
BURGH BUZZ

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November 2017

Issue No 65

The Toun Clock



Our Once Proud Clock Tower

Nearly five years ago the tower and steeple of the Burgh Chambers was deemed unsafe and dismantled. The building, which dates from 1843, is listed and Fife Council has a duty to reinstate the steeple but claims not to have the money to do so. Work to re-instate the tower started in 2013 and over £60,000 was spent, the majority of which came from the Common Good Fund. Matching sandstone was purchased, worked sandstone features ordered and a replacement cradle for the clock bells was made. Then everything stopped!

Regarding the steeple, George McLaughlan, Secretary of the Community Council, discovered that the dismantled parts were in storage. After contacting the Heritage section of Building Services, he and Cllr Langlands were given access to the stored stonework. In Cupar, they discovered 7 large canvas bags of worked sandstone arches, replacements for stonework which was beyond repair. They were told that the contents of each bag cost about the price of a small car. There was also a large supply of cut sandstone blocks. All of this stone was purchased locally and came from the source of the original stone.

The concern is that the longer the stonework remains in storage the more likely it is to be lost, damaged or used for something else. The people responsible for dismantling and storage may move on and valuable knowledge will be lost. The Heritage team have intimated that sandstone deteriorates the longer it is stored. Also, the storage area being taken up by the stonework must be losing Fife Council a small fortune in potential rent. This situation is URGENT and needs immediate action.

Just as disturbing, the dismantled clock is split between two

sites with the bells, weights and mechanism in a private workshop in Cowdenbeath and the rest stored in Markinch. At the time of going to print, access to view these pieces is still being sought.

Burntisland has just been voted "Fife's Favourite Conservation Town". Re-instatement of the town's clock tower would further justify this proud achievement. Our politicians intend to spend £60m on repairing Big Ben over a period of four years. Why can we not set a target of 2020 and have our own Big Ben striking again for midnight on 31st December 1919 at a fraction of the cost?

However, re-instatement of the tower and clock is only one part of a wider issue in respect of the Burgh Chambers complex itself. Since Fife Council closed the Local Office, the complex lies almost derelict with the Heritage Trust being the only permanent tenant and two or three groups using the Town Hall periodically. The Community Council is endeavouring to gather the support of local organisations and townspeople to pressure Fife Council to seriously address this problem. If you would like to become involved please contact George McLaughlan on the Community Council website www.burntislandcc.org.uk or email burntislandcc@outlook.com. Please support this campaign and let's get our full weight behind it.

(During 2015-16 the Community Council conducted a wide-ranging community survey as part of the 'Community Development Plan'. Re-instatement of the spire and clock was a major concern of many citizens.)

BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY PAPER

Featuring Local issues . organisations . events . people and more

From the Editor

As we rapidly approach the end of the year we can reflect on all the local functions and events which we have enjoyed. We can also look forward to some that we will take part in during the coming months. All of these activities bind the community together.

The Highland Games is the second oldest in the world and in respect of Civic Week, I can still remember strutting my stuff as a page boy in the summer queen festivities in the early Fifties. Burntisland's Guy Fawkes night is a more recent tradition but is second to none in the area. Hundreds of us will attend the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial in early November and as Christmas approaches many of us will play our parts in seasonal fayres, markets and carol services in the local churches. We are fortunate to have an active Heritage Trust and it is pleasing to note that the majority of local activities are focussed on youth. Indeed, many youth organisations continue to thrive in the town.

The catalyst for most of these local activities is the Burntisland Community Council but none of these organisations or events would exist or take place without the dedicated efforts of local residents who volunteer their services.

This issue of the Buzz contains a number of appeals for new volunteers, from the Community Council to the Events Group, from the Parents Council to the Broomhill Community Garden and many others. Why not volunteer to help? You will make new friends, have great fun and have the satisfaction of contributing towards a better Burntisland.

By the way, the Buzz is also looking for new faces and ideas. Enjoy the fireworks, have a wonderful Christmas and may the New Year bring everything that you wish for.

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Every quarter the co-ordinator is responsible for liaising with regular advertisers, processing new advertising queries and issuing invoices following the publication and distribution of the hard copy. It's likely to take up approximately 5-6 hours of your time every quarter.

If you are computer literate, have good communication and organisational skills and are interested in assisting with the production of your community newspaper, then please get in touch with:-

Bill Kirkhope (Editor) at Tel 01383 822023 or email: billvida@sealscraig.plus.com

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Community Council Bullets.....

The Community Council holds its regular meetings on the second Friday of each month at 7.00 pm in Burntisland Burgh Chambers. Members of the public are welcome to attend or to raise matters of interest to them. A summary of issues raised during the last two meetings is set out below.

- Membership is now critical. Like the Events Group and the Burgh Buzz itself, the Community Council is short of volunteers. If you have a view to express, and want to get the best possible results for Burntisland, then we'd like to hear from you. Contact details are in the Burgh Buzz (page 15) – Alex, George, Bruce or any other member will be happy to advise.
- We remain concerned about youth disorder and the availability of police resources. Six members will shortly visit the police control room at Bilston Glen to learn first-hand how officers are despatched in response to a call. We will also be writing to the Justice Minister to express our concerns about the overall level of police resourcing, as it appears that excellent officers are increasingly forced to be reactive rather than proactive.
- ExxonMobil will again be hosting senior citizens from Burntisland for the Christmas pantomime at the Cowdenbeath Community Theatre in December. Later in January, senior citizens will again be invited to a Burns Lunch at the Mossmorran plant. Details and tickets will be distributed via Christine Dewar.
- We are still awaiting a definitive plan from the developer in respect of the possible temporary closure of the Kinghorn Loch Road. We have made it clear that the original plan of a 6-month closure is not acceptable. Bruce Stuart and others are keeping a watching brief.
- John Bruce and Andy Smith continue to develop plans for a local emergency response in support of any incident which may affect Burntisland.
- So far, the Community Action Plan has been used to help gain funding of at least £250,000 for local projects. More information is reported elsewhere in the Burgh Buzz.
- Lesley Anne Cronin attended an open day with Shell at Mossmorran and met the new plant manager Teresa Waddington, as well as other key personnel.
- Alex MacDonald has attended several consultations on the proposed re-design of urgent care – i.e. non-emergency / out of hours health care. It's very early days. However, his feedback so far is that the consultation focuses too strongly on the needs of staff rather than patients. Much more detail is awaited.
- George McLauchlan and Cllr Gordon Langlands have been tracing the whereabouts of masonry and other parts for the Burgh Chambers clock tower, so that an appropriate plan can be put forward for its reconstruction.
- We are awaiting fresh information from Edinburgh airport about their revised plans for new flight paths. Tim Hailey will report once we have more details.

Now that the playpark projects are complete, Morag Douglas has confirmed her reluctant decision to stand down from the Community Council, due to family and business commitments. She has been a stalwart and very active member for several years and will be difficult to replace, but volunteers who are on the electoral register will be very welcome.

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: Bruce Stuart
Treasurer: George McLauchlan
Interim Secretary: George McLauchlan

Members:
Christine Dewar Tim Hailey
John Bruce Lesley-Anne Cronin
Andy Smith Carol-Anne Crossan

Elected Fife Councillors'

Availability

Councillor Gordon Langlands

Telephone 01592 874612

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

Gordon will conduct surgeries to meet local constituents in the Burgh Chambers at 6.30pm on the second Friday of each month.

Councillor Lesley Backhouse

Telephone 07540 677081

Email: Cllr.lesley.backhouse@fife.gov.uk

Lesley will hold surgeries in Burntisland in the Burgh Chambers at 6.30 pm on 10th November and 10.00 am on 13th January in Burntisland Library. Also at 10.00 am on 20th January in Kinghorn Community Centre.

