

ELIE HERALD

Autumn edition - October 2017



Editorial

Another summer went by in a flash and some comments were made about the non appearance of this erudite newspaper during that period. Its absence was primarily due to the intransigence of the editor who took umbrage at so many people moaning about the content. He was gratified that this meant that at least someone was reading it. However in order to avoid the Community Council being sued – we only have very limited insurance – it was decide that the content should be carefully scrutinised by all the members of the community council so if there any mistakes, insults, misinformation and fake news they are not those of the editor.

The summer has not been without incident – twice rescuers have had to attend at the Chain Walk at least according to the press but actually it was the path above the Chain Walk in one instance. It would be a huge loss if it werfe to be closed but there really must be some advice available to walkers since it is not a simple ramble round the point. The villages were their usual throng during the crucial months and parking and other hazards were, as usual, just coped with but take care next holiday period the traffic wardens have been invited in and any double yellow line parkers will be seriously dealt with – we are thinking of ultimate penalty of exile.

The normal over flow of detritus was experienced at the recycling places and nothing said here is likely to make any difference but here goes ...if the bins can't take them then pop along to Pittenweem recycling depot (TURN LEFT AT WEST END BAR) and in addition admire the doll's village these guys have made.

Well done to the whole village for achieving Silver Gilt award in Beautiful Fife competition and it was much enhanced, not only by the work of the EAG but also by various private householders exhibiting their floral arrangements in the street. And in case it has escaped your notice the winners of the best window boxes are the Stevensons in Earlsferry and best garden (visible from the road) the Humphreys again in Woodside....well done all....



Phone Mast update



We understand that the experts for Telefonica and Vodafone (see Herald passim) are currently looking to site the mast behind the 3rd green of the Baird Course effectively behind the telephone exchange but we will continue to monitor the position. We expect to have further consultations with them as their plans progress. We have just received a pre planning consultation notice . This will help if you are confused about the regulations <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/permitted-development-rights-class-67-changes/> if you really must ! Oh and no doubt putts on the third green will

History Society forthcoming events:

AGM and Reminiscing Nov 9th 7 pm and at 7.30 11th Jan 2018 SS Avondale Park story of a ship, 8th February Elie Murder (reprise), Earlsferry Golf Course History -Graham Johnston 8th March Postal Heritage of Elie and Earlsferry - Graham Meacher.

Town Hall development in progress:

Town Hall Lynda Rennie has gathered support for the revival of Earlsferry Town Hall. A steering group of 12 people has been set up to assess the feasibility of requesting a Community Asset Transfer of the hall. It has been formed under the umbrella of the Community Council and will explore all aspects for uses of the hall for the benefit of the whole community. There is an application being made for funding to enable a feasibility study on the prospect of the community taking over the hall. A consultation will be carried out in the community. Feed back and comments will be very welcome. Meantime there is a creche using the premises five days a week which is encouraging from the point of view of any income from letting it out.



We are also now on Facebook – visit us and see what's going on at:-
"Elie and Royal Burgh of Earlsferry Community Council"



Road improvements

We have been going on about the speed at which people enter the village from both directions. A useful meeting was held recently with Fife Council Roads department and consideration was being given to a raised "speed bump" type crossing at the school (cf Lundin Links !) a speed bump on the old railway bridge at Baird Place and other improvements. But other than the installation of a puffin crossing at the school it seems unlikely that we will be able to get it raised a la Lundin Links. The problem is that we had speed monitoring equipment installed in May last year which disclosed that the average (!) speed of vehicles entering and exiting the village was 19 mph. Of course the monitoring was done just before the bell mouth of Woodside Road and during the period the main street was heavily congested by the Deli fire aftermath and people tended to avoid Park Place and the High Street. Trouble is we are stuck with this now. Let's hope that it does not take a serious accident to convince the road people that the speed monitoring was flawed.

Deli refraining from Pheonix analogies and ashes we are delighted to see the deli is almost ready to move back into its old premises and we see that Bruce Sangers former restaurant is back on the market. Wouldn't it be great if someone carried Bruce and Jackie's torch in the years ahead – we will miss them.....

