

# BURGH BUZZ

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May 2019

Issue No 71

## Our Common Good Fund - Plundered by Fife Council

Most Burntisland residents will be aware of the work currently taking place on the Links to replace the faulty electric cable which provides power to the caravans of the shows operators during summer months. Many will also be aware that the Kirkcaldy Area Committee of Fife Council recently approved the payment of £100,000 from the Burntisland Common Good Fund towards the total project cost of £160,000. This decision was taken despite a strongly worded and carefully reasoned letter of objection from the Chairman of Burntisland Community Council (BCC). It appears that this decision was reluctantly supported by our elected councillors on the Area Committee because of a threat from the showmen to shun Burntisland Links unless electric power was available for their caravans.

The presence of the shows on the Links for an extended period during the summer remains a contentious, local concern but is a problem which should be considered separately from this Common Good Fund issue.

Fife Council has a statutory duty to manage Common Good assets and is required by law to maintain a register of common good property and assets. As far as can be ascertained, the electric cable supplying power to the Links is not listed as a common good asset.

Each year, Fife Council sets the rental charges for the showmen on the Links and collects the revenue. Last summer, according to a statement by a Councillor at the Area Meeting above, this amounted to £102,000. A paltry sum of £500 from

this revenue was paid to the Burntisland Common Good Fund with the remainder going to Fife Council Parks Services Department. This has been the practice for a number of years. It seems logical that the department that has benefitted so lucratively over the years, and would hope to benefit in the future, should pay for this work in its entirety.

The requirement to replace the faulty cable was identified some three years ago with the tender and contract exercise completed last year without any consultation with BCC. Notice of Fife Council's intention to raid the Common Good Fund to pay for the work was received by BCC only a couple of weeks before the Area Committee meeting. This is contrary to Fife Council's statutory obligations.

For a number of years BCC, most noticeably through the efforts of the late John Russell, has been attempting to elicit from Fife Council, details of Common Good assets and details of the fund itself. We desperately need more transparency, including published details of annual, audited accounts which would render BCC better equipped to make recommendations for the dispensation of funds.

It seems likely that the Community Council will lodge an appeal with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman against Fife Council's unprecedented money grab and now is the time for the community to unite behind them – not only in respect of this blatant pillaging of our Common Good funds but also Fife Council's failure to reinstate the town clock tower, alleviate the town's severe parking problems and even lend direct support for step-free access to the railway station.

## Civic Week Beckons

This year, Civic Week events will take place from Friday 14th to Sunday 23rd June - full details on Page 16. At the fundraiser disco at the beginning of May, Willi Henderson, Citizen of the Year, proudly announced the 2019 Summer King & Queen and the full Royal Party as listed and pictured below:-

Summer King:	Spencer Davies
Summer Queen:	Ella Forest
1st Attendant:	Olivia Letham
2nd Attendant:	Olivia Paul
King's Trainbearers:	Riley Henderson Kyle Barlow
Queen's Trainbearers:	Adam Duncan Jake Keddie
Flower Girls:	Runa Laidlaw Zoe Paterson
Posy Girl:	Olivia Simpson



# BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY PAPER

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

Spring has proved to be turbulent and unpredictable both weather-wise and on the local political front. Hopefully the situation will stabilise and members of the community and visitors alike will be able to fully enjoy Burntisland's natural amenities and planned events in a prolonged period of settled weather.

In a commendable initiative, a sub group of the Burntisland Community Development Trust has organised a monthly beach (and surrounds) clean which has been very well supported by both children and grown-ups. This is a welcome supplement to the periodic beach clean organised by the Community Council. However, much work is still required to educate those litter louts who continue to irresponsibly dispose of their rubbish.

This year the Civic Week Committee has planned a very full programme of events for all ages and the 367<sup>th</sup> staging of Burntisland Highland Games will be preceded by the traditional exiles reception in the Burgh Chambers, hosted by the Community Council. Let us hope that all our planned summer activities are blessed with good weather.

My small committee continues to put together a reasonable publication every three months and Chris maintains and excellent website, **Burgh.Buzz**, which keeps the community informed of events as they happen between our quarterly issues. However, we are always on the look-out for new blood and new ideas. In this regard, I am still looking for an advertising coordinator (see opposite).

Anyone interested in helping produce the Buzz in any way whatsoever, please use the contact details below.

Bill Kirkhope (Editor)

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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.

- We continue to have periodic meetings with the community police officers. Crime statistics show a reduction in offences year-on-year but the perception remains that many crimes are not being reported and / or recorded.
- A Beach Clean was scheduled for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, beginning at the Beacon car park at 10am. Volunteers are most welcome.
- Guidance continues to be sought from Fife Council as to how and when to clean the burn at the Toll Park, so that there is no danger to volunteers and no harm to wildlife.
- The initial business plan for developing the Burgh Chambers has now been received and will shortly be available on the Community Council website. (See page 11 for a summary)
- Fund-raising continues towards the extension of Christmas lights for this year and beyond. Another bingo evening will be held at the Jubilee on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Tickets are available from Carole-Anne Paterson.
- A scheduled meeting with Forth Ports to discuss access to the East Dock was postponed due to a bereavement and will be re-scheduled as soon as possible.
- A small working group will be reviewing the Community Action Plan to help identify progress to date and whether any refinement of the plan would be helpful.
- Efforts to secure funding for improved accessibility at the railway station have not been successful. The current funding is precisely targeted and is insufficient to meet the cost of work at Burntisland.
- Background discussions are continuing on proposals to enhance access to the Lammerlaws, following the public consultation some months ago.
- With the help of local volunteer drivers, a number of senior citizens were entertained to a panto at Dalgety Bay, sponsored by ExxonMobil.
- We are concerned that proposed parking restrictions in central residential areas will make the overall parking problem worse. Whilst it will benefit local householders there is no corresponding proposal to provide alternative parking elsewhere.
- Resurfacing of the road between Burntisland and Aberdour is expected to take place after April.
- Small donations were made from the Community Fund, instigated jointly by Tom Courts Butchers and the Community Council, to the following groups: Floral Action Burntisland; Burntisland Heritage Trust; Burntisland Shipyard Under 16s; and Civic Week. Earlier donations had been made to the Over 70s Christmas Treat and the Toll Community Centre.

## 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  
 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](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 Elected Politicians' surgery times and contact details are listed at

[burgh.buzz/politics](http://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 Police

By PC Lewis Greig



## Greetings from the Thin Blue Line

We hope that with the dark nights behind us, we can all look forward to some fine weather and enjoy spending some time out and about in Burntisland.

We are continuing with our drop in sessions, which will take place in Burntisland library. These sessions are informal and offer an opportunity for anyone to come along and speak to Liz and I about any issues that you have. The next sessions will be between 11am and 12pm and will be on the following dates:

Saturday 25th May 2019

Saturday 22nd June 2019

With the arrival of the lighter nights, we will be continuing with our patrols in known anti-social hotspots. These areas are constantly under scrutiny and change accordingly. We are aware of the effects this type of behaviour has on local residents and would encourage everybody to contact us should they be aware of groups hanging around, causing annoyance and behaving in an anti-social manner.

Another continuing problem that we have been made aware of is that of anti-social driving and parking in the Burntisland area. There are a variety of ways the Police can deal with such incidents. Specific legislation is in place under the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 whereby penalties can be imposed on drivers, with vehicles potentially being seized if the drivers' behaviour does not change. Remember -

### When in town, slow down!

In relation to parking, please remember that yellow and white lines are there for a reason. Thinking it is ok to just park on double yellow lines, switch on the hazard lights and nip into the shop for something is not right. Please park your vehicles safely and courteously and with consideration to others.

One continuing trend throughout the whole of the country is that of bogus workmen. Numerous households have had cold callers attend at their address offering to carry out repair work to roofs, driveways, gardens and more. In many cases the price quoted for work is vastly inflated, however due to putting pressure on the householders to part with their money, these quotes are often accepted and paid. This type of activity leaves

the victim feeling anxious and scared within their own home. This kind of activity is quite common to Police, with numerous investigations carried out in order to trace the individuals involved. We would ask everybody in the community to be vigilant and if you have individuals at your door trying to sell you something that you didn't ask for, keep them out. Likewise, if you see anything suspicious at any of your neighbour's addresses, especially vulnerable members of our community, please contact Police immediately. Fife Council Trading Standards department has a scheme called Trusted Trader, which is a database of suitable and verified traders for a variety of work should you be looking to get a quote. If anybody would like more information on this, you can visit [www.trustedtrader.scot/fife](http://www.trustedtrader.scot/fife) or telephone 01592 582710.

We are aware of a number of vandalism to cars in the Somerville Street and Somerville Square area. We would encourage everybody to inform Police of such incidents, as we are also aware that a few of these incidents have not been reported to Police.

Throughout Fife and beyond, there is a trend for members of the community to turn to social media in order to vent their frustrations and make people aware of incidents happening. Unfortunately from our point of view, many of these incidents do not get reported to us and as such, we have no knowledge of them. The Police cannot be expected to know everything that is going on, unless people tell us. So if things are happening that we need to know about, please let us know about them by phoning 101, or in an emergency 999. As always, you don't have to leave your details if you want to remain anonymous, or alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Should anyone have any comments or ideas for us, please email us on the email address below, or speak to us in person.

We hope to see you all out and about over the coming months.

Lewis and Liz.

[Elizabeth.James@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.James@Scotland.pnn.police.uk) or  
[Lewis.Greig@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lewis.Greig@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

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## Burntisland Station Access - Disappointment but the Campaign Continues

**O**n April 4th it was announced that the Burntisland Community Development Trust's bid to the Department of Transport had been unsuccessful.

This did not come as a surprise to campaigners who knew that the criteria for this particular fund are hard for Burntisland to meet, partly due to passenger numbers.

The DfT has announced that there is to be a fund for projects up to £1m. One problem at Burntisland is that Network Rail thinks the only solution is for a new bridge and two lifts costing about £3m.

They have rejected calls to reopen the underpass and

seem unwilling to even cost the option of a single lift from Platform 2 to the underpass (avoiding the ramp that is steeper than current standards allow).

One practical option that should be looked at is a ramp up to West Leven Street. This would be very similar to that provided at Cupar Station - which has fewer passengers than Burntisland.

Fortunately there is a Transport Scotland fund for feasibility studies. The deadline is [June 28th](#) and requires a constituted organisation to apply.

