

BURGH BUZZ



Burrtisland's Free Community Magazine

Previous issues at www.burghbuzz.org.uk

February 2023

Issue No 86

2023 Community Award Winners

For the first time, the Community Council has this year decided to confer the annual Community Award in all three categories: individual, group, and young person. All three are richly deserved.



Bill Kirkhope, recently-retired editor of the Burgh Buzz, is the recipient of the individual award. Bill took on the role of editor in 2010, answering an appeal from the Community Council to form a new editorial team and restart publication of the Buzz.

Under his leadership the Burgh Buzz went from strength to strength in both quality and scale. With Bill at the helm 51 issues were published, helping to keep local people abreast of everything that matters for Burrtisland.

The group winner is **Central Burrtisland Tenants and Residents Association (CBTRA)**. Now in its fifth year, the TRA covers the town centre area from the High Street to the railway station.

CBTRA has worked in the background, addressing anti-social behaviour, installing CCTV, organising activities such as the Easter trail at The Links, and improving the High Street with additional benches and seagull-proof bins.

Alex MacDonald, chair of the Community Council added "This year they took on the extra responsibility of distributing food parcels throughout our community, all on a voluntary basis, thereby demonstrating the highest ideals of our community."



The inaugural winner of the young person award is **Joana Barron**.

Explaining the reasons behind the award, Alex MacDonald said "She is at the forefront of voluntary service, whether at the foodbank or helping the very young Beavers to learn important life skills."



Joana is also a very active first responder with Burrtisland First Aid Services Trust. In that capacity she has been on the spot numerous times, looking after people who have had fractures, dislocations, or seizures, or who need to be supported for a few hours at a time."

The awards will be presented in a joint ceremony in the Burgh Chambers on Friday 10th February.

The Big GREEN Market Burrtisland

2022 was a fast and busy year for the Big Green Market. In May we supported refugees and other families in need with care packages, essential items and clothing. Then in July we celebrated our first official birthday and revealed we had raised over £10,000 for eleven community groups and charities. And in September we hit our biggest month ever – raising a whopping £1200 for the Scouts.

As an extra bonus, we've raised enough funds to top up our reserves so we could make small, emergency donations to the local foodbank, the Young Islanders baby and toddler group, and we helped Totally Locally meet some of their printing costs.

Every month we are blown away by the support from everyone in the town. We have a wonderful bank of volunteers who help us with the mammoth task of setting up, running and packing away the market each time.

We're so fortunate to have hundreds and hundreds of people donate clothes, toys, homewares, bric-a-brac, books – you know it, you've donated it! And you've lent your support by coming to the market each month to grab a bargain and give pre-loved items a new home.

All of this means we're on track to smash last year's fundraising total and we're really looking forward to supporting and promoting the great work of our local community groups and charities.

Of course, we wouldn't be able to do such a Big GREEN job every month if we couldn't book the space in the Burrtisland Parish Church Halls. A huge thanks to the committee who help us with our bookings and to do our best every single month.

2023 is shaping up to be another busy year at the Big GREEN Market and we're looking forward to seeing you in the halls soon.

The Market is open on Friday 12–4pm and Saturday 10am–1pm in the Parish Church Halls with upcoming dates: 3/4 February, 3/4 March, and 31 March & 1 April, then on the first Friday & Saturday of each month

Abi Cornwall



BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

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Next Issue: May 2023

Copy Deadline: 15th April

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Half page £160

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From the Editor

Best wishes to all our readers, contributors, and advertisers for a happy and prosperous year ahead.

Ever since the first issue of the Burgh Buzz was published 25 years ago, the front page of each New Year edition has covered the annual Community Award. It is right that each year we highlight the good work done in the community and this year is no different, though this time with three winners. Well done to each of them.

The Big Green Market also features on our front page. Over the last 18 months these second hand sale events have raised thousands for local community groups, thanks to the hard work of volunteers. After a well-deserved break in January, they are back with the monthly pre-loved market in the Church Halls.

Speaking of anniversaries, congratulations to the Pipe Band who are celebrating their centenary this year, and also the Golf House Club who are marking 125 years at Dodhead. Exciting things planned for the year ahead.

Other groups making plans such include the Highland Games, Civic Week, Events Group (Bonfire & Fireworks), FAB, etc.—if you can lend a hand as a volunteer they will appreciate your support.

Finally, while delving into the Buzz archives recently, I discovered that Sammy Purvis was the first person to write a letter to the editor when the Buzz resumed publishing in 2010. Sammy sadly passed away in late November, he was a great character who will be missed by many in the town.

Michael Booth, Editor

From the outgoing Editor

A Fond Farewell.

It is a mere coincidence that my departure as editor of the Buzz coincides with the 25th anniversary of the first publication. Since its founding by Andy Wight-Boycott so many years ago, the Buzz has served the community well, keeping everyone informed of activities and developments within the town and served as a forum for comments on controversial local issues.

Although I no longer live in Burntisland, my thirteen years as editor has helped me to keep in contact with many old friends and acquaintances and to establish many new ones.

On New Year's Eve, I was honoured to be informed by Alex MacDonald that I had been selected as the recipient of the individual 2023 Community Award in recognition of my efforts with the Buzz. Although I am proud to accept this honour, I could not have achieved success with the Buzz without the tremendous support from numerous individuals and organisations over the years, in particular, members of the editorial team who have assisted with content and presentation, advertising and distribution. I must also thank regular contributors and advertisers without whose support the Buzz would not have existed.

With the recent establishment of a new, enthusiastic team, I am confident that the Buzz will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Over the last couple of years, the compassionate and considerate manner in which the Burntisland community collectively reacted to the Covid pandemic clearly demonstrated the communal spirit that exists within the town. Long may it continue.

Bill Kirkhope

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.

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

Members:

Tim Hailey	Jim Sheridan
Lynne Ralph	Yvonne Crombie
Ken Littlemore	Clare Slater
Carol McLeod	Elizabeth McLaughlan

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

Elected Fife Councillors' Availability

Ward 9: Burntisland, Kinghorn & Western Kirkcaldy

Councillor Lesley Backhouse

Telephone: 07540 677081
 Email: Cllr.Lesley.Backhouse@fife.gov.uk

Lesley is happy to meet with constituents at a time to suit them (except Sunday or Monday), contact via text/email. In-person surgeries will be held in the Library on Saturday 11th February & 11th March at 10–11am, and 15th April at 10.30–11.30am.

Councillor Kathleen Leslie

Telephone: 07714 778906
 Email: Cllr.Kathleen.Leslie@fife.gov.uk

Kathleen is happy to arrange set appointments with constituents.

Councillor Julie MacDougall

Telephone: 03451 555 555 ext. 474496
 Email: Cllr.Julie.MacDougall@fife.gov.uk

Julie is happy for constituents to contact her on the above number or email. In-person surgeries will also be held in the Burgh Chambers on Friday 10th February, 10th March and 14th April at 6.15–7pm.

Community Council Bullets.....

The Community Council holds its regular meetings on the second Friday of each month, at 7pm in Burntisland's Burgh Chambers. **Dates for the next three meetings are: 10th February, 10th March, and 14th April.**

Members of the public are welcome to attend or to raise matters of interest to them. A summary of issues discussed during the last three meetings is set out below. Full minutes can also be found on the Community Council website.

- Elections for a new Community Council are due in October this year. It's a critical opportunity to help direct what is best for Burntisland, working closely with other elected representatives and with local organisations. The nomination process will be announced later but we would encourage everyone with an interest in local affairs to consider putting their name forward.
- Police Scotland are not now giving monthly reports on local crime detection or prevention. We will try to engage with the community police officers at their periodic drop-in sessions so that we (and they) can be kept abreast of key issues. There may be a faster response to non-emergency matters if they are reported via the online contact form rather than by phoning 101.
- A new Community Action Plan is now well under way, thanks to the excellent efforts of the Burntisland Community Development Trust. The next stage of public consultation is scheduled for March.
- High Street planters are currently managed separately by FAB, CBTRA and Fife Council. We are trying to get better coordination with the Fife Council schedule of work so that we can all enjoy more year-round colour.
- Upgraded and new paths, with associated lighting, have been confirmed from Glebe Place to Cowdenbeath Road, and also from Kerr Court.
- We remain concerned at the presence of cars on the new cycleway across the Links. We are awaiting action from Fife Council to install bollards at the Kinghorn Road entrance.
- Forth Ports has agreed to re-erect the wooden crane which they dismantled in error and without consent.
- A civic reception was held in the Burgh Chambers for the winners of the Scots Verse competition. In the presence of their families and friends, each winner was presented with a trophy and a medal.
- Fundraising for Christmas lights has been very successful, thanks particularly to local businesses and to the personal efforts of numerous individuals. We plan to replace and extend some of the lighting, so that the High Street during the festive season will be even better than before.
- We were surprised and sorry to learn that stage lighting at the Young Hall had been removed by Fife Council without warning. We have given advice to the Youth Theatre on potential sources of funding towards replacement lights.
- Planning consent has been refused for the demolition of the doocot at Ged's Mill.
- We would like to see a higher profile for Burntisland in the *Welcome to Fife* website. There are at least four award-winning businesses in our High Street, plus local hotels, so there is scope for a significantly greater presence.
- We are trying to acquire kit so that meetings in the Burgh Chambers can be made more accessible, through the use of videoconferencing. It will give local people the option of attending our meetings in person or connecting online. If we are successful then the kit will be made available to other groups in the town.

