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## THREE LEGGED JOGGER MYSTERY BAGS PILE UP AS SUN SHINES ON WALK!

THE SUN SHONE, THE WIND DROPPED AND EVERYTHING WAS SET FOR WHAT HAS, AT TIMES, BEEN A NEARLY PLEASANT RAMBLE THROUGH THE LANES. NOT SO THIS YEAR. NOT FOR A WHILE, COME TO THINK OF IT. THOSE THOUGHTLESS. MINDLESS MORONS WHOM WE TRY TO COMBAT IN OUR ANNUAL CLEAR-UP, ARE NOW ENDANGERING LIVES..... SERIOUSLY.

Regulars on the Golfie to Watercross section of the course will nod their heads and say: ‘Toldya!’ as they remember hair-raising encounters with speeding multi-wheels on this stretch. In truth, it has been becoming more and more dangerous as the years pass. And it’s not just a boy racer or two out to impress on a Saturday burn-up. Now the speedsters take up a good half of the road, are multi-wheeled and still manage to move at a speed beyond the aspirations of an MG Midget (for those who can remember these marvels.)

The two days of the Litter Walk yielded a mountain of full bags, as well as doors, wheels, tyres and, indeed, most of the front half of a van. There was, it has to be admitted, a smaller turn-out than normal and this was possibly a good thing as someone might have had to volunteer for the Waterhouse towards Brucefield sector.

And that stretch is LETHAL - slightly better visibility at times but still LETHAL. On these pages you can read the thoughts of assorted Harburnites who undertook Trial by Traffic.



*Photo: A Nichol Outrider on duty*

ISOBEL WRITES.....’How does it all get there?’ is the question that stumped me yesterday as I picked up the

various bottles and cans (mostly beer) and other assorted rubbish including bits of cars and gloves.

Does anyone know the answer?

I know it appears overnight as this morning on my way to church I had to pick up two beer bottles, one can and some paper which I noticed between my house and Coalheughhead.

I say *had to* as this picking up litter has become very addictive. I had a spare bag and the 'tools' in the car so stopped when I saw it and really felt quite annoyed that my tidy roadside had been littered again.

I was in the car today but I'll find out next time I walk the dog if there is anything else.

As I've said this litter picking is addictive. I fill a couple of bags every few weeks!

*A few words from Richard 'n Heidi, East Torphin :*

Completed my 3 bags worth at 4:30..... phew.....quite a workout!!!!  
Messiest part....opposite the golf club..... lots of empty milk cartons....I can only imagine that the workmen who dug up that stretch of the road last year deposited their garbage in the process!!! Oh well.

Observations : the chosen beverage of the non-litter conscious passing motorist is undoubtedly Im Bru with Red Bull a close second. By the way, thanks to new East Torphiners Shona & Stevie Moffat a special thanks for helping with the litter walk. What a welcome!

Oh and a quote from David McDonald which summed things up quite nicely...

'If I catch one of these b#####s chucking their litter just now, they're getting this black bag full in the back of their car!!!!' Tonight Harburn will be at its cleanest (for a few hours at least!!!!!!!)

*And the Nichol Regiment weighed in (see photo page one). The family writes....*

So we covered the Sawmill Road. It was a warm sunny day, perfect for collecting dry litter and walking the dog at the same time! After the first quarter of an hour the novelty of spotting and collecting the litter had worn off for wee Maeve (and Midge), but Isabel's enthusiasm didn't dwindle at all.

We filled about 5 bags of rubbish - the usual energy drinks cans, beer cans / bottles and McDonalds' packaging made up about 80% of the rubbish we collected. No Christmas decorations this year - 4 tyres instead and some dodgy DVDs. After collecting litter along a particular stretch of road you become quite proud of how nice it looks and quite put out when you see litter starting to appear again. I've stopped my car twice along it since the litter walk to pick up some new litter - you guessed it - an energy drinks can, a beer bottle and a McDonalds coffee cup!

#### FESTIVAL SOS

Volunteers urgently needed for help with the setting up and the running of the Festival. Can you help in any way? Please ring Dave on 872501.

There seems to be a run on office chairs, writes *Claire Duncan* That's the second one this year to come out of the ditch. Not sure what to think of that. At least the tyres have dwindled in numbers.

