

BURGH BUZZ

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Willi Henderson

2019 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Willi Henderson was absolutely astounded, but deeply honoured when she was informed on Hogmanay morning, by Alex MacDonald, Chairman of the Community Council, that she had been chosen as the winner of the Community Award for 2019. This award is presented annually to an individual who has provided outstanding service to the local community. This year, Willi was chosen from a strong field of excellent nominations and stood out from other nominees because of her fundamental consideration and compassion for others.

Throughout her life, Willi has assisted others through volunteer work including with the Social Services, and the foster care of a dozen youngsters. Since her move to Burntisland some 25 years ago, she has been deeply immersed as a volunteer in the work of the Burntisland Heritage Trust. Her genuine compassion for other people is reflected in her respectful and welcoming manner towards visitors and enquirers to the Trust, in particular during the Trust's annual exhibition.

Willi is an elegant and popular figure within the community and most deserving of this award.



**Change Works
in Burntisland**

Have You Noticed the Change?

There is a new face on the High Street. The Change Works in Burntisland hub is now open for business at 183 High Street (in the former mobile phone shop opposite the bank). Change Works in Burntisland is a local project helping to reduce gas and electricity costs and improving warmth in homes and businesses. Our friendly staff team are ready to welcome you with a cup of tea or coffee and have a chat about how we can help you save money on your fuel bills and keep your home warmer.

Jo Hobbett, Change Works in Burntisland Senior Project Officer, says, "We've worked hard to get the hub ready and we're delighted to finally have the doors open to welcome residents of Burntisland. Our team is on hand to provide advice to help people save money on their energy bills and improve the energy efficiency of local homes and businesses. Drop in to find out how we can help you"



Burntisland was chosen as the location for this project as a result of the ideas and responses gathered from the community to help create the Community Action Plan and Burntisland Energy Masterplan.

Hub opening hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays & Fridays 9.00 am – 3.30 pm and Saturdays 10.00 am – 1.30 pm. To find out more pop into the Change Works in Burntisland hub, contact the team on their Facebook page www.facebook.com/ChangeWorksInBurntisland, or email burntisland@changeworks.org.uk or call 01592 724424.

Change Works in Burntisland is funded by the Scottish Government, delivered by leading environmental charity **Changeworks** and supported by Fife Council. **Changeworks** is Scotland's leading environmental charity delivering solutions for low carbon living. This project will work with the community to save energy and reduce carbon emissions and is funded until October 2020.

BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY PAPER

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

Firstly, to all in the Burntisland community, best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

I make particular mention of the Burntisland community because in putting together this issue of the Buzz, I have been reminded constantly of the considerate and generous qualities of organisations and individuals throughout all levels of our society.

We have two businesses in the town which have donated substantial sums for distribution amongst local organisations. The Over 70's Christmas Treat Committee, all of whom are long time volunteers, have thanked numerous local organisations for their continued financial support. Donations to the Food Bank, also organised by kind and helpful volunteers, have been substantial and have contributed towards a happier festive season for many in need.

School children have demonstrated a willingness to care about others less fortunate than themselves - the local primary school pupils through Rotakids activities, and those from Starley Hall School through compassionate personal initiatives.

The local Churches have continued with their own benevolent programmes and it is comforting to note how they now work together towards common aims, something that did not happen when I was growing up in the town.

Although material donations are important, they would amount to nothing without the amount of time and effort freely given by the numerous volunteers who touch virtually every facet of our community life - from the Community Council to the Food Bank, Floral Action Burntisland to the Events Group, Civic Week and Highland Games Committees to the Heritage Trust, to name just a few.

It is therefore fitting that one of their number, Willi Henderson, is the recipient of the 2019 Community Award. Willi's fundamental caring and considerate posture throughout her long life has been continuously demonstrated throughout her almost quarter century residence in Burntisland. She is a truly worthy recipient.

Bill Kirkhope (Editor)

Editor

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

Deputy Editor/Graphics

Paul Briscoe, 1 Lammerlaws Road, Burntisland
Tel: 01592 871300 Email: paulbriscoe1@gmail.com

Advertising Coordinator

Suzie Robinson Email: scotchfranki@yahoo.com

Distribution

Linda Briscoe Email: 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

Secretary Community Council

George McLauchlan, 4, Dick Crescent, Burntisland,
KY3 OBS. Tel: 01592 873477

Email: george.mclauc@btinternet.com

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Burgh Buzz - Advertising Co-Ordinator

**Burgh Buzz is looking for a new Advertising
Co-Ordinator.**

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**

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.

- Christmas lights have been very well-received so far. New lights were installed on street furniture, trees and also within the Burgh Chambers. Fund-raising continues so that the total installation can be extended and maintained for future years.
- A new Paths Group has been formed, with the remit of keeping paths accessible, informative and in good condition. Comments have already been forwarded to the Fife Coastal Path Group with a view to enhancing Burntisland references on their map, brochure and website.
- We will be supporting a donation from the Common Good Fund in order to enable conservation work on paintings which are currently on display in the Burgh Chambers.
- Shell and ExxonMobil at Mossmorran have engaged independent consultants to review and advise on global best practice in terms of flaring and noise pollution.
- There is an ongoing investigation into the feasibility of re-locating the former Beamer lighthouse to a new site in Burntisland, so that its historical interest can be protected.
- We welcome a proposal by the Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association to acquire and test new, seagull-proof bins.
- Despite the challenging weather, the Christmas Market had been a success and about 100 people had called in to the Burgh Chambers to enjoy hot drinks and snacks.
- Thanks were extended to ExxonMobil for their sponsorship of pantomime tickets and travel which benefited about 80 senior citizens.
- We are awaiting a final report on the prospective future development of the Burgh Chambers, which will enable a more formal project group to be established and led by the Community Council.

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
 Secretary: George McLauchlan

Members:
 Christine Dewar Tim Hailey
 John Bruce Lesley-Anne Cronin
 Andy Smith Carol-Anne Crossan
 Philip Atkinson Brendan Burns
 Mark Johnston Derek Turnbull
 Yvonne Crombie
 Anne Smith (co-opted member)

Elected Fife Councillors' Availability

Councillor Gordon Langlands

Telephone: 01592 874 612

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 677 081

Email: 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

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

All Elected Politicians' surgery times and contact details are listed at

burgh.buzz/politics

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Burntisland Buzz

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

The Burgh Polis

By PC Elizabeth James



Let me start by wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year. Hopefully, you all managed to spend the Festive Season relaxing and eating good food with family and friends. Lewis and I would like to say thank you for the Christmas cards that we received. They certainly helped to make the stations magnolia walls a bit more colourful.

We are also pleased to report that 2018 saw recorded crime in Burntisland drop by 12% and there was a noticeably marked reduction in calls to the police about anti-social behaviour involving youths, both trends that we hope will continue.

In November last year, shortly after Bonfire Night, we were contacted by a concerned resident of the town regarding someone's use of a drone at the event. So, if you were lucky enough to get one for Christmas, please use it with consideration for others (including all animals) and keep the following in mind:- a person in charge of a small unmanned surveillance aircraft, which is equipped to undertake any form of surveillance or data acquisition, must not fly the aircraft in any of the following circumstances except in accordance with permission issued by the Civil Aviation Authority.

- over or within 150 metres of any congested area;
- over or within 150 metres of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 persons;
- within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft; or
- during take-off or landing, a small unmanned surveillance aircraft must not be flown within 30 metres of any person (excluding the operator).

Anyone requiring more information should head to the site dronesafe.uk

In the coming months we again will be launching a campaign to recruit more people for our Community Speedwatch Team who help us in our efforts to discourage motorists from speeding on the approaches to and in the town. Please be assured that it is not our intention to persecute drivers. However, we continually receive complaints about cars being driven at speed, and often witness it ourselves. Warnings, both written and verbal, are issued at our discretion, where appropriate. However, where we find any person driving with blatant disregard for speed limits, we will issue tickets which may incur both a monetary fine as well as penalty points.

Anyone wishing to speak to us on any policing matter, or join the Speedwatch Team, is asked to email either myself or Lewis at:

Elizabeth.James@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or Lewis.Greig@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

As always we would also encourage you to phone the police to report any crime/offence that you see being committed or that you are a victim of on 101 or 999 where appropriate. You don't need to leave your details if you wish to remain anonymous or alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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“Lest We Forget”

Last year’s Remembrance Day service, which also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War, took place on Sunday 11th November. This was a joint service held in the Erskine Church and conducted by Rev. Alexander Ritchie and Rev. Alan Sharp. After the church service, representatives of the various armed services and local organisations paraded to the war memorial where a record number of residents had gathered and where a short service was held. This was conducted jointly by Rev. Ritchie (Erskine United Free Church), Rev. Sharp (Parish Church), Father James (St. Josephs RC church) and Rev. Norby (St. Serfs Episcopalian church). During the wreath laying, members of the Guides, Scouts and Air Cadets read out the 139 names of local men who gave their lives during the two conflicts.



