

# BURGH BUZZ



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The Royal Burgh of Burntisland Community Council

Available online at [www.burghbuzz.org.uk](http://www.burghbuzz.org.uk)

November 2018

## BURNTISLAND 1883 MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Burntisland has a significant history as the port which built the world's first roll-on roll-off train ferry. This crossed the Forth to Granton in the years before the Forth Bridge was built.

So it's an ideal subject for a group of modellers with ambitions far beyond 'playing with trains'. 1883 was a busy time for Burntisland. The choice of that year for modelling was a good one, but the reason is slightly unusual.

In 2002 the Scalefour Society launched a competition for portable layouts that would fit within 18.83 square feet. That odd number is due to the fact Scalefour modellers use track with a gauge of precisely 18.83mm!

The East of Scotland 4mm Group entered the competition and its model won (much smaller than the current layout).

Last here in 2010, it combines trains and boats and buildings with a degree of accuracy and authenticity that is remarkable. You can't just buy a kit of Burntisland Station and assemble it. It's fortunate that the main building still stands and that the original plans are available.

Many of the other buildings no longer exist - not least because the new railway line, to Aberdour and beyond, removed some that were there in 1883. A great deal of research has been done using old maps and photographs to piece together a 3D version of the past.

The second visit to Burntisland brought the almost completed layout - including the superb Roundhouse engine shed (sadly demolished in real life).

The Group (several people live in Fife) reckon there is about another year of work to complete what's planned. After that? Perhaps a way will be found to display it here permanently? For more info go to: <http://burgh.buzz/1883-2>



### YES Burntisland Bonfire Night IS The 5th

The Burntisland Events Group has maintained the tradition of holding the spectacular bonfire and fabulous fireworks on the proper date. This year it's on the Monday.

As usual the fire will be lit at 7 with around half an hour of fireworks starting about 7:15.

Come to town early and experience the exciting build up Radio Lollipop will be live from 6:15, several shops and cafes will open later than on a normal weekday in addition to the chip shops and takeaways that are usually open. And don't forget to visit the stalls and shows.

As always, parking is limited. Kirkton and Kinghorn Roads will be coned, so no parking. The Links car park is for people with mobility problems.

Extra buses and trains will be running.

The Events Group is comprised entirely of volunteers. On the day bonfire builders are required in the morning and stewards and cash collectors from 6. If you want to be involved please email us at: [burntislandeventsgroup@gmx.co.uk](mailto:burntislandeventsgroup@gmx.co.uk) For latest info including travel arrangements, go to:

<https://burgh.buzz/bonfire>



# BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY PAPER

**Featuring** Local issues . organisations . events . people and more ....

**From the Acting Editor: Paul Briscoe**

11th November 2018 marks the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War also known as the Great War. It was the greatest loss of life ever known in conflict and the statistics are horrifying. The Allied losses were: 2,032,000 killed, 5,157,000 wounded and 760,000 POWs, The enemy losses were equally savage with 1,493,00 killed, 2,589,000 wounded and POWs totalling 778,000. That was only on the Western Front. The Eastern Front between Germany and Austria against the Russians saw a combined mortality of over 5 million. The conflict wiped out a whole generation of young men and boys. Every town, village or city has a memorial to the men who gave their lives. Many never came home or if they did, it was as blinded, crippled and traumatised human wrecks who had been through a man made hell. This anniversary year will be marked by the reading of the names on our own memorial by descendants, where possible.

On a brighter note: This has been a good year for the town. A long hot summer attracted lots of visitors. We had an amazing reconstruction of what the Dock area was like in the time of the railway ferries, which we have covered on our front page. Burntisland was selected as 'Fife's Favourite Conservation Area' and has a plaque on the library to prove it. Sadly we have lost 'Potter About' due to ill health, but it is being transformed into a smart coffee house, which will, I am sure, offer an ideal meeting place for friends and organisations.

Reacting to a serious loss of Christmas lights due to safety reasons there has been a tremendous response from the public in fund raising through events helped along by a very generous donation from the local co-op and other local groups to purchase new lights for the town.

We had a fantastic Events Week despite the Links resembling the Sahara at times, under the sunshine. Live on the Links was a resounding success.

## Remember !

The Buzz is now available online to cover the periods between the quarterly publication.

[www.burgh.buzz](http://www.burgh.buzz)

If you have some news or an event to promote please email: [info@burgh.buzz](mailto:info@burgh.buzz)

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### Editor

Bill Kirkhope, 39 The Wynd, Dalgety Bay. KY11 9SJ  
Tel: 01383 822023 Email: [billvida@sealscraig.plus.com](mailto:billvida@sealscraig.plus.com)

### Deputy Editor/Graphics

Paul Briscoe, 1 Lammerlaws Road, Burntisland  
Tel: 01592 871300 Email: [paulbriscoe1@gmail.com](mailto:paulbriscoe1@gmail.com)

### Advertising Coordinator

Suzie Robinson Email: [scotchfranki@yahoo.com](mailto:scotchfranki@yahoo.com)

### Distribution

Linda Briscoe Email: [lindacobriscoe@gmail.com](mailto:lindacobriscoe@gmail.com)

### Editorial Committee

Michael Booth, Dave McPherson, Chris Hill,

### Chairman Community Council

Alex Macdonald, 1 Craig Court, Burntisland. KY3 0AT  
Tel: 01592 873314 Email: [alex\\_mac@btinternet.com](mailto:alex_mac@btinternet.com)

### Interim Secretary Community Council

George McLauchlan, 4, Dick Crescent, Burntisland, KY3 0BS. Tel: 01592 873477  
Email: [george.mclauc@btinternet.com](mailto:george.mclauc@btinternet.com)

## 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.

- There is now a full complement of 15 members, including 5 people who are new to the Community Council. So we welcome Brendan Burns, Mark Johnston, Natalie Paul, Derek Turnbull and Yvonne Crombie.
- There was a successful beach clean on 6<sup>th</sup> October, when about 20 people collected 16 bags of litter.
- Maintenance work on the East Links playpark and water feature is in hand.
- There has been an outbreak of shoplifting recently which has been reported to the police. Patrols have been modified to take account of reports of anti-social behaviour. A review meeting will be scheduled with police officers so that lines of communication are kept open.
- The poor road surface between Burntisland and Starley Hall has been reported and is scheduled for action in the next financial year.
- An application is expected for a second pharmacy in the town and a survey will be carried out among local residents.
- The interior and exterior of toilets at the East Links will be painted.
- Enquiries about the placement and availability of grit bins should be directed through the elected members of Fife Council.
- To help parking at the station, further information is being obtained about occupancy rates, travel plans and land ownership.
- A working group has been set up to progress improvement work on selected core paths around Burntisland.
- An interim report has been produced giving options for the future development of the Burgh Chambers. Our preferred proposal will provide community, business and heritage benefits, including the reinstatement of the clock tower. Initial estimates show the full project is likely to cost around £3m. A lot of work has still to be done in developing a more detailed proposal before any commitment can be made.

## 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  
 Philip Atkinson Brendan Burns  
 Mark Johnston Natalie Paul  
 Derek Turnbull Yvonne Crombie

### Elected Fife Councillors'

#### Availability

#### Councillor Gordon Langlands

Telephone: 01592 874 612

Email: [Cllr.Gordon.Langlands@fife.gov.uk](mailto: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 677 081

Email: [Cllr.lesley.backhouse@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.lesley.backhouse@fife.gov.uk)  
 Lesley is happy for constituents to ring her on the above number or email.

