# **BURGH BUZZ**



#### **Burntisland's Free Community Magazine**

Previous issues at www.burghbuzz.org.uk

August 2021

Issue No 80



The summer sunshine, school holidays and the return of the shows has resulted in droves of visitors to Burntisland. Social distancing is virtually impossible in the crowds but on the fairground, strict entry and exit controls and sanitising of equipment on the rides and at stalls reduces the risk of Covid infection.

On the beach, although still crowded with sun worshippers, the fresh sea air also reduces risks. Long may the warm weather continue but whether enjoying the beach, the Links or just shopping in our wonderful High Street, continue to exercise caution and stay safe.

However, on the down side, perennial problems relating to car parking, litter, and public toilets need to be addressed to ensure the town remains attractive to visitors and minimises the impact on residents over the summer period.



# Civic Week needs your help!

After five years helping to organise Civic Week as chair and previously vice-chair (plus many more dressing up and shaking a bucket in the parade), myself and most of the current committee will be stepping down ahead of next year.

Although the last couple of years have been run as "virtual" events to keep things ticking over, it is hoped in 2022 a "real" Civic Week can take place in more normal circumstances.

Therefore we are looking for new volunteers who are passionate about the town to take the reigns and help organise the return of Civic Week next year.

Fortunately, Civic Week is in a good financial position to allow the future committee to

concentrate on organising activities and events.

A number of informal chats will be set up for folk to come along and find out what's involved from the existing committee. These will take place after the school holidays in August, September and October—keep an eye on our Facebook page for details.

If you enjoy organising, having fun and helping our wee community, please let us know—email burntislandcivicweek@gmail.com or get in touch via our Facebook page. Don't worry, we will still be around to answer questions and assist in a smooth transition to help keep this tradition going.

**Libby Donovan** 



## **BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE**

Featuring — Local issues :: organisations :: events :: people and more

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#### From the Editor

For the second issue in a row, the Buzz has focussed strongly on the considerable local opposition to the planning application by Forth Ports to effectively block off all public access to the Burntisland Docks area, including the breakwater. Very lucid arguments against the application are set out in the Community Council's letter which is reproduced in full on page 7. It is hoped that the authorities will take heed of the considerable public opposition to Forth Ports' application and refuse permission.

Now that warmer weather has arrived, schools are on summer break, very few families are holidaying overseas and the town has been inundated with visitors. The fun of the fair and Burntisland's natural amenities of the beach and the Links are proving to be irresistible attractions. Our High Street is heaving and outlets and stalls offering light meals and refreshments are thriving.

However, the huge influx of vehicles and indiscriminate parking generally, has once again emphasised the totally inadequate provision of parking facilities in the town. Additionally, the almost complete lack of enforcement action against illegal parking, even in residential areas, has resulted in displays of frustration and annoyance by local residents.

In the short term and to avoid a serious confrontation between drivers and residents, I appeal to the authorities to deploy additional enforcement officers to direct offending drivers to temporary car parks and take more direct action when considered necessary.

I also appeal to local residents to exercise tolerance and understanding during this extremely busy period.

In the longer term, the town requires more permanent parking facilities and more efficient public transport services.

Finally, I draw your attention to the front page appeal for new members of the Civic Week Committee. The crowning of the Summer Queen (and King) dates back many decades - even I was a humble page boy in the early fifties! Next year, we anticipate a return to a full programme of events involving the youth of the town. Why not get involved?

Bill Kirkhope

## **Burntisland's Burgh Buzz**

Next Issue: November 2021

**Copy Deadline: 15th October** 

Contributions to the Editor by email or post.

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#### **Your Community Council**

**Burntisland Community Council (BCC) is** elected every four years to ascertain, coordinate and express to local and public authorities, the views of the community which it represents and to carry out other functions in the interests of the community.

**Alex MacDonald** Chair: Brendan Burns Vice Chair: Fiona Watson Treasurer: Anne Smith Secretary:

#### **Members:**

Tim Hailey Jim Sheridan Brendan Burns Lynne Ralph **Yvonne Crombie** Ken Littlemore **Clare Slater** Carol McLeod

Elizabeth McLaughlan

#### **Contacts:**

Chair — Alex MacDonald 1 Craig Court, Burntisland. KY3 0AT t: 01592 873314 e: alex mac@btinternet.com

Secretary — Anne Smith burntislandcc@outlook.com

www.burntislandcc.org.uk www.facebook.com/BurntislandCC

### **Elected Fife Councillors' Availability**

**Councillor Lesley Backhouse** 

Telephone: 07540 677081

Email: Cllr.Lesley.Backhouse@fife.gov.uk

Lesley is happy for constituents to ring her on the above number or email.

#### **Councillor Gordon Langlands**

Telephone: 01592 874612

Email: Cllr.Gordon.Langlands@fife.gov.uk

Gordon does not hold surgeries but is happy for constituents to contact him to arrange to meet at a convenient time and place.

#### **Councillor Kathleen Leslie**

Telephone: 07714 778906

Email: Cllr.Kathleen.Leslie@fife.gov.uk

Kathleen can be contacted by telephone or email to arrange a visit or chat at a time of your convenience.

# **Community Council Bullets.....**

The Community Council holds its regular meetings on the second Friday of each month, at 7.00pm in Burntisland's Burgh Chambers.

However, meetings are instead being held online using Zoom videoconferencing for the foreseeable future. Members of the public are welcome to attend or to raise matters of interest to them—please contact the Secretary or Chairman if you wish to join.

A summary of issues raised during the last three meetings is set out below.

- We are very pleased to welcome Elizabeth McLaughlan as our newest member. She is a lawyer specialising in dispute resolution and commercial contracts.
- After a long gap with no Vice Chair, Brendan Burns has now been appointed to that position and will deputise for the Chair as and when required.
- We are very keen to devolve the management of Christmas Lights, so that they can be assured for many years to come. We are looking for individuals or groups who can take on this key role in keeping Burntisland vibrant and attractive during the winter months. Please contact our Secretary if it's something you would like to support.
- Like others, we have reviewed the plan by Forth Ports to restrict public access over an extensive area of the harbour and docks. The proposal is not acceptable to us and we have objected accordingly. Its risk analysis is inadequate; it fails to recognise the public right to roam; and it misrepresents the historical and environmental context.
- With the help of the Development Trusts Association Scotland, we have made some progress towards improving the boundary of the gap site opposite the Burgh Chambers. Plans are still at an early stage and are less comprehensive than we would have wished. However, it seems to be a step in the right direction.
- We contacted a large number of other Community Councils in Fife to ask about their experience of local policing. The results mirrored our own – particularly a national strategy which made it harder to deploy community officers. Those results were shared with Police Scotland and we are now receiving much more comprehensive reports than before.
- Essential work on the Burgh Chambers is still outstanding some 5 years after having been identified by Fife Council and 2 years after having been confirmed by our own architects. We have reminded Fife Council of the essential works and we expect to see some initial actions being taken later in August.
- There is a lot of concern about the new cycleway between Burntisland and Kinghorn. Part of it crosses a playpark and the original road markings are still in place so are no longer centred on the carriageway. We have relayed those concerns to Fife Council and are awaiting actions.
- We have vacancies still for up to three new members. We continue to meet online each month via Zoom. Members must be on the local electoral register but we seek always to represent a cross-section of our community in terms of age, gender, location, skills and so on. Please contact our Secretary or Chair if membership of the Community Council might be of interest.

# The Burgh Polis

from PC Trevor Farley



Welcome to the August edition of The Burgh Polis. I'm PC Trevor Farley, taking over from PC Daniel Hatch in the role of Community Police Officer alongside PC Stuart Kinnes. You may have seen me accompanying PC Kinnes on foot patrol around the town centre.

As of writing this I have been in the role since mid-April. I've completed a number of years' service in response policing in both Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy. I look forward to the different challenges and rewards that community policing in your area will bring.

