

# BURGH BUZZ



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## Community Award for Walter

In the early afternoon of 31<sup>st</sup> December, Walter Anderson answered his door bell and was greeted by the Chairman of Burntisland Community Council, Alex MacDonald. After inviting Alex inside, Walter was shocked but honoured to be told that he had been selected as the recipient of the 2015 Burntisland Community Award. He thought, "I am too old to receive such an honour!"

Octogenarian Walter has been a resident of the town for over forty years and since his arrival in the early seventies, as well as raising his family, he has played an active role in a wide range of community activities. His principal passion is piping and he led the Burntisland & District as Pipe Major for an extended period. Over his many years in the town he has passed on his piping skills to countless youngsters and still gives private tuition to a chosen few – but woe betide them if they fail to apply themselves diligently!

Walter has an industrious and caring nature and was a founder member and first President of the Burntisland and Kinghorn Rotary Club which for the last 33 years has performed so much valuable service both locally and overseas. He has also served as an elder of the Erskine Church for forty years, five of them as session clerk. His one regret is that he has never been able to attend the watch night service on Christmas Eve. Every year he is required to man the main door of the church, vetting the sobriety of late comers. Hard to imagine the church employing a bouncer!

Walter was a leading light in the drive to replace the old swimming pool as Chairman of BLAST, the organisation which eventually persuaded Fife Council to honour its pledge and construct the Beacon Centre. For over 10 years he was the Burntisland representative of the Earl Haig Fund Scotland and organised the annual poppy collection.

Walter retired as Principal Educational Psychologist in Fife in the late eighties and during his retirement years he has selflessly dedicated much of his time and energy towards making Burntisland a more pleasant environment and community to reside in. He is a worthy recipient of the Community Award.



Pipe Major Walter Anderson

## B P S - What an Opening.....



The Plaque Unveiled

Those privileged enough to have been invited to the opening ceremony of the new Burntisland Primary School were treated to a magnificent presentation by the children and staff. Greeted by the pipes and drums of the Burntisland & District Pipe Band and ushered into the spacious assembly hall by polite and obliging pupils, invited guests who included community leaders, council officials, BAM Construction employees and former pupils and staff, witnessed an exciting programme of celebration.

The atmosphere was cheerful and optimistic as the pupils recounted the transition from the old to the new through song and verbal presentations. A commemorative plaque was unveiled jointly by guest of honour, Gordon Brown MP and head teacher, Miss Julie Anderson. School Chaplain Rev Alexander Ritchie then led all in a prayer of dedication. The ceremony concluded with the showing on the big screen of a DVD on the creation of the new school and featuring all employees, staff and pupils and even included the final departure of BAM construction workers.

# BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY PAPER

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

## From the Editor

Many of us were taken by surprise when we discovered that our Ward's recently reinforced compliment of community police officers was to be drastically cut by over 60%. This was particularly difficult to understand given that Fife's community police strategy had been so highly praised by senior police managers in the past. On page 4, our community police sergeant explains the changes when he outlines a new community police strategy which is being piloted throughout Fife Division.

Whilst for some of us, these changes may be difficult to understand, it must be appreciated that senior police officers should be allowed to exercise their professional judgement in the deployment of their resources. However, before implementation, they must ensure that the public they serve is made aware of changes in deployment strategy and the broad reasons behind them. The effectiveness of this pilot scheme will become apparent in the fullness of time. However, this cannot be judged by crime statistics alone but also by the confidence of the general public to walk safely in the streets of the town at any time of the day or night.

In our letters column on page 12 "The Sniper" has clearly set out his perception of the deterioration of public amenities and services since the disappearance of "Town Councils" some 40 years ago. He states that he is unable to identify any changes which have taken place in the town over the last forty years that have been beneficial to the community. I feel sure that there are many readers who are able to highlight many aspects of the town which have been improved in recent years to the benefit of the community as a whole. Let us hear from you.

To use the Sniper's own analogy, he should try not to resist the wind of change by facing into it, but should fly with it thereby avoiding being sprayed by his fantastical memories of a utopian Burntisland past.

**Bill Kirkhope**

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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 two meetings is set out below.

- The Lord Lyon King of Arms has confirmed that we are now authorised to use the title “Royal Burgh of Burntisland Community Council”.
- Following the recent election and turnover amongst members, the Community Council elected John Bradshaw as Vice Chairman and George McLauchlan as Minutes Secretary. Other office bearers are unchanged.
- Work continues to try and ensure that Fife Council can find the remaining budget to reinstate the clock tower on the Burgh Chambers.
- On request, a letter was sent to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. Our response reflected the letter of condolence sent by the then Town Council in 1865.
- The condition of the play area at Links Place is under review and options are being considered for the renewal / replacement / removal of selected equipment.
- With thanks to the AV Dept Ltd, audio units have been made available for Community Council meetings. They give much clearer sound throughout the Council Chamber and can be set up to record all discussion.
- The combined services for Remembrance Day and the re-dedication of the War Memorial were exceptionally well-attended and much appreciated.
- The re-surfacing of the High Street will release stone setts for re-use in what is currently a coarse, tarmac surface next to the War Memorial. Details are under review by Fife Council.
- Individual members have visited example conservation projects in order to assess what might be possible for Burntisland. The projects visited include the Dreel Halls and Murray Library, both in Anstruther, and also Kinghorn Town Hall. Each project cost over £1m and will provide valuable insight into the challenges and possibilities of any similar project(s) in Burntisland.
- Pantomime tickets for the Lochgelly Centre, sponsored by ExxonMobil, were distributed to about 70 senior citizens. A further 20 tickets, also sponsored by ExxonMobil, were distributed for the panto performed by the Dalgety Players.
- The formal planning application for housing at the former primary school in Ferguson Place has taken on board earlier concerns about over-intensive development. The number of dwellings has been slightly reduced and there is more amenity space. However, we are still apprehensive about the impact of traffic flows to and from Cromwell Road.
- There is likely to be close cooperation between the Community Council and the Rotary Club on a variety of activities. Examples include major project options for the town and also direct support for the Community Council’s Emergency Response Team. Further discussions will take place in the coming months.

## Your Community Council

Burntisland Community Council (BCC) is elected every four 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:	John Bradshaw
Treasurer:	John Russell
Secretary:	Gordon Langlands
Minutes Secretary:	George McLauchlan

Members:	
Christine Dewar	Tim Hailey
Bruce Stuart	Morag Douglas
John Bruce	Ben Barron
Colin Fraser	Billy Symington

### Elected Fife Councillors’ Availability

#### Councillor George Kay

Telephone 01592 874920

Email: [Cllr.George.Kay@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.George.Kay@fife.gov.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Councillor Susan Leslie

Cllr Leslie holds her surgeries in Burntisland Burgh Chambers directly before Community Council meetings on the second Friday of every month at 6.15pm, except for April and October.

Telephone 01592 643703

Email: [Cllr.Susan.Leslie@fife.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:petergeorge@fife.gov.uk)

## Burntisland Buzz

Next Issue - April 2015

Copy Deadline: 15th April

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





## *The Burgh Polis*

By

**Sergeant Jimmy Adamson**

**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 Fife Division introduced a new model of community policing. I have taken over from PS Neil Ewing, in the role of the Community Wards Sergeant, working with a team of 8 officers. PS Neil Ewing has been posted to Kirkcaldy Police Station where he will be in charge of a team of response officers. WPC Masterton and PC Murray will cover Burntisland and Kinghorn, whilst the other officers are distributed between the council wards in Kirkcaldy. To ensure that the officers are available for the community, PCs Masterton and Murray will work solely in their ward and will not be abstracted to carry out duties in other areas. The officers will not ordinarily have the use of police cars and will provide a visible police presence on foot patrol or using public transport. They will continue holding Community Engagement Meetings however will also explore other events that they can attend and meet the public, such as establishing a presence at hubs including shops and other venues.

Antisocial behaviour, road safety and drugs misuse remain a priority and the officers will work with the public and partners to tackle these issues. In future issues of the Buzz I will highlight what has been achieved.

Fife Division are piloting the new approach to community policing and if successful, the model may be adopted elsewhere in Scotland.

The next Community Engagement Meeting will take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Pettycur Bay Caravan Park at 7pm.

Finally, if you would like to follow your local community officers you can keep up to date with what's going on in your area on twitter @Kirkcaldypolice.