[www.Burgh.Buzz/Station](http://www.Burgh.Buzz/Station)



**Change Works  
in Burntisland**

## Save Money and the Environment

**W**ell, what a start! Since opening our doors in January we have had over 450 visitors to the new hub on the High Street. As word has spread about how we can

help people in Burntisland reduce their fuel bills and keep their homes and businesses warmer, we have started to see some real action being taken in Burntisland.

We can provide a range of advice and support; from helping people reset their central heating timers, read old dial meters and negotiate energy bill payments to arranging free loans of our electric bike and finding out about installing renewable technology. Simply drop in to see us to find out more about the work we do.

One of the simplest and most effective ways to save money on energy bills is by switching energy supplier. One local resident had been with her supplier for years and didn't feel very confident in switching supplier. We were able to explain her bills and fuel usage and, working in partnership with an impartial switching organisation, helped her to switch supplier. She is now saving herself an impressive £415 a year!

Recently we launched the Burntisland Energy Challenge, giving householders the chance to use an easy to install real-time energy monitoring system for free. This easy to fit monitor accurately measures your electricity and gas use so you can see at a glance where your energy is being used.



Using a Real-time Energy Monitor

Research indicates that using these monitors enables householders to cut their bills by an average of 10%. That's a win for the environment and a win for your pocket! **We still**

**have some monitors available so give us a call, drop us an e-mail or pop into the Hub if you would like to join the challenge.**

We have also introduced a refill service for Bio-D products and these are proving popular with people who want to minimise their use of single use plastic. We don't have much room for stock but we have also managed to squeeze in some lovely Leaf wax wraps and gorgeous locally made Bodyluscious soaps.

**Save the date:** On Thursday 30 May 5pm-8pm we are hosting a renewable technology event at the Burntisland Sands Hotel. To find out

how renewable technology can work for you, watch out for details of this in our monthly e-newsletter or follow Change Works in Burntisland on Facebook.

Change Works in Burntisland  
183 High Street  
(opposite the TSB bank)  
Tel 01592 724424  
e-mail: burntisland@changeworks.org.uk

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ChangeWorksinBurntisland](http://www.facebook.com/ChangeWorksinBurntisland)



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## Burntisland Primary School News

by Evie Sales, Erin Cooper, Lucy Backler, Jen Wallace,  
Sam Johnston and Macey Calder.

This term **Primary 1** pupils have been learning about number bonds and taking away. In writing, they have worked on sentence construction. They have also continued their work in Fairyland.

Pupils in **Primary 2** have been learning all about Space, and they even had a visit from a Planetarium! They took part in fun astronaut training and went on a long alien walk around the Toll. Pupils also enjoyed sharing their learning at an assembly for parents.

**Primary 3** have studied Ancient Egypt and are planning to visit the Ancient Egyptian Exhibition at The National Museum of Scotland. They have also been practising for their Sharing the Learning Assembly, which takes place in May.

This term **Primary 4** have enjoyed using equipment to build electrical circuits in Science. In Maths, they have concentrated on fractions, and in Literacy they have been writing creative stories set in interesting locations.

Africa has been the project in **Primary 5** this term. Pupils had an exciting visit from Zoolab and have participated in African drumming sessions with Mrs Jackson. Not only did the pupils present a fabulous assembly to parents (that dancing!), they have also worked in the school garden to make it a more welcoming and inviting space. Pupils are also aiming to grow their own fruit and veg.

**Primary 6** pupils have been studying the environment this term, through their topic – Keen to be Green. In Maths, they studied fractions, decimals, percentages and measuring. In

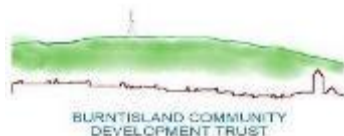
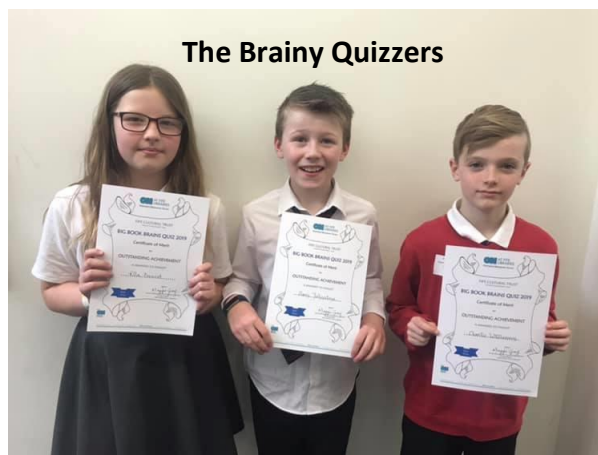


Music, they are practising to play the recorder and in writing, they have been learning to write instructions and persuasive adverts.

It's been a super exciting term for our **Primary 7** pupils. Children have taken part in the Burns and Speaker's Competitions and have developed their skills in delivering a presentation to an audience. They worked well in teams to participate in the Rotary Quiz, and they have been learning all about the next steps they will take in their journey to Balwearie High School. Pupils have also enjoyed a week in Ardroy for their P7 Residential Experience, and a wonderful time was had by all.

In other news, the Upper School Athletics Team participated in the Tayside and Fife Regional Athletics Championships in Dundee last month – and won for the second year in a row! Our P6 Big Brain Book Quiz team finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 124 schools from across Fife when they participated in the quiz in February at the Rothes Halls.

Finally, we are delighted to share that Loose Parts Play has been introduced to every stage of the school, with classes engaging in daily play sessions. Staff from The Ecology Centre delivered whole staff training during the February In-Service day, and teachers and non-teaching staff left with a better understanding of the importance of play, and the use of loose parts. We've had wonderful feedback from pupils, staff and parents about the introduction of Loose Parts Play and we are so pleased to see so many pupils displaying problem-solving skills, team work, communication and collaboration, through play. The possibilities are endless and we are excited to see how this progresses at BPS.



## Burntisland Community Development Trust

Burntisland's CDT has been working away in the background over the past year with another Christmas Market and a bid to fund step free access at the Station.

One major event that wouldn't have happened without the previous BCDT work on the Burntisland Energy Masterplan, is the Change Works project based in the High Street.

After the well attended Public meeting in February, a significant number of people joined the board. The meeting discussed various possibilities and a short list was agreed by the directors at a subsequent meeting.

The ideas were unveiled at the AGM in April and formalised

as four sub-groups (anyone interested can join).

One group will look at improving the Beach and Links for residents and visitors, with a particular interest in reducing the amount of plastic (not just litter). See page 12.

Other groups will continue to expand the existing work on energy and working with businesses (not just for the Christmas Market).

In addition there is now a group working to make Burntisland a dementia friendly town.

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/541221292749047>

## News from the Playgroup by Jenny Roxburgh

The last term of playgroup before the summer break is fast approaching. Soon it will be time for many of our children to prepare for their move to nursery. We are also busy preparing for all our “new” children who will be starting with us after the summer. A very exciting time for everyone.

All the children are very settled into the playgroup routine now and they have built some firm friendships that will probably continue for many years to come. It’s lovely to see how they have progressed during their time with us and a bit sad to think that they are nearly ready for the next step in their learning and development. This term we have had opportunities to explore our local beach and park. Sadly, a trip to Kinghorn beach had to be postponed, but will hopefully be re-arranged for next term. There have been many themes/topics going on in the group, the latest being one from the children’s own interests. We have been learning all about how to keep our teeth and bodies healthy and have been discussing foods that are good/bad for us and finding ways to exercise to keep our bodies healthy.

Just before our Easter break we had a visit from George and



Andrew from St Colmes Cork Lodge with a lovely surprise for us all. They brought all the children (and staff) an Easter egg and a donation for our funds. This is something that they have done for many years and we are really grateful for their kindness.

The summer term will be filled with many learning opportunities. Our forest kindergarten visits will begin soon and children will be able to climb trees, slide down muddy slopes, look for small insects, build dens etc. We will also be doing transition visits to the local nursery, prior to some of our children moving on after the summer. Our garden area is always well used and better weather means opportunities for growing plants (and growing weeds) The children will be involved in deciding what new plants we can grow and they will be encouraged to care for them along with the plants we already have.

The playgroup committee have been busy during the Easter break with their fundraising Easter Fair. They also have plans for a “Bingo” night at the Jubilee Tavern, possibly in May. Look out for a poster advertising it and come along for a fun night out to help raise funds for the playgroup.



## First Aid update by Alex MacDonald

A very generous donation of £7,500 from ExxonMobil rounded off nearly a year of fund-raising for our new ambulance. It followed a donation of over £4,000 from Co-op members in Burntisland and means that it will be built and equipped to the very highest standard, using the best products on the market.

For example, it will switch automatically to 4-wheel drive when needed and will include an advanced trolley loading system which will be better for our patients and easier for our volunteers.

However, the downside of ordering a specialist vehicle is that there is a long lead time. So until it’s ready we continue to use our current ambulance, which is as busy as ever.

Early in the year we had a helicopter transfer, when a patient had a spinal injury and air was the safest mode of travel. We’ve since managed several fractures, dislocations and a variety of underlying illnesses at other events. Our aim always is to start the recovery process as quickly as possible – and it’s good when we receive very positive feedback not only from patients but also from hospital staff to whom our patients have been transferred.

However, we also like to ensure a bit of fun for our own volunteers by taking on a wide variety of events. In recent weeks we’ve attended fashion shows, a beer festival, student balls, concerts and ice hockey. Over the next few weeks we will be supporting cycling, motorsport, horse-riding and community events in Fife and the Lothians.

In June alone we already have 20 events in the diary and unfortunately we just can’t take on any more events for that month. So we’re always open to new volunteers joining us, especially if they already have some first aid or related training from elsewhere. If it’s of interest, please feel free to contact us via

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



The ExxonMobil Donation



## FAB — Latest News

By Scott Sweeton

**A**lthough there is little 'bloom' within the town at present, FAB has been working hard over the past few months ensuring that

Burntisland will look at its best during the forthcoming summer.

We are planning to have our hanging baskets, planters and troughs planted out and on display by the beginning of June. The railings at the crazy golf on the Links and the bus stop and bench at Bendameer have been given a fresh lick of paint courtesy of a Fife Council grant and Community Payback. Various areas will have a general tidy up including the Beacon Beds and Allan Court over the next couple of weeks.