If you see me out on foot patrol please do not hesitate to introduce yourself as hearing your views and feedback on what is happening within the ward will help PC Kinnes and I be as effective as possible. Now that we are slowly coming out of lockdown, your interactions will be the best way for us to apply policing in its most effective way. Through contact like this and hopefully community meetings, guidelines permitting, I look forward to interacting with you and serving Burntisland.

In relation to local policing and the easing of lockdown restrictions there has been a decrease in the number of disorder calls within the area but these have all been dealt with in a timeous and appropriate manner to ensure the safety of residents and visitors to Burntisland.

Despite reduced numbers, concerns have been brought to Police attention. PC Kinnes and I have been more of a presence in the area, which has been well received as well as our mobile CCTV unit being in and around the town centre as an overt deterrent to any disorder or criminality.

We have responded to residents' concerns in relation to speeding motorists in the town and have been out on active duties advising motorists in the first instances and "Pop up Bob" being deployed around the town also.

PC Kinnes and I have also been on patrol with Fife Council parking attendants in and around the High Street, this visible presence was effective and will be more of a regular fixture as we move towards more relaxing of Coronavirus restrictions.

There has been a marked decrease in the number of youths congregating at the Grange Farm which will come as a relief to Burntisland residents but there has been an increase in reports of youths congregating elsewhere which police, in conjunction with partner organisations will tackle.

Police are aware that the Burntisland Fair has made a return to the town as of 6 July 2021 for 6 weeks. Police already have measures in place to deal with the increased visitors and as a result the footfall within the town.

One last thing from us, as we are still dealing with the global COVID-19 pandemic can we again ask you all to be mindful of the most up to date guidelines from the Scottish Government. For more info visit:

#### www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19

As always, we will take this opportunity to remind the public that there are various ways of reporting crime.

Where persons are looking to remain anonymous, information can be provided via Crimestoppers:

Website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Telephone: 0800 555 111

When reporting crime to the Police, the public can use 101 to report non emergencies, 999 to report emergency situations and of course the email address below in order to contact us with concerns which are not ongoing at the material time:

BurntislandKinghornWesternKirkcaldyCPT @Scotland.pnn.police.uk

#### Volunteer Befriending: creating connections and friendships in Fife.

People affected by visual impairments are more likely to experience loneliness compared to the general population. This can result in poorer health outcomes and mental health issues.

**seescape** – the leading visual impairment charity in Fife, urgently requires Volunteer Befrienders to connect with clients, referred for this support.

**seescape** works with people living with visual impairments in Fife to enable them to live an independent life. Our community engagement programme, offers people the opportunity to connect with others, whether it's through social groups or chatting regularly with a Volunteer Befriender

**seescape** oversee all befriending partnerships to make sure people involved enjoy the experience, with ongoing support provided and regular monitoring.

There are many more people waiting on a Volunteer Befriender and we are looking for suitably motivated, friendly and empathetic people who can provide this much needed service in Fife.

Full training and support are provided, as well as the opportunity to engage with other volunteers through regular zoom meetings. Whilst telephone has been established as an effective method of contact throughout the pandemic, and will continue, it is hoped visits can take place when it is safe for face-to-face contact to resume soon.

If you, or someone you know is interested and wants to find out more contact Kirstie Henderson on Mainline: 01592 644979 / Ext: 2033 DD: 01592 649 883 M: 07946 288712 Email:

kirstie.henderson@seescape.org.uk

www.seescape.org.uk Facebook: seescapefife Twitter: @seescapefife



Are you a good listener? Would you like to make a real difference to a person's life?

#### Yes...then we want to hear from you

Volunteer Befrienders are urgently required in Fife. seescape, Fife's leading visual impairment charity, require more volunteers, to connect with our clients. Befriending is unique, it's about offering a friendly listening ear, providing contact and company to a person who may be lonely or isolated.

At present this is done over the telephone, but it is hoped visits can take place again in the future (this will be discussed with you at the start). Full training, support and PVG membership is provided, along with the opportunity to become part of a great team!

#### **GET IN TOUCH:**

CALL OR TEXT KIRSTIE ON: 07946 288712 DD: 01592 649 883 OFFICE: 01592 644 979 (ext: 2033) EMAIL: KIRSTIE.HENDERSON@SEESCAPE.ORG.UK WEBSITE: WWW.SEESCAPE.ORG.UK



## **Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association**

The TRA continues to work away in the background at making our town a better place for residents and visitors.

Summer is here in all its glory, which has drawn visitors to the town in droves, which in turn has made us look at the High Street and what we can do to improve ascetics of the street and make it more user friendly. We are now looking to purchase a few more benches and planters which, when sited, will make it difficult for car and van owners to park on the pavement but will still allow pedestrians free manoeuvrability.

Over the coming months you may also notice that replacement seagull proof bins are in use, which it is hoped will stop the airborne menace of seagulls accessing the litter bins.

The TRA are also involved in looking for ideas that can be translated into artwork as we have been offered the opportunity by the landowner of the old cinema site to paint a suitable mural onto the hoardings boards facing onto the High St. Please note the article below for details.

Iain Ralph

# **High Street Artwork – What would you like to see?**

Have you ever walked past the gap site on the High Street, where the old cinema used to be, and thought—wouldn't it be great if the community could use that space?

Members of Burntisland Community Council, Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association, Toll Community Centre and Burntisland Community Development Trust have been working with Development Trusts Association Scotland on the idea of using the site temporarily until the landowner's long-term plans come to fruition.

Permission has been agreed with the landowner to allow the community to install an art display on the perimeter fence and the group now want to hear your views about the theme and style of the artwork.

Plans are still in the early stages and your ideas will scope how and if the project progresses.

The survey will take about five minutes to complete and is open until Wednesday 11th August.

We hope that there will be opportunities for young people and the wider community to get involved in creating the artwork too, so please register your interest if you're keen to get involved.

If you've got any questions, please email karlene@dtascot.org.uk

Please follow this link or scan the QR code to access the consultation survey: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V8VCQSM





# **Burntisland Bowling Club**

At its deferred 2021 AGM in July, Alan Lascelles was elected Club President. He succeeds Margaret Farnes who is stepping down after several years of service, latterly seeing the Club through the last 15 months as it negotiated its way through the various stages of lockdown. Members recorded their appreciation of her sterling efforts.

Following elections, the Club's Management now includes Linda Nimmo (Treasurer), Richard Perry (Club Secretary) and Margaret Farnes (Match Secretary) along with Sheila Colville, Brian Fleming, Paul Graham, Frances McRae, Lorna Murdoch and Carol Wilson.

Although the Club's usual series of inter-club friendly matches has been cut back by lockdown, as restrictions ease, some have been arranged and the Club's own programme of internal competitions has been re-introduced.

However, the normal sequence of social events, including the annual fete, cabaret and discos, is not yet able to resume. Fortunately, Government grants during this difficult period have enabled the Club's Management Committee to ensure that its facilities and playing green have been properly maintained.

New members are very welcome, and the Club provides free tuition for its members. Once circumstances allow, the Club plans



to hold 'Come and Try' sessions so that individuals and families can come along and give the game a try, see the club's facilities and meet its members.

Keep up to date with the Club's activities at www.burntislandbowlingclub.co.uk Enquiries can be emailed to info@burntislandbowlingclub.co.uk.

Richard Perry

# Fight the Fence!

We waited for months: then in May, Forth Ports (FP) finally lodged an application for Listed Building Consent to fence off the harbour, after over 3,000 people signed the petition against it. It was validated by the Council on 14th June, with public comments needing to be received by 29th July. At the time of writing 116 objections have been lodged and we hope that this number will have risen by the time you read this. We expect a decision in September.

The first point to make is that FP claim they don't have to apply for Planning Permission because of a piece of legislation that states that activities involving "shipping" operations don't need it. They claim their fence is "permitted development". The thing is however that the shipping activity at Burntisland takes place only in the northern section of the harbour, the East Dock (North), so we contend that any proposal to fence off the whole complex should require them to submit a full planning application. We have made this point to Fife Council and those further up the line.

