

Forget-Me-Note Pad

The monthly newsletter for Forget-Me-Not Club volunteers

No 6 March 2011

Quick step to £10,000

STRICTLY Come Prancing 2011 was a huge success. It raised £10,000 although the final figure is yet to be confirmed because sponsorship money is still being collected, it was a sell-out and everybody involved in it enjoyed the experience. It looks like becoming an annual event with FMN's own operations director Heather Morrison and her partner Fraser Munro having to defend their winning title. Graham Duncan and Linda Reid were worthy runners-up.

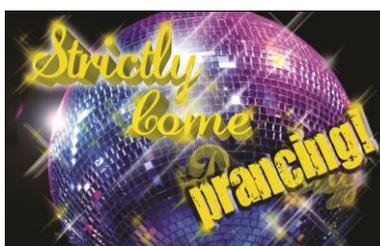
The judges, Molly Thompson, Gillian Dey and David Robinson from the Deeside Dance Centre and Mike Rumbles, were impressed by all the dancers and their scores reflected this. The audience votes made up 50% of the totals.

Host for the evening, and one of the prime movers in making the event happen, was Peter Ferguson of pdf Productions, ably assisted by Yazz from Northsound 1. They got proceedings going as Bruce and Tess Daly, right down to the dance routine the TV presenters perform. Dancers from the Deeside Dance Centre performed the Can Can and then it was over to the Strictly pairs who each performed a two-minute tango, with the exception of the winning pair who strayed into the Birdie Dance before returning to their tango.

"It was a fantastic evening and everything went just as it was planned," Peter said. He had worked with S6 pupils from Banchory Academy to plan the event. The pupils also set the tables, served dinner, sold raffle tickets and generally made sure everything ran as it should. One of the team, Alistair Randalls, also masterminded the stunning lighting effects.

The evening wouldn't have been possible without the help of so many people, from the dancers, their instructors, hairdressers, those who gave raffle and auction items and then bought them, everyone who attended, who sponsored the dancers – the list goes on.

Talks are under way about Strictly 2012, probably at a larger venue. More details as they become available.



Top: We are the champions!
Middle left: Jinx and Sandra the sumo dancer
Middle right: Deeside Dance Centre Can Can girls
Far left: The stunningly-lit Town Hall at the beginning of the evening

Fashion show 2011

An update from The Young 'Uns

THE Young 'Uns here with the latest on our events, namely the Fashion Show, now that Strictly Come Prancing has come and passed. Through continuing discussions with Neil Rae of Raemoir House Hotel and the Milton of Crathes we have confirmed that the event will take place on the lawn of Raemoir House Hotel on Sunday **12th of June at 3pm**. Neil has kindly agreed to give us the marquee at no cost and we hope that we can show our appreciation of this generosity by organising a fantastic event. We believe that by having it in the afternoon we'll be able to take full advantage of the warm weather and blue skies. This year's tickets will cost £20 for adults and £15 for children under the age of 15.

As many of us have exams throughout May and early June the planning is already in full swing with models having auditioned and been chosen. A key difference between what we were successful with in 2010 and our vision for this year is shown through our theme, Surf's Up. Currently, we meet with Ruth on a weekly basis and so far things are progressing swiftly. During Easter we are planning to send out all sponsorship, raffle, and shop liaison letters. Returning after Easter our models will be attending fortnightly rehearsals. An amazing number of volunteers showed their interest and we have had to limit ourselves to 50 young people in an attempt to exhibit the sophistication and class that the event will be centred around. After raising more than £3,000 in

2010 we have a strong desire to top the figure this year.

We hope that generous sponsorship will give us the opportunity to hold the event that we dream of, and are very willing to work very hard to organise.

The lessons that we took from last September have not been forgotten. As we strive to overcome any dilemmas this year, the thought of the 2012 Fashion Show will be with us. Though we plan on giving everything we can, this year remains a stepping stone to an annual event which will be a trusted source of funding.

We look forward to exceeding EVERYONES expectations in June and presenting you with a juicy figure of money.



What can you do to help?

All offers of any kind of help should go to Isla Elliott on isla123rio@hotmail.co.uk. Most important at this stage is finding sponsors and good quality raffle prizes. Later, offers of lifts to clothes fittings in Aberdeen will be welcome.

WHO are the Young 'Uns? They are a dedicated bunch of senior pupils at Banchory Academy who have taken the Forget-Me-Not Club to their hearts and have become passionate fundraisers for it. Strictly Come Prancing was their idea and they roped Peter Ferguson in to help. Many of them were there on the night doing a whole range of behind the scenes jobs. A few of them stopped long for them to have their picture taken with winning prancer and academy PE teacher, Fraser Munro. Their first event was the fashion show in 2010.