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 13th November the traditional Remembrance Day service took place in the Parish Church, conducted by Rev Russell Barr.

This was the first time since 2019 that the full parade led by Burntisland & District Pipe Band and featuring representatives of the armed forces, councillors, local youth and civilian organisations, has been able to take part in proceedings.

At the conclusion of the church service, the parade reformed and marched down the Kirkgate to the High Street and War Memorial, where a large crowd gathered to show their respects and join in a short service conducted jointly by ministers of the local churches.

Following the laying of the wreaths, the parade reassembled and marched back along the High Street to Harbour Place, with participants invited to a reception in the Burgh Chambers hosted by the Community Council.



Black Rocks Rowing Club

Back in January 2019 we held a public meeting at the Roasting Project to assess interest in creating a rowing club, where 65 people attended. In that first year, we created the club and began fundraising. We identified premises to build the boat, raised funds and bought the kit to make the boat.

In 2020, Covid practically stopped the building of the boat almost as soon as it started. Understandably, due to lack of apparent progress, we lost many of those who had been involved in that first meeting. But thanks to those who stuck with it, we will be successful and complete the project in the coming months



Agreement has been reached with the Sailing Club to access their facilities to store and launch the boat. More work is needed to raise funds for some essential kit but that will happen in time.

For those who may be interested, we are looking to recruit members - the club is for all. Have a look at our website www.burntislandrowing.org.uk or our Facebook page for more information and updates.

Further information on the extent of interest around Scotland can be found at www.scottishcoastalrowing.org. You can get involved in any way you wish. We are still a fledgling club looking to develop so now is the chance to find out more. Come along to one of our boat building events, lend a hand and meet new people.



This quarter has seen a change to your local community policing team. **PC Gary Cooper** joins myself **PC Trevor Farley**. Both Gary and I wish PC Kinnes well in future endeavours within Police Scotland.



PC Cooper has numerous years Police service and brings with him a wealth of Policing knowledge and an excellent well rounded skill set which I believe will compliment the needs of the Burntisland area. I'm looking forward to showing him the town and letting him know what residents main concerns are. We hope to be more of a visual presence in the area this year. We are also going to be attending Community Council meetings so information can be exchanged for the continual improvement of where we can be effective in your area.

Please come and speak with us if you see us out and about. We're continuing the surgeries held in the Toll Community Hub. Upcoming dates are 23rd February, 23rd March, 27th April from 10 am-12 pm, these will be advertised in the Hub and online.

As we are coming out of winter and the nights are getting that bit lighter we ask that you remain vigilant on the roads, we also ask that you remain vigilant in relation to bogus workmen who will become more active in the Spring. We anticipate a rise potentially in Anti-Social Behaviour due to the lighter nights.

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 provide via Crimestoppers using the details below:

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



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“Don't be risky, call for Forisky”

Burrtisland Community Development Trust

The year got off to a flying start for the Development Trust with the set up of a new initiative, Supper @ The Sally. Faced with the rest of winter, the rising cost of living and people telling us that they are struggling to reconnect in the community after Covid, the Trust secured funding to support a weekly community supper.

A new team of volunteers quickly formed and within days launched the first event on Saturday 7th January.

The suppers will run at least until the end of March on a pay-as-you-please basis so it is open and affordable to everyone.

We've loved seeing so many people coming along and chatting to each other and amongst themselves and the empty plates have made the dishwasher's job easy! If you haven't been along yet, please accept this as a warm invitation.

Saturdays 5 pm–6.30 pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Lonsdale Crescent.



Our other big news is that we spent the depths of winter analysing your Community Action Plan feedback. Through household surveys and feedback sessions with community groups nearly 700 of you took the time to give us your thoughts and ideas so we wanted to make sure we captured as much of this as possible.

The results will soon be in and we need your help again to prioritise these ideas and work out what needs to go into a new 2023–2028 Community Action Plan.

We will hold a big Community Futures event on Saturday 18th March from 11 am to 3 pm in the Burrtisland Primary School Hall, come join us!

We know thinking can be hungry work so we will be providing you with free soup, sandwiches and home baking, there may even be some entertainment too if you need yet another reason to come and join in.

Lots of community groups will be represented on the day so this is also a chance to find out what's happening in Burrtisland and see how you can get involved in making a difference in your community. See you there!



Here are some of the other Community Development Trust activities—check out the events diary on page 22 for dates.

Big Green Market—pick up pre-loved bargains and help to raise funds for local community groups, see front page.

Family friendly Beach Cleans—be part of the change you want to see, on the first Sunday of the month at The Beach House.

Climate Café—do you have ideas about reducing Burrtisland's carbon footprint? Come and join like minded people each month in the Heritage Centre

Acoustic Music Club—a great value Friday night out showcasing fantastic local talent at the Bowling Club.

What's Happening?—do you want help to join the dots to find out about all the groups and activities in Burrtisland? Monthly in the Heritage Centre.

To find out more about our work and how you can get involved and have your voice heard, contact Development Officers Jo & Nicki through our website at www.burrtisland-trust.org, follow us on Facebook or email us at DevelopmentOfficers@burrtisland-trust.org. Let's work together as a community to make Burrtisland the best possible place it can be to live and work in!

Full fibre's digging its way to Burrtisland

Go for it at GoFibre.co.uk

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Floral Action Burntisland

Celebrating 'FAB' teamwork! A recent collaboration between local company Scott Pallets, the FAB group, local resident Chic Docherty and the community payback team has meant that we now have a brand-new set of compost bins situated down at Harbour Place.

The previous compost bins had recently come to the end of their lifespan. They had long been used for recycling the floral displays around the town after they were taken down at the end of the summer season. Scott Pallets

came to the rescue and their team volunteered to design, build and deliver the new compost bins for us. Local resident Chic Docherty very kindly supplied ironmongery to keep them secure and the community payback team cleared the area to enable the new bins to be put on site.

FAB would like to thank all those involved in the project. Hopefully they will serve for years to come and will help us be more environmentally sustainable as the resulting compost will be used at sites around the town.

Our AGM takes place on Friday 24th February at 7 pm in the Sands Hotel. If you are interested in joining either the committee or as a support volunteer please come along on the night or get in touch via floralactionburntisland@outlook.com



Young Islanders

The Young Islanders baby and toddler group welcomes mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers along with their pre-schoolers to the Parish Church Halls from 9:30–11:30 am on Mondays and Thursdays.

In the time we have been reopen since lockdown we have seen wee ones grow up from babes in arms to thriving toddlers. We have seen friendships blossom between children and between parents (the Christmas night out was proof of the latter!) and have watched as the group has become more than simply a toddler group, but a real support system.

We run a snack rota which means that everyone who comes along plays their part in helping the group run and gets to take pride in watching it go from strength to strength.



In the coming months, the group will be looking for people to take roles on the Committee when those of us who have helped run the group since June 2021 step down as our wee ones grow up and move on. We would love to see the group continue to play an important role in the lives of many new parents and young children in Burntisland.

You can find our group on Facebook to find out more or if you have any questions. www.facebook.com/groups/burntislandtoddlers

Amy Drysdale

Christmas Lights Group

Each year Fife Council supplies the town with a Christmas tree with fairy lights, however all the other fairy lights and the light motifs on the lampposts belong to Burntisland Community Council (BCC). These have been bought over the years by fundraising through its Christmas Lights Group.

There are recurring costs associated with the lights: The fairy lights are prone to breakages as they are up all year. The light motifs are in secure storage for most of the year but there are recurring costs for their storage, putting them up, taking them down and insuring them while they are up.

Each year BCC applies to Fife Council for a grant from the Local Area Planning Budget to help with the considerable recurring costs and we are grateful for this contribution.



After the Covid pandemic years when it was difficult to fundraise, this winter we have been delighted with the generous response from local people and businesses. We have raised £5,000, so thank you Burntisland!

This has allowed us to buy four new (second hand) motifs to extend our town centre display all the way along

the High Street from the Porte to almost Harbour Place. It has also funded the removal of old broken fairy lights from some trees and will pay for replacement fairy lights next winter for one of the trees at the War Memorial. We are also looking for a better way to illuminate the trees and areas where broken fairy lights have been removed. Your generosity has helped our town centre sparkle over the festive season.

We would particularly like to thank the following donors: The Big Green Market, contributors to Lee-Anne's GoFundMe (including Luke Drummond's e-affle), Tom Courts Butchers, Rosyth Concert Band (with Burntisland Parish Church, 11th Fife Scouts, Evolve Group, plus all concert and raffle ticket buyers), Pretty Presents, Bel & Etta, BCDT Acoustic Music Club collection, and all local businesses and individuals who donated money or raffle prizes.

If you wish to join or fundraise for the Christmas Lights Group, contact the BCC Secretary: burntislandcc@outlook.com

Christmas Lights Group (Elizabeth Percy, Lee-Anne Purvis, Anne Smith)

Co-op Local Community Fund

In November, Burntisland Playgroup, Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association (CBTRA), and RNLI Lifeguards were the three groups to each receive around £2,000 from the Co-op Local Community Fund.

Money for the community fund is raised when Co-op members buy selected own-branded products and services, and from carrier bag sales. Pictured are children from the Playgroup at the Dollar Road store.



A new round of funding has since opened for three groups:

Burntisland Out of School Service (BOSS), Broomhill Community Garden Kids Club, and Floral Action Burntisland (FAB). Co-op members can log in to their online account and choose which group benefits from 1% of their spending between now and October.

