is fast becoming one of the most popular family events in the Fife calendar. The event, organised on a purely voluntary basis by Burntisland Events Group, now attracts a huge number of visitors.

As in previous years, the Radio Lollipop Roadshow will provide entertainment, music and tremendous fun for children of all ages from 6pm, along with the fairground rides, refreshments and the very popular glo-sticks stall. Burntisland Pipe Band will arrive with the Summer King and Queen at 7pm. That will be followed by the lighting of the bonfire and the professional fireworks display provided by 21cc, a company with a rising reputation in the field.



Car parking is notoriously difficult so we urge local people to leave the car at home and walk to the event. For those coming from further afield, please consider using public transport, particularly the train, to reduce congestion on the roads.

Whilst there is no set charge for entry to the event, a public collection will be taken on the night to help offset the considerable costs involved. The event does receive some funding from Fife Council but the group is heavily dependent on a good response from the public to make up the shortfall. Last year it was estimated that about 8,000 people came but the collection proceeds amounted to little more than 20 pence a head! It is hoped that everyone will contribute something. Please note that for Health and Safety and insurance reasons, no personal fireworks and sparklers will be permitted.

Please do not take offence if stewards enforce these rules – they are obliged to.

“Thanks from the Royal Party”

Burntisland’s Summer King, Caine Yeardley with his Queen Adele Shaw will officiate at yet another Civic function on the Links on November 5th when they will conduct the countdown for the lighting of the bonfire and the start of the fireworks. This is only one of a large number of civic events that they have and will attend during the course of this year.

However, June 15th 2013 is the date likely to be fixed in the memories of the children and families involved in Burntisland’s Summer Queen & King - it was the culmination of many months of preparation and excitement. This was all made possible by the dedication of many, so on behalf of the Royal Party (Adele, Caine, Bronwyn, Renee, Isla, Leona, Akira, Callum and Christopher) can I make a public thanks to those who helped.

They include sponsors Cristina and Andrew Davies from Archway Metals, Rosie and Tom from Rosie’s Disco (aka lollipop people), Lee & Carrie Lawson of LDL Gas, Annette & Billy of W Hay Electricals, Brenda McCormick and staff at Burntisland Primary School, Fiona Dempster and family for use of the Parish Church Halls, Ken Cameron (Master of Ceremonies) of Burntisland Parish Church, Martin Ferguson, Benny’s Taxis for the transport, Burntisland Pipe Band, Carol-Anne Paterson for painting the backdrop and Gayle Thompson for helping too, and the High Street Co-op store for the picture display, Stuart at Edinburgh Inkshop, Sarah Stuart, Nicola Barker-Harrison, Bonnie Lennox for hairdressing services, Clare Homer Shaw (aka Queen Mum) for making the children’s’ flowers, Michael Booth our dedicated photographer, Beacon Leisure Centre, Robert Bett, Julie Moller, Caroline Holley and Carol Connor for all their help at the discos and Civic Week Committee and all our families who assist with ideas, energy, patience and much more.

Finally to all those who support us, and have previously, in many ways, and so willingly when they are asked; it is always much appreciated.





First Aid – Autumn Update

By Alex MacDonald



minor injuries to treat among the 5,000 or so participants.

Locally, our public first aid class has now started and is full, thanks to continuing personal recommendation. However, we are still running occasional classes in the background whenever there is enough demand. From time to time we offer a 1-day course in Emergency First Aid at Work, as well as more informal sessions in Kirkcaldy and elsewhere.



After several false starts, plans are now in hand for the launch of a Community First Responder scheme in Burntisland, Aberdour and Kinghorn. The scheme will see volunteers responding to an incident at the same time as an ambulance is despatched following a 999 call. The aim is to ensure that life-saving skills can be started even earlier than before.

The incidents are likely to involve medical emergencies (heart attack, unconsciousness and so on). Volunteers are not knowingly sent to an incident which may involve violence or is on licensed premises.

It's a scheme which has worked well in other communities. However, its success depends critically on having enough people who have the right level of training. As well as our own courses, the Scottish Ambulance Service are piloting a new course which is intended specifically for scheme volunteers.

In order to take part, volunteers must be at least 18 years old and mobile within Burntisland, Kinghorn and Aberdour. They must also be fit, logical and calm under pressure.

A launch event will be held at the Fire Station on **Thursday 24th October, at 7:30pm**. The session will be led by the Scottish Ambulance Service and all potential volunteers are most welcome to attend. Anyone who is interested but unable to attend can obtain more information from Alex MacDonald on 873314 or alex_mac@btinternet.com .



BURNTISLAND OVER 70'S CHRISTMAS TREAT

Fund Raising Event – Afternoon Tea on Saturday 16th November 2013,
2pm – 4pm, in the Young Hall, tickets £3, please come along & help support
this local event.

“CHRISTMAS LUNCH”

Lunch this year will be in The Kingswood Hotel on Saturday 7th December 2013, 12 noon for 12.30 start. Attendees **MUST** live in Burntisland and draw their pension here. Anyone requiring transport should contact Frances Allan on 01592 872092 or The Star on 01592 871313 with their name, address and telephone number. Pick up points and times will be notified at a later date.

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

If you are interested in joining us please contact Frances Allan on 01592 872092.



Museum of Communications

By Dorothy Brankin

All our Yesterdays – Life before the Mobile! is the title of the Museum of Communication's latest exhibition in Burntisland. It is a nostalgic trip down 'Memory Lane' for our more mature visitors and an astonishing 'eye-opener' for the young!

The phone-in-your-pocket that we all take for granted, has been around about 30 years now, but before the mobile, all these functions were performed by individual devices, invented or perfected many years ago. At the time, they seemed 'marvels of the age' and it was difficult to imagine how they could ever be improved.

