

# MERKINCH

## *News and Views*

*The Merkinch community newsletter, entirely written and produced in the Merkinch*



### If you want to get ahead, get a smile!

LEFT... These young ladies know how to preserve a lovely smile - a healthy diet and plenty of tooth-brushing. They were among the many who thronged the Community House site at Craigton Avenue on the South Kessock Residents Association Fun Day on July 4th. There were lots of stalls and a giant slide as well as a bouncy castle — so once again, a good time was had by all.



### All packed and ready to go

RIGHT... And these youngsters have packed their bags—in fact they made the little cardboard suitcases they are carrying their own with collages representing their idea of the ideal holiday. The cases will come in useful for keeping their holiday snaps and other holiday mementoes. Pack Your Bags was just one of the many workshops at Merkinch Arts Festival. More coverage on pages 6 and 7.

**Inside this month:**

**Dogs who chase deer on LNR — Page 2**

**For the Right Reasons expands — Page 5**

**Summer Arts Festival — pictures on Page 8**

**Soccer news Midnight and Sevens — Page 10&12**

## HELPLINE

**Childline** – 0800 1111. Free confidential advice 24 hours a day.

**Samaritans** – 66 Tomnahurich St, tel 713456 or 0345 909090 (local rate).

**Drugline Scotland** – tel 0800 776600. Free advice on drugs 24 hours a day.

**Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme** – 2 Queensgate Arcade, tel 242112.

**Smokeline** – 0800 84 84 84.

**Victim Support** – tel 710806.

**Age Concern** – 0800 731 4931.

**Inverness Council on Alcohol** – 34 Tomnahurich St, tel 220995.

**Housing Problems** – 703800.

**Housing Repairs** (including out-of-hours – 232675).

**Trading Standards** – 0845 600 4222.

**Extra and bulky refuse collection** – Ring 230634.

**Inverness Women's Aid** – Confidential support for abused women, tel 220719.

**Rape & Abuse Line** – 0808 800 0123 (women 7-10pm every evening; 0808 800 0122, men 7-10pm Mon & Wed).

**Citizens Advice Bureau** – 235345.

**Inverness New Start** – 715615 or 728770.

**Police Confidential Line** – 720367.

**Crimebusters** – 0800 555111.

**Your local councillors** – Janet Campbell 226598; Peter Corbett 238159; Donnie Kerr 225217; Bet McAllister 710558.

**Community House**, Craigton Avenue – 718848.

**mp33** – 717639

**Merkinch Community Website**—[www.merkinch.info](http://www.merkinch.info)

**Merkinch Enterprise** – 240085.

**Janny's Hoose** – Jean Mackay, 226348.

**Community Centre** – 239563.

**Community Dog Warden** – 703134.

**Merkinch Partnership Officer** – 718989.

**Got a story?  
Contact News &  
Views on 240085**

## New paths, a survey, and a green gym



MERKINCH Greenspace has secured the funding required to build an access ramp at the boardwalk and upgrade the paths in the Nature Reserve. This is due to start in the next few weeks and will entail cutting back vegetation and widening the paths out to at least 1.5 metres and resurfacing.

They have also put out for tender a Species and Habitat survey; the last one was done in 1996 so is now well out of date, although it will be interesting to do a comparison and see what has changed in the last 12 years.

The British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) will be doing the upgrade work in the reserve as well as running a Green Gym—that is, doing something interesting and valuable, and keeping fit for free at the same time. So if you're interested in volunteering do contact BTCV on 01463 811560.

Also if you would like to find out more about BTCV then visit their website at: [www2.btcv.org.uk/display/btcv\\_home](http://www2.btcv.org.uk/display/btcv_home)

## Illegal to let dogs chase deer

SEVERAL people have approached Merkinch Greenspace members concerned about a couple of dog owners that have been letting their dogs chase after the deer on the Reserve thus causing them distress. This would be deemed a reckless act and as such is illegal under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

So please keep your dogs under proper control, Greenspace asks.

