

KIRKY NEWS

Website: www.kirkliston.org

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KIRKY NEWS SEPT 2002 – FEB 2006

How time flies. Kirky News is now into its 4th year of publication. It all started when a group of us attended computer classes in the Community Centre. Ben Seex, our teacher, suggested that we should start producing a newsletter for the village, hence the beginning of Kirky News. Thanks to all our willing volunteer reporters, printers, distributors etc, KN now reaches very many parts of Kirkliston. Also a big thanks to Rob Brechin who prints it on the Church printer. Hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and a good new year. We hope that what we print is of some interest, but to keep KN going we need to hear from the public of any news or views they would like to have published. (Fran)

KIRKLISTON RAINBOWS

Well done to 1st Kirkliston Rainbows by raising £91.76. They collected money by doing chores around the home, putting coins earned in a smartie tube.

Half the money went towards our outing to the pantomime at Christmas, which we all enjoyed. The remainder of the money will be spent on animal food for the SSPCA centre in Balerno.

—oooOooo—

Santa is enjoying a well earned rest at this time of year, but a generous donation of £250 from Edinburgh Airport will help to ensure his sleigh is renovated and ready for take off once again come Christmas.



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WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

This is Kirky News' first announcement of a wedding, and we are delighted to send Jolene Liston, of Liston Road, and Steven Forrest, The Glebe, our very best wishes for theirs on 18 March. Steven is a keen bowler with several cups to his credit. Jolene is a member of South Queensferry Brass Band, playing soprano cornet. She also won Young Musician of the Year at the age of 15.



If anyone would like to use this space to announce a wedding, birthday etc, please let us know

KIRKLISTON COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

The Centre Quiz was held on Friday 3 February, and we were delighted to welcome ten teams. Everyone enjoyed the evening, noise levels of which were raised by the advent of the BYOB. The winning team – The Cheese Towners – streaked ahead with 233 points. Thanks to all who supported this event.

Computer Classes: We are currently running two computer classes at the Community Centre. If you would like to attend a class, please contact Anne or Aileen, who are taking names for the next class. Anyone interested in computers, whether a beginner or someone who has a little knowledge, will be welcome.

Other Classes: Anyone interested in First Aid, Food Hygiene, Family History, Start to Learn French (useful for having a conversation with your child who learns French at school or for going on holiday)? Do let Anne or Aileen know of any other topics you would like to learn about.

Junior Youth Club: The Centre would like to start a Junior Youth Club again, and is looking for volunteers to help to run it. If you think you could help with this, please contact Anne who will be happy to give you more information about what would be involved. Centre telephone no 0131 333 4214.

NEWS FROM QCCC

Volunteers Needed to help on a Wednesday in Day Care at Kirkliston Community Centre. If you have any spare time between 10 am and 3 pm, enjoy meeting new people and working as part of a team, please ring Lorna on 331 5570.

Parent Carers/Carers commencing Friday 27 January (then fortnightly) Enjoy-a-ball sessions are being held at the Scout Hall, Port Edgar 2.30 pm – 3.15 pm.

Carer Conference – Sat 25 Feb – “Have your Say” will be held at Queensferry High School. This is your chance to hear more about Care 21 – setting the National Context into a local agenda and to contribute to the decision whether to take this forward in your area. For more information contact Gillian Smith on 331 5570.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 21 February, QCCC is hosting a Virgin Vle Party at The Haven, 7.30 – 9.30 pm. Tickets available from The Haven cost £1 and include light refreshments. Come and join in the fun and pampering.

Tues 21 March. Come and join us for our very own **READY STEADY COOK!** Commencing at 7.30 pm, this entertaining evening will take place at Queensferry Parish Church Hall.

Gillian Smith (our Carer Support Worker) and local Councillor George Grubb braved the Forth for the Loony Dook and to date, have raised £273. Well done and our grateful thanks to both of them.

BREAKFAST CLUB



The Breakfast Club started on 5 December and is running as a pilot at the moment, to see what the uptake in numbers is. If there is not enough response then it will close at the end of March.

It opens at 7.30 am and the children leave to go to school at 8.40 am. They are provided with a breakfast of cereal, toast and juice. It is held in the huts in the school playground. If anyone is interested in joining then it is £2.50 per morning. Further information can be obtained from Lynne Forbes on 0771482 4974. It would be a shame if this has to close due to lack of numbers, especially when we had a lot of interest originally. There would also be a registration fee of £5.00 for the first child and £2.50 for any subsequent child.

ON THE BALL

Extra police have been a welcome sight in the Main Street of late, to keep an eye on the procession of heavy lorries taking surplus spoil material to the Auldcaithie tip. There had been concern about reckless speeding by some drivers, but hopefully the police presence will reduce the risk of accidents while the major road works are going on.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN KIRKLISTON

Once again, the Community Council have provided a useful forum for the discussion of issues affecting the whole village.

At their last meeting, they hosted a presentation by Mr Brian Juffs, managing director of First Bus who began by describing how the Group operates. He then explained how the No 38 service has special problems, as the Office of Fair Trading have insisted on specific routes and scheduling now that First also hold the Scotrail franchise. The Group are obliged to maintain a direct bus service between Edinburgh and Stirling, which involves long stretches of sparsely populated (and hence uneconomic) routes. It would make more financial sense to operate the No 38 from Edinburgh to Falkirk, with connections from Falkirk to Stirling, but First Bus are not allowed to do this. He admitted that the Group's marketing and publicity efforts had been woeful, but the Group did claim credit for providing the latest Wright-bodied Volvo buses on the route, ensuring a fast, efficient and reliable service.

Mr Juffs went on to outline possible advantages arising from the major building developments now scheduled in the West Lothian area, and also mentioned different sources of financing public transport.

He ended his talk by commending to us the efforts of the Queensferry Bus Users Group who had helped First Bus make big improvements to the No 43 service there.

Martin Gallagher (of QBUG) then described how by keeping “bus diaries” and providing local information as to customers' requirements and problems they had assisted in the transformation of the service, to everyone's advantage.

As Mr Juffs prepared to leave the meeting, several people tried to make points, mainly about the fare structure and problems with drivers failing to pick up passengers at stops congested with LRT buses. It was felt however that such issues could not be discussed in detail at that time, and alternative arrangements could be made later. With this in mind Councillor Longstaff suggested that interested parties could meet in the Council Offices after his next Surgery.

BUS USERS UNITE

Following on from the recent presentation by First Bus representatives (see item above) several local commuters got together and have decided to form a Kirkliston Bus Users Group which will meet on the first Wednesday evening of each month to collate individuals' comments, suggestions and/or complaints. This feedback will hopefully assist First Bus Group in their efforts to provide a first-class service here.

If you have any issues you would like to raise, come along to the next Users Group meeting in the Council Offices on Wednesday 1 March at 7.30pm.