Whilst on the topic of questionable happenings. I always seem to find a condom or two near the Moss Park intersection. While I am happy there are those who are practising safe sex, I wish they would dispose of the evidence properly.

“White Van Man and Corsa Boy Strike Again”, headlines *Chairman Dave*, This year they have been mainly smoking fags, drinking Red Bull and eating sandwiches.

Lots of Bud bottles found near the entrance to our local airport, further up the B7008 nearer the Golf Club, Buckfast bottles and interestingly a pair of gents underpants...how lucky am I?.

*“Never in the field of human detritus was so much picked, having been chucked by so many to be cleaned by so few.”*  
Winston Vernham April 2015

This year Guy and I shared the dangerous and messy Golf Club to Waterhouse section...but it still was around 15 bags... same as last year.

Well done Guy for the organising...I could be wrong...but we seemed a bit short on volunteers this year.

To those who did manage...you made a difference...well at least until WVM and Corsa Boy are back on Monday. For the final word see Wilkie's Take.

## Pothole news

What is happening? Isobel McChesney asks (*as have many others over the last many months*)I noticed a few potholes had been sort of filled in on our road on Thursday. But when are the roads that were dug up for the power line going to be **fixed** rather than **patched**? Again I see some of the potholes have been attended to, but the verges don't seem to have been restored. I noticed last week, when walking, that there are some really deep ruts and I really couldn't understand the logic of the white lines. Only bits were painted.

Does anyone know the answer?

## The R word

As many of you may have already heard the “Rural” is in a state of turmoil. An edict was received from our chairman, Christine Hutton (or should that be chairwoman or chairperson?) on behalf of Central Council and General Secretary Raymond Pratt in March.

This edict stated that we should no longer use the word “rural” in our title and that our motto will be “Women Together”. This in the interest of throwing off our staid image and attracting new young and dynamic members.

No-one in our organisation is against progress and we have embraced new technology enthusiastically. Anyone reading reports of our activities would have great difficulty in describing us as staid.

The cause of our feelings of disquiet was the way in which this ultimatum was delivered without consultation or foreknowledge.

The outcome remains unsure.

However to parody the famous song: “We will survive,” - *Morag Stott*.

## RUBBISH TID-BITS.....

Do you put your brown bin out?

Did it get emptied last week?

Do you know that a tree in the area hit the bin lorry (or the lorry hit the tree) and broke its windscreen so it couldn't continue emptying.

This morning I received a phone call asking if my bin had now been emptied. I didn't think so but the caller said it should now be empty as another bin lorry had been sent out on Saturday. Well it wasn't empty, but although I told him not to bother he informed me another vehicle would be sent **as it had to go to missed bins at Cobbinshaw anyway!!!!**



## Wilkie's Take

*Resident Cartoonist and Commentator, John Wilkinson, has some disturbing theories about the Litter Walk. Under the heading 3-legged Narcoleptic Jogger sought in Torphin Litter Horror, John explains.... Every year we Harburn Residents play a bizarre game. ....*

All year round the non-residents of Harburn drive round the area strewing litter as they go and one weekend each spring we dash around picking it up at one bag an hour. It's like a Paper Chase, but there's far more than paper involved. Last year we accused our local joggers of scattering bottles of sugar-fix about the landscape west of Torphin, but this year there was

only one. Mind you, no shortage of cans of cider (Strongbow mainly), beer (McEwan's Export tops the list), lager (mostly Budweiser bottles among many kinds, even Stella and Tennent's, though surely the more sophisticated hedge-drinkers pour these straight into the ditch, cutting out the middleman?) San Miguel shareholders should worry about their admen: last year's No. 1 didn't feature at all this year, and only one fag packet (again) suggests negative advertising continues to work, though the countless butts at Gav's Corner gainsay this.

Oh, there was also a smashed wine bottle,

## Noteworthy

**FESTIVAL REQUEST:** the Committee is asking for any contributions of plants for the ever popular Plant Stall which, for the first time ever, will be run by other than Jim McChesney. Please contact Dave on 872501 or any Committee member. There is also a contact page on the hall web site:  
[www.harburnvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.harburnvillagehall.org.uk)

which smash investigators have traced back to a weel-kent granny from an extended Harret family. And once again, they left little worth drinking.