## Stitching group create banners



Common Threads, the international sewing group made up of ladies from all different nationalities which meets each week in the community centre, took part in a little ceremony in the Skinner Room to launch two embroidered banners. Claire Richardson, the community warden, masterminded the idea for the banners, chose the materials and the sewing group put it all together. Said Elsie Normington, the centre's development officer: "We are delighted with the finished articles and they have brightened the room up."

# No trend towards knife crime despite Inverness's status as a city, says police chief

BEING made a city has not meant that Inverness is suffering from city-type problems—especially when it comes to the likes of knife crime.

This was the assurance given by Chief Inspector Julian Innes, who is commander for Inverness and surrounding area, when he addressed Merkinch Community Council at their latest meeting at the end of June.

He said there was no link between the three murders which had taken place over the last year except their postcode.

"On another night it could have happened anywhere," he said.

Ch Insp Innes said that he was not a lover of statistics, but to put the Inverness situation in context, in 2006, 30 knives had been taken off people, it was 29 in 2007. And this year so far so far five—including one flick knife and one samurai-type knife.

He stated categorically that there was no trend toward knife crime in the area, and invited those who knew more to tell the police.

Ch Insp Innes stressed his commitment to community policing and said that PC Iain Buchanan, former Merkinch community beat officer along with PC Connie Sinclair, had gone to the Borders, but that his post would be filled as soon as possible.

"I am looking at ways of

reorganising the service and hope to have two officers out and about 24 hours a day, speaking to people," he said.

With regard to under-age youngsters buying alcohol, he said there was a rolling programme to raise awareness and stressed the responsibility that parents and carers have in the matter.

Speaking of drug problems, once again he stressed the need for public support in helping build the larger picture that the police could act on. He said that sometimes, on receiving information, the police deliberately did not react right away so that the person informing them was not put in danger.

■ **There was a certain amount of friction when the matter of the repairs to the former ticket office, now the dolphin centre, came up. In order for surveyors to go in and see what needed doing it was requested that the contents were completely cleared out.**

■ **Dell McClurg who is involved in running the project said she didn't see the need for a total clear-out and she had bookings until 20th July which she wanted to fulfill.**

■ **Area manager Jimmy Flint agreed to contact three builders for estimates to make the building wind and watertight.**

■ **Claire Richardson, the**

community warden, was said to be resigning. Members commented on the good work she had done with respect to organising the carved benches along Kessock Road.

■ **One member complained that a postman had left valuable packages on her doorstep—in one case expensive jewellery and in another contact lenses. Another member said this was not a one-off experience.**

■ **Residents in Upper Kessock Street had met to discuss their concern over the antisocial behaviour around Lochiel Bar and the Post Office. Councillor Peter Corbett said that as far as he knew it was unlikely that the Lochiel would open again as a bar.**

■ **There are no plans to close the Corbett Centre despite current rumours, members were assured. The centre is quieter just now, and things were changing. Because of the Direct Caring scheme, some parents were not buying into the centre, but were purchasing other means of care.**

■ **Ali Locke reported on the recent grand opening of the Local Nature Reserve and said that it was planned to have a Celebration Day**

every year. Signs saying "No bikes" had not yet been put up.

■ **Clach football grounds were now in the hands of Highland Council, Jimmy Flint reported. And all bookings were being made through the Town House.**

■ **Plans for South Kessock Residents' Open Day in July were going well, according to Yvonne Stewart, and the Community Centre reported that their June Jamboree was being scaled down somewhat this year as last year more people had turned up than they could accommodate.**

■ **The Community Council's idea of presenting a prize to individual children or classes to encourage good citizenship has not met with the entire approval of the head teacher Fay Broadley who had said she would have preferred something for the whole school.**

■ **Work was to start in the summer holidays re-turfing the nursery garden which had been somewhat neglected.**

■ **The next meeting of the community council is to take place on 4th September, after the summer break.**



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## BRIEFS...

**HAVE you seen a cat missing from Abban Street. He is a black male answering to "Charlie". He is much missed and there is a reward upon return. Call 234327 if you have any information.**

DATE for your diary—Trinity Church is holding a jumble sale and book sale on Friday 15th August at 7pm. Come and support the church and get a bargain at the same time, say the organisers.