With the loss of Pagan Osborne and their distinctive yellow boards the colours of houses for sale are now likely to be predominantly the red of Thorntons. We are sorry to see the demise of Pagans after so many years indeed generations of servicing Fife Property buyers and sellers

Ship Inn Parking – the white H lined outside the Ship Inn has been marginally successful but not infrequent altercations were witnessed between competing and impatient drivers for space to drive in front of the Ship Inn. We are trying to get double yellow lines there so that it is perfectly clear that no parking is the order of the day and not just observed by the few.

Oh - Campervans

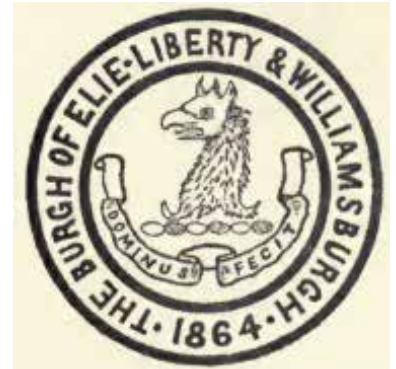
Again we seem to be inundated with them and we hear that the Ruby Bay Car park is being trawled on a large social media site as a great and free place to spend the night – readership approx 50k (apparently) Opinions are sharply divided as to whether they should be tolerated but regulated or banned altogether from Ruby Bay. Various solutions have been proposed but currently the line is hoping to be that they will be tolerated subject to certain conditions. We hope that next season Fife Coast and Countryside Trust might install a small hut there for lifeguards who could double as collectors for dues of campervans. We are also concerned about the emptying of chemical toilets into the system at the Light House Car Park – it will not cope with this so please take them elsewhere.



VIPER v COBRA

Recent events have highlighted the need for an emergency contingency plans in the village to assist in immediate response to major incidents until the specialised teams arrive. We are updating this and will plan to publish it on a new council website on which we had been working but it is still under consideration and may not in fact happen. We will work out another way of disseminating the information. The community Council Chairman and Vice Chairman J. Robertson and S. Blaney respectively form the committee and have a booked a place for the members of the community council in the secret bunker.

We have come across facsimiles of the original them elsewhere.seals of the burghs of Elie Williamsburgh and Liberty and Earlsferry. They look like this and we are thinking of replicating them and putting them up in appropriate places.



Birthday Honours –

Extraordinary that both Elie and Earlsferry should appear on the Queen's Birthday honours list this year. A double for the villages - Bob Mitchell of Elie has been appointed MBE for his service to St. Andrews Botanical Gardens and Denise Burgin of Earlsferry, for her services to Parentline in Scotland gets a BEM. Great stuff many congratulations from everyone and its great to have Elie and Earlsferry on the map again. Can we see the photos of the investitures ?



New Councillors for Fife.

We welcomed Linda Holt and Bill Porteous as new members of the Fife Council representing East Neuk and Landward.

We look forward to working with them.

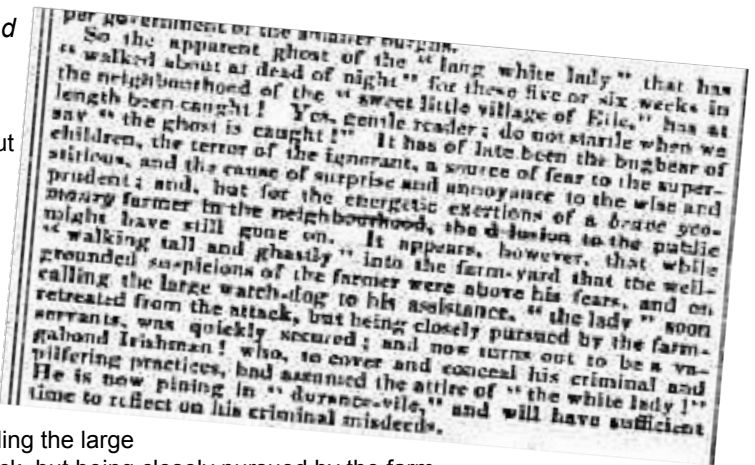
They will have their work cut out.



