

BURGH BUZZ

Burntisland's Free Community Magazine

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May 2020

Issue No 75



The Bridge of Life



Andrew Young, the Burntisland artist, photographer and historian completed his last work the 'Bridge of Life' in 1923. The painting has hung in the Burgh Chambers since 1925 the same year Andrew Young died. The painting measuring 2.33 by 1.65 metres and is full of symbolism. The Bridge is human life. The valley is the vale of misery. The people represent humanity setting out for eternity. There are trapdoors on the crumbling bridge which represents all the obstacles encountered in life.

What is remarkable about the painting is that every single character shown in the painting were all local people who lived in the town at that time.

Burntisland Heritage Trust discovered a "key" to the painting which names many of the numerous characters.

Twelve years ago the Heritage Trust was concerned at the deterioration of the painting but lacked the resources to take a conservation project forward. This was further complicated by the fact that the painting belongs to the Burntisland Common Good, but a way forward was eventually found. Thanks to funding from the Co-op Local Community Fund, the Common Good fund and a bequest to the Heritage Trust, funding was finally secured in 2019. As well as the Bridge of Life two other paintings were included in the restoration project.

The end result to date is a remarkable transformation thanks to the 'tender, loving, care' and great skill that has been lavished upon the painting by the Dundee-based conservationists Egan, Matthews & Rose .

When the current restrictions are over, the Heritage Trust are planning to celebrate with an open day weekend in the Burgh Chambers where Andrew Young's restored masterpiece will be on display along with many of his other works. A lot more can be read about Andrew Young on www.burntisland.net and follow the link to 'Personalities'.

Ian Archibald

BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

From the Editor

Ironically, the picture on the front page of this issue, “The Bridge of Life”, graphically illustrates our current situation, with the chasm between the bridge and salvation, representing the existing coronavirus epidemic. Significantly, the flocks of guardian angels hovering above are there to assist the populous to cross the divide.

This is not the first time that the town has suffered a lockdown imposition, having been totally isolated from surrounding Burghs in the early 17th century because of an outbreak of the Plague in the town. (Page12)

Today, our community is confronted with the problems associated with lockdown and restriction of movement and many of our most vulnerable are receiving crucial, day to day assistance through BEAT (the angels) in acquiring the necessities to maintain a normal life. The magnificent efforts of the BEAT volunteers can not be understated.

We also are indeed fortunate in having a vibrant High Street lined with a wide variety of commercial outlets, whose principal aim is to serve the community. It is comforting to note how everyone in the town is pulling together to ensure that the virus does not spread and that nobody is deprived of basic necessities because of restrictions.

In this issue we welcome a new addition to our editorial team who introduces her young self in a very mature article on (Page 9). Welcome to the fold Kizzy.

The Buzz events diary regrettably, has been converted to a “non-events” diary. This graphically illustrates how a vibrant events and a fun filled summer that we normally enjoy in this wonderful town has been curtailed. Hopefully, it is not all doom and gloom—by the introduction of the warmer weather, movement restrictions will be relaxed, visitors will return and we will all be able to take full, advantage of our wonderful natural, amenities—the Links, the Binn, the beach, the golf course, bowling green and of course the High Street and our very inviting hostelrys.

It has been almost twelve years since the Buzz was restricted to an online issue. Not everyone, particularly older members of the community, have access to the internet. If you are aware of someone in that situation who likes to know what is going on in the town, why not print a copy and pass it on?

Abide by the rules and stay safe.

Bill Kirkhope

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Burntisland's Burgh Buzz

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Your Community Council

Burrtisland 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: Vacant
Treasurer: Fiona Watson
Secretary: Yvonne Crombie
Minutes Secretary: Anne Smith

Members:

Tim Hailey John Bruce
Brendan Burns Lynne Ralph

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www.burrtislandcc.org.uk
www.facebook.com/BurrtislandCC

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: 07718 118325

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

Gordon does not hold surgeries but is happy for constituents to contact him to arrange to meet at a convenient time and place.

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 Burrtisland'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.

- Bruce Stuart has stood down both as Vice Chair and as a member of the Community Council, in preparation for a planned relocation.
- The Community Emergency Plan was activated on 24th March and is working well. The original plan was set up by the Community Council some 20 years ago and has been enhanced several times but never previously activated.
- Following a significant local campaign of pressure and clearer information, the future of the Beacon Leisure Centre is secure.
- Efforts to improve the accessibility of the Burgh Chambers have foundered for the time being, as Fife Council say they have not identified the necessary funds.
- The future development of the Burgh Chambers complex will be taken to the next stage by a core group of interested people. They will prepare for wider fund-raising and the likelihood of an eventual asset transfer.
- The Community Action Plan will be migrated to a new vision for the years to 2030.
- Attempts to secure funding for accessibility at the railway station were not successful.
- A funding application is in progress for the enhancement of the Cot Burn at the Toll Park. Some funds are already earmarked and a decision on the remainder is expected in May.
- Key paintings within the Burgh Chambers are being expertly conserved and renovated thanks to the Burrtisland Heritage Trust.
- Forth Ports will be placing fencing around much of the harbour in order to provide security whilst also indicating the areas which are publicly-accessible.
- Plans are in hand for cleaning and maintenance of the water feature on the Links and potentially, also the old fountain at the Porte entrance.

The current Covid-19 restrictions mean that the Community Council cannot meet in public, though we remain active via email and social media. Our ability to take decisions is therefore limited, but no more so than that of a huge range of other organisations.

Our regular business meetings will resume as soon as the restrictions have been eased, though we still need to have more people coming forward as members if our very challenging programme of events and activities is to bear fruit.

The Burgh Poliz

from PC Danny Hatch



I'll start by saying that I hope everyone is well and is holding up okay in what, at the moment, are trying and challenging times for everyone. The impact on peoples lives, employment, businesses and more cannot be underestimated and I sincerely hope that you will all find your feet when we come out the other side.

It is also proving to be a challenging time for policing. This does not, however, mean that policing does not exist on a local level. Police can still be contacted as usual using **101** or **999** where appropriate. There is also always the option of crime stoppers which provides a valuable tool in reporting issues anonymously:

Website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Telephone: **0800 555 111**

The current climate in some ways, will change community policing. One example of this would be the postponement of local drop in sessions. These are usually held at Burntisland Library once per month. It would be my intention for these to continue once we have come through the other end of this pandemic but in the meantime there are the conventional methods of contacting police and the community team email addresses at the bottom of this article. I would ask however, that when reporting a crime, **101** and **999** be used.

Much has been made about police having new powers and the ability to issue fines in relation to persons in breach of coronavirus regulations. This is not something the average member of the public should be overly concerned about. Police are only looking to issue tickets where absolutely necessary and we are relying on assistance and goodwill from the public in following the guidance given. Police Scotland is founded upon public service and operates under the fundamental principle of policing by consent. The powers being afforded to officers will be used as a last resort and only where people are defying very clear and sensible advice which is designed to protect them from harm.

I'm sure everybody is well aware by now but at the time of writing it's a case of remembering that to comply with these new

powers you only have to follow these simple steps:

- stay at home
- only go outside for essential food, health and work reasons
- stay 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people
- stop all gatherings of more than two people in public

Further information regarding policing powers and policing in general around the coronavirus can be found at the link below:

www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/covid-19-policescotlandresponse/frequently-asked-questions

Advice from the government and our NHS colleagues can be found at the links below:

www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19

www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

On a more positive note (at least from my point of view), talks over a new policing base in the town were progressing very well prior to the pandemic and it was looking very likely that a solution had been found. This will obviously be delayed for the time being. However, I am hopeful that before too long everything will be in place. I'll refrain from saying too much more about it until such time as I know things have been finalised.