After the service the Community Council invited those taking part to the Burgh Chambers for refreshments. Members of the youth organisations were provided with refreshments in the Parish Church Hall.

Would You Consider Joining the Community Council?

Following October last year’s election process, Burntisland Community Council, unlike many of its local counterparts, comprised a full complement of 15 elected members. According to the rules, the Council can co-opt up to four other members who would have full rights of participation but would be ineligible to vote on any matter. In recent developments, one elected member has resigned for personal reasons and one co-opted member has been appointed.

To achieve its goals, the Council needs to be fully representative of the community and possessing essential skills that will enable it to take key projects forward. Current activities include seeking improved access to local landmarks and paths, and developing a new and sustainable future for the Burgh Chambers buildings. A recent visible success was the reintroduction of Christmas lights in and around the High Street, a project which is ongoing.

The Council is keen to co-opt its full complement of members and would encourage anyone interested, to attend a couple of our meetings to grasp an understanding of what would be expected of them. Based on current information, the Council plans to take a decision on new members in April and as such, the Council Secretary, George McLaughlan (contact details on page 2) would be keen to hear from any interested individuals.

Community Fund

Thanks to generous seed funding once again from Tom Courts Burntisland Butchers, the Community Council can offer small grants to local groups whose activities help to benefit Burntisland. We’ve topped up the fund with a contribution from our own reserves, so here is what’s possible.

- Grants of £25 to £150 are available, though most will be at the lower end of that range.
- Groups must be located in Burntisland.
- Applications must be made in writing – either hard copy or e-mail – to the Secretary of the Community Council.
- Applications can be for any purpose except for projects which have already been completed.
- Applications should show how the grant would make a difference.
- Grants will be decided normally at Spring and Autumn meetings of the Community Council.
- Grants will not normally be made for personal items.
- There will be a maximum of one grant per group per year.

We do want to make a difference, but clearly we’re targeting small projects for groups which have limited reserves. Grants have already been made to the Over 70’s Christmas Treat and the Toll Community Centre. So, if your group has a small project in mind, we’d like to hear from you.

The next round of grants will be made soon and applications should please be with our Secretary by early March.



Burntisland Primary School News

by Erin Cooper and Evie Sales (P7)

Happy New Year from all at Burntisland Primary School. We're back and very excited for Term 3. As always, there are lots of exciting opportunities planned for pupils this term.

In **Primary 1**, after the huge effort put into the Nativity performances last term, the children are now back learning sounds, numbers, reading and writing. There could be also be a visit from the Dragon soon if Fairyland has gone under threat again! Watch this space...

For their project this term, children in **Primary 2** will study Space. Pupils will learn about the sun, moon and planets. In Literacy children will concentrate on adjectives, and in Maths will be working on fractions and measurement.

In **Primary 3** pupils are looking forward to learning all about Egypt. In Maths, children will be continuing to develop their skills in multiplication and division and sentence structure will be the focus in Literacy.

This term, **Primary 4** are continuing to learn about the Victorians. In Literacy, pupils are developing an understanding of non-fiction texts. Whilst in Maths, they will study strategies and solving multiplication problems.

Africa is the topic in **Primary 5** this term and pupils will learn how to play African drums – this is super exciting! In Maths, children will be working with decimals and fractions and really enjoying their learning.

Primary 6 will be focussing on climate change this term, and will be comparing Scotland to Bangladesh. Children are looking forward to learning about another country and have already started to create some beautiful classroom displays.

Primary 7 has a really exciting and busy term ahead, with the Rotary Club Burns Competition, the Speaker's Club Speech Competition, the Rotary Quiz and last but not least, Ardroy! We are really looking forward to all of these events.

In November, we held our annual Scots Verse Competition. 6 very worthy winners were selected from across P1-P6, with the winners performing at the Burgh Chambers before being presented with their trophies. The judges had another tough job this year, and we would like to thank all parents and carers for supporting their children to learn their poems. It was a wonderful evening, and we are so proud of all children who competed this year. (Note the following article).

In Sports News, the P5/6 Football Team made it through to Scottish Cup Semi-Finals. These will be held in Edinburgh in March. Lots of luck to our stars. Our Upper School Athletics Team have also reached the Fife Fun in Athletics Finals, to be held on 22nd February. This term we are looking forward to participating in a P3 Futsal Competition and a P6/7 Basketball tournament. In school, we are also

looking forward to experiencing some Handball taster sessions, as well as welcoming back our many after-school clubs.

As a school, we are also very much looking forward to developing Loose Parts Play across all stages of the school. Staff are working closely with the Ecology Centre to develop this, with whole staff training taking place on the In-Service Day in February. It is hoped that Loose Parts Play can be incorporated across all areas of the curriculum, so keep an eye on our school Facebook page for updates as we develop this. (See also page 20).



Scots Verse Competition



On the evening of 30th November, St Andrew's Day, the Burgh Chambers was the venue for the formal presentation of awards to the winners of the 32nd annual Scots Verse Competition involving pupils from Burntisland Primary School.

Alex MacDonald, Chairman of the Community Council, welcomed a large audience of Council members, school staff and families of the winners. In his opening address, Alex explained how the competition was started over three decades ago to mark the 700th Anniversary of the death of King Alexander III who died when he fell from his horse whilst riding between Burntisland and Kinghorn. Alexander was a monarch who favoured dialogue and discussion in settling disputes rather than physical conflict. It was felt that by taking part in this competition, pupils at the local primary school would benefit from understanding old Scots words and by presenting them in a meaningful way before a large audience.

The winners had been selected a few days earlier at the school by a panel of Community Council judges, from an impressive body of pupils who confidently delivered their recitations on a wide variety of topics. The overall standard had been such that the final decision on the winner in each category had been extremely difficult.

Each winner performed their own piece of verse before receiving a medal inscribed with their name and the Coat of Arms of the Community Council and an impressive trophy to retain for a year. Themes of the poems, all non-traditional, included "Mince and Tatties", "Bogie Man (the nasal variety)", a "Crocodile" and Brussel Sprouts". The very confident and amusing presentations received loud applause from the enthusiastic audience.

The presentations were followed by a sumptuous finger buffet which was enjoyed by all.



Conall Sweaton, Amelie Downie, Nepheli Thomson, Ali Christie, Alanna Duffy and Megan Couper



The past few months have been very busy at Playgroup. Most children are very settled into the playgroup routine and have been building lots of friendships with the other children. Our outdoor area has been really well used. The children love the freedom to run, climb, cycle, design and build with the tyres and loose parts in the outdoor environment.

Last term we visited the shore to explore the rocky pools and the beach. This term we plan more visits to the local area to provide opportunities for the children to discover all the fun they can have in a natural environment.

The spring and summer terms will be

filled with lots of different activities. We will visit the forest and have transition visits to the local nursery, prior to some of our children moving on to nursery after the summer. We will also be busy in our outdoor area, planting and growing plants in our raised beds.

Playgroup is planning ahead for the August 2019 – July 2020 intake. If your child was born between March 2016 and the end of February 2017 and you would like to apply for a place at Playgroup, please pop into the group any morning for an application form. Our Open Afternoons will be held in March for our new intake. Playgroup accepts

applications any time from birth onwards, so even if your child isn't old enough yet, it's still worth completing an application form.

The playgroup committee has been busy planning and carrying out events to raise funds. Our hugely successful Christmas Lights Switch On raising over £500! A huge thankyou to Dave at the Jubilee Tavern and to everyone who came along to support us. As for the coming term, we are planning a Bingo Night, with further details to follow shortly on our Facebook page. We are all looking forward to a fun and exciting spring term!

Burgh Chambers Re-Visited

Attending the Scots Verse Presentations were two former winners of the competition - Leanne Sweaton, nee Becman, whose son Conall won the Primary 1 Award and Carol Smith, the daughter of Community Council member, Andy Smith, on a visit home from Barcelona. Both were delighted to have been reunited with the original rose bowl which they won in 1989 and 1991 respectively. They both felt proud and a little nostalgic to see their names etched on the historic trophy.