#### Councillor Kathleen Leslie

Telephone: 07714 778 906

Email: [Cllr.Kathleen.Leslie@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Kathleen.Leslie@fife.gov.uk)  
 She can be contacted by telephone or email to arrange a visit or chat at a time of your convenience.

**All Local Politicians and their surgery times and contact details are listed at**

**[burgh.buzz/politics](http://burgh.buzz/politics)**

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## Burntisland Buzz

Next Issue - February 2019  
 Copy Deadline: 15th January  
 All contributions to the Editor by email or by snail mail.

# The Burgh Polis

By PC Lewis Greig - Police Scotland

During the last quarter of 2018, crime figures for Burntisland have decreased by 22%, when compared to the same period in 2017. During this time, of those crimes reported to Police, just under 60% were detected, with reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

With the warm summer weather, the anticipated increase in Anti Social behaviour did not materialise, with the number of such calls to Police down on years gone by. This has resulted in Police being utilised for more pro active patrols in the area, resulting in both Drug and Road Traffic offences being detected.

Since the return of the school term however, there has been an increase in the number of calls to the area about youths causing annoyance to the residents. Areas including Lochies Road and Duncanson Drive have particularly come to our attention over the past month. We have managed to speak to some local residents in person about this and we would ask you to continue to work with us to highlight the areas where anti-social behaviour is, so that we can do all we can do to reduce this.

Since the introduction of PC James' "You're Asking For It" campaign, which targets the proxy sale of alcohol to under age youths, the volume of related incidents reported to Police has dropped. This campaign, which works in cooperation with local businesses, specifically aids those who work in licenced premises and we appreciate their commitment to making this campaign work.

We continue to hold our drop in clinics, held within Burntisland Library and have gained some valuable information from these. These clinics are only as good as we all make them, so please continue to speak to us and tell us what the problems in your area are, as this is the best way to understand how we can continue to work together. We will be posting future dates on the Kirkcaldy Police Twitter page and also on posters throughout the burgh, so keep your eyes peeled for updates.

As before, should you need to contact the police, please get in touch with us directly. There is no point in posting issues online and just hoping that the police read it. Please let us know what the problems are by phoning 101 for non emergencies and of course 999 for emergencies.

Alternatively, Elizabeth and I can be contacted via email at:

[Elizabeth.james@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.james@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

[Lewis.greig@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lewis.greig@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

[FifeCPTBurntislandKinghornWestKirkcaldy@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FifeCPTBurntislandKinghornWestKirkcaldy@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Alternatively, if you feel you want to report anything anonymously, you can contact

**Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**



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Mob: 07903 569821  
e-mail: [paulrgraham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulrgraham@hotmail.co.uk)

## REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

The **Remembrance Day Parade** will commence with assembly at 10 am at Harbour Place, followed by a march off at 10.15 prompt. Led by the Burntisland and District Pipe Band with followers from various local military groups, Councillors and Community Councillors, Adult Units, Various Scouting groups and the general public.

The route will be from Harbour Place and will proceed via the High Street, to the Erskine United Free Church for services commencing at 10.45 am. They will then proceed to the War Memorial at 12 noon approximately. The Minister will read a lesson followed by a two minute silence. A piper will play a lament followed by the Last Post and Reveille. There will be a wreath laying ceremony as well as acknowledging all of The Fallen, whose names appear on the memorial, throughout the duration of hostilities by various individuals and community and military representatives. The National Anthem will be sung, following a drum roll and then a Benediction by The Minister. The parade will then return to Harbour Place via the High Street. The various Parade members will then be dismissed by the Parade

## Community Award 2018

We are coming up to the time of year for organisations and individuals to think about nominations for this years Community Award. The Community Council faces the difficult task of deciding from the many nominations received just who will receive this prestigious award.

If you feel you know of an individual who makes an extraordinary contribution to the community, we would like to hear from you. Please send us your nomination and the reason for your choice. The winner is announced on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December and receives an individually crafted certificate, highly prized lapel badge and a medallion.

Post to- Secretary, Community Council, c/o 4 Kirkgate. Burntisland, KY3 9DB or email to burntislandcc.org.uk, or hand to any member of the Community Council.

**BURNTISLAND**  
**Bonfire & Fireworks**  
**MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER**  
**Bonfire at 7pm followed by Fireworks**  
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# The Burgh Buzz – September 2018

Information compiled by Emma Andrews and Chloe Smith. Written by Olivia McMillan and Eve Woods (P7)

We're back and ready for another exciting year at BPS! Our new P1 pupils have settled into school well and are learning about sequencing numbers and counting. They have also been learning about sounds in Literacy. Their topic has been Julia Donaldson and her marvellous books. P1 pupils have also been going outdoors to the woods for Outdoor Learning and they have been enjoying all their learning in this area.

P2 have been learning about numbers before and after, they have also been learning about 2D shapes and data handling and using tally marks for in their Numeracy work. For Literacy they have been working on initial sounds and common words as well as creating sentences. Children have also been having a marvellous time so far, learning about Houses and Homes!

Pupils in P3 have been learning about the place value of numbers in the context of money. In their Literacy they have been doing sentence structure, connectives and 3-part stories. Their topic this term is Pirates.

In our P4 classes, children have been learning how to animate using Pivot in ICT. They have been learning how to play the ukulele and they have also learned about Buddhism! Their focus has been learning about Rights and UNCRC. They have been busy!

ICT has also been a focus in P5, where pupils have been learning how to code using Code Club. Children have also been learning about Sikhism, as well as focusing on the 4 Learning Powers of Resilience, Reciprocity, Resourcefulness and Reflectiveness. They have also been learning about the importance of recycling and looking after our planet.

In P6 pupils have been learning place value and decimals. For Literacy they have been improving their descriptive writing. They have also been doing some really exciting work about microbes in science and learning about The Roman Empire for their topic.

P7 have been super busy this term learning all about Ecosystems and Living Things. This includes work on animals, plants and cells. We have focused on our Learning Powers and how we can use these Learning Powers to reach our goals. In Maths we have been learning about decimals and have even been working in thousandths!

As a school, we are very excited to be welcoming assessors from UNICEF on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September. The team from UNICEF are coming to assess whether or not the school can be awarded a *Silver: Rights Aware* Rights Respecting Schools Award. We work really hard at BPS to teach *about* rights, *through* rights and *for* rights, and we hope to gain this award as recognition for all of our hard work! We will keep you updated in the next edition!



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## Flekkefjord/Burntisland Twinning Visit 2018

A wee break down of what we have been up to in our 72<sup>nd</sup> year.....

Our Norwegian visitors arrived at the Burgh Chambers on Monday evening, 6<sup>th</sup> August to be 'officially' welcomed to the Town by our Chair, George Kay. They then headed off with their host families to get to know one another.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August.** A trip to Edinburgh for a wander round the Castle (Which was ridiculously busy!) followed by a packed lunch & some time to enjoy the 'delights' of the street entertainers on the Royal Mile before being let loose shopping, which everyone enjoyed. We met up at the station before heading home for tea.

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August.** A family day where the youngsters spent time with their families & each other. They even managed a walk to Aberdour! (Although I believe some may have caught a train home!) No names!! But you know who you are!