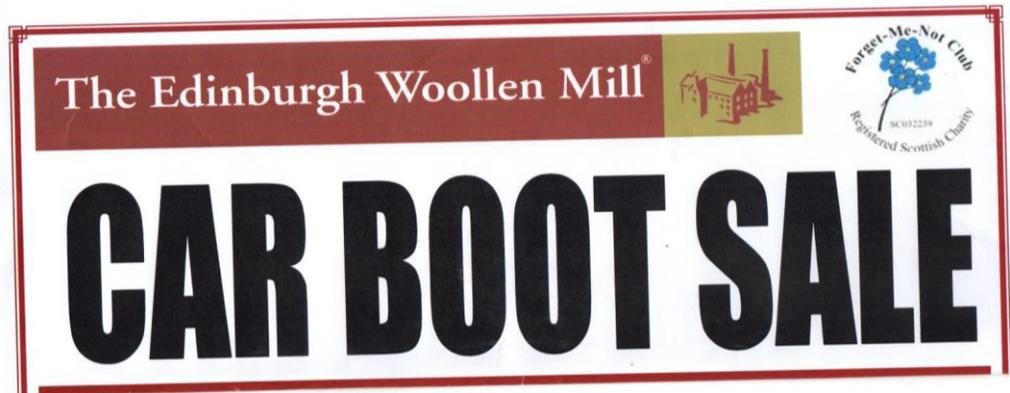
Money matters

Almost £400 was donated by customers at Michie's coffee shop in Union Street, Aberdeen to the Forget-Me-Nots in February when FMN was the charity of the month.

The textile bank at Drumoak was emptied recently and the club received a cheque for £99.

Tesco in Banchory has donated £300 to FMN after an approach by Brenda Peter, the store's charity champion.

If you have a large amount of textiles you would like to donate, FMN can arrange a special collection rather than have you fill the textile bank.



THE Banchory branch of the Edinburgh Woollen Mill is supporting the Forget-Me-Not Club. Manager Susan McLean has organised a car boot sale in the rear car park for Saturday, April 16 from 9am to 3pm.

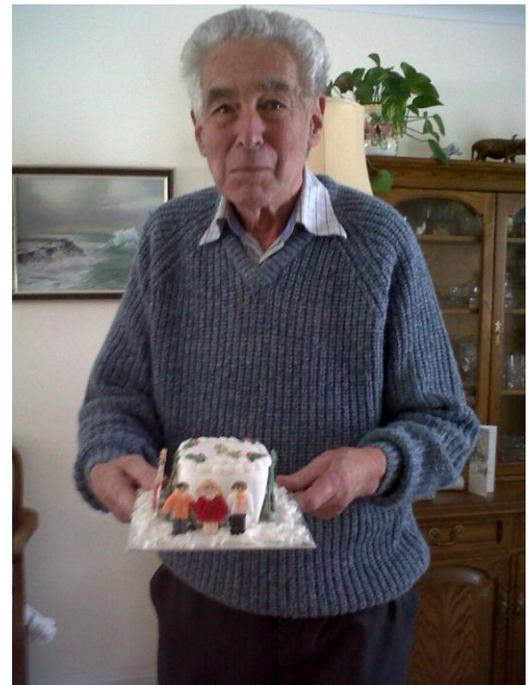
"There's room for 18 pitches and we're charging £6 for each of them. I've spoken to my head office who are very supportive and

have agreed that all the money should go to the Forget-Me-Nots," she said. "In addition they have said that anybody buying anything from the shop that day will receive a discount voucher for 5% off their next purchase in April." Pre-booking is essential so if you want a pitch, call Susan on 823231 as soon as possible. If the sale is a success, Susan would like to make it a regular monthly event in aid of FMN.

Something sweet

I had the pleasure of visiting the Aberdeen SugarCraft Guild recently, *writes Heather Morrison*. I was invited to tell them about the reactions to the cakes they donated to FMN at Christmas. I was able to tell them and indeed show photographs of the people who received their generous gift of Christmas cakes. They told me that in all the years they have given cakes they have seldom had even a letter of thanks! They were delighted to hear all about it first hand and asked lots of questions about the work of Forget Me Not. The members were busy that night creating amazing sugar Easter eggs.....all small works of art and I am sure they will be happy to come to Forget Me Not to demonstrate some of their skills!

Pictured right: Iain with his Christmas cake



AS A Church, we at Birse and Feughside decided we wanted to reach out to the wider community and looked for ways this could be done, *writes Dorothy Dinnie*. The Church Guild had already forged a link with the Forget-Me-Not Club through having clients, carers, staff and volunteers at Christmas for an afternoon's entertainment and a cup of tea and fine piece. We decided we could help fundraise and perhaps raise the profile of the club. In that first year, several members ran marathons, and arranged coffee and cake afternoons with Church members supplying cakes and helping on the day. During the year we helped raise money but also made many friends through visiting various groups. Jack Holt, our minister, was willing to entertain at different functions and Susan and Louise composed a CD of music for use at the groups. We decided after our year was up it had been so successful we would continue our partnership and several of our members continue as volunteers. We also enjoyed helping at the last three birthday parties. Two were held at Finzean House courtesy of the Farquarson family and the last birthday we held in Finzean Hall because of the awful weather but a very enjoyable day was had by all.