

BURGH BUZZ



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Issue No 72

A Glorious Games Day



As Burntisland basked in glorious sunshine, thousands of visitors and residents converged on the Links to enjoy the spectacle of the 367th Burntisland Highland Games together with the supporting fairground attractions.

The day's proceedings kicked off early with the traditional "Exiles Reception" hosted by the Community Council in the Burgh Chambers. This was an impressive gathering attended by the Provost of Fife, our elected Member of Parliament, Fife Councillors, the summer King and Queen, our present and former Community Award winners and invited guests. Senior Community Councillor Christine Dewar, issued a warm welcome to all present who included former Burntisland residents from Arizona, South Africa, Canada, Australia, England and even Dunfermline! Provost Jim Leishman and Lesley Laird MP also addressed the gathering and both expressed their pleasure and thanks for being invited take part in such an auspicious event.

Following the informal reception which included a sumptuous finger buffet, attendees lined up behind the Burntisland and District Pipe Band (comprising an impressive number of young pipers and drummers), then paraded along the High Street to the arena on the Links, watched by hundreds of spectators who lined the route. At 12 noon precisely, the Honorary Chieftain, Davey Adamson officially opened the games. Throughout the afternoon the enthusiastic spectators enjoyed exciting competition by runners and cyclists on the track, keen rivalry in the traditional heavy events and the more refined spectacle of highland dancing on the stage.

At 3.00 pm a disappointing field of only 8 runners set off in the race over the Binn. In extremely hot conditions the race was won by Ben Potrykus who retained his title in a commendable time.

Throughout the afternoon, huge numbers enjoyed the fun of the fair and the numerous food and drinks outlets, in particular the ice cream vendors.



BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY PAPER

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

From the Editor

Although our front page features the very successful staging of the 367th Burntisland Highland Games, our thanks and appreciation should also be extended to the Civic Week Committee who, in the middle of June, organised a wide variety of events, catering for all ages, over a ten day period. The weather has been particularly kind this year and many visitors were attracted to the town to enjoy our natural amenities and the fairground attractions.

Long may it continue.

Speaking of continuation brings me to this publication, the Burntisland Burgh Buzz. The next issue which will be published in the autumn, will be the 40th that has been edited by myself, my deputy Paul and his wife Linda. During the past decade we have been assisted by a number of transient committee members of all ages. Our current, very active, editorial committee is detailed in the box below.

Over the past 10 years we have attempted to improve both the content and production quality of the Buzz. We now distribute 3,700 free copies of the printed version throughout the community and it is available on our website. In addition, we manage a second website **Burgh.Buzz** which keeps readers up to date with events which occur between our quarterly publications.

Regrettably, although we always receive a positive response to our crossword puzzles, over the past few years we have had little or no feedback regarding the Buzz itself. The most recent letters (complaints or otherwise) related to the destruction of a sycamore tree! We have had no response to our repeated appeal for an Advertising Co-ordinator.

I am now appealing for your views on the Buzz. Are we just being taken for granted? How can we improve? How can we ensure continuity after the current editorial team steps down? Can you make a positive contribution towards the improvement and sustainability of your community newspaper?

My contact details are listed below

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Advertising Co-ordinator

The Burgh Buzz is still looking to fill the position of 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's 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.

- Electric vehicle charge points are now installed at the Links car park.
- Cleaning and maintenance of the Links water feature has been inadequate and it has been reported to Fife Council.
- There is a proposal to set up a new Paths Group to identify, map and improve local paths. The group would have charitable status. Interested people are invited to contact Anne Smith or the Secretary of the Community Council.
- Steps are in hand to review and update the Community Action Plan, so that groups who use it to secure funding can accurately identify the current priorities. The Toll Community Centre, Burntisland Community Development Trust and Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association are among the active participants.
- A meeting with Lesley Laird MP noted that there is no immediate prospect of funding being available to support disabled access on the Northbound side of the railway station. However, longer-term efforts are continuing.
- Better signage and physical barriers seem to be having the desired effect of reducing the number of cars parked on the Links.
- A number of playparks in the town need to be upgraded but there are no plans on the part of Fife Council to do so. Fuller information is being sought on the overall strategy for local playparks. It may need local groups to drive separate projects.
- Anne Smith and Brendan Burns attended a question & answer session with senior managers of ExxonMobil's Fife Ethylene plant at Mossmorran.
- John Bruce reported that an environmental architect will be commissioned to come up with proposals for improving the burn at the Toll Park.
- Some of the Christmas lights at the Links have been vandalised and steps are in hand to repair them. Funding-raising events will continue for future lighting.
- Alex MacDonald and Anne Smith met senior managers of Forth Ports to seek better access to the harbour area when ships are unloading. Whilst it is recognised that safety is paramount, steps had been taken to enable pedestrian access to appropriate areas. A derelict caravan has been removed from the harbour area.
- We continue to challenge Fife Council over their inappropriate use of Common Good funding.
- The business plan for conservation and development of the Burgh Chambers has now been completed and will shortly be made public. It's a critical development for the well-being of the High Street and for the town generally, so we will be inviting interested people to set up an independent trust to take the proposals forward.

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	Philip Atkinson
Brendan Burns	Dereck Turnbull
Yvonne Crombie	Anne Smith

Elected Fife Councillors' Availability

Councillor Lesley Backhouse

Telephone: 07540 677081

Email: Cllr.Lesley.Backhouse@fife.gov.uk

Lesley is happy for constituents to ring her on the above number or email.

Councillor Gordon Langlands

Telephone: 01592 874612

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

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

Councillor Kathleen Leslie

Telephone: 07714 778906

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

Kathleen 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:

www.burgh.buzz/politics

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Burntisland's Burgh Buzz

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

The Burgh Polis

By PC Elizabeth James



Like other areas in Fife, Burntisland experiences anti-social behaviour involving youths, especially in the summer months, the majority of which often involves the consumption of alcohol.

The introduction of *Challenge 25* has made it more difficult for those under the age of 18 to buy alcohol themselves however there is still more work needing to be done to combat the widespread practice of proxy purchase. Much of this problem stems from the fact that certain members of the public, and youths themselves, may not actually realise that to either purchase alcohol for, or on behalf of someone under 18, or to ask someone to do so, is a criminal offence.

During the summer months last year we piloted a very successful scheme called "You're Asking for It" in Burntisland which saw a reduction in anti-social behaviour type calls in the town. See www.youreaskingforit.com for more information.

On Friday 7th June 2019 with the support of the entire local licensed off sales premises, we re-launched the campaign in the town to coincide with a launch in Kinghorn. The aims of the campaign remain the same and they are to educate members of the public that it is a criminal offence to:

Buy or attempt to buy alcohol for a young person or to supply alcohol to a young person.

Also to make people under the age of 18 aware that to buy or attempt to buy alcohol is an offence.

The campaign will again run over the summer months and due to the penalties that can be incurred on conviction in court (3 months prison sentence and/or £5000 fine) any person found committing any of the aforementioned offences, including those persons under the age of 18, **will** be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

As the local Community police officers for Burntisland it is important to us that any kind of anti-social behaviour issues are dealt with and that residents in the town work with us to combat it. This is your town and we rely on you all to help us, the police, deal with it. And, while we don't expect anyone to

patrol areas affected by anti-social behaviour as that is our job, we do ask you all, as always, to report things to us directly on **101** and not via social media. We also ask you all to please respect this campaign and if you are aware of anyone who is involved in proxy purchase to again report it to us either via **101** or directly at the below email addresses.

The summer months tend to see an increase in many people going away on holiday and although break-ins to houses are not commonplace these days we do advise those lucky enough to be going away for any length of time to ensure that their property is secure with alarms and outside lighting fitted and in good working order where possible. Anyone worried about their home security or looking for advice can either look on the Police Scotland website under "Keep Safe" or they can book a free home security survey with the local Community Safety Officer.

We would also advise anyone going away to take care with what they post about their travels on social media sites as this may alert those within the criminal fraternity to vacant properties.

