

At the 14th A.G.M. on 19th October 1961 an alteration was proposed to the Constitution. "Mr. Gibson explained that it was desirable to change the name of the Society to "Busby & Clarkston Horticultural Society" since a large support was forthcoming from the Clarkston area." Mr. J.P. ('Les') Turnbull gave his support to the change and Mr. Greig explained the origins of the Society and how it came to be previously known as the Busby & District Horticultural Society. At a Special General Meeting on 16th December that year to agree the name change was agreed.

Meetings ceased to be held in Busby Church Halls in 1962 apart from a brief return in January 1979 when due to a lack of heating in Clarkston Halls the General Committee returned to where it all began and held their meeting in Busby West Church Hall!

THE ORIGINAL BUSBY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY!!!

In 2007 the Society was contacted by local historian and Busby church goer John McVicar who had been researching the history of Busby for a number of years.

Part of his research on local organisations (through back dated issues of the Southern Press & Pollokshaws News) led him to realise that the origins of the Society went further back than the minutes of 1947 would lead you to believe! No doubt when the Society was being reinstated in 1947 many backroom discussions were taking place as to whether to take 1881 as the date of establishment or not. We did exactly the same when John's research came to our attention!

John's research show that the first Busby Horticultural Society was founded in 1881 and mounted its first show in Wilsons Hall at the end of August 1882."

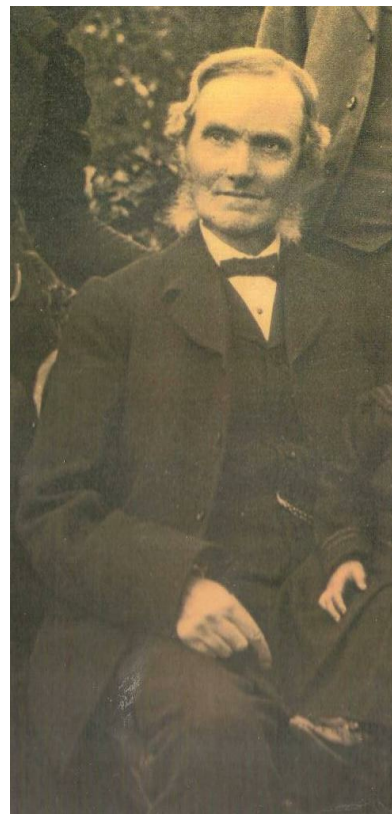
Many of the shows are recorded in great detail with plenty of local names being mentioned.

It's noted that the annual show of the Society on Saturday 31st August 1889 in Wilsons Hall was an outstanding success.

The President for the year was Robert Miller of "Cloverbank", Busby who was aged 64 and had taken many prizes for his soft fruits. He also happens to be my great-grandfather!

The 1914 show was abandoned because of the outbreak of the Great War and no further shows of were held during the war, but were resumed for a short while in 1919.

As part of this year's celebrations we have invited radio and television personality, Matthew Biggs will be giving us a talk on "The Wonder of Plants" in Clarkston Halls on Thursday 29th April at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5, include cheese and wine and are available to all! Tickets are available from John Kimble or Fergus Cumming on 0141 620 1435



Robert Miller



Matthew Biggs



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Since the last Focus news life has been very difficult at Ekwendeni due to the weather. The rainy season usually arrives sometime in November and last year it arrived as normal so local people planted their maize seed for this year's harvest. Sadly after two weeks the rain ceased altogether and was replaced with a heatwave which dried all the land and caused the young plants to wither and die. The rains did return in January and maize seed was planted again. However some people didn't have enough money to buy more seed as the price had increased dramatically. The weather is still unpredictable so the harvests are not expected to have a great yield pushing prices up which along with rampant inflation will cause a great deal of hunger throughout Malawi with some areas worse than others..

Over the years we have been very grateful to the Raven Trust for their regular container service which transported much needed goods to Northern Malawi. John and Sue Challis who were the founders of the Raven Trust are now retiring due to age and health issues. They had hoped others would carry on in their footsteps but unfortunately that has not happened. The last containers are being loaded over the next few weeks to be sent to Ekwendeni and the neighbouring area. Once the store in Dundee is cleared then the Raven Trust will be wound up and unless someone else offers to start a new service there will be no cost effective way of transporting goods to Malawi.