Civic Week 2023

At our AGM in November the current committee headed by Amanda Jones was re-elected along with a couple of new members, and is now busy planning for this summer's 10 day programme of events.

This year's Civic Week will take place from Friday 16th to Sunday 25th June. The theme chosen for 2023 is **"Around the World"** so get thinking about your fancy dress costumes!

Parade Day with the crowning of the Summer King & Queen takes place on Saturday 17th June, followed by the Beach Day & Raft Race on Sunday 18th. We'll also have the football tournament, a family Ceilidh, and much more through the week.

Look out for more information in the next issue of the Burgh Buzz and on Facebook.

We're always looking for volunteers to ensure this Burntisland tradition runs smoothly, especially on Parade Day. If you can help during Civic Week please get in touch via our Facebook page or email burntislandcivicweek@gmail.com



Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club

As indicated in our last Buzz article, the members, apart from the volunteering and fundraising, do socialise at appropriate times like Christmas, with a festive dinner at the Sands Hotel accompanied with partners and guests including musical entertainment.

Our most recent event was the Burns Supper evening on 24th January featuring a line up of excellent speakers including Kinghorn Provost Alan McIlravie giving the Immortal Memory and our primary school Burns competition winners from Burntisland, Kinghorn & Auchtertool. Brian Kelly from Aberdour regaled us with his rendition of 'Holy Willie' as he did in our Covid Burns evening 'Auld Lang Zoom' (which is still available to watch on Facebook). Music was provided by Connor Gillis and Cora Todd who also featured on 'Auld Lang Zoom'.

Naturally, despite these social events, the Club is looking for ways to benefit the local community, support local and international charities including eradication of polio.

Our programme of finding interesting and valued speakers for our normal meetings continued with a presentation on Mercy Ships via Zoom giving the details of how, with their second ship, they can give sophisticated medical help free to larger populations mainly in West Africa, funded in a major way by Rotary Foundation.

Looking forward to Spring and the (hopefully) better weather the Club will continue its commitment to improving the pollinators around the Ecology Centre in Kinghorn as part of Rotary's worldwide commitment to improve the environment.

As always the Club are open to new members or those who wish to see what goes on at the weekly meetings in the Sands. Come along on Tuesday evenings at 6.45 pm or contact our Secretary David Lamond davidlamond888@gmail.com or myself delta.tango662@gmail.com

Derek Thomson



Burntisland Out of School Service (BOSS)

We have jumped in to 2023 with a great energy and delighted to welcome some more new families into the BOSS fold.

Last term the children enjoyed lots of active games including capture the flag, jump the river, obstacle courses and our last week of term saw the children enjoy party games in



the hall every day with many requests for musical chairs at the start of term!

Some of our popular resources often in use at BOSS are Loom bands, Hama beads, dinosaurs, Monster High dolls, loose parts and of course the pool table is always in demand. Our dedicated team support the children to plan the activities and resources each week to ensure the provision is meeting their play needs as much as possible.

Our February holiday club is open on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th February and we have limited spaces available. Please get in touch if you are

interested in your child joining us!

For all enquiries or if you would like to be added to our holiday club mailing list or our mailing list for August 2023 school starts you can call BOSS on 07702 801132 or email at bossburntisland@gmail.com

We regularly share our activities on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BurntislandOutOfSchoolService and more information about BOSS and our committee can be found on our website www.bossburntisland.co.uk

Anne Laidlaw, Club Manager








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Burntisland Primary School

Primary 1 have been waiting for the friendly dragon to visit their classes and teach them about fairytales. This is because their project is Fairyland and it has been very exciting for everyone involved. Also in PE, P1 have enjoyed developing their ball skills such as throwing and catching. In Numeracy, P1 have also been continuing to develop their number skills and start to learn all about measuring. In Literacy, P1 have been learning to use sequences in stories and they will be learning to write instructions later in the term.

In **Primary 2**, the children have been learning about the different parts of the human body and how each part works. In Numeracy, P2 have been learning about place value and counting tens and ones – they have been working really hard on this! The classes have been enjoying reading non-fiction books and recipe books. They have also really enjoyed writing lists and doing some letter writing. Lastly, P2 would like to share that they have been learning all about space and the different planets.

Primary 3 have been learning about division and the different strategies that can be used to solve division problems.

They have also been learning how to use connectives and punctuation. P3 have enjoyed reading James and the Giant Peach as a class. Their topic this term is Minibeasts and the children are really loving this!

The **Primary 4 and P4/5 classes** have been eager to get back to work on multiplication. In Literacy, their focus has been similes and how to include these in their writing. The class teachers are very impressed with the inventive similes being used! The children have been learning about Vikings for their class topic and they have loved this! Their class novel this term is How to Train Your Viking and they have found this really interesting and enjoyable.

Primary 5 – In Numeracy, P5 have been learning about place value and the value of number. Children created their own place value charts. For their topic, the focus is on Mind and Body and how to have a healthy body and a healthy mind. Children are learning about the importance of a healthy mind and how this can impact on your body. They are all finding this very interesting.

Primary 6 have been working hard all year and wanted to share all of the things that they have done already and some of the things they are looking forward to this year. For their topic in P6, the focus is currently Titanic. All the classes are reading a book called Titanic Detective Agency and this is supporting their understanding. In Literacy, the children have been learning through Reflective Reading tasks in relation to their book Train to Impossible Places. They have also been focused on connectives during their daily writing lessons.

Children in **Primary 7** have been focused on long division during their Numeracy lessons and they are now moving on to revisit fractions. In writing, P7 have been creative in their tasks, having a focus on hyperbole and personification. The children have really enjoyed being adventurous with this! In PE, P7 have just started a new sport to them - rugby! All of P7 are already loving it. Lastly, the class topic is WW2 and right now they're learning about the Pearl Harbour attack.

Written by Zander Mulholland, Florence Snow, Rose Dudley, Sophia Sinclair, Zoe Paterson, and Lauren Michie

Burntisland Playgroup

Last term was filled with fun and excitement in the run up to Christmas. The children have had many activities and learning opportunities to participate in. We had a Scottish Day to celebrate St Andrews Day, where the children enjoyed tasting haggis and doing some Scottish dancing.

We discovered how children in Sweden celebrate Santa Lucia Day and of course we had all the excitement of Christmas celebrations, ending our term with a visit from "Santa" during our Christmas Party. St Serf's church, very kindly asked us to be involved with their Christmas Tree display. The children all decorated baubles for the Christmas trees that we put up in December.

We have come back to playgroup with a bang in January and have loved having all the children back with us. We have a selection of preschool and ante-preschool children at the moment and it's lovely to see the older ones help settle and guide the younger ones. Our current interest is the weather and we are looking at what kinds of weather we have here and abroad and how it can affect us and our surroundings.

The children really enjoyed our visits to the woods and beach last term and we look forward to visiting more of our local community areas. Our outdoor area has been very well used. Our play shed, tyre

swing, mud kitchen and loose parts area are all very well used, even in this cold weather.

Looking forward to our August 2023 intake, if your child was born between 1st March 2020 and 28th February 2021 then you can apply now to us by dropping in to the Playgroup at the Toll Centre or emailing us at burntislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk. There is also a link on our Facebook page. We accept applications from birth so it is never too early to apply to us. We will let you know we have received your application and we will then get in touch closer to the time.

Our committee has worked very hard this year - a huge thank you to them. We started our year off being the recipients of the Big Green Market and we held a successful fundraising night supported by

Lights out By Nine. We ended our year with our ever popular Halloween Disco. Finally not only were we the recipients of the Co-op community fund during the year, we were lucky to be nominated by the High Street Co-op to receive their own donation.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and continues to support us in Burntisland Playgroup. It is lovely to be part of a long standing community organisation who has supported so many children and families in their early years.

Rebecca McColm



...and from the Headteacher



I'm sure everyone now realises that everywhere felt 'different' over the last two years during the Pandemic. But it has really only been these last months that have brought it home to us just how different things were, now we feel 'back to normal'.

For the first time in two years we were able to welcome family and friends in for our Christmas celebrations at our Early Years Nativity and our P3-6 Carol Concert. These events were incredibly well attended and it was so lovely to have all of the children together again and with their families to celebrate the magical time of Christmas.

We were also able to have a very cosy Christmas Movie Night, after school, we had our parties run as large and exciting events – with ice cream, and we were

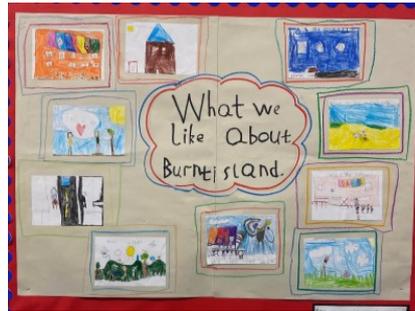


able to have such a wonderful day at our Christmas Fair where our supportive Parent Council organised a range of events and activities for people to get involved in – as well as do a bit of Christmas shopping into the bargain!

All of these events showed us just how much we had missed the buzz of this

strong sense of 'team', our community links, support, partnerships and the joy of being all together! It was a truly, fabulous time.

Last term the majority of Primary 7 headed off to Ardroy, on the west coast of Scotland, for our residential experience and soaked up all of the life changing activities on offer there.