## *Pipe Band Championship for Burntisland*

A new major annual event has just been announced to be hosted in Burntisland from 2015 onwards.

This new Pipe Band Championship aims to attract thousands of people to the town on the busiest weekend of the year, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July, just two days before our Highland Games, the 2nd oldest in the world.

Fife Council has invested £33,000 from the Strategic Events Investment Programme over the next three years to ensure the new Championship will thrive and attract some of the best pipe bands, and a significant amount of visitors, from all over Scotland. The event is estimated to generate around £340,635 for the local economy each year and attract around 13,500 visitors, competitors and their families.

Burntisland Pipe Band spokesperson Denis Johnstone said "This is a fantastic event to come to the town. It has been our goal to have a contest in Burntisland for a number of years and it is great to finally achieve this. Thanks go to Fife Council and to the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association for their help and hopefully this event will grow over the years."

Linda Temple, Fife Council's Cultural Partnerships & Events Strategy Manager said "I am absolutely delighted that the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association have agreed to organise, promote and deliver this event and I have every confidence it will keep Burntisland on the map as a major day-out destination. The parade of the massed pipes and drums, along the High Street, will be a truly spectacular sight and we hope local residents and the many visitors to the town will enjoy this new and very exciting event".



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## Community Council Vacancies

by Alex Macdonald (Chairman)

The October election was called at very short notice but there was still a very healthy response from local people who wanted to put their names forward. The result was 13 nominations for the 15 available places, with three of the nominations being from new members.

We do try very hard to ensure that our discussions are inclusive and take into account the different aspirations across all sectors of our community. So the 11 men and two women who were elected are keen to encourage interest from groups which are under-represented.

The process is simple. All it takes is a letter or e-mail to the Community Council Secretary, using the address given at the bottom of page 2, giving a brief personal profile. All nominations will then be considered at our March meeting. Candidates must be at least 16 years old and on the electoral register for Burntisland.

We welcome everyone who is interested in supporting our community in this way. More information can be viewed at [www.burntislandcc.org.uk](http://www.burntislandcc.org.uk).



### Museum of Communications

By Dorothy Brankin

It's certainly been true that *'time flies when you're busy'*, at the Museum of Communication this year! In the last edition of the Buzz, I pointed out some of the highlights of our year. At the end of September, the doors closed on the exhibition season – but that didn't mean we could sit back and put our feet up – far from it!

During the winter months, we move our mid-week evening lecture slot to Saturday mornings, and include lunch. As usual, our season finished with two very special talks. The Harry Matthews Memorial Lecture in November, was a superb commentary about the Battle of Britain, given by historian Roy Johnstone and we ended the year with our 'Christmas Special', presented by Burntisland's very popular resident, the great story-teller, Hamish Brown. His topic *Guddling about in Graveyards*, perhaps sounds a little too melancholy for the Festive Season – but not in Hamish's hands!! It's possible you could hear our laughter and applause in Kinghorn! We also hosted a one-day Conference at the Museum in November.

Moving into the New Year, we will continue with our WW1 theme. However, 2015 also marks 70 years since the end of WW2 and this event will also form part of our exhibition. We think it is vitally important for today's young people to recognise the horror of these two World Wars and not be swept away by Hollywood's cosmetic versions and glamourisation of the events.

We already have several events stacked up for 2015 – ranging from invitations to visit schools in East Lothian to returning to the Orkney International Science Festival. Needless to say, these have all been accepted!

Finally, last time, I promised you a WW1 recipe. Not

quite up to today's Nigella or Delia standards, but remember, we're going back 100 years AND *"there was a War On"*.....

Here is the recipe for a **Trench Cake**. Many people sent fruit cakes to their loved ones serving in Action – but some ingredients were hard to come by, so people had to improvise....

#### Ingredients

8 oz flour, 4 oz margarine  
1 teaspoon vinegar, 5 fl.oz of milk  
3 oz brown sugar, 3 oz cleaned currants  
2 teaspoons cocoa powder, 1 teaspoon baking soda  
Nutmeg, ginger, grated lemon rind

*To counteract lack of eggs in this recipe, vinegar was used to react with baking soda to help the cake rise.*

#### Method

Grease a cake tin. Rub margarine into the flour and add dry ingredients, mixing well. Dissolve soda in vinegar and milk and add. Beat well. Turn into tin and bake in a moderate oven for about two hours.

*Bon appétit????*



A Grave Expression from Hamish!

## Outdoor Pitch Facilities at the Beacon Site - Progress Report

Last August, the Buzz carried an article from Burntisland Sports Group indicating that the construction of the proposed all weather sports facilities (synthetic pitch and multi-sports court) to be located adjacent to the Beacon Centre, would be completed in December. Unfortunately, progress has been delayed due to some issues with Network Rail. The project has had to be re-tendered and it is anticipated that work will be completed by 19th June 2015.

I understand that this delay is disappointing, however I am sure that the development, once completed, will be worth the wait and will be a huge asset to the town. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and patience.

Gillian Lowe (Chairperson, Burntisland Sports Group.)





## ***We Shall Remember Them***

**R**emembrance Sunday 2014 was especially poignant as it commemorated the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War and incorporated the rededication of the recently refurbished War Memorial.

The mid - morning parade comprised representatives from the Armed Forces, Veterans, Fife and Community Councillors, the Emergency Services and Youth and Civilian Organisations. Commanded by Wing Commander Ian Wallace, and led by Burntisland's World Champion Pipe Band, the parade marched smartly along the High Street and Kinghorn Road to the Erskine Church.

Rev. Alexander Ritchie conducted a traditional and at times, extremely moving service in which he emphasised the importance of continuing to appreciate and remember with gratitude those who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of our freedom.

The large congregation observed 2 minutes silence at 11.00 am, in keeping with similar congregations throughout the country.

At the conclusion of the church service, the parade reformed and marched back along Kinghorn Road to the War Memorial where several hundred members of the Burntisland community had already gathered. The interdenominational wreath - laying

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**130  
brave men  
never returned**

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and rededication service which followed, included the reading by four members of the youth organisations of names of the fallen which were inscribed on the memorial. The length of time taken to read the names was a stark reminder of

the devastating impact of the Great War on the relatively small Burntisland community - 130 brave men who never returned. The service concluded with a 2 minute period of silent reflection, the playing of the "Last Post", the "Flowers of the Forest" by a lone piper and the singing of the National Anthem by all.

The parade then reformed and marched to the Town Chambers for an informal civic reception.



## The Kirkton Church

By  
George McLoughlan

**A**fter many years of discussion and debate, a working group has been formed to ensure the preservation of the remains of the town's oldest building, the Kirkton Church and Graveyard. Burntisland Heritage Trust with the support of Burntisland Community Council and Fife Council, have formed a working group to bring forward plans and to apply for funding to carry out work on the church ruins and to preserve the surrounding burial ground.

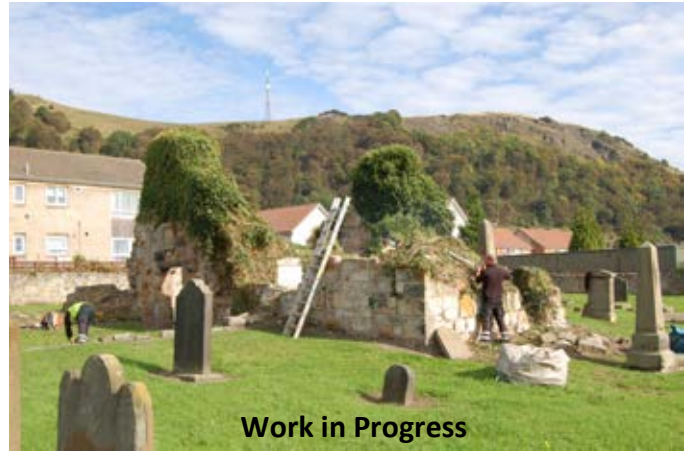
The group has met twice, over the past two months and after an onsite visit with Historic Scotland in December, the group has agreed on basic objectives to remove vegetation, stabilise the remains and prevent further deterioration.

Longer term objectives include further research into the history of the site, on-going maintenance and the installation of interpretation panels.

The Group is already exploring various funding options as the project must be fully funded before Historic Scotland will approve the commencement of the project.

For this project to succeed, it needs the support of the people of Burntisland. Over the next few months the working group will be exploring ways in which groups and individuals within the town, will be able to lend support. Local churches and Burntisland Primary School are particularly keen to be involved. It is hoped that we can interest many of the other organisations to add their support to this long needed preservation of an historic monument, important not just to Burntisland and Fife, but to Scotland.

