

BURGH BUZZ

Burntisland's Free Community Magazine



Previous issues at www.burghbuzz.org.uk

February 2020

Issue No 74

Caroline Campbell 2020 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Caroline Campbell was quietly shocked and humbled when, just prior to leaving for a short New Year break to Blackpool, she was informed by Alex MacDonald, Chairman of the Community Council that she was the winner of the Burntisland Community Award for 2020.

It's now 41 years since the award was first presented and in that time the town has recognised many people who have made outstanding contributions to the community. This year, because of a record number of nominations, the selection task was particularly difficult. However, it was so comforting to be made aware of so many local people whose voluntary efforts in the community are recognised and appreciated.

Caroline, a former care worker with Fife Council, was selected this year for her activity—often behind the scenes—in supporting countless community groups and vulnerable people. Her work varies from fundraising for the Parish Church Guild to supporting weekly social events and day trips for the residents of the Allan Court sheltered housing complex.

That theme extends also to social and study groups at the Solid Rock community café and foodbank. She is also heavily involved in supporting and developing the “Over 55” group at the Toll Community Centre.



Caroline (centre) pictured with the Solid Rock Knitters

Caroline's nomination papers described her as “a very kind and caring person” and that is clearly borne out by her very wide spectrum of activities. Her enthusiastic participation in local voluntary work has been without the expectation of any form of reward or recognition. It is therefore particularly pleasing that her work has been noticed and appreciated by others.

Caroline's record over many years is clearly outstanding and her award is richly deserved.

Over 70s Christmas Treat — Centenary Party

On the first Saturday in December, some 140 senior citizens of the town were treated to a lavish Christmas celebration at the Kingswood Hotel. Being the 100th consecutive Christmas Treat, the inspirational organising committee had made special efforts throughout the year to raise funds to ensure that the centenary event would be one to remember.

Guests, many of whom received free transport provided by the organisers were greeted with a glass of bubbles. Throughout the delicious lunch, prepared and served with the Kingswood's superb efficiency, glasses were kept topped up. As coffee was served, the gathering was in a truly festive mood to receive the versatile entertainer, Kirk James. The revellers were taken back to



the fifties and sixties with many old favourites and joined in the singing and dancing like a bunch of teenagers. The jovial atmosphere was enhanced further by the arrival of Santa who dispensed special ‘goodie bags’ to all guests. These included an engraved commemorative glass and a ‘dram’ to christen it with.

The entertainment continued into late afternoon when this most memorable start to the festive season closed.

This event could not have taken place for 100 years without the continuous efforts of a huge army of local volunteers. This year has been no exception with the committee organising numerous fund raising functions, canvassing support from local businesses and social groups and liaising with the Kingswood to ensure that the party ran smoothly throughout. Finally, the committee arranged for the less physically able in the community to be transported safely to and from the Kingswood.

The Committee extends its thanks for generous donations to Briggs Marine, Scott Pallets, Shell UK, Hancocks Bingo, TSB, BiFab, Tom Courts, Fife Council, Fife Charities Trust, Lodge Duncarn and to numerous individuals who have donated in other ways such as the bottle collection in the Star Tavern. Also in the committee's debt is a posse of Guides who, prior to the event, joined Santa to help pack the numerous ‘goodie bags’.

Turn to page 10 for photos from the event.

BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

From the Editor

The winter issue of the Buzz traditionally features the winner of the annual community award on the front page—this year is no exception. We offer our congratulations to the deserved winner, Caroline Campbell, who was selected from a large field of nominees which itself is a commendable reflection on the Burntisland community.

We are indeed fortunate that we have so many local activities and organisations that encourage participation, often through successful appeals in the Buzz. Long may it continue.

In our police report, our newly appointed community sergeant introduces himself and explains his community policing strategy—emphasis on crime prevention through a more visible police presence in the community, establishing local contacts and adopting a proactive approach to local problems. He is seeking to provide a permanent colleague for our relatively new community constable, Danny Hatch. To achieve their aims they will depend heavily on the cooperation of the general public. Give them your active support.

Reverting to volunteers, my editorial committee is always on the look-out for fresh ideas and new blood. My deputy for the last ten years, Paul Briscoe, has stepped down from that role but continues to make valuable contributions as a member of the committee. Our new advertising coordinator, Margaret MacLean, is settling in. However, we would welcome any other local residents who feel they can enhance the content or quality of production of the Buzz. It is some time since we had secondary school pupils on our committee and we would particularly welcome younger members of the community to join us.

Helping with the Buzz need not take up a lot of your time but it can also be fun: attending functions, interviewing interesting people and engaging in creative writing. Why not give it a try? Our contact details are below.

Finally, very best wishes to all our readers for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Bill Kirkhope

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Editor — Bill Kirkhope
39 The Wynd, Dalgety Bay. KY11 9SJ
e: billvida@sealscraig.plus.com t: 01383 822023

Design & Graphics — Michael Booth
e: michael@michaelbooth.co.uk

Advertising Coordinator — Margaret MacLean
e: mmacleanuk@gmail.com t: 01592 329312

Distribution — Linda Briscoe
e: lindacobriscoe@gmail.com

Editorial Committee —
Paul Briscoe, Chris Hill, Dave McPherson

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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: Fiona Watson
Secretary: Yvonne Crombie
Minutes Secretary: Anne Smith

Members:

Tim Hailey **John Bruce**
Brendan Burns **Lynne Ralph**

Contacts:

Chair — Alex MacDonald
1 Craig Court, Burntisland. KY3 0AT
t: 01592 873314
e: alex_mac@btinternet.com

Secretary — Yvonne Crombie
t: 07710 604752
e: burntislandcc@outlook.com

www.burntislandcc.org.uk
www.facebook.com/BurntislandCC

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 6.30pm 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

Community Council Bullets.....

The Community Council holds its regular meetings on the second Friday of each month, at 7.00pm 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 three meetings is set out below.

- We will be asking Police Scotland to increase the public awareness of their consultation meetings which have recently been taking place at the library. Details of forthcoming meetings can be found on page 4.
- Thanks to superb public generosity, the Christmas lights were placed more widely than last year and will gradually be extended to cover more of the High Street in future years.
- Pupils at Starley Hall school have very kindly supported our work to reduce dog fouling, by making a number of boxes for dispensing poo bags. They have now been placed at locations around the town and are clearly being well-used.
- We have received a draft plan for potential landscaping of the Cot Burn along its length at the Toll Park. More consultation will take place to help focus a future approach for funding.
- Concern remains about a trailer which has been abandoned at the roundhouse car park. Further requests will be made for its removal.
- We are exploring options for improving access to the Burgh Chambers, whilst also pursuing the more comprehensive development of the whole complex. We have formally requested the reinstatement of the clock tower as a precursor to further development.
- Together with local councillors, we are seeking a jointly-approved service level agreement for the future management of the Links.
- Members were delighted to welcome the six winners of the Scots Verse competition, together with their families, at a presentation evening and reception.
- We have vacancies for new people who are on the local electoral register to join the Community Council as full members. Enquiries and expressions of interest are welcome to our Secretary or Chairman.

Additional Pharmacy Consultation

Have your Say!

NHS Fife is undertaking a joint public consultation with Burntisland Pharmacy regarding their proposed application for a new pharmacy to open on the High Street. The proposed family-run business will offer an extensive list of services including the dispensing of prescriptions and will stock a wide range of medicines from many wholesalers.

If you feel strongly that additional pharmaceutical services are needed, then take part in this consultation.

A previous application was turned down because of lack of public engagement.

You can make your views known by completing the online questionnaire at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X9GHRRK Alternatively, you can pick up and return a paper copy from the Toll Community Centre.

This consultation has been in progress for almost three months and **completed forms must be submitted by 10th March**. It is important that you make your views known.

Forthcoming MSP Surgeries

David Torrance MSP will be holding surgeries on Saturday 22nd February, 21st March, and 2nd May at the Toll Community Centre from 10–10.30am.

The Burgh Poliz



Introduction by PS Kevin Davidson

Let me start by wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year. I hope you all managed to enjoy the festivities and spend some time with loved ones.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the newly appointed Community Sergeant covering this area and also the rest of Kirkcaldy. I took over this position on 23rd December, replacing PS Jimmy Adamson who retired at the end of January. I have over 20 years Police experience and have been a Sergeant in the Kirkcaldy area since 2012.

I have spent time with PC Danny Hatch in order to gain an insight into the current issues in the Burntisland, Kinghorn and Auchtertool area. I'm aware that Danny has been working tirelessly on his own

since he took over this role from PC Elizabeth James. My initial priority has been to provide him with some much needed support. This has been achieved by moving one of my other Officers from the Linktown area until I can identify a permanent partner for Danny.

The main focus for my Community Officers is for them to be more visible and pro-active in their areas with their focus being prevention. As a team we need to be the hub of intelligence for the Ward areas we cover and to achieve this we need the public to communicate with us.

Information and intelligence sharing is key as this will allow me to dedicate resources to where they are most needed. I'm a great believer in attempting to cure a problem

before it becomes a bigger issue. I'm also open to my Officers to become involved in community led initiatives especially where these target and provide local solutions to issues in your area.