From the Fife Herald (no relation), and Kinross Strathearn and Clackmannan Advertiser of 1836 (the original is illegible)

the elle ghost exorcized!

So the apparent ghost of the "land white lady" that has "walked about at dead of night" for these five or six weeks in the neighbourhood of the "sweet little village of Elie" has at length been caught! Yes gentle reader; do not startle when we say "the ghost is caught". It has of late been the bugbear of children, the terror of the ignorant, a source of fear to the superstitious and the cause of surprise and annoyance to the wise and prudent; and, but for the energetic exertions of a brave yeomanry farmer in the neighbourhood, the damage to the public might have gone on. It appears, however, that while "walking tall and ghastly" into the farm yard that the well grounded suspicions of the farmer were above his fears, and on calling the large watch dog to his assistance, the "lady" soon retreated from the attack, but being closely pursued by the farm servants, was quickly secured. And now turns out to be a vagabond Irishman! who, to cover and conceal his criminal and pilfering practices had assumed the attire of "the white lady". He is now pining in "durance-vile" and will have sufficient time to reflect on his criminal misdeeds. *"Durance vile" was an old euphemism for a long prison sentence.



Flags

we seem to have ruffled quite a few feathers indeed a whole plumage by the look of it by some suggesting that the flying of the saltire indicated political allegiance to the Scottish National Party. Some thought like Northern Ireland this indicated a political statement. There never was any intention to offend. We are trying to set a programme for flag flying and if you want to look at the days in which public flags are to be flown on public buildings in Scotland just look at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/royal-ceremonial/flag-guidance> and then tell us which days you want us to fly them. Would be easier to say the days you do not want us to fly them. We are also investigating the possibility of our own flag and various designs have been mooted.



We are looking for views on the options of the following or variations thereof. The crest is historically interesting. It was registered in 1929/30 after the amalgamation of the burghs. It is described heraldically (?) thus: Quarterly: 1st and 4th, Gules, on the waves of the sea in base undy Argent and Azure, an ancient one-masted ship in full sail Or, flying the Scottish pennon, and the mainsail charged with (the arms of Macduff, Earl of Fife) a lion rampant of the field, armed and langued of the Third; 2nd and 3rd, Vert, an ancient one-masted ship in full sail, oars in action, Or, flying the Scottish pennon, and on the mainsail the arms of Scott of Grangemuir, viz.: Or, on a bend Azure, between two crescents of the field, a mullet Argent, a bordure engrailed Gules. (Well you did ask - didn't you?)

Above the Shield is placed a Burghal coronet and in an Escrol below the Shield this Motto "Unitas Alit Comitatem" (1589 & 1598).

Elie was created a Burgh of Barony in favour

of William Scott of Grangemuir* in 1598-99, while Earlsferry received from King James VI in 1589 a Charter which confirmed that it had been a free Burgh "beyond the memory of man". The arms recall in the 1st and 4th quarters - Earlsferry, the older Burgh: the red and gold colours of Fife are used and the ship with Macduff's arms on its sail alludes to "The Earl's Ferry" ("Passagium Comitatis") between the town and North Berwick which was for a time one of the main routes from the Lothians to Fife. The name of the Burgh and of the Ferry is traditionally associated with the assistance given to Macduff, Earl of Fife, by local fishermen who ferried him over to East Lothian when he was fleeing from Macbeth, the Mormaer of Moray, who succeeded Duncan I as King of Scotland (1040-1057). The motto Unitas Alit Comitatem means - "Unity fosters courtesy" - actually that's a little ironic since there was a considerable jockeying for position when the two burghs were amalgamated in 1929 and each council sought to achieve pre-eminence but that is a story for another day. (With Thanks to <http://www.ngw.nl/heraldrywiki/>)

*It was he who purchased Ardross from the Dishingtons for 37,000 marks in 1598 although the rumour was that the Dishingtons who were Scott's in laws were rather short of money and Scott's purchase merely settled many of their debts. This is also the Scott that endowed the parish church - busy guy so he was.....