Councillor Kathleen Leslie

Telephone 07714 778906

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

Kathleen will hold surgeries in Kinghorn Community Centre on - 13th November, 11th December & 8th January and in Abbotshall Church on - 6th November, 4th December & 5th February. (all at 10.00 to 10.30 am)

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

Burntisland Buzz

Next Issue - February 2018

Copy Deadline: 15th January

All contributions to the Editor by email or by snail mail.

The Burgh Polis

By P C Elizabeth James



The town's primary school children have, as we all know, recently returned to school after the summer holidays and I'm quite sure that a lot of parents will now be enjoying days that are a bit less hectic and stressful as they drop their children off at the school gates prior to going about their daily business before then returning to collect them a few hours later.

We are aware that the majority of parents try to walk their children to school however for a lot of people this is not an option, and lets face it at this time of year with the weather worsening its often the last thing anyone wants to do. As everyone knows there is no drop off/pick up zone at the primary as it is the council's policy, in an effort to make us all greener, to encourage everyone to walk a bit more.

Unfortunately, the lack of parking at the school is causing some parents to park indiscriminately around the area, blocking in the cars of local residents or by parking illegally e.g. too close to junctions and on kerbs etc. Not only can this be hazardous for other drivers but it can also impact on pedestrians, including school children.

Due to these issues the council is considering more traffic restrictions around the school and we will also be starting to issue tickets for any road traffic offences that we see. However, I am sure that the preferable option for everyone involved is one where people are not hit in the pocket by having to pay any fines incurred, so to this end we are appealing to anyone taking their child to the school by car to park slightly further away and to walk the rest of the way in. It doesn't have to be any great distance just a street or two away where the volume of traffic may not be so high and parking easier.

The school receives a lot of complaints regarding the parking problems and like everybody else they want to be a good neighbour. Let's all do our bit to help them. I have also been advised by the Lollipop Ladies and Gentleman that, although this may not be parents collecting their children, there have been occasions when they have barely stepped back onto the pavement when drivers have driven off through the still red lights. Not only does this

cause an obvious danger for the crossing staff but it also carries a 3 point penalty on your driving licence!

Like a lot of other towns in Fife we are still having problems at the weekend with anti-social behaviour involving youths, local and otherwise. For some time the favourite hang outs have been in and around Dick Crescent and also the area known as "The Grange" on Cowdenbeath Road, a derelict farm which is fairly hazardous due to asbestos contained within the building.

We frequently see an increase in calls from the public regarding these youths, notably with most about them either damaging or trying to damage property. Due to some changes in the way that under 16's are dealt with by the Criminal Justice system, it is sometimes thought that anyone under this age cannot be arrested or charged for any offences they have committed. However, this is not the case. It is also not the case that your criminal record is "wiped clean" when you become an adult which has been known to cause problems when seeking certain employment e.g. ones that require enhanced disclosures.

In the majority of cases anti-social behaviour stems from people drinking large amounts of alcohol. We regularly visit the off sales premises in the town to ensure that they are complying with the law and to remind them of, not only the need to challenge anyone who appears to be under the age of 25, but also to be aware of proxy purchasers. Many people still seem to think that there is no harm in this practice however we would like to remind everyone that, along with providing alcohol to anyone under 18, buying alcohol on behalf of someone under 18 is also a criminal offence.

Again, I am taking this opportunity to remind parents that your children are your responsibility when they are both inside and outside of the home so not only must we, the police, do our best to keep them safe, you must also do the same.

The last Community Engagement Meeting of the year will take place at Burntisland Primary School on

16th November – Thursday @ 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm



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Just Bin It

By **Paul Coleman**
Lead Officer (Safer
Communities)

In the period from 1st May to 30th June this year, Fife Council's Safer Communities Officers,

stepped up patrols in Burntisland to support the launch of the "Just Bin It" campaign to help tackle dog fouling and littering problems within the area. As part of this campaign, Officers installed additional signage, stickers, banners and pavement stencils to help spread the campaign message and encourage Burntisland residents and visitors to "Just Bin It" in relation to dog fouling and littering. As well as this, Safer Communities Officers increased patrols in the area and in the end carried out a total of 108 patrols, which equated to over 80 hours dedicated to tackling dog fouling and littering in Burntisland. Encouragingly, during this period, no offences were witnessed by officers. As a result, this meant that no Fixed Penalty Notices were issued but despite this, whilst patrolling, officers received positive feedback from numerous members of the public and were advised that their presence had made a positive difference.

Perception surveys were carried out before and after the campaign and whilst statistics relating to answers to a number of the questions asked of members of the public didn't show a great increase or decrease, there were areas that did provide encouraging results. For example, the following questions saw changes in either the number or percentages of the answers at the end of the campaign

compared with the beginning:

- The number of people who had heard of Safer Communities Officers increased.
- The amount of people knew how much the fixed penalty for dog fouling increased.
- The number of people who advised that they would report dog fouling increased.
- The number of people who believed dog fouling signs were displayed prominently in Parks, school areas and High Streets increased, but the number regarding signs in Residential areas, saw a decrease.
- The number of people who saw dog fouling as a major problem, unfortunately also saw an increase.

Other aspects to note were that approx. 60 % of people spoken to after the campaign advised that they had seen the "Just Bin It" signs, banners, stickers and stencils within the area and 72% also advised that they were aware of the "Just Bin It" campaign.

And finally, the Social media reach figures on Facebook shows that the messages posted throughout the campaign reached a potential 11,875 people with the launch message alone reaching 3,630 people.

In all, the results from the survey, along with feedback from members of the public have provided an encouraging and positive view of the effectiveness of the campaign within Burntisland and whilst we would have liked for an even better outcome to the results, we hope that the campaign has helped spread the message to people that they should "Just Bin It" when it comes to littering and dog fouling in Burntisland. Safer Communities Officers will continue to monitor and patrol the most problematic areas and we would encourage members of the public to report dog fouling offenders to us on 03451 550022 or via www.fifedirect.org.uk/dogfouling.

Community Emergency Plan



Resilient Communities, supported by Local, Scottish and UK Governments is a concept which harnesses skills, expertise, local knowledge and resources of individuals within communities to

assist the emergency services in the unlikely event of a major emergency.

Communities are encouraged to establish a Resilient Communities Group (RCG) which, in conjunction with the Local Authority will draw up a Resilient Community Plan (RCP) and undertake training. It must be emphasised that the members of the RCG will not replace emergency services but will compliment emergency response when called upon to do so.

Burntisland Community Council has already seized the initiative, having formed an RCG under the leadership of John Bruce and a Burntisland RCP has already been drafted. Initial training has taken place and further training exercises will take place periodically.

It may be comforting to note that the Burntisland community is prepared to help itself during a serious emergency but even more comforting is the fact that the threat of one ever occurring in our community is extremely low.

Anyone interested in assisting should contact John Bruce at :

Telephone Number: 01592 873761 or
email: jonoandjano@yahoo.co.uk



Community Action Plan – the results so far

By Alex. MacDonald. Royal Burgh of Burntisland Community Council.

This time last year we launched the Community Action Plan and delivered copies to nearly every household in Burntisland. It was the fruit of many hundreds of interviews and questionnaires, gathered over several months and including visitors to our town.

It gave a framework for 5 years ahead, not just for the Community Council but also for any local organisation which wanted evidence to help them set their own priorities for the future.

Even though we're only 20% into the plan period, it's worth looking at what the results have been so far.

There were 5 broad themes, each with their own set of priorities. They sometimes overlap, but here are some examples of what we know up to now.

Arts, Heritage and Culture:

An independent steering group was set up to try and progress the local management of Common Good properties. To date, there has been no definitive result that we know of. However, we are ourselves seeking funding for a feasibility study into the overall refurbishment and development of the Burgh Chambers complex. We will be exploring every possible function for the building, so that its future can be assured.

Meanwhile, the Kirkton Churchyard project is nearing completion at a cost of around £100,000. It will shortly be open for public access with interpretation panels, restored masonry and fuller archaeological information than ever before.