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**Work in Progress**



by **Scott Sweaton**

**S**o another year begins and it looks like another busy year ahead for FAB. A number of volunteers enjoyed a Christmas night out at Burntisland Golf Club in December and we plan to meet up with volunteers from Kinghorn in Bloom soon to discuss ideas and plans for the year ahead. Our first meeting of the year is taking place on the 20th January and there will be a lot to discuss. This will include planting options for the summer, enhancing areas we have already started to develop, fundraising ideas including our quiz night and raffle and our AGM, which is normally held towards the end of February.

At the tail end of autumn we planted over a thousand bulbs around the town, including within the grounds of the new primary school. FAB volunteers along with the P1's planted approximately 500 daffodil bulbs and the pupils plan to invite us back in early spring once they have sprung!

The works we have initiated in conjunction with Fife Council are already under way. This includes an area at the top of the Kirkgate and the preparation of beds for wild flowers. Meetings with Fife Council will continue, to look at other options available to enhance the floral aspect throughout the town.

You may have also noticed that the old bike sheds at East Leven Street have been removed. These had been originally installed for the railway station but had been vandalised over the years and were an eyesore. The entrance to the railway station is an area we are looking at improving this year.

Plans for FAB's community orchard are going from strength to strength with a site being identified. The hope is that planting will happen some time this year. FAB also has a new Facebook page. This has been set up to allow people to keep updated with our plans and the work we are carrying out. Please have a look for Floral Action Burntisland and like the page. This page can also give people an opportunity for individuals to show their support, provide us with ideas and perhaps even highlight areas within the town that may need our special touch!

As always, our work can only be carried out with the ongoing support of volunteers. We are always looking for people to help with an array of jobs from planting to watering.

If you are interested in volunteering for FAB please get in touch, either through our Facebook page, website or by emailing [floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk)

FAB aim to have another productive year and we look forward to ensuring Burntisland looks fabulous for its residents and visitors.



**Planting Daffodils**





## **School News**

By Carolyn Bell

**W**e all enjoyed a very festive end to 2014 and celebrated Christmas in many different ways with Christmas

lunches, parties, pantomimes, nativities and performances. Our very talented Ice Skaters invited us to watch them perform at the Kirkcaldy Ice Arena on the 12 December. Some of our P4, 5 and 7 pupils greatly enjoyed watching their classmates demonstrate their skating abilities. As this day was also our annual Christmas Jumper Day, everyone was wrapped up warmly for the occasion.

During last term P7 classes learned about WW1 and were fascinated to find out lots of new information. As part of this study, both classes visited the Lochgelly Centre on the 12<sup>th</sup> November where they enjoyed a special screening of 'War Horse' and watched a play called 'Run'. Our P6 and P7 classes were all delighted to be able to visit an interactive exhibition about WW1 in our very own playground as the MAC bus came to school in November. Our P7s staged a moving production about WW1 at the end of term and some of the poetry that they wrote in particular was very touching.

P6 pupils appreciated learning about the Victorians last term and were thrilled to visit Hopetoun House to learn more about this era and enjoyed dressing in period costumes and touring the premises. This term they will be learning about Natural Disasters and finding out about the effect that they have on communities.



Primary 5's budding musicians recorded a song entitled 'The Road to Change' with Mrs Whatmore. This incorporated many different instruments such as Kazoos, Maracas and Ukuleles. They have now begun music workshops with the Youth Music Initiative and are learning how to use tuned percussion.

P4 have been exploring their local area through a series of walks around Burntisland. They are now going to investigate further afield through their Space project!

Some very special visitors came to school last term from Fife Falconry and helped our P3 and P2/3 classes find out about Owls as they had been reading 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'. They learned about different kinds of owls, habitats, how they hunt and what they eat. They all had a fantastic time and Miss Pullar and Mrs Pirie even got to hold a Harris Hawk. It flew over Miss McCormack to show how skilled it is in flying.

P2 pupils discovered the secrets of Light and Dark last term and enjoyed finding out about nocturnal animals and how to stay safe outdoors. They are looking forward to discovering Scottish Castles this term.

Nursery and P1 pupils teamed up last term to display their excellent Scottish Country Dancing skills through a series of performances. Nursery are really enjoying welcoming their new pupils and staff this term and have been observing how the bulbs they planted last term are growing. They also enjoy using their 'Play-at-home' bags to share sports equipment with their families.

We are all very much looking forward to an exciting and fun-filled 2015 here in Burntisland. Finally, Happy New Year from all at Burntisland Primary School!

## **.....and from the Head Julie Anderson**

**W**ell here we are in 2015, a new year in our new school! We have celebrated our first Christmas, our first nativity, our first Christmas parties, our first Parent Council Christmas Fair and so many more exciting things, too many to mention! It's been very busy and very exciting.

One of our highlights has most definitely been our Official School Opening on the 2nd December. This was a truly special occasion. We invited members from the local community, representatives from every community group, past members of staff, volunteers and former pupils from the school to come along and share with the staff and children in the ceremony. The celebrations started with the rousing welcome on the bridge by World Champions Burntisland and District Pipe Band who piped all guests spectacularly into the building. There was then a ceremony where older children shared their experiences leaving the old school and settling in to our new school, sharing thoughts on who and what has inspired them and their hopes and ambitions for the future and we all joined in with a few celebratory songs into the bargain!

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown had the honour of officially opening the building and he made a very pertinent

speech describing his own school experience and talking of the history of education in Burntisland.

We were also fortunate to have Craig Munro, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, with us and he too, gave an inspirational speech about how important a great learning environment is for our youngsters.

One of the highlights of the event for me was our Happy film. This is a film made by children to show many aspects of the new school and the impact it is having on the opportunities for learning. It shows children using lap tops, interactive tables, bar coded library books, reading hideaways, the fabulous hall and PE facilities as well as showing many of the people who benefit and support us with these things, happy children, partner agencies, parents, cleaners, kitchen staff and of course teachers! It can be seen on You Tube by following: <http://youtu.be/hwyQkRDr5GI> We have had a great response from this as we all realise that happy motivated children and staff are the best combination to drive forward effective learning and teaching and make a real difference to educational achievement in all areas.



(continued next page)



This coming term will see us open our doors around Spring time to welcome in members of the community to have the grand tour and see for themselves what a fabulous building we are lucky to learn in. Please look out for fliers around the town, notices in the Fife Free Press and mentions on Facebook of the dates and times. Spring is a time for a new beginning so it seems only right that this will be the time to

welcome you all in.

We hope we are seen as a school which serves its community well and we certainly appreciate the way the community supports us in all we do, for example the turn out for our fabulous Christmas Fair was truly spectacular!

We look forward to seeing you all in soon.



By **Morag Johnston & Fiona Hill**

Another busy year has started at Burntisland Playgroup. We are nearly at full capacity with all children settling well into the new extended hour's routine, building friendships and learning through play.

Playgroup is a natural progression for all children moving from the home environment and toddler groups into a formal education programme prior to moving onto pre-school nursery and then Primary 1. This gives the opportunity to develop and learn through play and for strong friendships to be made within their own peer group in a smaller, quieter environment.

Playgroup offers children and their families a homely, less formal environment for a start into an education setting. We follow the same Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) programme as a school nursery and are inspected by Care Inspectorate, Fife Council's Equate team and HMIE. Our latest reports can be found online.

We are now forward planning for the 2015-2016 academic year, with applications now being received. It is never too early to apply! Application forms are available at the Toll Centre and every morning during playgroup hours (09.15 – 12.25). Children can start their year at playgroup from 2 years 10 months (if places are available) and funding is available from the term following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Open days will be held in March 2015, please look out for dates nearer the time. In the meantime, why not pop into playgroup for further information from our staff?



**The Mud Kitchen**

The playgroup committee has been busy organising fundraising events and would like to thank everyone for their continued support. Our Christmas coffee morning and raffle was a great success, raising over £550. Special thanks to all the local businesses who donated prizes, and to the Co-op who gave us the opportunity to sell raffle tickets in advance.

We started the year with a Family Ceilidh on the 31st January, a joint fundraiser with the Toll Centre, and in March we are planning a Teddy Bears' Picnic (date to be confirmed). We will also be holding monthly coffee mornings up at the Toll Centre from 9.30, usually on the third Tuesday of each month, so please come and join us and keep a look out for posters around the town.