Before I go, I would like to thank you all for your cooperation and understanding during this time. Whilst there will always be exceptions, I believe that the public and more specifically the people of Burntisland are by and large adhering to the guidance given by the government which will hopefully serve to minimise our problems during this difficult period.

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

Daniel.hatch@scotland.pnn.police.uk

BurntislandKinghornWesternKirkcaldyCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Burntisland First Aid

Covid-19 has stopped so many things in their tracks—including our new ambulance. In February three of us visited the factory in Poland to carry out a final inspection and identify a (very small) snagging list. Everything was set for completing the UK formalities in March. However, that meant transporting it through other countries which each have their own rules on what is allowed to move. So we are in limbo until I receive a call to say it's on the way.

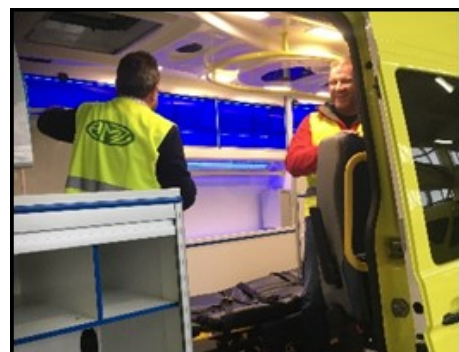


In the meantime, our diary has been hugely transformed. On the one hand lots of events have been cancelled—and replaced by bookings up to June of next year. On the other hand, we've been busy delivering local prescriptions. We've also produced

more online educational content for our current course (which is impacted for social distancing reasons).

The good news is that once our new ambulance arrives, it will be one of the most advanced of its type, with 4-wheel drive and an automated trolley loading system, as well as a very full range of equipment and materials. So one day soon, there will be a sparkling new addition to the roads, both near and far.

Alex. MacDonald
Chairman, Burntisland First Aid Services Trust



The BEAT to the rescue

Burntisland Emergency Action Team (BEAT) was created in response to the Coronavirus after activating the Community Council's Emergency Plan.

It is a partnership with the Toll Community Centre and Burntisland Community Council. Fife Council have allowed a member of staff to also work with us, and it is based in the Toll Community Centre.

Although limited in resources, we responded to the urgent requirements of the more vulnerable members of our community and were up and running within the first week. A new team, whose members hadn't previously worked together, we nevertheless succeeded in responding efficiently and effectively. We are very proud that after many long hours of brainstorming and organising, we managed to get things right and were able to have systems in place to capture data and were able to adopt a responsive approach to addressing the community needs. So far this has probably also been our biggest challenge together with having to deal with some of the very emotional calls through the helpline.

Already, we have recruited 81 volunteers, through social media and word of mouth and their details have been added to a database. They have provided us with their personal details, whether they have a PVG certificate, availability and what duties they would be interested in carrying out. We have three full time coordinators based in HQ.

Every home in the town has been leafleted with a dedicated helpline number. We are offering a wide range of services—food shopping, food parcels for vulnerable people, dog walking, a phone buddy system. We are also receiving quite a few calls of concern so are also checking up on people.

We are working along side Morag at the Star who is offering to buy and deliver shopping for over 70s. We have developed a system with the local chemist where we

notify them of the prescription requests we have received. The chemist makes them up and the Burntisland First Aid Services Trust collects the prescriptions and delivers them to the recipients on behalf of BEAT.

At the end of each week we call other services/agencies for updates and share information. In this way, we can support each other and divert resources to where they are most needed.

The Sands, in partnership with Tom Courts and Macauley's, is making meals for us to deliver to the elderly and this we do twice a week.

We have negotiated donations from Stephens, a local baker who gives us 200 rolls, three times a week, Graham's Dairy who gives us in excess of a hundred pints of milk once a week and Aldi gives us left over food three times a week. We managed to deliver 350 Easter eggs across the town in partnership with the primary school.

Our Bike project also, has been very popular with people asking for bikes, donating them and requesting us to repair them.

We receive referrals from the local school, Kirkcaldy food bank, Fife Council, the Red Cross, GP Surgery, Pharmacy, Social Work Service, Fife Forum and concerned neighbours.

Local people and businesses have been very generous with donations of food and money.

BEAT is a great example of a Burntisland coming together and responding to our community needs and helping approximately 120 residents on a weekly basis. This number is likely to grow daily until the coronavirus is under control and the community is released from lockdown.

Yvonne Crombie

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Burntisland Primary School

Whole School

Once again the school has experienced a great deal of sporting success in recent months. Primary 6 pupils participated in the “Fun in Athletics” Competition in Dundee and placed 6th. This was an incredible achievement as they competed primarily against Primary 7 teams! Primary 3 pupils also participated in the “Fun in Athletics” Festival at the Michael Woods Centre in March and won. I think it’s safe to say that everyone had a great time.



The Athletics Team

Recently, Primary 7 pupils represented the school in an academic context. The Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Quiz took place in February, with one of our teams—“The Dancing Donkeys”—winning the competition and moving onto the next round of this nationwide Rotary competition. Also, we have had our annual P7 Speakers Competition. The finalists were treated to a lovely evening hosted by Burntisland Speakers Club, where they delivered incredibly well researched and confident presentations. (Full report on opposite page)



Incredible Quizzers

Primary 6 recently participated in the Big Book Brain Quiz at the Rothes Halls where they finished in an incredible second place out of over 120 schools. What an amazing achievement!

The whole school celebrated “Lots of Socks” Day in March to raise awareness of World Down Syndrome Day. Children and staff came to school wearing odd socks to represent the additional chromosome associated with Down syndrome. This day was organised by our Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group, who are currently working hard to achieve our Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award.

Primary 1 learners have been incredibly busy this term. They have been developing their awareness of sounds and using this to read new, exciting words. The children have enjoyed experiencing a mixture of teacher directed and play based learning.

Weather has been the focus of learning in **Primary 2**. Children have been studying various types of weather conditions and recording it in different ways. They have also shown excellent resilience in mastering telling the time—a rather tricky task.

Primary 3 have been learning about the Fairground. They have spent time studying the different jobs people can do in the fairground environment, as well as learning about Burntisland’s own fairground. They have also been practising creative writing, making sure they are using excellent adverbs in their work.

The Vikings have landed in **Primary 3/4 and Primary 4**. Children have been absorbed in the Viking invasions and the impact this had on the landscape of Scotland. They have also concentrated on improving their skills in up-levelling their writing, and when they’re finished, to make it even better.

African drumming has been a highlight of this term for **Primary 5**. Children have been learning African songs and enjoying how to maintain accompanying rhythms. They have also developed their awareness of African nations and associated cultures and shared this learning experience in a unique “Sharing the Learning Assembly” for parents.

This project has been possible thanks to Suzanne Jackson from the Youth Music Initiative.

Learners in **Primary 6** have been investigating the devastating impact of Natural Disasters. They have learnt about the causes of these disasters and how they affect the communities who experience them. Fractions has been the focus in Numeracy with children learning how to order, compare and find equivalent fractions.



On the water at Ardroy

Many pupils in **Primary 7** visited Ardroy Education Centre this term where they had an incredible residential experience pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones. Wall climbing, canoeing, abseiling and hill climbing were highlights. Learners have started to develop their awareness of the UN’s Global Goals and the issues which these goals aim to address.