A cache of spent shotgun cartridges at Kiprig lay within metres of a geo-cache that a cyclist was looking for even as we converged: his cronies play another game, hiding artefacts that others cycle round and find by GPS app, taking something from it and leaving something else in its place. This one was a pink plastic pig that we might have junked if he hadn't been there: he told us that they lose a lot of caches through innocent litter-pickers. Maybe the rubber tarantula we found in a tree (and left there) was another one... if it was rubber.

This year there was something else afoot: our joggers left three trainers in a fir plantation, along with a couple of very distressed lumberjack boots and a pair of threadbare carpet slippers. A king-size mattress beside a gate at the top of Bertrams' Brae suggests a refuge for joggers with narcolepsy, or maybe just tiredness after the steep brae. Unless they have other things in mind. But three trainers? One and a half pairs? No white vanman here. Should we now be on the lookout for a couple in training for a three-legged race, or a pair of joggers, one hopping or stoating along beside the other, or a mad Manxman cartwheeling through the countryside? Or even an actual three-legged jogger (let's call him or her Legs 111)?

Let's reconstruct the crime scene from the litter. A private detective in threadbare carpet slippers sits in a car at Gav's Corner, chain-smoking, sipping coffee laced with Imperial Vodka from a cardboard beaker, nibbling at a pie on a foil plate. Down the road he spies a shotgunman, lying in wait for passing

geo-cache-hunting cyclists, startled (who wouldn't be?) by Legs 111 whirling past scattering litter while pursued by a very distressed lumberjack, as hedge-drinkers pleasantly chat and exchange brewery tips or loll companionably on the king-size mattress. What happens next is anybody's guess...

So who among us has three legs? We should be vigilant and scrutinise our neighbours for anyone who chooses to wear baggy trousers or long dresses, who refuses to wear shorts and is reluctant to sunbathe in company: please report suspects to Norrington at Omission Control.



*Early Takers assemble including Mystery Man (Rt)*

## Welcome Hayden

Iain and Kirsty (at Torphin House) were delighted to welcome a new addition into their family and the Harburn Community at the end of March. Hayden is currently focussing on training his parents and looks forward to meeting everyone over the coming months.

*Any further announcements for these pages or the Family section of the web site, very welcome, as are photos.*

## Lights & Action

What to say! Any evening which starts with George Stott and ends with Harburn Rural refreshments has to be worth getting out for!

What happened in between – I have to say there were moments when I thought I had nodded off and woken in an episode of Monty Python or occasionally even Fawty Towers. Certainly the levels of appreciative laughter would have encouraged that impression.

The audience loved it from the sinister goings on in the Green-room, some very convincingly evil behaviour and annoyingly pushy incomers! There are fresh talents being revealed amongst us as well as development in the more seasoned performers.

The Rural's contribution echoed this theme of the old guard versus the new brooms and the characterisation shown here was wonderful. The problem with knowing the actors is that shows like this give you a whole new light in which to view people you thought you knew! There were some stumbles in lines but these were not allowed to break the pace nor did anyone slip out of character.

Corstorphine Rural presented a sketch which seriously pushed the boundaries of our sense of reality – the theatrical dimensions – the fourth wall or whatever they call it, was ripped to shreds – I think a whole new wave of avant garde theatre may have been born last night in Harburn.

I am not going to start naming the individuals who all put so much into this but would like to offer my deep appreciation of all the work, energy and creativity – thank you all for a memorable evening. - Joanna



## The Chairman's.....er..... Chair

*Chairman Guy with positively the last word on the Grand Litter Walk of 2015.*

It was was probably in part my fault for being a little late in organising the the Lit-



ter Walk this year, but turnout was lower than in previous years which was slightly disappointing. There was certainly no lack of carelessly discarded rubbish as testament to less desirable elements passing through our fair corner of the Land. The band of pickers did a grand job and produced a large pile of diverse waste which could much more easily have been taken home and binned by the original owner. I am afraid it is too much to hope that such socially unacceptable and indeed illegal behaviour, will cease so that the annual litter walk will become redundant, so it will continue, but will be more successful and less time consuming with more volunteers. **Please try to take part next year if you possibly can.**

Thanks again to those who did help out and also to West Lothian Council who, as ever, supported the Litter Walk.