You can 'like' us on Facebook to find out more about our events and other news, and we have a new website: [www.burntislandplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.burntislandplaygroup.co.uk), which will also have up to date information about the Playgroup.

### ***Burntisland Primary School Parent Council***

Burntisland Primary School Parent Council would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas Fair. It was a great success and was lovely to see the community coming in to see the new school. The Christmas Fair raised £2313, a large portion of which went towards every child in the school seeing Jack and the Beanstalk at the Adam Smith theatre.

We are now looking forward to planning the Spring Fair. For more information about the BPS Parent Council and dates of meetings please see our facebook page - Burntisland School Parent Council.

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## **First Aid update** by Alex MacDonald

Our project to acquire at least one public-access defibrillator for Burntisland has been hugely successful. With many thanks to the 700 or so people who supported our project, and to the former Burntisland Traders Association, we have accumulated £2,800 towards the cost.

So we're actively looking for a potential location. It has to be publicly accessible 24 hours a day and in a visible place which is centrally-located.

We have some more enquiries to make, both about the placement and the model, but we expect to be announcing the outcome very soon. Although nothing is yet confirmed, there is still an outside chance that we may be able to place a similar

**Thank you!**



device in Kinghorn, giving people in each community a much better chance of surviving a cardiac arrest. Naturally, placement isn't everything so we will follow through by offering some basic training in the essentials of how to use the kit.

In the meantime, our regular training continues, with a new Intermediate course due to start on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February. It's one of the best of its kind and is open only to people who already have a certificate such as First Aid at Work, gained over at least 3 days or equivalent.

We have recently delivered shorter courses in Gateside and Kirkcaldy and will soon be doing the same in Perthshire. We're very pleased to know that we receive excellent feedback from every course. Enquiries are very welcome – whether for training or for event first aid – so please feel free to get in touch either directly or via our website [www.bfast.org.uk](http://www.bfast.org.uk).



## **BURNTISLAND BOWLING CLUB**

By **Carol Wilson**

The 11th April sees the start of the outdoor bowling and the club would welcome along new members of all ages. There are bowls and shoes available for beginners and tuition on a Saturday morning by qualified instructors. John and Norrie will also be coaching the primary 7's during term time to give them an introduction to the game.

We want to wish our member, Martin Hunter, every success in the World Disabled Bowling Championships which take place in New Zealand this February. Martin and his various achievements bring glory to the club and a real sense of pride.

Our last year's trophy winners can now be viewed on our web site as can all of the forthcoming dates and events. Some relative newcomers to the game have already excelled in the sport and won cups. Why don't you take a look and you may recognize a few? Wishing all our bowlers good luck in 2015.

## **Burntisland and District Pipe Band**

Burntisland and District Pipe Band have moved into 2015 with two bands: a grade 3 band and a grade 4 band, this decision was taken to try and create a system of progression within the band.

We now have tuition in place for children who wish to learn the pipes or drums so we are looking for more local children to join and support this new initiative. We hope this will start to pay dividends within two years with youngsters progressing through the various levels.

We presently have 16 children learning the chanter on our practice evening (Tuesday at 6:45) and we still have room for more kids who might wish to take this opportunity of free tuition. Please contact any band member for more information, or leave a message on our facebook page.

Big breaking news is that locals will have the opportunity to see a pipe band competition on the Links as the RSPBA have decided that on Saturday the 18 July two days before the our Highland games day, and for the first time ever, a competition will be held on the links. This will undoubtedly attract further large crowds to the town. Watch out for information on this event nearer the time.

Finally the band will be holding their annual coffee morning on the 18th April where we hope to show off our trophies to the public before we have to return them for the start of next season.





# TOLL CENTRE

By  
Bridget Fraser

The Toll Centre had a busy end to 2014 with our ever popular children's Christmas party and a Christmas special showing of Muppets Christmas Carol on our big screen. This year we plan to hold more fun family events including a family ceilidh on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January, kids discos, indoor carboot sales and summer BBQs. We will continue to show family films on our big screen – keep an eye on the local press, community noticeboard, our website and facebook page for information about all of our events.

Our regular programme has started back up again – we host

both the Playgroup and the Out of School Service in the Centre. Our Youth Clubs are held on Tuesdays (P2-P4) and Thursdays (P5-P7). We also have a music club for high school ages on Friday nights. On Saturday mornings DAFC use our main hall to provide football classes for primary school ages, and we are pleased to announce a new Tae Kwon-Do class on a Monday evening.

We don't just cater for kids – computer classes for adults looking for work will continue this year on Tuesday and Friday mornings, our Wednesday social club for over 50's is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, we have Tai-Chi classes on Thursdays, and we host a newly formed art club in our meeting room on Wednesday evenings.

Don't forget that our hall and meeting room are both available for hire. The meeting room is perfect for small groups, training sessions and committee meetings. The main hall is ideal for parties, fund raising events and public meetings – use of the kitchen is included in the hire of the hall. Discounts are available for registered charities and block bookings.

The Toll Centre is held in trust for the people of Burntisland and is run by a small, voluntary management committee. We are now looking for new people to join our committee – we are a friendly bunch and meet once a month in the evening. If you would like to get involved or find out any information about the Centre and our activities, please drop in or give us a call on 872854.



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# BPS

to



Judging by the impressive official opening ceremony of the new primary school, staff and pupils are taking full advantage of the new premises, the state of the art fixtures and ancillary equipment. The new facilities which include 21 class rooms fully equipped with modern white boards and teaching aids, a multi-purpose assembly hall which can be partitioned as required, and a dedicated music room are but a few of the advantages. But how does the opening of the new school compare with that of the old one on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1876?

The new school building in 1876 was one of a number that were constructed across the country as a direct result of primary school education having been made compulsory. The basic curriculum of primary schools at that time concentrated on the three “Rs”, discipline, religious instruction and domestic skills. The primary purpose seemed to be to prepare boys for a vocational or labouring career and girls for domestic service rather than preparing students for university.

An examination of the old school log book for that time makes interesting reading. When the new building opened, the Free Church School in Leven Street and the Broomhill Public School combined. There was no grand opening ceremony; pupils were just instructed to turn up at the new school. It was staffed by two qualified teachers, the Headmaster and his deputy and four pupil teachers (bright pupils who aspired to becoming teachers who were employed as teaching assistants from the age of 13 in exchange for extra tuition and a very small salary). There were some 300 pupils ranging from 5 to 14 years old. Teething problems experienced included a shortage of ink bottles, blackboards, easels and slates. There was also a shortage of illustrations of animals and vegetables which were used as visual aids for “slow” pupils. A singing teacher visited regularly and after a couple of months a harmonium was requested. Discipline was strictly enforced through periods of military drill in the playground conducted by the janitor and when the bell rang, classes were expected to line up and march, military style, to their respective class rooms. Discipline was strictly enforced through liberal use of detention and the “taws”!

One advantage that children had in those early days was that there was no danger from passing traffic and no parking problems in the vicinity of the school – all the pupils walked to school, even from distant farm cottages, without complaint and in all weathers.

Thankfully we have moved on and our children are offered every advantage in their educational development. We must ensure that they grasp it with both hands!

An encouraging recent development has been the planning application lodged by Fife Council for change of use of the old school buildings to that of residential. Plans have been published to establish a total of 30 affordable homes with vehicular access from both Ferguson Place and Cromwell Road, although there will be no direct route through the site. Tasteful landscaping will provide adequate parking and space for both communal and private gardens. Watch this space!



### *The Sting* ( Letters to the Editor )

Dear Sir,

In 2015 it will be 40 years since we lost our Town Council! How has Burntisland benefitted from being part of the bigger picture? Our old Town Council, for all its faults, at least had the interests of Burntisland at heart.

I would like to ask all newcomers why they chose to move here and since they arrived, what changes have they noticed? As for all us long-time residents, put your thinking caps on and make a list of the vast improvements that have been made to our town over the last four decades – or should that be “decayed”! You have probably guessed by my tone that I am not overly impressed.

For my part, although I have always lived in the town, I’ve spent most of my working life throughout the UK and abroad. I know there are others like me but we always return to the bosom of “*oor ain folk*”, Any changes after a long absence would be more noticeable. I recall a television programme called Emergency Ward 10 – it seems fitting that Burntisland is in the Ward 10 electoral area. Perhaps Ward 10 is needing a

full physical to see how its health and wealth has stood up to the test of time. Much has changed over the years but I am at a loss to tell if the changes have been beneficial. As for the future, I see a reader mentioned that the town will be expanding west. Perhaps it is about time that no further housing developments were allowed. Why, I hear you ask?