We worked together with Burntisland Community Development Trust on developing the new Action Plan for the town. Children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their ideas and suggestions with Jo and Nicki when they came in to hear them.

We distributed well over 500 gifts in combined parcels to local families through the Giving Tree. We know by the responses we were met with that these were very gratefully received, and the generosity of this wonderful community was quite overwhelming. As school staff organised, deliver or hand over the presents, it was incredibly moving to hear the thanks and appreciation from the families at the time and we know so many children will have had extra joy on Christmas Day as a result.

A huge thank you to Carole-anne Paterson from the High Street Co-op for bringing all of the presents up in multiple car journeys and to every single person who donated. The donations from the community far exceeded anything we have seen in previous years, especially at a time when life is so hard for so many, there was even more generosity than we thought possible.



We were given large donations of cash by some businesses and individuals, large donations of food vouchers from local shops, money one individual had raised by her own charity work as well as hundreds of pounds worth of brand-new presents, truly amazing.

Prior to Christmas, Briggs Marine donated the incredibly generous amount of £10,000 to the school. We were absolutely overwhelmed with this and we feel truly humbled by the company's generosity. Briggs has donated this money so that we can use it to support some of our most vulnerable families through a variety of interventions. This includes supplying appropriate clothing for some children, providing snacks, part funding support staff, buying resources and funding initiatives to support children who are facing really challenging times and to target the places which need it most.

The money will make a tremendous difference and we really can't thank Briggs Marine and the Briggs Family enough for this support.

Julie Anderson

Scots Verse Competition



The annual Scots Verse competition began in 1986 to mark the 700th anniversary of King Alexander III's death. Children from Primary 1-6 take part on St Andrew's Day, with pupils judged at the school this year by Yvonne Crombie and Alex MacDonald.

In December, the winners headed off to the Burgh Chambers for a reception hosted by the Community Council. This was a wonderful evening of poetry reciting,

learning about the history of the trophies and socialising over a very lovely buffet.

It was unfortunate that one of the winners, Brodie Haston, was unable to attend on the night but he was able to perform for the whole school after Christmas and receive his trophy and medal to great applause too.

P1 Kathryn McLean, P2 Hugh Couper, P3 Brodie Haston, P4 Malcolm Sharp, P5 Aria Craigie-Sharland, P6 Amelie Downie

Parent Council

We were delighted with the return of the Christmas Fayre in December. Thank you to everyone who braved the rain to come and help us break records with over £3,000 raised for new play equipment for the school playground. Special thanks to all the stalls, sponsors and volunteers who helped to make it happen.

By the time you read this in the Buzz, we'll have seen some wacky dos at the crazy hair day in January! **Our next big event will be the Spring Fling on 29th April.**

For more information on how to join the Parent Council please access our Facebook group: **Burntisland School Parent Council**, or email: burntislandps.parents@gmail.com.

Chris McLaren, Vice-Chair

Local Business Updates

in association with Totally Locally Burntisland

On a Roll is the new name for the Waverly Café on the High Street, with Dawn taking over the running from mum Jane and also completing a recent refurbishment.



The Kingswood Hotel is now under new ownership and has reopened after a short break. We wish Kathryn & Rankin Bell a happy retirement after nearly 37 years of running the Kingswood, and all the best to the Singh family as new owners.

Congratulations to Time for You for winning Best Online Business at Scotlands Business Awards 2022.

Wildbells has been shortlisted in the "Young Business" category for the Fife Business Awards taking place in May.



Keep up to date with all our Totally Locally businesses at: www.facebook.com/totallylocallyburntisland

Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association

Well, Christmas has been and gone, and we are all in for the long haul until spring does its thing and summer brings the sunshine.

Christmas was a busy time for the TRA and volunteers that sorted and distributed the Christmas food parcels. In total 46 were delivered to families. I am still amazed by the generosity of the town residents.

Special thanks go out to both Co-op stores, the Toll Centre Hub, Burger Island, Poison hair & beauty, and Gordon Langlands. Without their help in acting as collection and storage points the event could not have gone ahead.

Looking ahead, **our next event is a Children's Fun Day on 11th February** from 2-4pm in the Parish Church Halls. Tickets are on sale now, don't hesitate to contact Lynne Ralph via the TRA's Facebook group for further information and tickets.



We will also be holding our AGM on Tuesday 14th March, venue to be confirmed. All members of the TRA and residents of the central Burntisland area are invited to attend and have your say about how you think the area can be improved, not only for residents but also for users of the High Street.

We are also actively looking for new committee members to drive forward the TRA, this is your opportunity to make a difference in our community to see it grow from a beautiful town to a beautiful and interesting town.

Iain Ralph, CBTRA Committee

Burntisland Bowling Club

Having hosted increasingly popular carpet bowls sessions during the autumn and winter, Burntisland Bowling Club is now getting geared up for the 2023 outdoor season.

The season proper opens on Saturday 8th April with teams representing the Club's President pitched against those representing the Vice-President. The Club also has a varied programme of friendly fixtures against local clubs spread throughout the season, alongside local league games and a range of internal competitions and championships for members.

There will also be the usual ladies', gentlemen's and mixed informal 'bounce' games throughout the season. Full details and other information are available on the Club's website:

www.burntislandbowlingclub.co.uk



The Club's AGM will be held on 8th March at 7 pm when members will review progress over the past year and elect office bearers for the coming season. New members, experienced or otherwise, are always welcome. Enquiries can be made through the Club's email – infoburntislandbc@btinternet.com

Richard Perry

Beacon Runners



Burntisland's friendly running club welcomes runners of all levels

Mondays 7pm – 8pm

Contact us to come along for varied & fun running sessions around the town

beaconrunclub@gmail.com Facebook/beaconrunners



From February 2022 every household in Scotland will be legally required to have interlinked smoke alarms and heat detectors.

Alarms can either be self-installed or professionally installed.

From £215, RGM heating is offering a fire safety service to install smoke alarms and heat detectors fully compliant to meet the new regulations.

Alternatively, we can also supply the alarms for £185 if you would prefer to install them yourselves, this price is based on a one-story property. If you live locally, these can be delivered to you free of charge.

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To book your installation or order your alarms, please call 01383 435993 or email us at office@rgmheating.co.uk.



Finalist 2022



Burntisland & District Pipe Band

Happy New Year to you all! As we welcome in 2023 we are celebrating the band's centenary which we are really looking forward to. Everyone at the band hopes that throughout the year you will join us in celebrating this momentous milestone. There are things planned every month this year for the band as it is a special year, so keep your eyes peeled!

Just before the new year though the band played at the Burntisland Primary School Christmas Fayre, where a lot of players were out playing with the band for the first time in a long time which was really great to see!

We started the year off by being invited to play at the Fife Flyers v Glasgow Clan game in January. It was an exciting opportunity which we were honoured to do, an amazing turnout by the band and a delicate balancing act required to play on the ice!



The band is then hosting a coffee morning in the Parish Church Halls on Saturday 25th February from 11 am–1 pm, so we hope to see a lot of faces there! With lots of great pipe band music, homemade soup, and fun stalls, you wouldn't want to miss it.

We can't wait for the season ahead. As well as competing in lots of competitions the band will be playing in a lot of events throughout the year. We hope this will be another season to remember!

Thank you all for your continued support for our wee band! If you'd like to keep up to date, please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/burntislandanddistrictpipeband

Leading Drummer Erica Wyse

Highland Games

The AGM for the games committee was held in November, with Don Campbell taking on the position of Chieftain.

The committee paid tribute to Janice Jeffrey for her long service as treasurer, and to former president David Adamson, who both stepped back from their roles.

This year the games will take place on Monday 17th July. The committee is looking for new members, plus additional volunteers to help on the day and with set up on The Links.

Contact the Secretary via the Highland Games Facebook page or email burntislandhighlandgames@gmx.co.uk if you are interested in helping to ensure this Burntisland tradition continues.

The next committee meeting is on 6th March at 7 pm in the Heritage Centre.

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Burrtisland Golf House Club



This year, Burrtisland Golf House Club celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

Golf has been played in Burrtisland since as early as the 1660s. Our parent Club, Burrtisland Golf Club, was established in 1797, and is the 10th oldest Club in the world. For the first 150 or so years, golf was played on The Links. That legacy is still evident today with the Golf Tavern's crossed clubs emblem on the arched façade facing the former links course.

Golfers had to compete for use of The Links with grazing sheep and an increasing number of residents drying their washing! When the railway came through the town in the 1840s, a significant proportion of the original course was lost. So, in 1889, the Golf Club members pooled their resources and raised funds (equivalent to £660,000 today) to buy land to the north of the town at Dodhead. Later, in 1898 the "new" Club was formed to build the Golf House, and Burrtisland Golf House Club was born.

As part of the 125 year celebrations, the Club will hold a programme of events to celebrate the legacy of golf in Burrtisland, and to raise our ambition as a Club.

Our aim is to improve and enhance our course and its facilities. We want to improve accessibility to the game of golf and introduce affordable coaching services for beginners by expanding Burrtisland

Golf Academy (featured in the previous issue) making our practice ground and coaching available to more adults.

Off the golf course, our Club House has been an important social venue for over 100 years. We want to continue to offer access to the whole community - golfers and non-golfers - to hold gatherings, parties, weddings, funerals, and functions. During 2023 we will invest in upgrades to the lounge and facilities to make it more accessible and welcoming. Our restaurant is under new management and will be all set to provide a fantastic new menu in the spring, open to all: golfers, non-golfers and walkers.