Due to our well received drop in clinics at the library they will continue to be held on the following dates:

Saturday 28th September	1100-1200 hours
Saturday 26th October	1100-1200 hours
Saturday 30th November	1100-1200 hours

Unfortunately, Lewis is being transferred to Headquarters but will be replaced by PC Daniel Hatch as from 25th August. Outwith the above dates Daniel and I are more than happy to speak to anyone with police related issues at a mutually suitable time & date. We can be contacted at 101 or email us at:

Elizabeth.James@Scotland.pnn.police.uk (until retiral on 5th September 2019)

Daniel.Hatch@Scotland.pnn.police.uk (after 25th August)

BurntislandKinghornWesternKirkcaldyCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association by Iain Ralph

The CBTRA is now looking forward to the summer season and all the extra people that it brings to the town. Burntisland has a lot to offer visitors, whether they be visiting family or are tourists. Without these visitors we may not have our thriving High Street.

Walking hand in hand with the increase in visitors, we see an increase in alcohol related incidents so we applaud the efforts of our local Community Police Officers in re- invigorating the "you're asking for it" campaign. This campaign is aimed at young and old alike who attempt to buy alcohol when they are either not of an age to buy it or are adults buying alcohol for young people. Last year's reduction in mindless, alcohol related vandalism and crime was very noticeable within the boundaries of the TRA. Long may it continue.

We are continuing to work with Fife Council to make our area a better place to live for all residents and I am pleased to announce that we have just achieved our first milestone. "Permit Parking" for the residents of the Kirkgate, Somerville Square

and West Leven Street has been approved by Fife Council, (Kirkcaldy Area Committee), so hopefully in the near future we should see the implementation of this project.

The TRA is continuing to work on behalf of its residents and hopefully, in the not to distant future, a number of planters (working in conjunction with FAB and Fife Council) and new benches will appear in our area.

However, there is an emerging problem. In recent weeks we have seen an increase in fly tipping. It is important that any resident who witnesses anybody leaving rubbish on the streets, reports the offender to the Safer Communities team who will arrange for items to be disposed of and who will investigate who was responsible. It is a criminal offence to fly tip and hefty fines are in place for those caught doing it.

Our next TRA meeting on the second Thursday (8th) in August but if any problems should arise in the meantime the TRA can be contacted via our Facebook page.

The Burntisland Common Good Fund

The previous issue of the Burgh Buzz reported on an audacious decision by Fife Council to help themselves to £100,000 from our Common Good Fund. It was an appalling decision and one which continues to have repercussions. So why does it matter?

The fund has been used in recent years to support a huge variety of local events and organizations, including the Heritage Trust, Sailing Club, two playparks, Civic Week, Christmas lights and many more besides.

The Links is owned by the Common Good Fund, as are other properties in the town. Fife Council pay a nominal rent for their use of the Links, in return for which they take full responsibility for repairs and maintenance, whilst keeping all of the rent from the fairground. They say their action in taking an extra £100,000 from the fund for electrical maintenance was “perfectly lawful”. No, it wasn’t. This was a change in practice of such magnitude that it easily falls within the legal requirement for consultation.

They also say that their action “...would not compromise the sustainability of the fund”. Such financial illiteracy is disturbing. There hasn’t been a payment from the Common Good Fund on anything like this scale for 25 years. You can’t take £100,000 out of the pot, knowing that the rent from other Common Good properties has diminished, and claim that it will have no effect.

The Community Council have decided unanimously to oppose Fife Council’s action and we are pursuing several avenues to that effect.

One is the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. Their role is to investigate maladministration which has led to a “personal grievance”. Whatever the merits of the case may be, the Community Council is not legally a “person” so we have had to adjust our complaint accordingly.

We will also approach Audit Scotland, who oversee the financial management of local authorities. They are certainly open to a complaint from the Community Council and will act on poor financial management, service failures or unlawful spending. There is a further option of separate legal action, given Fife Council’s eccentric approach to the legislation.

In the first instance, we have to give Fife Council a final opportunity to take their own corrective action. It’s a straightforward decision: they have to acknowledge the existing contractual arrangements and their own management failures, by taking full responsibility for the £100,000 gap in funding.

Given that we are now in the peak holiday period, there is every possibility that changes over the next month or two will be slow. However, our own action will continue throughout that period and will be reported in due course.

Alex. MacDonald

Chairman

Royal Burgh of Burntisland Community Council



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Burntisland Primary School News

This term has seen the crowning of the new Royal Party here at BPS. What an exciting time for our new royal family – we wish them all the best as they take on their Royal duties. Civic Week got off to a great start with a fabulous ‘Space and Science’ theme parade. A group of wonderful parents, staff and pupils dressed up for the occasion and marched in the parade as Team BPS – well done to all.

This term all pupils in **Primary 1** went on a class trip to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh, where they took part in a teddy bears picnic. They raised money for this trip by doing a sponsored teddy bear walk. They really enjoyed their first school sports day, and their trips to the beach for outdoor learning. We can’t believe our P1 pupils will move into P2 after the holidays, it has been such a fast year.

Primary 2 pupils were lucky enough to have their farm topic come to life this term, with a visit from a tractor and Bella the Cow. Pupils made butter and tasted it afterwards. P2 classes also went on a bus trip to Almond Valley Heritage Centre where they met lots of different types of farm animals and then went for a ride on a tractor. They also visited the Burntisland Community Garden where they planted lots of seeds.

Primary 3 just loved sports day when they had so much fun. Their topic has been The Rainforest, and as part of this they decided to source and plant trees to show their awareness of how important trees are to the world. Pupils in P3B were also delighted to welcome their new teacher, Mr Stewart – who is settling in well to life at BPS.



Civic Week Parade

Can you identify the yellow suited monster?

This term **Primary 4** have enjoyed creating their own aboriginal inspired artwork. They loved participating in sports day and showing determination whilst doing so. They received a wonderful visit from Zoo Lab which they all loved. P3/4 and P4 would like to say a massive thank you to Joanna Clarke for coming to share fantastic stories with them each week. It has been wonderful.

Primary 5 enjoyed a trip to Aberdour where they learned about swim safety. They also enjoyed their outdoor learning experiences. P5 pupils have also been going out into the school garden where they have been planting flowers and giving the garden a makeover. It looks fabulous! We can’t wait to see how this progresses next session.

This term, pupils in **Primary 6** have enjoyed their Happy and Healthy - Health and Wellbeing topic. They also loved Mr Hubbard’s football club and sports day. They have been learning about the human eye and nose and experienced lessons from a visiting English teacher from Balwearie High School. This is a key feature of our upper school transition programme and a fantastic opportunity for pupils to start forming relationships with secondary school staff.

And last but not least – our amazing **Primary 7** pupils. This has been an extremely busy term for P7, as always. They performed their end of year show ‘Let the Games Begin’ at the end of May and they were all fantastic during the rehearsal process and the performances! They attended Balwearie High School for their two day visits and came back to Burntisland Primary with wonderful memories and excitement for what the next year holds for them!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our P7s all the best as they move on to this next chapter in their lives. Each and every one of them has made us incredibly proud this year; showing determination, resilience and enthusiasm in all aspects of their learning. They are absolute superstars and we are going to miss them so very much! Don’t be strangers – make sure you come back to visit!

Written by Evie Sales, Erin Cooper, Josh Holmes, Danielle Wood, Jenna Mason and Jessica Macedo



Towards the end of May, I was privileged to attend the Primary 7 leavers’ show in the main hall of Burntisland Primary School. The performance took the form of a musical pantomime which involved virtually all of the senior year pupils in one capacity or another.

The grand opening featured technology crazed youngsters in a video games arena to the impressive sounds of a communal chorus. This was followed by three of the youths being transported into Game Land, a land of fortune, through grandad’s seven sided dice. Here, the three were pitted against the unscrupulous Lady Fortune who tried to cheat to victory in any game she played.

After a dramatic game of Monopoly, which contained witty references to Scotrail’s recent

inefficiencies, Vicky was sent to jail and the two remaining boys were then required to defeat Lady Fortune, first in Cluedo and then in a game of Chess in order to free her. These scenes were played out dramatically and included cleverly choreographed dancing and clear vocal arrangements. The audience participated enthusiastically, expressing loud dissension when Lady Fortune appeared on stage and ardently cheering when Vicky was finally released from jail, following the boys’ victory at Chess. The grand finale returned to the video games arena with the whole cast participating in a communal chorus.