FP's main justification for their proposal is health and safety and they bizarrely claim that the fences they describe are the "minimum intervention" required to address the risks they identify. Having looked at each of these "risks", it's clear to us that every one of them either (a) doesn't exist, or (b) can be nullified by simple control measures which don't necessitate the public being deprived of access to the area by structures that wouldn't look out of place around a maximum security prison — totally incongruous for a historic site which has Listed Building Status!



Forth Ports' proposed perimeter fence to keep us all out!



Our suggestion - sensitive, appropriate and sufficient to reduce any risk of someone falling off the dock-side

One member of our group is a planning specialist and he has been able to clearly demonstrate how approval of FP's application would contravene:

- Fife Council's Local Development Plan
- the Third National Planning Framework
- the Scottish Planning Policy and
- the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (we're very disappointed that Historic Environment Scotland has not commented and can only assume it's due to staffing constraints).

#### Furthermore:

- the application treats three distinct areas the East Dock (North), the East Dock (South) (including the sea-wall) and the Western Peninsula ("dead boats" area) as one unit
- FP have been unable to produce any evidence to support their claim that the public need to be kept out on health and safety grounds
- they fail to recognise the harbour and its historic environment as a cultural asset
- they have failed to engage in proper community consultation (telling us what they are going to do doesn't count!)
- they have not properly considered realistic alternatives. The Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement states that:
- Scotland's land is a resource for all of its people and should contribute to economic, environmental and social goals within a human rights approach
- people should have confidence that there is a fair and balanced system of decision-making in relation to land and have the opportunity to be engaged in decisions relating to land that impact on them and their local, natural and manmade environments.

In our view, FP's application fails miserably on a host of fronts. Reading through their supporting statement you can almost sense the desperation! If approved (and a decision could be made as soon as 4th August) it will be a travesty and a betrayal of our community.

#### **Buy the Harbour!**

A community right to buy allows communities in Scotland to apply to register an interest in land and the opportunity to buy that land when it comes up for sale.

We have formed Burntisland Harbour Access Trust Ltd (BHAT), a company set up with the intention of registering the community's right to buy some, or all, of Burntisland Harbour. If we can get it registered and Forth Ports ever put the harbour, or any part of it, up for sale, the community will have first refusal.

To have this right formally acknowledged, a minimum of 10% of residents within the Burntisland Community Council area have to show their support. Do we have the money? No, but there would be plenty of time to explore funding opportunities if it ever did come up for sale. What a fabulous community resource we could create: recreational, environmental, educational, historical. Other communities around the country have bought out landowners – so can we!

To help the buy-out you can:

- sign the second petition at **chng.it/MX7VrRs6sB** and/or
- become a member of Burntisland Harbour Access Trust Ltd. Application form: tinyurl.com/BurntislandHAT

and return it email to BurntislandHAT@gmail.com or by post/person to Grain & Sustain, 135 High Street, Burntisland, Fife, KY3 9AA. Nothing to fear here by the way: a member's maximum financial liability is £1, which doesn't even need to be paid unless asked for.

Over 3,000 people signed the original petition, demonstrating the depth of feeling of a community faced with the real possibility of losing access to one of the town's most iconic and popular areas. Let's keep the momentum going – please get involved!

Andy Pay

#### **Burntisland Harbour Access Trust**

Reproduced below is the text of a letter from the Community Council objecting to the Forth Port's planning application to erect fences to block off public access to the Burntisland Docks area. This letter clearly argues against Forth Port's weak reasons for their proposals and hopefully, when considered with the many other objections which have been lodged, will persuade the planning authorities to deny the application.

### **Royal Burgh of Burntisland Community Council**

Forth Ports planning application 21/01493: objection



This application seeks to erect a fence which would exclude all public access to an extensive area of Burntisland harbour and docks. We consider that to be against the public interest and therefore wish to record our objection.

Overall, the application fails to identify any widespread or permanent need to manage access to the port estate. Its risk analysis is virtually non-existent; it misrepresents the environmental and historical context; and it fails to recognise the public right to roam.

#### Health and safety

The prime focus of the application purports to be health and safety. However, there is no meaningful report from any specialist in that field. Simply making the same comment time and again is not sufficient, whether it is from the applicants themselves or from their advisors.

No commercial enterprise is ever expected to eliminate risk entirely. For many decades it has been the standard practice to manage risk to the point where it is "as low as reasonably practicable". That is the principle currently encouraged and supported by the UK Health and Safety Executive.

By convention, risk is normally assessed as being the numerical product of likelihood multiplied by impact. The application gives a few examples of the potential impact of certain accidents but gives no indication at all of the likelihood of such events occurring. In the circumstances the applicants' assessment of risk is at best incomplete and at worst incompetent. The application therefore fails any ordinary test of reasonableness.

That is not a sound basis on which to give consent

#### **Environmental context**

Whilst we recognise the applicants' right to promote their own interests, there are several instances of exaggeration which serve only to mislead.

For example, page 6 of the Design Statement refers to "an increase in cargo activity associated with the Fife Ethylene Plant and offshore windfarms". There has been a single occasion in the past 20 years when an abnormal load destined for FEP has been landed at Burntisland. Their regular marine traffic is managed invariably via Braefoot Bay. There are no plans for any increase or change in those operational activities.

Similarly, photo 8 on page 10, together with its associated text refers to "an atmosphere of neglect". The photo is more than 10 years old. The building shown has been restored and fully occupied since 2010. Its current appearance and environmental context are shown more accurately in photo 14 on page 14.

For completeness, the application should also note that operational activity at the port remains below what it was when Alcan and the Royal Navy were principal users. It should also note a change in the profile of activity with an increasing focus on leisure craft at the recently-expanded facilities of Burntisland Sailing Club.

#### **Historical context**

We note the applicants' acknowledgement on page 4 that "installation of the new fences will change the current character and setting of listed buildings and structures". We are aware also of the current expectations of Historic Environment Scotland. In particular, their polices HEP 3 and HEP 4 say that "Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place."

It is clear from the independent objections already lodged that there is an abundance of alternatives which have been neither identified nor explored by the applicant.

Chief among those is the option to erect temporary barriers at specific locations as and when appropriate. That seems to us to strike the right balance between the public right of access, as enshrined in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, and the constraints placed upon responsible landowners.

The application identifies properties at four locations which are all listed Grade B or C. The application should also show that those properties are coterminous with the Burntisland Links Conservation Area. Taken together, it is clear that the applicants' proposal would have a deleterious effect much wider than the land which is under their immediate ownership.

Overall, this application gives a distorted view of any reasonable definition of risk; it pays insufficient heed to the wider historical and environmental context; and it fails to respect the principles of the lawful right to roam.

We would therefore request that the application be refused.

Sgd. Alex MacDonald

Chairman

# **Burntisland Primary School**

It's been a busy last few weeks here in **Primary 1** and we can hardly believe it's time for us to move to P2 already! We have been finishing up our learning about Under The Sea and as the Summer approaches it's been fantastic to reflect on our learning and see how far we have all come in Literacy and Numeracy on our own personal learning journeys. We also wrote a song which helped us with our learning about Emotion Works and will hopefully, have that up on the School Facebook page. We hope everyone has a lovely holiday.

**Primary 2's** topic has been the weather this term and they have been learning about different types of clouds, the water cycle and thunderstorms. They have also been writing their own weather reports.

We have also been working on our imaginative writing and have been writing imaginative stories with exciting vocabulary and connectives.

This term we have been exploring patterns, fractions, multiplication and division within our Maths and Numeracy.

**Primary 3** have enjoyed learning all about Minibeasts this term. We enjoyed learning the names of different minibeasts and finding out about their various characteristics. We understand the importance of different minibeasts and have tried to encourage them to visit our garden by making Bug Hotels. In class we have been reading James and the Giant Peach and have enjoyed listening to the adventure of James and the other characters in the book.

We have been learning about our emotions - to name our emotions and look at what behaviours are a trigger. We have also learnt about the body sensations linked to our different emotions and can talk about and describe the different things that we can do that can help us to regulate our

There have been two different topics in **Primary 4** this term with P4Si and P4H doing Vikings. P4Sc did a Celts topic. All three classes were involved in varying construction activities linked to their topics. In Maths and Numeracy we have covered data handling and balancing equations and in literacy we have been learning to use direct speech and have included this in our writing.