*Chairman Guy*

## Local History

The “Now and Then . . . and Now?” project has led to the setting up of the Calder History Group. Broadly speaking, we will be meeting every other month in the West Calder Community Centre; alternate meetings will have a speaker or other event and the others will be for information sharing about the different project ideas. The next meeting will be on Friday 18th September, when Mr Jim Wylie will present images from the early part of the last century captured on glass slides. Mr Wylie used to run the New Calder Paper Mill on the Almond.

There are several different strands being followed within the group, each bringing together a different group of participants:

- Connections with other history groups in the area;
- Maps to chart the social growth and development of our community - might it be a film?
- Westwood House and the bings;
- Other big Hooses in the area, starting with Limefield House;
- The Oil industry of the West Calder area;
- The story and achievements of West Calder Co-operative Society;
- The local rural story – possibly kicked off with a History Evening in Harburn Village Hall;
- West Calder and its past association with artists, including John Latham and John Kane.

If you are interested in any of these, contact [alan.tuffs@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.tuffs@btinternet.com) for dates and times. The Calder History Group is run under the auspices of the West Calder

and Harburn Community Development Trust. Currently we are seeking a small working fund to enable some of the planned activities to proceed. - *AT*

## Hall: ‘Fit for the Future’

The Village Hall Planning Group has now secured £35,000 for improvements – from the Pates Hill Windfarm monies and from West Lothian Council’s Village Improvement Fund. We are grateful to these contributors.

A large part of the funds will pay for a proper tarmac surface and improved green landscaping at the front of the hall.

Other items include a hearing assistance loop, resurfacing the oak floor, upgrading the toilet area, new commercial grade floor finish in the kitchen, solar electricity generator on the roof to heat the hot water for the taps and some necessary repairs to the fabric of the hall. - *AT*

## Hall: Loop installed

For people who find they cannot hear very well when there are a number of conversations going on simultaneously, a loop has been installed. This transmits to individual hearing aids provided they are switched to a particular channel - ask Guy or Lilian for better instructions on how to use the loop.

The system includes a battery powered mobile microphone that needs to be used to send the signal around the loop.-*AT*

## Wind Farm News

*Allan MacLaughlan reports on the latest from the Wind Farm front and, on the state of our roads.....Harburnhead and Pearie Law developers are progressing their construction planning with WLC and Scottish Power. This will include traffic routes for construction traffic*

Harburnhead developers are in negotiations with West Calder & Harburn Community Development Trust [CDT] re the payment of Community Benefit. No arrangements have been confirmed as of today's date.

Camilty Wind Farm proposal was turned down by WLC and the developers are now considering whether or not to appeal this decision to the Scottish Government.

### ROADS

Because of the ongoing planning processes between WLC and the developers there has been no progress to report on the routing of the power cables from the wind farm sites to the national grid hook up.

As a result of this impasse WLC have delayed the resurfacing of the C24 [Waterhouse Crossroads to Pates Hill passing the Dogs Trust].

Instead of resurfacing the C24 the developers undertook a series of repairs to address construction damage caused during the two previous cabling enterprises.

## Festival Hit List



COPIES OF POSTER FROM NORRY  
ON 871339 OR 077762355877

Plans for the Festival proceed apace. We urgently need further volunteers in several departments:

JIM and ISOBEL are pushing off to get some sun. We're not jealous are we? Unfortunately, this leaves enormous gaps. Isobel has managed to do much of her normal pre-Festival organisation but we will need about ten substitutes to replace one Isobel on The Day! Jim's Plant Stall is a major attraction and we are hoping that it will still appear at Sawmill. Anyone who can give a hand (or advice?) here will be VERY welcome.

We are also concerned that many of the stalwart volunteers who man the erection and the preparation parties in the week leading up to the Festival are, for various reasons, unavailable. If you might be able to help, even if only for an hour or so, with any aspect of the Festival, please use contact details below:

Call Dave on 872501 or use the Contact Us facility on the Hall web site:  
[harburnvillagehall.org.uk](http://harburnvillagehall.org.uk)