Our AGM in February was successful in recruiting a number of new support volunteers. Val Crossan who has been Vice Chair since FAB's inception has stepped down and the position taken up by Debbie Wilson. Val, who will continue as a member of the Committee, was formally thanked for her hard work and dedication over the years.

Our annual coffee morning, attended by David Torrance MSP was held in Allan Court in March. We took the opportunity to discuss what FAB had achieved over the last year and chat about our plans for the year ahead with the residents over a cup of tea. At Allan Court itself, there are ongoing improvement works planned which include the installation of an outside tap for watering and enhancements to the rear entrance.

Our FAB raffle will be drawn in April by Willi Henderson, Citizen of the Year.

We have new basket tree sponsors including Time for You Cleaning Services and Breast Feeding Mums Fife. Plans for our community garden project continue to progress and it is hoped that by the end of this year we will be in a position to start applying for funding.

FAB has again applied to participate in this year's Beautiful Fife campaign which will be judged, most likely, during the month of July.

A new initiative by FAB this year will be the FAB Open Garden Weekend. Burntisland residents will be given the opportunity to showcase their gardens to the public over the weekend of 17th and 18th August. To participate in the event and for more information please get in touch. The closing date for applications is the 16th June.

Finally, if you are able to support FAB in any way or want more information on what we do, please get in touch via our Facebook page or by emailing [floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk) or by calling 07879451432.



Starley Hall's Sunflower Sculptures at Allan Court

## Toll Community Centre

### Toll Community Centre by Yvonne Crombie

**I**f you haven't been along and seen the transformation that has happened at the Toll Community Centre, pop in and I'm sure you will have a great surprise ...not only is it looking great but is now very cosy with our new boiler and heating system ...now we need to tackle the outside!!

The Bike Project is going really well. We now have a lock up for storage, courtesy of a kind benefactor, who has paid the fees for a year. 29 bikes have been donated by the community and we now have three volunteers who are working hard repairing them and making them road worthy. We also had three volunteers from the Royal Bank of Scotland who came and helped repair our bikes too ...so a huge thanks to everyone giving up their time to help! We have given out 7 bikes and we have swapped some bikes belonging to children who had out grown them ...so if you have any bikes gathering dust please call us on 01592 872854 ...we can even pick them up. Or if you would like to get involved ...

The Toll on Tour are meeting every Monday Morning in Solid Rock where we have a knitting group, ladies of all ages and abilities supporting and helping each other ...lots of chat, laughter and cups of tea. The group have been very busy knitting chicks for the Centre's Easter event and now are knitting boobies to help parents learn to breast feed and also for women who have had breast cancer ... causing lots of hilarity but all for a very good cause.

The Toll on Tour are also going to be hosting a sporting memories group in partnership with The Sporting Memories Foundation Scotland in Solid Rock on a Monday afternoon starting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 1.30-3pm. We are also looking for volunteers to help with this and full training and support will be given.

A date for your diary ....A blast from the past ...rewind back to the Toll 's Discos with the original DJ ....Jimmy D DJ (James Douglas) Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June .....Dress to impress as you did back in the day .....Tickets on sale in May.



Two satisfied customers





## Museum of Communication by Dorothy Brankin

"Spring is in the Air" – and with that in mind, I've been clearing out the contents of my filing cabinet, to make room for more of the unusual, strange and even downright odd e-mails and letters that flutter into the Museum during the year!

The following article was supposedly extracted from an early Military Training Manual – but we're not convinced.... Judge for yourself! It is entitled 'ALL YOU EVER NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ELECTRICITY'.... So, pen and paper to hand, sit down and be prepared to learn!

1 Most Electricity is manufactured in Power Stations, where it is fed into wires that are then wound round large drums. These can often be seen at the roadside, where Electricity is being delivered to remote towns or villages.

2 Some Electricity does not need to travel along wires - e.g. the kind used in portable radios and lightning. This variety just lies around loose.

3 Electricity naturally makes a low humming sound, but it can be pitched at different levels (for doorbells, telephones etc)

4 Electricity must be 'earthed' (ie connected to the ground), before it can work EXCEPT in the case of ships and

aeroplanes, which make their own arrangements.

5 Electricity comprises two ingredients 'Positive' and 'Negative'. One of them travels along a brown plastic wire and the other along a blue plastic wire. When these two wires meet in an appliance called a Socket, their ingredients mix together to form Electricity.

6 Electricity can be stored in Batteries. Big batteries don't necessarily hold more than smaller ones. In the big ones, Electricity is just shovelled in, but the little ones are very carefully packed.

7 The invention of Coloured Electricity eased traffic problems, as red, amber and green lights could replace a Policeman on 'Point Duty'. They also made the cinema more realistic.

8 The Light Switch is a very useful, wall-mounted device. The lever controls a clamp that grips the wires tightly and prevents the Electricity passing through, when the Switch is in the 'Off' position.

*So now you know..... More Helpful Hints next time..... How about a WW2 Chocolate Cake made with Carrots?*

## Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association

By Iain Ralph

**A**fter a successful first year the TRA continues to go from strength to strength and we are now planning what we would like to achieve this coming year. The aim as always, is to improve both visually and physically the area in which we live.

This year we can expect to see the return of the successful "You're asking for it" campaign in a further effort to reduce the sale of alcohol to underage would be drinkers. We are also looking to work in conjunction with the community police officers to improve CCTV coverage around the CBTRA area.

We, as an organisation, are also aware that we need to involve the young people in improving the area in which we live, so we are planning to hold a fun day sometime in August with hopefully entertainment for people of all ages but focused on youth involvement. This will be an opportunity for the young people to have their say about what improvements they would like to see in the town rather than us trying to tell them what they want.

The TRA also looks forward to continuing to work with other organisations who focus their efforts on improving Burntisland for all its residents. This includes, but is not limited to, the Community Council, the Toll Centre, FAB and the Burntisland Community Development Trust.

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month so please come along and have your say about how you see our area improving and possibly become involved in making the improvements happen.

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## BURNTISLAND HERITAGE 2019 EXHIBITIONS

### "Reach for the Stars" (Mary Somerville) 15, 20, 21, 22 June only

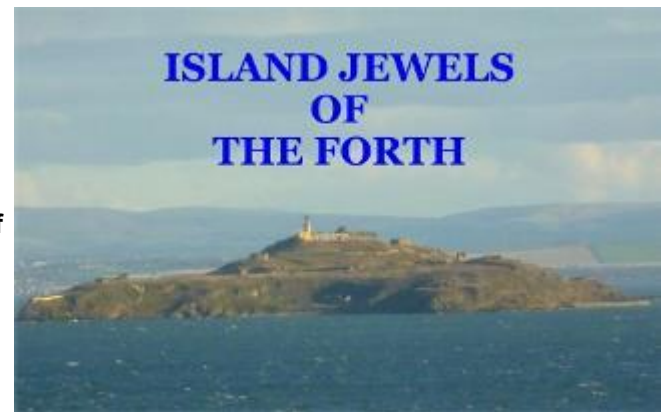
Burntisland Heritage Civic Week Exhibition: "Reach for the Stars: The Life and Times of Mary Somerville". Mary Somerville was the queen of 19th century science and her permanent childhood home was in Burntisland.

Please note that this exhibition runs for only four days, during Burntisland Civic Week. Opening days and times are: Saturday 15th June, Thursday 20th June, Friday 21st June, and Saturday 22nd June; on all days from 11.00am to 4.00pm.



### "Island Jewels of the Forth" 26 June to 31 August

Burntisland Heritage Summer Exhibition: "Island Jewels of the Forth" - an island hopping tour which shines a spotlight on the now mainly deserted islands of the outer Firth of Forth from the Bass Rock at the mouth of the Forth westwards to the iconic Forth Bridges. The exhibition examines their character and rich natural heritage, and tells a few tales that deserve to be better known.



## WILLI'S FORMAL PRESENTATION

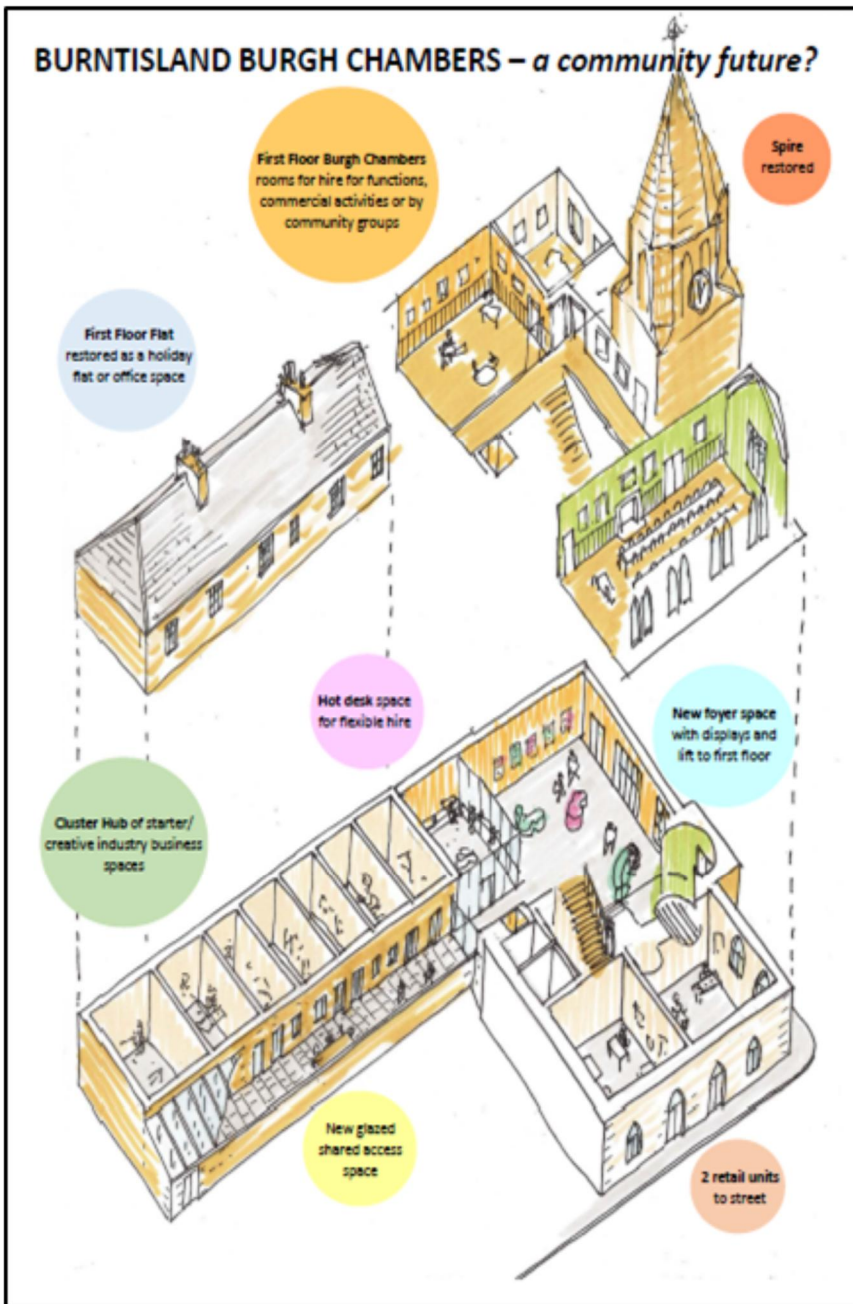
On the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> February a large gathering of dignitaries and guests attended the civic reception held in the Burgh chambers in honour of Willi Henderson, the 38<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Community Award. Alex MacDonald, the Chairman of the Community Council officiated and in his address he explained how the award had come into being as an annual recognition of an individual whose personal contribution to the community has "made Burntisland a nicer place to live and play in". Alex described Willi as "a gentle woman in every sense of the word" and thanked her for the valuable contributions she has made to the local community, in particular through her voluntary work with the Heritage Trust.