This term, **Primary 5** have been learning about the Industrial Revolution. We loved seeing the boards around the town that gave us an idea of what Burntisland was like during this time. Over the last few weeks we have been focussing on the Euros as a mini topic - the children have been really motivated by this. We completed imaginative writing tasks, created group tables to track the results, designed our own football strips, created our own theme tune on the computers and designed our own Burntisland style logos.

In Numeracy, we have been learning about multiplication, division, fractions of numbers and equivalent fractions. For writing, we have been taking notes and using our notes to create our own texts. We've enjoyed participating in athletics events and developing skills in rugby and

This term, **Primary 6** have been learning about the geography and culture of Japan. They have investigated famous landmarks, the impact of earthquakes and theatre as well as comparing their school experience to the experience of children in Japan. In Numeracy, fractions, decimals and percentages have been our focus and we have learned how to find percentages of amounts. It has been a very busy term and all the children in Primary 6 have earned a very well deserved holiday!

Finally, this term **Primary** 7 have been preparing for the end of our time at Burntisland Primary School. As we could not perform the usual end of P7 show, instead we had lots of fun auditioning, rehearsing and then filming our performance. This ensured we could still have the end of school traditions, simply in a slightly different way.

We have enjoyed taking part in our transition activities, where we have had the chance to meet our Guidance Teachers and classmates through online meetings. This has ensured we are ready for our exciting next step onto high school.

**Emma Clunie** Depute Headteacher



# 775 (Burntisland) Squadron Air **Training Corps**

It has been a long 15 months since the squadron last had a parade evening, but we have been using MS Teams to hold virtual parade evening.

Scotland and Northern Ireland Region has changed. So, 775 (Burntisland) Squadron are now part of Central Scotland wing (CScot Wg)

Using Teams has allowed cadets to continue with their classification training, 2 cadet NCOs were also able to complete their method of Instruction course and were two of the first cadets in SE Scotland Wing to be awarded their instructor cadet lanyards.

At present the staff at the squadron are working hard preparing the squadron for a return to face-to-face activities, hopefully in mid-August.

The squadron is recruiting cadets and staff, if you are interested then please contact me by email using the following email address: oc.775@rafac.mod.gov.uk

Also, over this period the Wing structure in The Air Training Corps offers cadets and staff the opportunity to gain training, life skills and qualifications. There is also the opportunity to take part in Air Cadet camps, flying and gliding, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, adventure

training, sports, shooting, music, training and education.

If you are interested, then check out the Royal Air Force Air Cadets web site.

Mark Hall



# Over 70s **Christmas** Lunch

The organising committee are optimistically anticipating that an easing of Covid restrictions will allow them to organise the annual Christmas treat for the over 70s towards the end of the year.

A provisional reservation for Saturday 4th December has been made with the Kingswood Hotel. Watch this space!

Frances Allan

# **Burntisland Playgroup**

The term from Easter to Summer is always a really busy term and usually tinged with a bit of sadness as we say goodbye to some of our children. This year for the first time we have 10 children moving on to school after spending the past two years in our group. We also are saying goodbye to 2 more children as they move on to nursery. As always we are sad to see them go, however we are proud to see how confident and competent they have become during their time with us. We consider ourselves very lucky that we have been a part of each child's care and education and we wish all of them good luck in the next stage of their lives.

We can all look back on the past year and a half as one of the most surreal experiences in our lives and certainly not one anyone could have planned for. All our families have had to adapt to so many new "rules" and guidelines and we would like to thank our families for their support during this time. We are very thankful that we haven't had any cases of COVID-19 in our group, which has I'm sure been due to the hard work everyone has put into our infection control procedures.



Over the past term we have been learning about growing and caring for plants, also observing the life cycle of a butterfly. We have strawberries ripening in our garden and apples just beginning to grow on our apple tree. Unfortunately the holidays have come too soon for us to enjoy the fruits of our labours! The children's own interests have focussed on "schools", which has been very helpful during this transitional time before moving on to school or nursery.

Fundraising has been very difficult during COVID-19, however our children recently completed a sponsored obstacle course and walk round the Toll Park four times, which raised a massive £850. We really appreciate all the donations the families managed to collect.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new children in the August term who will be joining the children we have remaining in playgroup for their pre-school year. Hopefully the new term will bring a bit more normality to playgroup as we ease out of lockdown.

We have a few changes to our staff team for the new term. After nearly 28 years at playgroup I have decided to retire, although I will still be on hand as a relief practitioner in case of any staff absences. It has been fantastic working at playgroup over the years and I have made some great friendships during my time here. It is a pleasure working with children, there is always something to smile about and they keep you happy, even in sad times. I am looking forward to spending more time with my



husband and family though and I will always support the playgroup, which is such a caring, nurturing setting for pre-school children.

Our lunch person Claire is also leaving after doing a fantastic job over the past year of providing our children with delicious healthy home cooked meals. We are in the process of employing a new lunch person, so our delicious home cooked meals will still continue next term. Rebecca will step up into the manager/senior practitioner position, so I am leaving the group in good hands.

We still have some spaces available for our August 2021 term, so if you are interested in a place at playgroup please email **burntislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk** for an application pack, or any information you require. The playgroup hours are 8.15am to 2.15pm, Monday to Friday term times.

Burntisland Playgroup offers quality childcare to children from 2 years 10 months until school age. We are in partnership with Fife Council so are able to offer 24 funded places from the term after your child's 3rd birthday. We also offer fee paying places from 2 years 10 months until your child is eligible for funding, if spaces are available. We follow the same curriculum as nursery (Curriculum for Excellence), where children have opportunities for learning through a wide variety of activities and resources both indoors and outdoors. Applications can be placed on our waiting list from birth onwards, so it's never too early to apply for a place.

Jenny Roxburgh Manager





# **Burntisland Heritage Trust**

## "Portrait of a Town: Burntisland through the Ages"

After a long wait Burntisland Heritage has once again opened its doors to present an extensive illustrated exhibition showing the town and surrounding area from earlier times to the present day.

The exhibition comprises a variety of over 100 images displaying the town's rich built, social, industrial and natural heritage. The exhibition is based on three heritage trails which cover the town and the surrounding area.

The display is a continuation of summer exhibitions which have been bringing the community together - attracting many visitors from the town, region, country and overseas for more than two decades.

The exhibition is open from 1.00 to 4.00pm on Fridays and Saturdays up to Saturday 28 August 2021.

Admission to the exhibition is free. Covid restrictions will apply.



# The Big GREEN Market Burntisland

The Big GREEN Market – Burntisland's biggest and greenest – community market opened its doors for the first time in early July, raising over £800 in one weekend for local community groups (and helping the residents of Burntisland finally clear out those long-stuffed cupboards!).

The Big GREEN Market is the brainchild of Jo Hobbett and Nicki Francis, who work with a small team of other volunteers to bring the town this unique shopping experience.

"We are passionate about sustainability and pre-loved treasure and wanted to give the people of Burntisland an opportunity to buy secondhand bargains, while raising money for community groups" says co-founder Nicki Francis.

"The local area is buzzing with businesses, artists, crafters and creators who keep sustainability at the heart of what they do. We wanted to give them a chance to reach a wider audience, and what better way to do it than create a happy, positive and inspiring two day market every month?" adds Jo Hobbett.



Judging by the success of July's market, the event will be a popular addition to Burntisland's monthly calendar. More than 200 people visited over the two days – all strictly adhering to Covid regulations – and raising over £800 for the town.

The two day event takes place on the first Friday and Saturday of every month. Friday's session is all about the charity shop vibes, where shoppers can purchase pre-loved clothing, household items, books and so much more. On Saturdays, shoppers can still tap into the second hand bargains, and buy incredible products from local, sustainable, businesses like JoJo Co. Candles and Bumble Bee Creative.

August's Big GREEN Market will fundraise for the Burntisland Primary School Parent Council – who are raising funds for play equipment and September is focusing on fundraising for the local food bank.