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August.** A very early start – 07.00 leaving Burntisland for Cairngorm! A bit of sleeping on the coach ensued. We had a quick comfort & snack break at Ralia just outside Newtonmore before heading off up the mountain. A trip up on the funicular railway was followed by a guided walk to the summit of Scotland's 6<sup>th</sup> highest mountain (1245 metres or 4084 feet.)

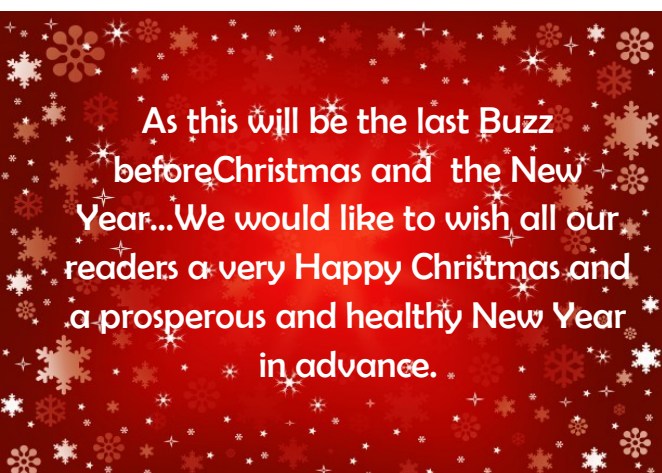
After this we headed down to the coach for a packed lunch before driving to Loch Insh for a couple of hours kayaking and generally getting wet & having fun! Back down the A9 to Perth for a burger before getting back to Burntisland just after 19.00hrs. A long but enjoyable day.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August.** Another free day – so our intrepid youngsters headed off back to Edinburgh for more shopping! Ceilidh in the evening at the Golf Club and a chance to meet local folk who came along to help us celebrate. Great fun with lots of dancing! (One of our visitors had said that he 'didn't dance'...we couldn't keep him off the floor once he got started!) Thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August.** More free time during the day – much of it spent in town enjoying 'live on the Links' & cementing friendships. Followed by a BBQ up at the Barn at the Loch, beside Kinghorn Loch. Music was provided by one of our talented host families. A few words & memento's given and all too soon it was time to head home.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August.** Bit of a 'moist eyed' day as our visitors headed home from Kirkcaldy Station. It's probably fair to say our Burntisland youngsters are fair looking forward to their trip to Flekkefjord. next year!

All in all a pretty packed few days enjoyed by all. If you would like to become involved in Twinning please get in touch with us through our Facebook page.



## News from the Playgroup

It's been a busy start to the new school year at Playgroup, we have a few children that have chosen to do their pre-school year with us, which is great and adding a new aspect to the provision and learning that we offer. Our new children are all beginning to settle in and are forming some nice, new friendships with the other children and staff. We are sure that this is going to be another exciting year at Playgroup.

We have been learning "All about me" and "Harvest" as planned topics. The children's own learning is also being enhanced and extended, we are currently developing their interest in "wheels and forces". This is providing lots of opportunities to look at wind turbines, wind, aeroplanes, trains, the Falkirk wheel, tractors and growing, which also links into Harvest. The children have also been using the outdoor space for their learning and have been exploring the mud kitchen.

## New Committee

We recently held our AGM where a new committee was elected. They are already busy planning some fund raising events for the year, with the first event being our annual Halloween Disco on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October at the Toll Centre, with tickets costing £3 per person. This proves to be a very popular event each year, with tickets selling fast. If you would like to attend this, please contact Playgroup at the Toll Centre to purchase your ticket.

The committee will continue this year, to raise funds, obtain grants and manage the group, without which Playgroup would struggle to provide the amazing opportunities for the children throughout the year. We really appreciate the time and commitment that they all put into everything for the group. We recently received monies from Fife Charities Grant, which is enabling us to purchase new small world resources and storage.

Our staff team remains the same this year, although we are recruiting for a relief practitioner as we speak.

Jenny Roxburgh - Senior Early Years Practitioner - Burntisland Playgroup



## CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CONCERT

21<sup>ST</sup> Dec 7:00pm

Burntisland Community is coming together to showcase the Musical Talents of our wonderful community in voice and music for Christmas. Come and join us...

21<sup>ST</sup> Dec 7:00pm (Parish Church Hall) **All Welcome**

**£5.00 (Adults) Children are Free.** *All Proceeds go to Mary's Meals*

*sponsored by St Serf's Building Community Project*

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Burntisland Parish Church is holding its popular **Christmas Fayre** on Saturday 17th November from 2pm to 4pm in the church halls. Entrance is 20p. There will be a range of stalls selling gifts, books, bric-a-brac and delicious home baking.

You can try your hand at the bottle stall or a raffle. **Santa** has promised to come along (despite being very busy indeed) so you can meet him too.. After that you may wish to visit the top hall where the Guild will be selling refreshments.

If you'd like to donate any home baking, books, etc. please bring them along to the halls from 10 am on the morning of the fayre. All donations will be much appreciated.



## Toll Community Centre

The past few months have been an extremely busy time for the Toll Community Centre...we had our AGM, which was well attended, however, we are sad to lose Bridgette Fraser as she has worked so hard for the Toll Community Centre for the past few years but wish her good luck in her new adventures ...!! The rest of the existing committee were re elected and we welcome four new members...Melissa Craig , Angie Wood, Sandra Blyth and Joyce Kelley... Angie and Mel have been flung in at the deep end and are busy organising our ABBA night on the 24<sup>th</sup> November, which already looks like its going to be a fun night !!

Looking forward to working with you all and having a prosperous and successful year ahead.

We have completed a funding application to the Fife Environmental Trust for funding to replace the old boiler and heating system in the Centre ....many thanks to everyone who sent in a letter of support and to everyone who signed out petition ...we were truly overwhelmed and this will hopefully strengthen our application so fingers crossed ...we should know by the end of November if we have been successful!!! We also secured £500 from Aldi to buy new equipment for the Tuesday Club.

Our first Art and Photography exhibition and craft fair took place last month and was a great success with many local artists and photographers displaying their work ...they have kindly agreed to let us keep their work on display for the near future, if you missed it and would like to see their work call us and we can arrange for you to come and visit ...It wouldn't have happened if hadn't been for all the hard work of Simon Addisson and Mandy Hammond...huge thanks!!

Our user groups are going from strength to strength...and we have a new group ...Wild Planet Explorers for younger children and they sound as though they are having fun!!

We are still a collection point for the Food Bank and are open Monday -Friday 8-3pm ...many thanks to everyone who has donated so far ....

The Toll Community Centre is a great venue for parties, fund raising events etc so if you would like more information please call 01592 872854 or pop in and visit

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Sirs, Through the Burgh Buzz I would like to thank the person who came to my rescue when I was stuck in the disabled toilets on September 10th at 4pm.

All I know is that his name was Scott. So thank you very much Scott

Maureen McQuade

### BONNY BURNTISLAND

I hae wandered far away,  
I've settled doon in Botany Bay.  
But o' ma thoughts they often stray,  
Tae Bonny Burntisland.

Burntisland by the sea, that's the place  
I long tae be,  
There's no another toon for me,  
Like Bonny Burntisland.