It has been another busy, but wonderful term at BPS and we hope you have all enjoyed your learning as much as we have!

Kelly Syme



.....and a message from the Head

It's been another busy term in Burntisland Primary School, but these last few weeks have been unlike any other!

We have watched the news unfold day by day and gradually had to deal with the reality that we would have to close for normal BPS 'business', as instructed by the Government.

This is a day none of us really could have imagined.

However, we have dealt with this reality with a pragmatic, sensible, measured and supportive attitude.

The staff have worked tirelessly to get over 560 children onto home learning quickly, to have resources ready, belongings gathered up or collected and up-to-date information distributed promptly whilst dealing with so many questions.

The kitchen team has had to put in place special arrangements for service and our cleaning team has also been crucial in helping to provide a safe environment for us all. This has all been accomplished at times when we have been exceptionally short staffed as a result of the Public Health restrictions.

We have been overwhelmed by the positive comments we have

received and offers for support and we truly have valued these during some extremely challenging times.

We will continue to do our best to support all of our BPS Learners in any way we can and we also, will look to ways in which we can do our bit for the wider community.

We will find ways in the immediate future to revisit some of the things we may miss, such as the P7 Leavers events. We will look to create something special for them in due course and we will support all of our children back in to school when the time is right.

In the meantime, we would ask that people to follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with what's going on for the BPS Family. Just because we don't all 'live' together, it doesn't mean we don't still 'belong'.

Julie Anderson

www.facebook.com/BurntislandPS



Burntisland Speakers Club

During the months of February and March and fortunately, prior to the current lockdown, the Burntisland Speakers Club was able to organise the annual speech competition amongst Primary 7 pupils from Burntisland Primary School. The competition kicked off with a preliminary round during which nine prospective finalists are identified by school staff from a large number of enthusiastic, young orators.

These nine pupils then performed before their classmates and a panel of Speakers Club assessors, who had the very difficult task of identifying five finalists to perform before a meeting of Club members at the Sands Hotel on the evening of 5th March.

It proved to be a very entertaining and informative evening for

club members who were required to assess the young speakers on their respective topics of Space, Liverpool, Poaching, Equality of Women and Burntisland Primary School.

Club members allocated scores to individual speakers and after a very close contest, Maya Scott on her topic of "Equality of Women", was declared the winner. Maya's performance was particularly impressive as she was addressing an all-male audience!

President Simon Payne, in presenting the trophy to the winner, congratulated all participants on their mature and confident presentations. All finalists on the evening received a commemorative medal and a certificate.

The Finalists



Goodbye from Change Works in Burntisland



Change Works in Burntisland

The Change Works in Burntisland project and High Street hub was set up in January 2019 under the Scottish Government's Energy Efficient Scotland programme.

Following the temporary closure of the Hub due to the Coronavirus situation and concerned about future funding, Changeworks HQ took the decision to let staff go rather than furlough them, and **close the Hub permanently**. This is not the way any of us would have liked to finish our work in the town.

Throughout the project we piloted new approaches to improve energy efficiency in the community, including specialist events, energy saving campaigns and drop-in sessions with energy experts. The results and impacts of our work and your participation will be reported to the Scottish Government and used to inform future projects to reduce carbon and improve energy efficiency in Scotland.

We have worked with some fantastic organisations and businesses during our time at the Hub and we would like to share their contact information with you to help you as you continue to reduce Burntisland's carbon footprint:

Changeworks

www.changeworks.org.uk

Changeworks develop and deliver high impact solutions to make low carbon life a positive reality for everyone. If you would like to keep up to date with the latest news from Changeworks, you can sign up for their newsletter at

www.changeworks.org.uk/subscribe

Home Energy Scotland

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/home-energy-scotland

Home Energy Scotland are a network of local advice centres covering all of Scotland. Their expert advisors offer free, impartial advice on energy saving, keeping warm at home, renewable energy, greener travel, cutting water waste and much more. As they are funded by Scottish Government, their advice is completely impartial and they aim to help people in Scotland create warmer homes, reduce their bills and tackle climate change.

Call them for free on 0808 808 2282

Citrus

www.citrusenergy.co.uk

Citrus Energy is a social enterprise set up to help domestic and commercial energy consumers make genuine savings on gas and electricity costs through their impartial advice and recommendations. If you have switched through the Hub, it is likely that it was Citrus helped you to do this.

Call them for free on 0800 221 8089

Citizens Advice Scotland

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/consumer/energy/energy-supply/

Citizens Advice Scotland has a great deal of resources available

through their website and in person. Advice provided by Citizens Advice is free, independent, confidential, impartial and available to everyone.

Contact them online or call the Kirkcaldy branch on 0345 1400 095

Cosy Kingdom

www.cosykingdom.org.uk

Cosy Kingdom is a free and impartial energy and debt advice service available to all tenants and homeowners across Fife.

To book a free home visit from one of their energy advisors call 01592 807930 or text 'COSY' and your name to 88440.

Greener Kirkcaldy

www.greenerkirkcaldy.org.uk

Greener Kirkcaldy is a community-led charity and development trust working locally to benefit people and our environment. Their aim is to see a future where everybody is able to heat their home affordably, eat well, and tread more lightly on our planet.

Visit their website, call them on 01592 858458 or email info@greenerkirkcaldy.org.uk

Grain & Sustain

www.facebook.com/grainandsustain

Our friends at Grain & Sustain just a few doors down sell over 200 food, household & bathroom products on refill. So, while you are in getting laundry liquid check out what else they have to offer. Follow them on Facebook for lots of practical, planet-friendly hints and tips.

Grain & Sustain and Macaulay's are kindly distributing the free Fife Council green compost bags during the current situation.

Thank you

We will miss being part of such a vibrant High Street and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for your support. It has been our absolute pleasure to engage with over 500 Burntisland households over the past 16 months, helping you to install over 100 energy efficiency measures and making significant lifelong low carbon changes to your lives.

We would like to wish you all the best through the challenging weeks ahead and be sure to say hello when you see us about the town.

Stay safe,

Nicki, Jo, and Rosanna



The Change Works team

Introducing.....our new teenage "cub" reporter.....Kizzy.

My name is Kizzy Waplington, and I am thirteen years old; a member of the so-called 'snowflake generation'. For this I am guilty of no crime except for being able to see the world with fresh eyes.

This is my introductory article in the Burgh Buzz, and before lockdown it was agreed that I would write a bit about Burntisland from a young person's perspective, but now I can't do that: I can't write about what isn't real to me, what's stopped happening now or what hasn't happened yet. As for the present, isn't it described every day? Every day when world leaders talk of 'unprecedented times' and shake their heads, when you see the rainbows and smiley faces drawn on windows and gates, when, most of all, you try to think of the future? You can't think of a normal future because there's no such thing, this is the turning point, the crisis. It's 2020, the year that promises to surpass all others, the year that past, present and future are intertwined. Everything is linked, everything is connected, the only escape is 'science, solidarity and common sense'.

In Social Subjects we've been learning about the Cold War. This fell under history.

There's an article in the Guardian that says if we deal with this experience properly, there is a chance that the oceans will come back to life in thirty years.

There is a piece of graffiti in Hong Kong that reads 'There can be no return to normal, because normal was the problem we had in the first place.'