**THE Merkinch Theatre Group resumes on Thursday 21st August at 7pm and adults and children over the age of 12 are invited to come along. There is plenty to be done to put on the Christmas pantomime, whether it is performing on stage, helping make costumes, scenery and props, help with lighting or other vital jobs. For more information or to indicate your interest, contact Annie on 240085 nearer the date.**

GROUPS of pensioners or those with special needs can go on a free cruise with Highland Seagull Cruises. The cruises, which run all summer until 26th September, leave from Tomnahurich Bridge at 10.30am and 2pm and the organisers are particularly keen to offer groups a chance to enjoy a morning cruise. They last about two hours. Interested? Then ring Heather Smart between 10am-1pm or 3-5pm on 01320 366733.

**THE family of Caitlin Stewart want to thank all those who helped raise £300 for Ward 2 of the Sick Kids' Hospital in Edinburgh. Contributors included Rogers, MacDonald's Newsagents, Spar, Merkinch Post Office and Charlie's Chippy.**

THE Community Centre has a new website address — it is:  
[www.merkinchcommunitycentre.org.uk](http://www.merkinchcommunitycentre.org.uk)

**LUCKY winner of last month's Nicol's Killer Quiz is Carolyn MacDougall, 113 Benula Road. Congratulations, Carolyn!**

### Thought for the day

He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind.

*Book of Timothy  
The Bible*



POET and artist Margie Ramsay who has strong Merkinch links, is launching a children's book at a special exhibition in Gairloch at the end of this month.

In the book, entitled "Granny's House", Margie celebrates her many visits as a child to her grandmother who lived in Lochalsh Road, next to the house with the "lucky stone", the house where her mother was brought up. Her father was also a pupil at Merkinch Public School and that is where they met.

The poem has an English, Scots and Gaelic version, verse by verse, and Margie wrote it in conjunction with Jenni Mackenzie Reed—she also illustrated the book.

Margie, who lives in Poolewe, is also a member of the Guild of Dyers, Spinners and Weavers.

## Singing for Pleasure toast success

**THE highly popular Singing for Pleasure group was featured in the second episode of the Saturday night prime-time BBC1 TV show *Last Choir Standing*.**

Inverness City was highlighted with a lovely shot of the river, followed by the group doing a show at the Mackenzie Day Centre with older people. A short clip of the group singing *Que sera sera* showed off their skills with some simple choreography.

Leader, Elsie Normington was filmed as she received the news that they were not through to the final 15 choirs. She thanked them for a "lovely opportunity". The Community Centre had a TV specially installed for the broadcast and they came together to watch the show on the big screen.

Well done to Singing for Pleasure for reaching the last 27 choirs out of hundreds of applications!

A CD of Singing for Pleasure performing a selection of their repertoire has been



recorded and should be available soon.

■ Pictured above are choir members Betty Reid and Betty McNeil celebrating their fame with a drink.

**Do you have a story for us?  
An achievement to tell us about?  
Do you want to have your say about local issues?**

**Contact News & Views at Merkinch Enterprise on 240085**

This issue's printing and collating processes are funded courtesy of the Merkinch Partnership



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(Huntly Place)

"We aim to be a welcoming fellowship, proclaiming in worship the gospel of Jesus Christ, ready to serve with compassion the needs of the community."

**Your Parish Church**

**Rev. Alistair Murray BD**

**Sunday Services  
11am and 6.30pm**

(Crèche available during the morning service)

Girls Brigade meets Mondays 6.30pm  
Boys Brigade meets Fridays 6.15pm

**All departments of the  
Sunday School meet 11am**

*All Welcome*

# Charity which supports people who have given up drugs opens more doors in Grant Street

NO-ONE going along Grant Street in recent weeks could fail to notice that the once-canary yellow building on the corner of Nelson Street that was Sammy Lee's is now painted in shades of blue.

The project "For the Right Reasons" (FRR) which aims to support people determined to overcome drug and alcohol addictions, has taken a five-year lease on the property and refurbished the inside in two sections—a volunteer centre and a print shop business.