I see the Binn, it's aye sae braw,  
I've walked the Braes of Whinny hae  
and oft a tear doon fa,  
for Bonny Burntisland

I've had a drink in The Green Tree,  
The Star, The Port and Jubilee,  
and monies a night I've been on a spree,  
In Bonny Burntisland.

The Castle stands upon a hill,  
now it's a ruin farely  
and Mary Queen of Scots stid there  
and so did oor Prince Charlie.

But noo am getting auld and grey,  
I'd like to go back there and stay  
and meet the folks o' yesterday,  
in Bonny Burntisland.

*Willie Black 1903—1987*

# S. M. AUTOS

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Class 4

# 01592 871393



Class 7

End of Term Celebrations

Before the summer break we had our end of term celebrations which involves a Barbeque, ice cream van, sumo suits and the Birds of Prey as well as other attractions. The aim of this event is to celebrate the achievement of our pupils. The achievement awards were presented by David Torrance MSP. It was great to see so many supporters of Starley Hall turn up to the event.

Osiligi Warriors and Fund Raiser

The children enjoyed the visit last year from the Maasai warriors and asked for their return this year. This project involves Maasai people touring the United Kingdom for a couple of months to raise money and awareness of the Tribe's traditions and the money raised goes toward building schools and buying resources to



improve the lives of the Maasai tribes people of Kenya. Our pupils had a fundraiser and presented a cheque for £191.

Art in the Community

There were a few pictures From Starley added to the Art exhibition in the Toll Community Centre, Burntisland. The pupils were thrilled to see their work on display in a professional setting. Here is Simon hanging up a self-portrait.

Babcock International, Rosyth

Starley Hall was chosen by Babcock International for a project that would test the skills of their apprentices. The apprentices had to engage with the pupils to find out what type of playground equipment they would like to see installed, then the apprentices created, built and installed the structure. This project won the apprentices a National Award. As well as the equipment, Babcock apprentices presented a

cheque for £1100 which they raised through fundraising events. We would like to say a big thank you to the apprentices of Babcock International.

Therapeutic Building

A therapeutic approach is at the heart of the Starley Hall ethos and it was great to see our new building finally opened. Once the new building was up then it was over to the kids to decide on the interior design. The pupil council organised an extensive ballot on what the new building should be called. The winning name was, 'The View.' because it has a gorgeous view over the Firth of Forth. It was officially opened by Shaun, one of our senior pupils, and David Torrance MSP.





In the last few months club members have proved that it's not all about swimming up and down the pool - in June we headed through to Glasgow to watch the European Championships, in August some squad swimmers attended a masterclass with Hannah Miley which was a fantastic experience, and in early October some of the older swimmers (and a coach!) swapped the water for 'dry' land and took part in the Tiger Escapade obstacle course event.



The Club were excited to get confirmation of the results from the 2018 Fife League competitions, with the Novice League 9 & under girls A team coming 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, and the Novice boys 9 & under and 10/11 A teams both coming first! In the afternoon League competitions Burntisland 11/12 girls were 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 15 and over girls were 1<sup>st</sup>! A brilliant achievement and well deserved reward for everyone's hard work at training.

The new season kicked off with the Dunedin Meet in Bathgate at the end of August, followed by the Geordie Wotherspoon and Fife League Championships at the beginning of September. A great haul of medals came back from Glenrothes, with some fabulous swims!

At this time of year everyone's attention turns to the Club Championships, and the heats were held in September at Burntisland. The finals will be held in November at Kirkcaldy, this is always a favourite event with 'friendly' competition between swimmers and lots of medals and trophies up for grabs!

Burntisland Swimming Club is open to anyone that can swim at least one length of a recognisable stroke. Swimmers progress through our teaching groups to coaching squads aiming for District and National times. We also have a Masters squad for the 'more mature' swimmer who may be looking to swim for fitness and/or compete. For more information please check our website

[www.burntislandswimmingclub.co.uk](http://www.burntislandswimmingclub.co.uk) or contact us at [bascenquiries@hotmail.com](mailto:bascenquiries@hotmail.com)

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## Burntisland Bowling Club by Richard Perry

The Burntisland Bowling Club's season ended on 6 October with the annual match between teams representing the Treasurer and the Secretary. Although the match overall was a draw this year, an unusual outcome according to long-established members of the Club, one of the teams representing the Secretary, won by the largest margin and so were awarded the George Gibson Cup. The team comprised Jim Hunter, Rosemary Lascelles and Lorna Murdoch, seen in the photograph holding the Cup.

With the Club's internal competitions now completed, the winners include Dorothy Whyte, Ladies Champion, and Martin Hunter, Men's Champion. Other include: Brian Fleming (President's Cup Men); Wilma McLean (President's Cup Ladies); Brian Blake (Jim Baxter and Over 60s Trophy); Raymond Whyte (Stevenson's Cup); Ian Jamieson & Martin Hunter (Men's Ballot Pairs); Trevor Aldridge (Men's Consolation Cup), Dorothy Whyte (Festival Trophy, Morrison Trophy, Women's Senior Cup); Paul Graham, Brian Fleming & Ken Nimmo (Men's Triples); Rosemary Lascelles & Jean Watson (Ladies Ballot Pairs); Kath Cooper & Susan Williamson (Two Bowl Pairs); Dorothy & Raymond Whyte (Mixed Pairs); Margaret Farnes (Helen Mann Trophy); Ian McKay, Audrey Colville & Dick Westwater (James Ian Laird Cup).



The inaugural winner of the new Isabel Muir Trophy was Ruth Willis. This competition prize was awarded in memory of Isabel and her extensive contribution to the club over many years, including serving as Treasurer,



Scott Group is a Patron of the Outward Bound Trust



## BOOST FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FUND

A welcome contribution of £350.00 to the Christmas Lights fund was received by Community Council Members from Glenda Hancock of Hancock's Amusement arcade. The money was raised by selling homemade tablet to their customers over the summer to raise this magnificent sum. The cheque presentation is pictured right with Hancock fund raisers and Community Council representatives.

## BEAVERS

The Beavers have been learning about keeping themselves fit and healthy by making healthy snacks, visiting Amanda's Podiatry to see how to keep their feet healthy and learning about First Aid. We've been on a Hike up to the Binn Village to learn all about how it used to look. We have also had a Beaver camp where we made bird feeder fat balls and did some orienteering. *By Beaver Scout Leader Kerry Laing*

## CUBS

The Cubs have been working hard. We have revised our Navigation stage 1 and are now working on our Navigation stage 2. We have also revised our First Aid stage 1 and are now working on First Aid stage 2. We have been busy gardeners. Some of the peppers and parsley were more successful than others but everyone had fun seeing how their garden grew. We all enjoyed dressing up and revisited the 80's for the civic week parade. Some of the Cubs made the trip to Balwearie High School where along with other Cubs from the district we had fun earning our Athletics badge and meeting new friends. Recently we spent a whole night in silence learning about National Quiet Week and seeing how disabilities affect people.

## SCOUTS

The Scouts have had a busy year with camps, activities and earning lots of badges. So far this year over 230 badges have been presented to our Scouts, some of which were for Athletics, First Aid, Navigation, Master at Arms, Hikes, Paddle Sports, Nautical Skills, and Caving. Some have also been volunteering locally which earned the Community Impact badge, so well done to them all for outstanding work.