As well as receiving the shield containing the names of all previous winners, which she will hold for a year, Willi was presented with a hand crafted certificate, personalised with an "Ishbel orchid", Willi's formal Christian name. She also received an enamel badge, exclusive to all Community Award Winners. Willi explained how proud but humbled she was to have received the award and thanked all for their attendance and support. All attendees then mingled in an informal gathering in the old court room and enjoyed a delicious finger buffet in a relaxing and convivial atmosphere.

A most inspiring event and long may the tradition continue.



# Burgh Chambers - Ambitious Development Plans



**W**hat now for the Burgh Chambers? The term “now” might be the wrong word, as what the Community Council has in mind will take some years to reach fruition, but it bodes well for the future.

A feasibility study has now been completed, which lays out a 5-year business plan for the development of the whole complex. Ultimately, the ground floor, including the former Fife Council office and a re-constructed building at the rear, will become a community and business hub. It will provide meeting space and comprehensive facilities for rent, generating an income which will ensure sustainability for many years ahead.

The first floor will remain an essential part of our local heritage and will also be available for special events, whether weddings or other social occasions. An extension to the rear will also be available as a holiday or business let.

Naturally, the clock tower will be restored as part of that overall proposal.

As a final stage, there may then be an opportunity to create a physical link to the upper library hall, creating a vibrant mixture of heritage, business and community space.

Such a vision carries a significant cost. On current plans, the first two phases will have a capital cost of nearly £4 million. The revenue plans show a reliance on grant support for the first 3 years, after which the overall project will be self-financing.

Clearly, this is a complex project. We need to attract extra business, commercial and management skills to make it happen and also to raise the initial funds. So we will be setting up a new SCIO – a Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organization – and we need skilled and enthusiastic people to take the project forward.

The full feasibility study will shortly be available on the Community Council website.

So, if you see yourself as a potential trustee or project adviser, we'd like to hear from you. All it takes in the first instance is an e-mail to our Secretary via [burntislandcc@outlook.com](mailto:burntislandcc@outlook.com)

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## Monthly Beach Clean and Hot Chocolate

By Ariadne Cass-Maran

**T**he way we live isn't adapting fast enough to cope with the sheer volume of plastic going into the sea. The beautiful humpback whale that graced the Forth washed up dead on the other side of the Firth in April, tangled in rubbish. Businesses hand out single-use plastics, and parents still let wet wipes blow away on the beach in the mistaken belief that they are biodegradable (they're not.) It can all seem overwhelming and scary; how, as a community, can we best help our marine life and our small patch of earth?

The Beach House has recently starting running monthly 'Beach Clean and Hot Chocolate' events. An amazing 46 people came along to the first one, in March, to pick litter from not just the beach, but also the Lammerlaws, the Links and even as far up as James Park. 14 of them were children – although we don't have child sized litter pickers, we do have gloves, lent to us by the Broomhill Gardens Community Kids' Club.

I recently joined the Burntisland Community Development Trust, leading the Beach and Links Environment subgroup, and our monthly cleans will now be organised in conjunction with the Trust.

The plan is to have them at the same time every month, so there's a regular core of litterpicking activity going on, supporting the larger events run by the Community Council and others, which are timed for the low tides (as well as the

significant number of individuals who go out litterpicking in their own time). It's inspiring to see so much appetite for it in Burntisland for supporting the environment; tell people they can help, and where to be, and they're all over it. It's wonderful to see people chatting over hot chocolate and getting to know one another better at the same time.

Unfortunately, picking up rubbish after it's been left on the beach and links isn't the most effective way to tackle plastic pollution. Every little helps, but to truly tackle it, we need to ask our businesses to reduce the plastic they hand out to customers, and we need to change the way our visitors view our environmental resources – not as a place to stub out a cigarette, but as something precious and finite to be looked after.

**Our beach cleans are held on the last Sunday of the month at 10:30am at the Beach House for litter picking followed by hot chocolate and chat at 11:30 (non-dairy options are available).**

**To stay in touch with the beach cleans, or if you're interested in combatting the challenges of climate change and perhaps joining the Burntisland Community Development Trust Beach and Links Environment subgroup, visit [bit.ly/beach-environment](http://bit.ly/beach-environment)**



## Burntisland Bowling Club

**A**t its AGM in March, Margaret Farnes was elected Club President and Alan Lascelles made Vice President. The Club's Management now includes Linda Nimmo (Treasurer), Richard Perry (Club Secretary) and Janette MacDonald (Match Secretary) along with Brian Fleming, Frances McRae and Ruth Willis. Club is preparing for the coming season, with its internal competitions and friendly games against other clubs having been arranged as well as taking part in other competitions locally and nationally. The Club also has plans a programme of social activities.

New members are very welcome, and the Club provides free tuition for its members. It will, once again, be holding a 'Come and Try Day' during May so that individuals and families can come along and give the game a try, see the club's facilities and meet its members. Details will be published in due course.

There will be a coffee morning on Saturday 8 June 10.00 am and the Club's annual fete on Saturday 20 July starting at 1.00 pm. All are welcome.



## Burntisland Golf House Club

by Dave McPherson

**D**uring the winter months, we have undertaken a programme of changes and improvements. In the clubhouse, the most striking change is in the lounge where the combination of the new décor and blinds, and the removal of the old curtains, has brightened the place up considerably, and we hope that the combination of this and the new catering arrangements we have put in place will create a more welcoming experience for all who use it. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with new chef, Del, and hope that the food and bar services we now provide will encourage a lot more members, guests and visitors to support and enjoy them.

The season got underway with the traditional curtain-raiser, the Captain v. Vice-Captain on 30<sup>th</sup> March and the regular Saturday medals have already started. The course remains in great condition for the time of year and, as is usual at Dodhead, we just need a bit of heat to help the greens along.

The first of the Club's 2019 Open Competitions took place in early April, when a full field assembled for the Senior Open Team Scramble. The weather was kind, and a good day was had by all.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May there is an Open Scramble and the winners are only one game away from a trip to the 2020 US Masters. The

winners at Burntisland go forward to a Scottish final qualifying and a good day there could see you on your way!! Only £60 entry fee for a team of 4, so grab a space if you can, this will be another popular day.

New members can currently benefit from a tremendous '2020' deal. They get 20% OFF the existing subscription rate in most adult golfing categories, and this is also guaranteed for the year 2020 should they rejoin. On top of that, any existing member who introduces a new member will also benefit from the same deal.

Anyone who is new to the town (or if you have never been) is welcome to come up and see what it's all about. You will be most welcome. If you fancy a shot at the golf then equipment can be made available, although you might be happy with just a coffee or a bite to eat.

The Professional's Shop is chock full of everything you require in clothing, equipment, tuition and general advice. Even if you don't golf you might find the ideal gift here for someone that does.

Why not like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and keep an eye out for what's going on.

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



## Swimming Club News By Bridget Fraser

The year started quickly in January as Grace Kellas, Claire Thomson and Ailsa Kellas took part in the East District Age Groups 200s meet – with Claire and Ailsa both securing places in the finals. The Carnegie Graded Meet took place the following weekend with medals, speed flashes and lots of Personal Bests (PBs). At the end of January/beginning of February the younger swimmers took part in our annual ‘timed swims’ at the Beacon. This gives swimmers an important baseline for the year, and gives the coaches and team coordinators up to date times to help planning for the Fife League competitions.

The first League meet of the year was in March with lots of younger swimmers making their first appearance at a competitive event. Any nerves were overcome and PB's were achieved in the vast majority of swims – smiles all round, especially from the Novice team coordinator as the points racked up with no speed penalties applied.

In April our squad swimmers headed to the City of Glasgow Meet, a great opportunity to swim in a long course (50m) pool. This will be followed up by a couple of long course training sessions in Stirling to help prepare for the upcoming East District time trials at the Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh.

Out of the pool Club Captain Claire, organised a brilliant

afternoon out at Fordell Firs for our younger swimmers. We enjoyed the bungee trampoline, crate climbing and caving. In April the Squad swimmers headed to Glen Almond College for a 4 day swim camp – along with lots of swimming they enjoyed hall sports, rounders, a session on goal setting, and an Easter egg hunt.



Keeping on the social theme, in March we held a well-attended quiz night fundraiser at the Toll Community Centre. Thanks to Frances for being a fab quizmaster and Bobby's for donating lots of sweet treats.

Training continues with some big competitions coming up including INCaS Distance Meet, IM Tough at Bathgate and the East District time trials. Younger swimmers will compete at the Dunfermline Junior Sprints in June – good luck to everyone.

Burntisland Swimming Club is open to anyone who 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 to compete.