FRR opened its charity shop and advice centre on the corner of Grant Street and Lower Kessock Street just a year ago. Driving force behind the burgeoning project is Rev Richard Burkitt and his family and supportive volunteers.

The idea is that recovering addicts can build up their confidence and skills through voluntary work to enable them to return to work and take their place in society.

The new premises will provide the charity with rooms for people to meet. In the print shop next door a new Xerox 250 is being installed which will allow them, it is hoped, to take on the printing of diocesan publications and other small-run publications as well as general print work.

Mr Burkitt and his wife Carol have been running Black Isle Press for the last five years, so are not inexperienced in the business.

He also is looking into the possibilities of involving his musician son in running a music festival in the area — but that is as yet a fairly distant plan.

Another long-term project is to attract sports in the form of a boxing club at the back of the premises. However, although a sign indicates the presence of the club, they do not yet have planning permission for the plan.

However, just getting the main building up and running is currently a full-time job. In fact "For the Right Reasons" supports three full-time jobs: besides Mr Burkitt himself, there is Jeff Gibson from Dalneigh who is in charge of the alcohol support work. Jeff, himself, has been off alcohol for 14 years, so has experience of the difficulties that those fighting addiction go through. He has currently got a group working at the Community Garden beside the Corbett Centre.

Recently appointed is another full-time staff member Steph Summana and Alec Simpson is on the New Deal scheme.

Sixty per cent of the funding for the multi-faceted project has come from a Big Lottery grant.

The Burkitts have been in the Highlands for 20 years, and for 13 years he was the Rector of the Black Isle Episcopal Churches. Now the church employs him in his role as director of the FRR project and the couple aim to come and live in Merkinch soon.

When the new premises held an open day on 12th July four



New volunteer centre and print shop in Grant Street

bishops came along to wish them well.

Mr Burkitt is adamant that he is not empire building, but he is undoubtedly an enthusiast who is brimming with ideas — for instance, he would also like to start up a film club, not for watching films but for making them.

Again this is something that he has done successfully in the past, in Cromarty.

He would also like to see the Lochiel bar building put to some good community use, run by local volunteers.

As regards FRR's core objective, Mr Burkitt is under no illusions — it is a slow and difficult process. But he is ever optimistic.

"If we can help five people a year to come off heroin, we would count that as a success," he said.

## Plans for big festive parade in pipeline

Various community groups recently met to discuss the Merkinch Christmas Parade which will include real reindeers. All the members of the community are invited to participate in whatever way they can — whether it's running a stall, dressing up, singing Christmas songs, serving burgers etc. Funds have to be raised for this event and all groups are being encouraged to start raising money towards this big occasion. The Merkinch Community Council have started having a raffle at each meeting. The Active Adults have pledged £100 and the Community Centre have raised £100 through a recent raffle. If you want to get involved contact Elsie Normington on 01463 239563 or email [elsie.merkinch@uwclub.net](mailto:elsie.merkinch@uwclub.net) Website: [www.merkinchcommunitycentre.org.uk](http://www.merkinchcommunitycentre.org.uk)

## CHILDCARE ASSISTANT



Fliperz are looking for a full time childcare assistant for our busy childcare centre. The centre operates between 08:30 to 17:30 daily with nursery sessions in the morning and afternoon, all day care and out of school care sessions.

This permanent post operates Monday to Friday and will attract a salary around £15,000 depending on qualifications and experience. You should have previous experience and must be qualified to a minimum of SVQ level 3 in childcare, Disclosure Certification will be required. Interested applicants should apply in writing with a copy of their CV detailing their experience with the details of two references, one of whom must be your current or most recent employer, to: The Chief Executive, Merkinch Enterprise, 14 Grant Street, Inverness IV3 8BL.

The closing date for applications is Midday, Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2008.



**Merkinch Enterprise are an equal opportunities employer.**

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## Drums and voices at June Jamboree



**THIS** year's June Jamboree may have been a smaller affair than previously, but it was just as enjoyable for all who took part. The voices of the Singing for Pleasure group, fresh from their success in London, contrasted well with the drummers from the Falcon Project. There also some visitors from Romania. Pictured above are some of the singers, while below a young lady from the Falcon Project gets a chance to try out the drums.