Planning

Sometimes the Community council is asked to intervene in planning applications to Fife Council. In the past there has been an ad hoc arrangement that if two or more neighbours make representations to the Community Council the application will be scrutinised and at the council's discretion objections or comments lodged. Recent experience has suggested that we do not have in place proper robust protocols to deal with such applications so we have prepared a protocol to assist objectors and applicants. We would appreciate views from everyone. Without detailing the full protocol, in essence the Council will not comment on any planning application without being

asked to do so. If a request is made it will be intimated to the applicant for planning and he/she will be given the chance to address the council. No objection or comment will be sent to the planners without it being firstly intimated to the council members and also the applicant for planning permission. Fuller details on request.

Those living in South Street/Rankeillor Street will have been inconvenienced by road works to the pavements and installation of new lighting. Unfortunately the pavements will be repaired with tarmac rather than the granite plates of yore. We had thought to make representation about this but since planning permission is not apparently required to road and pavement works we

were caught as little on the hop. However it seems unlikely that any representation would have made any difference – one of our difficulties is that Fife Council have to cater for all the villages in the East Neuk which have different aspirations.. Sheer financial constraints mean that a one for all approach is likely to be the norm. However we do hope that a careful survey of the street sign in the villages undertaken by Carol Birrell and passed to Fife Council will result in some repairs and refreshing of our street signs. You will (or should have) noticed the James Braid signs at the entrances to Elie. We are most grateful to the Thistle Golf Club and Golf House Club who contributed to the cost of these signs.

Garden and window boxes competition

The winners this year are Douglas and Leslie Humphreys whose garden was adjudged to be the most spectacular and the window boxes section was won by Mr & Mrs Edwards. Neither recipients were available for comment when the Herald reporter contacted them but there is a rumour that Douglas acquired his green fingers from his many years thumbing the magazines in his newspaper shop or perhaps it was all down to Leslie. The Herald reporter tried to doorstep them but could not find a convenient step. Congratulations to Woodside.



The Loch o Kyrie

We are very lucky in this part of the world to have such a diverse and interesting coastline. I am particularly drawn by the stretches between Shell Bay and Ardross. In these notes, I am taking you over to the East Links (Lighthouse Field to some – the next bay to the Ladys Tower -Ed) where there is a rocky area to the seaward of the long beach. There, in the midst of the rocks is a large area of water which is left behind when the tide goes out. This is the Loch o Kyrie. Its bottom is sandy and the trapped water is no more than 18" deep which, during the summer is warm and ideal for paddling. But there is more to it than that. Many moons ago, my father used to take us down to the shore where we pitched a small tent, lit a small fire, then went hunting! The rocks surrounding the loch are full of nooks and crannies, an ideal home for crabs and lobsters. But how to get them out? Enter the Cleek, a wooden handle with a long metal shaft ending in a hook*, ideal for prising the prey from their lairs. When we tired of this, we turned to our second weapon, a bamboo stick with a sharpened end with which we attempted to spear the small flatfish, dabs or flounders on the sandy floor of the loch.** A word of warning, refraction between air and water means the end of your spear "bends" when it enters the water and ends up away from where you thought you were aiming! Stout wellies are recommended! How the Loch o Kyrie got its name I know not, but some of you will no doubt know its origin. "Old Man of the Sea" (contributed).



**the best cleek is a metal right angled hook attached to the stick via binding. It is extremely strong and will not easily bend which wire will. **An exactly similar method we used to employ in the Cockermill Burn in Shell Bay at its opening to the sea. Secure a nail to the end of your spear. The sandy bottom hid the flounders and going upstream we chased them away from the sea. However, as said, it was not easy to spear them; so often as not standing on them and reaching into the water to pick them up worked better - however some flounders had nasty spikes on their fins which could damage a bare foot. -Ed*

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