Our Exhibition invites you to discover – or remember – how some of these old technologies worked. On display is a replica of Alexander Graham Bell's original telephone of 1876 (*made of oak – of course!*) alongside a 'Blackberry' its modern counterpart. Everything else on show can now be found in the mobile in your pocket...

We have examples of telephones from the 1890s through to a very early 'Mobile' of the '80s – known as '*The Brick*' for obvious reasons! – and not forgetting the notorious 'Trimphone', which everyone remembers but nobody liked! Also included is our very popular working Strowger Telephone Exchange.

No mobile phone is complete without music – so we have various wind up Gramophones dating from the early 1900s to the teenagers' '*Must Have*' portable record player of the 1960s - as well as a couple of 1890s Graphophones, complete with wax cylinders. Bring us your records and we'll play them for you!

We've also got the world's first Video Recorder on display. It dates from 1964, is the size of a large suitcase, Black+White, (only 2 channels were available at the time!) and cost a staggering £1,200 *More than a family car – and far more than the average annual salary!*

We take a look at Radio, with a few of our favourites, including a 1922 AJS, with valves sitting on the front; Wartime Civilian Receiver made out of plywood; a couple of very attractive Bakelite models from the '30s, a few 'trannies' and a 'pop-art' radio in the form of a 1928 Sports Car, whose spare wheel is the volume control!

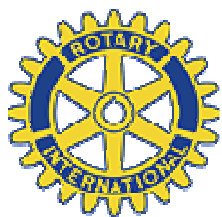
Television also features and we pay tribute to John Logie Baird. On display is a kit version of the 'Televisor', Baird's first television set, dating from 1930. (The commercially produced Televisor was 'beyond the reach' of many purses, so you could buy the components in kit form and build them into your own case.)

Finally, we have a sort of 'catch-all' of many of the other components in your mobile phone: typewriters (*no delete button!*), adding machines, cameras, wire recorders - everything from Snakes and Ladders to computers... and the list is growing steadily and rapidly.

Additionally, we have lots of 'Hands-On!' equipment..... Signalling Lamps, Semaphore Flags, Morse Keys, Speaking Tubes, Phones, Railway Block Telegraphs.

The Exhibition is open every Wednesday and Saturday from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Admission costs £3 and includes refreshments in our upstairs cafe.



The Rotary Club of Burntisland and Kinghorn

At its new venue above the Library, the Club's annual Charity Shop in September took in £3550 to redistribute to charities near and far. On the first day, people were queuing on the stair at opening time, and spent £800 in the one day! Many sincere thanks to all those amazingly generous local folk who brought and bought the astonishing array of goods on offer. During 2012-13, the club distributed £9205 to worthy causes, varying from

Civic Week and the Highland Games to CHAS and Asthma Relief. The club has been busy as usual over the last few months. Being able to pass on £1000 to Maureen Harris from Sick Kids' was a special privilege. Phil Godding gave a detailed picture the huge physical, financial and logistic responsibilities of being in charge of an oil-drilling rig all over the world, from Brazil to Vietnam. Eldon Zuill shared his fascination for *drosophila melanogaster* - fruit flies, to us ordinary folk. Angus Hogg detailed the work of the Carnegie Trust whose inspirational projects from a shop rental scheme for young entrepreneurs in Dunfermline, to setting up libraries and restoring church organs.

Two local lads, Alasdair Stuart and Shaun Gouvea spent a week in Nethy Bridge on the yearly Youth Leadership course, and had a lot of constructive fun. Allan Cunningham, Tae Kwon Do champion, came back from the world Championships with 4 medals, and, with Stephen Gell, showed us why Burntisland is a centre of such excellence for the sport.

Taryn Nielson's lively and inspirational account of her month in Mongolia with World Challenge participants from Balwearie was truly memorable.

Anyone looking for fun and fellowship is cordially invited to join us at the Sands on Tuesdays at 6.15.



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Hidden Fitness Gem

By Karen Small

For six years Burntisland has been the Scottish home of Nia, a unique fitness technique that transforms people's lives, how they perceive keeping fit, and looking after their bodies. The barefoot classes combine dance, martial arts and yoga and focus on the positive – it's all about loving your body.

Nia (pronounced 'knee-ah') was first brought to Scotland by Jinti Wight-Boycott after she tried just one class on a trip to Australia. Jinti, now a Blue Belt Nia teacher, went on to train a few months later and started classes first in the library, then the Pipe Band Hall and Parish Halls before bringing the classes to The Space Upstairs.

In 2009 I went along to my first class with Jinti above the library and was instantly hooked. I couldn't believe a class like this existed - and that I'd never even heard of it - and took my first teacher training six months later. We have an amazing community of Nia dancers here, and it's brilliant to see what Nia can bring to people's lives. Yes, there is the cardiovascular workout and results of increased balance, flexibility and mobility, but what we see all the time are benefits that go beyond this – increased positivity about your own body, improved energy levels and an overall sense of well being.

We organise International Nia trainings in Burntisland every year, with teachers from Italy, America, Australia, Norway and Namibia taking part. For our regular classes it's a bit closer to home with people coming everywhere from Kirkcaldy to Rosyth.

What we are seeing now is the fitness industry catch up with what Nia has been developing for the last 30 years. This mindful approach brings benefits that last a lifetime, and it's amazing to see Burntisland leading the way.



Nia Dancers

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Toll Park Play Area and Pitch Re-opens

On a warm afternoon in early September, the reinstated and improved swings, climbing frames and round-a-bouts at the Toll Park were officially opened. It was a low-key affair attended by local Councillors, members of the BPS Local Development Group and school children. Those attending expressed their appreciation at the speed and efficiency with which the play area and adjacent football pitch had been restored. School having broken up for the day, the play-park was soon thronged with excited youngsters anxious to experiment with the new equipment.