People are saying they're 'getting used to the new normal', but none of that makes sense. Nothing about this is normal; it's not because this has only been happening for a short time, it makes no difference whether it has been going on for thirty years; this situation is abnormal, and no indifferent gossip or important conference can change that. It is not *normal* that we are sitting at home with our schoolbooks, it is not *normal* that people are climbing Mount Everest on their stairs, or running marathons on their balconies; it is not *normal* that people are walking out to the Black Rock. This pandemic is very real, but little surrounding it is.

In regard to home-schooling, I personally quite enjoy some aspects of it, though I'd rather be at school. I can focus on tasks for as long as I want, more or less, and, as I am going into third year, I can basically

drop subjects I'm not taking, such as drama and DET, and focus more on the compulsory subjects and the subjects I like best. The Easter holidays, however, have not been either particularly interesting or pleasant. Even if there are things to do, there's far too much time to do them in. You can't stay motivated when everything is in front of you, or rather, when you seem to have all the time in the world to do something. This, I suppose, is some kind of psychological effect, and the despondent result of despondency, which is why I personally am longing for the Easter holidays to end: soon I'll have things to occupy me constantly, that *need* to be done.

Everything is full of coronavirus at the moment, and I know that this article is no exception. I want to say that this chance must be taken. The most decisive decade of the century—at least—has been kickstarted with a global health emergency, and with its death and disaster, it brings a chance for life—*Take it!*

Kizzy Waplington

Weekly Specials
Every week, our amazing chef's come up with delicious specials that are guaranteed to excite your taste buds
Ask a member of staff about today's specials:
Catch of the Day
Butchers Choice

High Tea
We offer High Tea with any Main Course for only £5
A selection of Cakes, Traybakes, Scones, Tea/Coffee, Toast, Butter & Preserves
Advance Booking is essential!

Full Scottish & Vegetarian Breakfast
Available until 3pm on Saturday's & Sunday's!
Our full breakfast menu is available 7 days a week from 9am!

Thursday Steak Night
Two 28 day Matured Steaks served with Tomato, Mushroom, Onion Rings and Chunky Chips, plus a bottle of quality bin-end wine from only £35!
Two 8oz Flat Iron Steaks £35
Two 8oz Sirloin Steaks £40

Fish Friday
Two Fish Dishes and Bottle of Bin-End Wine for only £30!

Sunday Roast
Traditional Sunday Roast with all the Trimmings £12.5

All weights of our meat are approx

Thank you all for continuing to show support for our local businesses and each other during these tough times! If anyone wants to buy a voucher to use when this is all over, please phone 01592 872230 Its going to be some party!

The SANDS BURNTISLAND

Gift Voucher

This Gift Voucher entitles you to a meal to the value of £

Number: 305 Valid From: Expires:

Authorised By:

The SANDS BURNTISLAND

01592 872 230 www.burntislandsands.co.uk Lochies Road, Burntisland KY3 9JX

Burntisland Playgroup



The last term of playgroup before the summer break should be approaching. However, circumstances beyond our control mean that this term will probably not happen. Instead, we are all looking forward to being able to get together whenever we beat this Coronavirus.

We have been preparing for the extended hours which are supposed to be starting after the summer holidays. Playgroup is having to create a “waiting area” in our garden as this will be the entrance everyone will have to use for playgroup when the extended hours begin. Our hope is that the Toll Centre will be able to secure some grant funding to be used, along with the funding we have, to allow us to create a much better facility than we first planned. This also could be used as a Community Hub for other users out-with playgroup hours.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Open Days in consideration of everyone’s safety. However we will still be sorting out our allocation of places in the group for our new term after the summer. Letters will go out in due course advising parents if they have a place for their child or not.

Quite a lot of our children this term will be staying with us for another year, so its exciting to be able to continue their learning and development until their school year. This will bring fresh challenges for the staff along with the provision for extended hours. However, we are all looking forward to these challenges and know we will find a way to manage them.

This term the children have been exploring our local forest on a regular basis. We were lucky enough to be there when the snowdrops were in full bloom and over the next few weeks,

daffodils appeared as if by magic. Although the children came back filthy every week, they all appeared to have made the most of all the experiences available to them in the forest – climbing trees, rolling down slopes, squelching in the mud, looking for mini beasts etc.

There have also been some themes/topics going on in the group, which have come from the children’s own interests. They have been learning about many things to do with ‘castles’ and our most recent topic is ‘under the sea’. Importantly at this time, we have been focussing on hand hygiene, using a song to sing to make sure we wash our hands for the right amount of time.

We hope everyone stays safe and that we will all be able to have fun in the group again soon.

Take care.

Jenny Roxburgh

Manager, Burntisland Playgroup.



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SOCIAL ISOLATION, TOTAL LOCKDOWN, INFECTIOUS DISEASE ? - NOTHING NEW TO THE ROYAL BURGH OF BURNTISLAND !

Ian Archibald, convener of the Burntisland Heritage Trust, has highlighted a couple of pieces of research into the town's early historical records which reveal that recent, stringent measures introduced to fight the Coronavirus are nothing new to our community.

A photograph of 17th Century Burntisland Burgh records, now held by the Trust, was taken and translated by the researcher Andrea Morrison as follows:

“Plague

Forsameikle as the plague of pestilence does still raige at London [] any informatione can be had and [while] their are severall ships to come from thence to this firth wherby this place and consequently the whole kingdome may be in danger.

The Counsell doe therefor for preventing thei of Ordaine that no person or persones [qua] presume to goe aboard any vessell or vessells coming from forraine places untill they have allowance from the Magistrates And that under the paines contened in the [Laitest] proclamatiome And this to be intimate be touck of drum”

Forsameikle = forasmuch

touck = beating of drum as a warning. Ref: Dictionary of Scots Language

[] means not sure of word

The second reference to social isolation can be found in Iain Sommerville's excellent publication “Burntisland Port of Grace” where he refers to the plague of 1606 & 1608. The information was extracted from an early history of Burntisland by James Speed, a former 19th century Provost of the town. Precautions against the plague imposed on Burntisland residents in 1602 were recorded as follows:

“The town was strictly watched day and night, to prevent persons from [infected] places from entering it. Many of the inhabitants were suspected of being infected and therefore ‘enclosed’ - that is, shut up in their houses. When this was resorted to, they were not allowed to come out again without leave from the Council. Inspectors were appointed to examine the suspected, and on their report depended the treatment they experienced. ... etc.”

Sadly, there was a further - and much more serious - outbreak in 1608, which Speed described in some detail, as follows-

“In spite, however, of all their precautions, the town had a severe visitation of the disease in 1608. On the 27th August, it having been discovered that three or four persons had died of the ‘sickness’, the Council ordered that ‘cleangers’ be sought for from Kinghorn to ‘tack order with this sickness’, and to bury those who had died of it. The Council ordered that the inhabitants were not to hold intercourse with each other. Twenty pounds were paid to the workmen for graves. Two loads of white bread were received as a gift from the inhabitants of Kirkcaldy, for the poor; and thirty pounds were taken from ‘the Tuesdays box’ for their support. ... and it continues ... None were allowed to leave the town lest this duty should be evaded; nor were any allowed to enter it without leave, I presume. The town was in a state of siege, all the neighbouring places having interdicted intercourse with it. On the 28th November the town was considered free from the disease; and those who lodged in the Links were allowed to come in, but not to go at large till trial was made of the state of their health. The ‘cleangers’ were conveyed to Kinghorn and delivered to the authorities there at the ‘West Port thereof’. I have nowhere seen it recorded how many died on this occasion, but it must have been considerable - chiefly poor persons.”