1. More houses, more children, the school will need to expand - the loss of another football pitch!
2. Ask the residents who live near the railway station about parking spaces - or lack of them!
3. We need to concentrate on what we have and get things sorted out. It seems like the more the town grows the more the services and communal amenities shrink.

The Community Council and voluntary groups within the town do try their very best and deserve our support but they have quite a battle on their hands. Spitting into the wind springs to mind and I am sure you can think of a more appropriate analogy.

In the words of the old pop song, “You don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone”.

The Sniper  
(Name and address supplied)



# Letter from America



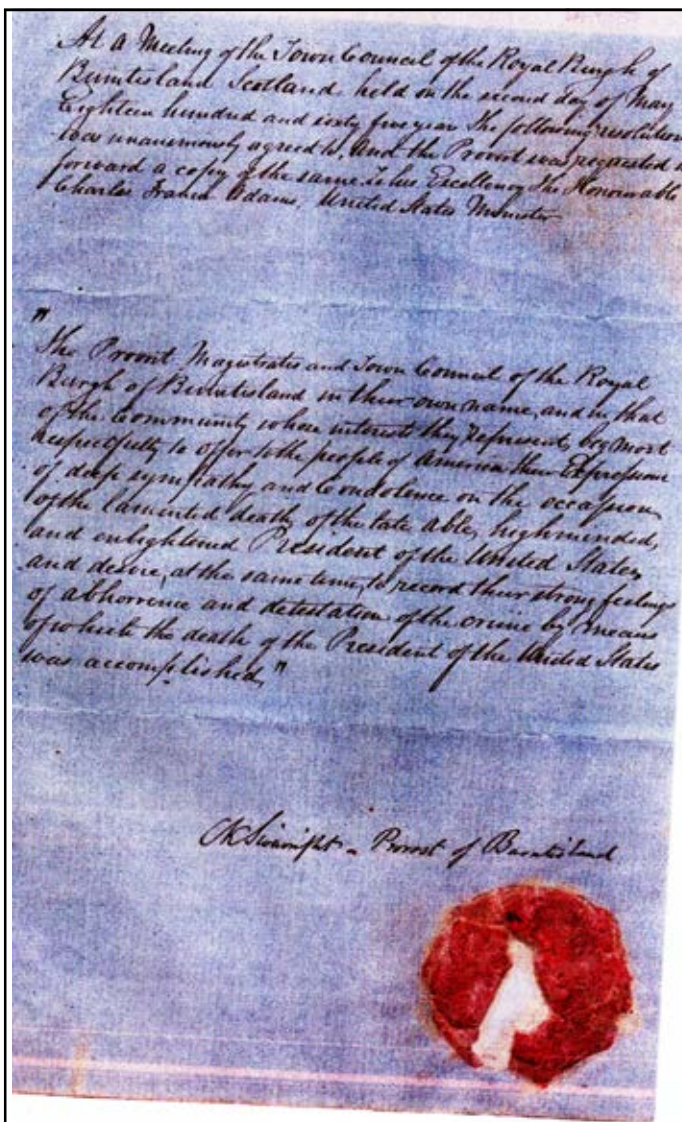
At the end of October last year, the Secretary of the Community Council received a letter from the Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum in the USA. The envelope contained a copy of a letter of condolence which had been sent to the United States by the Provost of Burntisland following the assassination of President Lincoln in April 1865. As part of the Museum's commemoration activities marking the 150th anniversary of the assassination, they have written to the many hundreds of municipalities and communities worldwide who had sent letters of condolence. The Museum is requesting the successors of the original correspondents to describe in which ways if any, Abraham Lincoln's words and actions have influenced or inspired their communities over the past century and a half.


Written responses will be paired with their 1865 counterparts and will become exhibits in the Museum and made available to the world online ([www.citizenlincoln.org](http://www.citizenlincoln.org)) within a published volume of selected letters which forms a permanent part of the collections of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Alex MacDonald, Chairman of the Burntisland Community Council, the modern day equivalent of the Provost, has drafted a very thoughtful and sensitive response. Both letters are reproduced below.

It is interesting to compare these two epistles. The first is eloquently hand written with the official town seal, most likely transported by steamship across the Atlantic whilst the second is typed on headed paper, probably sent airmail but could have been transmitted almost instantaneously as an email attachment. How things have changed over a century and a half.

As a result of sending a letter of condolence to the States on the death of President Lincoln, Burntisland Town Council received a copy of the 1867 leather bound published book of condolence from America. In the early years of Burntisland Heritage a copy of this leather bound volume along with other records were discovered in the 'open' walk in safe of the Burgh Chambers. These are all should be available for viewing in the Fife Archive Centre.





**Royal Burgh of Burntisland  
Community Council**

1 Craig Court  
Burntisland  
Fife  
KY3 0AT  
01592 873314  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dr Daniel W Stowell  
Director, Center for Digital Initiatives  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum  
112 North Sixth Street  
Springfield  
Illinois 62701  
US

Dear Dr Stowell,

Many thanks for your timely reminder of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln.

In their expression of sympathy, our predecessors noted that he had been "able, high-minded and enlightened." These were qualities which had been evident in abundance only 18 months earlier when he delivered his Gettysburg address.

There are few expressions of principle which stand the test of time. However, his reflections on "government of the people, by the people, for the people" provide an ethical and political perspective as vibrant and relevant today as in 1863.

Our own statutory role is to ascertain, co-ordinate and express the views of our community and to ensure those views are adequately represented in the wider sphere. There is a strong convergence between the constant challenges which are thereby generated and the principled aim which Abraham Lincoln so eloquently expressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to refresh our awareness of his legacy.

Yours sincerely,

Alex. MacDonald.  
Chairman



## Over 70's Christmas Treat



**T**he 2014 Burntisland Over 70's Christmas Treat was held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December in the Kingswood Hotel. It was attended by 143 people and once again many thanks to Rankin, Catherine and staff for a wonderful lunch.

Entertainment was provided by Susan Mirrey and was much appreciated by all attending.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Briggs Marine, Bifab, Scott Timber, Fife Council, the Corkies, Dunearn Lodge, Myrtle Coffee, Shell and many others for their kind donations. These donations are very much appreciated, and allow us, along with our own fund raising to continue this long held, traditional event. Thanks also to our local Post Office as our main point of sale for this years calendars.

Forthcoming events to raise funds for next years treat will be advertised in local shops and the Fife Free Press.



Santa's little helpers!!



Photos by Michael Booth



# Guy Fawkes Night

**F**or 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. On a clear and crisp autumnal evening the entertainment kicked off early when Radio Lollipop engaged the gathering crowds with their unique brand of fun-filled music and frivolity.



Photo by Ian McCracken

Just before seven, the rousing music of the World Champions, Burntisland & District Pipe Band heralded the arrival of Summer King and Queen, Finn Wallace and Joana Barron, 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 fully twenty five minutes, finally concluding with a spectacular crescendo of explosive colour and noise, high in the clear night sky.

The massive crowds, 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 throughout the year. Their work includes fundraising, preparation of risk assessments, arranging insurance, storing and erecting the security fencing, assembling pallets

and erecting the bonfire, identifying, briefing and supervising the many stewards and a most important and often forgotten task - clearing up after you have all gone home!

Special thanks however, must go to the Committee Chairman and former Community Award Winner, Ian Archibald who has intimated that he 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.



Which one is bonfire builder, Dave Ferris?



## ***Burntisland Golf House Club***

The Annual General Meeting and Presentation of Prizes of the Burntisland Golf Club took place in the Clubhouse at Dodhead on Friday, 28th November.

Captain Scott Brownlie welcomed around 30 members along on the night. Following a light repast, the

presentation and business were concluded in a succinct fashion, leaving the assembled members to relax for the rest of the evening in the comfort of the clubhouse lounge, and enjoy some of the products that were generously on offer behind the Golf House Club bar. Special mention should be made of the evergreen John Mitchell who lifted (just!) the Jubilee Trophy in 2014. It is thought that he first won the same trophy some 50 years ago! The Jubilee is an ornate punchbowl which was donated to the Club in 1897, and is inscribed "Presented by the Burgh of Burntisland Golf Club in commemoration of the Club's centenary and of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee". As the shutters came down on the evening, and indeed the season, thanks were accorded all round.