Carol & Leanne



Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club

The Club continues to meet every Tuesday evening in the Sands Hotel and amongst our recent guest speakers were Ian Archibald who gave a most interesting presentation on the Kirkton Church conservation project and Ron Haldane who delivered some very chilling statistics on cancer but also encouraging details of research into finding cures. We have recently inducted two new members, David Lamond and Madeleine Donaldson and have accepted as an Honorary member, Michelle Attewell in recognition of her work with Rotakids.

On the topic of Rotakids, the Burntisland Primary School Group raised an impressive total of £316 in their Pudsey Raffle which has been donated to Children in Need. Additionally, they filled 30 shoeboxes donated as Christmas gifts to needy families in the Ukraine and managed to purchase an Aquabox within the Rotary scheme to provide safe drinking water in crisis zones throughout the world.

Other Club activities have included the annual Charity Shop which raised a net £1700 and thanks are extended to all who assisted in the donation and collection of goods and of course to the members of the community who supported this very worthwhile enterprise.

Last year's meetings were concluded with a most enjoyable Christmas meal at the Sands Hotel. Details of the Club can be found on the Club website.



Christmas Lights

By George MacLauchlan

Secretary, Burntisland Community Council

At the end of 2017 the Community Council agreed to take responsibility for providing Christmas lights in the town. 2018 was the first full year that fundraising took place. We were extremely fortunate in receiving a generous donation at the beginning of our campaign from Briggs Marine. Substantial amounts were also received from Fife Council and from the Common Good Fund, The Local Co-op, as a result of huge efforts throughout the year, raised a substantial sum. An appeal to the public to support our efforts was met with great success. Local youth groups and individuals all joined in to ensure a magnificent display.



This year's lights were provided by Blachere, a Fife based firm. The state-of-the-art lights are hired in a 3-year deal and are erected, maintained and stored by the company. It is hoped that subject to further fundraising the display can be extended next year.

Some of the money raised was used to decorate the trees at the entrance to the Links and at the top end of the High Street. These lights remain on the trees throughout the year and can be lit whenever required. Again, subject to fundraising, it is hoped to extend this display further along the street.

The Community Council has already started planning for the display for 2019. Christmas lighting is expensive to provide, but I think we can all agree, the finished product adds some cheer to our town in the winter months. I think that we can all be proud of our display in 2018. Please support our continuing efforts. If you have any fundraising ideas please contact the Secretary.

Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association

We are continuing to work hard in the background and the fruits of labours should become apparent during the coming months, with street lighting being fitted in the lane from the Kirkgate to Somerville Street and the siting of new seagull proof bins on the High Street. We have just put in a bid to Fife Council for funding for flowers and will be working with FAB to ensure that our area will be a credit to the towns floral displays.

It is essential that we have your support. There are many other projects that we, as a community organisation, need to be involved in - for example the re-development of the Burgh Chambers and the waste land across the road from it.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the room above the library, our sole aim is to improve the area in which we live so please come along and have your say.

Our next meeting will be on the 12th February 2019.

FAB — Latest News and Plans for the Future



As the winter nights have drawn in, FAB has had an opportunity to focus on other aspects of our remit rather than the summer's focus on planting and watering.

We instigated the painting of all of the benches on the High Street, utilising Community Payback to do this. The bus shelter at Bendameer and the railings at the crazy golf course will be painted in early spring.

Our Christmas Craft Fair held at the end of November was a great success raising over £460 for our funds. This will continue to be an annual event.

We had a productive meeting with Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association, exploring ways in which we can work in partnership to add bloom to the town.

We had our first meeting of the year in January where we discussed such things as this year's planting colours, the repainting of the sea wall and other projects planned for the

summer. We will also be assisting Hamish Brown in early February to plant additional snowdrops along the bottom of the Binn towards Craigenalt.

We will be holding a Gardener's Question Time on Wednesday 13th March at the Sands Hotel from 7pm. We will have a panel of experts answering all your gardening woes.

At our AGM, to be held on Friday 22nd February at the Sands Hotel at 7 pm we will welcome members of the public to come along to find out more about what we do and reflect upon what we have achieved over the last year. At this meeting there will be an opportunity for people to join our committee. If you are passionate about being involved with FAB and giving something back to our town please get in touch..

We are always looking for support whether it's by joining the committee or becoming a support volunteer.

If you would like more information please email us at floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk

Co-op's Huge Donations to Local Organisations

Burntisland Cooperative Stores warmed up a cold November morning by holding an informal reception in the High Street premises during which the staff presented cheques, totalling almost £12,500, to three local organisations. The money was raised throughout the year by both the Dollar Road and High Street shops, through the firm's membership card scheme in which a small percentage of the value of purchases is set aside to assist local organisations and charities.

The benefitting groups, which were nominated by shoppers, were Burntisland Out of School Service (BOSS) to purchase and store essential equipment; Burntisland Heritage Trust (BHT) to assist in the restoration of valuable paintings hanging in the Burgh chambers; and Burntisland First Aid Services Trust (BFAST) which through this donation, finally reached its target of £97,000 to purchase a new ambulance. The order for the new vehicle has since been placed.

Carol-Anne Crossan, Community Councillor, former Community Award winner and the Co-op employee principally involved in the store's fund raising activities, thanked the community for supporting their stores throughout the year and indirectly contributing towards local worthy causes.

Alex MacDonald Chairman of BFAST, in an acceptance address, extended his thanks to the Co-op and the shoppers on behalf of all three recipients.



Christmas Fair Hailed A Success

Despite the very breezy conditions the street market in Burntisland High Street, organised by the Burntisland Community Development Trust, was extremely busy. The festive atmosphere was greatly enhanced by the Christmas lights and revellers took advantage of the many stalls and late opening of shops. Entertainment was provided throughout by festive singers and dancers. An added bonus was the opening of the Burgh Chambers to the general public, many of whom have not had the opportunity to visit in the past.



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Class 4

01592 871393



Class 7

Tom Courts Supports The Community

For the second year running popular local butcher, Tom Courts, has donated the sum of £1000.00 to the Community Council to be distributed amongst deserving causes in the town. After claiming the runner-up prize in the World Scotch Pie Competition in January last year, Tom Courts Jr pledged to donate a proportion of the pie sales proceeds throughout the year to the Community Council for distribution amongst local worthy causes. Young Tom stated that the size of the donation was a reflection of the tremendous support that the business had received from the community throughout the year.

In accepting the cheque, Alex MacDonal, CC Chairman, thanked Tom for the quite exceptional generosity from one of the town's most popular shops.

Alex Macdonald accepting the cheque from Tom Courts jnr



Burntisland & District Pipe Band by Stewart Birrell

After completing a very busy year, the newly formed Burntisland Novice Juvenile Band has performed very well, both in the competing arena and by turning out at local engagements. They were able to achieve very respectable results in all the major competitions and even managed to pick up a few prizes at the smaller local band events, which included

Burntisland's own competition. As we now enter the winter season, many of the players are continuing their progress and entering solo competitions. Some are using their instruments to gain musical qualifications which will help them in future years when entering the employment world.

The feedback generally has been very positive, especially as the younger members are now beginning to appear in the ranks as accomplished young playing members. With ever more youngsters joining, we expect to see this band improve and grow over the next few years.

As we continue to grow in number, we have been lucky to recruit another top class drumming tutor from Fife. Lee Innes, brings a wealth of experience and alongside our own Gordon Lee, we are now very fortunate to have two high profile players tutoring young people in the art of Pipe Band drumming.

We still carry out one practice evening a week at the local Primary School in Burntisland on a Monday. Beginners are from 6.30pm until 7.30pm; please contact us via Facebook if you wish any further information.

Adult Pipe Band

We have had requests to restart the adult section of Burntisland Pipe Band and have had a few new members join. If you are a drummer or piper and would like to re-kindle an old hobby, then please contact us on FB or drop into the Pipe Band Hall on a Wednesday evening between 19.30 and 21.00. Let's try and help to re-establish this traditional adult Pipe Band again.

We appreciate the support from our local community and would like to thank you for this. We now look forward to the forthcoming season, please see our Facebook page for more updates and further information.



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**

By Mary Hindle

The committee have had a very productive and successful past few months raising money for Cancer Research.

In November we had a great night at Burntisland Golf Club dancing the night away with Des and the Dingoes and over a £1000 was raised.

In December some of the committee and their friends joined us on a bitterly cold morning along Burntisland High Street, where we sang Christmas Carols. We raised £197

As Christmas approached, Burntisland residents were

busy lighting up their houses and gardens with great displays of Christmas lights.

A massive thank you to Paul and Donella Dickson who put on a spectacular firework display, and Christmas light show in their garden. They collected over £400 for Cancer Research.