The former play park and football pitch had been completely demolished during the formation of the site of the new school.

Building contractors, BAM Construction were congratulated on having completed the restoration of the grass pitch in time for the commencement of the new football season.

Additionally, BAM Construction generously donated a new set of strips to Burntisland United who will continue to use the Toll Park as their home ground.



A “Hair Cut” for the Kirkton Church



Before!

The Community Council bullets and the letters page of this issue contain a timely reminder that one of Burntisland’s most historic landmarks, the old Parish Church and churchyard at the Kirkton, is suffering from serious neglect. The deteriorating condition of this historic monument was examined in 1999 and again in 2012 by Historic Scotland and two reports were issued describing in detail the work that would be required to restore the ruins to a safe and satisfactory condition. The first priority before any restoration or preservation work can be performed on the structure was clearly stated as the complete removal of vegetation from the monument. During the past 14 years, it appears that little if anything has been done by Fife Council to implement the recommendations of these reports.

This early 13th century ruin is a scheduled monument which predates our unique Parish Church by over 300 years and is a prominent landmark and essential stopover on the Burntisland Outer Heritage Trail. It is an indispensable reminder of Burntisland’s early development. The Burntisland Heritage Trust has monitored the deterioration in the condition of the buildings in the churchyard and has appealed on several occasions to Council officials to take some action to clear the vegetation from the stonework before the remaining structure collapses under the weight and erosion of the pervading ivy. To date, these pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

Following recent representations to the administration by Councillor George Kay, he was able to announce at the October Community Council meeting, that work to remove loose vegetation would commence within days and an examination of the stonework would follow to assess its condition with a view to embarking on restoration work in the Spring.

A recent site visit has confirmed that some clearance work has taken place but the situation must be closely monitored to ensure that the worst of the foliage is removed and that restoration work is commenced in the Spring.



After!

Starley Hall Support for Mary's Meals

At noon on Friday on 20th September, the pulsating beat of African drums from Waa Sylla (a drum group from Edinburgh) welcomed guests, including Fife Provost Jim Leishman, to a special assembly at Starley Hall School. The drum beats ceased and with everyone in the mood, the assembly received a comprehensive and at times, emotional, power point presentation on "Mary's Meals", an 11 year old project to alleviate hunger amongst the children in the poorest regions of Africa.

The talk was given by John Helliwell, the grandfather of Martha, the Scottish schoolgirl whose blog about the inadequacy of her own school meals has resulted in donations of hundreds of thousands of pounds to feed school children in Africa.

John explained how Mary's Meals offered basic daily sustenance in the form of a mug of porridge, to children in deprived areas, as an incentive to attend school. The organisation has expanded dramatically from its humble beginnings and now caters for almost one million children in Malawi. Activities are financed through charitable donations with an absolute minimum of funds donated, being used for administration.

We then heard of John's recent trip to Malawi. Through recounting his experiences in meeting children and parents at schools and in villages, also illustrated by explicit power point images, John was able to demonstrate how effective the scheme has been.



A Generous Donation



Waa Sylla Drums

A tribute was then paid to Anne Murray, former Burntisland Citizen of the Year and head teacher of the school, who will be retiring in December and who has supported charity fund raising at the school for almost 20 years, in particular Mary's Meals. Over the last eight years under Anne's guidance, pupils had raised almost £2,000 and donated over 160 back packs to children in Africa through Mary's Meals. In recognition of Anne's support, staff and pupils donated a further 38 back packs which were presented to John together with a cheque for £300, the proceeds of pupils' most recent fund raising efforts.

Provost Jim Leishman then gave an inspirational address in which he engaged personally with pupils and emphasised that they were in charge of their own destinies, and would achieve their goals provided they had the courage to make the correct decisions.

It was a truly memorable assembly of which the staff and pupils of the school should be justly proud.

Christmas Shopping at the Kingswood

For the third year running the Kingswood Hotel will be staging a Christmas Shopping Fayre with all proceeds going to the Kinghorn Branch of the RNLI.

This year the event will feature over twenty stalls trading in a wide variety of craftware, trinkets and commodities which are essential purchases for Christmas.

Both previous years have been sell-outs and tickets will not be available for purchase at the door.

This year looks to be the same as tickets sales are on track but there are still some available at the hotel. The ticket will also give entry to an attractive prize draw.





Christmas Shopping Event
Kingswood Hotel, Burntisland
Friday 8 November 2013
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
In aid of RNLI Kinghorn
Tickets cost £10
(includes glass of wine & delicious canapés)
Tickets will not be available at the door
 Fantastic Christmas present ideas from local craft makers and businesses. Stalls include homewares, jewellery, handbags, beauty products, candles, lovely handmade gifts, demonstrations & lots, lots more.
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 Tickets available from Kingswood Hotel (01592 872329),
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 Kinghorn Community Centre, Dragon's Den Kinghorn,
 Potter About Burntisland
 All proceeds from ticket sales going to RNLI Kinghorn
 Lifeboats Raising is all of the RNLI Lifeboats Raising is all of the RNLI



Burntisland Shipyard Amateurs

By Andrew Beveridge

Due to unforeseen circumstances at Fife Council's planning department we still cannot confirm if approval for the erection of a spectator stand at Recreation Park has been granted, although we should know by the time the Buzz is issued.