We have also recently supported an initiative by Burntisland Heritage Trust to make more Andrew Young paintings available for public viewing.

In addition, Burntisland was recently voted Fife's favourite conservation area, from a list of about 50 options.

Local Economy and Tourism

Floral Action Burntisland continue to lead the way with an enhanced appearance to our streets and public places - gaining, for example a Gold award from Beautiful Fife along the way. We supported the proposal (now live) to re-open a post office on the High Street.

Local traders' organisations have become less active than before, though individual businesses continue to draw widespread recognition. Just a few examples include Tom Courts butchers, Macauley's Fruit & Veg, and the Cromwell Kitchen, all of whom have won awards and / or plaudits from many sources.

Community and Recreation

Two completely refurbished playparks are now open at the East and West ends of the Links and have been hugely popular among young people and parents alike. The Community Action

Plan was a key source of evidence for fund-raising, helping to attract around £150,000 from multiple sources.

Burntisland Sailing Club have made excellent progress in raising funds from multiple sources in order to increase the capacity and accessibility of their facilities, with a target of around £80,000.

Improved Local Services

We supported two applications for additional pharmacy facilities in Burntisland. However, the applications were turned down by NHS Fife - for reasons which in our view are perverse. Nevertheless, the existing pharmacy is about to move to larger premises nearby which should increase their customer service capacity in the future.

We have attended every Community Engagement Meeting with Police Scotland and continue to press for better responsiveness when needed. Several members will shortly visit the police control room at Bilston Glen in order to gain a better understanding of how police responses are prioritised.

The provision of better toilet facilities is being progressed through our elected members of Fife Council.

For peak events, such as Games Day, we have worked with Scott Pallets to secure extra parking for visitors to the town.

We will also be working with other local employers in order to optimise the safe and appropriate public use of their car parking facilities when needed.

Environment and Access

We have worked very closely to support the "pick and fix" and "Just bin it" litter and dog fouling initiatives, whilst also encouraging visits by the Safer Communities team, as reported elsewhere in the Burgh Buzz.

The Sailors Walk path and steps have been refurbished and made available for community access, thanks to the work in particular of former Fife Councillor Peter George.

We are currently exploring options for improving public access to other viewpoints, such as the Lammerlaws.

As a direct result of the CAP, Burntisland Development Trust was set up. They have since done sterling work with consultants to support the production of master plans for local energy and transportation initiatives. As time goes on the options will be prioritised for action by the trust and / or Fife Council and / or other agencies.

Summary

The Community Action Plan is only a framework. It can be used or not by any organisation in the town to help support their own initiatives. Beyond a shadow of a doubt it has been very well-used by the Community Council to progress funding applications and also enhanced local services. It's very much a live document and will continue to be used by the Community Council to help focus our actions for the remainder of the plan's intended life.

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Burntisland Primary School News

Written by P7 Pupils

It has been a super start to the year so far. Our new Primary 1 pupils have settled well into their learning and are enjoying everything about school life so far.

Nursery

Nursery children have been talking and learning about harvest, farming, how food grows and where it comes from. They have also been making soup and bread in their garden. They have been learning to have a positive attitude towards adults and other children and have been visiting the Links View nursing home every week.

P1

The topic in Primary 1 this term is All About Me. They have been learning all about their body and how it works. In Numeracy, Primary 1 have been exploring numbers to 20 by counting to 20 and then back down to 0. They have been learning the days and months by writing the day and month on the white board. In writing, they have been learning phonics, letter formation and blending sounds together to make words.

P2

The topic in Primary 2 this term is Houses. Devron Homes have been in to talk to the classes about their topic. In Numeracy and Maths they have had a focus on shape and adding more than two numbers together. In Literacy their focus has been on adjectives.

P3

Primary 3 have been learning about Pirates for their topic. This has meant they have focussed on grid referencing and map work in Maths. They have been working on their imaginative writing too.

P4

This term Primary 4 have been working on their topic, BFG, one of Roald Dahl's many tremendous characters. They have had lots fun creating their own giant look alike! Unfortunately, this year 's group have no current trips planned yet. In the mean time they have been making dream jars and are learning how to play ukulele for the first time and (believe us) they are good.

P5

Primary 5's topic this term is Robert the Bruce and William Wallace. The class have been sketching outdoors and have been going to the woods for learning purposes and have new den-building skills.

P6

P6's topic this term is the "Rotten Romans." In those days we would NOT have liked to be around. The year group have also enjoyed taking part in Kahoot quizzes online.

P7

Primary 7 have been learning about John Muir and the great outdoors. They have been going on walks around Burntisland looking out for wild flowers, drawing diagrams of flowers and sketching honey bees. They have also been focusing on a range of artists and looking closely at their pieces of work.

All in all, this term, everyone has got back into the swing of things, got to know their new teacher and had a catch up with their friends. The teachers are preparing for parents evenings and are looking forward to next term with their new classes.

Burntisland Parent Council by Karen Redpath

It's been a good start to the year at Burntisland Primary School and it's been lovely to see all the new primary ones settle in so well. Burntisland Parent Council would like to welcome all new parents to the Parent Council meetings, which are generally held once a term. For more information about the Parent Council, dates of meetings and to see previous agendas/minutes, join our Facebook page parent council.

One topic that's always on our agenda is the school car park and parking in the areas around the school. We've got a fantastic group of parents who have been manning the entrance

to the school car park to ensure that only permitted cars enter. This is to ensure the safety of our children. Please be mindful of the neighbouring areas if you must take a car to do pick up/drop off. There are people that need to be able to leave their homes and/or businesses safely too.

If you would like to be part of our group of parent helpers for the car park please get in touch with me. We look forward to welcoming you to the Parent Council meetings too and are always looking for new parents to come along. Many thanks
karenredpath@sky.com

Spider Park Re-Opens

Working with Fife Council, Morag Douglas of the Royal Burgh of Burntisland Community Council lead the fundraising to refurbish the very popular "Spider Park" on the Links in Burntisland. This park was closed in 2014 due to the equipment becoming dangerous as it came to the end of its life. However with the help of local companies, organisations and residents she helped raise the £75,000 necessary to refurbish the park which was officially opened by the Summer Queen, Ana Docherty, and Summer King, Blair Thomson.

"A fantastic result for the Community" commented local Councillor, Gordon Langlands.



Broomhill Community Garden News

We are nearing the end of another growing season at Broomhill Community Garden Kids Club. The kids have enjoyed a bumper crop from our edible hedge and fruit trees and we have all agreed that our potatoes, grown in our new raised beds have been the best yet. Our marrows and pumpkins will be ready just in time for our end of season harvest party.

This year, Kids Club received a grant from Kirkcaldy Local Area Budget Grant Allocation. We have been able to provide monthly facilitated sessions alongside open garden afternoons with our fantastic facilitator, Eliza.

As well as growing activities, the kids have had the opportunity to connect with their outdoor environment through games, campfires and cooking activities. Watching the kids tuck into fruit stewed straight from the garden or the amazement on their faces as they make home-made butter is hugely rewarding for our team of volunteers.

If you would like the opportunity to come and join us as a volunteer, we would love to hear from you. If you have a couple of hours to spare at one of our Tuesday sessions or if you would like to join our committee then please come along to our AGM in the Jubilee Tavern, Burntisland on Tuesday, 7th November at 8pm. Alternatively, please get in touch via our facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/broomhillcommunitygardenkidsclub/> or email sg_cj@yahoo.co.uk. Eliza, Sally and Helen can regularly be



found in the school playground too so please feel free to have a chat with any one of us.

Kids Club is open to children up to 8 years of age with their families. We will be back for another busy season in the spring so look out for the start date. In the meantime, we wish all our budding gardeners a cosy and rosy cheeked winter break.

Christmas Market

Burntisland Community Development Trust (BCDT) are delighted announce plans to host a traditional Christmas market in the High Street on Friday 1 December from 5pm. The market will include local crafts, food and drink and will be sure to bring about lots of festive cheer and merriment to the community. Any local community groups or traders who would like to take part, or for any suggestions or ideas on how to make the Christmas market a success, please email us at: BCDT2016@gmail.com.