We would also like to thank the following people for their kind donations : Tom Courts, Collieson Briggs, Jubilee Tavern, Erskine Church and the Parish Church.

Lastly, we would like to thank the community of Burntisland who have supported us at our events, and given raffle prizes, etc. We could not do it without you.

We have a few events planned for 2019.: Afternoon Tea on 10th March 2019.

“Stroll in the Toll” car boot, indoor sale in the Toll Centre in May.

**Toll Community
Centre**

Happy New Year from all at the Toll Community Centre!

We have had a very busy few months. In November, we held an ABBA night and the people of Burntisland didn't disappoint ... not only did they support us with their generosity but do they know how to PARTY...fabulous night with young and old dancing the night awaywe raised just over £1000 ...incredible!!!

The centre also invited Santa to join us for the children's party and to drive around the town in his sleighUnfortunately, the reindeer couldn't make it as they were resting in preparation for the 'main event! There was lots of excitement, fun, laughter and sweets... Santa was so patient talking to all the boys and girls and posing for many photos...He has agreed if we are all very good, he will return next year and cover more of Burntisland.



We applied to Aldi in November to be a distributor of any left over fresh food they had on Christmas Eve - and we were successful. It was overwhelming the amount of food they gave us, everything from fresh turkeys to cream cakes, in fact all that you would need for a feast on Christmas day. Many families and individuals benefited from Aldi's fantastic donation and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Burntisland and Kinghorn Rotary Club, Alexander Ritchie, Lynne and Iain Ralph, Anne Smith and husband, Simon Addisson, Sandra Blyth, Paul Thomson and of course Pat and her volunteers from the Foodbank and a massive thank you to Aldi and their staff . Finally a big thank you to all the people who have brought supplies into our collection point thought the year.

Everyone has been so kind and generous.

The centre was closed during the Christmas holidays to allow us to have our new heating system installed. There have been a few teething problems but the centre is lovely and warm and these issues will be resolved as soon as possible.

So now it's time for the painters to move in and the centre will soon be unrecognisable.

Our appeal for bikes, spares and tools in any condition has met with a good response with 10 bikes having been donated in the first week. These bikes will be worked on and made road worthy so we can pass them on. If you have an old bike, never mind the condition we would be happy to take it off your hands. Please call us on 01592 872854, or if you would like to become a volunteer with the bike project or with the Centre, pop in and have a chat ...ask for Yvonne.

Wishing you all a peaceful and prosperous 2019!!

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Over 70s Christmas Treat



The 99th Burntisland Over 70s Christmas Treat was held on Saturday 8th December at the Kingswood Hotel. Almost 150 guests enjoyed a sumptuous lunch, very competently served in a festive atmosphere. Following lunch, entertainment was once again provided by the versatile Kirk James with a medley of old favourites encouraging everyone to join in the singing and even a few couples up dancing. The afternoon's entertainment concluded with the arrival of Santa who visited every table distributing Christmas cheer! This event is organised by a very hard working committee who arrange fund raising events throughout the year. The committee would like to extend their own thanks and appreciation to generous donations from Briggs Marine, TSB, Exxon Mobile, Tom Courts, Bifab, Kirkton Co-op, Keystore, The Star, The Crown and many individual donors, without whose assistance the event could not take place in its present format.

Planning for the 2019 Christmas Treat has already started as it will be a very special one - The Centenary - The 100th Burntisland Over 70's Christmas Treat. The Committee, very ably led by Alan Cooper for almost the last 20 years are, even now, planning coffee mornings, social evenings, raffles and the like. Organising the event itself is more complicated than it would appear - liaising with the hotel, organising entertainment and ensuring that Santa's sack is adequately filled seem fairly routine tasks. However, arranging for some 150 guests, many of whom are physically impaired, to safely attend and return home, is a major logistical exercise involving coaches and taxis.

The Committee has a depth of experience but is always looking for new (younger?) blood. If you feel that would be able to offer any assistance at all in preparing for this traditional "knees-up" then contact Karen Mackie at karenmackie162@icloud.com, I have heard on the grape-vine that it can also be fun!



Pictures courtesy of Sara-Jane Keeley



Swimming Club News

By Bridget Fraser

In November the annual Club Championships took place at Kirkcaldy pool. This is always a highlight of the year as Club swimmers compete against each other to win one (or more) of the Club trophies, many of which represent decades of Club history. The gala was followed by a great social evening at the Harbour View in Kinghorn. Overall champions were:

Beginners: Isobel Manifold, Milo Sharp, Willow Manifold and Arham Khan

8 & under: Gracie Flanagan and Sam Milroy

10 & under: Eilidh McNicol and Lewis Webster

12 & under: Grace Kellas and Gregory Dewar

13 & over: Claire Thomson & Jay Yeoman

Leanne Murray broke an amazing 4 Club records and Sam Milroy beat the Club Championship record for 25m Free – they were joined by Ailsa Kellas who achieved a new Club record for 50m Back at an East District meet later in November. Well done to everyone.

In December the Club held a Presentation evening at the Toll Community Centre, with Championship Trophies, League Awards and Distance Swim Certificates being presented. Special awards were presented to:

Most improved swimmers: Alara Arabaci and Poppy Fairbairn

Most graceful swimmers: Kate Wilson and Libby Kennedy

Coaches prizes: Anna Smith and Eilidh McNicol

Volunteer award: Bettina Smith

The presentations were followed by a disco and raffle, both of which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In the pool in December a number of club swimmers took part in the Fife Schools Swimming competition representing Burntisland, Aberdour, Donibristle, Inverkeithing and Kirkcaldy West Primaries, and Balwearie High School. All the Club swimmers represented their schools brilliantly. The following week Ailsa Kellas and Claire Thomson both swam at the Scottish National Short Course Championships, and on 22nd December Katie Sandilands, Alison Douglas, Eilidh McKelvie, Kimberly Murray, Jay Yeoman, Robbie Burke and Alisa Kellas all swam at the East Districts sprints, along with a number of Mixed Relay teams. Well done to everyone that qualified for these highly competitive events.

The term was rounded off by a fun night at the Beacon, with a special visit from Santa. Training re-started on 3rd January with lots of new challenges to look forward to in 2019.

Burntisland Swimming Club is open to anyone who can swim at least one length of a recognisable stroke. Swimmers progress through 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 or contact us at basenquiries@hotmail.com



BPS boys take silver in the relay



Santa visits the Pool



Burntisland Golf House Club

by Dave McPherson

A Happy New Year to everyone, let's hope it's good and prosperous for all.

The course remains in remarkable condition for the time of year and, although there is still the chance of unfavourable weather, members have been kept from the course on very few occasions since the 'Beast from the East' left us.

It is indeed a great time to join us at Dodhead, and new members can benefit from a tremendous '2020' deal. New members (those who haven't been a member in the last 2 years) get 20% OFF the existing subscription rate in most adult golfing categories and this is also guaranteed for the year 2020 should the new member rejoin. On top of that, any existing member who introduces a new member will also benefit from the same deal. Win Win.

The Club Committee is still committed to boosting the junior section and would welcome assistance from parents and grandparents alike to get the kids moving. To help in this, all under 16 children can get a membership FREE of charge. You just need to register your interest with the Secretary so that we have a list of all interested parties. Parents and grandparents can also take advantage of a Social Membership at only £30 if they wish.

As we head in to 2019 we have a new catering arrangement in place. Derek Greenhalgh (Del) has taken up the reins in the kitchen and, once he quickly gets the working environment into shape, a normal catering service will be ready before the end of January. Del will have his own ideas about things and members, as well as guests, will be invited to make suggestions as to what they would like to see on the menu.

This is an exciting time for the club, and a full range of dining opportunities and functions will be promoted on social media, as well as in the next edition.

If you have any queries please phone 874093 (Office) or 872116 (Shop) or email info@burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk.



Shipyards Stalwart Retires after 50 years of Service.

The Club enters a new year for the first time in decades without Jim Thomson. Now aged 70, Jim has taken the decision to retire. Older Shipyards minded people may remember him as a player, having joined the Club in the late sixties from Nairn Thistle JFC, playing at the back for the Shippy for many years as a solid defender. Remarkably, he only ever picked up one caution - yellow cards had not yet been introduced in those days. He still hotly disputed his caution to this day which he maintains was unjust. A highlight of his playing career was captaining the side in the Qualifying Cup final against St Cuthbert Wanderers in 1971 which we unfortunately lost 5-3 on aggregate.