This was a most impressive performance in which pupils and staff have taken full advantage of the fantastic BPS facilities.

Bill Kirkhope





Oor Wullie Bucket Trail

In February, Starley Hall signed up for the Oor Wullie Big Bucket Trail, and in April we received our sculpture. Two of our pupils, Anthony and Shane set to work. They took photos of Burntisland, cut the photos up and used the technique of decoupage to complete the sculpture. Oor Starley Hall sculpture can be found outside Dundee library.

The aim of the Bucket Trail is to raise money for the sick children's hospitals in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee. We are fundraising for the Archie Foundation in Dundee. So far, Ian has raised £230 through enterprise sales.

If you are looking for something to occupy the weans in the summer then download the Oor Wullie app on your phone, choose a city and find the sculptures.



Buddy Bench

Word has spread about the success of the buddy benches that our kids made for Burntisland primary, and Woodmill high school. Recently, our pupils were asked to create a bench for Lumphinnans Primary School. Fraser, and one of our older pupils, Ian, visited Lumphinnans school to find out what sort of bench they would like. They opted for the eight sided bench – each seat is made and painted by a pupil.



Floral Action Burntisland (FAB)

Some of the kids at Starley have mucked in to help in the fantastic work that the FAB volunteers do to brighten up Burntisland. Simon made some sunflowers to give an all year feel of summer to this garden. Also, in March Shane and Anthony helped prepare the soil and plant snowdrops in preparation for the spring.



Shane has added to the sealife sculptures at the Beacon with his marvellous mosaic rainbow fish.



Coming to a lamppost near you!

Come September, the pupils of Starley Hall will help with the dog business in Burntisland. The community council have asked if we could build dog boxes that will help give better access for dog walkers to dispose of their dog waste, and of course we are happy to help. We would be barking (sorry!) mad not to do so.

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Change Works in Burntisland welcomes their 1,000th visitor!

We've had a very busy summer in the Hub in the High Street, which included welcoming our 1,000th visitor since opening our doors at the end of January.

Kirsty Tait and her lovely children popped into the Hub to tell us how pleased they were with the energy monitor we gave her on a free long-term loan. However, she was in for an extra treat when she was presented with a Change Works in Burntisland goodie bag to mark the occasion

If you haven't yet visited us, please come and see us. We have various ways we can help you reduce your energy bills and keep your homes and businesses warmer. We also stock Bio-D refills, Natural Leaf food wraps and Bodyluscious soaps. Why not come along to one of our free workshops and help reduce Burntisland's carbon footprint?



The Tait family helping us celebrate our 1,000th visitor!



Young Keir with his new plastic free wax wrap

Warm Home Discount

Did you know, you might be eligible for £140 towards your fuel bills this winter? Energy companies have different qualifying criteria, and most have very short windows (starting in August) during which you can apply. Pop in to see us with a copy of your bill and we can find out if you're eligible, when you need to apply, and we can even help you to submit an application.



**Change Works
in Burntisland**

Calling all new Mums and Dads!

Many of you have told us that you're worried about sending disposable nappies to landfill and have asked for our help. We're delighted to announce that we will launch our new reusable nappy trial on Thursday 1st August! Reusable nappies are nicer for your baby, better for the environment and kinder to your purse. We'll have starter packs of reusable nappies available to buy (subsidised at £25 instead of £45 RRP), nappies for free loan (while stocks last), and lots of advice from Hub staff with first-hand experience.

On the first Thursday of every month, we are also planning to have informal Nappuccino style sessions (free coffee and cake!) for anyone wanting to meet other parents and share nappy chat. Follow us on Facebook and make sure you have signed up to our newsletter <http://bit.ly/BurntislandEbulletin> to keep up to date with this new project.

♥ Love Your Older Home - 23 October 2019 ♥

Have you ever wondered what you can do to make your older home more energy efficient? Come along to our free event for impartial advice on how you can keep warm in your home, reduce energy use and lower your bills.

On the night you will:

- Learn about different types of insulation, draught-proofing and glazing replacement
- Get help and advice from expert speakers and installers
- Find out about funding options and the benefits of energy efficiency
- Burntisland Sands hotel 23 October 2019, 5.30 pm–7.30 pm, free refreshments provided.

To book your free place just pop into the hub, give us a call on 01592 724424, e-mail burntisland@changeworks.org.uk or send us a message through our Facebook page.



Beach Toy Library

Every summer, buckets and spades are left abandoned on beaches throughout Scotland. Some of these are left by accident, others are bought cheaply and deliberately abandoned. Either way, if they're not picked up, they end up

polluting the seas.

We work hard on picking up all sorts of litter from the beach, but the abandoned toys get a special place to go: our Beach Toy Library.

We leave this box of buckets, spades, and other bits and pieces outside The Beach House for any visitors to borrow. This means no-one's having to buy new plastic that's barely used, or lug about buckets along with all the other kids' stuff, and none of it ends up in the sea.

This is the second year we've been running the Library, and we're already noticing a lot fewer abandoned toys, and lots of kind locals donating old buckets and spades.



By **Mary Hindle**

The attendance at our AGM in June was disappointing and we failed to recruit any new members. There have been no changes to our committee.

However, if anyone would like to join our group please contact us through our Facebook page. The committee meet approx. six times a year, and plans fundraising events to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

We also plan to take part in a new project this year called "Race for Life Schools". This is a new campaign in which we would support the school in their fundraising activities and the money raised would go towards Cancer Research.

Amongst our planned activities this year is our biannual bowling competition on the 24th August. This competition is in honour of Sadie Edwards who served on our committee for over thirty years and helped raised lots of money for Cancer Research.

We are also having Des and the Dingoes at Burntisland Golf Club on Saturday 9th November 2019. This is always a very popular night. Tickets will be on sale at the beginning of September.

Burrtisland Playgroup News

It has once again been a very busy term here at Burrtisland Playgroup. The children have been actively engaged in the Civic Week theme of Space and Science, which seems to have particularly captured their imaginations. Many of the children have shown great interest in the planets and space, and were very excited about dressing up as astronauts for the Civic Week parade.

The children had a fantastic time and looked brilliant with their space suits and rocket booster packs. They were absolutely thrilled to win first prize in the group costume competition, and a big thank you goes to all the parents who put in so much hard work making costumes and props for the big day.

The children have also spent time exploring their own natural world closer to home, with several visits to the woods over the last few months. The children really enjoy getting out into the woods and come back muddy from head to toe – always a sign of a having had a great time.



We wish all the children every success and happiness as they move on to the next stage in their learning journey. We also extend our sincere thanks to all the parents for their help with fundraising, events and outings throughout the year and wish everyone a very happy summer holiday.

Gillian Campbell



This is a very exciting time for the Playgroup children as they prepare for their transition to school nursery, and we have had several transition visits to the nursery over the last few weeks. These seem to have been very successful with most children ready and excited to move on to new adventures. It is always sad to say goodbye to the happy faces that we have grown to know so well over the course of the year.



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Burntisland Heritage Trust

Part of the inventory of the Burntisland Common Good assets comprise three oil paintings which are currently displayed in the Burntisland Burgh Chambers. Just over a decade ago these paintings were examined by Conservation and Restoration professionals at the request of Kirkcaldy Museum (now Fife Cultural Trust) and Burntisland Heritage Trust. The recommendation was that all of the paintings were in need of restoration.

Unfortunately at that time Burntisland Heritage Trust lacked the resources to proceed with the restoration and conservation project. The trust has now, thanks to a generous donation, the Co-op Locality Fund and the Common Good Fund, secured sufficient funding to take the project forward. This project will restore the common good paintings to their original condition and will retain and possibly enhance the value of these Burntisland Common Good Assets. Importantly, the paintings will be protected and conserved for the benefit of the community, visitors to the town and future generations.