On the playing front, our participation in the Scottish Cup ended at the first hurdle, though as has been the pattern for the last few years, we were handed an extremely difficult away tie, this time at Inverurie Loco Works. Although the team lost 3-0 they can be proud of their efforts on the day and had a couple of decisions gone our way, the outcome might have been a whole lot different. It was also good to see some of our youth players and their parents make the effort and join us on the journey, their support was much appreciated. Prior to this match we had a visit from Hibernian U/20's who are part of the East of Scotland League this season. In front of a healthy crowd Hibs ran out 3-1 winners in what has been one of their more difficult matches this season so far.

On the youth front David Costello's youngsters have continued where they left off last season by winning all their matches they have played so far. I was lucky enough to catch part of their Scottish Cup tie against Blue Brazil (which was won 7-3) The way they play and the goals I have seen scored have been out of the top drawer. What "Costy" and his team are achieving is through hard work and no little skill. They really are a credit to the town and anyone with an interest in football should get up to Recreation Park on a Saturday morning and see for themselves. When at home, the matches kick off at 11am.



Burntisland Bowling Club

By Carol Wilson

The summer of 2013 has prompted me to write about the glorious season we have enjoyed owing to a number of reasons. Firstly, the super weather for our bowling followed by the opening of the refurbished clubhouse, a coffee morning, a gala day and the hosting of the Fife Male Voice Choir.

I must mention how some of our members have excelled in various competitions throughout the summer. Martin Hunter made us proud in reaching the National Competition, gaining Bronze in the disabled triples 8 Nations Invitation Tournament at Kelvingrove, in the winning triples in the 4 Nations, picking up the trophy at the Fife Singles in Beveridge Park and is now in the contention squad for the Commonwealth Games next summer.

Isabel Muir justly deserves a mention winning the Ladies League Singles against stiff opposition in Kirkcaldy and our ladies coming second in the Kirkcaldy District League. Bear in mind that bowling is not just for the elderly but for all age groups. John Macdonald and Norrie Stenton coach up to 60 primary school children over the winter months and the junior membership is open for 12 to 14 year olds. There are a number of social events held over the year and it doesn't stop there as the clubhouse is open over the winter months for carpet bowls, whist and



Burntisland
& Kinghorn
Community
Sport Hub

Update.....

The Burntisland and Kinghorn Community Sport Hub was established in late 2013 and includes a number of sports clubs, facilities and community groups within Burntisland and Kinghorn. Community Sport Hubs are part of sportscotland's contribution to the Scottish Government's 2014 Legacy Plan. The vision of the Burntisland and Kinghorn Community Sport Hub is "A healthy community actively involved in leading, participating and performing in a variety of sport and physical activities.". For a full list of the Community Sport Hub aims please visit www.fife.gov.uk/activefife

The Community Sport Hub has already had some success in a few areas including:

Summer Camp

During the summer holidays the Community Sport Hub hosted a week long summer camp at Kinghorn Community Centre. The summer camp attracted over 30 children from the local area to take part in various sporting activities. This included taster sessions from local clubs including Kinghorn Bowling Club, Kinghorn Tennis Club and GTF Taekwondo club. We aim to build on the success of this programme during future school holiday periods.

Activity and Facility List

The Community Sport Hub has created a list of the local activities on offer within Burntisland and Kinghorn. We aim to develop this further by creating promotional material that promotes the activities and facilities on offer within the community.

Future Developments

The Community Sport Hub is organising an event in summer 2014 to promote the wide variety of activities on offer within the local community. More details will follow over the coming months.

As well as promoting the clubs and organisations that offer sport and physical activity opportunities, the Community Sport Hub will be liaising with local clubs and organisations to offer training for coaches, leaders and committees.

Any sports club or community organisation who would like to be involved in the Community Sport Hub should contact Michael Kavanagh, Community Sport Hub Development, Michael.kavanagh@fife.gov.uk. For further information please visit www.fife.gov.uk/activefife



The blood transfusion service extends it's thanks to all donors who helped in their last visit to Burntisland on Monday 11th September.

A total of 107 volunteers offered to give blood of which 97 donations were given. There were 4 new donors.

Caroline Tutt
Donor programme Organiser

dominoes. A huge congratulations to all our club members who picked up trophies. Details can be seen on our website: burntislandbowlingclub.co.uk and please come along and boost our membership for the carpet bowling now started in the clubhouse on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon or a Thursday evening.

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An "Exceptional" Season for Burntisland Golf House Club

By Alistair Maxwell

As another summer season draws to an end, it is time to reflect on an "Exceptional" year for the club. "Exceptional" weather has enabled the members to get full value for their subscriptions, with very few weather related delays or cancellations. Stevie McAughey and his team of green staff have produced a course in "Exceptional" condition, despite the difficulties created by a long cold and windy spring.

An "Exceptional" increase in club membership numbers. Following a highly successful new members initiative, the club has generated over 150 new members in a year! A steady decline in membership over the last five years had, quite frankly, put the very existence of the club in jeopardy however the future is much more positive and we are optimistic that this trend can continue into 2014.

An "Exceptional" catering partnership was established with Jules Weir and his team this year, and it is wonderful to see the dining room packed at weekends as members and friends enjoy, Fish Teas, Steak Nights and Sunday Carveries, not to mention the Theme Nights. Partnered with the club's helpful and friendly bar staff, the social side of the club in 2013 has been, well Exceptional!

Our team of professionals continue to provide guidance and support to all members, and the focus on junior coaching has again benefitted youngsters in and around the town.

In September, Burntisland was the venue for the inaugural PFA Scotland Soccer Masters trophy and SKY Sports News did several live feeds from the course! Many famous names participated and it is hoped that this will become an annual event here at BGHC. The most "Exceptional" feature of this event was the excellent charitable fund-raising that was undertaken by the members and our very generous sponsors. Apart from making a significant donation to the Scottish Mental Health Charity SAMH, we were also able to donate £750 to the Burntisland Toll Centre. Watch out for publicity around next year's event as we hope to surpass that figure in 2014.