His managerial career was undoubtedly his most successful time at the Club with a conveyor belt of trophies arriving at Recreation Park. The Kirkcaldy and District Amateur League Title was won on several occasions along with many local cup competitions. The Fife Amateur Cup was won three times under Jim's leadership as the Club remained a dominant force in Fife Amateur football. It was senior football that probably brought Jim three of his finest moments at the Club. One when a Fife Cup tie produced this famous newspaper headline "Shipyards shocker for Premier League Pars". Remarkably the Shipyards knocked out of the Fife Cup, a strong Dunfermline team, fresh from beating Celtic on the Saturday. We won 5-4 on penalties after drawing 2-2 in 90 minutes. Also, who could forget that memorable Scottish Cup run in the 1994/95 season when Jim's team reached the last 32 of that famous competition. Annan Athletic, Girvan and Civil Service Strollers were all dispatched in the Qualifying Cup ensuring entry into the draw for the Scottish Cup proper. The draw handed the Club a bye in the first round before St Cuthbert Wanderers were thrashed in the second. Now, was it going to be Ibrox, Celtic Park, Easter Road or Pittodrie? Unfortunately not, as Keith or Huntly away came out the hat and the latter went on to knock the Shippy out. On the back of that run the team were awarded the Fife team of the year and Jim was awarded the Manager of the year. There was also a Civic Reception held in the Club's honour hosted by Provost Stan Bolam in recognition of what Jim and his team had achieved.

As Chairman Jim saw his beloved Shipyards win the Fife Cup for the first time in the Club's history when a young Cowdenbeath side were beaten 4-0 in the final played at Recreation Park in April 2018.

It goes without saying how much Jim will be missed at the Club having been a player, captain, manager, committee member, secretary and chairman. Don't forget handyman, grasscutter, line marker and linesman among many other duties that he carried out. Jim joins two other legendary figures in the club, Hugh Lawler and Jim Anderson who also served Burntisland Shipyards for many, many years.

Everyone at the Club would like to wish Jim and his wife Christine a long and happy retirement.



Luke

Mahady Boys Sign for Celtic

Two former BPS Pupils, Luke and Rory Mahady, recently signed contracts with Celtic Football Club. Luke has signed a 2 year contract with the Club and Rory has signed a 5 year scholarship to the Celtic School. Congratulations and best wishes for the future to both boys.



Rory

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Beacon Runners – Having a Devil of a time!

Even though it's only January the Beacon Runners are already preparing for their first race of the year, the ever popular *Devils Burdens* relay race around Fife's Lomond Hills. The race which takes place on 26th January, is a relay race of 31km (just under 20 miles) split into 4 legs for teams of 6. Leg 1, from Falkland to Strathmiglo is a solo run, while leg 2, from Strathmiglo over West Lomond and down into Kinneswood, is run as a pair, as is leg 3, from Strathmiglo to the bottom of Maspie Den.

The final leg is a solo run back up Maspie Den over East Lomond and back down into Falkland. The race is very popular attracting teams from all over Scotland and beyond with 151 teams (over 900 runners) participating in the event last year – a bit of a logistical nightmare for the organisers Fife AC. The Beacon will have four teams in the *Devils Burdens* and we have all been out on 'recce' runs to ensure that we are prepared for whatever the January weather has in store which can often be more of a challenge than the actual terrain we are running over.

Talking of devils, the Beacon will also be well represented in the *Devil o' the Highlands* race – an ultra-marathon from Tyndrum to Fort William along the West Highland Way. This year we will have 10 Beaconers hoping to complete the 42 miles and 6500 feet of ascent when the race takes place on 3rd August.

If you are interested in running whatever your goals, whether it is to complete a 10k or to just get fit why not join us - we welcome runners of all abilities from novices to seasoned marathoners. We meet every Monday at 7.00pm at the Beacon Leisure Centre.

Coastal Rowing is all the Rage!

The Kinghorn Coastal Rowing Club (KCRC) is well established and has members from all over the Kingdom, including Burntisland. The Club members have been very active in raising funds towards boat repairs and the completion of the Club boathouse at Kinghorn Harbour. A recent Quiz Night at Kinghorn Golf Club raised over £1100 and the Club offer a huge thank you to Tom Courts, The Sands Hotel, Macaulay's Fruit & Veg., C & M Seafoods, The Kingswood Hotel and Romanos who sponsored the evening.

The club is now operating from its winter location of Kinghorn Loch. Anyone wanting to find out more about the club or to arrange a trial row, can find more on facebook under the club's page or email the secretary on kinghorncoastalrowingclub@gmail.com



The Kinghorn crew on the Tay at the opening of the V & A, Dundee

However, you may not need to travel to Kinghorn to enjoy Coastal Rowing. An enthusiastic and diverse group of Burntislanders have come together for the purpose of forming a local coastal rowing group. They met on a couple of occasions towards the end of last year and by the time you read this article they should have convened a public meeting to gauge local support and to discuss the way forward. They have already considered club structure and policy, fundraising and the acquisition, storage and maintenance of a suitable boat. However the primary objective at this early stage is to encourage and gauge interest amongst the Burntisland community. Developments will be reported in future issues of the Buzz but if you are interested and were unable to attend the public meeting, for more information contact rowing@burntislandsailing.org.uk.

Civic Week 2019

This year's Civic Week will take place from the 14th to 23rd June. At our recent AGM the current committee was re-elected and we're now busy planning for this summer's events. The theme selected for 2019 is

"Space and Science"

so get thinking about your fancy dress costumes!

Parade Day is on Saturday 15th, followed by Beach Day and the Raft Race on Sunday 16th June. Look out for more information on our Facebook page, or in the next issue of the Burgh Buzz.

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

Building the Guy

It has been an extremely busy and varied autumn term at Starley Hall. In November Tracy's class continued the tradition of building the Guy for the brilliant Burntisland Bonfire and Fireworks Display and had fun sourcing suitable materials and building the Guy. On bonfire night, it is often difficult for the crowds to get a good look at the Guy. The photo opposite is for the benefit of those who may have missed it.



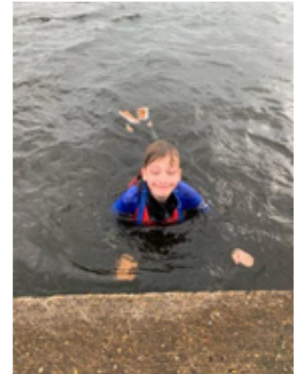
Poppy Appeal

Harry and Robbie made a unique contribution to the commemoration of the centenary of World War 1 when they baked and sold their unique poppy cakes and were able to donate £20 to the Poppy Appeal.



Forth Mission Christmas Appeal

In the lead up to Christmas, pupils developed an awareness of the hardships that some families face. Four of our pupils organised activities to raise funds to buy gifts for children who might otherwise wake up on Christmas morning with very little in the way of gifts. Harry and Robbie baked and sold "snowmen" cup cakes and Harry did a sponsored "Looney Dook" off the Jetty at Lochore Meadows and kidded us all that he enjoyed it! In the meantime Robbie became creative when he made and sold Sock Snowmen Christmas decorations whilst William made balsa wood tree decorations and Jordon created a Christmas Quiz. The boys raised a commendable £270.21 and after an epic shopping spree they donated five big boxes of gifts to the Forth Mission Christmas HQ at the Gyle Shopping Centre.



Chef at Work

At Christmas one of our senior pupils, Anthony, helped in the preparation of a traditional three course meal, including turkey and all the trimmings. In cooking for some 50 people he worked outwith normal school hours and gained an insight into what to expect when he enters the workplace.



Santa's Visit

Santa and his helper made his rounds of all the classrooms before the Christmas break and all pupils and staff made the Santa Pledge – to try their very, very, very best in 2019 – before receiving their gifts.



Trip to Kitchin

Two senior pupils, both budding chefs and because of the commitment that they have shown in developing their cooking skills, were treated to lunch at the Kitchin in Leith, a Michelin Star restaurant. On this special day, the lucky duo were given a tour of the kitchen by Chef, Tom Kitchin and enjoyed the privilege of tasting at the Chef's Table.



Zoolab

Zoolab, which visits the school each year, specialises in giving children experience in handling a variety of bugs, spiders, snakes and lizards. It was comforting to see initially apprehensive pupils eventually handling these strange creatures with confidence.



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Burntisland & Kinghorn Community Sport Hub

The partnership between Burntisland Primary School (BPS) and the local sports clubs was recognised and rewarded at a recent school assembly. BPS 'Sports Committee', supported by Mr Hubbard, has built strong relationships with a variety of local sports clubs thanks to Active Fife.