Two of the paintings are by Andrew Young (1854 – 1925) who was a professional photographer who lived and worked in Burntisland. He was a distinguished artist and eleven of his paintings all belonging to the Burntisland Common Good now hang in the Burgh Chambers.

Andrew Young's most well-known oil paintings are 'The Bridge of Life' and 'The Magistrates' Seat' and it is these paintings which are in need of restoration. The Bridge of Life painting depicts 85 characters who all lived in Burntisland at

the time the painting was completed in 1923. A further oil painting by S. Humble is dated 1834. It is one of the oldest paintings of Burntisland in existence and shows a view of the town from the Lammerlaws prior to the arrival of the railway and the extensive development of the harbour.

Burntisland Heritage Trust has in recent years, from a donation and a purchase, added a further 12 Andrew Young paintings to the existing collection in the Burgh Chambers. This collection of 23 paintings comprises a unique and valuable heritage asset to the community.



Museum of Communication

MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATION

For one of our Exhibition displays for 2019, we thought it would be a good idea to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ultimate

Communication - Man's first landing on the Moon which also ties in nicely with Burntisland Civic Week's chosen theme this year. We've built a 1/50th scale model of the HUGE Saturn V rocket (*real height - 363 feet - more than 60 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty*) which, when fully fuelled for 'Lift-Off', weighed about the same as **400 elephants**. When built, it cost 375,000 dollars - which equates to several billion dollars today.

We've also got a large and fascinating Globe of the Moon itself, (complete with craters), on which we show the Sea of Tranquillity, where 'The Eagle' landed, 50 years ago this month. No Little Green Men alas!!!!.... but we saw plenty of them in Burntisland recently. On that memorable day last month, the Sun shone a wee bit, on the newly crowned Queen. but



when you read the following statistics, you may start to realise why regular sunny days are not too predictable. Here are a few 'Facts and Figures' to make you think.

The SUN is the most important source of life and energy on Earth. It is just an ordinary STAR - like millions of others and is much larger than the Earth. Our Planet would fit inside the Sun over one million times!! It is the centre of our Solar System, and pulls several major planets into orbit round it. After Mercury and Venus, EARTH is the third closest to the Sun, at a distance of about 150 million km - or 93 million miles from it. Even though LIGHT travels at the mind-boggling speed of 186,000 miles per second, it takes about eight and a half minutes for the Sun's light to reach Earth.

Scientists estimate the temperature at the Sun's core to be about 15 million degrees centigrade.

Dorothy Brankin



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Floral Action Burntisland

As we head into the summer months, FAB's floral displays are now in full bloom and are looking beautiful (if I say so myself!).

Burntisland was judged for the Beautiful Fife campaign on Wednesday 17th July. As always, we were hoping to show the judges all the hard work we have been doing over the last year and to show off our lovely wee town. We will have to wait until September to hear the results but we are aiming to retain our Gold Award.

A couple of new additions to our floral displays this year include additional hanging baskets on the High Street and two new barrel planters on the beach promenade. If the barrel planters are a success this summer we will consider adding more for next year.

As you all know by now, FAB aren't all about flowers but we look at other aspects of the environment too. We instigated the painting of the sea wall and have identified other areas needing a facelift including various railings around the town.

We have decided to hold our Open Garden Weekend on Sunday 11th August between 12.00 and 16.00. To enjoy the day and to get the opportunity to visit the gardens you will need to buy a map for £3. These will be sold at various locations prior to the day. More information can be found through our Facebook page and in the local press.

Hopefully we'll have a nice summer to allow our planting bloom and make Burntisland fabulous!

Scott Sweaton



Burntisland & District Pipe Band

Burntisland and District Pipe band has had an extremely busy summer so far.

We started in April, where lots of the children were competing in their respective solo categories at competitions in Livingston and Lochgelly - with some competing for the first time. Everyone did very well and some picked up a few prizes for their efforts.

The band also played in the sunshine at Kinghorn's Spring Fayre and took part in the more windier affair of the Cub Scout march along Burntisland links.

Although May was a quieter month for the band, it also saw the start of our outdoor competition season with our first trip of the year to the British Championships in Paisley. We again had quite a few children playing in their first outdoor competition and had our new Lead Drummer, Erica Wyse, leading the drum corps for the first time too.

June is the band's busiest month of the year with the band busy every weekend. We had gala parades in Burntisland and Kinghorn and also took part in a very wet Dalgety Bay Gala Day.

In between our parades, we had competitions at Markinch, Lochore Meadows and Inverness. At Lochore, we played very well and the band managed to pick up two second places. We continued to improve and have had our best performance and result to date achieving a 10th at the European Championships in Inverness - it was definitely worth the three hour bus journey and 05:00am start!

Mid way through July we played a leading role on Market Day. It is always a great experience this year it was extra special as we played in glorious sunshine... it really makes the day!

The band played around the High Street pubs in the afternoon and a huge thank to the many revellers who donated their spare change to our collection. All the money that we have raised is going towards funding a trip for the children to see the Pre-World Championship concert in Glasgow Concert Hall, this year featuring Scottish Power Pipe Band.

Our drum corps are particularly excited this year as we have our own Scott Birrell playing on stage. He is a great inspiration for the kids and really shows if you work hard enough then anything is possible.

Our next competition will be the Scottish Championships in Dumbarton, where we are looking to improve upon our 10th

place result from the last Major Championships. We then finish our summer major competitions with a trip to Glasgow to compete at the World Pipe Band championships held on Glasgow Green.

We are clearly a band that never stands still and we are looking to recruit the next generation of drummers. If you, or someone you know is between 10-15 and would like to learn the snare drum with us, please get in touch via our Facebook page or come and speak to us when you see us around the town. Who knows, you may be the next ex-Burntisland drummer to play on stage at the Glasgow Concert Hall!

Follow us on our Burntisland Pipe Band Facebook page to keep up to date with all our antics. Thanks again for all your support.

Pipe Major Craig Hooper



Civic Week 2019



This year's theme for Civic Week was "Space and Science" which meant we had an out of this world parade—with aliens, astronauts, spaceships, rockets, planets, and mad scientists making their way along the High Street.

It was brilliant to see more groups and cosmic characters taking part. The judges had a very difficult job of picking the fancy dress winners! Best dressed group went to the Playgroup, ahead of Smart Electrics and the Swimming Club. Fortunately the weather was kind to us this year allowing the parade and Party on the Links to go ahead.

Thanks once again to Adrina Wallace for organising the Royal Party, Carole-Anne Crossan for acting as Master of ceremonies and to Citizen of the Year Willi Henderson for crowning the Summer King & Queen, Spencer Davies and Ella Forrester.

Civic Week began with the shop window competition, which was won by One One Four gift shop, a relatively new addition to the High Street.

On Beach Day we had a surprise hailstorm interrupting the sandcastle competition—forcing everyone to shelter in the tunnel! Luckily the judging went ahead and the sun came out in the afternoon for the scavenger hunt and beach games.

Four crews took part in the Raft Race, with Joel Mason and Douglas Hamilton retaining the trophy. There was an intense battle behind as Netball Mums took second, ahead of Science Belles and Xfighter. Massive thanks to Tom Courts Burntisland Butchers for sponsoring the event and providing the cash prizes for all the participants. It was great to have the RNLI Lifeboat and Kinghorn Coastal Rowing's skiff in attendance once again.

On the second Saturday a hotly-contested adult 5-a-side football tournament took place at the Beacon astro, which was won on penalties by the Original YBT. Earlier in the day, the Shipyard 2007s, 08s, and Futsal Escocia teams played at Recreation Park. Well done to everyone who took part and supported the event.

It was a fun night at the Toll Community Centre's Rewind Disco with Jimmy D DJ coming out of retirement to take folk back to the 80s. And in keeping with the theme, the Toll also hosted a fabulous pop-up dome Planetarium, as well as arts and crafts.

Other highlights included the bowling competition, heritage walks, open mic night, pub events at the Crown, Jubilee, Tassie and Sands, along with Des and the Dingoes rounding off Civic Week at the Star.