**L to R: Ian McCulloch, Gardner Brownlie, John Noble, John Mitchell, Stuart Buchan, Captain (and Club Champion) Scott Brownlie, Barry Cummings, Alan Anderson, Brian Hunter, Paul Christie, David Slater and David McPherson**



## ***Changes at the Shipyard Amateur Football Club***

The Club has seen quite a change recently with a whole new management team appointed. Previous manager Myles Allan somewhat surprisingly decided to resign his position stating that he felt he could not take the team any further. Assistant manager Jason McCrindle also left at the same time as Myles, though coaches James Lock and Lee Rough filled the breach until a new team was appointed. The Club would like to thank all those mentioned above for their work at the Club. It was very much appreciated.

The new management team will need no introduction to those who know the local football scene in Burntisland with Alex Lowe managing the team, Neil McLeod assistant manager and Tommy Roxburgh coaching. The Club is delighted to get these three local guys on board and look forward to them building a strong and successful team.

On the pitch results continue to be mixed, though only

Ormiston have beaten us since Alex, Neil and Tommy took over. The cup draws were extremely tough with Spartans being the opposition on two occasions and with them reaching the last sixteen of the William Hill Scottish Cup, beating two league teams in the process, it was no real surprise that we suffered two heavy defeats to them. It was disappointing to lose two fixtures to the weather in December because as previously mentioned, the league form has been decent and both games against Kelso United and Eyemouth United were very much in the winnable category.

The ground improvements continue, albeit at a snail's pace, as we seek to extend the clubhouse which should see us meet the Club License criteria. Planning permission has been sought and we are now awaiting estimates for the renovation and extension of the building. Funding is also an issue as we explore many avenues to source grants that will ease the burden on the Club.



## ***775 (Burntisland) Squadron Air Training Corps***

During October three members of the squadron attended the Autumn Camp at RAF Halton and successfully completed a HeartStart course. Three others attended the Blue Eagle camp at Barry Buddon where they opted for the field craft module which involved the art of camouflage, crawling through muddy terrain and

surviving on ration packs. On 2nd November two cadets represented the squadron in the Inter Squadron Cross Country competition. In the week prior to Remembrance Day, several cadets assisted in poppy collections in both Edinburgh and Burntisland and a large complement of both staff and cadets took part in the Parade and church service on Remembrance Sunday. During the rededication service at the war memorial Cpl L Walker and Cadet O Sharp read out the names of servicemen from Burntisland who had died during the Great War. Other activities included a Radio Foundation Licence course at RAF Leuchars in which the two Burntisland members passed the final exam with flying colours and on 23rd November three cadets had the opportunity to take a 30 minute flight in a Grob Tutor aircraft at RAF Leuchars.

On 27th November the squadron was visited by Wing Commander McCrea and Squadron Leader McAdam who presented five squadron members with Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze Certificates.



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2015

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**EVERYONE**

We wish to welcome our new management couple, Marco and Simona to  
"The Sands"

As from the 1<sup>st</sup> February they will be in full swing so watch out for new  
exciting menu ideas from Marco (originally from Genoa).

Clarke and Valerie wish to take this opportunity to thank all our customers  
for their loyal support and custom over the past 11 years

## ***Cancer Research - Burntisland Branch***

The Burntisland Branch of Cancer Research UK had yet another entertaining “Jokes, Jazz and Jiving” evening in the Golf Club on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014 when we raised a staggering £1,305! The evening was, once again, a sell-out and everyone laughed uproariously at Bert Allan, enjoyed listening to Kenny Kelly’s poetry and Bill Marshall’s guitar playing and danced the rest of the night away to Saffron Disco. As always, the raffle was a huge success and Aiden Cooper presented the Committee Members with their Cancer Research Committee badges based on length of service. Thanks must also go to the Golf Club for the outstanding buffet served on the night.



**Bert Allen with Aiden Cooper, Young Citizen of the year**

Other fundraisers held throughout the year were “Stroll at the Toll” held on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014 which raised £1,743.16, a family Ceilidh hosted by Gary Coupland held in the Toll Centre on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014 raising £238.43 and Mary Brownlee and Alison Wardlaw collected £130.30 by rattling a cancer research fundraising bucket around Burntisland on Games Day. Carol singing in the High Street raised £207.79 on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014. We also receive other individual donations throughout the year.

These events were well supported by our local community whose enthusiasm and generosity does not go unnoticed. In the past year we’ve sent £5,300 to Cancer Research UK.

Our next event will be an Afternoon Tea on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in the Young Music Hall where delicious home baking will be served with tea and coffee. There will also be a variety of stalls as well as a raffle.

### ***News from The Ecology Centre***



The Ecology Centre finished 2014 on a high with the fantastic news that funding was in place to allow work to start on the new Centre building on the east side of Kinghorn Loch.

Julie Samuel, our General Manager, explains “We were absolutely delighted to secure funding from the Big Lottery. This will meet most of the costs for the build with the balance coming from the Robertson Trust, supporting our environmental education work”.

Contractors are due to begin work on the building in February which will sit alongside the converted shipping containers already in place.

#### **Shedders build themselves a permanent new workshop:**

After welding together three recycled shipping containers, adding double glass doors, windows and no less than 26 electricity points, the Kinghorn Tool Shed is now open for business! The Shedders spent several weeks insulating the ceiling and walls, building storage shelves as well as painting and decorating. The end result is a fantastic, secure welcoming workshop ready to collect and refurbish old tools.

The Tool Shed workshops are open three times a week and new members are always welcome. Contact Mark or Jo on 01592 891567 or [mark@theecologycentre.org](mailto:mark@theecologycentre.org) for more information.

#### **New Education Classes for 2015:**

We have a unique opportunity for schools and groups to experience environmental education in two new exciting

locations in Fife.

Pittencrieff Park or ‘Dunfermline Glen’ as it’s more commonly known, and Silverburn Park are great big open spaces ready to be explored in new ways! Younger children in P1-P3 can learn about woodland ecology through poetry, storytelling and interactive games while older children can take a whirlwind tour through life on planet Earth!

Visit our website [www.theecologycentre.org](http://www.theecologycentre.org) for further details or to make a booking call 01592 891567.

#### **FREE training opportunities:**

Learn some new skills on our FREE courses.

#### **Venue: Blair Castle, Culross\***

**Tree management & Care**, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am – 12pm

**Living Willow Structures**, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 12.30pm – 2.30pm

**Wildlife Habitat Development**, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30 – 12.30pm

**Spring wreath making**, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1.00pm – 3.00pm

\* Help with travel expenses may be available for courses at Blair Castle dependant on individual circumstances

#### **Venue: The Ecology Centre, Kinghorn Loch**

**Watching Worms! Counting Toads!** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 10.00am – 3.00pm

Courses are open to everyone. Places are limited so please call 01592 891567 or email [admin@theecologycentre.org](mailto:admin@theecologycentre.org) to avoid disappointment.





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## The Buzz Needs You

The Editorial Committee is constantly on the look-out for new blood. No matter your age, skills or gender if you have any ideas that you think could improve the content, layout or production of the Buzz, let's hear from you.

We are always receptive to new ideas and in particular, we are looking for someone to redesign our website.

Contact details can be found at the bottom of Page 2. I look forward to hearing from you.

Bill Kirkhope (Editor)



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## What is Rotary?

Since its formation in 1982, The Rotary Club of Burntisland and Kinghorn has been holding weekly meetings where men and women have been coming together to serve the local communities and other people worldwide while having

fun together. The meetings, currently held at The Sands Hotel Burntisland on Tuesday evenings, include a meal, discussion on current Rotary issues and a guest speaker.

As part of the worldwide organization that was founded in 1905 it is a proud claim that millions of people are alive today, who would not have been but for Rotary. It is a great organisation, which makes positive difference to the lives of others – Rotarians enjoy the challenge.

The biggest recent challenge has been to rid the world of polio. A challenge that is almost won with the help of other organisations including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; polio is now only endemic in three countries.

The diagram below is an attempt to explain the work of the Rotary Club of Burntisland & Kinghorn. The programmes fall into three main categories – hands-on support, financial support and giving opportunities to young people to develop their skills.