## News & Views volunteers

We need volunteers in the following areas to help us deliver your community newsletter. This takes around half an hour, once a month. It helps keep you fit... and we don't expect you to go out in the rain!

● Madras, Nelson, and/or Brown Streets.

- Maclennan Crescent
- Benula Road flats
- Maclennan Crescent, Jamaica Street/Gardens
- Lower Kessock Street, Pumpgate Court.

*If you can help, ring 240085 or drop in at Merkinch Enterprise, 14 Grant Street.*

## Fifth arts festival



ACCORDING to the comments' book in the Black Bridge Gallery, the Fifth Summer Arts Festival was "the best ever". Certainly there were more entries, more visitors, and more sales than in any previous year. And although there were the usual ups and downs in workshop attendance, the wet felting and pottery in particular were highly popular, being booked out well in advance.

Over the 12 days of the festival some 400 people visited the newly refurbished "bike shed" in Grant Street, converted temporarily into a spacious, well-lit gallery which showed over 100 very varied exhibits. And many attended the workshops and performances.

Awards were made by various organisations, including the Inverness Courier which sponsored the photographic prizes to the tune of £100, the Arts Society of Inverness which gave £50 in awards, and Arts in Merkinch itself which donated £50 in art materials vouchers.

**Winners were:** ASI awards judged by art critic, tutor and artist Georgina Coburn—Best in Show, Rhona Joan Macleod (River City); runners-up, David Grant (Castle Grant) and a pair of works by Joyce Thomsen (Angel and Boats). Special award, Peter Macdonald Ferguson (Mr & Mrs Buttons, Butterfly and Ladies who Lunch collage guitar).

**Arts in Merkinch awards**, selected by a panel led by AiM chairman Bette McArdle, also went to Lynn Fraser's etching (Daydreams), Cathy Feggan's collage (Bonfire in the Woods), a print of Jonathan Moore's colour drawing (Atoms), Claire Richardson's ink drawing (Cat I); and Victor Henderson's flower study (Poppy Portrait).

**Winners in the Inverness Courier photographic competition**, selected by Scottish Provincial Press's chief Inverness photographer, Bobby Nelson: Nature Reserve category—winner, Barrie Harding (What We Sea); runners-up Jonathan Joseph (Kessock Bridge) and Paul Marrs (Heron). Other subject—winner, Kevin Johnstone (Catching the Fairy); runners-up, Dell McClurg (Beached Boat) and Jonathan Joseph (Bike in the River). Special prize—Kevin Johnstone for "Big Splash".



**LEFT...** This young man was very proud and happy to display his dragon which he created at the puppet-making workshop.

# voted 'the best ever'



LEFT... Participants in the wet-felting workshop started by making a joint hanging depicting the Black Bridge before going on to develop more personal pieces.

BELOW... Arts worker Annie Marris (centre) with some members of the Merkinch Theatre Group in their production of "The Sock Monster" which performed for family and friends during the festival. The group are now starting to prepare for their pantomime and rehearsals start later this month.



ABOVE... Some of the youngsters taking part of one of the three pottery workshops, with tutor Lorraine Cran at the wheel.

BELOW... The weather was unkind to the Treasure Island event in the West Field, but those taking part got well into their roles—here the captain has clearly spotted rival pirates coming over the horizon!



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**Nicol's Killer Prices, 57 Grant St  
Tel: 01463 231596**

# Partnership gathers opinions and perceptions

THE first session of the community consultation process currently being undertaken by the Partnership was held on 24<sup>th</sup> June in the Community Centre.

Anne Sutherland, Partnership Officer and Graham Ross, Community Learning and Development Officer were in the Centre from 9am until 8pm talking to local people and getting lots of useful feedback about their perceptions of the Merkinch community.

There were lots of very positive comments, particularly about the good work being done by the Community Centre, the Corbett Centre and the Merkinch School. Other good things about Merkinch included Grant Street and the Merkinch Local Nature Reserve.