For more information or to arrange to come along for an assessment, please check our website

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



## Baywatch Burntisland

By Jo Hobbet



Is it a porpoise? Is it a seal? The chances are if you have spotted a head bobbing up and down in the bay recently, it probably belongs to one of a growing number of Burntisland's open water swimmers.

From just a couple of regular swimmers two years ago, there can now be anything up to 8-9 people enjoying a social swim. Many of the swimmers take to the sea all year round, sometimes in a wetsuit, sometimes in ‘skins’ (swimming costume), often with a tow float to add visibility.

The increased levels of fitness and stamina associated with swimming are well documented. Add some cold water and fresh air into the mix and wild swimmers also report improved immune systems, greater wellbeing and lower stress levels. Regular swimmer Alison Smith echos this enthusiastically “I do love a bit of sparkle on the water but nothing beats the buzz of just getting out there in the open sea”.

Wild swimming is very safe as long as you follow a few common sense guidelines including swimming with a buddy if you can. If you would like some company to dip your toe in the water, swimmers of all abilities are so very welcome to join any swims, from bobbing about in the bay to more organized swims out to Black Rock, we swim at all levels and you set your own pace. To join a swim, simply follow the Baywatch Burntisland (yes, it is tongue in cheek) Facebook page or e-mail Jo at [johobbett@gmail.com](mailto:johobbett@gmail.com).





## Burntisland Shipyard FC

by Andrew Beveridge

### Happy 100th birthday Burntisland Shipyard FC.

**T**he Shipyard was 100 years old in April as the Club brought up its century, having been formed by the Shipyard workers way back in 1919. Quite a remarkable achievement given the club kept going during the war years and also overcame the closure of the Shipbuilding Company in 1969. Also, having played continuously on the same site, albeit the pitch has been moved a few yards, is another notable feat. Surely, the club must be one of the oldest institutions in the town.

The Shipyard Recreation Ground, the original name of the ground, has hosted some memorable occasions down the years, none more so than the visit of Glasgow Celtic on Scottish Cup duty in January 1939. Dumbarton were the first League club to visit and Elgin City, Berwick Rangers and Ferranti Thistle (Meadowbank then Livingston) have also seen Cup action in Burntisland. Airdrie and Livingston have arrived for Scottish Youth Cup matches and both were sent packing by the respective Shipyard young teams. Obviously, all our Fife neighbours have played at the affectionately named "Shippy" for Fife Cup matches and there have been friendly visits from Heart of Midlothian, Dundee United and St Johnstone amongst others. We have also had a Hibernian youth side play competitive East of Scotland League games. In short, most of the great and good of Scottish football have graced the "Shippy".

Over the years many great players have played for the Shipyard and went on to bigger clubs, none more so than Logan McKenzie who was transferred to Liverpool FC in the 1940's. Gareth Wardlaw played for three of the four Fife league clubs and featured in the Premier League for St Mirren having previously starred for the Shippy. Scottish international Colin Cameron played once for the club and scored in a victory over Hawick Royal Albert. Several players have gained International recognition at amateur level while playing at the Shipyard.

Many honours have come the club's way over the years with the first being the Logan Cup, won at Tynecastle Park in 1927. The club had the honour of being the first ever winners of the Fife Amateur Cup in the 1931/32 season and have won it on several occasions since. Perhaps the last trophy collected was the most prestigious, as the Fife Senior Cup finally ended up at Recreation Park after the Shippy defeated a young Cowdenbeath side in the 2017/18 final. This is the first time since its inception in 1882 that the famous old trophy has come to Burntisland.

Over the years many people have dedicated much of their free time to the Club, spending endless hours doing whatever was required to ensure the Club thrived and prospered. Great custodians of the Club such as Hugh Lawlor, Jim Anderson, Jimmy Swann and the recently retired Jim Thomson deserve special mention for their dedication over many years. There are countless others who merit a mention, though I'm sure they appreciate the limited space.

As we now embark on a second century, the facilities at Recreation Park have never been better as everyone at the Club endeavours to maintain its place as a Scottish Football Association member and have a football club the town can be proud of.




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## Pipe Band News by Stewart Birrell

**I**t's been another busy practise period learning new tunes and preparing all players with uniforms and instruments for the 2019 season. We have also been filling our calendar with community engagements which as usual, we always try to accept. Over the last two months almost all of the children in the band have competed in solo competitions in Shotts, Livingston and Lochgelly, with many competing for the first time.

They were up against some of the best under 16 players in the country, but everyone put in the hours of practise and played extremely well - doing themselves and all in the band proud.

We have brought home quite a few trophies too, the star performer being Brooklyn Morris winning the Under 14 solo piping event run by the Lothian and Borders Branch of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association.

The band has already experienced a busy Spring with the Coffee Morning (April 27th), Kinghorn School Fayre (April 28th), marching along the Links with the Fife Scouting movement to help them celebrate their centenary year and held an outdoor practise at Aberdour Silver Sands on May 6th.

Our spring calendar ends with the first outdoor competition being held in Paisley. This is the British Championships and will be the first opportunity for the pipe band to compete as a Novice Juvenile band in 2019.

The numbers of novice players in the band has grown to 30+ with a further healthy number of youngsters learning the chanter and drums.

Although we do compete as a band and find most children enjoy this, we are open to anyone wanting to learn pipes or drums just as a social hobby, so if any children out there would like to try why not get in touch.

We have managed to increase the adult numbers now to a healthy eight pipers and three drummers who are practicing regularly on a Wednesday evening purely as a hobby, we do not intend to compete so if anyone else wants to join the ranks please get in touch.

**FUTURE DRUMMERS:** at present we do have a few spaces for more beginner drummers to join our learner classes, we are looking for children from the age of seven upwards.

Contact us through our Facebook page [burntisland and district pipe band](#) or drop into the Pipe band hall on East Leven Street. 7pm on Thursday evenings.

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## Live on the Links 2019

### Burntisland's free live music festival is back this summer!

We're making a weekend of it again by kicking off on Friday 9th August at 8pm, as the Silver Tassie hosts Urgency X UK, Psycho Therapy and 13 Tombs.

On Saturday 10th August from 1pm the main event takes place at the Links bandstand. We have music from Sairbanes, Jook Joints, Messed Up Youth, The Diversions, along with Crimedesk and Troops of Tomorrow who both celebrate 40 years of performing. Young musicians from the Toll Centre's music project have also been invited to play.

The beer tent will be back again to keep you refreshed throughout the afternoon and evening. Bring your friends and family to show your support for the musicians on what will hopefully, be a lovely sunny day!

Then on Saturday night head along to the Old Port Bar for more great tunes from The Signals.

And finally on Sunday 11th August from 2pm at Burntisland Sands Hotel, it's a chilled out afternoon featuring Ray Kelly and the Bad Boys, Mike Delaitre, True Tones, and more to be confirmed.



## ActiveFife

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Free health walk every Monday at 9.30 am . Meet at the Beacon Leisure Centre. Come along and enjoy a short , local walk with a qualified walk leader. The walk is suitable for people with long term health conditions and is part of the Move More Fife programme which supports people living with or affected by cancer. For more information on Move More Fife email: [healthwellbeing@fife.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:healthwellbeing@fife.gcsx.gov.uk)

# Civic Week 2019

This year's Civic Week will take place from Friday 14th to Sunday 23rd June - look out for the programme of events leaflet which be delivered to households in the next few weeks.

The Summer King & Queen will be crowned by Citizen of the Year, Willi Henderson, in the Parish Church on Saturday 15th June, which will be followed by the street parade along the High Street to the Links. The theme for our parade day is "Space and Science" - and we look forward to fancy dress costumes which are out of this world!

On Sunday 16th we'll have our popular Family Beach Day, including the annual Raft Race across the bay - get a crew together and take on the challenge. After a successful return to the programme last year, the 5-a-side football tournament will take place on Saturday 22nd at Recreation Park. The Toll Community Centre will host an Astronomy Planetarium on Sunday 23rd and the ageless and irrepressible Des and the Dingoes will round off Civic Week on the same afternoon at The Star Tavern.

As always the committee is grateful to the local businesses and organisations who provide financial contributions which help make Civic Week possible.

You can keep up to date with Civic Week by visiting our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/BurntislandCivicWeek](http://www.facebook.com/BurntislandCivicWeek) - to get in touch with any questions or suggestions you can email the committee: [burntislandcivicweek@gmail.com](mailto:burntislandcivicweek@gmail.com)

The Civic Week Programme at the time of the Buzz publication is set out below. Let's hope we get some good weather!

## Friday 14th June

Shop Window Competition 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  
Karaoke (over 18s) at The Old Port 7.00 pm

## Saturday 15th June

Messy Church in Solid Rock on the High Street  
10am - 12 noon

Burntisland Heritage Exhibition - "Reach for the Stars"  
open only during Civic Week 11  
am - 4.00 pm

## Crowning of the Summer King & Queen and Parade

in the Parish Church. 12.30 pm  
Street Parade along the High Street  
commencing from the Parish Church 1.00 pm  
Celebration Party on The Links and Judging of Fancy  
Dress hosted by Radio Lollipop 1.20 pm

## Sunday 16th June



Family Beach Day  
Sandcastle competition 10.30 am  
Scavenger Hunt - also featuring beach  
games and Kinghorn Coastal Rowing  
Club 11.30 am

Raft Race 2.00 pm

Civic Week Pairs Bowling Competition  
at Burntisland Bowling Club 1.30 pm

## Monday 17th June

Kinghorn Golf Club - Come and Try Golf - 4pm - 6pm



Development of a Space Industry in Scotland  
Lecture by Matjaz Vidmar at Museum of  
Communication 7pm

Beacon Runners - Assemble at the Beacon  
Leisure Centre - free to new attendees  
7pm - 8pm



## Tuesday 18th June

Pre-school Broomhill Garden Club 1.30pm - 2.30pm  
After-school Broomhill Garden  
Club 3.30pm - 4.30pm  
Dominoes Competition -  
Jubilee Tavern (over 18s) 8pm



## Wednesday 19th June

Craigencalt Trust Coastal Walk starting from the Links  
Car Park and introducing facilities at Craigencalt 10am  
Book Bug session at the Library 10.15am  
Bug hunt with The Ecology Centre education team.  
Meet in Burntisland Golf Club car park. 3.30pm -  
4.30pm  
Evening Heritage Inner Trail Walk 7.00pm

## Thursday 20th June



Civic Week Quiz in the Sands Hotel (over 18s)  
7.30pm for 8.00pm start

Darts Competition (over 18s) in the  
Silver Tassie. 8pm



## Friday 21st June

Summer Natural Skincare Workshop by Bodyluscious  
in the Space Upstairs, High Street. 12.30pm - 2.00pm  
Sailing Club - Civic Week Cup race 7.00pm

## Saturday 22nd June

Outer Heritage Trail Walk 11.00am  
Adult 5-a-side Football tournament at  
Recreation Park. 2.00pm - 4.00pm



## Sunday 23rd June

Auriga Astronomy Planetarium  
'To The Moon' at the Toll Community  
Centre 10.00am - 3.00pm



Des and the Dingoes (over 18s) at the  
Star Tavern 3.00pm - 6.30pm





**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.

Any enquiries of interest in the Club or to discuss membership should be directed to the President George Barclay.