To take our ambitious plans forward, we have launched Ambition 125, a Club and Community investment fund which aims to raise a total of £75,000 primarily from the Club and its members, but also open to contributions from our stakeholders and members of the community who love golf or simply enjoy our great facilities lounge, dog-friendly snug bar and our expanding range of social events and activities.

If you would like to support us as we continue to serve the community, we would welcome any contribution towards Ambition 125, which can be made via www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/bghc-ambition-125 or by contacting the Club.

Between the Golf Club, and the Golf House Club, we have been serving the community of Burrtisland and its surrounds for over 225 years. Through Ambition 125, we aim to ensure that this legacy continues, so that those who follow in our footsteps, can continue to play golf and meet socially for another 225 years.

Looking ahead to the Spring, and the new summer golfing season, our Club remains open to welcome new members. We aim to keep our membership fees affordable so that the Club is accessible to as many people as possible.

If you are interested in our splendid social scene, there is always a warm welcome in the fully accessible lounge, whether you are popping in for a warm drink after a cold walk or attending one of our functions:

- Friday 3rd February - Quiz Night
- Saturday 11th Feb- Valentine's Dance
- Friday 3rd March - Quiz Night
- Sat 25th March - Season Opener Dance
- Friday 31st March - Quiz Night

www.burrtislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk
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Jim Galloway, Captain



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Burntisland Over 70s Christmas Treat

On Saturday 3rd December, over 125 guests enjoyed an afternoon at the Kingswood Hotel for the annual Over 70s Christmas Treat. Following an excellent festive lunch, entertainment was provided by Kirk James before the fabulous event concluded with a visit from Santa delivering sweets.

Well done to the hard working organising committee, including the volunteers who stepped in at the last minute to fill absences due to Covid. Thanks also to Rankin & Kathryn Bell, outgoing owners of the Kingswood, who have hosted the Christmas Treat at their venue since 2011.

The committee would like to extend their thanks for generous donations to Briggs Marine, Forth Ports, Tom Courts,

Hancocks Bingo, Lodge Dunearn, and customers of The Star, plus the many other contributions from businesses and individuals, without whose assistance the event could not take place in its present format.

Almost £800 was raised for the Christmas Treat funds at a Race Night in The Star in late December, so the committee also wish to thank organiser Donald Orr, the local businesses who sponsored horses and everyone who bought horses and who bid on the night.

If you would like to assist with the organising committee, please get in touch with Morag Douglas at The Star if you are able to offer your support.



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Burntisland Harbour Access Trust

So now we know: the Firth of Forth Green Freeport bid has been accepted. We've been informed that the likelihood is Burntisland will be twinned with Leith to develop off-shore energy installations and/or to be an overspill area. At our last meeting with Forth Ports (FP) they acknowledged the problems of shallow docks, narrow entrances and poor road access but pointed out the existence of relatively deep water immediately offshore. The West Dock, with existing infrastructure, planning permission etc, would be easier to develop than the East Dock. We have no further information as to what is planned or the consequences for the town and the community – except of course the closure of access to the harbour and breakwater.

We believe that regardless of FP's successful bid they need to consult with the community to determine the optimum use of Burntisland Harbour (and the East Dock in particular) regarding jobs on the one hand and loss of amenity on the other. Sitting tight and denying the community access for both recreation and/or developing alternative ideas is no longer acceptable.

We were told that FP are reviewing and enhancing their Corporate Social Responsibility Programme to raise the company's profile in general and, in particular, at Burntisland. The programme could be pro-active and take several forms, including: assisting projects financially; helping with accommodation; permitting access for historical or natural environmental events, and permitting suitably controlled leisure activities ashore or afloat.

If FP have money for raising their profile we believe they should spend it on enhancing safety and permitting community access to the breakwater. Sponsoring other community activities will be seen as "mouth music" to meet a management objective to buy the Burntisland community off.

The new security gate across the breakwater has been moved back towards the Lammerlaws in accordance with the original plan. The closing of the gates is imminent and may well have happened by the time you read this.



We are working to identify all relevant legal documentation, acts of parliament, charters, and by-laws etc, to create a comprehensive record of customary and practised access by the community. We know of cases, including that of Cove Harbour, in Aberdeenshire, where court recognition of customary rights has resulted in landowners having to remove fences and other barriers, erected to prevent public access. FP have formally acknowledged the existence of customary rights of access but did not, apparently, take this into consideration when fencing off the East Dock. We need to hear from individuals who have used or accessed the docks for recreational reasons, how and when they did so and why. We need to collect evidence from the community to establish community rights of access.

If you have any knowledge or experience of public access as described above, could you please contact David Paty at BurntislandHAT@gmail.com (attention David Paty). David is collecting and collating the information we seek. This can be something as simple as having walked from Lammerlaws Road to the station on your way to and from work, regularly fished from the southern or western breakwater or just walked your dog.

An email along the lines of: "I, Jock Tamson of 14 Lochies Road, Burntisland commuted to my work at Rosyth Dockyard by train for 14 years between 1972 and 1986, accessing the railway station via the East Dock from Lammerlaws Road.

As a boy I helped my father, James Tamson, moor, load and unload his fishing boat at Shank's Pier. For over twenty years we both fished for mackerel from the Western and later the Southern Breakwater. We were never challenged by Forth Ports, Burntisland Ship Builders, Consafe, the Royal Navy, MoD, or others for doing so. I would be pleased to discuss this with David Paty and can be reached by text at 07xxxxxxx or by email at youremail@example.com."

Further initiatives we are pursuing include feasibility studies looking at the infrastructure and ecology of land at and around the harbour (so that we know what we're dealing with should the right to buy be triggered), determining areas of archaeological interest, assisting the Active Transport initiative in developing "green routes" and looking into other land in the area which could maybe be brought into community ownership.

Finally, BHAT needs to co-opt a director aged 16 to 26. We seek an individual who would like to help shape Burntisland for their generation, has patience with an older generation(!), and could attend in-person or on Zoom to join some of the monthly board meetings which are held on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm (though we are flexible). If you have a nomination or volunteer, please contact BurntislandHAT@gmail.com It would look impressive on a young person's CV!

For more information see www.burntislandharbour.co.uk

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Class 4



Class 7

11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group



We started our winter term by welcoming the children back and dressing up as glow stick dancing skeletons for Halloween. We have had sessions on first aid, knots and international food/games. The children enjoyed a night walk to visit the war memorial and having fun using torches along The Links. We also took part in the Remembrance Day parade.

We presented nine bronze chief scout awards in the term and lots of different badges. We had an exciting sleepover in



November where the children all achieved their cook badge by learning all about healthy foods, cooking different treats and keeping safe in the kitchen. The children all had great fun putting up tents and sleeping in them. Then we had a campfire at the end of the night.

We look forward to more adventures and activities in the coming year!

Shirley Kent and Simone Thomson,
Beaver Scout Leaders



11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group

Group Scout Leader: Kerry Laing – Tel: 07517 374459
Email: 11thfife@gmail.com

District Commissioner: Derek Dunsire – Tel: 07905 227493
Email: dc@scoutskirkcaldy.org.uk

Scottish Registered Charity Number - SC031394



Events Group Bonfire Night & Fireworks

The Events Group, which runs the Bonfire Night and Fireworks on the Links, held a successful meeting in November.

Additional volunteers joined the group to fill the office bearer roles and enough new committee members are in place to begin planning to hold the event for the first time in three years.

However due to rising costs of fireworks and uncertainty over funding the event is currently not yet confirmed as going ahead.

More information will be available in the next Burgh Buzz or on Facebook.

Anyone interested in joining the committee or volunteering as a steward or bucket shaker on the night, please get in touch with **Ailsa Powrie**, Events Group Chair, via ailsapowrie@gmail.com



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Girlguiding at the Parish Church Halls

The units are now back to the halls after the Christmas holiday and everyone is ready to get started on a new Guiding year full of activities and fun.

We were all very busy in the run up to Christmas, the units enjoyed a very successful Coffee evening in November raising funds for our use of the halls. Our thanks to family and friends who supported us with donations of goods for sale and by joining us for a festive cuppa.

We are very grateful for the hard work of the Big Green Market team and would like to thank the organisers for the donation from the December event, this is very much appreciated and will be put to good use.

1st Burntisland Guides

Guides took part in the Remembrance Sunday service and parade in Burntisland and in preparation spent an evening making poppies from old plastic bottles. These were used to decorate the planter outside the library and Guides also took some home to use in their own gardens.

The Guide unit visited Edinburgh again at the end of November, this time for our annual trip to the theatre (supported through funding from Generation CashBack). After lunch in McDonald's we went to see 'An Edinburgh Christmas Carol' at the Lyceum. We ended our day with a walk down to the station taking time to enjoy the Christmas lights on the way.

Guides and leaders have been busy fundraising in the run up to Christmas. Guides enjoyed serving tea and coffee at the coffee evening, and leaders staffed a sales table at the Green Market. Both were very successful and funds raised will be put

towards our use of the Church Halls.

The Guides spent an evening making more than 50 festive crackers filled with sweets and packs of homemade tablet to be handed out to older members in the community through the Pastoral Care Group.