We are in early discussions to move from Burntisland Police Office to another premises in Burntisland. As we would all agree, the Police building is not the most welcoming of environments and where we are successful in re-locating we will have a more suitable base to hold meetings.

As always I would like to encourage you to contact the Police to report any crimes or offences that occur in your area. This can be done by calling **101** or **999** depending on the level of urgency or seriousness.

and from PC Danny Hatch

We will be continuing with our drop-in clinics at Burntisland Library and arrangements are in place for these to be held between 11am and 12noon on the following dates:

Saturday 1st February

Saturday 7th March

Saturday 4th April

These drop in sessions provide members of the public with a comfortable setting to have a face to face discussion with an officer and I would encourage the public to come along for a chat about any issues regardless of how minor.

On a positive note, reports of crimes occurring in Burntisland appear to be at a much lower level than they were last time I was asked to produce an article as are reports of anti-social behaviour. I am

aware that there are still issues in the area and that these are sometimes discussed on social media. It is often assumed that we must then be aware of this information, which in some cases amounts to criminal activity. I would always encourage the public to report issues of concern. We can only gauge the extent of the issues if they are reported to us.

I occasionally receive reports of drug dealing within the area. This is a crime that we are keen to act on but in order to do so we require detailed information. We prefer to receive this information directly through the usual methods of contacting the police. i.e. telephone or email.

However, I appreciate that there are reasons why members of the public may be reluctant to report incidents. I'd like to offer reassurance that information can be

reported to the police anonymously. There is also the option of reporting incidents anonymously using Crimestoppers through the following contact methods:

Website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Telephone: **0800 555 111**

Staffwise, I will be joined on a temporary basis by PC Mark McCulloch but I have been assured that plans are in place for a permanent colleague. I look forward to the coming year and I am confident that it will be a productive one.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me on one of the email addresses listed below:

Daniel.hatch@scotland.pnn.police.uk

BurntislandKinghornWesternKirkcaldyCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Floral Action Burntisland

The winter months allow our volunteers to have a well deserved break before the planning for the forthcoming months begins.

We will be holding our AGM on Friday 21st February at 7pm in the Burntisland Sands Hotel. Everyone is welcome to come along—it's a great opportunity for you to find out what our successes have been from last year and a chance to hear what we have planned for the year ahead.

As always we are looking for support volunteers to help us fulfil our aim of making Burntisland fabulous! The more people who can help our campaign the more we can do to make the town appealing for all. If you want to get involved with FAB please get in touch via email or through our Facebook page.

We will be planting more snowdrops on The Binn during February and March in conjunction with Hamish Brown. The

plan is to increase the number of snowdrops from the area opposite the golf course along towards Kinghorn Loch. This will be the second year we have been involved in this and we aim to ensure by participating in this we continue to add a lasting legacy to the area.

FAB will be hosting a Gardeners Question Time on Wednesday 11th March from 7–9pm in the Burntisland Sands Hotel. The event allows the public to ask a panel of experts all their gardening 'woes' in a relaxed and enjoyable environment.

You can contact us via email floral-action-burntisland@hotmail.co.uk or follow us on Facebook



Remembrance Sunday

The traditional Remembrance Day service took place on Sunday 10th November in a packed Parish Church. During his sermon, Rev. David Redmayne stressed the significance of the poppy in remembrance and emphasised to the large congregation that it also represented hope for the future.

After the service, representatives of the armed forces and local organisations, led by the Burntisland & District Pipe Band, paraded to the war memorial. A large crowd of local residents assembled to join in a short service conducted jointly by ministers from the local churches. Following the two minutes silence, the playing of the Last Post on the bugle and The Flowers of the Forest on the bagpipes, the dignitaries in the parade laid their individual wreaths on the steps of the memorial.

On the conclusion of the proceedings at the memorial, the parade reformed and marched back along the High Street to the Burgh Chambers where after dismissal, parade participants enjoyed light refreshments, hosted by the Community Council.



Burntisland's Christmas Market

Burntisland enjoyed another bustling festive Christmas market in December with the local community coming out in record numbers to support the event despite the rain.

The town was packed with shoppers taking advantage of the extended opening hours of our High Street shops, as well as browsing the stalls of the many talented local artists, makers, artisans and community groups. Some sparkly Christmas lights and entertainment from Burntisland & District Pipe Band, Burntisland Community Choir and Sing Up Community Choir created a very

festive and friendly atmosphere for everyone to enjoy.

The success of the event organised by the Burntisland Community Development Trust couldn't have happened without the support of the local community. Special thanks go out to all business and groups who provided use of premises, facilities and equipment on the day. Thanks also to the many volunteers who gave their time selling raffle tickets, carting tables, setting up marquees etc.

Finally, thanks to all the business and individuals who donated gifts to the raffle



Photo: Robin Barrie

which raised over £1,200 on the night. The funds will be invested back into organising next year's event.

Rhona Lyon

Burntisland's Bonfire & Fireworks Night



After another successful bonfire and fireworks night, planning is already underway for this November's fabulous Burntisland occasion (it'll be on a Thursday this year).

The 2019 event had a slightly smaller crowd than recent years as there is now a fireworks display at the Beveridge Park in Kirkcaldy.

As a result there was less traffic to manage, but this was easier to do as the

Events Group had asked for a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) which meant more parking restrictions and greater powers for Fife Police.

The event relies on volunteers for planning, bonfire building, stewarding and bucket shaking.

Come along to the AGM to be held in May or contact burntislandeventsgroup@gmx.co.uk

Starley Hall Donation

Starley Hall School has generously donated 22 "Pooper Scoop" boxes to Burntisland Community Council in an expansion of the successful trial started two years ago.

The boxes were designed and built by six youngsters supported by Fraser Robb in the workshop at Starley Hall.

The boxes will contain free dog poo bags and will be located next to poo litter bins throughout the town. Some of the boxes will also have grabbers for anyone willing to tackle litter picking while exercising their dog. Dog walkers will be able to dispose of the used bags in the nearby bin.

Pictured beside the boxes are John Bruce of Burntisland Community Council and George McLauchlan, along with Fraser Robb from Starley Hall.



Burntisland Primary School

The run up to Christmas is always busy in our School.

We hosted our annual Christmas Fair on Wednesday 4th December. The fair was bustling from start to finish with stalls selling new and pre-loved products, as well as cards and decorations made by the pupils. The Fair raised a staggering £2,900! A massive thank you to everyone who either attended on the night or donated to the event.

The Nativity 'Prickly Hay' was held on 19th December, the children worked incredibly hard to put on a fantastic performance which was well attended by family and friends. The middle school performed a Carol Concert, with each year group delighting audiences with their singing and left everyone in a very festive mood.

We also had lots of fun at our Christmas Parties and sing-a-longs. We were exhausted, but don't worry—we still managed to squeeze in lots of learning!

Primary 1 have been investigating toys from the past and present. They have been looking at how toys have changed over the years and have considered how some toys haven't changed much at all. Learners have been developing their understanding of letter sounds and numbers.

Dinosaurs has been the focus in **Primary 2**. The children have been investigating the names of types of dinosaurs as well as their diets, habitats and characteristics.

They have also been studying germs and how to keep themselves healthy by hand washing and teeth cleaning.

The **Primary 3** corridor has been turned into a medieval fortress this term as the children developed their understanding of the features of castles and life in the medieval age. The children especially enjoyed making catapults!

Primary 4 have been developing green fingers, studying the structure of plants and how they grow. Pupils have investigated photosynthesis and the effect of pollination. They have enjoyed growing their own plants from seeds!

Pupils in **Primary 5** have been learning about Space. They have become experts in how rockets are constructed and have utilised their ICT skills in making PowerPoint presentations to share their knowledge. In Numeracy, they have become more confident in multiplying and dividing.

Primary 6 have been developing their awareness of historical cultures by studying the Romans. They have learnt about Roman entertainment and have recycled junk materials to build their own Roman chariots. In Numeracy, learners have discovered different ways to share data, including Venn diagrams, bar charts and line graphs.

World War Two has been the focus in **Primary 7**. Children have studied events leading up to the declaration of war and what life was like for people between

1939 and 1945. All three classes were delighted to be visited by Mr and Mrs MacKenzie, who shared their experiences of growing up in Clydebank during the war. Children have also enjoyed fitness classes and gym sessions at the Beacon Leisure Centre and attended their first high school transition event, a St. Andrews Day Ceilidh in November.



Our Successful Athletics Team

In sporting news, our Upper School Athletics Team recently qualified for the Regional Athletics Final. The team competed against 16 other schools to be awarded 1st place in the Central Fife Finals. We are delighted to be representing central Fife again at the Regional Finals and look forward to keeping you posted about the result.

We hope all pupils, their families and the wider community had a Merry Christmas and wish everyone a very happy 2020.

Emma Clunie



Burntisland Playgroup

Last term was filled with fun and excitement in the run up to Christmas. The children enjoyed many activities and learning opportunities. We celebrated St Andrews Day, where the children tasted haggis and did some Scottish dancing. We discovered how children in Sweden celebrate Santa Lucia Day and of course, we had all the excitement of Christmas celebrations, ending our term with a visit from "Santa" during our Christmas Party.