As ever we are grateful for the support from all our programme sponsors: Archway Cabs, Briggs Marine, Burntisland AutoSpa, Burntisland Sands Hotel, C.Sinclair Fresh Fish Merchants, Call-Clean Dry Cleaners, Evolve Group, Fife Florist, First Class Childcare, Jason's Newsagents, Kingdom Amusements, Kingdom Kilts, Links Fish Bar, Lodge Dunearn, Reflections Hairdressing, Roof Force, Rotary Club of Burntisland & Kinghorn, Scott Pallets, SM Autos, Smarter Tax, Time for You, Tom Courts Burntisland Butchers, Trang and Not Just Travel.

Finally, thanks to everyone who contributed to Civic Week funds by dropping money into our collection buckets and tins.

We're now planning ahead for next year so if you would like to get involved or if you have any feedback on this year's events, please get in touch via email: burntislandcivicweek@gmail.com or message our Facebook page.





Photos courtesy Michael Booth

Burntisland Golf House Club



Swinging in the Sunshine (Sometimes)

As you would expect, it has been a busy time at the Club now that we are in the high season, although occasional cloudbursts have dampened some spirits. The course has stood up fantastically well to the changeable conditions, and remains one of the finest around.

The Club Match Play Championships took place recently and there was some fine golf on display.

In the Gents, Blaine McGowan took the top honours at the first time of asking. He needed every hole and more to see off local stalwart Charlie Baird, but he eventually got the job done at the 38th hole. Some of you will know Blaine from working in the shop at Dodhead and he is enjoying his first competitive season here.

The Ladies Club Championship was won by Anne Main, who was recapturing the title after a 17 year hiatus. Her opponent in the final was Joyce Murdoch, who lost out for the second year running at that stage. Despite a spirited performance Joyce couldn't add to her impressive haul of titles.

The Seniors Scratch Champion once again is David Thom, who had to overcome few opponents on his way to retaining the title he took last year. This year's victim was David Galloway, a relative newcomer to the senior way of doing.

In the other divisions – Bruce McLaren, currently having a purple patch, took the 'B' Championship in the Gents, narrowly seeing off Neil Orrock in the final, the pair of them having a fair old ding dong of a game which went to the last green; John Gunster took the Senior Handicap honours, beating Trevor

Miles; and Joe Meldrum exacted revenge on Kieran Page in the Juniors final, having lost out in the final the previous two years. Joe is having an excellent season and had a good run in the main event as well.

The Ladies Bronze championship went the way of Kerry Foley, a recently new convert to the game who, having shamelessly ousted her daughter in an earlier round was too good for Emma Main in the final. This was the second year running that Emma lost out at the final stage, and I'm sure she'll be back next year trying to make it third time lucky.

On finals evening all those who spoke when receiving trophies, heaped praise on the quality of the course, and this was echoed by all within earshot. Congratulations and thanks once again to Stevie McAughey and his team, for all their endeavours.

Summer coaching has now started for the juniors and it was nice to see a few new faces in the ranks. There's still plenty room for more so don't be shy in making enquiries for your children, grandchildren or children of friends. The more the merrier.

There are deals for NEW members in most categories, and you can also now enjoy half subscriptions till the end of the year in most categories. In particular it would be nice to see more ladies playing the game here at Burntisland and, in recognition of the Solheim Cup being hosted here in Scotland, we at Burntisland would like to offer ladies, who are thinking about joining, a further 10% OFF subscription rates in both Full and 5-Day categories. So, that's a tremendous 30% off in total.

Dave McPherson

Burntisland Shipyard FC



Some people believe that the summer is a quiet time for football. It is in most cases for the players but for those behind the scenes it can be a hectic time. A meeting here, an AGM there, a meeting about a meeting and so it goes on.

This year at the Shipyard has been one of the busiest I can recall. The usual re-registering of players, finding new recruits and organising pre-season friendlies was completed but we have had the extra work of painting the dressing rooms, scrubbing the floors and general cleaning of the clubhouse. The covered enclosure was badly in need of a lick of paint and we also undertook the task of improving the condition of the pitch. Thankfully all has gone well and everything is looking good for the start of the new season.

With this being the Club's centenary season, we are delighted to announce that Dunfermline Athletic FC have kindly agreed to send a team to Recreation Park to play a commemorative match on Tuesday 6th August with the game kicking off at 7.00 pm.

The Club has welcomed three new members to the committee with David Laing, Allan Cooper and Mark Welsh coming on board. Their expertise in different areas will help the Club immensely as we move forward. On the management side, former player Russell Craig has agreed to be Stuart Innes' assistant. A handful of new players have joined the squad with local lad Iain Millar among them.

We are about to embark on a huge new project as the Scottish Football Association are making it mandatory that clubs at our level have floodlights. This promises to be a difficult and expensive task. Nonetheless, we have begun the process and the agent working on the club's behalf has submitted planning permission documents. It promises to be an exciting period ahead for the Club.

Andrew Beveridge

Burntisland Angling Club

Since the notification in the Burgh Buzz (February 2019), the club held a meeting on 13th May 2019 in the Jubilee Tavern, Burntisland.

We had a good attendance considering the substantial period in which the club had not functioned. We had a fruitful and agreeable debate concerning many aspects of fishing at Stenhouse Reservoir.

Nevertheless, we decided unanimously to disband the Club and donate the remaining finance between three local charitable organisations, as well as a donation to the Atlantic Salmon Trust. These donations have now been made.

Our thanks go to Dave Henderson of the Jubilee Tavern who kindly provided a room for us to have our final meeting.

Tom Bryce

Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club

We had our AGM in May and an update on the Rotary year so far. President Ros said that from her perspective, it had been a very quick year with lots of Rotary highlights.

George Hudson and Derek Thomson did most of the RNLI Coastal Walk on the 11th of May with their Rotary tabards on, although the call of a pub proved too strong for them to resist and finish the walk.

On the 14th we had Fiona Corner from Dementia Dogs who gave a wonderful presentation on how specially trained dogs are helping people with dementia live in their own homes longer and lead fuller lives. Unfortunately she wasn't able to bring a dog along but the photos were good.

I have never met anyone as enthusiastic about potatoes as our speaker on the 21st, John Marshall. Having worked with the Potato Marketing Board and obviously having a love of all things tattie – he then travelled to Peru to see how they are grown there.

We finished off the month with a barbecue informal evening. At the Council meeting most of the discussion was around where we would spend our hard earned money at the end of the Rotary year. It is really good to be able to support some of our speakers and local organisations and it is a timely reminder of why we do what we do. It was agreed to invite all the recipients of cheques to attend our next informal meeting on the 25th June to celebrate their contributions to the community.

On 2 July President Ros chaired the last meeting of her year as president. She said that she had enjoyed her year very much, that it had seemed to fly by and that she would recommend the opportunity to other members. She then handed over to President Ken Kirkwood and wished him well in his year of office.

Alan Smart



The Handover

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BEAVERS

cubs

SCOUTS

EXPLORERS

2019 is the Centenary of the 11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group and to mark this event we took 110 youth members aged from 6 to 18 to the Lochgoilhead Scout Activity Centre for a weekend of adventurous activities.

During the weekend our young people took on challenges, tried exciting new activities while working together in teams to support each other and had lots of fun. The Scouts and Explorers did a wide range of different things from abseiling, kayaking, climbing, a burn run where they walked up a river and climbed up waterfalls before diving into deep natural pools. Our Cubs put their knot skills to good use when they built rafts which they then sailed on the Loch. They also did rock climbing, canoeing and high rope challenges. Our youngest section of Beavers took on many challenges and had a great time going on a speed boat which they all took turns steering. They also did some climbing, sailing and developed their fire lighting and bush craft skills.

It really was a fantastic weekend and as always, the behaviour of our young people was superb, they really are a credit to the

Group and the town.

We will be having an Open Day Coffee Morning on October 19th to celebrate our centenary and showcase what the scouts do and the history of the group. Everyone is welcome to pop along anytime between 1pm and 5pm at Burntisland Parish Church Hall.