Support in times of emergencies at home and overseas is a key part of Rotary. Flooding, earthquakes and other natural disasters, such as the SE Asia Tsunami of 2004 are examples. Post emergency and long-term rebuilding being the important areas for attention.

The Burntisland and Kinghorn Rotary Club is where you can enjoy the friendship of like-minded people and use your time, skills and energy in a totally different environment and work together to help others. It gives you a chance to “put something back” in recognition of the training and opportunities that you have been lucky enough to receive while you also learn from your Rotary friends.

If you want to find out more about the world’s premier service organisation send an email to

[president@burntisland.rotary1010.org](mailto:president@burntisland.rotary1010.org) or  
[secretary@burntisland.rotary1010.org](mailto:secretary@burntisland.rotary1010.org).



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## 11<sup>th</sup> Fife -1<sup>st</sup> Burntisland Scout



Over the Autumn and Winter terms the beavers have been doing a variety of things. We had 2 teams in the District Swimming Gala and came away with the Trophy for the 3rd year in a row. We took part in the Remembrance Parade after learning why we remember. The kids earned their Disability Awareness badge by learning about Hearing Dogs, Sign Language and how to adapt games to make them fair for everyone. We also had a night hike along the links and the beach. In December we had a Xmas sleepover in the church hall using our new indoor tents for the first time and we attended the Ice Skating Show at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink.



The Cubs once again have had a busy few months. We finished off our Home Safe Badge. 14 Cubs attended the Beacon and completed their next stage swimming Badge. We went by train to a visit to the Mormon Church in Kirkcaldy as part of our My Faith Badge. We celebrated St Andrews Day with Irn Bru and shortbread, and the children gave us Scottish poems, songs and dances. The District Cub Party was well attended with the 21 Cubs visiting the Philp Hall in Kirkcaldy where they were entertained by a ventriloquist/magician. While working on our Creative Challenge Badge, we made Truffles and cards for our parents and then went carol singing in the Links View Care home, entertaining the residents with well known carols.



The Scouts having completed their Fitness Badge, have been working on their Staged First-Aid badges 1, 2 and 3 to ensure they have a good knowledge of basic First Aid. They visited Fordell Firs for outdoor activities where they harnessed up and scaled the climbing wall. You had to have a head for heights! They learned tie dying and set a new trend with their psychedelic t-shirts. Christmas sleepover in the Hall was well attended with a delicious Christmas dinner and Santa dropping off pressies!!



The Explorers programme this term covered navigation, knots and baking. They used paracord to weave and braid a variety of articles ranging from bracelets to key fobs. Their Camp this term had a Medieval theme where they spit-roast a suckling pig!! As the oldest section of the group, the explorers are a great help to the other sections, some attending on a weekly basis helping with the younger sections. This helps them towards gaining qualification for their Duke of Edinburgh and Young Leader awards. This term they supported us with the swimming badges and they were brilliant delivering the Christmas post on two of their meet sessions. A big thank you to them for all the hard work.



Beavers Sleepover



Christmas Carols at Links View

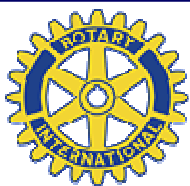


Fordell Firs Climbing Wall



Scout swimmers with their trophy

As a group we started off the Winter sessions with a fun night during which we held our AGM and had a few games of Beetle and Irish Bingo. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped to make it a fun night. The start of November saw all sections visiting the Beacon Leisure Centre to work on their Staged Swimming Badges. With 35 children all attaining their next stage badge. We took part in the Remembrance Day parade with one of our Explorers, Fraser Gillan playing a leading role in the ceremony reading out the names on the monument to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1 and the rededication of the memorial. The group was represented by two teams from each section at Kirkcaldy District Scout Swimming Gala where once again, they won all individual section medals and trophies. In December the Cubs, Scouts and a few Explorers attended the Local Youth Theatre Panto. Then as a group, all sections attended the Kirkcaldy Skating Club Ice Show. December also saw us out and about delivering the Scout Christmas Post. This is a great fund raiser for the group so thanks to everyone who helped sort, distribute, used the Post and supported us. We made a grand total of £398.21 which is fantastic!!! Thank you ALL again !!



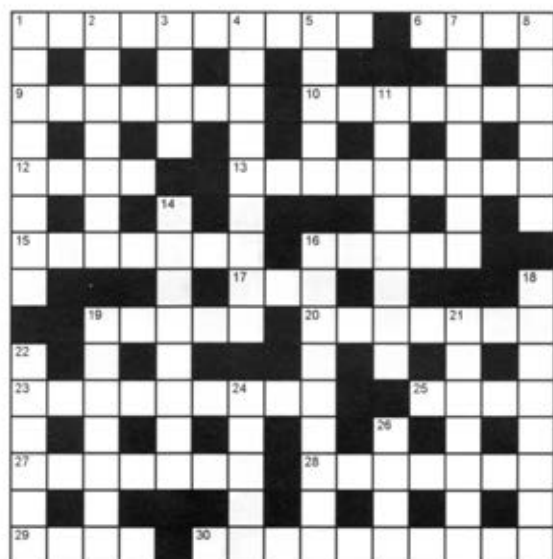
## Burntisland and Kinghorn Rotary Club

The club can look back on 2014 with the satisfaction of knowing that once again it has disbursed more than £9000 to worthy causes, both local and further afield. It is especially gratifying to learn that our Founder President - Walter Anderson - is 2015 Burntisland Citizen of the Year, after 32 years as a Rotarian.

In December, 29 children from P4 in Kinghorn completed their round of 4 local walks, and were duly rewarded at a certificate presentation.

The club now looks forward to the annual Burns Supper, with the inimitable recitations given by P7 children from both Burntisland and Kinghorn. Judges will be in the schools, just as the Buzz goes to press in mid-January, to decide the winners of the shield which has been awarded since 1986. STOP PRESS: The winners were Blair Petrie from Burntisland, reciting "Tam O'Shanter" and Hannah Williamson from Kinghorn, who gave us "Willie Wastle" Congratulations and thanks to them both. And finally, the local heats of the national Rotary Primary School Quiz, featuring teams from Burntisland, Kinghorn and Auchtertool, will take place in Burntisland Primary School on 25th February.

# THE PRIZE CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

1. Local landmark (10)
6. Italian Chapel on \_\_\_ Holm, Orkney (4)
9. Relating to the heart (7)
10. Eastern Europe water (4,3)
12. Squirrel nest (4)
13. Shackleton's ship (9)
15. Laundry utensil (7)
16. The Fair City (5)
17. International Date Line initials (1,1,1)
19. Riverside farmland (5)
20. Frightened (7)
23. Where you'll find rigs (9)
25. Norway's Capital (4)
27. Mexican Term for Americans (7)
28. Village on east shore of Loch Lomond (7)
29. Flanders \_\_\_, Scots battlefield (4)
30. Permission to proceed (10)

## DOWN

1. Prisoners confined to cells (8)
2. Dealers in silk (7)
3. East Neuk resort (4)
4. Pan Am bombing town (9)
5. Open or forested countryside (5)
7. Potent green liqueur (7)
8. American suspenders (6)
11. Relating to agriculture (8)
14. Central Scotland City (8)
16. Credible (9)
18. Dutch Cream liqueur (8)
19. Gin cocktail—Tom \_\_\_ (7)
21. Car used in film 'Bullit' (7)
22. Links fair attraction (6)
24. Amplified light beam (5)
26. Sixth Jewish month (4)

## Solution to Spring Crossword

**Across** 1. Disconcert, 6. Abel, 9. Frantic, 10. Backlog, 12. Odin, 13. Insolvent, 15. Ignoble, 16. Cease, 17. A la, 19. Quell, 20. Broaden, 23. Identical, 25. Taxi, 27. Chimera, 28. En Route, 29. Sage, 30. Bloody Mary

**Down** 1. Daffodil, 2. Sealion, 3. Oath, 4. Cochineal, 5. Robes, 7. Believe, 8. Lights, 11. Calvados, 14. Absentee, 16. Caballero, 18. Entirely, 19. Queuing, 21. Dracula, 22. Discus, 24. Crawl, 26. Dray

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE.....

Completed entries by 21st 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.

## Autumn Crossword Winner

David Taylor, 33 Nicol Drive,  
Burntisland.