August 2020 means extended hours for all three and four year olds, and some eligible two year olds in Early Years Provisions. The hours pre-school children will be entitled to is almost doubling, so

from August 2020 Burntisland Playgroup will be extending the hours we can offer children, both funded and fee paying. Our new hours in August will be 8.15am to 2.15pm.

We will be holding our Open Day in March so make sure you have your application form in if your child is born between March 2017 and February 2018 and you would like your child to attend the playgroup.

Burntisland Playgroup offers quality childcare and education to children between 2 years 10 months and school age. We are a well established group with fully qualified staff who are dedicated to providing your child with the best care and education possible. We work in partnership with Fife Council and follow the same curriculum as local authority nurseries.

We accept applications from birth, so it's never too early to apply for a place. Application forms are available from the

Toll Community Centre. You are welcome to pop into the group any morning to discover for yourself the great facilities we offer.

The committee has worked hard to raise over £1,000 since the start of term. A big thank you to everyone who has supported and helped with all our fundraising events. The Halloween Disco, Christmas Lights turn-on and Christmas Coffee Morning were all well attended and enjoyed by all. We are very thankful for the generosity of local businesses and people who continually donate to our playgroup. As a registered charity we rely on fundraising to help with the "extras" we need for our group. Without you all we wouldn't have the fantastic resources we are able to offer all the children.

Jenny Roxburgh



Burrtisland Community Development Trust

The Burrtisland Community Development Trust continues to work to develop and bring investment into the town and have a busy year ahead running a number of exciting projects.

Bustling Burrtisland

Work starts now on organising Burrtisland's next Christmas Market and Festival 2020! Our aim is to encourage Burrtisland residents and visitors to celebrate the hard work and talent of businesses, creators, artists, community groups and musicians in the town. If you are interested in supporting the Christmas Market and other potential events or markets please join the Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/bustlingburrtisland or email Abi: bcdt2016@gmail.com

Friends of the Beach and Links

It's **Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters** and we will continue to work to enhance, protect and enjoy our amazing beach and links in 2020.

Monthly beach cleans: Keep the last Sunday of each month free in your diaries for our beach clean and hot chocolate, from 10.30am–12.30pm at the Beach House. Brilliant family fun on the beach with litter pickers, bags and gloves provided.

Biodiversity regeneration: We're working in partnership with Fife Council to regenerate small sections of our beach's grassy areas with coastal plants, to help restore biodiversity to the area and encourage wildlife habitats. To find out more contact Ari: aricassmaran@gmail.com

The sea and us—using the beach front: We are starting to look at ways to encourage and enhance the way the community interacts with the sea, from swimming and fishing, board sports to picnicking or simply a first toe in the water to a learning adventure among the rock pools. We want to support current activities, encourage new activities and entice the community from the very young to the very old, to enjoy our glorious beach front. Nothing too grand, nothing too expensive, but short-term plans to test ideas and community feedback. If you want to get involved please contact Paul: pghayes66@gmail.com

Zero Carbon Burrtisland

This sub-group grew out of Burrtisland's Energy Masterplan, which looked at ways that Burrtisland could reduce the carbon

emissions of the town's energy. The sub-group is currently taking part in the Community Energy Futures programme, run by Community Energy Scotland, who provide learning and support to community organisations that would like to develop community energy projects.

The group wants to work towards making Burrtisland a zero carbon town, and has recently extended its scope to include all activities—from how we live in our homes, to what we eat, the way we travel and what we buy and throw out. So we are looking for interested, inspired or enthusiastic residents who would like to help make our town even better and get to zero carbon—all ideas and skills welcome! If you're interested in finding out more please contact Kitty: kittyo-connor@hotmail.co.uk

Dementia Friendly Burrtisland

A big thank you to the local businesses who are supporting Burrtisland to become a Dementia Friendly Town! So far Macauley's and C. Sinclair Seafood Shop have signed up and are proudly displaying their Dementia Friendly Fife window stickers.

This comes after a visit from Ruth McCabe of Fife Health and Social Care Partnership, who gives advice on how to make sure premises are structurally dementia friendly. If you would like to find out more please contact Ruth.Mccabe@fife.gov.uk or Aileen Aitken aracummins@gmail.com

We want to help raise awareness of the condition at a local level, reduce the stigma that continues to surround the illness. We also want to make it easy for people living with dementia and their families and friends in Burrtisland to stay at home and live their lives as normally as possible for as long as they can.

Learn more by visiting www.dementiafriendsscotland.org

We always welcome new Directors or sub-group members. If you are interested in trying something new and getting involved in 2020 get in touch: email bcdt2016@gmail.com join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/BurrtislandCommunityDevelopmentTrust or come along to one of our monthly meetings (usually the first Wednesday of the month 7–9pm) Please also put our AGM date in your diaries: **Wednesday 1st April, 7–9pm, venue to be confirmed.**

Kirsty Tait (Chair)

Burgh Chambers Complex

The Community Council have asked again for the town's clock tower to be re-built, in accordance with the legal requirement which was imposed on Fife Council at the time of take-down. In the meantime, there is an opportunity for local people to help develop the entire Burgh Chambers complex.

As previously reported, a feasibility study now shows that the entire complex could house heritage, business and community facilities in a way which is financially sustainable. It would respect the heritage which is so important to all of us and provide a new focal point for the High Street.

However, the only way forward is for a new (and independent) Trust to be formed with at least 20 members. That Trust will own or have a long-term lease on the property and will manage its daily operation and financial well-being.

It's likely that some of the trustees will be drawn from the members of the Community Council and other local organisations. However, all charity trustees are legally obliged to act independently of any organisation to which they might belong. So there is a strong incentive for enthusiastic individuals to play a key role.

It won't all happen at once, so the next step is for a steering group to be formed, which can refine the outline proposal, consider alternatives as a fall-back, and drive the fund-raising as well as the detailed design. This is not a trivial project. The indicative costs are about £4million.

So here is an open invitation. The feasibility report as it stands at the moment will be on display in the Heritage Trust office in the Kirkgate on the afternoon of Saturday 22nd February. I will be there, as will George

McLauchlan, to meet anyone who is interested in joining that steering group. If you are interested but unable to attend on that date, I can be contacted by e-mail, via alex_mac@btinternet.com and we can take it from there.

Alex MacDonald

Chairman, Royal Burgh of Burrtisland Community Council



Photo: Kirsty Tait

Home is where the heart is!

Love your wallet

♥ Did you know that we offer free, impartial support to help you switch energy provider? Over the last year we've helped 45 householders to make substantial savings and put an estimated £10,000 back into the pockets of Burntislanders.

We recommend considering switching every year. If you haven't switched for years, aren't sure where to start, who you can trust or simply feel that it could be a lot of hassle then pop into the Hub and let us make it easy for you. If you have an annual boiler care policy then it is worth reviewing this too, big savings can be made by shopping around a little.



Mrs T came into the Hub a few months ago, having been loyal to her supplier since moving to the town 16 years ago. She thought it would be a complicated process and didn't want to disrupt her power supply. 20 minutes later she had spoken to our advisors and was happy to go ahead with a switch that will save her an estimated £425 per year, they even transferred her direct debits over to the new company for her.



Change Works in Burntisland

Two weeks later Mrs T popped back into the Hub and told us that she had received a welcome pack from her new supplier and told us "I can't believe how easy it was, thank you! I wish I had done this years ago!".

♥ Save more money on your energy costs by improving the insulation of your home. If you live in an older property, we may be able to provide a free home visits to see what energy efficiency improvements will offer you the biggest savings and make your home more comfortable.

♥ If you are thinking of installing cavity wall insulation, internal/external wall or underfloor insulation then our Quality Assurance team can visit your home and do the measuring up for you. We can also help to find local contractors and check that the work has been completed to industry standards.

Love our planet

♥ Our new Ecoleaf range is proving to be a big hit, with so many people saving plastic by refilling their household products in the Hub. We offer a great value service and it gives you chance to ask us anything else about energy efficiency or keeping your home warmer while you are in.

We still have some trial reusable nappy packs available. If this is something you would like to learn more about, pop in and speak to our experienced staff and see how you can replace even just some of the disposable nappies you use.



Don't forget that we stock free compost caddy bags on behalf of Fife Council. Collect a roll of bags when you are next passing.



For further information on any aspect of improving the energy efficiency of your home, interest free loans for energy improvements, installing renewable energy technology, for a free loan of a Loop energy monitor or help with your energy tariff please contact the Change Works in Burntisland team on 01592 724424, email burntisland@changeworks.org.uk or pop into the hub at 183 High Street, Burntisland.

Broomhill Garden Club

If you peer through the garden gates into the allotments on Manse Lane it may seem quiet and peaceful, but winter is a time for preparation and planning, and the committee of Garden Club is busy planning for a fabulous year.

Garden Club enjoyed its best year yet in 2019. We hired a new facilitator—Sarah Goodall—who did a fabulous job helping the kids grow a wide range of fruit & veg, and leading our weekly sessions in the garden with crafts, cookery, games, and campfires. We're so pleased that she'll be continuing her role with us in 2020! We welcomed over 110 children to the garden this season on Tuesdays alone, and welcomed even more to our site via Open Days, our legendary BBQ, as well as school visits from nearly all the nursery children plus Primary 1–2.