The most "Exceptional" outcome at the club in 2013 for me however, is that it has become very much a community in the wider sense. More members from the town; many new social members who are enjoying the catering and entertainment; and of course putting something back into the community through our charity efforts.

We still have plenty of vacancies for playing and social memberships, so why not come along and join the party – you don't want to be the Exception!



Club Captain John Beveridge presents £750 cheque to Susan Thomson of the Toll Centre



Silver Awards for FAB

By Scott Sweaton

What a summer! The beautiful sunshine we had ensured we had a fantastic show within our hanging baskets and planters around the town. We are now in the process of removing the summer planting as it dies off to replace it with some bulb and winter planting. We have had some crocuses planted on the grass areas at the roundabout at the new estate.

For the first time ever Burntisland entered the Beautiful Scotland campaign. Our volunteers, local residents and the Council all assisted to ensure the town was looking at its best on the day of judging. The feedback from the judges was very positive and two of our volunteers attended the awards ceremony in Aberdeen and collected our silver award. We were also successful in achieving a silver award within the Beautiful Fife campaign.

To have obtained these two silver awards within just over a year of establishing ourselves shows the level of commitment and vision of our group. We are already well established within Burntisland, recognised daily by local residents in our high-viz vests and we aim to continue networking with other groups such as the school and the local community allotment. A group of volunteers is helping

with watering and weeding at the railway station and another group is using the community space within the allotments growing a variety of vegetables and herbs.

We had another very successful coffee morning at the beginning of October, raising a whopping £670. We plan on holding a raffle and quiz night in the new year and are in the process of trying to secure additional funding for next year.

We are already discussing next year's plans which include improving the floral aspect at the Kinghorn Road entrance, additional troughs at the Health Centre and improvements on the boat on Cromwell Road. We would like to thank all of those individuals and businesses who have supported us over the past year. We are a very committed group of volunteers and over the past year we have worked hundreds of hours between meetings, telephone calls, planting, watering, weeding and picking up rubbish.

If you feel that you would like to support FAB either by volunteering with us or by supporting us financially please contact us by email on floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk



Val Crossan and Mary Kay receiving the B S Award



It's been a busy few months at the Toll Centre. We held our AGM in August, where the outgoing committee provided updates on the activities that have taken place over the last year. The Treasurer gave a comprehensive update on the financial position of the Toll. While the Centre receives some funding from Fife Council, this is reducing every year so increasing income from grants, private lets and fundraising is now crucial in order to secure the future of the Centre. A new committee was formed, most of the previous group were

able to continue, with one new member being welcomed aboard – we are all working hard to ensure that the Toll Centre continues to remain at the heart of our community.

This autumn has seen the 're-launch' of the 'Friends of the Toll Centre'. 'Friends' are people that would like to help out on an informal basis, whether it's doing a bit of home-baking, helping at an event or providing specific skills to support the Centre. 'Friends' receive a newsletter every other month to keep them up to date with what's going on and let them know what help is required, there is no obligation, people can do as much or as little as they are able. If you would like to become a 'Friend of the Toll Centre' please contact us.

In the Centre, the work to renovate the kitchen is almost complete. "Awards for All" funding was secured earlier this year to enable us to put in new ovens, storage, fresh paint and tiles. This will benefit all users of the Centre including Playgroup, BOSS and the Wednesday Club. Kitchen use is included in the hire of the main hall. We also secured a grant from Big Lottery Communities & Families to tidy up the garden area – putting in new fences and turf, and purchasing BBQ equipment. Our first family BBQ was held in August and was a great afternoon, we hope to have more next year!

Fundraising events continue to take place, with regular children's disco's on Sunday afternoons where the kids can come and enjoy games and dancing, while carers can have a cup of tea and some home-baking. We have an indoor car boot sale planned for 27th October where there will be lots of stalls selling all sorts of treasures, we'll be running a tombola and also providing families with the opportunity to get a professional photographs done in time for Christmas. 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.

Recently Burntisland Golf Club held a Celebrity Golf Day, and we were very grateful to receive £750 towards Centre funds as a result of being one of their charity partners. Thanks go to all at the Golf Club for this wonderful donation.



Toll Centre Community Cinema



Earlier this year we decided to try out a Community Cinema, and with the help of the British Federation of Film Societies we were able to borrow a full set of equipment including an 18 foot screen so that we could show 'Brave' as a pilot. The film was very popular, and we are now well into our first season of our 'Movie Days'.

The afternoon family films have been very popular, with the October showing of Monsters University selling out! We have also been showing 'grown up' films in the evenings, where a bar is available and movie notes are provided to give people an insight into the film that they have come to see. Tickets are very reasonably priced at £3 for the afternoon showings and £4 for the evening (family and group ticket deals are also available).

The next movie day is on Sunday 3rd November, with a Halloween theme – 'Hotel Transylvania' will be shown at 3pm, with the Kubrick classic 'The Shining' starting at 8pm. It is very unusual to see a Kubrick film on the big screen as the Cinema group found out – getting a licence was not easy but we managed it!

Our Christmas special movie day is on Sunday 8th December, with 'Elf' in the afternoon, and another classic - 'It's a Wonderful Life' in the evening – again it is very rare to be able to view this festive favourite on the big screen, so we hope to see as many people along as possible. We'll be serving mulled wine and mince pies to help get everyone in the Christmas spirit. In the next few weeks the Community Cinema group will be starting to plan for our next season, if there are any films you'd like to see, or if you would like to help out please let us know.

The Sting

Dear sir,

I was encouraged to see remedial work being carried out on the boundary wall of the Old Kirkton Graveyard. Encouraged! because I had thought that this venerable old site had been forgotten and, apart from the occasional grass cutting, left to disappear into the ground.