The BPS sports committee recently helped their school reinstate their Gold Status 'School of Sport Award', part of the award recognised the schools relationship with community sport. Each member of the sports committee was assigned a local sports club to represent and promote. The group created posters, spoke at school assemblies, and encouraged their peers to participate in a range of activities. This information was passed on to the local Community Sport Hub committee who have stepped up their level of support to the school-to-club partnership.

The groups partnership with Youth Scotland helped them all gain a 'Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework' (SCQF) recognised qualification through the 'Hi5 Award'. The tasks they carried out as part of their sports committee responsibilities helped achieve this.



Burntisland Youth Theatre - Hickory Dickory Dock

On four nights in mid-December the Burntisland Youth Theatre cast entertained packed audiences with a hilarious production of Hickory Dickory Dock. The Panto was produced by Karen Speirs, ably assisted by Becky Paterson. For the four major players, Jack Wallace (Dame Foxtrot), Emma Donovan (David the gypsy boy), Shawnie Jones (Mary Foxtrot) and Sam Traynor (Wee Willie Winkie), it was their last Panto before moving on to university or the "real world". This year, the Derek J Horn Award for hard work and dedication, was given jointly to Abbie Thomson and Jameson Johnstone who both performed brilliantly having stepped in at the last minute to perform speaking parts, due to the illness of the original performers.



The Cast

www. Burgh.Buzz - News & Info

This website is an adjunct to the Burgh Buzz and is designed to keep the community up to date with local events and developments as they happen. The site is kept up to date by Chris Hill who reports on some of the many things happening in Burntisland that can't all be covered in a quarterly magazine.

The site highlights local entertainment, functions, shops news, job vacancies and new ventures that may be opening up in the town.

The site is a refreshing catalogue of what has happened in the recent past in the town and a useful reference to explain abnormalities; the recent rail disruption at week-ends was a prime example. Unlike social media, this site does not invite comments and tries to stick to the facts without comment. Give the site a visit - "You will be surprised."

Announcement

"Burntisland Angling Club"

Since the club lost its fishing lease on Stenhouse Reservoir more than 10 years ago it has not functioned in any meaningful way. As a winding up process and in order to finalise the affairs of the club, a meeting has been organised for 7.30pm at the Jubilee Tavern Monday 13th May 2019.

This meeting is open to all paid-up members of the club for the fishing season prior to the loss of fishing rights."

Tom Bryce- 01592 872920



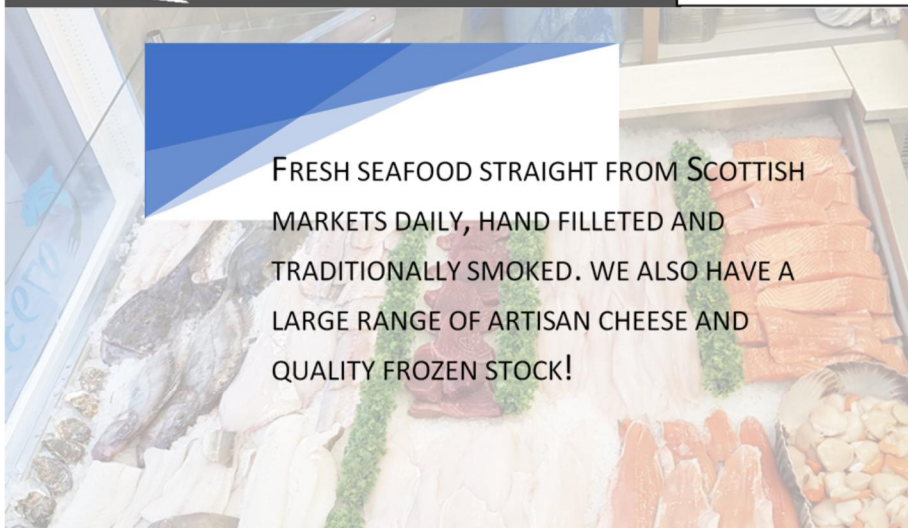
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FRI: 8:30-17:00

SAT: 8:30-17:00



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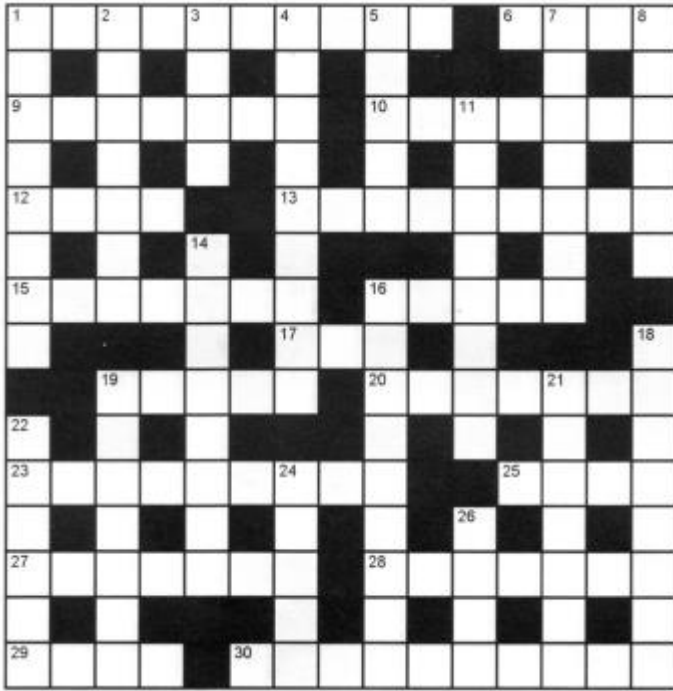
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THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Self-satisfied(10)
- 6. Russian Emperor (4)
- 9. Opposer of technology (7)
- 10. Winners (7)
- 12. Dairy product (4)
- 13. Tequila cocktail (9)
- 15. Whirlwind (7)
- 16. Ridges of sand (5)
- 17. Female deer (3)
- 19 ———Garbo (5)
- 20. Prime minister (7)
- 23 Continue steadfastly (9)
- 25.Scrutinise (4)
- 27. Samson & ——— (7)
- 28. Fashionable (7)
- 29. Wound mark(4)
- 30. "—— Revisited" by Evelyn

DOWN

- 1. Catastrophe(8)
- 2. Busybody (7)
- 3. Backmeat, cut (4)
- 4. Vanilla flavor pop (5,4)
- 5. At no time (5)
- 7. Tales (7)
- 8. Scallywag 6)
- 11. Nooks and —— (8)
- 14. Adieu (8)
- 16 Downcast (9)
- 18. Soaked (8)
- 19. Large ape (7)
- 21. Slope (7)
- 22. Card suit (6)
- 24. Old Anaesthetic (5)
- 26. Colouring substances (4)

Solution to November Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Underneath, 6 Emma, 9 Chapter, 10 In doubt, 12 Meek, 13 Affection, 15 Outlook, 16 Theme, 17 Ewe, 19 Coped, 20 Nosegay, 23 Charabanc, 25 Marc, 27 Atlanta, 28 Oarsmen, 29 Late, 30 And so forth.
DOWN: 1 Uncommon, 2 Dearest, 3 Rats, 4 Earmarked, 5 Thief, 7 Maurice, 8 Acting, 11 Decrease, 14 Complain, 16 Tenacious, 18 Hyacinth, 19 Chaplet, 21 Grammar, 22 Scrawl, 24 Again, 26 Orff.
CONGRATULATIONS—Our November Crossword winner of £50 in vouchers is:
Peter McLavin, Lonsdale Crescent, Burntisland

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE:.....

Completed entries by: March 30th, 2019 to:
The Editor— 39 The Wynd, Dalgety Bay. KY11 9SJ
 First Correct entry drawn will win **£50.00** vouchers
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 The next issue of the Burgh Buzz.

Events Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME
FEBRUARY		
Friday 8th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Tuesday 12th	Meeting of Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association above the library	7.00 pm
Friday 22nd	FAB Annual General Meeting in the Sands Hotel	7.00 pm
Saturday 23rd	Coffee Morning with hot pancakes in Erskine Church Hall	10.00 am - 12.00 noon
MARCH		
Friday 8th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Tuesday 12th	Meeting of Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association above the library	7.00 pm
Wednesday 13th	Gardeners Question Time by FAB at the Sands Hotel	7.00 pm
APRIL		
Tuesday 12th	Meeting of Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association above the library	7.00 pm
Friday 12th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm



Stories and Snowdrops

On all the Thursdays in February (7, 14, 21, 28) and March 7 our resident "makar", Hamish Brown will be telling stories, for adults, at the "Barn at the Loch", Kinghorn between 12.00 noon and 1.00pm. Come and be surprised by Hamish (the Snowdrop Man) and enjoy the refreshments and cosy atmosphere. Afterwards, for those interested, Hamish will lead a short walk to view the snowdrop woods beyond the loch.