We've worked tirelessly to raise funds, via cake sales, our annual BBQ, and through grant applications. We are pleased to say that we have already secured funding for the 2020 season via generous grants from the Robertson Trust and The National Lottery. Many thanks to both organisations for their support!

We have set ourselves a big task this winter, and are hoping the community will help us achieve it. Garden Club has been running since 2012, and our garden space has been heavily loved and used over the years. In order to ensure Garden Club can run for future generations of Burntislanders, we must renovate the garden space to stop it from falling into disrepair.

Hundreds of little feet and hands, wind, rain and pests, and the passage of time have made their mark upon our space.

We are attempting to fundraise £1,800 to pay for labour costs to renovate the garden. Material costs have already been funded via a further generous grant from the Edinburgh Airport Community Fund. To see details of what this money would cover, please visit our fundraising page:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/garden-club

We realise this is a large amount, and hope everyone involved understands that this is a one-off fundraiser to breathe new life into the garden. We really appreciate any amount you can give to help ensure the continued running of Garden Club into the future.



We hope to see you at our first Garden Club session of the year, on Tuesday 5th May at 3.30pm. We welcome all children and their parents or carers, usually aged between 1–8, with older and younger siblings most welcome. Happy Growing!

Burrtisland Heritage Trust

“Portrait of a Town—Burrtisland through the Ages”

In 2020 Burrtisland Heritage will be presenting an extensive illustrated exhibition showing the town and surrounding area from earlier times to the present day. The exhibition will comprise a variety of over 100 images displaying the town's rich built, social, industrial and natural heritage.



The theme will be designed to tie in with the National Year of Coast and Waters by incorporating the Fife Coastal Path and the Inner and Outer Heritage Trails. The display is a continuation of summer exhibitions which have been bringing the community together and attracting thousands of visitors from the town, region, country and overseas for more than two decades.

As part of their Curriculum for Excellence the local primary school as well as other civic groups are invited with ongoing visits to the exhibitions. The purpose of this exhibition is to promote wellbeing and civic pride in the community by illustrating the rich diversity of the place where they live. The planning, design, compilation and staffing of the exhibition is carried out entirely by volunteers from the community.

Admission to the exhibition is free.

Friends of the Kirkton Kirk

A move is afoot to set up a group of Volunteers to look after the Kirkton churchyard. Fife Council currently cut the grass and will continue to do so. However, after the completion of the conservation work in 2018, Burrtisland Heritage Trust with the assistance of FAB, planted a number of plants and bulbs in the churchyard and volunteers are required to look after these areas.

The Friends of the Kirkton Kirk would ensure the churchyard is cared for in a way which renders it:

- A place in keeping with the atmosphere of respect and commemoration for the departed;
- A pleasant, attractive place for all visitors;
- A haven for wildlife;
- A place that values and protects the local heritage.

The Friends would be a volunteer, community organisation. Membership is open to any individual or group who supports the stated aims.

Anyone interested, please contact John Burnett at john.burnett9@btinternet.com

If there is a sufficient number of Volunteers a meeting will be arranged to plan future activities.



Wednesday Club—Loving Later Life!

2020 got off to a great start at our New Year Celebration with drinks, tasty nibbles and music and song from Sarah & Claire.

The club runs until May when we finish with an outing and high tea. Our programme is on display in the Library, the Toll Community Centre and on the High Street noticeboard. We meet on the second and third Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Toll Centre. New members will be made very welcome, so why not come along and join this sociable group?

You may think about becoming a volunteer, as some of the long serving volunteers are stepping down. If you are interested, come along and meet us to see what we do and have a coffee and a chat.

Alison Wardlaw

The festive period tends to be a busy time for Burrtisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club. Following the successful Curry & Comedy night held in Kinghorn Golf Clubhouse we moved on to hold our Christmas Dinner in the Sands Hotel. Then we got involved with both 'Santa's Sleighs' in Kinghorn & Burrtisland, whilst on Christmas Eve we helped to deliver food parcels from the Toll Community Centre.

After a short New Year break we started the usual Tuesday evening meetings at the Sands, with the last special evening having been our annual Burns Night on 21st January.

Anyone wishing to come along on Tuesday evenings is most welcome by contacting Secretary Mike Gillis on 07880 992459 or via mikebgillis@btopenworld.com

Derek Thomson

Specialty FOOD NIGHTS



On the last Friday of the month our passionate and talented chefs will be showcasing their favourite styles of cuisine! Starting with Thai on 31st January, pre-booking will be essential for these authentic dining experiences.

Our ever-popular seafood and tapas buffet nights will continue on the first Friday of the month alternately!



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Scots Verse Competition



On the evening of 6th December the formal presentation of awards to the winners of the 33rd annual Scots Verse Competition to pupils from Burntisland Primary School took place in the Burgh Chambers.

Alex MacDonald, Chairman of the Community Council, directed proceedings and in his opening address explained the origin of the competition to the large audience of Council members, school staff and families of winners. The competition was created to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the death of King Alexander III, who died when he fell from his horse whilst riding between Burntisland and Kinghorn. Alexander had been an influential monarch whose pacifist policies of favouring dialogue over physical conflict in settling disputes had resulted in a long period of peace and stability in Scotland. To engage in discussion required a common language and resulted in the wide promotion of the Scots tongue.

The Scots Verse Competition encourages pupils to learn and understand the language of their forebears and to demonstrate their understanding through a meaningful presentation before a discerning audience.

The winners of the competition had been selected a few days earlier by a panel of Community Council judges, from an impressive body of over 60 pupils who delivered their recitations on a wide variety of topics. The overall standard in all categories was extremely impressive.

On the evening, each winner performed their own verse (with accompanying actions and pained expressions) before being presented with their prizes by Community Award Winner, Willi Henderson. They each received a medal inscribed with their name



Edith Millsop, Mathew Scotland, Jayce Haston, Annabel Cameron, Connall Sweaton, and Rhys Edwards

and the Community Council Coat of Arms and an impressive trophy to retain for a year. This year the poems included “Bowfin”, “Crocodile”, “Harry”, “The Sair Finger”, “Social Dancin” and “Vicky the Spiderlass”. The very confident and amusing presentations were greeted with rapturous applause by the enthusiastic audience.

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



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Sporting Memories Foundation

Every Monday at 1.30pm the kettle is on and the cakes are laid out, ready for a group of sporting enthusiasts to share stories about what has excited them and caught their eye in the world of sport that week. For some it's regaling how their favourite team are top of the league and for others it's an opportunity to test their knowledge in the weekly quiz.

Sporting Memories at Solid Rock, in partnership with the Toll Community Centre, has been running for adults in the Burntisland community since June. A friendly welcome awaits anyone who has an interest in sport and likes to have a chat over a cuppa and a biscuit. Currently there are around six members who attend every week.

Tom was introduced to Sporting Memories by his daughter and his 'Monday club' has now become his favourite hour and a half of the week. Tom comes from a sporting family, with his brother being an ex footballer with Hearts FC, and loves to share stories of his playing days and his family, as well as testing himself in the wide variety of quizzes and games.

John, who volunteers with the group, loves that as friendships have developed the games have become much more competitive! Also don't tell his wife but he chose to attend Sporting Memories last week rather than go shopping with his wife on her day off, "nothing comes between me and my club!"

Every week members show up with enthusiasm and enjoy the relaxed nature of the discussion. We like to keep active and introduce fun games like putting, balloon tennis and indoor curling! We also have guest speakers who passionately reveal secrets and stories from their sporting careers. And we must mention the support from the local community; Tom Courts Butchers have kindly provided pies to ensure we recreate that unmistakable sporting atmosphere from the terraces.

Sporting Memories provides a great outlet for adults in the Burntisland community to meet new people, enjoy relaxed company and share stories about their lives. The club runs every Monday from 1.30pm to 3pm at Solid Rock on the High Street and everyone is welcome. As one of our members Susan says, "I like to come here for the company and the laughs".

If you are interested in coming along feel free to pop in to Solid Rock any Monday afternoon or contact Yvonne Crombie at the Toll Community Centre at 01592 872854 yvonnecrombie.tollcentre@gmail.com or Gary Waddell at 07941 123278 gary@thesmf.co.uk



Burntisland Cancer Research UK Committee

In November, the committee and friends enjoyed a great night out at the Golf Club with Des and the Dingoes. This may not be our major fundraiser of the year, but the final total raised was almost £1,000—well done everyone! This event was a "Thank You" to our friends and supporters in the community, and it gives those of us of a certain age the chance to dance to the music we love.

More thanks are due to those who joined us for carol-singing in the High Street on 14th December, and to the shoppers, businesses and customers who helped us to raise almost £140.

The next event planned is our "Spring Fling", a coffee morning with a Scottish theme, to be held in St. Joseph's between 10.30am and 12.30pm on Saturday 21st March. There will be a home baking stall and much more and tickets will be £2 each.

Once again, thank you to all for your continued support.

Rosemary Barker



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Co-op Local Community Fund

In November, the High Street Co-op hosted a reception and cheque presentation for three groups. Burntisland Youth Theatre, Burntisland Playgroup, and the Christmas Lights Fund were the organisations to benefit from the fund which totalled £11,316.