On Sunday March 5th, there will be a Souper Sunday Hunger Lunch in Busby Church in aid of the Church of Scotland HIV/Aids project. Please support this initiative as the money is used very well to help victims and their families everywhere who suffer from this illness. LISAP – the Livingstonia Aids Project is based at Ekwendeni and carries out fantastic work there and in the surrounding area supporting those who are ill and also their dependents in a myriad of ways.

On Saturday, March 18th The Scotland/Malawi Partnership working with Church of Scotland World Mission are hosting a Faith Conference in Giffnock South – a Kwenderana Church. It will be a chance for many Kwenderana members to get to know others who are also involved with Malawi on a variety of projects.

Over the years many of our members have supported the child education project and we are most grateful to them for their generosity. We had thought of moving onto an education hardship fund which would help families with fees who might be in the middle of a short term financial crisis. However this project does not seem to have been as popular as individual sponsorship has been. As famine is becoming ever more prevalent in Malawi the demand for fees has increased a great deal and sadly we have been unable to help many very needy, decent, hardworking families. If you feel you would like to help please speak to me.

For the last few years Lynne Macgregor has been treasurer of the Kwenderana Partnership Group. Lynne is a real figures wizard! Unfortunately due to personal reasons she has resigned as treasurer although she will continue to remain in the Kwenderana Partnership Group as a Busby representative along with Christina Hogg and me. We are glad Lynne will remain a member but will miss her excellent treasurer's reports. She will be a hard act to follow. I would dearly love to add to our team so if interested please have a chat with me.

Over the next few weeks please pray:-

- That a solution can be found to the "container" problem.
- That the harvest will be better than anticipated
- That we can meet the needs of children who cannot afford to pay for their secondary education.
- The success of the SMP Conference in March.
- For transparency in all our dealings with our partners at Ekwendeni.



School pupils receiving blankets for their beds which were knitted in Scotland and sent via the container to Ekwendeni.



The 100th container sent to Malawi by supporters of the Raven Trust

Big Bethany SleepOut

From Mairead Macleod, Community Fundraiser with the Bethany Christian Trust

For the past 15 years the Big Bethany SleepOut has seen 2,000 participants in various locations raise over £350,000 to fight homelessness. Will you join us this year to help support the most vulnerable in Glasgow and raise awareness for homelessness?

It is incredibly encouraging to see the Church of Scotland moderator, Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr, using his year as moderator to highlight the plight of those who are homeless. At Bethany Christian Trust we go where homelessness exists and our work in Glasgow focuses on deprived areas, helping the most vulnerable people. We work directly on the streets, support families through a crisis, address employability issues, hold drop-ins for those who are isolated, and mentor people leaving prison.

There is a huge need for our services in Glasgow, and we would encourage you to take part in our annual SleepOut on March 17 that Glasgow City Chambers to help support the most vulnerable in Glasgow.



David Linden from Mossbank Baptist Church took part last year and said.. Fundamentally, I took part because I wanted to raise awareness of homelessness and raise money for Bethany at the same time. I spend large amounts of my day job working on policy, including homelessness. Important though that is, I wanted to do more to help and the Sleepout was an excellent way of doing that.

In the run up to the event, I had kind of put the Sleepout itself to the back of my mind, so I could focus on the fundraising. On the night itself, I was just about holding it together until I stepped off the train at Glasgow Central and started to make my way to the meeting point. In the short walk from the train station to the meeting point, I passed five or six folk who were sleeping rough - not for awareness raising, and not for Bethany, but because circumstances meant they had to - every night. Knowing that they wouldn't be doing this for one night only and returning to their families the following day really reminded me how serious rough sleeping is and also how lonely it must be.

The Sleepout itself was OK. Knowing that we were in a relatively safe area was a worry off my mind but the sheer practical considerations like how much cardboard I would need to sleep on top of, whether it might rain or not and how many layers I would need to wear, all hammered home the very practical challenges rough sleepers face.

Reflecting on the event now, I just hope and pray that more can be done to end rough sleeping in Scotland. As I made my way home on Saturday morning to the warmth of my house and my loving family, I couldn't help but feel a heavy burden and sincere hope that my son's generation never have to worry about rough sleeping.

For David, the SleepOut really hit home how scary and isolating being homeless is. We don't want people to have nowhere to go or no one to turn to other than the streets. We want to see homelessness end and those at risk of it being supported long before that crisis. You can help make that possible.

If you would like to take part in this year's Sleep Out please go to the link www.bigsleepout.co.uk and register.

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