Our Group continues to grow and we can always do with additional leaders and executive committee members. Whatever time you have available there will be a flexible role to suit you from an hour a week, one evening per month or even just when you're available you will join a welcoming group where you will make new friends and help our youth members continue to have adventures and make fantastic memories. Anyone that is interested in helping please get in touch at 11thFife@gmail.com



Dillon's Wheelchair Fund

The family of local lad Dillon McLaren are raising £5,000 to buy a new wheelchair. 25 year-old Dillon has hydrocephalus epilepsy and severe learning disability, but loves being outdoors and meeting new people. The new powered wheelchair will make it a lot easier for his family to take Dillon out and about.

Local businesses and the public have been very generous with donations towards fundraising

events. Dillon's mum Aileen, along with Lynn Morran ran the Black Rock Race in aid of the fund. Almost £1,200 was raised at a fantastic Bingo Night at the Jubilee Tavern in June.

In July, a further £376 was raised at a match between the town's football teams, Shipyard and United, bringing the total to £2,877.00.

If you wish to donate, please visit the Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/shirley-kent-1



Hard work pays off

Burrtisland boy, 8 year old Lee Sinclair, who attends Burrtisland Primary School, is headed off to Sardinia in October to compete in the Elite Taekwondo ITF World Championships.

He started a three and a half years old for fun but his aptitude and flair for the sport turned into him competing in local competitions where he started to win.

Now Lee, who is a red belt 2nd kup, has worked hard enough to compete in Sardinia. He will be the youngest Scottish participant. He trains 6 classes each week in the disciplines of Taekwondo.

In March of this year Lee attended the English Championships where he was awarded a silver medal forces patterns.

It is hoped to have a fundraiser later this year to assist in his costs as this is a self-funded competition.



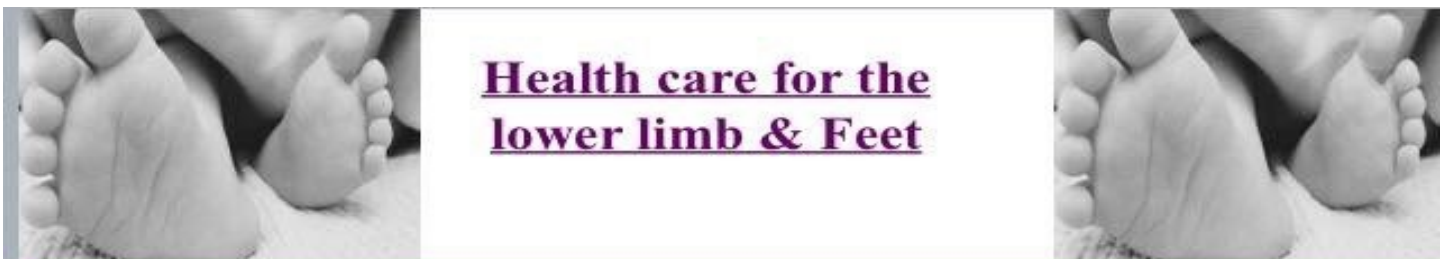
Community Council Changes

The Burrtisland Community Council is an active organisation in which members volunteer for the primary roles. George McLaughlan, who for a number of years has performed superbly in the dual roles of Secretary and Treasurer, has decided to step down from the Secretary position with effect from August but will continue as Treasurer. The Chairman has appealed for a volunteer from within the elected members to take up the secretary's responsibilities.

Additionally, Carol-Anne Crossan has decided to step down from the Community Council because of conflicting

demands on her time. A former Community Award winner, Carole-Anne will continue to champion local initiatives, in particular fund raising for the Christmas lights.

Carol-Anne's departure means that the Council has a vacancy for a new member. Anyone interested in joining the Community Council is encouraged to attend regular meetings to gain a fuller understanding of what is required of a member. Details of meetings are included in the Events Diary on page 22.



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St Columba's Parish Church



Rags to Riches for Mary's Meals charity

For five days at the beginning of June, a collection of unwanted textile goods took place at the Parish Church and Solid Rock, with over 150 bags donated.

The items were collected to help raise funds for Mary's Meals, which sets up school feeding projects in some of the world's poorest communities where hunger and poverty prevent children from gaining an education.

Collection organiser Ann Smith said "It costs £13.90 to provide a child with Mary's Meals for the full school year, which is roughly three bags full of rags. Good clothing items which could be sold were also taken to the Mary's Meals charity shop in Inverkeithing. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously."

Pictured with Ann are Mary's Meals volunteers from Glasgow



Word Search - Burntisland and the Bible?

The BBC reported that the Folio Society (on behalf of UK Gov.) took a survey of 2,000 British adults asking those polled to choose the most significant book of today's world. Basing this on the books influence on humanity the poll chose the Bible as number one at 37%. This was followed by The Origin of Species (35%), A Brief History of Time (17%), Relativity (15%) and Nineteen-Eighty-Four in fifth place (14%). It should not be surprising that the bible was at the top since it is not only the best-selling book of all times, but it has topped the best seller list year after year.



Below are some interesting facts about the bible...

- **The Bible has 66 books that were written by 40 individuals over a period of 1500 years.**
- **It was written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek.**
- **According to Guinness World Records, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time, with an estimated 5 billion copies sold and distributed. Over 100 million copies are printed a year.**
- **The shortest verse in the bible is John 11:35 'He Wept', referring to Jesus grief for Lazarus.**
- **It is estimated that Shakespeare alluded to the bible over 1200 times.**
- **Some well-known phrases taken from the bible include, a wolf in sheep's clothing, am I my brother's keeper, a thorn in the flesh and a leopard cannot change its spots.**

Another more local fact is the role Burntisland played regarding the Bible. In May 1601, King James VI of Scotland attended the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland at St Columba's Church in Burntisland, Fife to argue in favour of a new translation of the Bible into English having translated a number of psalms himself. This helped in making the bible accessible to the English-speaking population which attributed to many of the above facts.

In light of this St Serf's and the All Souls Churches are inviting people along the Fife Coast to join us starting at the end of August for what is known as **The Bible Course**. The Bible Course is an 8-session course that explores the world's bestseller. Accessible and interactive, it will enhance and inform ones understanding of the Bible, whether you are new to the Bible or want to go deeper. Using a unique storyline, the course shows how the key events, books and characters all fit together. You'll get to see the BIG picture and discover how the Bible applies to your own life.



The course will be running in many different formats and times so if interested please contact our office on office@allsoulsfife.org.uk. If you would like to get a taste of this course please come along to the first session which is on **Sunday 25th August 6:00pm at St Serf's church**. For more information word search (excuse the pun) **The Bible Course**.

All Are Welcome,

Dean

We Love God, Each Other & Our Community

News from St Joseph's Church

Recently in St Joseph's we had two lovely celebrations of First Holy Communion. Congratulations to Rowan, Mirren and Bella. They looked beautiful on the day and participated so well in the ceremony.

To use the language of the Curriculum for Excellence, they were successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. They were very well prepared, so thanks are due to their parents and our parish catechists, who give so much of their time voluntarily. We will soon begin preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for children currently in Primary 4.

The Knit and Knatter group meets in the Church Hall on a Friday morning, 10.30am-12.00pm. All are welcome. The group are currently making blankets for the homeless and woolly hats for seafarers.

The SSVP continue to operate a drop off point for donations to the local Foodbank. Items can be left in the box in the porch.

Enjoy what is left of the summer.

Fr James



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Erskine Church News

I hope you had an enjoyable Games Day. Erskine halls were busy as the sun shone brightly & so many people came to the town. Well done to the church team-all of whom worked extremely hard to keep our visitors fed & watered throughout the day.

News. Usual joint services with Burntisland Parish this summer, two in July (21st & 28th) at Erskine, followed by two in August (18th & 25th) at the Parish. David Redmayne, new locum minister, is proving to be a real asset for the Parish & in ministry to our local community. It'll be good working with David and getting to know him better. You'd be very welcome to join us for any or all of these services.

Bigger news-3 churches (adding Kinghorn Parish) hope to meet for worship on 1st September at a different venue between Burntisland & Kinghorn! We hope this'll bring our congregations together, but that it'll also encourage people from both communities to give church a try. Keep an eye on the usual places for more info nearer the time. It's still at the planning stage. Can you work out the venue? Who says Christians should get out more? Come & joins us if you're free.