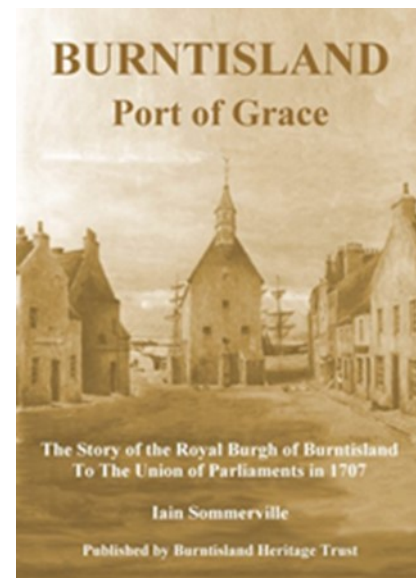


Those infected with the plague are taken to the lodges on the Links.

Pen and ink drawing by Keli Clark.

It is amazing how methods of combatting a highly infectious disease have remained virtually the same over 400 years. Community assistance for the vulnerable in society was available then, as it is now. If the lockdown is similar to 1608 and continues for some three months, I feel sure that we can rely on the help of a number of expendable volunteers from Kinghorn to help us with the more distasteful tasks!

As an aside, Andrea has assisted her friend Gill Paterson, a volunteer with the Trust, in carrying out extensive research into the Burntisland Burgh minutes of 1633, the year of the sinking of the ill-fated baggage ferry of King Charles I. Full details of this work are available on www.burntisland.net and follow the ‘Shipwreck 1633’ and ‘Burntisland in 1633’ tabs.



Limited number of copies of “Burntisland Port of Grace” by Iain Somerville are still available at £12. Please contact Ian Archibald on burntislandht@btinternet.com if you are interested in purchasing a copy.

Ian Archibald

Adopting a K6 Kiosk

The K6 kiosks are the familiar red telephone call boxes that have been operational all over the country since the 1930's. Last year British Telecom posted a notice on the K6 outside the Carnegie Library stating their intention to remove the kiosk.

There is a local link in the manufacture of these iconic red cast iron structures. They were manufactured at the Carron Iron Works in Falkirk. One of the components in the process was limestone, and where did they get the limestone from? It came from the former Newbigging Limestone Mine just outside Burntisland. In the 19th century the limestone was shipped from the harbour at Starleyburn.

This was sufficient to prompt Burntisland Heritage to make enquiries about BT's Adopt a Kiosk programme. Since it was launched, more than 2,300 communities across the UK have seized the

opportunity to do something wonderful with local phone boxes that had little or no usage. Adopted kiosks have been adapted to include a grocery shop, a wildlife information centre, a coffee shop and the Community Heartbeat Trust charity has even installed defibrillators in some local boxes.

We are pleased to say that as a registered charity we were able to successfully take ownership of the kiosk in March. We see the potential to use it as a local information point housing brochures and local tourist information but we are still open to suggestions.

Firstly though as with the 'Bridge of Life' oil painting, years of neglect sees the kiosk in serious need of some tender



loving care. If you would like to get involved with this please let me know by leaving a message on 01592 872121 or email burntislandht@btinternet.com.

Ian Archibald
Burntisland Heritage Trust

Community Award Presentation



14th February was not just a big event for Valentine's Day. It was also the occasion when Caroline Campbell was presented with the Community Award. In the company of her assembled friends and family, she was presented with her personalised certificate, together with the engraved shield and enamelled badge.

Among her guests was Isa Duncanson, coincidentally the very first winner of the award in 1981.

The cornerstone of the award was a personalised certificate, illustrated by botanical artist Rose Bentley-Steed, who chose the aptly-named *Wisteria Caroline* as the highlight.

In making the presentation, Community Council chairman Alex MacDonald spoke of Caroline's selfless dedication—often behind the scenes—in supporting social activities for vulnerable groups. Just a few of the many examples include Allan Court, Solid Rock and the Toll Community Centre. She had been described as "a very kind and caring person" and there is clear evidence of that from her exceptionally wide spectrum of activity.

After the formalities, Caroline and her guests enjoyed a refreshing buffet in the elegant and historic surroundings of the Burgh Chambers.

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Vet's Corner

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Not everyone understands the bond between humans and their furry friends but anyone with an animal, will tell you how much joy they bring into their lives. They make us laugh, comfort us when we are ill or upset, always there no matter what. Pets of all types from horses to hamsters make great companions. There to greet you when you come home, they are wonderful listeners and most importantly never answer back.

Dogs in particular, keep you fit as they require daily exercise. Stroking a cat or watching fish swimming in a tank are both incredibly therapeutic. It has been proven that pet owners tend to have lower blood pressure than people who don't own a pet.

Various studies have shown that children who grow up with pets are less likely to develop allergies. Dogs and cats spend a great deal of time outside, therefore bringing in all sorts of dirt and germs. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, as these additional germs can help your immunity to colds and other mild illnesses. In fact previous studies have shown that babies who live with a dog tend to experience fewer infections and are generally healthier.



Looking after a pet is a huge responsibility, but when you consider the benefits, they make all the hard work worthwhile. Whether you choose to keep a rabbit, budgie or lizard, they all make a great companion. Preventing loneliness, by giving people a sense of purpose and routine. A reason to get up in the morning.

Please everyone stay safe and look after your pets.

Jillian Walker

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Museum of Communication

As our ‘Regulars’ know, we frequently consult The Calendar for appropriate exhibition themes. As an example, from 2014 -2019, we concentrated on the harrowing course of WW1, exactly 100 years previously. We felt this necessary, as many schools/ organisations were involved with WW1 projects or topics – and as a bonus, we were able to exhibit artefacts of that period from our collection!

Like many other museums and galleries up and down the country, 2020 started well for the Museum of Communication. We decided that although WW2 had to be recognised, we could also celebrate “*something completely different*” with the Roaring Twenties and the start of the Jazz Age... A great potential for fun, music and early films!!

In November, planning meetings were held and the basic content for 2020 agreed. We followed this up with a Volunteer Day in February, when many people expressed an interest in being involved with the Museum’s activities. However, this was not to be...Within days, Covid19 had made its devastating appearance, and all our plans, hopes and aspirations were put on an indefinite ‘hold’ – a situation that remains today, but which hopefully, will be resolved within months....

...However, some matters (particularly food related) need a good bit of advance planning.... So ‘just in case’ things don’t improve as quickly as hoped, why not alleviate your boredom and try your

hand at this **WW2 recipe for a Christmas Pudding....**

Mix together:-

1 teacup of:- self-raising flour; 1 cup fine breadcrumbs. 1 teaspoon mixed spice; ¼ teaspoon salt; ¼ tsp bicarb. ½ cup sugar; 2 tbs dried egg; 1 cup suet shredded or margerine

Add and mix:-

1 cup sultanas; ½ cup chopped raisins; ½ cup chopped prunes; 1-2 tbs marmalade/candied peel.

Then add:-

1 cup grated carrot; 1cup grated potato; 2tbs syrup; ½ tbs liquid gravy browning

Finally mix in and stir:-

Few drops of orange/lemon squash.

¾ **fill well greased pudding basin** with mixture and boil or steam for 3-3 ½ hours. Serve with a nice custard sauce

MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATION



... Me?? Think I’ll just pop down to Tesco!!