The Burntisland Community Development Trust will be working in partnership with local businesses and community groups over the coming weeks so please save the date to your diary and keep a look out for updates on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/BurntislandCommunityDevelopmentTrust

Burntisland Over 70's Christmas Treat

In August we were presented with a donation of £637 from Marion, John & Hancocks Bingo from the sale of tablet and a very large tombolla.

In September we held a quiz/bingo evening at the Bowling Club. This was very well attended and raised a fantastic £635. Many thanks go to local businesses for their support with food and raffle prizes for the event.

On 27th October we are holding a cabaret evening in the Golf club with tickets costing £12. Entertainment is by Kirk James and food will be Stovies or Chilli. All welcome and tickets can be found in The Star, Murdochs or any committee member.



This years Christmas lunch for the over 70's is on 2nd December 2017 in the Kingswood Hotel 12 noon for 12.30.



Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club News by Derek Burke

The club has enjoyed an influx of new swimmers recently and all of the BASC volunteers are delighted to see so many local youngsters grab the opportunity to enjoy sport and progress their

swimming skills.

Some readers may remember from the previous edition of The Burgh Buzz that Burntisland swimmers George Mansfield, Andrew Norby, Haley Nimmo and Ailsa Kellas were about to embark on a European trip to represent Fife at the 2017 Olympiad in Boblingen, Germany. The Olympiad brings together young people from different countries to compete in a variety of sports.

The club is delighted to report that they made an enormous contribution to the Fife team which finished in second place. All four Burntisland swimmers returned with relay medals and competed in individual finals with Ailsa Kellas winning bronze for her individual swim.

But it wasn't just for their swimming skills that our young ambassadors left a lasting impression. Apparently, Andrew and his kilt were a popular novelty that gained some positive attention too!

With summer now behind us there has been a swift return to local competition. At the Dunedin Challenge the club experienced a mini medal haul with Ailsa Kellas, George Mansfield, Haley Nimmo and young Robbie Fraser taking the podium. Further success followed in the Fife Novice Leagues with 'BASC Boys Under 9' and 'BASC Boys 10-12' teams each taking 3rd place.

And finally, our club championship heats have begun and the finals will be held in November. Look out for the results in the next edition of The Burgh Buzz.



Fife Representatives: left to right Haley, George, Ailsa and Andrew



Burntisland Golf House Club by Dave McPherson

Another Successful Season

Well folks, another competition season has come and gone, they seem to get quicker every year. The course remains in top condition however, and there are plenty more rounds to be played during the remainder of 2017. We are indebted to the hard work of Head Greenkeeper Stevie McAughy and his team who continue to work wonders in all conditions.

The weather during the winter season might not be any worse than the majority of the 'summer', and there's nothing nicer than a walk round Dodhead on a crisp, bright day.

There have been a good number of visitors to Burntisland this year, and we hope that the town has had a wee spin off from those that came for the golf. Our TripAdvisor rating has improved somewhat of late, and there have been a lot of positive comments. Many small local businesses make a donation to have their goods/services advertised within the club, but there is always room for more.

On the membership front numbers have been steady, and it was pleasing to see a bit of resurgence in the wee ones. There's still work to be done but we do now have an interested bunch on a Sunday afternoon, so it's a platform to build on. We will try to retain their interest through the winter. Parents and Grandparents in the town should know that they can come along for a chat, and we will try to help get their kids started if they are interested. Obviously the long-term goal is to get them joined up as members, but we'd be happy to let them 'try before you buy' and can get a selection of clubs together as a starting point.

We could also do with more ladies playing the game and

similar comments apply as to the juniors. We can help get you started with no obligation or too much in the way of financial commitment. It is a great way of getting fresh air and low impact exercise, along with a general improvement in your wellbeing as you'll be in a safe, friendly environment with like-minded others.

Membership rates remain some of the most competitive around the region, and we offer more flexibility than most when it comes to paying.

The Clubhouse itself can be used by non-members, who can drop in for a coffee or lunch, and if they like it social memberships are currently only £20, and this would allow you to come along to functions such as the quiz and bingo nights, race nights etc. You may even want to host your own Christmas Party night.

Head Chef Colin is preparing his Winter Menu, which will be available by the time the Buzz prints, and Christmas menus will be available to view in the Clubhouse from November 1st with Christmas Lunches on offer throughout December.

Head Professional Paul Wytrazek will once again have his pre-Christmas sale on in December, and there are too many bargains to list here. Ideal presents for yourself or the golfer in your family. Or, you might prefer to purchase a voucher which could be put towards a 2018 subscription.

For all details please email info@burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk or telephone 01592 874093 for the Secretary or 01592 872116 for the Pro's Shop.

Burntisland Shipyard AFC

by Andrew Beveridge



Here we are ten weeks or so into the season and to say it's been eventful would be an understatement. After an encouraging start to pre-season for the first team, things started to unravel as talk of unrest in the dressing room reared its ugly head. The upshot of this was some very poor results which included an early exit from the Scottish Cup. A change of management ensued and the introduction of Grant Brough assisted by Stuart Innes, Paul Thomson and Ryan Connor has seen the Club turn the corner quicker than we could have imagined, as the squad has been reshaped with a large number of players coming and going.

During the early part of the campaign a fine win over Heriot Watt University saw the team progress from the group stages of the League Cup for the first time, despite a humiliating defeat to Lothian Thistle HV. Two league wins under the tenure of the new



management team has seen the team climb the League table and having already played most of the so called bigger clubs, opportunities to pick up points in the coming weeks are in the offing.

The new Under 20 team has also had mixed results. Nonetheless, at this embryonic stage of their existence great strides have been made. A 100% record in their

League Cup group plus winning the first two League matches built great confidence. However, a couple of heavy defeats dented that confidence. Drawing Livingston FC at home in the SFA Youth Cup 2nd round gave the boys a big game to look forward to and they did not disappoint the large crowd at "The Shippy" as they deservedly saw off their Championship opponents winning 3-2.

Their reward for this is a trip to Lanarkshire to

face SPFL premiership side Motherwell FC in the third round. It will be a daunting task to pull off another shock result but it is a challenge the boys can relish in their attempts to do themselves, the Club and the town proud.

The Beacon Runners by Dawn Watson

Since our last article it's been an eventful few months, as ever, at the Beacon Runners! We had a big Beacon turn out at the three local races – the Black Rock 5 in Kinghorn; the Games day Binn Race here in Burntisland and Aberdour's Donkey Brae race.

Over the summer months a few of the Beacon'ers have taken part in a number of other races too. There were the Stirling, Loch Ness and London Marathons; the Scottish, Auchterarder, Glencoe Half Marathons and Great Scottish Run to name but a few. The club also had relay teams taking part in the Comrie Hill and Midsummer Relay races.

Throughout the remainder of the year we'll have runners participating in the Dramathon, Glentress and Aviemore Half Marathons, the Jedburgh 3 Peaks Ultra Marathon and another club day at the Hartley Relay.

We meet every Monday night from 7pm-8pm at the Beacon Leisure Centre. Sessions are suitable for all abilities and are mainly interval training but could be a run around town, if the weather is bad and especially during the winter months. We have a fab team of coaches: George; Neil; David; Dawn and Lisa and we always welcome new faces.





Town Twinning - Return to Flekkefjord



This August saw the second leg of the current youth exchange take place with our five teenagers travelling to Flekkefjord to stay with their Norwegian 'twin' for a week. What an amazing week it was.

We left Kirkcaldy station a happy bunch as we went off to renew friendships from last summer and the laughs and fun started from the minute we arrived and all went off to stay with our families and get settled in.

Apart from the first day which was a bit wet, we were blessed with blue skies and sunshine for the rest of the trip, we took part in various activities as a group but also had lots of free time just to hang out in town and at each other's houses which was something everybody particularly enjoyed.