## Events Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME
<b>JANUARY</b>		
Saturday 31st	Family Ceilidh at the Toll Centre	To be advised
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Friday 13th	Community Council meeting in Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 14th	Afternoon Tea (Cancer Research) in Young Memorial Hall	Afternoon
Saturday 21st	Messy Church at Burntisland Church Hall	10.00am - 12.15pm
<b>MARCH</b>		
Wednesday 4th	Police Community Engagement meeting at Pettycur Bay Caravan Park	7.00 pm
Friday 13th	Community Council meeting in Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Thursday 19th	Watching worms! Counting Toads! At the Ecology Centre-Kinghorn Loch	10.00.am - 3.00 pm
Saturday 21st	Messy Church at Kinghorn Parish Church Hall	10.00am - 12.15pm
<b>APRIL</b>		
Friday 10th	Community Council meeting in Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 25th	Messy Church at Burntisland Church Hall	10.00am - 12.15pm



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**Aberdour Community  
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Friday  
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**Dalgety Bay  
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Thursday  
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below



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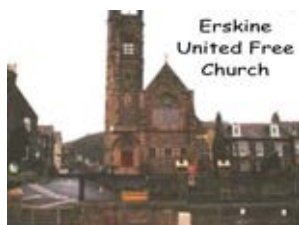


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## Erskine News

by Rev. Alexander Ritchie

*“The sweeping blast, the sky o’ercast, the joyless winter day”  
(Robert Burns, *Winter: A Dirge*, 1781).*

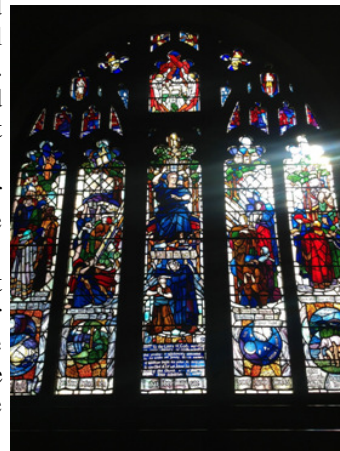
Christmas services and events went well again around the town. It was good being invited back to the over-70s lunch, our meal at The Kingswood was lovely and it’s great to hear of the level of fundraising carried out by individuals, local business and community groups which makes this possible each year. The ‘live’ Nativity at St. Serf’s was particularly memorable, and at Erskine we welcomed Christmas Day with a good Watchnight turnout and generous donations for Tearfund’s Syria appeal & Kirkcaldy street pastors.

I hope you noticed our lovely stained glass window which is always illuminated over Christmas. The photograph shows it from inside Erskine, depicting the famous “Light of the World” Bible passage.

All of that, not to mention Hogmanay, seems a long time ago now. January brings with it a time of looking back and forward into this new year. At Erskine we had Communion and our annual church lunch at The Sands on 25 January. We should also be holding a couple of pancake coffee mornings on Saturdays in the first part of 2015, please keep checking our *Facebook* page for full details (Erskine-Church-Burntisland). You’d be very welcome to come along to these events, as well as to our regular Sunday services at 11am (weekly) & 6.30pm (monthly).

What will this year bring for you? We worry about the future because we don’t know what’s going to happen. We’re anxious about our families, health, jobs, debt, responsibilities, failures and mistakes. The Bible reminds us that God is aware of exactly who we are and what will come our way. Psalm 121 says, “The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life” (NIV). I hope that faith helps you cope in 2015, whatever it brings.

Burns writes later in the same poem, *“The tempest’s howl, it soothes my soul, my griefs it seems to join.”* So as the storms of winter weather swirl around us, there is a time of hope to come. That is to be found in the miraculous turning of winter into spring, but more than that, it can be experienced by faith in God’s grace. Happy New Year!



*The Parish Church*

## St Columba's Parish Church

by Rev Alan Sharp

At Christmas time we were very glad of the support of the community for the donations of food which enabled our Christians Against Poverty helpers to deliver some 55 Christmas hampers to local folks who are struggling. For many families it made their Christmas. The church set up the CAP project to help folks deal with debt. This remains a big problem, not least because illness or redundancy can overnight turn a manageable debt into an impossible burden. Anyone in the community with debt problems can phone CAP free on 0800 328 0006.

Our pastoral care group distributed gifts to the many housebound folks whom we visit and the congregation gave 4 sacks full of toys, and supermarket vouchers for food, to Fife Women’s Aid. I know all the other local churches are helping in similar ways.

Sadly, we are seeing more individuals who are being let down by the benefit system. Changes, cuts, delays and sanctions (when benefit is cut off for missing an appointment etc, sometimes for reasons completely beyond the person’s control) are being accompanied by some very negative campaigning against those on benefits. And I am sure we have all been aware of the growing number of food banks.

While it is good to give and to be able to help those in need, it is very sad that our society is such that many people are struggling while there is so much wealth in the hands of so few in our nation. The Old Testament has a great deal to say about our responsibility to look after those less fortunate than ourselves. In those times widows and orphans had to rely on the goodness of others to survive. In the New Testament Jesus taught his disciples to be aware of both the spiritual and physical needs of those around them (e.g. feeding of the 5000) and the early church is described in the book of Acts as ‘having all things in common’ - sharing their resources and helping one another as well as those in the community.

We welcome everyone at our Sunday morning services where we also have a small creche and childrens group. The services are in the church hall at 11.00 am until Spring when we return to the church building. In Solid Rock in the High Street we have a short service on Wednesdays at 10.30 am and a Sunday evening service at 6.30 pm in Solid Rock except for the last Sunday in the month when we have the service in the church hall and there is an opportunity for prayer for healing. You will be made very welcome at all services and tea and coffee are served after each.

Messy Church dates for 2015 are on Saturday mornings from 10.00 am: are listed in detail in the Events Diary on page 22.





## *Historic Visit by Archbishop*

Last November the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby visited Aberdour to encourage a new community faith initiative as part of a two-day tour of Scotland.

His visit began by meeting First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at Bute House in Edinburgh and later, he joined the Episcopal congregations of Aberdour, Burntisland and Inverkeithing for a brief act of worship in St Columba's Church in Aberdour.

Later in the afternoon, he went on to meet a wider group from the community at St Fillan's Church in Aberdour. The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, hosted the tour.

The Archbishop also met with the Rev Dean Norby who is the minister of a new scheme known as the Fife Church Graft - an initiative which brings together the existing All Souls Fife Churches (Episcopal churches in St Columba's, Aberdour, St Serf's, Burntisland, St Peter's, Inverkeithing) with those joining them from St Paul's and St George's Church in Edinburgh. The main objective of the Fife Church Graft is to 'Connect Friends, Family and Faith.'

Rev Norby, who adopted the role in the summer, said the Archbishop who has been involved with similar schemes before fully supports the development of the Fife Church Graft.



He told The Press: "It was a flying visit to Aberdour but the purpose of the Archbishop coming was to encourage and pray for the community of Fife and the Church Graft. The Archbishop himself was very pleasant and there were no formalities - when I thanked him for coming he asked me to call him Justin which indicates the Archbishop's openness and ability to connect with people, having been a businessperson prior to a becoming a parish minister and then Bishop."

The Fife Church Graft is a new initiative between the All Souls Fife churches to grow a new worship community alongside the existing. Rev Norby is hoping to build on the reflective and community feel of the existing churches while creating a contemporary service for families and individuals that would prefer an informal service. The main objective of this new initiative will be directed at the community, young people and families. The first new contemporary service took place in Inverkeithing High School on January 25th.

Rev. Norby further explained: "We have three wonderful and spiritual church buildings but none of them currently have enough space for children's groups, this is why we are using Inverkeithing High School. In addition, a school is neutral territory and is accessible to all which is an important value the Fife Church Graft holds, allowing people to connect with each other and God- just as they are."



Rev. Norby, Mrs Caroline Welby, Bishop David Chillingworth and Archbishop Justin Welby



Rev. Jean Cook (St Columba's, Aberdour), Mrs Moira Baynham, Mrs Sadie Edwards and Miss Susan Alison (St Serf's, Burntisland) share a joke with the Archbishop.

"We are calling this a Church Graft because it is bringing together the new and the existing- valuing both by enjoying the benefits of reflective services such as the service at St Serf's in Burntisland while also providing a contemporary service which will take place at Inverkeithing High School - giving a choice for everyone no matter their age, tradition or background."

Rev Norby added: "The Archbishop gave us some very encouraging words and he was pleased to hear how the Church Graft is developing with a particular focus on making faith accessible, social action and the younger generation by 'Connecting Friends, Family and Faith.'"



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