What a lost jewel we have here, a site dating back at least a thousand years. A site that is of great historical interest, if not nationally, at the very least for Fife.

Not only do we have a complete medieval churchyard and surrounding boundary wall we also have a fairly substantial ruin of a medieval church. Unfortunately, this ruin is buried under a forest of ivy and buddleia.

I am aware that the present building may not be of 11th or 12th century, it is thought to date from the early 1300s. It's name St. Serf or St. Adamnan, is unclear. St Serf was certainly a Saint with very close Fife connections; St. Adamnan although Abbot of Iona, was known to have travelled in the Fife area and even to have stayed on Inch Colm. It is possible that the original church at the Kirkton was indeed founded by St. Serf himself and may have been built upon an even earlier pre-Christian burial site, a common practice in early Christian times.

The Kirkton was on the main coastal route between Edinburgh-Dunfermline-St Andrews; King Alexander III stopped here in March 1286, to give thanks for his journey and to take a little refreshment before continuing to his death no more than an hour later.

There is so much history attached to this site; so much that has stood here before Burntisland existed as a town. I know that funding is very difficult at the moment that so many worthy projects are crying out for aid. Can alternative sources be looked at? We are in the process of losing a little gem, one that many

towns would give their eyeteeth to possess. Please let us find a way to preserve this and make it into an asset to the town.

George McLauchlan

Dear Sir,

In 2015 it will be 40 years since we lost our Town Council. How has Burntisland benefited from being part of the bigger picture? Our old town council, for all it's faults, had the interests of Burntisland at heart. I would ask long time residents to make a list of vast improvements made to the town over 4 decades or should it be decayds.

Although I have spent most of my working life throughout the UK and overseas, I've always lived in the town. There are others like me but we always return to the bosom of *oor ain folk*. After a long period away, any changes are noticeable. I recall an old television drama called "Emergency Ward 10" - it seems fitting that Burntisland just happens to be in Ward 10 of the Council. Perhaps the town needs a good physical to see how her health and wealth has stood the test of the last forty years. I am not sure that the many changes in the town have been beneficial.

And what of the future? One reader has mentioned about the town expanding to the west. Perhaps it is about time that no further developments were allowed. Why, I hear you ask?

1. More houses, more children, the school needs to expand, loss of football pitch.
2. Ask the residents who live near the station about parking spaces, or lack of!
3. We should concentrate on sorting out what we have. The more the town grows the more the services shrink

The Community Council and voluntary groups strive to do their best and deserve our support. They have quite a battle on their hands. Spitting into the wind comes to mind!

The Sniper

(Name and address supplied)

Events Diary

NOVEMBER

| | | |
|---------------|---|---------------------|
| Friday 1st | Playgroup Coffee Morning & photographer | Morning time |
| Friday 1st | Burntisland Unlimited AGM in Potter About | 7.00 pm |
| Sunday 3rd | Toll Centre Community Cinema "Hotel Transylvania" - suitable for kids | 3.00 pm |
| Sunday 3rd | Toll Centre Community Cinema "The Shining" | 8.00 pm |
| Tuesday 5th | BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON THE LINKS | From 6.00pm onwards |
| Wednesday 6th | Police Community Engagement Meeting at the Pettycur Bay Hotel | 7.00 pm |
| Friday 8th | Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers | 7.00 pm |
| Friday 8th | RNLI Christmas Shopping Fayre at the Kingswood Hotel | 6.30 - 9.30 pm |
| Saturday 16th | Afternoon Tea in the Young Memorial Hall - Over 70s Christmas Treat Fundraiser | 2.00 - 4.00 pm |
| Sunday 24th | Sunday Strollers Circular of Ravenscraig Park & Dysart (coffee at Harbour Master's House) | |
| | meet at the Park Car Park | 2.00 pm |
| Saturday 30th | Coffee Morning in St Serf's Church Hall | 10.00 am |
| Saturday 30th | Christmas Fair at Burntisland Primary School (Parent Council) | 1.00 - 3.00 pm |

DECEMBER

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------------|
| Sunday 1st | Advent Carol Service at St Serf's Church | 6.00 pm |
| Thursday 5th | LATE NIGHT SHOPPING—SHOP FRONT CHRISTMAS SWITCH ON | After Dark ! |
| Saturday 7th | Over Seventies Christmas Treat at the Kingswood Hotel | 12.00 for 12.30 pm start |
| Saturday 7th | Joe's Band Party night—Playgroup Fund Raiser at the Toll Centre | 7.00 pm |
| Friday 13th | Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers | 7.00 pm |
| Sunday 8th | Toll Centre Community Cinema "Elf" - Christmas Special | 3.00pm |
| Sunday 8th | Toll Centre Community Cinema "It's a Wonderful Life" - Christmas Special | 8.00 pm |
| Sunday 8th | Blue Christmas Service in the Parish Church Hall | 6.30 pm |
| Sunday 15th | Sunday Strollers Kinghorn to Seafield Tower and return meet at Nethergate Car Park, Kinghorn | 2.00 pm |
| Sunday 15th | Children's Carol Service in the Erskine Church | 6.30 pm |
| Tuesday 24th | Watch Night Service at the Erskine Church | 11.15 pm |
| Tuesday 24th | Christmas Eve Service at St Serf's | 11.30 pm |
| Wednesday 25th | Christmas Day Service at St Serf's | 9.30 am |

JANUARY

| | | |
|---------------|---|---------|
| Wednesday 8th | Police Community Engagement Meeting at the Pettycur Bay Hotel | 7.00 pm |
| Friday 12th | Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers | 7.00 pm |

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Blue Christmas



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and looking for something different at Christmas*

Sunday 8th December 2013, 6.30pm

Burntisland Parish Church Hall, East Leven St.