A bit of stamina was required for a cycle on the Dresin, on old railway bikes which engineers used to use to check the tracks when the railway line was in use, and we enjoyed some wonderful views... and lots of tunnels. Hard work on the way out but a quick and easy (sometimes a little too quick) roll back down to town! A really great experience.

We were very fortunate to be taken out crab fishing one evening, after a barbecue at the mayor's summer house. We had to wait until almost dark before setting out in motor boats initially to get to the area and then in groups of 2 or 3 in a row boat, armed only with a torch and quick reflexes. There was

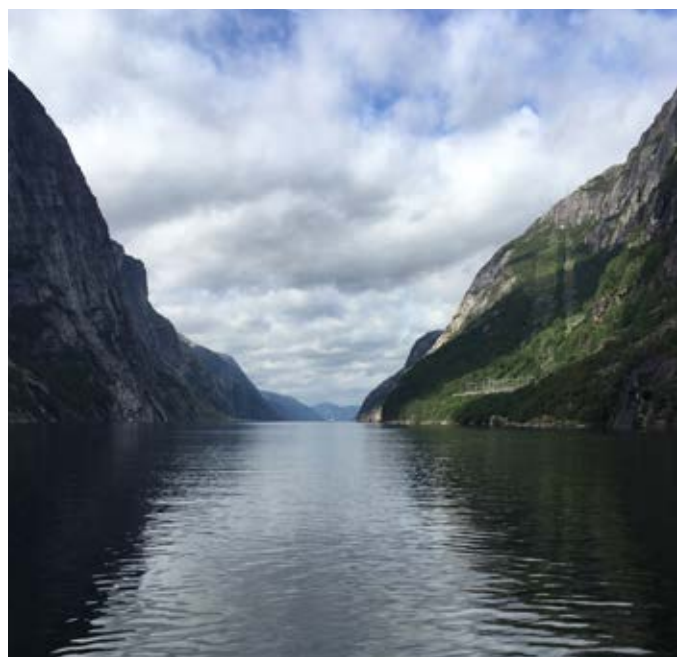


much hilarity, a lot of nearly caught but chickened out at the last minute, and, thanks to the mayor's son, a healthy catch of crab to go home with. Another brilliant experience.

Very early the next day we joined some other visitors from Burntisland, boarded a coach and travelled for a couple of hours through some dramatic scenery (largely unseen by the sleeping teenagers) and winding roads to the head of Lysefjord. There, we boarded a ferry and travelled down the fjord passing some stunning sights along the way. Thankfully, the return drive was shorter and straighter.

The weekend saw a variety of concerts and street events take place and there was a great atmosphere in town as everyone came out to celebrate Flekkefjord being 175 years old. It felt really special to be there and be a part of the celebration.

Our final day came far too quickly and we spent the early afternoon canoeing on the fjord with only a couple falling in, but we won't name names here....you know who you are! And suddenly, it was our last evening and we shared a farewell meal with the families who hosted us as well as some visitors from Burntisland and the other towns Flekkefjord is twinned



with, who were there to celebrate the 175th anniversary. The teenagers left as soon as they politely could to spend their last night hanging out all together beside the fjord and enjoy the last moments of their time in Flekkefjord.

So, the return home was uneventful, if a bit subdued, and when asked for ideas about finding new people for the next exchange programme, the group wondered if it could just be them again....sadly not.....but I'm sure many of them will return to Flekkefjord in the future and stay with their Norwegian family.

We are now looking for 4 new people, ideally aged between 14 and 16 next summer, 2 girls and 2 boys to take part in the next 2 year exchange programme. If you're interested, come along to our open evening on Wednesday 25th October at 7.00 pm in the Burgh Chambers and speak to those who have just done it. They'll be able to tell you all about it. Some of their parents will also be there for those parents who would like to find out more about hosting a Norwegian teenager and what it actually involves.



POST OFFICE RETURNS

A new Post Office has recently opened for business in Burntisland, operating from Murdoch's on the High Street (opposite the Library). The town had been without a Post Office service since January so it is a welcome return especially in time for Christmas.

Murdoch's have extended their opening hours - the Post Office counter will be open from 9am to 5.30pm, with the last post collection at 4.30pm. Alongside the normal postal services on offer are Post Office banking, electronic bill payments, foreign currency, vehicle tax, and mobile phone top-ups.

The shop will continue to sell its usual household goods as well as stamps, stationery, greeting cards, toiletries, hardware items and much more

Customers have commented on how great it is to have a local Post Office back. "I'm pleased to bring the service back to the town" said Sarah McLaughlin from Murdoch's.



Live on the Links



After the success of last year's event, Live on the Links returned to the bandstand in August for an afternoon and evening of free live music. It was a great day with an even better turnout than 2016, and so good to see everyone enjoying themselves!

There was a bit of rain in the morning but it cleared away in time for the start and we had some fine sunshine later on. Nine acts took to the stage and performed for the crowds, playing a variety of musical styles.

Big thanks to everyone who contributed on the day - Rab and his helpers setting everything up in the morning, Gus our MC, Mark and Gary controlling the sound system and all the musicians. Also to our sponsors - Watson's of Leven, Smart Electrics and Print & Sign Centres for their continued support.

Looking forward to doing it all next summer - keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates. We know Burntisland has some great musicians so if you're interested in performing next year, please get in touch.

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775 (Burntisland) Squadron Air Training Corps

Cadets from Burntisland (ATC) have been busy between the months of August and October attending annual camps and participating in activities to help them attain Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Three of the cadets in the Squadron attended the annual camp at JHC Aldergrove where they were given the chance to tour the Titanic Museum located in the heart of Belfast. They also visited the Air Traffic Control tower at JHC Aldergrove and explored some of the hangers located on the base.

Three cadets from the squadron also went flying and were awarded badges on the 24th of August. Prior to the flights, the cadets attended a day-long course where they learned safety protocols for the aircraft. They then enjoyed a 30 minute Air Experience Flight (AEF) during which they followed the pilot on the co-pilot controls and were even be offered limited control of the aircraft. They also “enjoyed” some aerobatic manoeuvres which rounded off an unforgettable AEF. More recently Sergeant Sharp attended an ATC mental health awareness course which was followed by a lunch during which he had the honour and pleasure of meeting the Commandant Air Cadets, Ms. Dawn McCafferty.

Sgt Sharp also completed his qualifying expedition which earned him his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. The expedition involved walking through the Lammermuir hills in Haddington (Near Dunbar). The aim of his group was to find and investigate the man-made objects in the area in which his expedition took place. This Lammermuir expedition was made more difficult because of continuous heavy rain.



Cadet Petrie and Corporal Couser with their Blue Wings and Certificates.

The Rotary Club of Burntisland & Kinghorn



The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) is a Rotary International programme which offers young people an opportunity to participate in a programme of physical and intellectual activities to develop skills in team working, positive leadership, communication, problem solving and decision making. Ali Abbott, a student at Inverkeithing High School, who was sponsored by the Club to attend the week-long course in Aviemore, spoke about his experiences: white-water canoeing, rock climbing, raft building, climbing Ben MacDhui and canyoning. Ali said most of these activities were new to him, as they were to the other members of his group, but they were most enjoyable and very rewarding in terms of team building.

The Club has been well informed and entertained by a number of speakers including: Bill Glennie was the club's guest speaker on September 19th. A retired

history teacher, Bill portrayed the myths and the facts surrounding Robert the Bruce in a very humorous and informative manner; Professor John McManus' topic, 'mining in the East Neuk' was itself a highly interesting and fascinating topic and our own Dick West's presentation on The Battle of The River Plate gave us a fascinating insight into what actually happened as opposed to what was depicted in the film.

Members expressed their concern over the devastation caused by recent hurricanes. The Club agreed to donate £500 via The Rotary Foundation towards post hurricane reconstruction. Typical projects include constructing and equipping schools and community centres, rebuilding infrastructure and providing rescue vehicles.