Local people are also being asked about what they think needs improving and what's missing in the area and there were lots of opinions on these two issues!

Many people thought that a community café would be a great addition to local facilities and there were concerns raised about the amount of broken glass in the area and a general lack of bins.

Anne and Graham also attended the South Kessock Residents Association Fun Day on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July and will be holding more "Community Conversations" during July and August.

All of the comments will be



collated into a new Community Plan which will incorporate a set of action points to be taken forward – this is very much a practical exercise and the Partnership is keen to see real results and outcomes.

**Lorna Simpson, Project Manager with Ormlie Community Association, based in Thurso, paid a visit to**

**Merkinch Partnership on 26<sup>th</sup> June.**

Lorna was very impressed with the work the Partnership has been doing in the area over the last three years and particularly liked the Street Art project in Glendoe Terrace, which worked with local young people.

Lorna was also very interested in the Escape Group Hill-Walking programme, which

**works with local women in building confidence and fitness levels.**

For more information on the work of the Partnership please contact Anne Sutherland on 01463 718989.

■ Pictured above is Lorna Simpson (centre)

with Merkinch Partnership officer Anne Sutherland and Colin Downie who is a Partnership member and also CEO of Merkinch Enterprise.



## Madras Street Hall

*welcomes you to the Merkinch!*

We are the local Free Church of Scotland in this community and have been working in the area for over 100 years. Come and visit us at any of the following meetings which take place regularly in the Madras Street Hall.

**Sunday Services 5pm**

**Sunday School 5pm (ages 4-12)**

*(Children meet during Sunday Service)*

**Bible Discussion Group**

**'Road to Recovery' Meeting**

*(support work for alcoholics & drug addicts)*

For meeting times or other inquires please contact:

Rev John Wagner on (01463) 223199

**Jesus said: 'I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.'**



Anne Sutherland (second left) and Graham Ross (right) were at the SKRA Fun Day at Craighton Avenue last month to conduct one of their "Community Conversations" with Merkinch residents.



## YOU AND YOUR HEALTH



### Suffering travel sickness?

FEELING sick or vomiting when you are travelling is usually caused by the up and down movement of the vehicle. It does not affect everybody and does not happen to the sufferer in all types of vehicles.

Often children will suffer travel sickness, but grow out of it as they get older. Sometimes adults will experience travel sickness in a car, yet have no symptoms when they are the driver. Drivers who know some of their passengers are liable to get car sick should try to drive smoothly, make sure the interior is well air-conditioned, and be prepared to stop at short notice!

**Our Advice**

- ✦ Ask the pharmacist to help choose a remedy that will last the whole length of the journey.
- ✦ All the remedies for travel sickness can cause drowsiness and can affect driving. Ask your pharmacist which is the best for drivers.
- ✦ Be prepared and have sick bags to hand even if you have taken an anti-sickness tablet.
- ✦ Read how to take the tablets. Many products need to be taken well before the journey starts
- ✦ Try to keep children occupied with in-car games and avoid reading.
- ✦ If you are looking out of the window, try to focus on distant objects that remain steady.
- ✦ Do not eat large meals and fizzy drinks before travelling and make sure there is plenty of fresh air.

If your symptoms cannot be controlled ask our pharmacist for advice.

*Remember – people are all different. Some of the information given above may not be right for you. Ask your pharmacist when you need advice.*