"We want the Big GREEN Market, Burntisland to benefit everybody in the town – and beyond. We believe the market goes a long way to helping the town reduce its carbon footprint, while giving local businesses a chance to get in front of customers after more than a year of restrictions" says Jo. The next market dates are:

#### August:

Friday 6th August 12 noon- 4pm Saturday 7th August 10 am- 1 pm September:

Friday **3rd September 12 noon – 4pm** Saturday **4th September 10 am- 1pm** 

Abi Cornwall

#### Virtual Civic Week 2021

Continuing uncertainty over restrictions back in Spring meant that the committee took the decision to once again run a smaller "Virtual" Civic Week, similar to last year with the addition of a couple more events.

The Shop Window Competition returned to the programme this year, as the traditional start of Civic Week on the opening Friday. Based on the "Heroes and Happiness" theme, this was judged by Brendan Burns and Yvonne Crombie who represented 2021 Community Award winners Burntisland Emergency Action Team (BEAT).

First prize was claimed by Burger Island thanks to their painted windows of heroes, ahead of Cards & Flowers and Reflections, with Rankin Funeral Directors taking the committee's choice. Thanks to all the businesses who took part.

On what would have been our usual parade day during Civic Week, the committee

Control of the contro

wanted to recognise the contribution made by BEAT to the local community.

Yvonne, Brendan and Ken were on hand at the Hub to receive a banner and afternoon tea from the committee to mark BEAT's achievements. They also displayed their certificate awarded by the Community Council.

A big thank you to the many volunteers who have helped out in the community with BEAT since it was formed in March last year.

The Treasure Hunt was well received again this year. Children used our map to help find 26 Superhero posters around the town, which spelled out a phrase - well done to everyone who completed the challenge!

Unfortunately the Sandcastle competition and other "virtual" events didn't receive as many entries as last year, however this is understandable as circumstances are



different to 12 months ago. The Civic Week Quiz at the Sands Hotel—narrowly won by *Universally Challenged*—and the Craigencalt Coastal Walk were back on the programme and were both well attended.

To round off Civic Week—on the second Saturday, a few characters made their way along the streets to bring some happiness to the town. The superheroes were busy but Spongebob made a return, along with Stuart the Minion, Mr Blobby, Princess Belle, and a daft clown. It was great fun and our cast definitely made people smile!









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It's been a busy end of term here in Starley Hall School. Our senior pupils have been working hard to complete their qualifications including SQA National Awards. In line with current guidance, we were pleased to be able to ease restrictions within our school. Our complementary therapist recommenced hands-on massage which has benefited our young people's wellbeing. We were delighted to be able to reintroduce our popular Breakfast Clubs at the beginning of June as these provide a nurturing transition into the school day.

#### Health and Wellbeing

On our first day back after our June break, we all enjoyed an activity day! There were several outings on offer with most young people choosing to go to Go-Ape, Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre, or a train ride to Edinburgh. A fun day was had by all with lots of lovely memories made.



#### Tuck Shop

One of our maths classes introduced a school tuck shop in May which was very popular with adults and young people. Customers were encouraged to make healthier choices using our traffic light system. The fresh chilled pineapple and watermelon quickly sold out!



#### **Litter Picking**

Over several weeks, the dog walking group enjoyed exploring the local walking routes but noticed how much litter was on the coastal path. They decided to start a clean-up project and purchased some litter pickers. Over a few sessions, they collected several bags of rubbish. Fantastic effort!



#### **Bushcraft**

Bushcraft has given our young people an opportunity to develop their team working skills. Making the most of our local environment, the group worked together to make different shelters in the woods using the materials around them and were taught how to use flint and steel to start a controlled fire on the beach.



#### Hospitality

The Hospitality classroom has been a hive of activity this term. Kyle opted to try his hand at making one of the latest recipes to go viral on TikTok - a breakfast sandwich. The young people have also been learning how to reduce fat in mince-based dishes and how to adapt recipes to suit individual requirements.

#### **Enterprise**

The school's annual summer stall was a great success with young people selling the

fantastic items they have been making in school over the past few months in art, STEM, and project work. Various plants were on sale that had been carefully grown from seed including flat-leaf parsley, chilli pepper plants as well as hand-decorated pots of colourful marigolds. Other items on sale were beautiful glass-fused necklaces, lip balms made from essential oils, semi-precious stone pendants, soap, tie-dye t-shirts, and keyrings. The sale raised an amazing £155.35 in aid of cancer research charities.



#### Graduations

Several of our young people took part in a graduation ceremony to mark the end of our school year. The young people enjoyed watching a slideshow of their highlights and achievements over the past year. Although it has been a challenging year, we all appreciated looking back over our many positive experiences and celebrating the young people's progress.

#### **Nurturing School**

We have almost completed our two-year journey on The National Nurturing Schools Programme to embed a nurturing culture within our school. This is based around the Six Principles of Nurture which our young people would like to explain in their own words that this means.

- 1 We all learn in our own way and in our own time
- 2. Adults help us to feel safe in school
- 3. We are valued as individuals
- 4. What we say matters
- 5. What we do tells you how we feel
- 6. Adults help us when things change

A nurturing ethos drives all aspects of our school life and we recognise positive relationships are at the heart of what we do. We are on track to apply for the National Nurturing School Award in the coming weeks.

We are looking forward to a fun and relaxing summer break to recharge our batteries for the start of the new academic year in August. We wish you all a safe and happy summer!

Tracy Duffin
Principal Teacher



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# 11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group



The Beavers have had a busy term on the lead up to summer with now being allowed to meet outdoors under the current restrictions. We have welcomed 13 new Beavers into the section and 10 Beavers are moving up to Cubs after the summer. The children have been very busy earning different badges which has led to 9 Beavers earning their Bronze Chief Scout awards which is a great achievement!

The children have enjoyed exploring the local area up the Binn Village and woodland areas. They did a hike along the coastal path to the waterfall, safely lighting fires and ending with Monday Beavers making sandcastles at the beach and Thursday Beavers having a campfire in the rain.

Shirley Kent and Simone Thomson, Beaver Scout Leaders











The Cubs have had a busy term outside making the most of the dry weather and all the great things we have on our doorstep. This included games on the Links, Fire lighting on the beach and walks at Kinghorn Loch to look at the changes in nature from when we last visited in April. Everyone definitely noticed the change in the geese that had gotten so much bigger in five weeks.

We also spent some time at Fordell Firs Scout Activity Centre taking part in archery, the challenge course, grass sledging and the low ropes challenge. We also managed a sausage sizzle and campfire at Wemyss Firs. So although we haven't managed to camp for a while now we still got to enjoy all that we get from camp except from sleeping over.

Michelle Paton, Cub Scout Leader



# **SCOUTS**

#### **Monday Scouts**

It has been great to be back meeting face to face since Easter with our Monday Scouts and we've made full use of the superb resources we have around our fantastic town. Our Scouts improved their fire lighting and continued to develop knife, axe and saw skills along with how to use these responsibly. We celebrated the Patron Saint of Scouting when we took part in the Kirkcaldy District St Georges Day celebration and also did lots of activities while camping at home as part of the District St George camp.

Our Monday Scouts showed their community spirit while earning their Environmental Conservation Badge by carrying out a large litter pick at Kilmundy Woods, they filled a huge amount of rubbish bags as well as clearing larger objects as well, fantastic work from all involved but if we all took our litter home or disposed of items responsibly it would make such a difference on our local area and elsewhere. Thank you to Fife Street Champions for their support with this.

Other activities we did this term were a day at Fordell Firs where they scaled the climbing tower, archery, and did tomahawk axe throwing. We also walked around 12 miles of the coastal path to visit World War One and Two coastal gun batteries, went to St Bridget's Kirk medieval church, and went inside the Monks Cave which was used by those waiting to travel to Inchcolm Abbey. During the hike our Monday Scouts also cooked their lunch on hike stoves and put into use their map reading and navigation skills. A truly busy and fun filled term earning lots of badges and developing traditional and new Scouting skills.