*There will be tea, coffee and mince pies served afterwards as well as the opportunity
to receive prayer*



Perhaps you know the old Elvis song: "I'll have a blue Christmas without you." Maybe you're too young to remember it, but the idea of a "blue Christmas" isn't so strange to many people who find it extra hard at this time of year. Perhaps you are struggling financially, dealing with ill health, relationship problems or divorce, depression or bereavement. Whatever the reason, it can be hard to deal with the expectations that we should be celebrating, spending and communicating with friends and family.

But the first Christmas was not about tinsel, turkey and running up credit card bills. The real story was about a young couple dealing with an unplanned pregnancy and people questioning who was the father, being poor and homeless as the birth approached and having to rely on others to survive. Poor shepherds were the first to hear the news of the birth. The rich and clever folk got there late and blew the family's cover, causing the threatened dictatorship to order a massacre. Grief and mourning followed in Bethlehem and the young family were forced to become refugees in a foreign country with no UN assistance in place and all the insecurity of being illegal immigrants.

That's how God became a human being at Christmas and He's still with us in the middle of the mess this year, bringing hope and light to the people who feel they are in a dark place.

Our service on December 8 won't be miserable, but we hope it will be real, honest and sensitive to how many people feel at Christmas. There is no charge and after the service there will be tea, coffee and the opportunity to talk to someone and be prayed for. You don't have to be going through hard times to be there, but it will be a safe place for those who are struggling. Come along if you would like to celebrate Christmas with a difference.

Contact for more information: Diane West 07941 705031



Mary's Meals Backpack Project

Members and friends of Burntisland Parish Church have been busy since May of this year, filling backpacks for children in Malawi for the charity Mary's Meals. A total of 106 backpacks were donated on Sunday 29th September to Douglas Robertson, representative of Mary's Meals who after the Sunday morning service, joined the group for lunch and to accept the backpacks.

Photo: Douglas Robertson from Mary's Meals, and members of Burntisland Parish Church : Donald Maclean, Christine Thomson, Ann Smith, Mary Reekie, Sandra Annand and Kathy Maclean.

(Photo by Michael Boothe)



St Serf's Episcopal Church

By Revd Maureen Stirzaker.

The last few months have been relatively quiet at St. Serf's. We have started afternoon tea and prayers once a month providing transport for those no longer able to attend the Sunday service. At the beginning of October we had a quiet day at the The Bield at Blackruthven, exploring ways to be with God in the business of our lives. Over October and November a focus for us will once again be collecting goods and making up shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Several years ago one of our congregation went out to the Crimea distributing the shoe boxes to orphans and children

whose life situations are unbelievably sad. We rejoiced in completing seventy five shoe boxes last year, and despite the present economic climate would pray we may manage to do the same again this year. Soon it will be Advent and we will begin our Advent study group meeting weekly in church as we journey toward the joy of celebrating the wonder of the incarnation and the birth of Christ our Saviour.

Forthcoming St Serf's services and social functions are listed in the Events Diary (page 20).



Erskine News

by Alexander Ritchie - Minister : Erskine Church

Why is it that we have to talk about and prepare for Christmas months in advance? I realise that it's good to be organised and to know what's happening when. I realise also that for retailers this is the time which can make or break the trading year. But when **25 December** finally arrives I feel as though we have lost something of its real purpose and meaning in the midst of the clutter of everything else. Something to think about...

Erskine had a good summer mission in August and this year's harvest offering of non-perishable food went to the very worthy cause of supporting the foodbank project in Kirkcaldy at the end of September.

So to Christmas. Each one of our local churches has its own special services, you'll find more details in this edition of *The Buzz* or from the posters around the town. Erskine's carol service takes place on **Sunday 15 December @ 6.30pm**. Children from Burntisland Primary will take part, along with seasonal Bible readings and singing of the traditional carols. The Watchnight service is on **24 December @ 11.15pm** in Erskine with the unique atmosphere of experiencing the arrival of Christmas Day itself, and where better to do that than in church? All are very, very welcome to attend these services.

I suppose many people aren't too bothered about why we celebrate each December, just as long as they get their share of presents, parties and a good time. That's so sad because even as folks are busy planning and organising family times or nights out, something essential is missing — the very reason behind why we are doing it.

Christmas is a celebration of God's gift in the person of Jesus. In fact you might refer to this special season as a birthday party, the birth of Jesus is remembered and the faithfulness of God to us is marked. I hope we can all find at least some time in the middle of it to stop and reflect on the true meaning and message of Christmas. It might just make a real difference to your celebration of it!

"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2.11, NIV).



Harvest Offerings



The International Catholic Legislators Conference

Councillor George Kay recently accepted a private invitation to attend the ICLC in Frascati near Rome. The conference attracted politicians from every continent and the majority of European Countries. Attendees covered a wide spectrum of political expertise including representatives from the American Congress and Speaker of the Canadian senate.

The four day conference addressed many of the problems which are present in the world today including Migration, Economic Aid, The Middle East, Governance and changes in public perceptions of morality and were viewed from both a political and moral standpoint.

Cllr Kay said "This allowed me to meet with many very different types of politicians and explore our common beliefs but equally recognise many of the differences which are prevalent in the World. It was an unique experience and will give me a greater understanding when I come to view the problems we have here in Fife". Cllr Kay was accompanied at the conference by his wife Mary.

The culmination of the conference was when it received an audience from His Holiness Pope Francis.