The Scouts had a weekend camp at Crook of Devon where they worked in patrols to cook all their meals on open fires and continue to develop their traditional Scouting skills. We then had our summer camp in the Lake District where we took 24 Scouts to the Great Tower Scout Activity Centre for eight days of adventure. During our time there, the Scouts and Leaders faced and overcame lots of personal challenges by completing numerous activities, from the Leap of Faith which was climbing a ten-metre tree and jumping off to reach a trapeze bar, rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, raft building, tomahawk throwing, learning how to prepare wild game and then cooking it on an open fire, and two days of caving in the Yorkshire Dales.

Thirteen of our Scouts have also just completed their Expedition Challenge as they work towards their Chief Scout Award by hiking over 20 miles over two days while carrying their kit, cooking their meals on light weight hike stoves, camping over-night and then hiking home the following day. A brilliant achievement by all of them as they put into practice everything they have been learning during their time in Scouting. *David Laing (Scout Leader)*

## EXPLORERS

Explorers along with the scouts attended a week long camp in Cumbria trying out lots of different adventurous activities, including caving, canoeing, climbing and raft building. One group of explorers have also been working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh and are ready for their assessed expedition at the end of October. We also had a fun Ready Steady Cook night and baked some biscuits. *By Group Scout Leader Kerry Laing*





## Burntisland Christmas Fair

Once again the High Street will be buzzing with lots of local craft stalls, entertainment, face painting, street food, mulled wine and late night opening shops along with a children's advent trail and huge community raffle. The town's new Christmas lights will be on setting the Christmas scene for what promises to be a family friendly festive atmosphere of community cheer. **Come and join in the fun 5pm-7pm on Friday 7th December.** This event is being organised by a very small group of Burntislanders so if you can spare a couple of hours to help on the night, the Burntisland Community Development Trust would love to hear from you, email us at [bcdt2016@gmail.com](mailto:bcdt2016@gmail.com). See you on the 7th!



### The Roasting Project - Coffee House

Yesterday at 07:00 · 🌐

Bonfire Night is coming and we want to start on the right foot and support the local community, so, even though we're not open yet, we plan to set up our Pop-Up Coffee bar at the front entrance of The Roasting Project, our Baristas will be pulling shots and serving up your favourite brew, all we ask is that you make a donation to the fund for next year's Bonfire!

#coffeehouse&café #supportlocal  
 #community #bonfirenight  
 #rememberremember #TRP  
 #theroastingproject



[Jim Leishman](#) Provost of Fife, unveiled a new plaque outside the Library.

Burntisland came top in an on-line poll beating other Fife towns including Cupar and St.Andrews.

The poll was held to mark 50 years of Conservation Areas. [Fife has 48 Conservation Areas.](#)

[Burntisland's Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan](#) (well worth a read – or at least a skim – to see some of the town's assets that many people, residents and visitors, may not be aware of.

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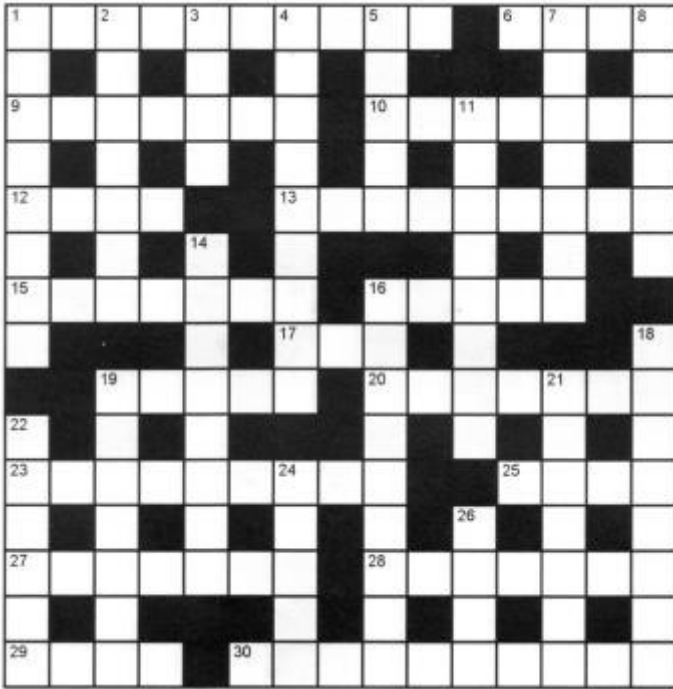
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# THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

- 1. Below (10)
- 6. Jane Austen novel (4)
- 9. Book section (7)
- 10. Uncertain (2,5)
- 12. Submissive (4)
- 13. Fondness (9)
- 15. Prospect (7)
- 16. Topic (5)
- 17. Lamb's mother (3)
- 19. Managed (5)
- 20. Posy (7)
- 23. Early form of bus (9)
- 25. Brandy from grape residue(4)
- 27. State capital of Georgia (7)
- 28. Rowers (7)
- 29. Overdue (4)
- 30. Et cetera(3,2,5)

**DOWN**

- 1. Rare (8)
- 2. Most expensive (7)
- 3. Log tailed rodents (4)
- 4. Set aside for a purpose (9)
- 5. Robber (5)
- 7. \_\_\_\_Chevalier, singer (7)
- 8. Playing a part 6)
- 11. Become less(8)
- 14. Grumble (8)
- 16. Dogged (9)
- 18. Spring bulb (8)
- 19. Garland for the head(7)
- 21. Branch of language study(7)
- 22. Scribble (6)
- 24. Once more (5)
- 26. Carmina Burana composer (4)

**Solution to Autumn Crossword**

**ACROSS:** 1 Disconcert, 6 Abel, 9 Frantic, 10 Backlog, 12 Odin, 13 Insolvent, 15 Ignoble, 16 Cease, 17 A La, 19 Quell 20 Broaden, 23 Identical, 25 Taxi, 27 Chimera, 28 En Route, 29 Sage 30 Bloody

**DOWN:** 1 Daffodil 2 Sea Lion, 3 Oath, 4 Cochineal 5 Robes, 7 Believe, 8 Lights, 11 Calvados, 14 Absentee, 16 Caballero 18 Entirely, 19 Queuing, 21 Dracula, 22 Discus, 24 Crawl, 26 Dry. **CONGRATULATIONS—Our Autumn Crossword winner of £50 in vouchers is:**

**Anne Blake - 8 Piper Crescent, Burntisland**

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE:.....

Completed entries by: Jan 15, 2019 to:

**The Editor— 39 The Wynd, Dalgety Bay. KY11 9SJ**  
 First Correct entry drawn will win **£50.00** vouchers  
 Donated by Shell UK Ltd. Answers will appear in  
 The next issue of the Burgh Buzz.