**David Laing (Monday Scout Leader)** 







#### **Thursday Scouts**

Once again we spent the entire term in the great outdoors. We worked hard on our environmental conservation badge, which we finished off with a litter pick on the Beach, thanks to the Beach House for generously supplying the litter pickers for the evening.

Other highlights from the term include an afternoon of activities at Fordell Firs and our end of term at Wemyss Fir when we invested 5 new scouts, took part in pioneering, camp fire and sausage sizzle, prizes were handed out for the camp golf competition that we held earlier in the term. A truly memorable evening.

Barrie Kent, Thursday Scout Leader







# **EXPLORERS**

Explorers have been out and about around town the last few months making the most of the wonderful resources we have in the town. They took part in a district wide St Georges virtual camp with other beavers, cubs, scouts and explorers from across the Kirkcaldy district. They have been using Kilmundy woods to

cook some expedition food in preparation for Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, a photo challenge around town, a small hike around the Binn foraging for item making some nettle and pine tea. We had some patrol challenges around scouting skills, knots, first aid and fire lighting, the winning patrol got to choose their new patrol name. And had a small campfire, snacks and games to finish off the term.

**Group Scout Leader Kerry Laing** 





11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group

Group Scout Leader: Kerry Laing Tel: 07517374459 Email: 11thfife@gmail.com

District Commissioner: Dick Cook Tel: 07753121909 Email: richard.cook@kirkcaldydistrictscouts.org.uk

Scottish Registered Charity Number: SC031394

# Loving Fife and boosting the economy

Louisiana man Jason Felder and his family are loving spending time in the beautiful Kingdom of Fife.

Jason is just one of 30 overseas visitors from ExxonMobil sites around the world who are bringing their highly specialised expertise to Fife Ethylene Plant's £140m upgrade.

And they are also helping to give a boost to the Fife economy as they are living as well as working here.

The Machinery Job Pack Leader and his family, who live in Baton Rouge, are staying in a luxury caravan at Pettycur Bay Holiday Park, alongside colleagues from Singapore and Belgium.

Steven Wallace, sales manager at the park, said the influx of visitors, who were all fully tested for Covid before being allowed to enter the country, have been well received.

"The boost the ExxonMobil staff and contractors has given to our business has been great and at the moment we are pretty much fully booked. They started coming in during lockdown and gave us a revenue stream we wouldn't otherwise have had.

"I live here and when I have been out at the local shops they have commented that the extra business is helping them too."

As Jason was going to be away from home for several months the family decided to come with him.

Wife Gina, daughters Lilyanna and Cecilia (both 11) and son Briar (7), have now been in Scotland for over a month, with the first 10 days spent quarantining.

"It was a good time for the children to travel, in terms of their schooling," explained Gina.

"The school authorities told us they would learn just as much travelling with us as they would in the classroom.

"We've been making sure they've been learning lots about Scotland and its history, and we've managed to do quite a bit since the travel restrictions were lifted. It's really beautiful here



and we are having a lot of fun.

Tom Courts, owner of the acclaimed butchers' shop in Burntisland High Street, has welcomed the additional business.

"We have had a lot of dealings with the ExxonMobil visitors, who we noticed because of their accents," he said.

"We have had some good banter with the Americans who have been loving our prize winning haggis and steaks as well as breakfast packs. It has given our business a good wee boost."

And at Romano's Fish Bar in Burntisland, staff have also noticed an upturn in trade.

"We have been busy with deliveries to the caravan park over the past few weeks," said one.

The workers, who are all subject to strict Covid safety measures on site, have also been making good use of the neighbouring supermarkets, takeaways, dry cleaners and other food and household stores.

Jason concluded: "Everyone has been so friendly and made us feel very welcome.

"It's like a big United Nations here at Pettycur with all the different nationalities and we've made lots of friends among them as well as the hundreds of local employees and contractors working at FEP."

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# St Serf's Scottish Episcopal Church

As we spend another summer affected by Covid restrictions our thoughts and prayers go out to the many people who have been ill, lost loved ones or faced poverty as a result of the pandemic. It's also helpful, though, to focus on the positive effects the pandemic has undoubtedly had on the community. Shops and cafés are open for business again and there's an optimistic buzz about the burgh! Faced with new challenges, people are finding innovative and interesting ways of being Burntisland and this includes our churches.

We are (almost) getting used to sitting 2 meters away from each other in church and singing through a mask but we do miss gathering after the service for a cuppa and a blether. We also miss being able to share hospitality but are currently looking at how we can do that in a different way. Our outreach at the moment is via the small open space on the corner of Cromwell Road and Ferguson Place where our notice board is situated. Our prayer ribbon cross at Easter was well used and is now permanently in the church to remind us (if we needed any reminding) to pray for our local community.

St Serf's is fortunate to have local artist Susan Smith in the congregation and she generously offered to use her talent to create a large mural which is now displayed on the outside wall of the church



The creation of a mural

on the Cromwell Road side. As you know, Episcopalians love a celebration so we invited our bishop, the Right Reverend Ian Paton, to lead our worship on Pentecost Sunday and to dedicate Susan's painting afterwards. We gathered outside (or rather

stood at an appropriate distance from one another!) immediately after the service and Bishop Ian blessed the painting, Susan and all of us in the community of Burntisland. You can see the painting ("Meditation on a Rainbow") until the autumn when it will be moved inside to prevent weathering.

Our last significant event was a celebration of St Servanus or Serf, whose feast day fell on the 1st of July. We know little of this 6th century man of God except that he was the Abbot of Culross and educated St Mungo (Kentigern), who founded Glasgow. He was open-minded, openhearted, cared for his community and shared God's love with the people of Fife. Most of all he understood the power of prayer to change lives. Following his example, we have placed a box of prayer envelopes in our outreach corner so that anyone can take one and spend a quiet moment somewhere sharing their thoughts with God.

May God bless you this summer and always as we move forward to the time when we can be together without restrictions of any kind.

**Rev. Carol Latimer** 



## **Calling all knitters!**

You may remember that last year St Serf's displayed a large cascade of poppies for Remembrance Day. It was by no means all our own work as many of the poppies had been provided by Burntisland's knitters. It would be marvellous to make that display even bigger this year and staycations give us a great opportunity to get the knitting needles out.

The instructions can be found on the church Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StSerfsSEChurchBurntisland

Or ask any church member to get you a copy of the pattern. You can drop off your finished poppies any time at St Serf's Church, Ferguson Place.

## **Burntisland Parish Church**

Have you walked the "Fife Coastal Path"? There's a programme on BBC Alba about it and it shows Fife at its best. I've walked it twice, once when we came to Fife and then again 6 years ago; well worth it, we've a beautiful coastline! The first programme showed Culross and in the background I caught sight of the Provost's Lamp: now why can't Burntisland's Provost's Lamp (with its Ship crest) and Kinghorn's (with its Castle crest) be returned to our localities? Add to that all the memorabilia and regalia which should, I think be held and shown off locally!

We've had Rev David Redmayne as Locum for the past 2 years and as he's stepped down to enjoy his "2nd retirement", we'd warmly thank him for all his work and wish him well. As from 19th July, Rev Eileen Miller will be Locum Minister (The Locum Minister looks after worship and Pastoral services and the Interim Moderator looks after the Kirk Session) of Burntisland Parish Church of Scotland.

Eileen served for 7 years as Minister of Glenrothes St Margaret's Parish Church of Scotland and we look forward to being enriched and encouraged by her Ministry.

As from Sunday 18th July there will be weekly worship in the Parish Church at 10am followed by livestreamed worship shared between Burntisland, Erskine and Kinghorn Churches (BEK and call) at 11.15am.

The BEK partnership of Churches is making progress and is a realistic response to the financial and ministry stringencies of the Churches nationally and locally: we are better working together to further Christ's cause and Kingdom!

Rev Jim Reid, Interim Moderator of Burntisland parish Church of Scotland

# St Joseph's Church

Greetings to everyone from the parish of St Joseph's. At the time of writing, the restrictions we have been living under are about to ease yet again, a sign that some kind of normality is returning. We still don't know what effects this will have on the numbers able to attend our services, so in the meantime we will continue to use Eventbrite. If you wish to be sure of a place in Church, please reserve a place on the St Joseph's Church Burntisland page on Eventbrite – there's a link on the parish website also. It is hoped that our groups and organisations will be able to resume their activities very soon.