Pope Francis meeting Councillor and Mrs Kay



News from The Ecology Centre

We are delighted to be selected as a finalist for The Nature of Scotland awards in the "Community Initiative" category. This award is in recognition of all the hard work carried out by The Ecology Centre and its many volunteers in improving and maintaining the land around Kinghorn Loch. Year after year we are recording record numbers of visitors to our site, that's both people and wildlife!

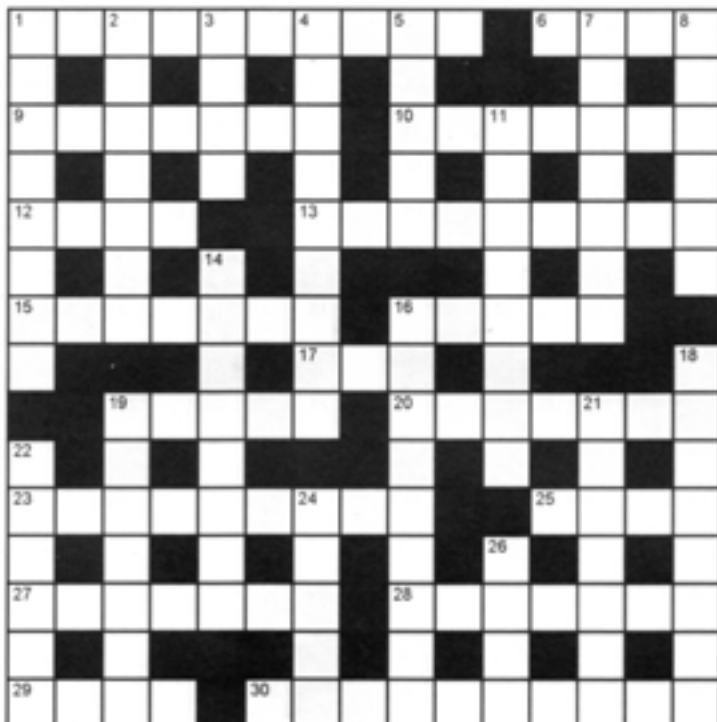
Our Tool Shed project has recently shipped out five full tool kits for projects in Africa in partnership with Tools for Self Reliance and others. This brings the total kits to 12 which is a huge source of pride for our Tool Shed volunteers. The most recent consignment will help community projects in Sierra Leone, amongst others, and will enable hundreds of people to be trained in practical skills that will help secure future employment.

Our Education Programme has recently secured funding for an innovative Geology project: 'Your Roots, Your Rocks' through Fife Council's Cultural and Heritage Investment Fund and the Lottery's Awards for All Programme. This exciting new project will see The Ecology Centre Educators create a new natural heritage trail for Burntisland, as well as offering guided walks on the coastal path, art and curriculum-led education workshops for local schools and much more. Further information will be available on this project in the coming months.

If you have not visited our Kinghorn Loch site recently, now is the time to do so while the glorious autumn colours are at their best. We hope to see you on site sometime soon!



THE PRIZE CROSSWORD



Solution to July Crossword

Across 1 Firebombed, 6 Ides, 9 Refrain, 10 Potomac, 12 Dole, 13 Abstainer, 15 Mustard, 16 Defoe, 17 Bible, 20 Coalbin, 23 Kirkcaldy, 25 Ante, 27 Weekend, 28 Ragwort, 29 Rusk, 30 Kenspeckle

Down 1 Firedamp, 2 Raffles, 3 Braw, 4 Manhandle, 5 Expos, 7 Dominie, 8 Secure, 11 Toadflax, 14 Barbecue, 16 Dockyards, 18 Unsettle, 19 Barbers, 21 Bannock, 22 Skewer, 24 Lodge, 26 Ogle

July Crossword Winner:

Mrs Anne Davidson
Duncanson Drive,
Burntisland.

Across

- 1 A wrongdoer (10)
- 6 Probabilities (4)
- 9 French castle (7)
- 10 Rumour (7)
- 12 Part of the eye (4)
- 13 Heavy waterproof cover (9)
- 15 Agony (7)
- 16 Premature (5)
- 17 Ailing (3)
- 19 Monkey (5)
- 20 Baltic Country (7)
- 23 Country of Central America (9)
- 25 Way of walking (4)
- 27 Voted into office (7)
- 28 Eccentric (7)
- 29 Take care of (4)
- 30 Vex (10)

Down

- 1 A Great Lake (8)
- 2 Idling (7)
- 3 Charges for services (4)
- 4 Wooing (9)
- 5 Different (5)
- 7 Exhibit (7)
- 8 Espionage (6)
- 11 Liveliness/Briskness (8)
- 14 Watchful (8)
- 16 Lifts (9)
- 18 Historic French Prison (8)
- 19 Water Tank (7)
- 21 North American falls (7)
- 22 Loud piercing cry (6)
- 24 Guide to contents (5)
- 26 Woodworking tool (4)

Answers in the next issue of the Buzz

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

Completed entries by 15th December to Deputy Editor,
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Columbos Christmas Party' 7th December, 7pm for 7.30pm £35 pp inc 4 course dinner

Festive Murder Mystery 14th & 20th December, 7pm for 7.30pm £35pp inc. 4 course dinner

'Christmas in Vegas'-sounds of the Rat Pack 21st December' Tickets £10.00 doors open 7.30pm

Restaurant Festive Dining 2 course £13.50, 3 course £17.95

Monday-Saturday 12 noon -2.30pm & 5 pm-8.30pm

Christmas Eve 12 noon-7 pm Hogmanay 12 noon-4 pm

Christmas Day 12.30-3.15pm £55.00 pp (Children under 12 £25.00)

31st December Hogmanay Ceilidh Dinner

£55pp with 'Ceilidh Folk' live Ceilidh Band 7 for 7.30pm till 1 am

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