The Club extends its thanks the community for supporting the annual Charity Shop in the Burntisland Upper Library Hall which raised a total of £2224, all of which will go to local organisations and charities.

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Community Council Appeal for New Members

After their successful election to Fife Council, two members of the Community Council have been forced to step down. The Community Council is now appealing to residents of Burntisland to fill these vacancies by joining our dedicated group. We have many exciting projects planned. If you can spare a few hours a month please come along to one of our monthly meetings in the Burgh Chambers (2nd Friday of each month). For further information speak to a member or contact the Secretary on

burntislandcc@outlook.com .

George McLauchlan (Secretary)

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FAB is still Fabulous!



It cannot be denied that weather-wise, the summer has not been kind to us. However, the continuous winds and showers combined with the lack of sunshine has not dampened the spirits or enthusiasm of the dedicated army of volunteers who make up the FAB team. During the spring and summer months, residents and visitors alike have enjoyed the floral displays throughout the town. The efforts of the FAB team were once again recognised this year with the Gold Award from Beautiful Fife but in addition, they were given the overall award for Community Involvement.

This latter award recognises the considerable progress that FAB has made in engaging with virtually every section of the community during the course of their labours. Over the past five years they have fostered strong relationships with local traders and shopkeepers, the pupils and staff of Burntisland Primary School and also Starley Hall School. They continue to engage with local young people through youth organisations such as the Guides and Scouts. Their success in raising awareness amongst the local residents was no more evident than prior to the most recent “Beautiful Fife” inspection, when numerous individuals throughout the town made extra efforts to ensure that their immediate environment was clean and tidy.

However, the FAB team is not about to rest on its laurels as they have ambitious plans for the future. With considerable funding from Beautiful Scotland and Scotrail, a wild haven garden has already been created at Burntisland Railway station. A wide variety of plants and flowers will provide homes for a diverse assortment of bugs, moths and butterflies. In addition there are plans for bird and bat boxes, screened by ivy on the south facing wall. It will be interesting to monitor how this bug hotel develops as the plants mature and thicken.

By the time you read this article you will have had the opportunity to vote on the design of the proposed Community Garden at the north east corner of the Links. Once completed, this will comprise yet another attractive, community amenity.

The FAB team, ably led by Scott Sweaton, has achieved wonders in a relatively short time and deserve the full support of the community in the future.

FIREWORKS & BONFIRE NIGHT

by Sarah Goodall

This year it will be held on Sunday the 5th of November, 2017.

Entertainment will commence from 6/6.15pm with bonfire lit at 7pm. Fireworks from approximately 7.15pm. Also watch out for press releases, radio communications and advertising flyers.

The Events Group is comprised entirely of volunteers and we are always looking for new ones to help with the night itself. We are always looking for volunteers for collection purposes, so if you are interested in helping, please email us at

burntislandeventsgroup@gmx.co.uk

All proceeds go towards next years event.

Our costs, which are mostly due to insurance, have increased over 300% over the past 3 years. If you can, please donate to the collection buckets on the night.

We hope you enjoy the evening.



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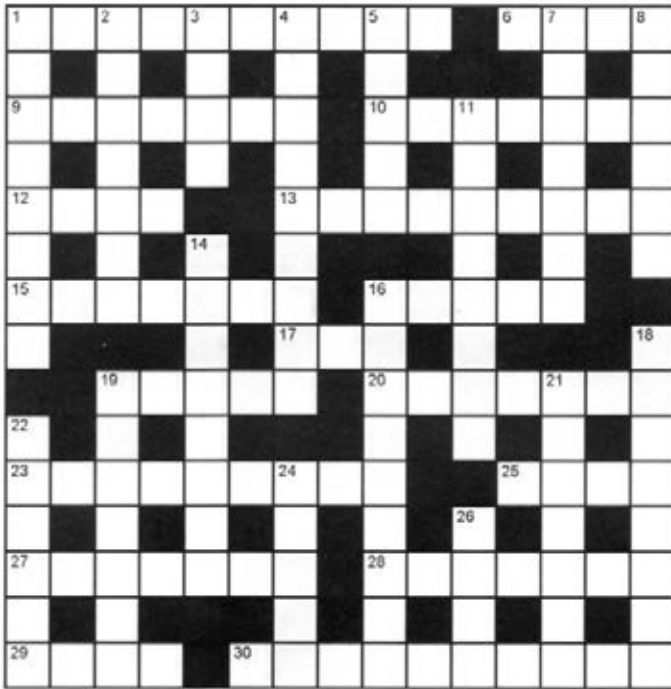
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ACROSS

- 1. Aging (10)
- 6. Examine hastily (4)
- 9. Below(7)
- 10. Trace(7)
- 12. Fury(4)
- 13. Changeable temperament (9)
- 15. Vanquish(7)
- 16. Emotionally dependent (5)
- 17. ___ Gardner, Film star (3)
- 19. Confused voices (5)
- 20. Atomic particle (7)
- 23 Outer layer of skin (9)
- 25. Pole to support sail/rigging (4)
- 27. Denied (7)
- 28. Feeling(7)
- 29. Routes(4)
- 30. Near thing (5,5)

DOWN

- 1. Take away (8)
- 2. Nine sided figure (7)
- 3. False (4)
- 4. Lasting a short time (9)
- 5. Put over the top(5)
- 7. Upper limit (7)
- 8. Pointer (6)
- 11. Plausible but false (8)
- 14. Acrobats (8)
- 16. Storage containers (9)
- 18. Fascinate (8)
- 19. For a short while (7)
- 21. Facsimile (7)
- 22. Language of Israel (6)
- 24. Mannequin (5)
- 26. Male offspring (4)

Solution to Summer Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Complacent, 6 Stag, 9 Vanilla, 10 Asunder, 12 Lair, 13 Fractious, 15 Tension, 16 Tomes, 17 Cry, 19 Ditch, 20 Retrace, 23 Dobermann, 25 Ways, 27 Avocado, 28 Origami, 29 Dusk, 30 Passionate.

DOWN: 1 Civility, 2 Mention, 3 Lilt, 4 Chaffinch, 5 Nyala, 7 Tedious, 8 Garish, 11 Ultimate, 14 Victoria, 16 Tyrannous, 18 Perspire, 19 Dubious, 21 Alabama, 22 Edward, 24 Aloha, 26 Limo.

CONGRATULATIONS—Our Summer Crossword winner of £25 in vouchers is: Mrs M Platt, Fleming Way, Burnmtisland.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE:.....

Completed entries by: December 15th 2017 to:
The Editor— 39 The Wynd, Dalgety Bay, KY11 9SJ
 First Correct entry drawn will win £25.00 vouchers
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Events Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME
NOVEMBER		
Sunday 5th	Guy Fawkes Night on the Links	6.00 pm onwards
Tuesday 7th	Broomhill Community Garden AGM in the Jubilee Tavern	8.00pm
Friday 10th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Sunday 12th	Remembrance Service at Parish Church and Wreath Laying at War Memorial	10.45am at Church
Thursday 16th	Police Community Engagement Meeting at Burntisland Primary School	6.30 pm - 7.30 pm
Saturday 18th	Parish Church Christmas Fayre in the Church Hall	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Saturday 25th	Messy Church in Burntisland Parish Church Hall (followed by lunch)	10.00am - 12 noon
DECEMBER		
Friday 1st	Burntisland Community Development Trust Christmas Market in the High Street	5.00 pm onwards
Saturday 2nd	Over 70s Christmas Treat at the Kingswood Hotel	12.00 pm for 12.30 pm
Monday 4th	Blood Donation at the Parish Church Hall	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm
Friday 8th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 9th	Christmas Wreath making at the Ecology Centre King'n Loch	10.00am -12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4.00pm
Sunday 10th	Christmas Elf Crafts for kids at the Ecology Centre	10.30– 12.00noon and 1.00pm - 2.30pm
Monday 11th) Thursday 14th)	Burntisland Youth Theatre— Grand Old Duke of York at the Music Hall	7.00 pm each night
Saturday 16th	Live Nativity at St Serf's Church (drinks and Christmas snacks after)	3.00pm
Sunday 17th	MESSY NATIVITY in Kinghorn in Kinghorn Church Hall (followed by hot food)	3.00pm - 5.00pm
Sunday 17th	Traditional Carol Service at the Erskine Church	6.00pm
Sunday 24th	Reflective Christmas Eve Service at St Serf's	6.00pm
Sunday 24th	Watch Night Service at the Erskine Church	11.15pm
JANUARY		
Friday 12th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm

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Remembrance Day Services



This year's Remembrance Day falls on Sunday 12th November. The traditional parade, led by Burntisland & District Pipe Band and comprising of representatives from the armed forces, the



emergency services, ex-service men and women and youth organisations, will assemble at Harbour place. The parade will march off at 10.30 am and proceed by way of the High Street and the Kirkgate to the Parish church. The joint remembrance service will commence at 10.45 after which the parade will reform and march to the War Memorial by way of the Kirkgate and High Street. A short remembrance service involving all of the town's churches will then take place followed by the laying of wreaths by participating organisations. Following the formal proceedings, the parade will reassemble and march to the Burgh Chambers where it will be dismissed. All are welcome to attend.



amazing what a flight map can tell you, but we'll get back to that.

What's coming up shortly? Well this year's Erskine Autumn Fayre takes place in our halls on Saturday 28 October from 10am with the usual delicious food & drink offerings plus stalls. Please come along if you're free! Then a joint Remembrance service in Burntisland Parish on Sunday 12 November @ 10.45am followed by the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial @ 12 noon. It's always very poignant to come together as a community and remember sacrifices made & still being made on our behalf.

Christmas-yes it's almost within touching distance for another year. We have the normal mix of seasonal services in the town, Erskine's contribution will be to host a carol service on Sunday

17 December @ 6pm followed by our traditional, much-loved Watchnight on Christmas Eve @ 11.15pm. All the churches in Burntisland will welcome you warmly during this special season.

Back to my flight. The Buzz gives us a bird's eye view of what's happening in our community. As we descend into New York what amazing views of the world famous Manhattan skyline! The Bible gives an overview of God's big plan - it comes together in the Christmas story of sending Jesus, his son, into our broken world with the power to save and show the true meaning of sacrificial love.

I hope you may get a sense of the bigger picture in your life as 2017 draws towards its close. When was the last time you looked at or even thought about the flight plan? Please read John 3.16, a verse in the Bible which expresses God's agenda in a few powerful words. God lovingly sent Jesus for each & every one of us. That's the substance behind the commercial hype.

Finally, information about all services & events will appear on Facebook or posters around the town.

Christmas - No One will be expecting that?

I often wonder what the shepherds thought when they found this Baby they were in search for lying in a manger in a stable. And then also the Wisemen when the King they were looking for ended up being a child born to an unknown and apparently insignificant young couple?

I cannot help but smile and imagine they said,

Well, I was not expecting that!

This aspect of surprise runs through the Christmas Story and it is meant to be there. From Mary being surprised by the Angel Gabriel to King Herod shock that Magi from the East have arrived in Jerusalem in search of a King. **The atmosphere is set that God is doing something special.**

This sense of **Surprise** is something that not only is for Christmas and Christmas Day but is there for anyone of us at any time in that **God loves to Surprise Us**. The bible talks about this and says,

'God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.'

This Christmas God wants to surprise you just like He surprised Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the Wisemen and even the sheep! It is our hope this Christmas that you not only get what you are hoping and wishing for but also that you get a SURPRISE from God.

We invite everyone to join us for our Advent and Christmas Events at St Serf's to hear more about this Christmas Surprise of a Baby lying in a Manger.

16th Dec (Saturday) 3:00pm Live Nativity - Yes!! there will be animals and a baby Jesus!! All welcome. Children and Adults to come dressed in their favourite nativity character. Drinks and Christmas Snacks served after.

24th Dec (Sunday) 6.00pm - Come Join Us for a Reflective Christmas Eve Service at St Serf's Church. A time of quiet reflection on the meaning of Christmas. (no Christmas Day service)

Dean

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I wasn't expecting that!

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Burntisland Parish Church by Rev. Alan Sharp

Church Shop

The Church Shop, Chapter and Verse, is looking very attractive after its recent refurbishment and currently has a sale on. Christmas items will be on sale

from 6 November. The shop is looking for more volunteers, please ask in the shop for information.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday, 18th November, from 2pm to 4pm in the church hall, admission 20p.

Stalls will include, home baking, gifts, books, bric-a-brac, a bottle stall and delicious teas. Also hampers to be won.

The children can visit Santa, have fun in the games room, and have their nails painted or a tattoo.

Donations can be brought to the hall on Friday 17th Nov from 7pm to 10pm. and Saturday 18th 9am onwards, or collected by contacting Ann Smith, Tel 873994 or Janice Cargill, Tel 873650.

Christians Against Poverty

We have been running a very successful CAP debt centre for a number of years, enabling people to get their debt under control and properly budgeted, and a number of clients are now debt free. We are looking for a new Centre Manager and hope to resume the service in the new year. Meanwhile we continue to have a food bank satellite point through Potter About. Many families on benefits, particularly those with children may well be struggling over the Christmas period. Like the other churches, we will be doing what we can to help through the foodbank, Christmas hampers and other donations. The support

that local people and businesses have given to this work is very much appreciated.

Remembrance Sunday

The first joint Remembrance Service with Erskine Church will be held in the Parish Church, on 12th November at 10.45 am.

All are welcome to join us in the Church for this, and afterwards with all the other churches at the War Memorial. As usual, the uniformed organisations will be taking part, and it's always moving to observe this important date together, remembering both the destructiveness of war and the great sacrifice that many made for our freedom.

Young Church

Our Young Church recently led us in a 'Back to School with God' service and also enjoyed an outing to the Alhambra in Dunfermline to see the production of 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. One young Church member was in the chorus for this excellent production - well done Tom!

We are always delighted to welcome new families and children along to regular and family services.

Prospects

In July we were joined by Prospects Groups from Dunfermline and Kinross and enjoyed lunch together in the church hall followed by the opportunity to sample the delights of Burntisland's beach, Links, Ice cream shops and Cafes etc. Next Prospects meetings for adults with learning disabilities and their friends are:

Saturday 11th November 10.30-12.30

Saturday 9th December 10.30-12.30



Farewell from Fr. Brian

Dear Friends,

After three short years it is time for me to say goodbye. I wish to thank you all for making my stay here in this beautiful Burgh of Burntisland such a joyful experience. I am grateful for the ecumenical spirit that exist here in the town: the Palm Sunday Walk, praise on the Links, the joint services in our churches and in the school, 'Blue Christmas in the Cafe', and more poignantly the ecumenical service at the War Memorial which will be coming up soon.

The parishioners at St. Joseph's have been a great source of enthusiasm and encouragement for me and I know they are now in the safe hands of Fr. James Tracey who became parish priest here on 14th October.

Out of sight, however, does not mean out of mind, as parish priest of St. Marie's, Kirkcaldy, St. Pius, Kirkcaldy and St. Ninian's, Cardenden, I will be a near neighbour so I am sure our paths will cross in the 'ready meals' aisle in Morrisons (other supermarkets are available!)

May God Bless the great work you do in this historical Royal Burgh and may He grant you His peace and joy.