Our last few meetings were filled with Christmas activities. In addition to making cards to send to their families, Guides re-used and recycled things that would otherwise have gone to waste and made some lovely Christmas decorations. We used old plastic wine glasses to make snow globes and unwanted wooden curtain rings were turned into Christmas wreath tree decorations. We also had an evening learning how to make sea glass tree decorations using sea glass gathered on the beach.

1st Burntisland Brownies

This has been a busy term for the Brownies. Brownies and Rainbows got together for a Halloween party, lots of fun and games and a fancy dress competition. The unit also took part in the Remembrance parade.

We have had six new Brownies join us, they have already made their promise and are well on the way to achieving many more badges.

All Brownies have been working very hard and have achieved their 'Have Adventures' theme awards.

One of our Brownies, Annalise Doig, has completed a huge challenge, the Brownie 'Gold Award'. She worked so hard at home and in the unit to achieve this and the unit leaders are very proud. Annalise has not only completed her Bronze, Silver and now Gold Award she has also achieved every interest badge possible along the way. Well done, Annalise!

Brownies took part in our fundraising events, our coffee evening and the Big Green Market. They enjoyed helping at sales tables serving their family and friends.

Brownies ended the term with a Christmas party, the hall was decorated like Santa's grotto and everyone had a great time.

1st Burntisland Rainbows

We've had another busy, fun, term doing lots of arts and crafts and community events. The girls loved helping at our coffee evening and also at the Big Green Market. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

We also made our own Poppies to wear and we went to pay our respects at the War Memorial.

We've had a couple of new girls join us which is lovely. We enjoyed a brilliant Christmas party where five girls made their Rainbow Promise and another received her Silver award! Well done!

We have just started our Nature badge and are looking forward to the better weather and lighter evenings so that we can get outside for some Guiding adventures!

Spaces are available in all units, contact us for more information or register online at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus and we will get in touch with you.

Units meet in the Parish Church Halls on Monday evenings.

Guides: 7 to 9 pm
burntislandguides@gmail.com

Brownies: 5 to 6.30 pm
burntislandbrownies1st@outlook.com

Rainbows: 5 to 6 pm
1burntislandrainbows@gmail.com

Jean Priestley



Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club

November and December were busy months for Team BASC. When our swimmers weren't busy perfecting their tumble turns, they were competing in events, bagging medals, attending training days, and tearing up the dance floor!

This year's Club Championships took place at Kirkcaldy Leisure Centre on Saturday 12th November. Spectators were treated to an afternoon of outstanding performances, with exciting finishes and bucketloads of team spirit on display.

Special shoutouts go to Orla Théodas for her impressive swim in the girls 12 & under 50 metres butterfly, as well as Sam Milroy and Grace Kellas, who both won gold medals in four out of five of their events, plus a fifth gold for Grace in the 50 metres Open Fly. Another big winner at this year's Club Champs was Arran Haig, whose efforts in the pool earned him five gold medals in the boys 10 & under events. Huge congratulations to these four Team BASC superstars, and to everyone who came along and gave it their all.

Development squad swimmers Sam Milroy, Gracie Flanagan, Callum Fraser, and Rowan Murray participated in the Fife Area Squad training day in Cupar in November. This was a day of land training, classroom learning and a pool session for swimmers from clubs across Fife.

Our four Wonder-swimmers did a fantastic job representing their club.



Next up was the Awards Presentation Evening and Family Ceilidh, where swimmers and their families came along to the Parish Church Halls to celebrate the many achievements of Team BASC in 2022. It was a fun night for all, with dancing, a tombola, and trophies galore. Sam Milroy and Gracie Flanagan were voted in as the new club captains and we wish them the best of luck leading the team in 2023.

Before breaking off for the holidays the club held a Christmas Fun Night at the Beacon Leisure Centre, with flumes, waves, and inflatables. Santa Claus made a special appearance, but unfortunately, he forgot his trunks and didn't get to have a shot on the flumes – maybe next year! Huge thanks to Santa, and to the Beacon staff for operating the flumes and waves.

The New Year brings a return to training and next up will be timed swims to help the

selection of this year's Fife League teams. Well done to all members of Team BASC for their successes in 2022, whether that be moving up a lane, participating in an event for the first time, or getting a new PB. Here's to another great year in the pool!

Name: Arran Haig

Age: 10

Joined BASC: December 2020

Level: session one, lane three

Favourite stroke: Breaststroke

Proudest swimming moment: Winning the 100 metres IM race at the Club Championships

Best thing about swimming: I love seeing me and my friends get better when we race and seeing our new personal best times.

Swimming is a great way to stay active, meet new people, and engage with your local community. BASC is open to anyone that can swim at least one length of a recognisable stroke.

For more info or to arrange to come along for an assessment please visit our website www.burntislandswimmingclub.co.uk or email: basenquiries@hotmail.com

Laura Scotland



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Burntisland Parish Church

At the start of this new year here are some of our reasons to be thankful.

Our children, youth and families worker for the Burntisland, Erskine & Kinghorn (BEK) churches has begun work. Adrian and his family have had a great welcome to the area by everyone in the community. Adrian is looking forward to starting a youth club in February. His enthusiasm is infectious.

There's been great teamwork between the Pastoral Care team and the Guides. We think you're great! The Pastoral Care team were delighted to deliver 56 Christmas gift bags to members of our community. The Guides helped fill them with beautifully crafted crackers and reindeer wrapped tablet; all very much appreciated.

Our Cornerstone Café runs on a Wednesday from 12–2 pm and is open to everyone; it's worth the climb to the Church Halls. The food is free, and the company is great. Thank you so much to all the volunteers and to those who visit the café to join in the chat, enjoy the food and

support it financially. Both those roles are such a blessing.

We're also thankful to be able to meet up at our varied services. Come and join with us any time; you will be very welcome. There's always a service at 11.15 am on a Sunday in the Church, and every nine weeks you'll catch our Chilled Church which rotates every three weeks round the BEK Churches; always at 11.00 am. We say it's "altogether different and downright fun" and it's for all ages.

On the last Sunday of the month there's our Café Church held at 6.20 pm in the Salvation Army Hall; the home baking is superb, and it's great to hear life stories from the speakers.

Finally, keep an eye on our website, the Facebook Pages for Burntisland Parish Church and Chilled Church, and bek_youth on Instagram. There's loads going on!



Church Services

World Day of Prayer—Friday 3rd March at 2 pm in Erskine U F Church Hall.

Palm Sunday Walk—2nd April at 2 pm

Starting at St Joseph's R C Church, and ending at St Serf's Church for a short service.

Maundy Thursday—6th April
7 pm - Service in Erskine U F Church
7 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper in St Joseph's R C Church.

Good Friday—7th April
7 pm - Service in Parish Church
3 pm - service of the Lord's Passion, and
7 pm - Stations of the Cross in St Joseph's R C Church

Holy Saturday—8th April
8.30 pm - The Easter Vigil in St Joseph's R C Church

Easter Sunday—9th April
Morning services.

10 am – Mass in St Joseph's R C Church.

Erskine Church

We received a late Christmas card by post on 13th January. It wasn't that surprising in light of what's been happening with the mail, but at the same time Christmas cheer seemed a long time in the past.

Now that we've already seen out the first month of 2023, how are you feeling about the future? The past can't be replayed or changed, but there are things we can do that'll make a real difference for the future. That's empowering, challenging, maybe even quite exciting.

Christmas and New Year was good in Erskine, with a lovely evening carol service on 11th December (well-played Burntisland Community Choir) and a BEK Communion on New Year's Day. The Watchnight was quiet, what happened to all of you? Please get that 24th December slot at 11.15 pm into those diaries for 2023! We raised £346 for our Christmas charities (Kirkcaldy Foodbank and Tearfund).

A Bible verse to ponder. "Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us" (Philippians 3.13-14, NLT).

The Moderator of our UF General Assembly, Rev. Archie Ford, will be visiting Erskine on Sunday 12th February. This'll be a special BEK service (11 am start) and everyone's very welcome to join us.

I'm also delighted to report that the first of our iconic coffee and pancakes mornings is taking place in Erskine halls on Saturday 18th February (from 10 am).

The local churches are busy behind the scenes working out plans for Easter. It's too early to say much about the arrangements, but there should be a Palm Sunday walk (2nd April), then Holy Week services around the town culminating in our early

Easter Sunday morning beach and Binn gatherings (9th April).

Please keep an eye on the Facebook pages of local churches for the latest info about what's happening and when.

I think it's tough to forget the past, but certainly it should never dominate our lives. Christians believe that God is ever-faithful, not least because of the promises of God fulfilled in the work of Jesus. There's no VAR in life, but faith assures us that there's always hope.

Let me wish you a peaceful, healthy and happy 2023 from everyone in Erskine. We'd be delighted to see you at any of our services (Sundays at 11 am) or special events.

Rev. Alexander Ritchie



St Joseph's Church

Happy New Year, even if it is February! On each Sunday of Advent we light a candle on our Advent Wreath. The candles symbolise the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. Hopefully these gifts will be ours in 2023. Christmas at St Joseph's was busier than ever; it was great to see so many people attending Church.

Now we are looking forward to Lent and Easter, another busy time in the parish. Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on Wednesday 22nd February and there will be Mass and the distribution of ashes at 10 am and 7 pm. On the Fridays of Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 7 pm.

On Palm Sunday, 2nd April, Burntisland Churches Together will be having another Walk of Witness, leaving St Joseph's at 2 pm.

On Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7pm, with watching at the Altar of Repose until 9 pm.