No one in Burntisland could fail to notice the big Ferris wheel erected on the Links, its presence recalls the way our

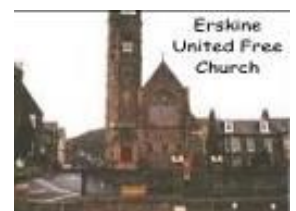
lives seem to be going round in circles. I call it the Burntisland Eye, it rotates slowly and I'd imagine the views are fab on a clear day. Maybe you find life frustrating, nothing changes and routine stays the same. "Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed" (Psalm 139.16, NLT). It helps me to believe that God has already prepared life's path, I need patience & stronger faith.

And finally. The next Erskine coffee & pancakes event will be on Saturday 24th August from 10am. Please get that date into your diary, I've done it already because the fresh gluten-free pancakes are so delicious! Hope to see you there.

Anyway time for summer with long evenings. Nothing beats a stroll on the beach as the day draws to a close with conditions bright, still & mild. Views across to Edinburgh are always changing with different moods & beautiful colours surrounding us. Wonderful. Enjoy.

Rev Alexander Ritchie





But that's not a bird! I know, perhaps it should be Burntisland Wildlifewatch. If only 'wildlife' began with a B. Whatever the name, it's about all wildlife just as the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) is about "Giving Nature a Home". All nature. To protect birds we have to protect the rest too - insects, mammals, landscapes...

So, hedgehogs. After three-quarters of a year of worrying about no hedgehogs in the garden we've had all of June with two snuffling around most nights. If you haven't heard them, hedgehogs are noisy creatures. Huffs, puffs, sighs and grunts. One particularly distinctive blowing noise, like someone sweeping the patio slabs, was heard by our neighbours through double glazing. I heard the same a few nights later and under the hedge got to watch two hogs - the smaller one backing away from a really large one, the large one making the noises. Possibly courtship, possibly dispute. We hope courtship and that they birth their hoglets in the homemade hog house behind our tumbledown shed.

It's brilliant to have hedgehogs in urban Burntisland as across the UK they're doing very badly, in large part due to loss of habitat. Charity Hedgehog Street has a great website with ideas to help protect

from extinction including letting bits of gardens grow long, cutting small access holes at the bottom of fences, putting out food and water, not using pesticides, driving slower on residential streets.



Now birds: Flocks of young starlings have been all over the town. Blue tit and robin and house sparrow chicks are visiting our feeders. After five years of seeing goldfinches in the garden only a few times, usually feasting on dandelion clocks, never on the specially-bought nyger seeds, suddenly we've had two or three every day, eating both the nyger and mixed seed. I often hear them flitting overhead but they never came down, so why are they suddenly dropping in now? A male chaffinch fed with them some days, another species we've almost never had.

House martins are nesting on a few buildings. Swallows I'm not sure if anyone has any at all. Swifts too are worryingly low in number. All three were hammered by extreme weather earlier in 2019 during their migration flights back from Africa. On top of this when they reach us each spring they find fewer and fewer old buildings suitable to nest on. Since 1995 we have lost half of UK swifts and without offering help we'll lose them all. Put up the correct nest boxes to offer places they can raise their young.

Butterflies have been interesting, the final weeks of June bringing many painted lady butterflies blown in by southerly winds. Also I've seen and heard of some red admirals, meadow brown, small whites and a very few small tortoiseshells. A great spot to see all these has been the lush strip of thistles, nettles and other wildflowers between the school fence and the burnside path. Thistles are excellent food for pollinators and of course are our national flower! Another nice place to watch insects is the biodiversity garden at the far east end of platform 2 at Burntisland station.

Let us know what's going on in your patch and join the **Burntisland Wildlife & Woodlands** group on Facebook to share photos, questions and ideas.

Craigencalt Trust News



The Trust took part in the Burntisland Civic Week for the first time this year. We had a stall on Parade Day, highlighting our troll under the wooden bridge located on our Rodanbraes Path. The path is family and disabled friendly, so open to everyone. We also held a childrens 'Draw a Troll' competition, and the many entries were judged at the end of the week's events. There were two sections, with the younger winner being Heather McDowall, and the older section winner, Reid Sweaton. Both drew very colourful, lively trolls. We would like to thank all the youngsters who took part in the competition.

Another highlight of the week was the Civic Week Walk, which invited walkers from Burntisland to join the Trust walking group on one of their regular walks. This took place in glorious weather when the group walked from Burntisland, across Pettycur Beach to Kinghorn, and up to Kinghorn Loch. We stopped at the 'Barn at the Loch' cafe for refreshments before returning to Burntisland via Rodanbraes Path. We were delighted that so many folk from Burntisland joined us on the walk.

The Trust Walking Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month, at 10am at the entrance to Craigencalt Farm road. Walks

cover the local area along the coast and inland and last approx 2hours. New walkers are welcome. If you would like further information, contact 01592 891330.

In June the Trust held its annual photo competition which was judged on the evening of our Friends Get-together. The standard was high with the most popular entries being wildlife photos which included lambs, moths, a stoat, a toad and birds of the loch. Ian Bell was the winner with his photo of great crested grebes, and his name is the seventh to be engraved on our silver cup.

On 16th August we have the Trust Annual Barbecue and on 21st August we have a tree identification walk led by Lyn Strachan, Fife Coast and Countryside Ranger, on Wednesday 21st August.

The trust will continue to be very busy this summer and we are always looking for new folk to give a hand with our projects. If you can help, please get in touch by telephoning 01592 891330 or emailing info@craigencalttrust.org.uk

Marilyn Edwards

Vet's Corner

To neuter or not to neuter?

This is one of the most common questions at the vets, but the decision is down to you.

If you wish to breed your animals, obviously you won't get them neutered. But if you don't want to breed them, neutering will prevent unwanted pregnancies and reduce the risk of cancer in later life.

Neutering or castration of male dogs is advisable from 6 months of age. He will have less chance of suffering from testicular cancer and prostate problems as he gets older. Sometimes castration can help with behaviour issues, but not always and it is not a quick fix.

Neutering or spaying of female dogs (bitches) stops them from coming into season. A dog's season can last up to three weeks and she can have one every 6 to 8 months. Your dog does not need to have her first season before she can be spayed. In fact, if you spay her before her first season she will be less likely to develop mammary tumours and she will never have a false pregnancy. If you don't spay, she is more likely to develop

infections of the uterus as she gets older, leading to a very poorly pet and a hefty vets bill.

Castrating male cats can be done at any time as long as they are over 2kg. It can help to prevent territorial marking, fighting and roaming.

Spaying female cats can be done from as early as 4 months.

Typical signs of a female cat (queen) in season are excessive calling, being overly affectionate and rolling on her back. If she is an indoor cat, she will try everything to get outside to find a mate. Spaying massively reduces her risk of mammary and ovarian cancer too.

Animal welfare charities agree: getting your pet neutered is the best thing for your pet. It is expensive, but worth it. A one-off payment with long term benefits—it could save your pet's life in later years.

Jillian Walker

The Ecology Centre



Recruitment News

We will be starting our recruitment process shortly with our colleagues from the Fife Rural Skills Partnership, to recruit apprentices for the Our Bright Futures Programme.

This is a great opportunity to undertake a Modern Apprenticeship in Rural Skills (Estate Maintenance) at level 2 of the Our Bright Futures Programme, and is aimed at those aged between 16 and 24 years, living in Fife who are currently not in education, employment or training.

This role is designed to provide training in core skills whilst providing the opportunity to put training into practice, provide a qualification and a range of practical and professional skills that can support finding further employment in the rural sector. They will be based at The Ecology Centre. Apprentices become very much part of the team at the Centre and are valued by the staff and volunteers.

More information about this opportunity will be posted to our website and promoted on our social media channels.