(sandybar@hotmail.com) (07525185820)



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In accepting the trophy, Anne and Victoria said, "We were absolutely delighted to have been nominated but to actually win our category was a complete shock. We are just a dog daft mother/daughter team with a dream to get people more active with their four legged friends. We can't thank our Happy Go Lucky family enough for all their support and we have to say a special thank you to our beloved Becky who should be here to celebrate this amazing achievement with us"



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## BEAVERS

The Beavers have had a busy few months with a sleepover in the church hall and exploring up the Binn. Two teams competed in the Kirkcaldy District Baden Powell Trophy and our Thursday section won the Trophy by getting the highest score over a series of scouting and sporting challenges. They have also had visits to the Library. Lots of them completed their Book Reader activity badge by making bookmarks, learning how to look after books and reading 6 new ones. We visited Pets at Home in Kirkcaldy where we had an animal handling session and learned about some of the animals.

**By Beaver Scout Leader Kerry Laing**

## CUBS

Another busy term was had taking part in archery, curling, and cooking. We worked hard on our International badge, our Cycling badge and our Skills Challenge badge. We also ventured up the Binn for a hike. Great fun was had by all at the beetle drive and we're so excited looking forward our St George's celebration where lots of Cubs will receive their Chief Scout Silver award. We're also super excited and busy planning for our centenary camp in June. I was also proud to invest our newest Cub Leader to the 11th Fife Scout group. Well done Scott.

**By Cub Scout Leader Michelle Paton**

## SCOUTS

Our Scouts have been raising awareness of Palm Oil issues, and its impact upon Tigers, Orangutans and other at-risk species, by speaking to Cllrs & MSPs. This work was recognized and praised in the Scottish Parliament in a motion brought by David Torrance MSP. Our Scouts also featured in the Fife Free Press and Courier. In March we had the unique experience of sleeping 30 metres (100ft) underground in a Cold War era, nuclear command bunker at Scotland's Secret Bunker and over the same weekend visited St Andrews Castle and Aquarium. We have also been developing the Scouts navigation & cooking skills, and began work on the Cyclist badge. In District Competitions our Scouts were runners up in the five-a-side tournament, and won the Scout Challenge Trophy. Some of our Scouts have also been preparing for their Expedition Challenge where they will hike around 20 miles (32km) carrying their own equipment, while doing all the navigation and cooking themselves.

Our Scout sections continue to grow and we can always do with additional leaders. Whatever time you have available there will be a flexible role to suit you. Anyone that is interested in helping to support this or any other section please get in touch at [11thFife@gmail.com](mailto:11thFife@gmail.com)

**By Scout Leader David Laing**

## EXPLORERS

Explorers have been working on their Survival Skills activity badge as they learned about fire lighting methods, foraging, water filtration, survival kit and extremes of weather. They finished this off with a survival skills camp where they slept in hammocks and prepared their own food including mackerel and rabbit that they cooked over fire without using any utensils/pots/foil. They have also completed their Digital Skills staged activity badge by starting a group newsletter and making some digital posters.

**By Group Scout Leader Kerry Laing**



## 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."



## Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club by Alan Smart

The local Club has had an extremely busy start to the year. In January, President Ross and her team had the very difficult task of judging the Burns poetry recital competitions at the local primary schools. Annabel Cervantes and Pawul Schulz, the winners from Burntisland and Kinghorn schools respectively, performed admirably at the Club's annual Burns Supper. At the end of January the club welcomed representatives from 6 local charities to an informal evening during which they gave updates on their respective charitable activities and received donations from the Club in the form of cheques.

The Rotary Primary School Quiz was held in Burntisland school at the beginning of February and in an exciting contest, during which many of the Rotarians present were scratching heads to find answers, the "Scrambled Eggheads" from Auchtertool Primary School emerged as worthy winners.

In February, together with Kirkcaldy Rotary Club, we staged a Rotary Day in the Mercat shopping mall in Kirkcaldy. Although particularly quiet in the wake of the M & S closure, our Rotakids from Burntisland Primary School livened up the occasion and manage to raise almost £80.

Topics covered by speakers over the past few weeks have ranged from comparing electricity costs at home and abroad, to student travels on the Continent in the sixties, and from the establishment of a Children's Clothing Bank in Methil to a Toilet Project in Malawi. Both the latter projects are supported by the Club. Overall, weekly speakers have been both entertaining and educational.

At the end of March we held a very successful and enjoyable Race Night in the Toll Centre raising almost £1500 which will be donated jointly to the Burntisland Foodbank and the Butterfly Trust.

Finally, the annual Plant Sale/Coffee morning in Kinghorn Parish Church Hall, held at the beginning of May, was well attended and most successful in raising essential funds for local charities.



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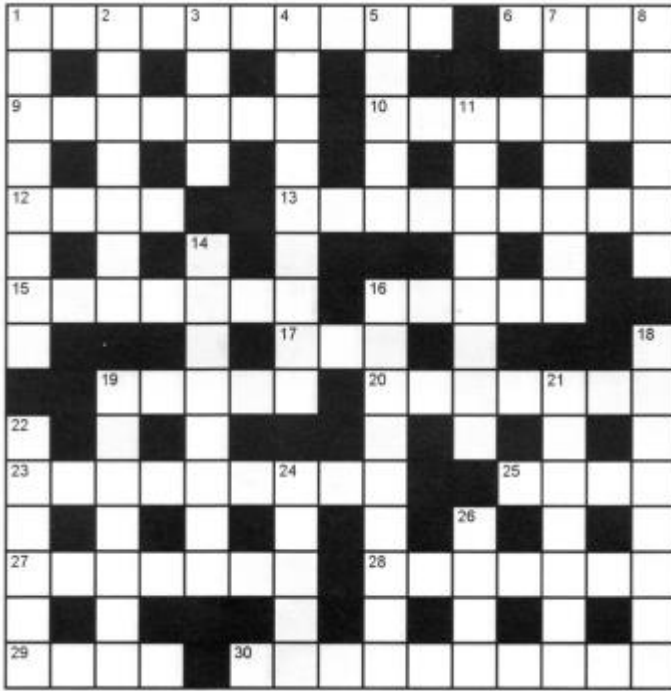
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### Solution to August Crossword

**ACROSS:** 1 Complacent, 6 Tsar, 9 Luddite, 10 Victors, 12 Milk, 13 Margarita, 15 Tornado, 16 Dunes, 17 Doe, 19 Greta, 20 Premier, 23 Persevere, 25 Scan, 27 Delilah, 28 Stylish, 29 Scar, 30 Brideshead.

**DOWN:** 1 Calamity, 2 Meddler, 3 Loin, 4 Cream soda, 5 Never, 7 Stories, 8 Rascal, 11 Crannies, 14 Farewell, 16 Depressed, 18 Drenched, 19 Gorilla, 21 Incline, 22 Spades, 24 Ether, 26 Dyes.

**CONGRATULATIONS—Our February Crossword winner of £50 in vouchers is:**

**John MacDonald, Grange Gardens, Burntisland**

## THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

1. Carousel (10)
6. Poultry products (4)
9. Neatest (7)
10. Eerie (7)
12. U.S. State (4)
13. Light meal (9)
15. North African Country(7)
16. Dig (5)
17. Princess\_\_\_\_ G&S operetta (3)
19. Come in (5)
20. Fabulous animal (7)
23. Flawed (9)
25. Immense (4)
27. Rejected with contempt (7)
28. Obvious (7)
29. Detest (4)
30. Searcher for minerals (10))

### DOWN

1. Reasoning (8)
2. Immortal (7)
3. Squirrel's nest (4)
4. Conveyance for invalid (4,5)
5. Normal (5)
7. Real (7)
8. Maxim (6)
11. Padre (8)
14. Brothers (8)
16. Intrepid (9)
18. Forebear (8)
19. Daring feat (7)
21. Wealthy, luxuriant (7)
22. Black cherry liqueuer (6)
24. Senior (5)
26. US coin (4)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE:.....

Completed entries by: June 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
<b>MAY</b>		
Thursday 9th	Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association meeting in Heritage Trust Office	7.00 pm
Friday 10th	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
Saturday 18th	Christian Aid Coffee Morning in the Parish Church Hall	10.00am
Wednesday 22nd	Fife Ukulele Orchestra Charity Concert in the Erskine Church	7.30 pm
Friday 24th	Christmas Lights Bingo at the Jubilee Tavern	Evening
Saturday 25th	Coffee and Pancakes in the Erskine Church Hall	10.00am
Saturday 25th	Community Police Drop-In Session at Burntisland Library	11.00am
Sunday 26th	Beach Clean & Hot Chocolate from Beach House	commencing 10.30am
Thursday 30th	Renewable Technology Event by "Change Works Burntisland" at the Sands Hotel	5.00 pm - 8.00 pm
<b>JUNE</b>		
Saturday 1st	Over 70's Christmas Treat Afternoon Tea in the Parish Church hall	2.00pm - 4.00 pm
Saturday 8th	Bowling Club Coffee Morning at the Club House	10.00am
Tuesday 11th	Cancer Research UK (Burntisland Branch) AGM at St Josephs Church Hall	6.30 pm
Thursday 13th	Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association meeting in Heritage Trust Office	7.00 pm
Friday 14th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 22nd	Community Police Drop-In Session at Burntisland Library	11.00am
Saturday 22nd	Rewind Disco at The Toll Community Centre with "JD the DJ" (Over 70s Christmas Treat)	Evening
Sunday 30th	Beach Clean & Hot Chocolate from Beach House	commencing 10.30am
<b>JULY</b>		
Thursday 11th	Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association meeting in Heritage Trust Office	7.00 pm
<b>Monday 15th</b>	<b>Burntisland Highland Games</b>	<b>12.00 noon</b>
Saturday 22nd	Bowling Club Annual Fete at the Club House	1.00 pm
Sunday 28th	Beach Clean & Hot Chocolate from Beach House	commencing 10.30am

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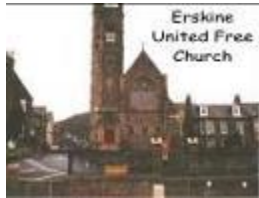
## Our Novice Pipers on a Hit Album

On the last Saturday of April, at Tynecastle, Heart's home ground, 16 young pipers from the Burntisland Novice Juvenile Pipe Band joined with some 260 other young players in accompanying the Red Hot Chilli Pipers in recording a track on their new album. The famed traditional rockers, backed by the young pipers, recorded a special rendition of Highland Cathedral for their new album “Fresh Air. The assembled pipers first played in the stadium, then from the stands and finally on the steps outside the ground.