Please note that our parish email address has changed to: priest.stjosephsburntisland@staned.org.uk

A weekly Bulletin is sent by email. If parishioners would like to

be added to this please send us an email.

The other news is that the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh has appointed Fr James as a member of the Metropolitan Chapter of Canons – his official designation is now The Very Reverend James Canon Tracey. It is a great honour for him and for the parish of St Joseph's. His installation will take place on the 14th of December at St Mary's RC Cathedral, Edinburgh.

Keep safe and well and take good care. God bless you.

Fr James Tracey



#### The Erskine Church

A sense of freedom. It's certainly the perfect phrase to describe what's happening in Burntisland right now. The shows, sunny days, lots of visitors and long summer evenings. Keeping everyone safe remains paramount and there are crowds about, so please take care and make sure you're comfortable with your surroundings.

You probably won't associate churches with new ideas or freeing things up. Nonetheless we're making steady progress in our BEK partnership, it's bringing closer co-operation between our two Parishes and Erskine. Burntisland Parish will be welcoming a new Locum minister very soon, Rev. Eileen Miller. It'll be great to work closely alongside Eileen and move things further forward.

It's possible to be free again and sing during church services, albeit from behind masks. Erskine holds a 40-minute service each Sunday at 10am, you'd be very welcome to join us and the great news is that all 3 BEK churches will have weekly services from now on. Our joint Zoom service follows every Sunday at 11.15am. We're on Zoom, Facebook Live (Burntisland Parish's page) and the video appears later on YouTube. It's well-worth a look!

A word of thanks to our local dog-walking community. One of life's few freedoms during lockdown has been getting daily exercise with the dog around Burntisland Links, beach or woods. They're a great bunch of people and I've enjoyed some super chats (socially-distanced) which have really lifted my spirits.

Each church celebrated Communion in-person on Sunday 27th June, it was a lovely symbol of our shared witness that we managed that across 3 congregations. Mind you trying to open up those tiny pre-packed containers with bread and wine proved a daunting challenge! Who says churches never work together or embrace shared freedoms?

Serious stuff. The Bible says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3.17, NIV). I think this verse is reminding us that true freedom and peace of mind are revealed to us in Jesus, once that's our mindset we are free to enjoy the blessings of everyday life.

The eagle-eyed amongst you may even have spotted local ministers having coffee together in our super cool High Street cafés once again. I'm always happy to enjoy a flat white or latte, I was going to say caffè e latte but we're not allowed to speak Italian after the Euros final!

No Games Day snacks again in Erskine's halls this year, I hope it won't be too long before we can open up once more for one of our legendary coffee and pancakes mornings. Look out for news about the restart of our Monday Association meetings after summer.

Finally, please keep a close eye on Erskine's Facebook page for the latest updates. Have a great break and enjoy just a little more freedom, whilst always being careful.

Rev. Alexander Ritchie



# **Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club**

Whilst still unable to meet face to face as a Club, we move into a new Rotary year looking to continue our drive to become a modern, flexible, community supporting organisation. To this end we have purchased technologically advanced kit to facilitate a mixture of meeting types, allowing members to attend forthcoming meetings either in person or virtually whilst giving us the opportunity to invite interesting and exciting contributors from anywhere in the world.

Past President Roger Diggins gave a summary of his year in office at the Handover Meeting reflecting on the fact that his year, whilst at no time face to face with members, had proved to be fruitful and supportive. Incoming President David Kelley thanked him for his remarkably successful efforts in dreaming up lots of ideas to enthuse members and committees to ensure the Club was focussed on advancing our community work during entertaining and interesting virtual meetings.

The latest fundraising effort in June was the holding of a further Yard Sale event which, despite poor weather was successful in

raising some £1,600 to go to Victoria Radio Network.

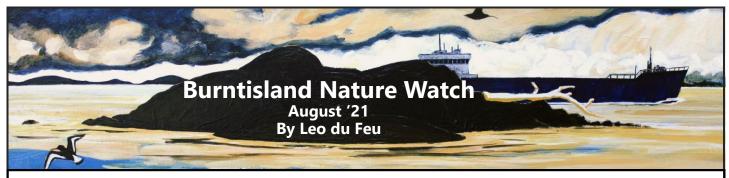
Many of our plans for the schools i.e. RotaKids, Rotary Rambles and Primary Schools Quiz are on hold due to holidays and Covid restrictions which, hopefully, will end soon. However, the joint clothing bank New4U with Forth Bridges Rotary is consistently delivering to referrals throughout the district from Rosyth to Kirkcaldy.

The Rotary Club of Burntisland & Kinghorn will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary throughout the year culminating in our Charter Dinner at the Kingswood Hotel in June 2022.

As always, we are looking for new members who have an interest in community assistance in all forms and who take pleasure in being part of a local, national and international organisation. If interested contact Secretary Ros Moffat

ros.moffat13@gmail.com or any Rotarian.

**Derek Thomson** 



Have you seen the Links? Two years ago there was short mown grass with even daisies and clover often chopped off in their prime. Now the hilly section is a wonder of wildflowers and grasses. Scores of Garden Grass-veneer moths scatter in front of my feet, dozens of Redtailed bumblebees drink nectar, spectacular solitary bees the size of my pinkie nail flit across the pink flower flourishes of Yarrow. Sit awhile among the plants. How many species do you think might be growing there? Today I stopped for a good look and came away with a list of 18 wildflowers. Eighteen!



Here's what I saw on a hot July morning: Meadow buttercup, Restharrow, White clover, Bird's-foot-trefoil, Wild thyme, Sheep's sorrel, Curled dock, Harebell, Lady's bedstraw, Common ragwort, Daisy, Yarrow, Hardheads / Black knapweed, Dandelion, Cat's-ear, Spear thistle. Not planted by anyone, just growing by themselves. And there will be others I didn't spot, others not yet in flower or already flowered. Dozens of flowering grass species too. What a feast for our pollinators! What a resource for our children and us! To play in, dream in, learn in, be inspired by. Isn't it remarkable what grows when we let it?

Fife Council are to be applauded for such a brilliantly forward decision. Please write and tell **stephen.duffy@fife.gov.uk** and **stephanie.little@fife.gov.uk** how much you appreciate it and encourage them to do the same elsewhere. Copy to local councillors and Community Council.

I hope Fife Council follows on with a 21st Century approach to spraying pesticides. There are alternatives to the barren brown Strip-of-Death ringing trees and running alongside paths and cycleways all across Council owned grassy areas, killing pollinators and running-off into our waterways. See the

inspiring work of Pesticide Action Network UK: "a future for Scotland where human health and the protection of the natural environment take priority. Cities like Paris, Copenhagen, Seattle and Glastonbury have already gone pesticide-free." - www.pan-uk.org

In other news, the Lammerlaws is in full bloom, looking absolutely lush. Path improvements done gradually there over the last two years are mostly finished. The main path to the point has been levelled and subtle drainage added so it's much easier for more people to walk along. A couple of subtle seats are being appreciated and the bin has been making a big difference to litter left, though since summer and Shows crowds have arrived, lots of sweet and crisp wrappers are being dropped. The rain in May and June has lead to an explosion of vegetation with many plants and an abundance of grass species to marvel at.



Some great Bottlenose dolphin photos have been taken, and puffin photos. Puffins are often out off the Lammerlaws and the breakwater, but almost always so far out that they're really small even through binoculars. The Fight to save the breakwater and all the other wonderful wildlife spotting spots around the docks continues. Be sure to read the docks article and do what you can to help.

We're past the winter Humpback season but a much rarer Sei whale continues to be sighted and photographed, seeming to be feeding well and acting normally. Kinghorn has been the best place to watch from.