## PRIZE QUIZ

This month Quiz fans once again get a shot at winning the Nicol's Killer Prices prize of a £10 voucher. When you've answered all the questions, fill in your details and send it in or deliver to Merkinch Enterprise, 14 Grant Street to reach us no later than Friday 15th August.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1. Which British driver won the British Grand Prix in 1999?</b><br/>A: David Coulthard<br/>B: Jackie Stewart<br/>C: Rod Stewart.</p> <p><b>2. What were Andy Pandy's two friends called?</b><br/>A: Ant and Dec<br/>B: Looby Lou<br/>C: The Flowerpot Men.</p> <p><b>3. Which hemisphere of the planet contains the most countries?</b><br/>A: The northern hemisphere<br/>B: The southern hemisphere<br/>C: They're equal.</p> <p><b>4. Which Shakespeare play was the inspiration for the hit musical West Side Story?</b><br/>A: Antony and Cleopatra<br/>B: The Taming of the Shrew<br/>C: Romeo and Juliet.</p> <p><b>5. Which craft involves a wheel, glaze and slip?</b><br/>A: Spinning<br/>B: Stained glass</p> | <p>C: Pottery.</p> <p><b>6. In which country is Montpellier?</b><br/>A: Switzerland<br/>B: France<br/>C: Belgium.</p> <p><b>7. How do you sweat vegetables?</b><br/>A: Keep them in a warm room<br/>B: Leave them out in the sun<br/>C: Fry them very gently.</p> <p><b>8. Where would you find the Empire Theatre in Inverness now?</b><br/>A: At Eden Court<br/>B: At Vue<br/>C: On Academy Street.</p> <p><b>9. Where was the original Empire?</b><br/>A: On Grant Street<br/>B: At the Northern Meeting Park<br/>C: On Academy Street.</p> <p><b>10. In America what do you dial for the emergency services?</b><br/>A: 999<br/>B: 111<br/>C: 911.</p> |
|--|--|

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

## Gifts for all the family



Come and see our new selection — suitable for all occasions and all budgets

**Rowland's Pharmacy**  
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Tel: 01463 232217

### Last month's quiz check

1. Pampas is the name for the flat treeless plains of Argentina.
2. In the nursery rhyme 24 blackbirds were baked in a pie.
3. Wham was the 1980s band featuring George Michael.
4. An earthworm has 10 hearts.
5. George Bush was Reagan's vice-president.
6. Piggott first won the Derby in the 1950s.
7. In the Duchess of York's books Budgie is a helicopter.
8. Nottingham has an annual Goose Fair.
9. Your ankle would hurt if you were kicked on the Tarsus.
10. VIP at the LNR Open Day was MSP John Farquhar Munro.



## SPORTING NOOZ



To be frank, the series of Midnight Football sessions which has visited Merkinch this summer doesn't actually take place at midnight, but it can run pretty late. The idea is that short four-a-side games comprising young people of all ages are played inside an area totally enclosed by netting. The June event, pictured here, was well attended, and another was set to take place in late July, after we went to press. It is run by the NCH children's charity.

### Thornbush Stores

Thornbush Road  
Inverness



**Gift Cards for Debenhams,  
Argos, W.H.Smith, Homebase**

**NEW - Bingo Lotto - £2 a shot - as seen on TV  
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### Farewell to many of school's successful Soccer VII's team

THE Merkinch School Soccer Sevens had their end-of-season reward with a trip to Rollerbowl and, after their meal, the players all received a medal for their efforts along with a team picture to keep.

Team coaches—Peter Corbett, Liz Murray and Lee Graham—also received a small memento of the season.

Finally, on the 12<sup>th</sup> July the whole squad spent the day at Fairburn Activity Centre at Muir of Ord.

For next season, Merkinch Primary School will have practically a new look as 10 players move on to Secondary School but there are a few promising players to come in and coaching will begin after the summer break.

**MIC**

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Merkinch News & Views always welcomes input from readers. If you have an idea for an article, any comments or questions, please get in touch with us at the above address.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor, or of Merkinch Enterprise.



# The Fliperz Page

Summer is supposed to be warm and sunny, a time when bees buzz around the flowers. This little bee is happily sitting on a flower having a spot of lunch. Do you know what we get from bees? Yes, honey, of course. Colour in the happy bee and the flower can be any colour you like.



**Fliperz still has a few vacancies for the August term—contact Denise on 234232.**



## Joke Spot

**What is a parrot's favourite game?**

*Hide and Speak!*

**Doctor, how do I stop my nose from running?**

Stick your foot out and trip it up!

**What is a Robin?**

A bird who steals!

### Fliperz Daycare Enrolment

If your child will become 3 years old between 1st March and 31st August 2008, you can enrol him/her for a Funded Nursery place now. Four-year-olds can also be enrolled. When enrolling please bring your child's Birth Certificate.

