

**BOARHILLS VILLAGE HALL**

A very successful Burns Supper was held in Boarhills Village Hall on 20 January. As usual, the event was a sell-out. We were honoured when Rabbie Burns himself turned up to speak, in the form of Colin Reekie, who gave a great account of the poet's life and work. Kenny Muir toasted the lassies with plenty of jokes, and Verity Heathcote gave a spirited response. Thanks to everyone who supported the event, which raised over £900 for the village hall. Next year's Burns Supper will be on Saturday 26 January, and the hunt is on for speakers!

**WHERE WAS THE BISHOP'S PALACE?**

It is thought that the Kenlygreen Doocot was built on the site of the much earlier Palace of Inchmurdo, the 13<sup>th</sup> century home of the Bishop of St Andrews. Certainly the base of the doocot appears to belong to a larger, earlier building. Recent metal detecting in the Boarhills area has resulted in a number of interesting finds, including Bishop Lamberton's seal. On 8 and 9 February, St Andrews University students will be investigating this further with a geophysics study of the doocot field, which will look for buried evidence of further buildings. It is hoped that they will explain their findings in the Village Hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>. So do come along and see what they discover!

**BOARHILLS AND DUNINO COMMUNITY TRUST UPDATE**

Many of you took part in a community survey back in December 2015, which asked for suggestions to make our community an even better place to live. Many ideas were put forward, and on the back of that survey, and after further community meetings, it was agreed that a Community Trust should be formed to take projects forward. Boarhills and Dunino Community Trust (BDCT) was finally formed on 31 August 2017. It is a Company limited by guarantee, and covers the same area as the Community Council, which includes Brownhills.

Projects identified in the survey included provision of green space in Boarhills, and information and improvements on local walks. The Trust obtained funding from Fife Council for the preparation of walking maps for both Boarhills and Dunino and work is now underway to publish these.

The Trust has identified the area of ground containing the doocot at the North end of the village as ideal for creating community green space, with play and picnic area, and a small community orchard. It is close to the village, and importantly close to the Coastal Path, so could be used by locals and passing walkers alike.

Scottish Ministers have agreed to register the Trust's interest in a community buy out of this land. This means that in due course every member of the community will be invited to indicate by postal vote whether they support the Trust's proposals for this land. If there is enough support, the Scottish Ministers will then decide whether the Trust should have the right to acquire the land at a price decided by an independent valuer. The next challenge is to raise the funds required and suitable sources of finance are now being investigated.



As part of the Trust's plans for the land, it is also hoped to restore the doocot. This is what the doocot looks now. However, there is a fantastic picture of what the doocot looked like at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on line:

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/34407/boarhills-dovecots>

There is also more information about a third Boarhills Doocot which was demolished by the RAF in 1942. You can read all about them at the above web site.

The Trust currently has over 40 members. Membership is open to all, and being a member means you have a say in what the Trust does and how your environment can be improved. Members receive e-mail updates about the Trust. For more information, including how to join the Trust, please e mail the Trust at [bd.com.trust@btinternet.com](mailto:bd.com.trust@btinternet.com), or check out its Facebook page. Updates are also put on the Community Council web site: <http://www.community-council.org.uk/boarhillsanddunino/>.

#### **FUTURE EVENTS/DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

The next **Community Council meeting** takes place on **Wednesday 21 March**, 5.45 pm in Boarhills Village Hall. There will be a **BDCT meeting** immediately afterwards at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

We are planning to hold a **beach clean-up** in **May**. With the growing realisation of the damage plastics are doing in the oceans, we hope this will encourage a good turnout! Date to be confirmed.

**Boarhills sponsored walk and barbecue** will take place on **Sunday 24 June**. Start and finish at the village hall, with a walk of 5-6 miles, shorter routes also available. You don't have to have sponsors, just come along and enjoy the walk and the company!