Dorothy Brankin

Burntisland Shipyard FC

Sadly, given the current situation that the world finds itself in, there is not much to report in this issue. As many of you will be aware football in Scotland is suspended until at least 10th June 2020, therefore, it looks highly unlikely the season will be completed following the statements that the SPFL, Highland, and Lowland leagues have issued.

Hopefully by the time you read this, all will be resolved but with Scottish football you never know.

Our floodlight project is very much on hold with most businesses not open and many workers furloughed. That being said, we will be looking to start the work as soon as feasibly possible.

On a positive note the team were in a good run of form before the season ground to a halt winning four and drawing two in a six game unbeaten run. Indeed, the team has only suffered one defeat in 2020 and that was the very first game, way back on 4th January at Glenrothes. I am also pleased to report that everyone at the club is in good health and long may that continue.

Please stay safe everyone and hopefully we will see you at “The Shippy” in the not too distant future.

Andrew Beveridge



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St Joseph’s Church

Greetings to you all from St Joseph’s Church and very best wishes to you and yours during this Easter time. I’m sad that there is very little to report from here—like the other Churches in town we have been closed since the middle of March because of the current pandemic. This has caused a lot of heartbreak for many for whom the Church and the Church family is a big part of their life.

We have tried our best to keep connected by a weekly email and through the parish website. I broadcast daily Mass on Facebook and Sunday Mass on YouTube. I am technically challenged, but I’m doing my best and the efforts are very much appreciated. We can only hope and pray that life can get back to some sort of normality sometime soon. In the meantime stay safe and well. Wishing you the peace and joy of the Risen Lord.

Fr James Tracey



The Ecology Centre

Tel (01592) 891567
www.theecologycentre.org

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) the Centre will be closed until the Government advises us that it is safe to open again.

We have contacted all our regular volunteers and customers to let them know about the closure. We know how important it is for our volunteers to come here every week – they are at the heart of our charity and we will miss seeing everyone.

We will continue to keep you updated on the situation via our social media channels and website.

If you have any queries, please email admin@theecologycentre.org

Tool Shed—tool donations

If you are having a shed or garage clear out while all this is going on and have any old tools or old sewing machines that you no longer use, please consider donating them to our Tool Shed. Our volunteers refurbish them and are always looking for donations.



Tool shed volunteers

Once we reopen they can be dropped off at the Centre.

Take care everyone and we will hopefully see you all very soon.

Jennifer Robertson

Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association

The Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association will not be meeting until further notice but will continue working away in the background to support our tenants and residents, continuing to improve the town for all residents and visitors.

In the meantime stay safe.

Iain Ralph
 Chairman

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Burntisland Parish Church is still here for you despite all the lockdown measures that are in place. But we are here in a very different way than usual. As actual gatherings of people have been banned, we have moved to virtual gatherings online. In cooperation with Erskine United Free Church and Kinghorn Parish Church we are bringing together a Sunday morning service every Sunday at 11am – combining the various skills from within the churches.

You can find the service on our Facebook page and on a Zoom link which can also be found on the Facebook page. It is also possible to phone in and listen to the service if you don't have internet, using a code which will be made available each week. You don't need a Facebook account to view the page or the service. A recording of the services can also be found afterwards on Facebook and on YouTube.

During Holy Week we added evening services on the Thursday and Friday and there have been video messages (vlogs) on the church Facebook pages of Rev Alexander Ritchie of Erskine and Rev Jim Reid of Kinghorn. I have been providing a more conventional mid-week message on the Parish Church Facebook page and will continue to do so while the lockdown lasts.

With the church building and halls closed we are having to keep in touch with people by email, internet or phone. Home groups are still meeting online and the pastoral care team are ensuring no one is forgotten. We are encouraging our members to look

Erskine Church

I was queuing outside the Co-op over Easter, could we ever have imagined a lockdown like this in Burntisland? There's new behaviour to learn with social distancing & isolation—sad times!

This Buzz edition is online, that's where local churches are meeting at the present moment. Normally, I'd be reporting on our Palm Sunday walk, Holy Week services and Easter pilgrimage atop the Binn. Unfortunately the virus situation meant all was cancelled, no coffee & pancakes for a while either.

But it's been great that Burntisland & Kinghorn Parishes are teaming up with Erskine to keep in contact with our communities, thank you for your encouraging response to our streamed services. Full details on Erskine's Facebook page. You'd be very welcome on Sundays at 11am and there's even a virtual coffee-time!

Easter brings a message of hope. HM the Queen said that while much has been cancelled this year, Easter has still come

Parish Church

out for their neighbours. Plans are also coming together for a regular newsletter to be produced.



We had one particularly special service before the coronavirus crisis came upon us. On 16 February we were joined by the Moderator of Kirkcaldy Presbytery, Jacqueline Thomson DCS, for the presentation of long service certificates to two of our elders: George Johnston and Donald MacLean. They have both served faithfully as elders of the church for 50 years and they were congratulated by the moderator for all they had achieved in the life of the church.

The strong social distancing measures, and

around. The story of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection brings hope in itself. Chocolate eggs are a fringe benefit, rather than the main event we're celebrating.

Three reasons for lasting hope during the virus crisis:

Firstly, Burntisland's community is making a real effort to stick to the rules, staying safe by being careful. Credit to everyone for doing that. It's obvious when I'm out either for daily exercise or essential shopping.

Nothing is more precious than life and we must do everything possible to protect one another. BEAT is doing a great job assisting those who need extra support. Staff in our local shops & essential places are fab—patient & helpful whilst trying to do their jobs.

Secondly, we should be thankful for the tireless work of those looking after us—our NHS & all care workers, those putting themselves in the front line during a national emergency. Remember other groups too—emergency services, public transport & delivery drivers, school staff etc.

their consequences, came as a shock to us, as they did to many. However, the way it happened helped to prepare the three churches for working together. Our final service before the lockdown was a joint one held at the Kirk by the Sea in Kinghorn on 15 March. It was an inspiring service, led by Rev Peter Neilson, focussed on the whole idea of working well together. Little did we know how relevant that would be when we found ourselves with our churches locked up a few days later; for we were quickly able to cooperate and produce an online service on 22 March and on all the Sundays since.

We will continue to be found through these online services for the foreseeable future – please feel free to join us at any of these services – or watch the recordings at a time that suits you. And we can still be contacted in the usual ways by anyone who needs us.

We hope you had a wonderful Easter despite the lockdown. The message of new life in Christ that we share at Easter brings us hope. That's something we all need at this time!

Take care and God bless!

Rev David Redmayne

Locum minister



The Bible says 3 things outlast everything—faith, hope & love. The greatest is love because it includes all else (1 Corinthians 13.13). We show love by being selfless in kind ways, sharing deep appreciation for others & being tolerant. That's what makes normal everyday life easier.

Lastly, many are rediscovering what's precious & priceless. Simple things like families giving each other time-to eat together or watch a film. I've seen advice from astronauts about coping with isolation. Most suggest giving each day real purpose, a list of tasks to accomplish whilst leaving time for rest and even trivial, fun activities. Powerful stuff indeed.

My prayerful hope is that post-lockdown we'll be kinder, more loving people. I trust we'll look after and value those close to us and always give thanks for the free society we enjoy. God's love can help us find that balance.

Please stay safe and keep well...

Rev. Alexander Ritchie



Church at Home

With the recent physical distancing requirements All Souls Fife Churches' may need a new moto such as...



'Miles apart...together in Heart.'