Money for the fund is raised when Co-op members buy selected own-branded products and services, and from shopping bag sales.

Manager Brian Dunsire and Carole-Anne Paterson thanked the community for supporting their stores and indirectly contributing towards worthy local causes.

A new round of funding has since opened—11th Fife Scout Group, Burntisland Civic Week, and Lead Scotland's Fife Befriending Project are the nominated groups. Co-op members can choose which group benefits from 1% of their spending between now and October.



Photo: Michael Booth



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Burntisland Golf House Club



A Happy New Year to all Buzz readers, let's hope it's a good one with plenty of great weather.

The course remains in fantastic condition for the time of year so, if you have a set of clubs gathering dust in a cupboard, why not blow the cobwebs away and get the bug again?

Prospective members can still benefit from a tremendous '2020' deal. New members (those who haven't been a member in the last two years) get 20% off the existing subscription rate in adult golfing categories. On top of that, any existing member who introduces a new member will also benefit from the same deal. Win Win!

At £482 a new Full Membership still costs less than buying *The Scotsman* every day, but it has all the potential health benefits attached. Cheaper categories are also available, and a beginner / returner can have a 10 game (re) introduction for only £175.

The Committee at the Club is still committed to bolstering the junior section, and would welcome any help from parents or

grandparents to get the kids moving. To help in this, all children under 16 can get a membership free of charge. You just need to register your interest with the Secretary so that we have a list of all interested parties. Parents / grandparents can also take advantage of a Social Membership at only £30 if they wish.

Head Professional Paul Wytrazek has already been working with a group of youngsters, introducing them to the game and the course, and that will continue in the new year. The Primary School has also intimated that it will help with the programme. There's always room for more.

Keep an eye out for our social functions, where non-members are more than welcome. Make sure you like our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @BurntislandGolf to keep in the loop about golfing and social matters.

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

Burntisland Shipyard FC



Since the last edition of the Buzz, the Club has experienced the typical highs and lows of a football club with much happening on and off the park. A great run of results followed by a poor run of form. Several games falling victim to the weather, with the team inactive from 23rd November until 28th December when we finally got back into action with a trip to face Oakley United.

Ins and outs in the transfer market with Aedan Cooper, Gary Dolan, Jason Findlay, Johnny Galloway and Evan Stanfield all departing the club. No doubt Galloway was the most significant as Crossgates Primrose made an offer for his services that was too good to turn down. Johnny was a great servant to the Club and he left with everyone's best wishes.

However, the upshot of this was the transfer fee allowed us to almost immediately reinvest the money by signing local lad Ben Anthony from Thornton Hibs. Ben was top scorer in the East

Region Super League at the time of his move with many commenting that it was a great piece of business.

Since then his brother Darrell has also joined the Club. Gavin Ross and Dale Allan both came to us via Crossgates and Brian Breen on loan from Oakley as manager Stuart Innes went about reshaping his squad. On the injury front Robbie Crawford has been out long term due to an ankle injury but he has been pencilled in for a return towards the end of January.

Attendances have been good so far this season and the local support has been most welcome. That being said, hopefully more people will come through the gate and support the team with a strong local presence in the squad.

Andrew Beveridge

Burntisland Bowling Club



Burntisland Bowling Club is getting geared up for the 2020 season. The Club's AGM will be held on 18th March (7.00 for 7.30pm), when members will review progress over the past year and elect office bearers for the coming season.

The season proper opens on Saturday 11th April with teams representing the Club's President pitched against those representing the Vice-President. The Club also has a varied programme of friendly fixtures against local clubs spread throughout the season, alongside a range of internal competitions

and championships for members to enjoy.

The Club also has a 'Come and Try' day planned for Sunday 12th April between 2.00 and 4.00pm. All members of the public are warmly invited to try the sport, view the Club's facilities and meet members.

Participation is entirely free and any necessary equipment, including bowls and footwear, will be available for use on the day. **Richard Perry**

Museum of Communication

MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATION



I'm not giving away any secrets if I tell you that a small part of the display will once again deal with War. It's not that we are obsessed with conflicts, but as the two greatest hostilities the world has ever known occurred in the 20th century and changed the lives of everyone, we must not ignore them. We're concentrating on events of 1940, such as the evacuation of Dunkirk and the introduction of Rationing. Not only food and items like petrol were rationed—but clothes as well!

The Board of Trade developed an 'anti-waste' campaign, which although unpopular, ensured that our country was able to survive when cargoes of essential supplies were destroyed en route to the UK. Here are extracts from their 'Make-do-and-Mend' leaflet on how to care for your HOSIERY, which every woman should take to heart.....*Now Read On!*

"First, reinforce the heels and toes by darning. Then rinse the

stockings in warm water, making sure they are dry, before wearing.

Using 'herring-bone' stitch, sew on patches (the size of a penny) to the stocking tops, to provide strong reinforcement for the suspender grips. DON'T suspend your stockings too tightly! If they are short, just add a piece at the top, from an old discarded stocking, to lengthen them."

Now you know why your Granny looked nearer to 100 years old, rather than to her actual 50s or 60s!

Let me know if you're interested in making slippers for a loved one...

Soles? Not a problem! Make them out of bits of old carpet, layers of cardboard, canvas or old socks. Full instructions available from the all-knowing Mrs Sew-and-Sew! **Dorothy Brankin**

Toll Community Centre

Happy New Year Burntisland. The Toll had a busy festive period with lots of exciting things happening!

We started the celebrations off by having the outside of our building painted by a very talented artist named Paco Graff. The feedback has been really positive, so come along to the Centre and have a closer look.

Next we were busy helping Santa in his brand new sleigh, as this year he wanted to visit all the streets in our wee town. He met lots of well behaved children and told me that he had a great time and that he'll be back again next year.

During the holidays we hosted Café Inc where families could come along and have a delicious free hot or packed lunch. Then on Xmas Eve and Hogmanay families were given a box of food to last three days. While parents rested from the hustle and bustle the children were kept amused by a youth worker. A huge thanks to Fife Council and everyone involved.

We again received leftover food from Aldi and with the generous donations from the community we were able to deliver 37 food parcels to families in the town.

This couldn't have been done without the help of the Rotary Club, Community



Photo: Michael Booth

Council, the CBTRA, Erskine Church, Red Cross, Health Visitors, Community Education workers, the Lollipop Lady, who nominated families, Macauley's who sent up a sack of potatoes and Brussels sprouts, the Co-op, Solid Rock and the Primary School. Massive thanks to you all!

We were overcome with the numerous displays of kindness our town showed. One such example was a young man who brought in bags of food because he "had a good year and had received an unexpected Xmas bonus". After an appeal on Facebook for some chocolate and 'luxury' food, a teenager came in with his mum and gave me £40 to spend. A street in Burntisland handed in money from a whip round and there was the young lady who

collected money at her work.

So many kind people—not forgetting those who come into the centre every week like 'the Pie Man', as we affectionately call him, who donates pies to the Foodbank!

To round off 2019 we had a successful Hogmanay Party which saw families bringing in the New Year together, with kids getting to stay up late and many memories made. People are already asking us if we will hold one next year.

After all the festivities and hard work, life returns to normal. We are still doing the 'Toll on Tour' on Mondays at Solid Rock, with a knitting / crochet group in the morning. Whatever your skill level you are most welcome with many 'advanced knitters' on hand to help. Lots of tea, biscuits, and laughter guaranteed! We are currently knitting pouches for the poor animals affected by the fires in Australia.

If you have any wool, patterns or needles that you would like to donate please pop them into Solid Rock on a Monday morning or the Toll Community Centre.

On Monday afternoons we have the Sporting Memories group—you can read more on page 12 of the Buzz.

Our Bike project runs on a Wednesday morning from 10.30–11.30am at the Centre, so come along if you would like to donate, swap and or get a bike.

The Centre is also available for private parties, meetings, classes etc. We currently have the building free every Monday night if anyone would like to hire it, pop in and we can show you around and have a chat .

We have a busy year ahead of us lots of fun things happening, so watch this space!

Yvonne Crombie

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775 (Burntisland) Squadron Air Training Corps

Cadets and staff from the Squadron have been busy with various activities and events over the past few months.

First Aid: Over the weekend of 23/24 November, Cpl Keira Young and Cadets King, Mackie and Powrie attended a Bronze First Aid course. All the cadets passed their assessments and now provide First Aid cover on the Squadron.

Air Rifle shooting: On 30th November and 1st December cadets Powrie, Mackie, Reid and Henderson took part in an air rifle shoot at 1192 (Kirkcaldy) Sqn. All the cadets gained their Trained Shot and were awarded badges.

Poppy Scotland: Cadets took part in two street collections and raised £704.44 for Poppy Scotland. Corporal Young collected an amazing £216.77.

Bag Packing: On 22nd December cadets and Staff took part in a bag pack at Morrisons in Cowdenbeath and collected over £320 for Squadron funds.

As well as teaching skills that are useful in civilian and military life the ATC offers a range of formal qualifications. On 19th September we saw the formal launch of the new SQA accreditation for First Class and Leading cadets

Qualifications attained by First Class Cadets and Leading Cadets are now recognised as equivalent to National 5 and Higher levels respectively in the Scottish education system.