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News from St Joseph's by Fr. James

Happy New Year everyone and thank you to all who supported our Christmas activities and services.

We were delighted to host a Christmas Concert by East Fife Ladies Choir, which included some songs from our own Music Group and some children from the parish. A great evening of entertainment was provided, and £590 was raised for the Food Bank. Both Christmas Day services were very well attended and it was a delight to see so many come and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Unbelievably though, Easter eggs were in the shops just before Christmas Eve. The earliest possible date for Easter is March 22nd and the latest possible is April 25th. This year Easter falls on April 21st, so we are going to be tempted by the eggs for quite some time. Each week we celebrate the Vigil Mass of Sunday on a Saturday evening at 5pm, and on Sunday morning Mass is at 10.00am, at which we have a Children's Liturgy.

The aim of the Children's Liturgy is to proclaim and explain the Sunday Gospel reading on a level appropriate to children of primary school age.

After Sunday Mass there are refreshments served in the hall, and we are very grateful to the faithful band of volunteers who provide such wonderful home baking and other goodies.

Looking ahead, on Ash Wednesday, 6th March, there will be Mass and distribution of ashes at 10.00am and 7.00pm. During Lent we will aim to have Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7.00pm. For Holy Week itself: the Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Holy Thursday, 18th April, at 7.00pm; the Celebration of the Lord's Passion will be on Good Friday, 19th April, at 3.00pm; the Easter Vigil will be on Saturday 20th April at 8.00pm; Easter Sunday Mass will be at 10.00am. All are welcome to attend any of our services.

Hoping that 2019 will bring you many blessings and be a year filled with peace, love and happiness.

Sing UP Burntisland Community Choir



On the 23rd Dec 200 people gathered at the Parish Church Hall to hear a variety of musical pieces from Silent Night to White Christmas (by Holly Anne) and even the infamous Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer – Yes that is a song!

This was a combination of many voices, much effort and a sharing of resources between the Parish Church and St Serf's - with the Parish Church providing the venue for the event and St Serf's releasing staff and their building for weekly practices as part of the Building Community Project.

The purpose of the Building Community Project is to achieve what it says on the package - Build Community. And the Sing UP-



Community Choir did just that on the night and in the build-up, in that those who attended and were involved met new people, enjoyed a laugh or two and were entertained by home grown voices and talent. In addition, the Community Choir also did various flash mobs around the area which put people in the Christmas Spirit, such as at Tesco's in Duloch Park and at The Roasting Project - Coffee House.



As a result, over **£650 was raised for Mary's Meals which is being matched by the Government adding up to over £1300**. So not only did the Burntisland Community Choir bless our community but other communities too in that this contribution will provide 100 children a meal everyday at school for a full year thanks to Mary's Meals. For more information about Mary's Meals (Scottish Charity) please go to their website www.marysmeals.org.uk.

We at St Serf's want to say well done to all that took part and many thanks to the Parish Church for their assistance and well done to the Choir, Claire Johnson and Garry Downie who brought the whole thing together.

If you and your organisation would like to be supported in anyway via The Building Community Project please be in touch with St Serf's office. **WELL DONE AGAIN.**

Office – St. Serf's Episcopal Church Ferguson Place- Burntisland KY3 9ES **01592 870049**



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Burntisland Parish Church

The Parish Church and Churches Together have continued their support for Mary's Meals. The Quiz Night held at the Golf Club in October last year, organised by Churches Together, raised over £160 which was donated to the Mary's Meals Charity.

The Parish Church also supported Mary's Meals Backpack Project and received a letter of thanks and appreciation which is reproduced in full below:-

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of 130 backpacks and for supporting Mary's Meals. For many of the children who receive a donated backpack, it will be the only gift they have ever been given.

We love the Backpack Project because it complements our school feeding programme by providing children with items that support their education.

Tadala, 12, from Malawi, tells us "I'm very happy. I'll be able to keep my exercise books and pens safely in my new bag. I am going to cherish everything within my bag. It will all help me to learn. It's like I have won a prize."

Mary's Meals is a simple idea that works. Through the provision of a daily meal in a place of education, chronically poor children are attracted to the classroom where they can gain a basic education that provides an escape route from poverty.

Our vision is that every child in the world receives a meal a day in their place of education. Supporting Mary's Meals through the Backpack project is a practical way to enable children to make the most of their education.

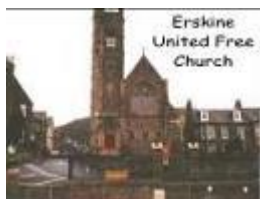
On behalf of the 1,361,586 children around the world receiving Mary's Meals every day, I thank you with all my heart for your kindness.

Yours sincerely

Magnus MacFarlane –Barrow (Founder and CEO Mary's Meals)

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Erskine News

by Rev. Alexander Ritchie

Well, here we are in 2019! Firstly, let me thank the Burntisland community for an amazing turnout at the Remembrance service held in Erskine on 11th November 2018.

As we marked the 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1, the church was completely full. It was a very moving day, suitably commemorated with dignity and respect.

I hope your Christmas was good, let me wish you a peaceful and healthy New Year. Erskine's carol service saw an excellent attendance on the evening of 9th December with fab singing from Burntisland Community Choir and a very thoughtful message from Rev. Carol Latimer.

Our Watchnight was quieter, though it was great having Connor Wilcox back playing the organ this year. We still raised a very commendable £436 over both for the 2018 charities-CAP, Burntisland (Christians Against Poverty) and Kirkcaldy Street Pastors. Thanks to all who supported us during a very busy festive period, and major respect to Rev. Alan Sharp for his very wise contributions. I know how much he enjoyed the lovely chocolate truffle I gave him on Christmas Eve, complete with Brussels sprout filling...

Every year Erskine selects a Bible verse. Here's part of our 2019 choice, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6.8, NIV).

Humility is one of the most powerful things, not least because it goes against the grain of our self-promoting and ambitious world. Christians believe that God came to us in the humility of Jesus' birth, an example we'd do well to mimic in our daily walk throughout this and every year.

Enough serious stuff! What's happening chez Erskine? We have our Communion Sunday and church lunch at The Sands on 27th January. There's our first coffee & pancake morning due on Saturday 23rd February from 10am with the usual mix of chat, goodies & those legendary pancakes. Our hope is that the Wednesday morning Lite Bite for pre-schoolers will restart on 20th February, but please keep an eye on Facebook for the latest info. We really appreciate everyone's patience and support.

That's pretty much it, I think. 2019 may well bring many changes, we've heard enough about uncertainty over the last two years. Please consider joining us in Erskine on Sunday morning @ 11am, where the welcome will always be warm - for certain!

ABK Probus Club is intended for retired professional and business men resident in Aberdour Burntisland & Kinghorn area.



The Club meets approximately twice a month in the Kingswood Hotel for tea/coffee followed by the meeting at 10.30 when we are entertained by various speakers on a wide range of subjects. (There are no meetings in July/August).

The object of the Club is to promote social contact, and to encourage interest among members. In addition to the regular speaker meetings we have small sub-groups who have specific interests namely Bowls and Snooker. We also arrange outings during the year. Internationally Probus has Clubs in many overseas countries.

Any enquiries re interest in the Club or to discuss membership should be directed to the President George Barclay. (sandybar@hotmail.com) (07525185820)



The Ecology Centre

We hope everyone had a great Christmas and new year.

2018 was a very special year for The Ecology Centre as we celebrated our 20th anniversary. We held lots of different events to celebrate this milestone and the final event was definitely the icing on the cake. A few days after our Summer Festival in September we were invited to the Scottish Parliament where Claire Baker (MSP) had raised a motion about our 20th anniversary.

This was an amazing finale to our year of celebrations and humbling to hear parliamentarians talking about all the different ways The Ecology Centre works with so many groups in our community and has given us a great platform on which to build our next 20 years.

We would like to thank Claire Baker for raising the motion, acknowledging the work we do in our community and for all her support.

L to R – Francesca Roberts, Edwina Gibson, Claire Baker (MSP), Lee Brown, Jenny Robertson, David Stockwell



Our Education team has grown

We're delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our Education team - Fraser Nicol and David Walsh. Fraser said of his time at the Centre so far "The Ecology Centre is driven to helping individuals achieve the best they possibly can in life and linking this to ecology and sustainability is an extra bonus. Our work with schools is fantastic and seeing children develop through outdoor learning activities is very rewarding and validates the child centred approach we adopt."