On its Facebook page, the band posted thanks to all 275 young pipers and their parents who attended and remarked that “ the future of bagpipes are in good hands”.

The names of all the players will appear on the album which is due to be released on June 7<sup>th</sup>.





**E**aster is a big deal for our congregations. Firstly the joint Palm Sunday walk on 14 April saw a sizeable group of around 50 people making way around the town's church buildings and pausing to reflect briefly at each one. We finished in Erskine for a short service, thankfully inside away from the chilly weather. Certainly participants felt warmer inside Erskine than on our front steps.

Holy Week services are always shared in all congregations. We had our Easter Sunday gatherings (21 April this year) on the Binn and beach @ 8am, followed by the traditional breakfast in Erskine halls. It's always very satisfying to start the day with achievement - and climbing the Binn before breakfast always hits the spot.

It's important to mark a special occasion. My friend & colleague, Rev. Alan Sharp, is retiring from Burntisland Parish in May after 18 years in our community. We've had a really good working relationship over the last 7 years and Erskine congregation wishes Alan & Linda every blessing for their well-earned retirement. Alan's intention is to spend most of his time at the cinema and (allegedly) walking to keep fit. I'm convinced 100% about the first goal, I'm not so sure he'll stick with the healthy lifestyle! Thanks, Alan, for all your wisdom, encouragement & support.

The churches are holding a joint coffee morning for Christian Aid on Saturday 18 May in the Parish halls from 10am. Chez Erskine, our next coffee & pancakes morning is on Saturday 25 May again from 10am. Please try your best to support both of these local events, which bring people together for a chat. The latest updates will appear on our Facebook page, so keep checking.

A word in season is always a good way to finish. The news of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris being damaged by fire has recently been reported. How tragic to see the loss of such a cultural treasure which has stood so majestically for 850 years. One of our Palm Sunday stops is at the Kirkton Church, a place for worship of around the same age. Burntisland Parish dates from the 1590s and is one of Scotland's earliest Reformation Churches. Erskine's congregation has its roots in the early 18th Century, though our present building is a relative youngster from 1903.

The Easter story of Jesus' death & resurrection is one of forgiveness, hope and new life. Still in 2019 Christians gather to witness for him, whether the building is old or young. Jesus says, "Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world" (John 17.18, NLT).

My prayerful hope is that the Easter message will touch your life at some point this year. We live in uncertain days with our own worries constantly mounting up under pressure. Blessing comes when we find faith to believe in God and put our trust in his eternal grace & love.



Palm Sunday Celebrants

## Burntisland Parish Church — Forthcoming Activities

**CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING** – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>. May, 2019. 10 – 12 Noon in the church hall. Tickets are £2.00 from Chapter & Verse or Pay at the door. There will be Tombola and a Baking stall. Donations for these will be much appreciated. Christian Aid is a charity with 70 years' experience fighting global poverty in 37 countries regardless of religion or race. Further information from Ann Smith, Tel 873994 or e-mail – [annpatSmith96@gmail.com](mailto:annpatSmith96@gmail.com)

**THE PARISH CHURCH** will be open to visitors from Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2019 every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 2 pm – 4 pm.

Built in 1592 the church has a long and interesting history. Also known as the 'Kirk of the Bible' because in 1601 King James VI held the General Assembly within its walls, and during that event granted a new translation of the Bible now known as the 'King James Authorized Version'. Members of the congregation will be in attendance for guided tours and to answer questions. To arrange group visits contact – Mrs Ann Smith, Tel 01592 873994 or e-mail [annpatSmith96@gmail.com](mailto:annpatSmith96@gmail.com)

### RAGS to RICHES – for the charity Mary's Meals.

**It costs £13.90p to provide a child with Mary's Meals for a whole school year. That is roughly 3 bin bags full of rags.**

**A collection** of all types of rags, clothes, bed linen, towels, curtains, blankets, handbags, shoes, belts and soft toys will take place as listed below. **NO PILLOWS or DUVETS please.**

Turning unwanted goods for funds to feed hungry children will take place in the Parish Church hall on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 10 am – 4 pm, and in **Solid Rock on the High Street**, on Tuesday 4th June – 2pm – 4pm, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June – 2 pm – 4 pm, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June – 10 am – 12 noon, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June – 10 am – 12 noon, Saturday 10 am – 4 pm.

Any good clothing donated will be taken to the Mary's Meals shop in Inverkeithing for sale. If you are cleaning out your wardrobes, or cupboards, give everything you don't want to me please. Further information from - Ann Smith, Tel. 873994 and e-mail – [annpatSmith96@gmail.com](mailto:annpatSmith96@gmail.com)

## Burntisland Parish Church

### Rev Alan Sharp, BSc., BD - Retirement.



**T**he Reverend Sharp came to be minister of the Parish Church in November 2001, a young

man with a head of black hair and a black beard. Born and brought up in Kirkcaldy Alan was back in familiar ground.

Alan went to Edinburgh University in 1972 – 76 to study Physics graduating with BSc Honours. He then studied for his Bachelor of Divinity at St. Mary's College, St. Andrews from 1976 – 1979. He often tells of his summer job as a student, sweeping the streets in Kirkcaldy for the Town Council.

In 1979, after preaching for Presbytery at his 'trials for licence' in Burntisland Parish Church, Alan was 'licensed to preach' in St. John's Church, Kirkcaldy where he and his parents were members. (now Bennoch Church).

In July 1979 Alan became a probationer minister at St. Andrew's Church, West Kilbride. He and Linda were married there in August of that year.

In 1980 Alan was ordained and inducted into his first charge in Middlefield Parish Church, Aberdeen. During their time in Aberdeen Katie and David were born. In July 1989 Alan was called to St. Ninian's Church of Scotland in Corby, in the Presbytery of England. St. Ninian's was one of two Churches of Scotland in the town serving a large Scottish population. Many had family members who had worked in the steelworks in the 1930's and 1950's. Alan served at St. Ninian's for 12 years.

During Alan's time at the Parish Church many changes have taken place in the church and community. A 'Praise Band' now leads worship at the beginning of the Sunday morning service, and when the children go to Young Church in the hall, Neil plays the organ for the hymns. Alan does not preach from the pulpit, but prefers to stand on the chancel to deliver his children's talk with cartoon images, and his sermon, without any notes, which is an exceptional gift. There are evening services, and on a Wednesday morning Alan has a short service in Solid Rock which is well attended. Alan also ran Alpha courses and encouraged Bible study/fellowship groups.

Alan has also developed a strong partnership with the Rev

Alexander Ritchie of Erskine Church and they exchange church services. Visiting Allan Court and St. Andrews Court for a short service on a Sunday afternoon, and taking classes in Burntisland Primary School and School Assemblies there and at Balwearie are also part of Alan's remit along with Rev. Ritchie and the other ministers in the town.



Recently the Parish Church became a Christians Against Poverty Centre. CAP is a national debt counselling charity offering hope and a solution to anyone in debt. The service is free and the Debt Centre Manager and a team of volunteers are all committed Christians. The service visits clients in their homes and provides one to one support. A number of individuals and families have already become debt free.

A Community Café and offshoot of Kirkcaldy Food Bank is now held in Solid Rock on a Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon serving hot food, tea and coffee, and Alan has played a very important part in setting that up. A lot of the foodbank clients live on their own or are single parents, and loneliness is a real issue for them. The Café gives people a chance to sit and chat with the volunteers and each other. People can also get help making 'phone calls and filling in online forms.

An addition to the community is Chapter & Verse on the High Street staffed by volunteers. The shop sells Bibles, Christian books and cards, jewellery, and a variety of gifts, and for those in need of a quiet seat and time to reflect, that comforting retreat.

Linda also has been involved in the life of the church. Firstly, as leader of the Young Church, introducing Messy Church, jointly with Kinghorn, for the children of the community, and holding monthly Prospects Group meetings in the church hall for those with learning disabilities and their friends.

For the past year Alan has been Moderator of Kirkcaldy Presbytery and he has also been a Presbytery delegate at the General Assembly.

Alan and Linda are going to spend their retirement in Burntisland and we wish them a long and happy time with their families and grandchildren.

If you meet Alan on the High Street you will notice he now has very little hair and a grey beard. !!!



**S**t. Joseph's Charity Knit and Knatter group hosted a Coffee Morning on the 2nd of March in aid of the

Food Bank and HCPT Group 77, who take children and young people on pilgrimage to Lourdes at Eastertide.

As well as coffee and delicious cakes there was a tombola, raffle, preloved designer clothes, bags, shoes, jewellery and the Knit and Knatter group showcased their crafts. Due to the generous contributions and overwhelming support on the day, we raised the fantastic sum of £1,480! Each charity gratefully received a donation of £740. Thanks goes out to everyone who made this such a successful event.

## News from St Joseph's by Fr. James



**Knit and Knatter Krafts**



## The Ecology Centre

Spring is in the air at The Ecology Centre with lots of growing activity well underway, tools getting sharpened and the first of the grass getting cut! It's our favourite season. Here's all the latest news from the Centre:-

### Award winning Education team!

Our Education team recently won "Best School Partnership" award at Fife Chamber of Commerce - Fife Business Awards. We are delighted to have our partnership with Pathhead Primary School in Kirkcaldy recognised. We've worked with the school, its pupils, and parents for over 7 years. This is hugely important to the depth of work we are able to do and key for our therapeutic programmes.