Butterflies are around but I feel in pretty poor numbers. Lots of hoverflies of lots of species. Moths – at least one local recorder has had an incredible array of species attracted to their garden this summer. Swallow-tailed, Ghost, Green Carpet, White Ermine, Poplar Hawkmoth (AMAZING), Map-winged Swift,

Burnished Brass, Elephant Hawk-moth (AMAZING), Grey Dagger, Foxglove Pug... these are just a few.



Bumblebees are out in great numbers in these recent sunny weeks, you can hear them even metres away from our bramble flowers and mallow. How many bumblebees species do you see in your garden? Any Solitary bees? Honeybees?

Swifts and house martins are nesting in a few places but does anyone have any nesting swallows? Gull season is nearly over and as always some chicks have died falling off roofs or killed by cars, but others are down in gardens being cared for by their parents and humans and looking like they'll earn their wings.

**Burntisland Wildlife and Woodlands Facebook Group** is now at nearly 350 members! Photos, questions and answers appear multiple times a day. In particular it has been a delight to see so many members installing wildlife ponds. Along with letting parts of your garden grow long and a bit wild this is one of the very best things you can do for wildlife in your space. A pond can be as small and simple as a washing up bowl sunk in the ground with a log or bricks for access and escape. Or as large as you can manage. The internet is full of advice, or join our lovely friendly group and just ask. Another new group you may wish to join is Kinghorn Loch Wildlife Group, formed to enjoy and protect the wildlife of that special spot.

With all this wildlife to look out for and enjoy and share please think about taking part in some monitoring schemes. Data is so valuable for protecting species and places both now and in the future. Many apps and websites are now available for recording different species and wildlife groups, it's really easy to make a difference. Please get in touch via the Facebook Group or via the editor to ask what you might do.

# **The Ecology Centre**

Summer has arrived and life has been feeling a lot more normal at The Ecology Centre. With the sound of kids happy voices at our Eco Adventures holiday camps and many visitors to our new 'Nest Café', the Centre feels alive again.

#### **Good news**

We recently received funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. This funding will allow us to continue our fantastic Wednesday volunteering day as well as having an additional volunteering days on a Tuesday and Thursday. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer either on site or in our café, please contact admin@theecologycentre.org



A welcome funding cheque

#### More good news

Back in June the Good Health, Wellbeing & The Great Outdoors magazine Wellbeing Awards were held. We were very fortunate to be awarded 'Silver' in the 'Best Outdoor Wellbeing Initiative' for our 'Your Peace, Our Place' event held in June 2019. We were very proud to receive recognition for this event.

#### Nest Café

Our new venture opened on 19th June with Stuart Gilmour as Café Supervisor. The café has been a great success thanks to all our new customers and our wonderful café volunteers Janet, Abbie and Julie. Come along and enjoy some of Stuart's home baking or his tasty homemade soup. The Nest Café is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10am–3pm.

#### **New General Manager**

We are pleased to let you know that we have a new General Manager, Errin Anderson. Errin comes with a wealth of knowledge of the third sector and is keen to develop connections to our local communities. Feel free to pop in and say hello.

#### **Tool Library**

The Tool Library is back up and running, so come along and speak to Lee about joining. A year's membership costs £20.

#### **Tool Donations**

The Toolshed as usual is ready and able to take all types of unwanted tools and sewing machines especially manual Singer machines.

# **Craigencalt Rural Community Trust**

The Trust Walking Group began meeting again in May and members have enjoyed five walks together since that time. It became clear that walkers had kept up their fitness levels but it was good to meet with friends that they had not seen for a long time, and great to see some new faces too.

As Covid restrictions eased, the Trust agreed to organise another Burntisland Civic Week Walk. This took place on Wednesday 23rd June and was led by Anne and Ron Smith. The group met at Burntisland Links and walked across Pettycur Beach to Kinghorn, then up the Burnside Path to Kinghorn Loch. After a short break, the group returned to Burntisland via Rodanbraes and Binnend. Despite the short notice, the walk was well supported, with plenty of chatting and lovely scenic views enjoyed along the way. It is good that things are returning to normal.

The Trust is delighted to announce that British Alcan Aluminium at Whinnyhall has been awarded 'Land Manager Walking Champion' in the first ever Scottish Walking Awards. The award was made for all the assistance that the company has given to the Trust to improve the paths network, with path construction and other facilities. Craigencalt Trust has been in existence for ten years now, and in that time many projects have been completed. These have greatly improved access and enjoyment of the countryside around Kinghorn Loch for an increasing number of visitors. The Alcan Company has given continual support with every project that the Trust has undertaken. They have freely provided plant and personnel to complete the 'beefy' tasks in creating new paths. This help has been invaluable, and has shown their long-term commitment to working with the community.

There are plans for the Trust to work with Alcan to make a new, improved path through the woodland at Binnend. This will have a more gentle gradient that will be suitable for all users, disabled and family buggies in mind. The project is still at the early stage for deciding route options, and will then require funding and volunteers for it to succeed. It will be another great path to use.



**Bob Cooper and Hayley MacDonald with the Alcan Award** 

The weather this year has resulted in an abundance of summer weed growth making some paths quite difficult. Workdays have resumed and most paths have been trimmed back by dedicated volunteers, and we are most grateful to every helper. If you would like to help on our workdays please get in touch by email <code>info@craigencalttrust.org.uk</code> or phone 07740 999514. The Trust looks forward to making the sluice bridge at Kinghorn Loch wider very soon. This improvement will allow disabled buggies, families with prams and cyclists to cross the burn with ease.

Lastly, the Trust is sad to announce the death of Diana Neil, who owned Craigencalt Farm for over thirty years until she sold to the present owners in 2018. Diana had a wonderful community spirit and encouraged many environmental groups, including the Trust to flourish during her time at Craigencalt. She will

**Marilyn Edwards** 

be remembered with great affection.

# 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 28 29

# Name

The Editor - 39 The Wynd, Dalgety Bay, KY11 9SJ

First correct entry drawn wins £50 in vouchers kindly donated by Shell UK Ltd. Solution will appear in the next Burgh Buzz issue.

#### THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Later on (10)
- 6. Smile radiantly (4)
- 9. N. African Country (7)
- 10. Capital of China (7)
- 12. Midday (4)
- 13. Large venomous spider(9)
- 15. Dried grape (7)
- 16 Brink(5)
- 17. Dove's call (3)
- 19. Scrounge (5)
- 20. Hide (7)
- 23. Staff (9)
- 25. Famous public school (4)
- 27. Most profound(7)
- 28. Hush (7)
- 29. Badgers home (4)
- 30. Medical practitioners (10)

#### **DOWN**

- 1. Reprove (8)
- 2. Commotion (7)
- 3. Wealthy (4)
- 4. Change of direction (9)
- 5. Keep out (5)
- 7. Gourmet (7)
- 8. Hungarian (6)
- 11. In the dark (8)
- 14. Good-looking (8)
- 16. Singers (9)
- 18. Uniformed servants (8)
- 19 Right (7)
- 21. Tallin's country (7)
- 22 Digging tools (6)
- 24. Incision (5)
- 26. Countries with a common policy (4)

#### **May Crossword Solution**

Across 1 Aristocrat, 6 Open, 9 Piccolo, 10 Succour, 12 Rasp, 13 Supervise, 15 Torpedo, 16 Pride, 17 Rio, 19 Livid, 20 Shatter, 23 Monologue, 25 Drum, 27 Letters, 28 Incline, 29 Styx, 30 Bodyguards.

**Down:** 1 Asperity, 2 Incisor, 3 Twos, 4 Crossword, 5 Aesop, 7 Profile, 8 Nurses, 11 Cardigan, 14 Melville, 16 Posterity, 18 Crumpets, 19 Lengthy, 21 Terrier, 22 Ambles, 24 Gusto, 26 Ecru.

**May Crossword Winner:** 

Mrs I Finlay, Greenmount Drive, Burntisland

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**BURNTISLAND OVER 70'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH** SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

ELSA JEAN MCTAGGART FOLK MUSIC PARTY SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING SATURDAY 4TH AND FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER

> **HOGMANAY CEILIDH DINNER** FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

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