Though our church buildings are closed to Sunday worship, we can still have church **but not as you know it!!**

So we invite you to join us every Sunday morning on **All Souls Fife's YouTube Channel at 11:00am** as we come together for an interactive online service—even though we are miles apart. **All Are Welcome.**

Also if there is anything we can do for you or for anyone you know at this time please email office@allsoulsfife.org.uk

So, join us as Jesus comes into our homes as we worship together in heart.

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Love God, Each Other and Our Community..

Local Doctors Serving in Rwanda

Boarding the plane, there was a familiar earthy aroma that triggered memories of Africa and immediately there was a sense of adventure and also the sense that my wife Elizabeth and I (Rev Dean Norby) were at the right place at the right time. And that place is Gahini, Rwanda with Drs Steve and Catriona Bennett whom we went out to visit and support for 13 days in October 2019. The Bennetts with their two daughters Hannah (4yrs) and Rachel (1yr) have been here for 3 years and two things are evident...

- The Bennett family have had a huge impact on the area...
- And second they have made Gahini their home for the near future. (see below photo)



Steve previously worked as a surgeon at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy and Catriona as an anaesthetist and they bring both their expertise and experience to work at a District Hospital in Gahini (See Photo). In addition, they bring their practical abilities to work out water systems, anaesthetic machines and whatever else breaks down.



Steve averages around 80 surgeries a month and Catriona within an hour of our first morning saved a lady's life which she handled with a calmness that spoke volumes of her capability. Rwanda has a population of 12M and the Gahini Hospital serves the equivalent number of people that live in Fife.

It is noticeable that Rwanda takes pride in its country and there is no litter and the infrastructure works well and is very modern. Blood for transfusions are even delivered to the hospital via drones. It is also evident the country has healed from the genocide of 1994.

Not only are the Bennetts involved in the hospital, but they also are involved in the local Cathedral (See Photo) which opened on 25th May last year. Over 400 students from the local secondary and primary schools attend these services which Steve helps to lead in worship and often gives the talk too.



Steve and Catriona's plans are to serve in the hospital for a total of 5 years and they are being supported by friends, family and churches to serve through the **Church Mission Society**.

If you would like to find out more or support their work go to: www.churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/catriona-and-stephen-bennett/ or simply email All Souls Fife Churches, who are also supporting the Bennetts, at office@allsoulsfife.org.uk for more information.



Love God, Each Other and Our Community..



Burntisland Bird Watch

May '20

By Leo du Feu

If this were any of the past few years I'd be writing about whales but sadly this winter to spring the Forth humpbacks haven't, well, humped back. Perhaps it's just as well as not being allowed to spend hours and hours out there scanning the waves would have proved mightily frustrating for the big numbers of sea watchers who have previously been congregating. As we all must, I've been staying home, working on a whale tail wood engraving to remind me instead.

Staying home. As that's what we mostly now do it seems right to put together this article based on what I'm seeing around my own home and garden. It's been reinforced to me what a frankly huge

difference we can each make for wildlife in only a year or two, or less. Our garden has gone from short-cut grass with a few shrubs and a small maple tree to a space with many metres of native fruit/nut/berry bearing hedge (we're in nesting season until end of August so take great care if thinking of trimming hedges or shrubs), wildlife pond – marsh marigold in full flower as I write this

mid-April, two micro ponds (washing-up basins sunk into the ground, stones or logs in them to allow creatures to climb out), fruit trees and bushes, two grape vines, hundreds of spring and summer flower bulbs, dozens and dozens of other flowering plants, patches of long grasses, stone piles and log piles for shade and shelter, a nettle patch (so important for butterfly caterpillars), a few veg plants, insect 'hotels', two hedgehog boxes surrounded by piles of hibernation-friendly sticks and twigs and leaves, a bat box, twelve or more bird boxes, a bird bath, a bird table and multiple bird feeders...

Any one of these features helps wildlife – nest-space, shelter from sun/rain/frost/wind, food, hibernation, water to drink, water to wash in. The more you add the more you do to help nature thrive again. And – best of all! – the more of these things you do the more wildlife will appear for you to enjoy.

Our bedroom dormer starlings have finished taking their nest materials in and I imagine they may have finished laying too. You should hear the sounds they

make. Starlings are great mimics – one of a pair on our neighbours' roof does an almost perfect oystercatcher impression. A blackbird is building deep in our ivy, taking dried stems from all over the garden and wet muddy leaves from the pond edge. Blue tits are checking out a couple of the nest boxes though aren't yet going inside. A second robin has appeared, filling the space of the one killed by a cat last month. House sparrows chatter and dive in and out of the hedges and shrubs. No martins or swallows or swifts yet but chiffchaffs are back, I've heard them singing both when I've been standing outside the Co-op and when I was walking along Ferguson Place.



Our pond has some circular-spiral Ramshorn snails and absolutely loads of conical Pondsnails but I suspect we'll never get frogs, toads or newts as the gardens around us are so fragmented by walls and roads and I know of few other ponds nearby.

Hedgehogs are another species which need lots of gardens to move through – try to encourage the cutting of small holes at the base of fences around your neighbourhood to provide them with the space they need. Hedgehogs have been active in our garden since March, shiny black droppings appearing here and there many mornings, under the hedge and in the borders and on the paths. A furrow has been trod through the vegetation surrounding the hedgehog box where we think one spent the winter. We've heard loud rustlings in the undergrowth and peeped in with a torch to see a really large hog snuffling around.

Insects are back – one peacock butterfly, a few wasps, a few swarms of teensy flies and a good number of bumblebees. We've had lots of buff-tailed bumblebees and tree bumblebees, a few red-tailed

bumblebees and a couple of carders. Tree bumblebees are really interesting, first arriving in the UK only twenty years ago in 2001. I remember hearing about their arrival, hearing they were spreading rapidly north, spotting a couple in our home garden in West Lothian, spotting lots more only a couple of years later, and now here in my own garden in Burntisland they seem our most common bee. They're easy ones to identify – the top third (the thorax) is ginger-brown, the middle (abdomen) is black and the bottom (tail) is white. But carder bees are my favourite, wearing their fuzzy oversize orangey-brown cardigans.

And from upstairs—herring and lesser black-backed gulls are back at their traditional nest sites on the rooftops around us. Gulls often pair for life, flying south separately over winter then reuniting at their nest site in spring. As well as the rooftop gulls, jackdaws and house sparrows I can also spy gannets back in the Forth after their winter spent as far south as the waters off West Africa. It needs a telescope but then it's fairly easy to see black-tipped white crosses soaring and gliding and tucking wings to dive.

I end by recommending the British Trust For Ornithology (BTO)'s brilliant Garden BirdWatch scheme. During this time of lockdown the scheme has been made available FREE to anyone who wishes to join. You'll get lots of online resources including excellent garden wildlife e-newsletters and especially the ability to record the wildlife in your garden or local green space for the benefit of conservation science and for your own fascination.

I urge you to consider signing up. Lots more of us recording, learning about and loving the wildlife in our gardens would be such a positive outcome of this hard time.

www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw/join-gbw/free-gbw-lockdown

If you can't find the info get in touch with me to ask. Also please join our friendly 'Burntisland Wildlife & Woodlands' group on Facebook to share photos and questions and ideas. Recently we've seen great photos of woodpecker, buzzards, hare, deer, treecreeper, toads and more.

Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

For some years now the woodland around Kinghorn Loch and Craigencalt has sprouted more and more snowdrop flowers. We have many groups of people to thank for helping with their propagation, but above all, it is the keen enthusiasm of one man, Hamish Brown. These delicate tiny flowers brighten up any winter's day, and Hamish and his team of helpers were out again this year. Their efforts have been really successful, so the Trust would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved.

At the beginning of the Coronavirus crisis the Trust had invited Ian Archibald to give a talk on 'The Life and Times of Mary Somerville'. Unfortunately this needed to be postponed, but Ian has kindly said that he will come to give the talk at a later date. Ian is an excellent speaker, and Mary Somerville is a very special person to this area, so it is good that we will not miss out.



The good news is that nature is very much on course, coming into full bloom. Primroses, coltsfoot, cowslips and plenty of daffodils can be seen, a sight to cheer us all up. There are plenty of toads and a few frogs making their annual journey to Kinghorn Loch to spawn. On a twilight walk with the dog on a damp evening, we can easily count forty on the paths we walk; so many more will be in the undergrowth.

The swans have paired up ready for another breeding season. It looks likely that they will chose a nesting site near to the bird hide, and this is a usual place for them to settle. Geese in great numbers can be heard flying to all compass points, their gagging sounding like laughter at us humans below for the global trouble that birds can cause.

Marilyn Edwards



In my last report I mentioned how wet and muddy paths had become with such a wet, soggy winter. Now spring has arrived and everything has dried out with a change in weather. Although these are difficult times, with many restrictions on our lives, it remains possible to enjoy a variety of walks in the lovely coast and countryside around here. The Trust annual spring Walking Festival has been put on hold until things get back to normal, the programme and other arrangements are in place, so it shall be easy for it to go ahead, hopefully in early autumn.

Another well established event that the Trust organises each year is the annual 'Come and Try' day at Kinghorn Loch. Although this is now cancelled on 2nd May, once everything is back to normal the individual sports clubs will always welcome anyone who wants to try out a new sporting activity. If you wish you can contact us to get details. Phone 07740999514 or email info@craigencalttrust.org.uk



Floral Action Burntisland

Unfortunately and mainly due to the social distancing restrictions it will not be possible for FAB to present Burntisland with the floral splendour this summer that folk have enjoyed in previous years.

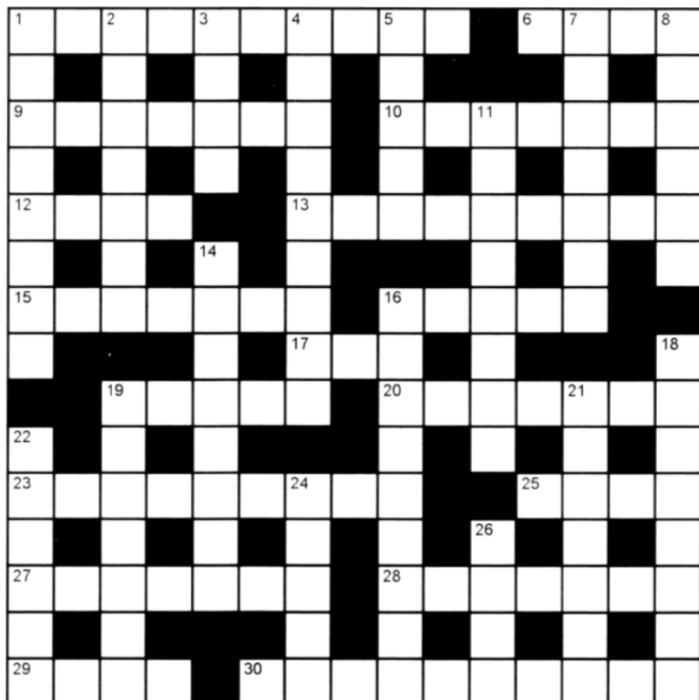
We are disappointed of course but already looking forward to a brighter and colourful floral future. Perhaps, and depending on circumstances, FAB might be able to present some limited floral displays later in the summer.

Thinking of better times ahead FAB would love for others of all ages to join the current band of dedicated volunteers to enhance the floral beauty of our town.

Thank you for your understanding.

Scott Sweaton





THE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Circuitous (10)
6. Eat hastily (4)
9. Common garden bird (7)
10. Texas city (7)
12. All right (4)
13. Renegades (9)
15. Scandinavian Language (7)
16. Make sure (5)
17. Basque Separatist Org.(3)
19. Substantial (5)
20. Fishing vessel (7)
23. Edible flatfish (9)
25. Rabbit's tail (4)
27. Daydream (7)
28. Alleviate (7)
29. Period (4)
30. Pens(10)

DOWN

1. Reply (8)
2. No knowing (7)
3. Dreadful (4)
4. Captivated (9)
5. Wedding attendant (5)
7. Australian wilderness (7)
8. Polish off (6)
11. U.S.A. personification (5,3)
14. Women's hat maker (8)
16. Principal large church (9)
18. Male siblings (8)
19. Russian tea-urn(7)
21. Reading desk (7)
22. Bordeaux red wine (6)
24. Last Greek letter (5)
26. _____Laine, jazz singer (4)

Solution to February Crossword

Across: 1 Abbreviate, 6 Acre, 9 Prophet, 10 Nipping, 12 Aida, 13 Recurrent, 15 Sincere, 16 Manna, 17 Nay, 19 Start 20 Stumble, 23 Pavarotti, 25 Calm, 27 Kingdom, 28 Inhabit, 29 Near, 30 Gondoliers.

Down: 1 Appraise, 2 Broaden, 3 Echo, 4 Interment, 5 Tunic, 7 Chimera, 8 Eighty, 11 Per annum, 14 Repaired, 16 Mystified, 18 Termites, 19 Savanna, 21 Bramble, 22 Spoken, 24 Tempo, 26. Rhyl.

CONGRATULATIONS: Our two February crossword winners of £50.00 in vouchers (each) donated by Shell UK Ltd were:

Josie Moore of Collinswell Road
and
Eddy Campbell of Cromwell Road
(both of Burntisland)

As the Spring Issue of the Buzz is an online issue only and not readily available to many of our regular crossword entrants, the above crossword is for fun only—to help you occupy a small section of free time that you may have during this period of lock-down.

It is hoped that we will be able to resume our Prize Crossword in the Summer Issue when, if current trends continue, general lock-down in the community will be reduced, if not over completely.

Burntisland's Non-Events Diary

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THE MONTHS OF MAY, JUNE AND JULY HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

- Community Council meetings in the Burgh Chambers
- Community Police drop-in clinics in the Public Library
- The Messy Church
- Beach Clean-ups at the Beach House
- FAB Activities
- Burntisland Civic Week
- Burntisland Highland Games
- Coffee Mornings with hot pancakes in the Erskine Church Hall
- Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association Meetings
- Burntisland Heritage Trust Summer Exhibition
- Guided Tours of the Burntisland Outer and Inner Heritage Trails
- Burntisland Shipyard Football Club matches
- Burntisland Golf Club Activities
- Burntisland Bowling Come and Try sessions
- Sporting Memories in Solid Rock
- Live on the Links



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We would like to thank our local community and businesses for coming together in these uncertain times.

Most importantly we would also like to extend a huge thank you to our country's essential workers and volunteers for their devotion, dedication and care – you are true HEROES!

Our hope is that when it is safe to do so, we will reopen with a full team of staff and the same passion for hospitality and service for which we are renowned.

Take care and stay safe.
The Kingswood Team

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