The cadets can also gain BETCs (Business & Technology Education Council) qualifications in various subjects.



The Squadron is currently recruiting cadets and staff, so if you are interested in finding out what the Air Cadets have to offer come into the Squadron HQ in the Unity Hall, which is at the Junction of Links place and East Leven street. The Squadron parades on Monday & Thursday evenings between 19.00 and 21.30 hrs. Details can also be found on the Squadron website:

775burntislandsquadron.weebly.com and on the Squadron Facebook page: 775 (Burntisland) Squadron Air Cadets.



Burntisland & District Pipe Band

First of all, on behalf of Burntisland & District Pipe Band I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2020.

Continuing on from travelling all around Scotland in our impressive outdoor competition season, the children in the band have a new focus for the winter - solo competitions!

These competitions involve playing either the bagpipes, chanter or drums on their own and in front of a judge. This requires massive self confidence and I am very proud of all of the children who volunteered to take part. The positive and supportive atmosphere within the band is such that almost all the young people are keen to give solo competing a go. With so many competing (26) we needed to a bus for the Brechin competition.

The highlight of the year for the drum corps was the World Solo Drumming Championship which was held at Glasgow University. It truly is a world class field with competitors from all across the UK, Ireland, the USA, Australia and more. Our drum corps were again excellent with not one, but two becoming world champions! Our tenor drummers Ewan and Sophie both won gold in their respective sections. Erica, the pipe bands Lead Tip, came a close, but very respectable second in her section. These results emphasise the quality of drummer that Burntisland Pipe Band is currently producing.

With that in mind, we have a few spaces available for new youngsters to learn. If you, or you know someone who is between the ages of 9–15, now is the chance for them to join this world class drum corps. Get in touch through our Facebook page. There's never been a better time to come along.

Looking ahead, the band is preparing for an exciting adventure to Nethybridge this June. The kids band will head up the A9 to spend the weekend in the beautiful outdoor setting of the Cairngorm National Park. On the Saturday morning, the band will compete in the European Championships in Inverness, before returning to the outdoor activity centre for some more fun and games.

We have been fundraising for a few months and are inching closer towards our total. **One of the next events we will be putting on is our Spring Coffee Morning in the Parish Church on Saturday 2nd May from 10am–12noon.** We hope that you will be able to come along and help us reach our goal.

Finally, this year is a special one as it marks 75 years of peace since the end of the Second World War. The band is looking forward to taking part in a street party and parade in Hillend. Several of our players will be playing at The Battles O'er at 3pm on the Friday afternoon—marking 75 years to the minute when Winston Churchill announced the war had ended. We are very proud to be taking part in this weekend of events and would love to see some of you supporting us too. Look out for more details.

As you can see, being part of Burntisland Pipe Band is much more than learning and playing an instrument. All our kids are making friends and memories that will last a lifetime.

Follow and like our band Facebook page to keep up to date with all our latest news and adventures.

Craig Hooper, Pipe Major

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The whole group has been busy over the last few months. We were involved in the town's Remembrance Day parade with around 80 youth members taking part. To finish off our centenary year celebrations we had great fun at a Ceilidh on 30th November. Leaders have completed First Aid Training and Shirley Kent completed her leader training earning her scout Wood Badge.



We were then busy organising and delivering scout post, almost 800 cards were delivered around Burntisland and Kinghorn, raising nearly £315 for the group. Thank you to everyone who used the service and the three post collection sites: Jason's Newsagents, the Library and Church Street Co-op.

BEAVERS

The Beavers have been working on their Scottish Challenge with a visit to the church to learn about its history, learned about Scottish Inventions, did some ceilidh dancing, played some traditional playground games and sang some songs and read some stories in Scots.

We had a Space themed sleepover in November where we learned about planets, stars and the moon landings and also attended the District Beaver Xmas Party in Kirkcaldy.

CUBS

We reached the end of another busy year having awarded a total of 1,026 badges to Cubs from both our Monday and Thursday night sections. The Cubs tried new things, faced new challenges and built on their skills. We enjoyed camps and sleepovers and had fun celebrating 100 years of Scouting in Burntisland with a camp, an open day and a ceilidh. Time to get ready for what 2020 throws at us. So far the Cub team are planning camps and looking at what adventures we can get up to. Let's see what 2020 brings and how many badges and new adventures we can achieve. Can't wait for the fun!



SCOUTS

The Scouts are now divided into two sessions which meet on different evenings. Activities are basically the same with members of both sessions completing their Hobby and Model Maker badges by building and painting Warhammer miniature figures. A highlight of last term was a cycle camp at Fordell Firs. Scouts from both sessions cycled the coastal path to the campsite and then across the Forth Bridge and returning to Fordell to camp overnight. The inclement weather made the return trip to Burntisland more challenging but all participating scouts were thrilled to have earned their cycling badges.



The term finished with an entertaining visit to the opening night of the BYT Pantomime where the scouts had a unique opportunity to see some of their fellow scouts and explorers display their performance skills. All in all it was a great term with our three patrols really stepping up and displaying their knowledge of scouting skills and teamwork.

EXPLORERS

Explorers had a blast from the past when we spent an evening playing the generation game; they watched some clips from experts and competed in teams to recreate what the expert did. Their tasks included balloon animal making, black bag dress design, Karate demonstration and the final conveyor belt. The Explorers agreed it was great fun and another is planned for the next few months with some different expert tasks.

They also had a Xmas sleepover where they had Xmas dinner, Xmas movies and some Xmas games. One of our Explorers, Emma Donovan completed her Young Leader award and was presented with a Young leader belt and certificate from our District Commissioner.



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Erskine Church

First things first, let me wish everyone a very peaceful & healthy New Year! Can it really be 2020 already and year number eight for us as a family here in Burntisland?

Christmas services went well, both our evening of carols & Watchnight attracted very good congregations. The impressive sum of £595 was raised for our 2019 charities, Fife Women's Aid and the Samaritans. Thanks to everyone for their generous response to support these really worthy causes.

Rev. Jim Reid (Kinghorn) gave a lovely seasonal message on 15th December. He was ably supported by Burntisland Community Choir and some excellent Bible readers. It's always great when the churches work together.

On Christmas Eve a super group of volunteers collected and distributed food generously donated by Aldi to those needing some extra help. It involved folks working from the Toll Community Centre, Burntisland Primary & Solid Rock. Our community can do amazing things when we join forces and co-operate. It was great to see and be a small part of concerted efforts to make a difference.

Someone told me that making New Year resolutions is old-fashioned. It does seem a bit unwise to promise to give something up or put something right, only to find you've fallen back into old ways even by the end of January's first week. Perhaps a better approach is to try and stay consistent throughout the year. Hold that thought...

The Bible says, "The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever" (Psalm 121.8, NLT). That's Erskine's Bible verse for 2020 and it reminds us that God always remains

faithful to us—even when we fail, get things wrong or go off-piste. He protects us as we come & go.

This is a valuable lesson for the New Year. It's living our lives consistently and compassionately which truly matters, the kindness we show and the time we give to others far more than being self-obsessed or introspective. God's vigilance provides the backdrop allowing us to do it, the example of Jesus confirms living selflessly is the way to be.

Please feel free to join us at Erskine any Sunday at 11am, there'll be a warm welcome.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the latest info and try your best to have a consistent 2020.

Rev Alexander Ritchie



Happy New Year everyone and thank you to all who supported our Christmas activities and services. A Christmas Lunch was served to over 60 parishioners and friends. This was followed by a Christmas Party for our younger, enthusiastic parishioners—not the church of the future, very much the church of today.

The Knit and Knatter group held another very successful Coffee Morning, which raised £500 for both Alzheimer Scotland Fife and the local Foodbank, and £275 for the Retired Priests Fund. Both Christmas Day services were very well attended.

It was heart-warming to see so many come and celebrate the birth of Jesus, including

St Joseph's Church

many who do not come to church on a regular basis.

Each week we have Services on a Saturday evening at 5pm, and on Sunday morning Mass at 10.00am, at which we have a Children's Liturgy. After Sunday Mass refreshments are served in the hall.

This year we celebrate Ash Wednesday on 26th February, when there will be Mass and distribution of ashes at 10.00am and 7.00pm. During Lent we will aim to have Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7.00pm.

For Holy Week itself: the Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Holy Thursday, 9th April at 7.00pm; the Celebration of the Lord's Passion will be on Good Friday, 10th April at 3.00pm; the Easter Vigil will be on Saturday 11th April at 8.00pm; and Easter Sunday Mass will be at 10.00am.

All are welcome to attend any of our services. May 2020 bring you and yours many blessings and be a year filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

Fr James Tracey



Craigencalt Trust

2019 has been very wet and it proved challenging for volunteers to keep paths trimmed back. Unfortunately, this winter has remained wet and paths get very wet and slippery. We are fortunate to have the coastal path and inland tracks with a firm base, so winter walking and running can remain enjoyable.