## Events Diary

| DATE            | EVENT  | TIME              |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |  |                   |
| Friday 9th      | Community Council Meeting in the Burgh Chambers  | 7.00 pm           |
| Saturday 10th   | Des & the Dingoes at The Golf Club in aid of Cancer Research   | 7.00pm            |
| Saturday 24th   | Messy Church in Parish Church hall 10am, with free lunch   | 10.00 am          |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |  |                   |
| Saturday 2nd    | Blue Christmas - Parish Church will be open  | 3 to 5.30 pm      |
| Friday 7th      | Christmas Street Fair and Christmas Lights switch on   | 5 to 7.00 pm      |
| Saturday 8th    | Over 70's Christmas Lunch at the Kingswood hotel   | 12.00 for 12.30pm |
| Sunday 9th      | Erskine Church family Carol Service  | 6.15pm            |
| Friday 14th     | Community Council Meeting in Burgh Chambers  | 7.00 pm           |
| Friday 14th     | St. Serfs Church Christmas Concert   | 7.00 pm           |
| Sunday 16th     | Messy Nativity, Kinghorn Church hall with free 2 course meal   | 3 to 5pm          |
| Friday 21st     | Live Nativity/Crib Service, St. \Serfs Church  | 3.00 pm           |
| Sunday 23rd     | All Churches morning services  |                   |
| Monday 24th     | <b>Christmas Eve Services</b> as follows:<br>St. Serfs at 6pm, St. Joseph's Family Mass at 6pm, Parish Church, Candlelit Service at 7pm<br>Erskine Church Watchnight Service, 11.15 pm |                   |
| Tuesday 25th    | Parish Church Service  | 10.30 am          |
|                 | St. Joseph's Church  | 10.00 am          |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  | Community Council Meeting 2nd Friday of Month  | 7.00 pm           |

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR EVENTS NOT POSTED YET OR NOTIFIED

[www.burgh.buzz](http://www.burgh.buzz)





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### *The Rotary Club of Burntisland & Kinghorn by Alan Smart*



The last couple of months have been both varied and enjoyable with significant interaction with our local communities. The Kirkcaldy Club have been in touch regarding Promoting Rotary Day in the Mercat Kirkcaldy on 23 February 2019. We did this with Kirkcaldy and Kirkcaldy Raith last February and I have told President Robert that we are interested in doing this again. Rita will bring the Rotakids and they always steal the show BPS RotaKids had their bake competition. Approximately 80 cakes and biscuits were donated. £1 collected for each donation. Slices of remaining cakes will be sold in the afternoon, which will raise further funds. BPS staff, RotaKids, and Rotarians tasted most of them. Talk about a sugar rush!! In September, 38 pairs of glasses were handed to me by members at our meetings and I collected 3 pairs from the Kinghorn Community Centre. A total of 124 pairs of glasses were taken to Boots which will be recycled by **Vision Aid Overseas**.

President Ros joined Ken Littlemore at Burntisland Library for a photoshoot to promote the Vision Aid programme Ken has handed over a significant number of glasses so far and with further advertising, hopefully this will increase.

Ian Archibald was our speaker on the 11th when he told us all about the conservation of the Kirkton Church and churchyard. He is so enthusiastic it is always a pleasure to hear him.

On the 18th we had a very interesting talk by Agnes Whyte from **Breathe Easy Fife** who spoke about the support for people with lung disorders in our area.

The informal meeting on 25th September was the President's favourite this month. We had a very special cake (made by Michelle, of course) for a very special birthday. Alan turned 95 on Wednesday and was delighted with his cake.

On Thursday 27th President Ros went along to the Glenrothes club at the Gilvenbank Hotel who were hosting a Desert Island Discs evening. Four members were the 'castaways' and each gave an account of their favourite music and items they would take with to their island. Something we might look at doing in our club?



## News from St Joseph's

In 1948, St Joseph's Parish – when the church was situated down on Kinghorn Road – decided to form a St Vincent de Paul Conference. The original office-bearers were David McCann, George Murray and Ken McAuliffe - names that will be familiar to many older residents in the town. The background is that in 1833 Frederic Ozanam and a group of friends from the Sorbonne University were challenged to prove their faith in Christ through action, not just words. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was formed when they took up this challenge and began to work with the desperately poor in Paris. Developing a simple system, they went in teams to help the poor in their homes, in the streets, in the hospitals and the asylums. Adopting as their patron Saint Vincent de Paul, a 16th century cleric renowned for his work with the poor, the Society arose from humble beginnings to become an international organization found in 150 countries with 45,000 conferences and 800,000 volunteers. Guided by these principles and Catholic Social Teaching the conference aims to assist those who experience "poverty" in all its guises in the modern world. (It is not just a lack of material goods, it encompasses many things such as health, loneliness etc.)

Various events are being planned to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St Joseph's conference. Members are helping to organise a Mass with the Anointing of the Sick in St Joseph's on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October; Mass will be offered on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November for deceased members and benefactors; the anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>. In addition the conference hope to raise a total of 70 gifts for the Food Bank and other charities.

Congratulations to the conference and thanks for all the good work they do.

## News From St. Serf's

### Timing Is Everything *(St Serf's is moving to a new time)*

There are many sayings about time... *'Time Flies', 'A Stitch in Time Saves Nine' and 'Timing is Everything.'* The band the Byrds in their song 'Turn, Turn, Turn' talk about time and quoted King Solomon (Son of David as in David and Goliath) and sang...

*to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap that which is  
planted...*

*A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*



**Even the Birth of Jesus was at the right time... *"but when the fulness of the time had come,***

***God sent forth his Son"* Gal 4:4.** And we can see various factors of Jesus' birth that indicates that the timing was perfect such as Caesar Augustus' decree that a census be taken directing Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem where it was prophesied the Messiah (Baby Jesus) would be born. **This advent season St Serf's and the All Souls Fife Churches will be looking at the... *Perfect Timing of Jesus's Birth...*which brought anticipation, fulfillment and hope to all.**

**Come and join us as we launch...**

A New Service Time of **10:00am at St Serf's** (Starting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Nov)

And a **New Contemporary Worship Time at 6:00pm** (Starting on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov and then taking place on the last Sunday of every month).

Crib Service for Children and Families 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 3:00pm (Friday).

Christmas Eve Candlelit Service 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 6:00pm.

All Souls Christmas Service 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 10:00am at St Columba's, Aberdour.

All Souls Fife, c/o St. Serf's Episcopal Church, Ferguson Place, Burntisland, Fife, KY3 9ES, 01592 870049

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## Burntisland Parish Church

### GIFTING BAGS OF LOVE

**Blue Christmas** – The Parish Church will be open 3-5pm to allow people to go in and light a candle, and for prayer. At 5-5.30pm in the church there will be a short reflective worship time. There will be refreshments afterwards.

### MESSY CHURCH

Messy isn't the usual word we associate with church – indeed some people might have the very strange idea in their heads that somehow in church we've all got it together, have life sussed and know what we are doing. In reality, life itself is complex and messy for most of us, both inside and outside church. We are the first to admit that church is far from perfect. But what are we trying to do together is follow the call of Jesus to love God and seek to serve Him, and to love our neighbours.

Messy Church is not just about doing lots of messy craft activities. It's an acknowledgement and recognition that lives are busy and complex and the same old patterns and ways of doing things don't always fit our circumstances. We have to think out of the box and learn to communicate our care for people around us and the value we place on doing things God's way more effectively. Messy Church is just one way of trying to do this.

The important values of Messy church are that it is for all ages to enjoy together, so should be accessible for all; it uses hands on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity and give people a chance to interact and play together; it is welcoming and hospitable and a safe space with no expectations put on people; it reflects a God of joy who wants His people to have life in all its fullness; it is a church, not a craft club, and it helps people to encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

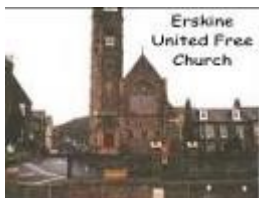
Whether you haven't thought about coming before, or if you have been but maybe not for a while, or if you are a regular, please know that you will be made very welcome and may even find yourself having fun with your family and with our Messy Church family on the following dates (Please see dates in the events diary Page 16)

### MARY'S MEALS BACK PACK PROJECT

#### Church members and friends with the backpacks

Members of Burntisland Parish Church and friends in the community have been busy over the summer months filling backpacks for the charity **Mary's Meals**, which are destined for children in Malawi.