You may call into Fliperz and have a look round any time.

- Daycare
- Nursery Sessions
- After School Care
- Holiday Care

Contact: The Childcare Manager  
Fliperz Daycare,  
Simpson's Lane,  
Telephone 234232.

## Soccer Sevens kids say good bye to Merkinch team



RIGHT: there were lots of busy hands at the Merkinch Summer Festival—these ones were making felt at a workshop held at the Black Bridge Gallery and led by fabric artist Ruth Black. For more coverage see pages 6 & 7.




ABOVE: Proudly showing their well-earned medals are members of Merkinch School's Sevens football squad. See full story and more football coverage on page 10.

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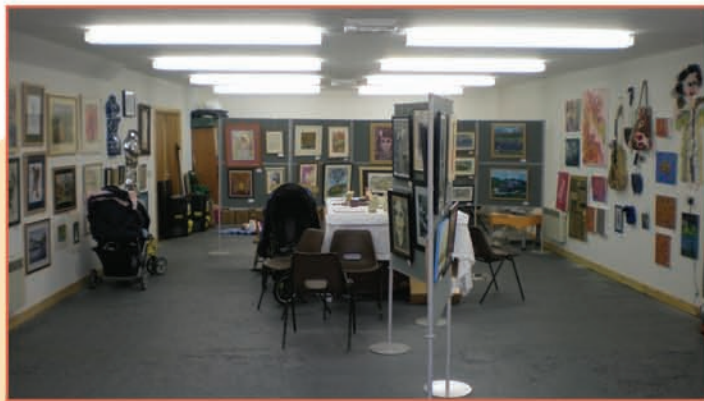
August 2008



The Summer holidays are now upon us, and the Inverness High School Area Summer Programme is in full swing. There's plenty to choose from, so get your booking forms in now and get active, arty and out of doors! Our bike shed refurbishments are also completed, and the end result is fetching to say the least - plenty of compliments, and, more importantly, promises of plenty of use. Along with a new community facility in the former Sammy Lee's, Grant Street is beginning to look rather lively.

BIKE SHED COMPLETION

Thankfully, and after a few awkward stops and starts, the renovation works to the bike shed in Grant Street have been duly completed, and the pristine new interior is virtually unrecognisable from the rather run down and leaky old building we once knew - aah, nostalgia! (or maybe not)



During the month of August, the shed will be occupied by Arts in Merkinch for their gallery and Summer Programme. The annual opening of the gallery took place on Friday 11th July, with record numbers attending. The quality of work on display is testament to the wealth of local talent in the area. Some of our young people have also submitted photographs of local landmarks to the exhibition - examples shown below.



Merkinch Primary



The School Park



A Colourful Corner



Clach Park

GIRLS' GROUP NEWS

The Girls' Group have been getting all environmental and ecological recently, by taking an interest in Dell's Dolphin Hut down at the Ferry, with a view to undertaking John Muir Trust Awards in the future. The girls will be creating a timeline style piece of artwork, showing significant events in the recent history of the community. Watch this space!



The girls visiting Dell's Dolphin Hut

**Guitar Club**

Starting Monday 21st July  
2:30-5pm

mp33 will be hosting a guitar club on Mondays for a preliminary trial period of 10 weeks, starting on Monday 21st July. We are looking to establish a regular group to take up RGT (Registry of Guitar Tutors) training, a professionally accredited qualification. If you are interested in taking up the instrument, get involved. This is a great opportunity to acquire a highly desirable talent, with the potential for a career in tutoring, or just to enjoy playing with like-minded enthusiasts. Come on down and strum along with us!

## Want to do a course?

Come along and try some taster sessions at mp33.

**Wednesdays 3-5pm**

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## Summer Programme 2008 @ The Bike Shed

Besides the Arts in Merkinch Gallery Exhibition, the Bike Shed has already been hosting pottery, ceramic tile painting and video workshops. We hope that, apart from the reinstatement of the Bike Project in August, the venue will be used for many more activities and workshops in the future. Interested? Get involved.



Annie Marrs conducts a drama rehearsal



The ceramic tile painting workshops