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion will take place at 3 pm on Good Friday, with Stations of the Cross at 7 pm. The Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection will be at 8.30 pm on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday Mass will be at the usual time of 10 am.

All are welcome at any of our services. Wishing you every blessing. Keep safe and well.

Fr James



St Serf's Scottish Episcopal Church

This evening the wind is blowing a hooley and winter storms are forecast, while at St Serf's we have just cleared away that joyous festival of Christmas trees we hosted in our church garden.

The festival turned out to be a great success but its success was not only that it brought light and colour to the top of Cromwell Road; it was also a celebration of how all the churches and organisations of the town are saying yes to working together. St Serf's would like to thank all who took part and helped to make the festival such a success.

As we move through the dark days towards the promise of spring we can be sure there will be other opportunities for sharing events and celebrations.

As you read this issue of the Burgh Buzz the churches will be sharing the quiet period before Easter, which we call Lent. Christians use this time to reflect on where they have fallen short of the ideal and where the human race as a whole has failed to maintain the world's intended balance of fairness, peace and justice.

Whatever our faith or if we have no religious faith, we all need time to stop now and then and take stock of where we have

got to, and to ask ourselves whether we could have done things differently.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, which this year is 22nd February. There will be a service in St Serf's in the evening.

Service times for Holy Week and Easter will be posted on the church noticeboard and on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/StSerfsSEChurchBurntisland



Look out for the Palm Sunday walk through the town on 2nd April, when all the churches come together to mark the start of Holy Week. This year it starts at 2 pm at St Joseph's Church, and ends at St Serf's Church where there will be a short service.

Join the walk or take the opportunity to ask one of the walkers about why they belong to a faith community. We will be only too happy to listen or try to answer your questions.

Easter (9th April) will be the next big celebration when hopefully there will be real signs of spring. Look out then for various events and displays. Check out St Serf's eco-garden, where we will have planted the potatoes and prepared the beds for later vegetables. Come and help if you'd like to, or just stop for a moment to enjoy the wonder of the changing seasons and the renewal of life.

May God bless your enjoyment of springtime and renew you in hope!

Rev. Carol Latimer





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The Ecology Centre

As we begin 2023 with blustery, wet and windy weather, what better time to take advantage of our continuing Winter Support programme, funded by the National Lottery. Warm up on 'Soup Tuesdays' in the Nest Café. Free homemade soup and a hot drink are available to all from 11am–3pm. Our tasty soup is very popular so don't be late!

We also have some personal care packs available which include toiletries, laundry and cleaning products. You can self-refer for these packs on our website.

www.theecologycentre.org/wintersupport

As always, our Community Fridge is available during office hours, Monday to Friday. This is open to everyone and you are welcome to make a small donation if you are able to.

Supported by Fife Council and Fife Voluntary Action, we have added a new Friday Tool Shed session. With a free hot breakfast provided in the Nest Café, join in with some woodwork activities and meet some new people. Space is limited in our Tool Shed, so please book beforehand. lee@theecologycentre.org

Restoration Forth Project

Our Seagrass project has moved on leaps and bounds over 2022. Lyle, our Seagrass Officer, has increased his knowledge and experience in the field and we are now close to planting seagrass seeds in the Forth.

On one of his many adventures, Lyle collected reproductive seagrass shoots from around Orkney. Seagrass from this area was chosen as it comes from the same genetic clusters as those found in the Forth. Marine Scotland's biosecurity protocol was followed and the seagrass shoots were transported to the Seagrass Processing Unit based at the Ecology

Centre. The shoots were then stored in fresh sea water where the shoots decayed allowing the release of the seeds.

After a lot of snipping, sorting and the separating out of seeds, involving 108 volunteers over seven sessions, we now have seagrass seeds ready for planting. The seeds will be stored over winter and will be planted later this spring.

You can keep up to date with the Restoration Forth project on our website and if you are interested in becoming involved in the project, please contact lyle@theecologycentre.org

Project 'Treetops Rescue'

Partly funded by Paths for All, this project has been ongoing throughout December and will continue into 2023. Our staff and volunteer teams have been working exceptionally hard to repair this path in the most inaccessible area of the site.

The work included the movement of 20 tonnes of aggregate, and with the help of a small team from Rural Skills Scotland we now have 30 metres of newly laid path.



What a wonderful example of teamwork!

We would also like to acknowledge the support of Archway Metals and The Double A Trading Company in this project.

New Staff Member

Our new colleague Ben comes to us on a year long contract through the "New to

Nature Fund" run by Groundworks. With his help we hope to have a steady supply of fresh seasonal fruit and vegetables. This produce will be used for our shared volunteer lunches, and also providing fresh produce to our community fridge.



Our "Giveshaw" will be back too and we hope to make available 1500 seedlings for you to take and grow at home. We are looking for volunteers to help support the market garden, this will be a much less physically demanding volunteering role, and full training will be given. Contact lee@theecologycentre.org

Biodiversity Report

Our volunteer, Dr Robert Mill, continues to produce his very informative Biodiversity Reports about the flora and fauna found around Kinghorn Loch. This can be found on our website www.theecologycentre.org/wildlife

Remember, the **Nest Café** is open Thursday to Monday 9 am–3.30 pm, with a 9.30 am start on a Sunday. Takeaway hot drinks are available 7 days.

And finally....

If you would like to volunteer at The Ecology Centre please contact lee@theecologycentre.org

Would you like to join our Tool Library? Membership is only £20 per year, with a large choice of tools at your disposal.

If you are having a clear out of your garage or shed, remember, we take donations of old tools. Get in touch: toolshed@theecologycentre.org

Keep up to date with the Ecology Centre at www.theecologycentre.org

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Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

The new year comes in quickly and we are now organising events for the year to come. A winter Frostbite Regatta starts things off at Kinghorn Loch, which is held by Kinghorn Coastal Rowing Club. This will be followed by the loch users coming together on the annual barley straw workday, when volunteers will fill the four floating rafts on the loch with barley straw. This ensures that the water quality of the loch remains excellent, and the birds will have plenty of nesting materials.

We are planning the 2023 Walking Festival, which will be held between Wednesday 22nd March and 5th April. This popular event is a good way to shake off the winter blues. Walks are chosen that have something for everyone, longer treks for those who enjoy striding out, plus leisurely walks of interest. All take in the beautiful scenery in this part of Fife. **The Walking Festival is free and a full programme will be available on our website in February.** If you would like your own copy you can email info@craigencalttrust.org.uk or contact Marilyn on 07740 999514 for more information. We cannot guarantee good weather but you can be sure of a friendly, welcoming atmosphere on all the walks!

During the winter months, interesting birds visit Kinghorn Loch. In November, the kingfisher was spotted again, dropping in for some tasty fish. Bird watchers have been seen with cameras at the ready to

snap a lesser scaup and a ringed neck duck, both recent winter visitors. The photographers' patience is to be admired. If winter temperatures drop and lochs ice over, more birds will shelter here as, because of the depth of the loch, clear water remains.



And if you are out and about for a family walk, do pop in and say hello to our smart looking troll, Frodi, on Rodanbraes Path. He has recently had a makeover by local sculptor Kenny Munro, his creator.

Lastly we have some sad news. Bob Cooper, manager of the Alcan Whinnyhall Landfill site died during the Christmas period. Bob was involved with Kinghorn Loch for well over twenty years and helped ensure the excellent water quality that we have today. He hosted international visits

to Kinghorn Loch to show how well the loch has recovered from historic pollution.



Bob also assisted the Trust with all of its pathway projects, planning and providing machinery for digging out and preparatory work. Rodanbraes Path, which runs along the high ridge of the Alcan land, was developed in close association with Bob and his team. The wooden bridge was constructed to reduce the gradient of the path and make it family and disabled friendly, and has been a great success.

We are grateful to Bob for all his friendship and support and we will miss his presence, but our thoughts are most with his family who we know will miss him greatly.



Pictured is Bob Cooper (centre) at the Rodanbraes bridge with Ron Edwards.

Marilyn Edwards



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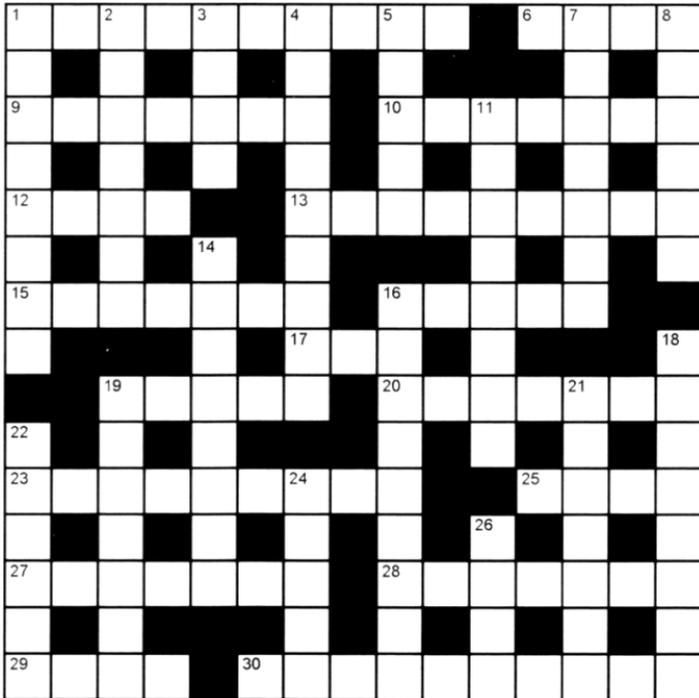
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THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Teacher (10)
- 6. Smooth-talking (4)
- 9. Abbreviate (7)
- 10. East Anglia County (7)
- 12. Natural satellite (4)
- 13. Mostly (2,3,4)
- 15. Spanish Princess (7)
- 16. Batter (5)
- 17. False statement (3)
- 19. Greenfly (5)
- 20. Buff coloured, cotton cloth (7)
- 23. French cheese (9)
- 25. Quorum for a quintet (4)
- 27. Diminish, shrink slowly (7)
- 28. Planet (7)
- 29. Regular (4)
- 30. Evaluation (10)