**Education Manager, Claire Reid and Education Officer Calum Murray**

The Education team also work closely with Burntisland Primary School and have been working with pupils and Pupil Support Assistants to develop therapeutic learning activities. The pupils really enjoyed learning story massage, den building, experimenting with nature potions and relaxation exercises. It's a lovely development of the work the Centre has been doing with the school on mindfulness, nature nurture and outdoor learning.

### Tool Shed news

Tool Shed staff and volunteers have had a busy few months restoring a traders wheelbarrow which belongs to volunteers from Friends of Pittencrieff Park who use it in the park.

### Tool Shed and Friends of Pittencrieff Park volunteers and staff

The volunteers requested Tool Shedders' help, as the wheelbarrow was in a state of disrepair and of no use. The Tool Shedders love a project and Tool Shed Officer Lee Brown thought it would be a good opportunity for his volunteers.

The main refurbishment involved restoring all the pieces that could be salvaged. This was completed by volunteers who come along to the dementia friendly Thursday sessions and required a lot of paint stripping using heat guns and much sanding and shaping of the wood. The top of the wheelbarrow had to be completely replaced and was rebuilt by the Tool Shed's Friday volunteers. It's great to see the traders wheelbarrow beautifully restored and getting put back into use.



**A Wheelbarrow Restored**

### Events for 2019

We've lots of NEW events to look forward to this summer. From our Moth Morning and Dawn Chorus events, being run by our wildlife and nature blogger Andy Pay to our 'Your peace, our place' wellbeing day. Our Mini Growers sessions for pre-schoolers and toddlers restarts at the end of April and our popular Eco Adventures Holiday Club returns in July and August to help keep the kids busy during the summer holidays. The Centre is a wonderful venue - perfect for workshops, classes, training days, conferences, parties or intimate wedding celebrations, whatever you're looking for give us a call on **01592 891567** or pop up and see us, we would be delighted to show you around.

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

**T: 01592 891567**

**E: [admin@theecologycentre.org](mailto:admin@theecologycentre.org)  
[www.theecologycentre.org](http://www.theecologycentre.org)**



The Cancer Research UK Burntisland Local Committee has had a very productive few months. We had our afternoon tea in March in Burntisland Bowling Club. This was a lovely afternoon and the club was filled with lots of laughter and chatter. We raised a fantastic sum of £1064.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and generosity. We would also like to thank Burntisland Bowling Club for all their help.

Our next event is our AGM. We are always looking for people to join us raise money for cancer research, if you are interested in this please come along to our AGM on Tuesday 11th June 6:30 pm at St Joseph Church Hall. Every one welcome.

Mary Hindle Secretary.



# Vet's Corner



By Jillian Walker

## Not just for Easter



**T**here are 305 breeds of domestic rabbit in the world. That's a lot of bunnies to choose from. They can make wonderful pets but there is more to their care than you might think. Before getting a rabbit, please read the following guidelines.

Rabbits are highly social creatures. We would recommend getting a pair of rabbits preferably ones that already know each other. One male (the buck) and one female (the doe) is ideal, just remember to get them neutered. From the age of five or six months, doe's can start reproducing, pregnancy normally lasts 30-32 days and can produce from three to six babies. Mum is fertile again straight after birth. They do not have seasons, the way other animals do.

Please don't buy a hutch and think that's all your rabbit needs. They must have an exercise area as well which they can use daily. If your bunny is being housed indoors, set up a rabbit safe room, free from nice chewy cables. It should be large enough for them to eat, play and go to the toilet. Rabbits can be trained to use a litter tray.

Feeding your rabbit the right food is vitally important too. Hay should make up 80%- 85% of their diet, or their health will

suffer. Subsidise this with a small amount of good quality fresh veg and of course a constant supply of fresh drinking water. Hay is also the perfect bedding and should be changed daily.

We also recommend spending a good hour of each day handling your rabbit and having quality time with them. Remember, rabbits are social, they can become stressed if left for long periods. Quality time would also give you the opportunity to check your rabbits teeth, which can grow 3mm a week and if left unchecked can lead to eating problems.

Look under the tail too, to make sure its clean and dry, especially during the summer. A dirty bottom can attract flies which lay eggs and turn into maggots. "Fly strike" can be deadly. Don't forget to have your rabbits vaccinated against VHD and myxomatosis, which is prevalent in the wild rabbit population in Burntisland.

As you can see, taking on a bunny, is not an easy option, but they are intelligent, sociable and make great pets. Looked after properly they can live 10-12 years. A rabbit is for its life not just for Easter.



## Craigencalt Trust News

by Marilyn Edwards

**T**here is a busy year in progress for the Trust, with work about to start on building a new path that by-passes the dangerous hill at Red Path Brae,

Kinghorn, to keep walkers and other users safe. The first workday of the year is always putting out the barley straw on the four rafts on the loch.

This took place early in March so that the water-birds can take advantage of the straw for nest building, usually led by the swans that choose a raft for nesting. The barley straw treatment is there to keep algal blooms away. Otters have returned to the loch this year, and evidence of their visits have been clear by the fish carcasses left on nesting platforms. Unfortunately they will also take ducklings and other fledglings but nature takes its own course. Our second workday was a litter pick, and sadly most of the litter was collected close to roadsides, not where people go who really want to enjoy the countryside.

Our main event of the year so far is the Annual Spring Walking Festival. We are delighted that it is our busiest by far, with many walks nearing capacity. There has been some great weather which shows off the splendid coast and inland scenery in this part of Fife and makes these walks extra enjoyable. The walk from Kinghorn to Dysart had warm sunshine all the way,

with Fife Ranger Lyn Strachan joining the group from Pathhead to point out interesting features along the way, especially for the children. The children's story telling walk was damp and cold but several families still ventured to the troll bridge and the weather did not dull the shrieks of fun that the youngsters enjoyed on the ever popular rope swing. It is a rewarding event

to run, and folk are very appreciative, and some pleased that they have managed a longer walk and improved their fitness level. Following on from the Walking Festival was a talk on the new Fife Pilgrim Way in late April, at Kinghorn Community Centre.

The twelfth annual 'Come and Try' day at Kinghorn Loch took place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This has always been a busy event where you can try your hand at canoeing, sailing, coastal rowing in a skiff, radio controlled model yachts or even open water swimming if the water is warm enough.

Visitors also wandered down to the bird hide where they caught glimpses of a water rail and other birds and stopped off at the Earthship.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with work on our new path at Red Path Brae, so if you can give us a workday or two, please get in touch by telephoning 01592 891330 or contact through [info@craigencalttrust.org.uk](mailto:info@craigencalttrust.org.uk).



Walking Festival walk at Balram, Aberdour



## Burntisland Bird Watch

May '19  
By Leo du Feu

**23rd March 2019, Binn Pond.** On the water two coots, black with white shielded foreheads. A little grebe laughing high-pitched and hysterically, a heron standing stock-still in the shallows, a shimmering-green-headed male mallard and all-brown female, a few teal tinkling their silver-bell calls. (A local who knows, told me that in past decades there would be a hundred or more teal on the pond in winter. Nowadays I see no more than ten.) And around and about were toads, a single long-tailed tit bouncing from gorse to tree, two pheasants crowing loudly against each another, a buzzard's shrill overhead cry, a chiffchaff singing its name.

Chiffchaffs sing their own name - 'chiff chaff chiff chaff, chiff chiff chaff, chiff chiff...' Totally distinctive once you know it. Another had been singing as I came up the path from the road and a third further off beyond the old distillery and the new houses. My first Burntisland chiffchaffs of the year. My first anywhere chiffchaff this year was in my dad's garden in Linlithgow two days earlier.

Why did I hear none until the end of March? Because there were (mostly) none to hear. Chiffchaffs are one of many migrant birds to spend their winters in warmer places (with chiffs it's the Mediterranean Basin and West Africa) and their summers in Britain and western Europe. Historically they've arrived with us in March and left in the autumn but increasingly BTO volunteer recording schemes show some individuals staying all year. The first recorded chiffchaff anywhere in the UK in 2019 was in January week one. That'll be one which never left. As climate chaos warms our world, animal habits are changing.



Chiffchaffs are warblers as are blackcap, willow warbler, sedge warbler, wood warbler and plenty of others. Of these chiffchaff, willow warbler and blackcap are quite likely to sing in or near your garden and maybe use your bird feeders, though less readily than our resident tits, sparrows, starlings...

Visually blackcaps are easy - soft grey bodies, males with black head caps, females with brown caps. Chiffchaff and willow warbler are far harder, they look almost the same as each other: small, very light yellowish browns, delicate, slim (except when fluffed as in my painting). I can't tell between the two. Until they sing and then it's easy. Willow warbler song is completely different - a musical downwards tune, notes airily descending a staircase. Chaffinch does something similar but much harder and hastier, described often as a spin-bowling cricketer.

Other migrants soon arriving in our skies are sand and house martins, swallows and swifts. Consider putting up the relevant nest boxes as all these are especially badly in need of our help. If they nest on your house or garage think about recording them for the BTO, it's both fascinating and important for ensuring their survival. Also in nesting season take extra care of hedges, shrubs, trees and wild areas in your garden. Try not to let dogs run unleashed through crops and long grasses and marshland.

Get in touch with any questions and join our new 'Burntisland Wildlife and Woodlands' group on Facebook to share what you've seen, to ask and offer tips and identifications, and to discuss how to improve biodiversity in our gardens and town and surrounds.

## Charity Concert at St Serf's

The Fife Ukulele Orchestra which meets fortnightly in the Sands Hotel, is staging a Charity Concert on behalf of The Mission to Seafarers in St Serf's Church on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The orchestra comprises some 25 strummers and plays a wide range of songs from all eras and genres from traditional Scottish ballads to up-tempo rockers. It performs frequently at local fundraising events and further afield at music Festivals.

The Mission to Seafarers cares for seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs throughout the world and in Scotland, mainly through volunteers, offers a service in virtually all of our 90 odd ports. This assistance and support can be practical, spiritual or emotional and the Mission operates one centre in Scotland at Grangemouth. Order your tickets for this fun evening with the Ukulele Orchestra and support this very worthy cause.

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