A total of 129 backpacks were donated, an increase on the previous collection of two years ago. Richard Lloyd, community ambassador at Mary's Meals joined the congregation at their celebration service and accepted the backpacks on behalf of the charity. Many thanks to all those who helped make this excellent collection possible.



#### Erskine News by Rev. Alexander Ritchie

I caught the bus back from Kirkcaldy to Burntisland recently, the fare was £3-I could hardly believe it. I remember my mum handing the conductor just a few pence for us to go into Aberdeen city centre on the old green buses, but that's about 45 years ago. How times change!

This Remembrance we mark the 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1. How different those two eras are, separating 1918 from 2018. Yet the human cost of war remains the same, as do the value of life and the lost dreams of youth. Those young men from Burntisland whose

names we will hear at the War Memorial on Sunday 11 November were as full of life as today's young people. It's always very poignant for us to gather together as a community and remember sacrifices made. The Remembrance service starts in Erskine Church @ 10.45am.

Erskine has its usual series of events to end the year. Our autumn fayre takes place on Saturday 27 October from 10am (see Facebook for more info), then it's the run-in to Christmas. This year we are planning a family carol service on Sunday 9 December @ 6.15pm, as well as the ever-popular Watchnight service on Christmas Eve (which is a Monday this year) @ 11.15pm. You'd be very welcome to join us. Where on earth has 2018 gone?

One reason why the Christmas story endures is because of its demonstration of divine love for human beings. God sends his Son in human form, his earthly life begins very humbly and precariously yet Jesus had been chosen to reveal God's love to a broken and lost humanity. That's a very powerful combination. Ultimately it brings a rich message of peace & hope into the world.

As you're reading this, you may already have done some Christmas shopping. Please though take some time in the midst of the hyped-up frenzy to remember what it's all about-the light of God's salvation coming into our world. *"In him was life, and that life was the light of men"* (John 1.4, NIV).



## Craigencauld Trust News

by Marilyn Edwards

There are many tasks undertaken by Craigencauld Trust to improve facilities at Craigencauld and Whinnyhall and we continue with new projects this winter, including improving road safety at Red Path Brae and improving the jetty at Kinghorn Loch. This can only be done with the help of our Friends of CRCT and we are really grateful for all the continued support.

One important task that the Trust carries out on behalf of Rio-Tinto Alcan, the owner of Kinghorn Loch, is to ensure the water quality remains excellent for water sports, fishermen, and wildlife at the loch. Ron Edwards, our chairman, has a long association with this task since 1976, when he was Chief Chemist of the Forth River Board (FRPB). The loch was originally a pike fishery with a very chequered history since the Burntisland Oil Company Candle Works polluted it in 1890s. From 1950s the quality of the loch water gradually declined due to leachate from Alcan's landfill at Whinnyhall, until 1983 when FRPB and Alcan arranged to divert the leachate. Ron completed his study on pollution of the loch in 1986 and water quality became very good. However, nutrients in the sediment allowed severe blue-green algal blooms to develop again in the 1990s. Ron pioneered a remedy which was put into action with the assistance of Kinghorn Loch Users Group (KLUG). The group united into Craigencauld Trust in 2011. In 1998, KLUG built six rafts to treat the water with barley straw; loaded twice a year in spring and autumn, and the remedy worked brilliantly. The water quality became very good again and has been extensively studied to prove that metal pollutants and algae are at safe levels. The Trust now treats just four rafts in February each year, and the water quality remains excellent. There is now a profuse amount of rooted water weed which serves to remove nutrients from the water, successfully preventing the development of algal blooms. However, this summer, in a response to the long spell of dry weather, Fife Council posted precautionary blue-green algae notices up around lochs in Fife but Kinghorn Loch remained clear of any problem. Our clean loch is thanks to the great team that helps with the work, and Banchory Farm, who has donated the barley straw bales since the beginning.



Over the years the Trust has gathered a lot of information on the local wildlife and we would love someone to help compile a database of all the birds, flowers, animals, bees, moths and butterflies that are around Craigencauld. We have so many photos that we want to put into a public register for all to see and use. Each entry would have a photograph and short description of where it can be found. This should be an enjoyable task, to be done quietly over a leisurely period. Please put yourself forward and we can make up a really good team! Contact us on [info@craigencauldtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@craigencauldtrust.org.uk) or phone Marilyn on 891330 if you would like more details.



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- And Much more...

# Vet's Corner

By Jillian Walker



## MISTLETOE AND WHINE

Christmas can be great fun for family and pets alike, but it's very important to keep our furry friends safe and well over the festive period.

The Christmas tree is a potential mine field for our curious pets. Make sure your tree is well anchored or weighted down, so any curious cats can't tip or knock it over. Young animals can be drawn to bright, shiny things like tinsel. If eaten, these can cause vomiting, obstruction of the gut and in extreme cases, may require surgical intervention. Kissing under the Mistletoe can be lovely, but be aware Mistletoe can cause heart and stomach problems if eaten, whilst holly can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

There is an ever extending list of foods that are potentially dangerous to our dogs including chocolate, grapes, raisins, onions, garlic, alcohol, coffee, mouldy foods and salt. All of these when ingested can cause toxicity. Of course like humans, dogs and cats react differently to foods with some suffering greater degrees of intolerance or allergic reaction than others. Please also bear in mind that while a little bit of turkey is ok, turkey and chicken bones can kill if they splinter in the throat or worse the intestine.

Try and keep feeding, exercise and bed routines the same, as consistency can help pets feel safe and more secure. Give dogs a safe and quiet place to retreat to, away from the festivities and cats always require a hidey hole. Do you have a room, away from all things Christmassy, where you could put your dogs food or your cats litter tray? Try and give them a place to retreat to, if they wish, while you entertain.

If you and your dog are spending Christmas away from home, take something that smells familiar, like their bed, as well as their favourite toy and maybe some chews to keep them entertained. If your leaving your cats home alone, please ensure they have access to fresh food and water. If possible ask a friend or neighbour to check on them daily.

Let's not forget your small furries e.g. hamsters and other rodents. These little creatures are very sensitive to high frequency sounds that we can't hear. So put their cages somewhere quiet, away from televisions and stereos. Remember they are nocturnal, so they like to sleep during the day and please don't put tinsel or fairy lights around the cage as rodents love nibbling everything!

Finally don't forget your outdoor pets like rabbits and guinea pigs. Give them extra bedding during the winter months and always keep them clean. Wet bedding can freeze on a cold winter's night which can lead to illness. Always check that your outside furries have got fresh food and water.

As always Albavet will be open during the festive period and the hospital in Kirkcaldy will be available should your pet need us.

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**Burntisland Local Committee** recently held their AGM and we welcomed a few new members to our committee.

We are a small group of people who organise events to raise money, which we donate on behalf of Burntisland community to Cancer Research UK.

We are always looking for different ideas to raise money and we would welcome anyone who would like to get involved in raising funds for Cancer Research.