Over the last nine years the Trust has worked to improve the path network and during one week of sunny weather in October, the construction of a new path at Red Path Brae went ahead. Our fantastic posse of volunteers managed to complete the work in record time. The path is a great asset, providing a safe route away from the dangerous bend in the road at the end of the access road to Kinghorn Loch. It also provides a circular route around Craigencalt offering splendid views of the coast and inland areas.

Fife Council has agreed to add a substantial length of pavement to rejoin the road safely, which will ensure that

path users and drivers have clear sight of each other. The project has been made possible by co-operative efforts of the Trust volunteers, Craigencalt Farm, Alcan and Fife Council.



Spring is just around the corner and so is the Trust's annual Walking Festival. It proved very popular last year and folk already are asking about 2020. This year the event runs from **Monday 23rd March to Sunday 5th April**. We have some historical walks planned for Aberdour and Kinghorn, as well as the usual mix of inland and coastal scenic

walks. We always include new walks plus some old favourites and a special storytelling walk for families with youngsters.

This will be the seventh Walking Festival which the Trust has organised, which is free to all participants. Walking is a very healthy activity and the event always has good company and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. The full programme will be on our website by the end of February, but if you would like to learn more please get in touch by phoning 01592 891330 or email info@craigencalttrust.org.uk

Another annual spring event is the 'Come and Try' day at Kinghorn Loch. There are several water sports clubs who use this wonderful venue throughout the year, and on Saturday 2nd May they will come together to offer visitors the opportunity to try out a sports activity under members guidance. It's a great chance for young and old to try something new, so why not come along. **Marilyn Edwards**

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Parish Church

First of all, on behalf of the congregation of Burntisland Parish Church, let me wish you all a very Happy New Year and God's blessings for 2020. The Christmas season has been a wonderful time and we in the churches of Burntisland have taken every opportunity to celebrate the good news that Christ's birth has brought to the world. It has also been great that so many from our community joined us at the special services, both in the run up to Christmas and then on Christmas Eve and also on Christmas Day.

I was particularly moved by the response from so many to the prayer Christmas Tree we had in the Parish Church for the services of Christmas. So many people, adults and children alike, came forward to write a simple, but deeply meaningful prayer on a gift tag and placed it on the tree. Very soon, a bare Christmas tree was transformed into an attractive decoration; but more importantly it bore the heart-felt prayers of so many people in this simple but profound way. These prayers were then dedicated to God and we continued our celebrations with the singing of joyful Christmas carols.



Our Prayer Christmas Tree

Now Christmas and the New Year are well behind us it is time for us in the churches of Burntisland and the surrounding area to look to the future with plans for the coming weeks.

Recently, I was reading the announcements at the start of a Sunday service and I was struck by how much is happening in Burntisland thanks to the work of the churches here. I can only speak fully on behalf of the Parish Church, but I know that each of the churches of the town are bringing something of their own

distinctive and valuable contribution to the life and faith of our community.

Throughout February our Sunday services will be in the church hall at 11am. In addition, there will be evening services in Solid Rock in the High Street from 6.20pm except on the last Sunday of the month when there is a service at St Serf's at 6pm.

On Wednesday mornings at 10.30am there is a short midweek service followed by teas. Our weekly coffee morning in the church hall takes place on Fridays from 10am until 12noon. Looking ahead, two of our young people are organising a ceilidh on Saturday 8th February—which should be great fun for all.

Local churches work more closely together in activities such as the Messy Church for families and the Parish Church, is heavily involved in the Guild, the Prospects group, the café at Solid Rock, the Church Shop in the High Street, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and a number of prayer groups and home groups throughout the week.

Finally, I would like to mention that there are plans for a joint service of Burntisland Parish Church, Erskine United Free Church and Kinghorn Parish Church in the Kirk by the Sea in Kinghorn on Sunday 15th March—which should be a very special occasion.

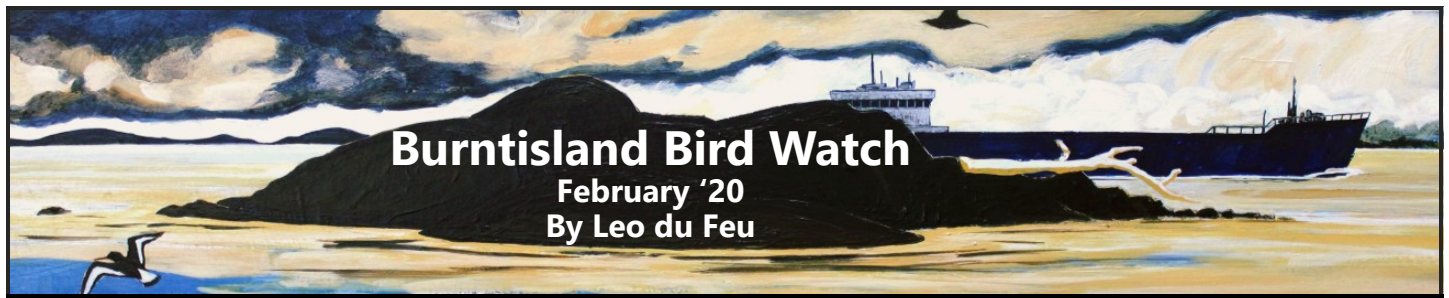
Most of the events I have mentioned are open to all and we would be delighted if you would like to join us at any one of these.

Every blessing, **Rev David Redmayne**

Burntisland Churches Together Donation

On 25th October 2019 Burntisland Churches Together held their 20th Anniversary Quiz Night, raising £111.55 for the Cottage Family Centre charity in Kirkcaldy. Ann Smith is pictured handing over the donation to Lana Moffat, Senior Family Service Co-ordinator.





I've been thinking about herons, having recently painted two watercolours of one for an exhibition in Glasgow. I've been wondering about the places to see them around Burntisland. The Binn Pond is good though I never see more than one at a time there and unless you're really silent and stealthy they unfortunately almost always startle and fly off. I always feel so guilty about that. Also the Seamill pond and the smaller pond and reedbed beside the Alcan estate. Herons aren't always solitary, they nest communally usually in treetops but also have been recorded on low bushes, cliff, heathery hillside and more. The largest recorded heronries, historically, included as many as 400 nests. Nowadays Britain's largest comprises around 150 nests. I don't know any local heronries but there's a small rocky headland glimpsed from the train to Edinburgh where I seen as many as ten all standing together.

Our own rocky headland, the Lammerlaws, is another spot but again I've only seen solitary herons there. I love the Lammerlaws. A piece of wild enjoyed by townsfolk and visitors, perhaps most of all when whales are around. The past three years, January to March, humpback whales have made an appearance in the Forth and this is one of (many) good places to watch for them. It's an incredible privilege to have these huge ocean travellers visiting us and a large network of spotters has grown to look out for and try to protect the whales and their habitat. Join the Forth Marine Mammals group on Facebook for sightings and for discussion on whales, dolphins, porpoises, otters, sea litter, and many other things ocean.

I was down at the Lammerlaws a few days ago an hour before dusk to see how the SSSI-sympathetic path improvements are getting on and to see what wildlife was about. As I came along the beach promenade a flock of over 20 lapwings flickered over the water, wide paddle wings causing their bouncy flight. A similar size group of red-breasted merganser ducks was on the water, nervy as always, heads stretched forwards on long necks as they fast swam/ran along the surface, all dived simultaneously, repeat. Mergansers are a regular in winter but I rarely see lapwings down here, only in spring up on farmland behind the Binn.



At the Lammerlaws I walked first to the highest point where a great job is being made of trying to restore badly eroding grass and soil. A huge one-silver-from-full moon rose over the caravan park cliffs and four eider ducks down below me dived for shellfish. I watched a black and white (and that unreal green on the back of his head) male come up with a

crab and crunch it down. One of the all-dark females did the same with what I think was a mussel. A shag was diving for food alongside, smaller and sleeker than its cormorant cousins I could see them standing out on Black Rock. A crow was at the very end of the headland but not the heron or small waders I'd hoped for.

I sat with my flask of coffee as the sun set and the temperature dropped. A mute swan flew high behind me, spotted thanks to the whoosh woosh woosh of its wings. In front and far out a large lot of eiders flew low, forty or more, then a second lot following. A redshank appeared from the other direction, upriver, landed on seaweedy rocks below me, head bobbed up and down, orange-red legs for which it was named glowed at me. Oystercatchers flew in from the same direction but passed without landing. More oystercatchers in tens or twenties, all going the same way. Three auks flew above two other auks sitting on the water, too far out to say if guillemots or razorbills or both. Gulls flew to and fro. As I got up to leave there was suddenly a dark clumping chain of curlews, again flying west to east, more than a hundred of them, more than I've ever seen together. I followed closely with my binoculars until they landed on the tide-unveiling mudflats between here and Kinghorn.

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

Fife's First Eco-Cemetery & Columbarium

Kinghorn Community Land Association (KCLA) is a community group whose main aim is to provide environmental protection and conserve land for the public benefit in or near to Kinghorn.

In 2015 KCLA purchased ten acres of unused land beside Kinghorn Loch on behalf of the local community, through Lottery funding. Since then, plans have been drawn up and planning permission granted to create a multi-faith and no-faith eco-cemetery and columbarium (a reliquary for the ashes of the deceased, which are stored within stone niches).