DOWN

- 1. Prolonged inability to sleep (8)
- 2. Behave ostentatiously (7)
- 3. Putting on the ——— (4)
- 4. People who eat people (9)
- 5. Commencement (5)
- 7. Spotted big cat (7)
- 8. Two piece swimsuit (6)
- 11. Occurring often (8)
- 14. Finally (2,3,3)
- 16. Contrition (9)
- 18. Unseemly (8)
- 19. Procure (7)
- 21. Gourmet (7)
- 22. Four player card game (6)
- 24. Follows orders (5)
- 26. Primates (4)

Name

Address

Telephone

Completed entries by 31st March to: **1 Lammerlaws Road, Burntisland, KY3 9DT** or email paulbriscoe1@gmail.com

First correct entry drawn wins **£40** in vouchers kindly donated by **Shell UK Ltd.** Solution will appear in the next Burgh Buzz issue.

November Crossword Solution

Across: 1 Outlandish, 6 Tsar, 9 Soldier, 10 Victors, 12 Akin, 13 Capacious, 15 Legatee, 16 Idler, 17 Act, 19 Chimp, 20 Implore, 23 Aggregate, 25 Edit, 27 Inertia, 28 Abreast, 29 Cosy, 30 Left hander

Down: 1 Obstacle, 2 Tilting, 3 Amis, 4 Dirt cheap, 5 Set up, 7 Savior, 8 Relish, 11 Escalope, 14 Strident, 16 Itinerant, 18 Testator, 19 Cygnets, 21 Old hand, 22 Maniac, 24 Adage, 26 Area

Congratulations to our November crossword winner:

Mary Hindle, Ramsay Crescent, Burntisland

Burntisland's Events Diary

FEBRUARY

Friday	3rd	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls—raising funds for the Town Twinning exchange	12 noon–4 pm
Saturday	4th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
Sunday	5th	Family friendly Beach Clean at the Beach House	10.30 am
Thursday	9th	BCDT Climate Café in the Heritage Centre	6.30 pm–8.30 pm
Friday	10th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7 pm
		Acoustic Music Club in Burntisland Bowling Club	7.30 pm–10.30 pm
Saturday	11th	CBTRA Children's Fun Day in the Parish Church Halls	2 pm–4 pm
Thursday	23rd	Police Community Surgery in the Toll Community Hub	10 am–12 pm
		BCDT What's Happening? Burntisland meeting in the Heritage Centre	7 pm–8.30 pm
Friday	24th	Floral Action Burntisland AGM in the Sands Hotel	7 pm
Saturday	25th	Pipe Band coffee morning in the Parish Church Halls	11 am–1 pm

MARCH

Friday	3rd	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls—raising funds for Floral Action Burntisland	12 noon–4 pm
Saturday	4th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
Sunday	5th	Family friendly Beach Clean at the Beach House	10.30 am
Thursday	9th	BCDT Climate Café in the Heritage Centre	6.30 pm–8.30 pm
Friday	10th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7 pm
		Acoustic Music Club in Burntisland Bowling Club	7.30 pm–10.30 pm
Saturday	18th	BCDT Community Futures / Action Plan event in Burntisland Primary School	11 am–3 pm
Wednesday	22nd to	5th April—Craigencaft Walking Festival, see page 22	various dates/times
Thursday	23rd	Police Community Surgery in the Toll Community Hub	10 am–12 pm
		BCDT What's Happening? Burntisland meeting in the Heritage Centre	7 pm–8.30 pm
Friday	31st	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls—raising funds for Burntisland Civic Week	12 noon–4 pm

APRIL 2023

Saturday	1st	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
Sunday	2nd	Family friendly Beach Clean at the Beach House	10.30 am
		Easter Church services, see page 19	various dates/times
Friday	14th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7 pm
		Acoustic Music Club in Burntisland Bowling Club	7.30 pm–10.30 pm

MAY 2023

Friday	5th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls—raising funds for the Museum of Communication	12 noon–4 pm
Saturday	6th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
Sunday	7th	Family friendly Beach Clean at the Beach House	10.30 am

To include a public event taking place in May, June, or July in our next issue, please email: editor@burghbuzz.org.uk



Burntisland Nature Watch

By Leo du Feu

It's fun on January 1st to take note of the first bird you see or hear, I feel it gets the year off to a good start. If you're organised, which I'm not, you could write it down and build a lovely list of your yearly firsts. This year I put a prompt on the **Burntisland Wildlife & Woodlands** Facebook group the day before, asking people to share theirs in the morning. We got all sorts. Wren, woodpigeon, robin, tree sparrow, blackbird, blue tit, herring gull. "White-tailed eagle on the feeders." Nice try, Andy. Several lucky people heard tawny owl as their first, what a start to 2023! Ours was a 1.30am oystercatcher, heard by going out and standing on the step before bed.

Listing the wildlife we see and hear is really interesting to try. You can end up amazed by how many species are out there. Encourage children to join in. It gives extra purpose to a walk, can make it that little bit more fun. You start spotting and hearing things you don't quite recognise, start wondering what they are. Next you're asking your friends if they know, or getting out that dusty bird book to check, or putting a question on our Facebook group. Then you're hooked!

I used to love making these lists pretty much every day then logging them on the British Trust for Ornithology's excellent BirdTrack app, knowing my fun was helping play an important role in conservation science. With a baby and a five year old I now realise I've almost entirely stopped, and I miss it. So this year I'm going to try just a little harder to make the odd list here and there, and also to get out into the landscape a little bit more.

After walking our son to school I sometimes chose not to head straight to my station studio but to extend by half an hour or so by continuing uphill in the Binn Pond direction where there are so often buzzards, roe deer and a kestrel (pictured below). Then over the rise and down that lovely wooded slope of finches and tits and robin and wrens emerging onto Bendameer Road – beside which that first field is often covered in dozens of winter curlews. Great views of the Forth as I walk down Colinswell Road, plus Briggs' Christmas crane, and fingers crossed one day a breaching whale.

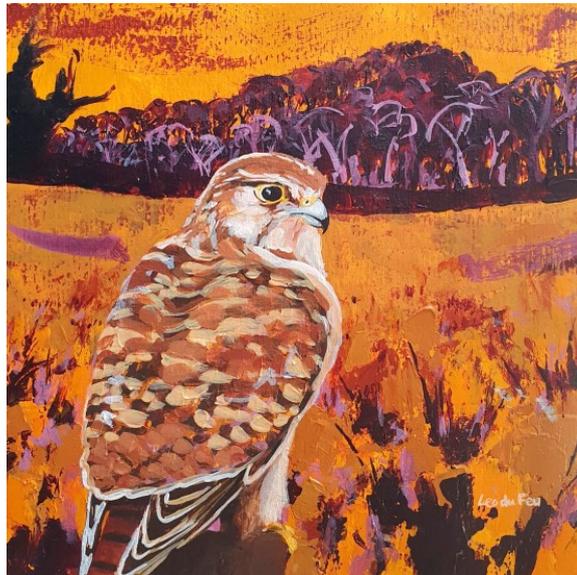
Then Collinswell Drive, under the railway, peer into the mucky Seamill Pond area where lots of small birds drink and sometimes a heron or even a cormorant or kingfisher is seen. With a little more time I might detour along the cycle path to the Alcan SuDS pond where the other day I saw three reed buntings for the first time in years and where the flooded grass

brought in 44 redshanks on January 1st. Then I like going up through the Castle estate (rooks and jackdaws and thrushes in the tall park trees), down the steps from Monks Walk, along Sailors Walk enjoying looking at old industry, then round to the station.

If I'm just going straight home from school I tend to walk the lovely Cot Burn past the Toll Centre. What a great stretch of habitat that burn is. The other day a treecreeper and long-tailed tits were within a couple of metres of me, right at my eye level. Also blackbirds, blue tits and three chaffinches. I've seen a grey wagtail down below the school crossing there. Once I saw a palmate newt - in a silty crisp packet!

And if I'm walking directly from house to studio I can go the quickest way along Cromwell Road and High Street or I can extend it by a few minutes and go Links, shore, docks (including breakwater, in the past) and get loads of nature to lift my mind. I did this on a very windy day last week and saw house sparrow, starling, blackbird, carrion crow, black-headed gull, common gull, herring gull, magpie, oystercatcher, bar-tailed godwit, redshank, ringed plover, curlew, shag, blue tit, great tit, woodpigeon, feral pigeon, chaffinch. Nineteen species in a half hour walk to work. Had it not been so windy and the middle of the day when birds tend to be resting I'd have seen more.

Which are your favourite day-to-day walks? What do you see? Join us on the **Burntisland Wildlife & Woodlands** Facebook group and share your nature. We'd love to hear.



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