We have two events coming up before the end of the year:

**Des and the Dingoes 10th November at Burntisland Golf Club.**

Saturday 15th December 10am on the High Street, the Committee will be singing a selection of Xmas Carols and collecting for Cancer Research.

We would love to get lots of people to join us and get into the Christmas spirit by singing along with us.

Mary Hindle



### Burntisland Bird Watch - October 2018

1st October 2018. I had breakfasted on our step, wearing my thick fleece against a cold south-east wind. Throaty hootings and honkings had suddenly come together at the edge of my hearing - geese, my first of the year. Autumn! I found them coming in with the wind, flying towards Burntisland in a wriggling v. I got binoculars on them as they passed behind the Erskine Church tower and as they came in clear view of our garden I counted 38. I confirmed by low tone and chunky, not-too-dark-necked look that they were greylag geese not pink-footed. Below these long distance migrants our feeders were provisioning two coal tits, two woodpigeons and about seventeen house sparrows (despite minimum seven killed by cats in our garden this season).

I had a couple of hours spare and though cold the beautiful autumnal day was too tempting not to go out in, perfect for a Binn circle walk. Setting out past the school we saw buzzards hanging over the hill. Three of them, then four, five, six, seven all together until three peeled away to glide over the trees towards Aberdour.

Climbing through the woods I scanned high branches, ever hopeful of a tawny owl tucked up tightly to sleep the day away. I think I've seen this only twice before, once at the back of Montrose Basin, once from a hotel window in Crieff. Across the meadow not long ago so full of the busy activities of summer pollinators. Next the Binn pond - approaching quiet and slow to avoid startling waterbirds into the reeds. Today there was one heron and one moorhen. The heron flew despite our imagined stealth, landed out of sight in the wetland beyond. The moorhen wasn't fussed, it looked as if it maybe was on a nest, in October? A raven crouched and we turned to see a pair fly across the valley and on over fields. I see them now and again out here.

Now through the gate for the main ascent. A sign saying "Bull in Field". Making a quick exit isn't so easy with baby on my front so we stayed by the fence-line in case any got too curious. However, as we reached the open top Oren spotted the cows and his ecstatic squealings removed any chance that they might come close. A goldfinch flock chirpily twittered past us, pied wag-tails bobbed among the cows, a kestrel which flew in low and silent to scatter all before they quickly turned and pursued. The bravery of small birds as they mob much larger predators always amazes me.

After snacks at the summit we chatted to Norman jogging up the eastern slope as we walked down. Seven long-tailed tits distracted us, flitting one after the other up the twisted old hedgerow which lines that section of path. Out of a tall spiky hawthorn, across a wide gap beside us, safely into the next hawthorn. Whites and blacks and soft shades of pink, long tails following behind.

In the final field were two more herons, no water in sight but they will sometimes eat worms or small mammals. I feel they may nest somewhere nearby but I don't yet know where.

Past the peaceful remains of the Binn Village as rain started falling. Into the woods descending towards the golf club. Little birdlife sounding or seen, only a pheasant. Fungi everywhere. Past the gold sequin stars sprinkled on the path some months ago (pieces of plastic so still shining bright in the landscape and likely to do so for longer than any of us). Onto the road and into the rain proper. Crows, jackdaws, blackbird, a few gulls lingering. Home for lunch.

Contact me via [www.leodufeu.co.uk](http://www.leodufeu.co.uk), I always enjoy the local wildlife stories and questions I'm sent. Thanks to the person who wrote to me about house martins after my last column, unfortunately I lost your email before I could reply.

## THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

**The Wednesday Club** meets in the Toll Community Centre every 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month between 7-00pm and 9-00.

We have a fantastic programme organised for the coming 2018-19 session, welcoming back all our old members. At present we have a waiting list for new members, however if you contact any of the committee or call the Toll Centre between 9-00- 10-00 am 01592-872854 reception will give details of how to join..... *The Wednesday Club.....enjoying later life!*



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**Group Fitness**

| Day       | Activity                | Time              | Instructor     |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Monday    | Interval Training / Abs | 9.30am - 10.30am  | Rory Young     |
|           | Pilates                 | 7.15pm - 8.00pm   | Anna Czyzck    |
|           | Deepwork                | 8.00pm - 8.45pm   | Anna Czyzck    |
| Tuesday   | Circuit Training        | 9.30am - 10.15am  | Johnny Miller  |
|           | Core Blast              | 10.30am - 11.15am | Adrina Wallace |
|           | Kettlebells             | 6.30pm - 7.15pm   | Adrina Wallace |
|           | Metafit                 | 7.30pm - 8.00pm   | Adrina Wallace |
| Wednesday | Kettlebells             | 9.30am - 10.30am  | Rory Young     |
|           | BodyPump                | 1.30pm - 2.30pm   | Jill Johnston  |
|           | Circuit Training        | 6.00pm - 6.45pm   | Johnny Miller  |
|           | Core Blast              | 7.00pm - 7.45pm   | Adrina Wallace |
|           | Aquaerobics             | 7.15pm - 8.15pm   | Lauren Mullen  |
|           | Metafit                 | 8.00pm - 8.30pm   | Adrina Wallace |
| Thursday  | Aquaerobics             | 9.00am - 10.00am  | Lauren Mullen  |
|           | Pilates                 | 9.45am - 10.45am  | Susan Spowart  |
|           | BodyPump                | 6.00pm - 7.00pm   | Jill Johnston  |
| Friday    | BodyPump                | 9.30am - 10.30am  | Jill Johnston  |
|           | Pilates                 | 10.45am - 11.45am | Jill Johnston  |
| Saturday  | Circuit Training        | 9.00am - 10.00am  | Johnny Miller  |

[www.fifeleisure.org.uk](http://www.fifeleisure.org.uk)

# Christmas at the Kingswood

Elsa Jean McTaggart  
29th Nov & 1st Dec

Murder Mystery  
8th & 14th  
December

Bruce Davies  
7th December

Michael Bubbles  
15th December

SidebySide  
21st December

**SOLED OUT**

## Tall Trees Restaurant



*All Day  
Sunday Carvery*



Lunch & Dinner

12pm-2:45pm & 7pm-8:30pm

2 Courses £12.95 – 3 Course £15.40

High Tea including Carvery

3pm-6:45pm - £14.75



## Festive Dining from 1<sup>st</sup> December

Enjoy a cosy Christmas catch-up at the Kingswood Hotel.

Lunch – Dinner – Afternoon Tea

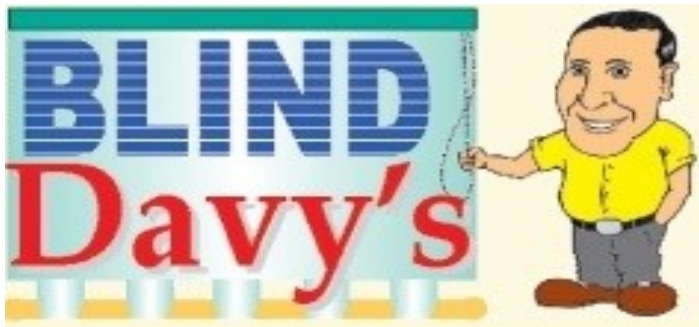
Cake & Coffee – Cocktail Lounge

Kingswood Hotel & Tall Trees Restaurant

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