The Kinghorn community and its surrounding area has a need for burial space and to protect the land from further building developments.

The eco-cemetery aims to reduce the impact of burials on the environment. Instead of being a cemetery with formal paths, headstones and mown grass, burials will be within a wildflower meadow that's managed to look attractive and benefit wildlife. It will be an area of tranquillity and peaceful contemplation.

The KCLA committee are now in the process of looking at raising funding to

progress work on the site and would welcome support from everyone in the local area—we're always looking for new people to join our committee and we're looking for the local community to get involved in naming the eco-cemetery and columbarium. We would love to hear your ideas—email us your thoughts to info.kcla@gmail.com

To find out more about this project see our website: www.kcla.org.uk or like and follow us on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

The Ecology Centre

Happy New Year – we hope everyone enjoyed all the festivities. We are back out at schools and our volunteering programmes in our Tool Shed on our site and in our Community Garden have all resumed. We're looking forward to the year ahead where we will be bringing people and nature together for mutual benefit.

Here's all our latest news and the different ways you can get involved with your local environmental charity.

Tool Shed refurbished tools on their way to Malawi

The Centre's Tool Shed recently finished filling an amazing six carpentry boxes with over 250 recycled and refurbished tools, along with ten manual Singer sewing machines and treadle bases.

The Tool Shed runs tool refurbishing workshops, manned by a cracking group of volunteers who refurbish old tools and sewing machines that are donated to the Centre at Kinghorn Loch.

As well as supporting other local charity and community groups with refurbished tools the Tool Shed works with Global Concerns Trust. They are a Scottish based charity that aims to reduce poverty and empower vulnerable people and those with disabilities by equipping them with the

skills and tools needed to be self-sufficient. The refurbished tools and sewing machines are also shipped to Malawi and to be used by Global Concern's partners to provide vocational training in carpentry, tailoring and cane furniture.



If you are having a shed or garage clear out and come across any old tools or sewing machines that you no longer use, then please consider donating them.

Partnering with Burntisland Primary School P7 pupils

Our Education team are launching an exciting new project with Burntisland Primary School. We will be co-delivering a wellbeing award to Primary 7 pupils in the school. The award will focus on the '5 ways to wellbeing': Connect, Learn, Give, Take Notice, and Be Active. Pupils will be using all the skills they have learned in

Primary school, as well as their experience of mindful activity in the outdoors with The Ecology Centre, to focus on how they can look after themselves and help others.

The pupils will be exploring the Dells woods and the coast, participating in conservation projects, learning relaxation exercises, trying new sports and subsequently, leading younger pupils in the school in some of these activities.

Spending time in nature is so important for our wellbeing and allows opportunities for young people to connect to each other, the community and nature.

February mid-term adventures for the kids!

Our popular Eco Adventures school holiday club is returning for the February mid-term break. The children will enjoy lots of outdoor fun and adventures around our site and Kinghorn Loch. Perfect for children aged between 5 and 9 years old. Check out our website to book:

www.theecologycentre.org

To find out more information about what's happening at the Centre, like and follow us on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages or see our website.



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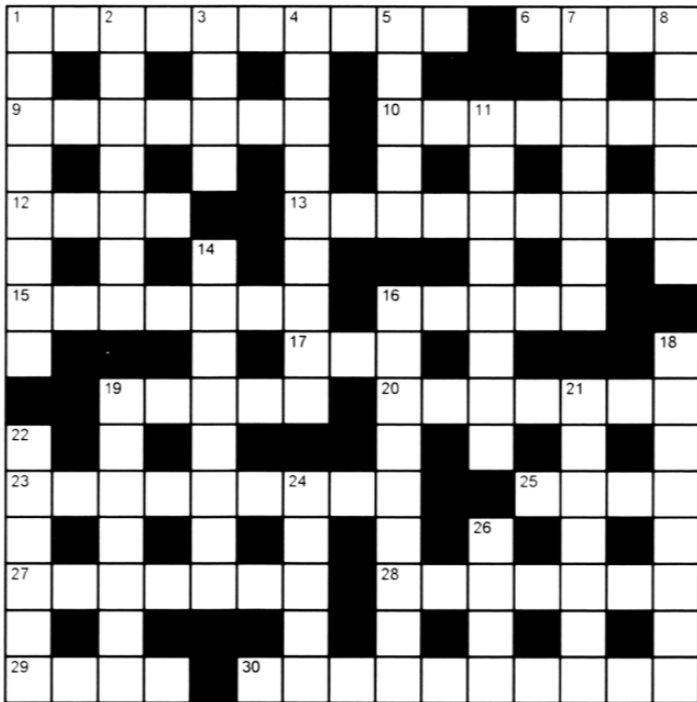
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ACROSS

1. Shorten (10)
6. Four roods (4)
9. Seer (7)
10. Pinching (7)
12. Verdi opera (4)
13. Occur repeatedly (9)
15. Genuine (7)
16. Miraculous food (5)
17. No (3)
19. Outset (5)
20. Trip (7)
23. Famous Operatic Tenor (9)
25. Tranquil (4)
27. Monarchical state (7)
28. Dwell in (7)
29. Nigh (4)
30. Venetian boatmen (10)

DOWN

1. Evaluate (8)
2. Make wider (8)
3. Reflected sound (4)
4. Burial (9)
5. Uniform jacket (5)
7. Idle Fancy (7)
8. Fourscore (6)
11. Yearly (3,5)
14. Mended (8)
16. Bewildered (9)
18. White ants (8)
19. African grassland (7)
21. Prickly bush (7)
22. Oral (6)
24. Musical speed (5)
26. Welsh resort (4)

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Completed entries by 30th March 2020 to:

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

First two correct entries drawn win **£50** in vouchers kindly donated by **Shell UK Ltd.** Solution will appear in the next Burgh Buzz issue.

Solution to November Crossword

Due to a technical error, November's Crossword has been declared null and void.

Many apologies to our regular Crossword players

There will be two £50 voucher prizes for February's crossword

Burntisland's Events Diary

FEBRUARY

| | | | |
|----------|------|--|---------------------|
| Saturday | 1st | Community Police drop-in clinic in the Public Library | 11.00 am–12.00 noon |
| Tuesday | 11th | Greenmount Tenants & Residents Association meeting at the Toll Community Centre | 7.00 pm |
| Thursday | 13th | Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association meeting in the Heritage Centre | 7.00 pm |
| Friday | 14th | Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers | 7.00 pm |
| Saturday | 15th | Coffee Morning with hot pancakes in the Erskine Church Hall | 10.00 am–12.00 noon |
| Friday | 21st | Floral Action Burntisland AGM in the Burntisland Sands Hotel | 7.00 pm |
| Saturday | 22nd | Burgh Chambers Feasibility Report at the Heritage Centre | tbc, afternoon |
| Sunday | 23rd | Beach clean & hot chocolate at the Beach House | 10.30 am |

MARCH

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|--|---------------------------|
| Saturday | 7th | Community Police drop-in clinic in the Public Library | 11.00 am–12.00 noon |
| Tuesday | 10th | Greenmount TRA meeting at the Toll Community Centre | 7.00 pm |
| Wednesday | 11th | Gardeners Question Time hosted by FAB in the Burntisland Sands Hotel | 7.00 pm–9.00 pm |
| Thursday | 12th | Central Burntisland TRA AGM in the Heritage Centre | 7.00 pm |
| Friday | 13th | Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers | 7.00 pm |
| Wednesday | 18th | Burntisland Bowling Club AGM in the Clubhouse | 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start |
| Saturday | 21st | Cancer Research "Spring Fling" at St Joseph's Church | 10.30 am–12.30 pm |
| Monday | 23rd to | Sunday 5th April—Craigencalt Walking Festival, see page 18 | |
| Saturday | 28th | Coffee Morning with hot pancakes in the Erskine Church Hall | 10.00 am–12.00 noon |
| Sunday | 29th | Beach clean & hot chocolate at the Beach House | 10.30 am |

APRIL

| | | | |
|-----------|------|--|---------------------|
| Wednesday | 1st | Burntisland Community Development Trust AGM, venue to be confirmed | 7.00 pm–9.00 pm |
| Saturday | 4th | Community Police drop-in clinic in the Public Library | 11.00 am–12.00 noon |
| Thursday | 9th | Central Burntisland TRA meeting in the Heritage Centre | 7.00 pm |
| Friday | 10th | Community Council Meeting in the Burgh Chambers | 7.00 pm |
| Tuesday | 14th | Greenmount TRA meeting at the Toll Community Centre | 7.00 pm |
| Sunday | 12th | "Come and Try" session (all welcome) at Burntisland Bowling Club | 2.00 pm–4.00 pm |
| Sunday | 26th | Beach clean & hot chocolate at the Beach House | 10.30 am |

MAY

| | | | |
|----------|-----|---|---------------------|
| Saturday | 2nd | Pipe Band Spring Coffee Morning in the Parish Church Hall | 10.00 am–12.00 noon |
| Saturday | 2nd | "Come and Try Day" at Kinghorn Loch | 1.00 pm–4.00 pm |

To include a public event taking place in May, June or July 2020 in our next issue, please email editor@burghbuzz.org.uk



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