Fr. Brian

Craigencalt Trust News by Marilyn Edwards

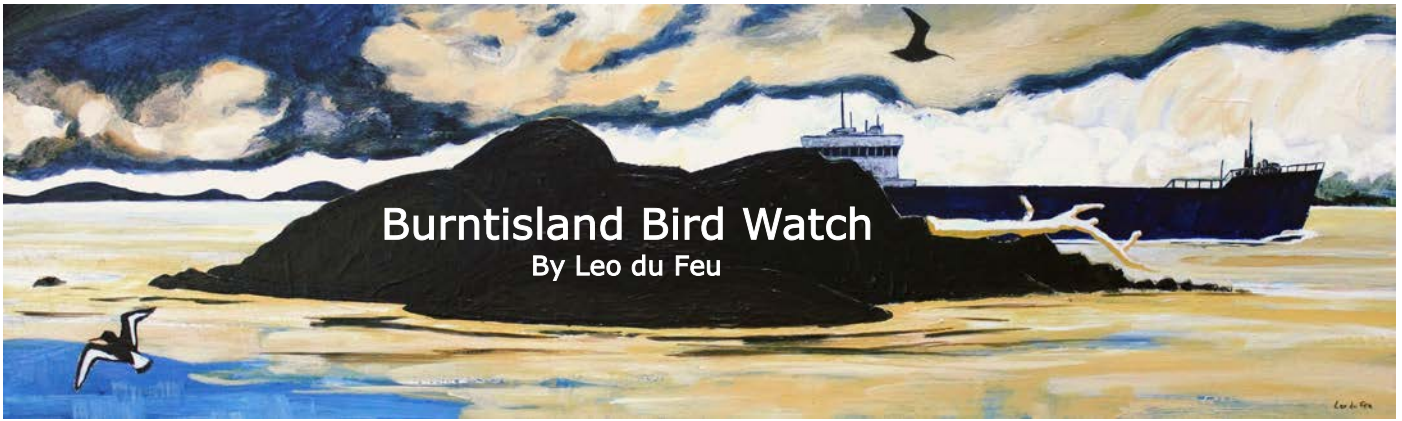


The Trust really enjoyed the summer, with visits to two beautiful and quite special gardens at Wemyss Castle and Glassmount House and places of environmental interest including Gerald Lincoln's reserve at Puddledub. After our concerns about whether our female swan could successfully raise her young on her own, we are very pleased that the five cygnets, now as large as their mother, are doing well and mingling with geese and the other waterfowl. In August the Trust ran an information stall at the Cromwellian re-enactment at Kinghorn Loch and our summer activities finished with the annual barbecue which has become an enjoyable social event on the Trust calendar.

Now, with the arrival of autumn it is time to return to business and get to work on the end of season path maintenance. The long awaited nesting platforms are under construction and are almost ready to go out in the loch, near to the bird hide and

wildlife area. Once in position they will require shelters in order to provide sufficient protection for ducklings against predators. The Trust is working with RSPB who are advising on the best plants and camouflage cover for the platforms. We hope this project will provide an interesting way for people to study the birds from the bird hide and lochside.

Another project that the Trust hopes to complete during the winter months is landscaping around the newly renovated swan bench, which is in place close to the Earthship. The bench is a beautiful shape and youngsters really enjoy sitting on it, imagining that they are flying the swan. If you would like to help with this project, or perhaps have your own ideas on future projects, the Trust would be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch with us on 01592 891330 or contact us on info@craigencalttrust.org.uk or learn more about us on our website at www.Craigencalttrust.org.uk



Burntisland Bird Watch

By Leo du Feu

Autumn is an exciting time on Burntisland's coast. Our sandy muddy shore fills with waders at low tide - oystercatcher, redshank, ringed plover, curlew (or the much rarer whimbrel?). Godwit - black-tailed or bar-tailed? - hard to tell until you see the tops of their tails as they fly. Gorgeous little white sanderling, black beaks and legs, running in earnest and at speed along the tideline beyond Black Rock.

Look up each time you hear geese overhead. Pink-footed geese say 'wink wink', quite high-pitched. Greylag have a lower sound, more like farmyard geese (farm geese being mostly descended from wild greylags). Take a moment to think on how far these birds have travelled in their aerodynamic v's (called 'skeins') - the pink-feet fly to us from Iceland and Greenland for their winter food. Go to Loch Leven at dawn to

see many thousands rising up and away to graze on fields for miles around. Go at dusk to watch them rippling back in, dropping final altitude rapidly through a tumbling falling flight known as whiffling.

Listen on calm nights for thin high 'tsseep' notes up in the sky. These are redwings, calling gently as they pass over us on their night migrations. Possibly they fly nocturnally to navigate by the stars. Redwings and the larger fieldfare (both cousins of our blackbird) travel to Britain in vast numbers each winter from the forests of northern Europe. They do breed in Scotland but very rarely. Look for them foraging in stubble fields or up in trees feasting on berries and old rotting fruit.

If you'd like to let me know about interesting local wildlife please do so through the Contact page at www.leodufeu.co.uk



News from The Ecology Centre by Jenny Robertson

2017 has been a busy year at The Ecology Centre with lots of new developments happening at our site, old faces leaving and new people starting in the team. David Stockwell joined in August as our new General Manager. He's enjoying his new role and is keen to meet people in the local community. If you're passing come in and say hello and see all the fantastic work that we do. In April we welcomed our new Community Gardener Eliza Twaddle. The garden has flourished and she's been growing all kinds of fruit and vegetables, including tomatoes, aubergines, a bumper crop of pumpkins and even a crop of QUINOA!

Mini Growers

Thanks to funding from the Edinburgh Airport Community Fund, Eliza has started a NEW Mini Growers club. This fantastic club is running every week until mid-December and is for parents/carers, toddlers and pre-school children to have a go at gardening and enjoy crafting with nature in our community garden.

Family Sundays at Kinghorn Loch

We have one more Family Sunday planned before the end of the year. Come along on Sunday 5th November from 2 – 3pm or 3 – 4pm where we will be using the magic of nature to create a beautiful dreamcatcher.

Christmas events

We have some exciting Christmas events planned at The Ecology Centre in December. For the adults we will be creating Christmas Wreaths made from natural materials on Saturday 9th December from 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4pm. Please note places are booking up fast for this event. For the kids we will be making Christmas Elf Crafts on

Sunday 10th December from 10.30am – 12pm and 1pm – 2.30pm. There will be Christmas carols along with Christmas sweets and treats, hot spiced apple toddy or hot chocolate available to purchase!

To come along to our Mini Growers Club, our Family Sunday or any of our Christmas events please book on our website.

NEW Treasurer required

We are looking to recruit a new volunteer Treasurer. Our previous Treasurer has retired after volunteering with us for over 6 years. The role of the Treasurer is to maintain an overview of The Ecology Centre's financial affairs, ensuring its financial viability and ensuring that proper financial records and procedures are maintained.

We're approaching an amazing milestone in our history, as next year we are celebrating our 20th anniversary and we are forging ahead with lots of development plans for the future. This is an exciting time for The Ecology Centre and a perfect time to join us. If you have a little bit of spare time and would like to get involved, then we would love to hear from you! Interested? Call David for a friendly chat on 01592 891567 or check out our website www.theecologycentre.org for more information about the role.

We hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year and we look forward to celebrating our 20th anniversary with you in 2018.

To keep in touch with all the latest news from The Ecology Centre, sign up for our eBulletin on our website or like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



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Saturday & Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm

For up to date information please see our website.

fifeleisure.org.uk

@FifeLeisure 

Kingswood Hotel & Tall Trees Restaurant

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Elsa Jean McTaggart
16th December

MURDER MYSTERY
2nd & 15th December

Bruce Davies
22nd December

Festive Menus From
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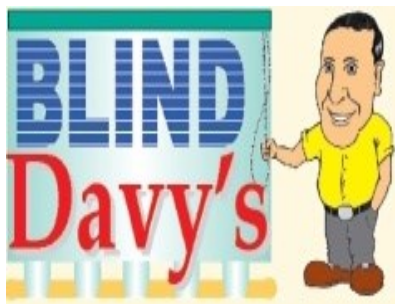
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