T: 01592 891567

E: admin@theecologycentre.org
www.theecologycentre.org

Keep up to date, like and follow us on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

Burntisland Parks and Green Spaces

(A message from Councillor Backhouse)

Please let me alleviate any misinformation around playparks and green spaces in Burntisland. All current play parks and green spaces will remain as such. There are no plans for any to be built upon. There appears to have been some misinformation circulating around the town.

Kind Regards
Lesley
Cllr Backhouse
07540 677081

We have lots of news to share with you in this edition – recruitment news, our new health and wellbeing event and we have a new electric car charging point.

'Your peace, our place'—NEW health & wellbeing event

This summer we're running a new outdoor health and wellbeing event called 'Your peace, our place', in association with Holistic Scotland Magazine and Kirkcaldy's Mind and Body Studio. This is the first event of its kind in Fife and will take place on

Saturday 17th August, from 10am to 3pm.

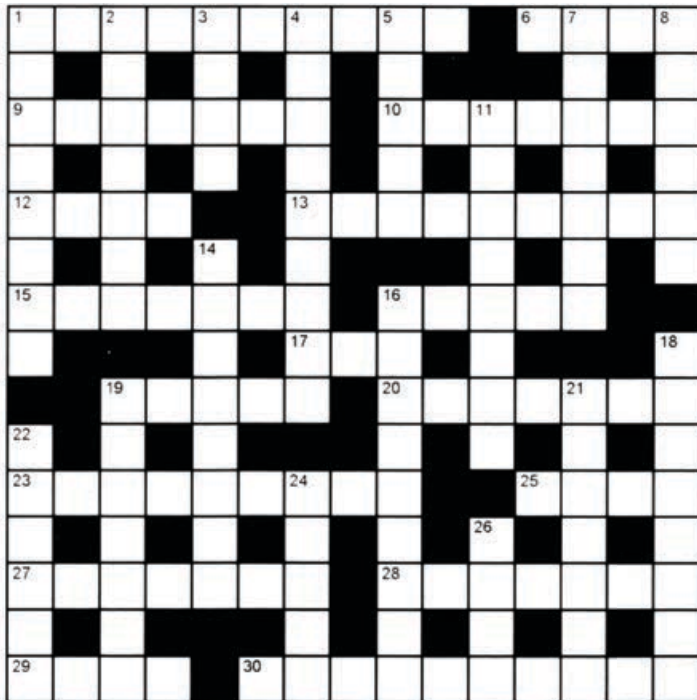
It's going to be a day filled with talks to inspire and inform, treatments, workshops, foodie areas dedicated to the latest plant-based food and drinks, taster classes from many of Burntisland's fitness experts and stallholders too. We've got some great Burntisland businesses joining us, here's just a few of them...

- Local CrossFit gym owner Huw Davis from The Strength Lab will be in our Talk Tent and bringing his assault bike along with local author and life coach Alison Smith.
- Changeworks will be doing their ever popular felt soap workshops.
- Gill Mahady is offering a taster PiYo class and Karen Small will be doing Groove and Nia tasters too - if you haven't tried any of these classes – come along and give them a go.
- BodyLushious and new High Street retailer - 114 are just two of our local stallholders and we're delighted that The Roasting Project will be offering a steady supply of their coffee and tasty gluten free brownies!

We've got a great line-up for the day – including live music from Hokey Pokey, glass walks, reflexology, massage, yoga classes and loads more! All information is on our website, tickets are available here too. It's going to be a great event, hope to see you there. www.theecologycentre.org

New electric car charging point at the Centre

Thanks to funding from Energy Savings Trust we now have an electric car charging point on our site. It's clearly located outside our building. The electricity is generated from our solar panels on our main building roof. If you're in the area and looking to charge your car - park up and you're very welcome to use our facilities to do any work (free WiFi) and enjoy a cuppa for a wee donation and to support the electricity costs.



THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. English county (10)
6. Nocturnal birds (4)
9. Cargo (7)
10. Without affectation (7)
12. Dilapidated building (4)
13. Mesmerism (9)
15. Mental distress (7)
16. Facial hair (5)
17. Fuss (3)
19. Bright red flower (5)
20. Emblem of royalty (7)
23. Large spider (9)
25. Poke (4)
27. Link (7)
28. Formal speech (7)
29. Waist band (4)
30. Sunrise (5,2,3)

DOWN

1. Postponement (8)
2. Giving off strong smell
3. Hindu system of discipline (4)
4. Go to bed (3,3,3)
5. Preliminary period (3,2)
7. Anxious (7)
8. Grave (6)
11. Duplicitous (3,5)
14. Half a shilling (8)
16. Brazilian dance (5,4)
18. Inclination (8)
19. Mother and father (7)
21. Lingered (7)
22. Heaps (6)
24. Express in speech (5)
26. Filled tortilla (4)

Solution to May Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Roundabout, 6 Eggs, 9 Tidiest, 10 Uncanny, 12 Ohio, 13 Collation, 15 Algeria, 16 Delve, 17 Ida, 19 Enter, 20 Unicorn, 23 Imperfect, 25 Huge, 27 Scorned, 28 Evident, 29 Hate, 30 Prospector.

DOWN: 1 Rational, 2 Undying, 3 Drey, 4 Bath chair, 5 Usual, 7 Genuine, 8 Saying, 11 Chaplain, 14 Brethren, 16 Dauntless, 18 Ancestor, 19 Exploit, 21 Opulent, 22 Kirsch, 24 Elder.

CONGRATULATIONS— Our May Crossword winner of £50 in vouchers is:
Emily Letham, Dick Crescent, Burntisland.

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Completed entries by 30th September 2019 to:

The Editor - 39 The Wynd, Dalgety Bay, KY11 9SJ

First correct entry drawn wins **£50.00** in vouchers kindly donated by **SHELL UK Ltd.** Solution will appear in the next issue of the Burgh Buzz

Burntisland's Events Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME
AUGUST		
Tuesday 6th	Burntisland Shipyard v Dunfermline Athletic (Centenary Game) at Recreation Park	kick-off 7.00 pm
Friday 9th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Friday 9th	Start of Live on the Links weekend—Punk and Pogo at the Silver Tassie	8.00 pm
Saturday 10th	Live on the Links—live music at the Links bandstand	1.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Saturday 10th	Live on the Links—live music with The Signals at the Port	9.00 pm
Sunday 11th	Chill out Sunday—live music at Burntisland Sands Hotel	1.30 pm - 7.00 pm
Sunday 11th	FAB Open Garden Weekend	12 noon - 4.00 pm
Tuesday 13th	Meeting of Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association above the Library	7.00 pm
Saturday 17th	Health & Wellbeing Event at the Ecology Centre, Kinghorn Loch	10.00 am - 3.00 pm
Saturday 24th	Coffee and Pancakes in the Erskine Church Hall	10.00am - 12.00 noon
Sunday 25th	Beach Clean & Hot Chocolate from Beach House	commencing 10.30 am
Sunday 25th	Bible Course begins at St Serf's Church	6.00 pm
SEPTEMBER		
Wednesday 4th	Toll Community Centre AGM	7.00 pm
Friday 13th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Saturday 28th	Community Police Drop-in Session at Burntisland Library	11.00 am
Sunday 29th	Beach Clean & Hot Chocolate from Beach House	commencing 10.30 am
OCTOBER		
Friday 11th	Community Council Meeting in the Burgh Chambers	7.00 pm
Tuesday 15th	Meeting of Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association above the Library	7.00 pm
Wednesday 23rd	Love Your Old Home by Change Works Burntisland at the Sands Hotel	5.30 pm - 7.30 pm
Saturday 26th	Community Police Drop-in Session at Burntisland Library	11.00 am
Saturday 26th	Autumn Fayre in Erskine Church Hall	10.00 am - 12.00 noon
NOVEMBER		
Tuesday 5th	Bonfire night and Fireworks at the Links	7.00 pm

To include an event in the next issue please email editor@burghbuzz.org.uk. Public events which will be held in November, December, or January are suitable for inclusion in the next issue.



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12pm-3:30pm

Hogmanay Ceilidh
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Clark Stewart
6th December

Cameron Young
13th December

Murder Mystery
7th & 20th
December

Elsa Jean McTaggart
14th December

Michael Bubbles
20th December



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