It's great to have Fraser and David in the team. Our Education team work in partnership with lots of schools around Fife to help deliver all aspects of outdoor learning, from nature therapy, environmental education and FUN outdoor adventures.

Events for 2019

We've got more great events planned at the Centre throughout 2019. Save the date for our Summer Festival which is taking place on **Saturday 7th September**, and we will be running our Pumpkin Party again in October, our wreath making in December and other workshops. To keep up to date with all our events sign up to our newsletter via our website www.theecologycentre.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Looking for somewhere special to hold your event?

Located on the banks of Kinghorn Loch, The Ecology Centre's Nest function room makes a wonderful venue for workshops, classes, training days, conferences, parties or intimate wedding celebrations.

The Nest can accommodate up to 32 people with the addition of the Sanctuary outdoor area, which is available as an additional space for marquees or gazebos, depending on your requirements. Each space can be booked together or separately. Both are peaceful settings with stunning views of the Loch and are surrounded by wildlife and nature. The perfect venue for your event - whatever you're looking for give us a call on **01592 891567** and we will be happy to help.

For more information about The Ecology Centre, our events or to book please contact:

**T: 01592 891567 E: admin@theecologycentre.org
www.theecologycentre.org**

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Vet's Corner



Pet obesity is a growing problem, whether its flabby felines or paunchy pooches. Over 50% of cats and dogs in the UK are FAT and 15% of these are clinically obese. Some people would say our busy lifestyles are to blame, with no time to look after our pets properly. Others blame lack of education. Some beloved pets can often act as surrogate children, resulting in them being spoilt and pampered. We are literally killing our pets with kindness.

Diabetes, heart complaints, high blood pressure and arthritis are just a few of the health problems associated with excess weight. In fact if you have an obese cat with high blood pressure this can lead to permanent blindness.

How can you tell if you have a portly pet? Ask yourself this: When you stroke them, can you feel their ribs? Do they go in at the waist? Are they reluctant to go for walks, do they sleep more or are they less active? If you answered no to the first two and yes to the second two, chances are you have a fat pet.

There is no quick fix, but reducing your pet's food intake and increasing their exercise is a great place to start.

We would advise giving your pet a complete dry food. Canned or wet food is made up of 80% water. You can now buy low fat or reduced calorie foods from most shops. Stop feeding treats and titbits from the table. If you have a dog, give them vegetables like carrots. Instead of stuffing your pockets with treats, give them some of their regular dried food, but remember to reduce the amount of food you give them at meal times. Take them for more walks. Burntisland is surrounded by amazing countryside, which could improve your fitness levels too.

Cats are more tricky, especially if they go outside. They are more than likely to subsidise their diet with fresh meat. Some cats also have multiple owners. These clever kitties go from house to house claiming starvation, when in reality they have a perfectly good human catering to their best needs at home. (Did you know you can now buy cat collars that say 'please do not feed?') Try playing with your feline, encouraging it to be more active. Often, once they start losing weight cats become more active naturally.

Obesity is a problem that is, excuse the pun, getting bigger all the time.

So let's do something about it. Let's make 2019 the year of the fit pet.

"The F word"

By Jillian Walker



Craigencait Trust News

The New Year brings the start of a new project for the Craigencait Trust.

This involves the creation of a new path through the trees at the road entrance to the Craigencait Farm rising up the wooded hillside to the Kissing Trees Road. This avoids anyone needing to use the dangerous road through the bad bend on Red Path Brae. The path will be a great safety improvement to the benefit of all. Fife Council has agreed to install a length of path and pavement at the top of the hill, so that all pedestrians can be guided well away from the blind bend and on to the straight part of the hill on way to the Kissing Trees. We are very grateful for this support. The path will also provide a new, safe, circular route that will take in extensive, beautiful views over the Forth, and pass by fields of primitive rare breed sheep and nearby highland cows, which are already a well photographed attraction. Being disability and family friendly, it will be a pleasant scenic walk for families with buggies and an easy route for runners and cyclists.

As the season turns, visitors can once again enjoy the mature areas of snowdrops that flower each year.



These have been developed over the years by the regular planting of snowdrop corms by Hamish Brown and the Rotary Club. They brighten up our grey skies in February and give the feeling that longer days will soon be back. But Kinghorn Loch is still busy even in winter, with sailing boats; the radio controlled model sailing boats active twice each week, and the coastal rowing club due to host its Frostbite Regatta at the end of January.

It is hard to believe but the Craigencait Trust is due to run its sixth local Walking Fest in the spring. We are so fortunate, as we have some splendid coastal and inland scenery, and good transport links to make it easy to get to the start and finish of walks. Walks are varied and endeavour to provide a wide appeal. The full programme will be available on our website in early March, and the walks take place from 3rd – 17th April. If you would like to learn more about this event, or about the work of the Trust, please phone 01592 891330 or contact through

info@craigencaittrust.org.uk



Winter is hard for wildlife. Even if we don't see the extreme snow of February and March

2018, birds will still benefit from any assistance we can give. Scatter seed, apples and dried fruit on the grass; put seed mixes, peanuts and fatballs in feeders; make water always available. Now is also the time to plant bare-rooted hedging, fruit and nut trees and the like. All will greatly help grow our town's wildlife by being food sources and nest space and roost space.

It's not just the birds, we benefit too - take ten minutes to sit and watch with breakfast or coffee break. Anything might show up! Birds need a lot of extra energy to survive the cold so, as natural fruits and seeds in the countryside run out, they're drawn to our gardens to find it. A year ago I wrote of the fieldfares, redwings and song thrush which came to our garden in the snow. A month ago, just before Christmas the first tree sparrows I've seen here appeared on our feeders. A

pair of them, feeding for half an hour alongside house sparrows, robin, dunnock and tits. I haven't seen them since.



Tree sparrow

So how do you tell if it's a house sparrow or a tree sparrow? Firstly, location: in urban and suburban spots it's almost always a house sparrow. Tree sparrows are associated with farm and countryside. Secondly its face: if it has an all chestnut

hat, bright white cheeks with a crisp black spot on each and a slim black beard then it's a tree sparrow (male and female tree sparrows are identical). If it has chestnut



Coal Tit

on the back of its head but the very top is grey then it's a male house sparrow. House sparrow cheeks are also much dirtier than the tree sparrow's and don't have those black patches. They do have the black beard but it's shabbier, less slick. Female house sparrows look different, they're less distinctive, all light browns and tan. Identify the males and the females will be alongside them.

Blue, coal and great tits probably visit your feeders often too. Coal tits are the



House sparrow

smallest although when feathers are fluffed against the cold they can be really rather dumpy. They have three white

stripes on their black heads - bird feeder badgers! Blue tits are beautiful with their yellow/yellow-green tummies and greenish wings. They have a white face with bold blue bandings around the chin and through the eye and up on top of the head. The male tends to be more brightly coloured than the female, sometimes as blue as blue can be.



Blue Tit

Great tits are the largest of the three. They have black heads with white cheeks and yellow tummies down which a vertical black line runs. You can tell if it's a male or a female great tit because on the female the black line is really narrow and on the male

it's much wider.

Let me know about interesting local wildlife through the Contact page at www.leodufeu.co.uk

The Ecology Centre's Tool Shed



Tool donations

As we approach spring, many of you might be thinking about spring cleaning the garage or shed, or you maybe you received some new tools as a Christmas gift and are thinking of getting rid of the old ones.

If so, please don't put them to the tip or chuck them in the bin! Donate them to The Ecology Centre's Tool Shed where our Tool Shed volunteers can refurbish them, so they can be reused and donated to other local community groups or charitable organisations to help with their projects.

The Tool Shed can take any kind of tool, including carpentry, workshop, power tools, gardening tools and even manual Singer sewing machines. Tools can be dropped off at the Centre, Monday to Friday from 9am until 4pm or contact us on **01592 891567** to arrange collection.

Tool Library

The Tool Shed also run a Tool Library service, where you can save a shedload on tools – saving you money and the hassle of buying and storing tools that you might only need to once or twice.

The Tool Library uses the tools that have been donated, saved from landfill and refurbished by our Tool Shed volunteers. They are then available to be 'borrowed' just like you would do with a library book. We have an extensive range of tools available to borrow, including:-

- Carpentry tools
- Building and gardening tools
- Car maintenance tools
- Power tools
- Ladders

The annual membership fee for the Tool Library is only **£10.00** and you can borrow as many tools as you like throughout the year. You can sign up to this service direct from our website or pop up to the Centre, have a browse and sign up to this great local service and save yourself a shedload!



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