

BURGH BUZZ

Burntisland's Free Community Magazine

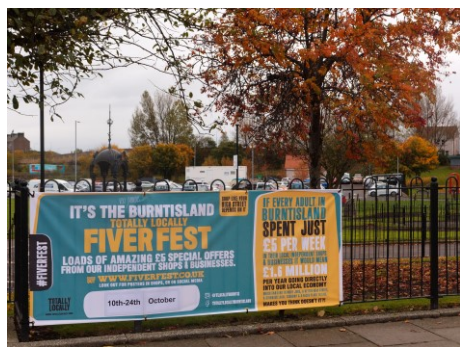


Previous issues at www.burghbuzz.org.uk

November 2020

Issue No 77

Fiver Fest Boost for Burntisland



For two weeks during October, Burntisland joined some 130 other towns throughout the United Kingdom in staging its own Fiver Fest. Burntisland's Totally Locally campaign has been running since 2014 and this year's Fiver Fest was the biggest yet, involving a total of 56 local independent shops and businesses.

Planning was crucial and the organisers received generous donations from Briggs Marine and participating local businesses which was used for the printing of flyers listing offers, window posters and outdoor banners. Extensive publicity was also afforded through local press and radio stations. Virtually all windows of High Street premises displayed flyers advertising their individual, special offers for a fiver.

Towards the end of the two-week shopping extravaganza, Burntisland's Fiver Fest even featured on the STV Evening News in a slot which emphasised the town's vibrant High Street, how traders had successfully adapted to the difficult Covid restrictions and their general optimism for the future.

The success of Fiver Fest in the town is illustrated by some

amazing stories from local businesses—both online and work from home as well as on the High Street—of being inundated with orders and even selling out. Shoppers have travelled from all over Fife and beyond, specifically to take advantage of the Burntisland Fiver Fest.

Organised principally by Yvonne Shivas of The Cromwell Kitchen, on behalf of Totally Locally, the Burntisland group can take tremendous credit for the success of this venture. Their activities can be followed on their Facebook page and on Twitter. Information on the Totally Locally organisation generally, can found at www.totallylocally.org

In addition to the STV exposure, Burntisland High Street was recently highlighted on TV with Tom Courts' recent appearance on Channel 5's Secret Scotland hosted by Susan Calman. As well as boosting Tom's Butchers business, this amusing and informative programme also drew attention to Burntisland's thriving High Street.

The winter months ahead will be more demanding than usual for consumers and traders alike—let us help each other by shopping totally locally!

Remembrance Sunday

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional Remembrance Day Parade and Church Service normally held on the second Sunday in November have been cancelled.

However, representatives of organisations which customarily lay wreaths at the War memorial, have been invited to do so by the Community Council on Sunday 8th November. Members of the public are not expected or encouraged to attend but are requested to pay their respects privately at the War Memorial during the week following the wreath laying.

All persons associated with acts of remembrance at the War Memorial must wear face masks and adhere to prevailing social distancing protocols at all times.

Those gallant residents of the Burntisland community who made the ultimate sacrifice during two World Wars will never be forgotten.



BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

From the Editor

We are indeed experiencing unusual and uncertain times. As the future situation relating to the pandemic at the beginning of November was unclear, I took the early decision to protect our large band of devoted deliverers from unnecessary exposure and restricted this issue to an online version on our website. However, in response to a suggestion from one of our team members, we have printed a limited number of hard copies which are available at several outlets on the High Street, principally aimed at those members of the community who do not have access to the internet.

Regrettably, the Covid situation is likely to be with us for some time to come. However, the Burntisland community has responded admirably with the emphasis on helping each other, particularly the more vulnerable. Hopefully this will continue until we return to a semblance of normality.

Inevitably, during uncertain times there are always casualties but with consolidated efforts from the community at large, these can be kept to a minimum. On page 12, the Swimming Club article clearly outlines reasons why the Fife Sports and Leisure Trust could take the decision to close the Beacon Leisure Centre permanently. Earlier this year, pressure from a collective protest in the Burntisland community persuaded the Trust to reverse its decision to close the Beacon. It is clear that the Beacon complex requires considerable investment to bring ventilation and water quality up to acceptable standards. As a community we must pressure the powers-that-be to ensure that the necessary funding is forthcoming.

However, it is not all gloom and doom—our High Street is thriving and is attracting many shoppers from outside the town. Totally Locally and its Fiver Fest was a huge boost. High Street traders deserve our continued support.

Finally, Merry “Digital” Christmas and Happy New Year from the Buzz team.

Bill Kirkhope

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Burntisland’s Burgh Buzz

Next Issue: February 2021

Copy Deadline: 15th January

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

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Printed by Printing Services (Scotland) Ltd

Broomhead Drive, Dunfermline.

www.printingservicescotland.com

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: Anne Smith

Members:

Tim Hailey Graeme Luke
 Brendan Burns Lynne Ralph
 Yvonne Crombie Ken Littlemore
 Clare Slater

Contacts:

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 1 Craig Court, Burrtisland. KY3 0AT
 t: 01592 873314 e: alex_mac@btinternet.com

Secretary — Anne Smith
 burrtislandcc@outlook.com

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: 01592 874612

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.

However, meetings are instead being held online using Zoom video-conferencing for the foreseeable future. Members of the public are welcome to attend or to raise matters of interest to them—please contact the Secretary or Chairman if you wish to join.

A summary of issues raised during the last three meetings is set out below.

- We're very sorry to lose John Bruce after nearly 20 years as a very active member. He will continue to support our work in the background and we wish him well.
- We're delighted to welcome three new members: Ken Littlemore, Graeme Luke and Clare Slater. Their backgrounds in the RAF, Scouting and utilities mean they will add valuable expertise to many of our activities.
- Anne Smith has now been confirmed formally as our Secretary, having been an excellent Acting Secretary since the start of the lockdown.
- There are still a few opportunities for new members to join us. Right now, the easiest way for potential members to learn more is to join our monthly video-conferences. That can be done easily by contacting our Secretary or Chairman.
- We had a very useful discussion with Mr Mo Ameen, who is proposing a second pharmacy for the town, with selected services. The results of the local survey are very favourable and should be publicly available soon.
- There has been a comprehensive response by police and other agencies, both reactive and proactive, to recent instances of anti-social behaviour. However, we remain extremely concerned at the low level of resourcing which is available routinely from Police Scotland. We continue to escalate those concerns through the relevant channels.
- Arrangements are in hand for a very limited placing of wreaths at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday, which will respect the dignity of the occasion whilst complying with the COVID-19 restrictions.
- Plans to refresh and extend the Christmas lights are now well-advanced. We are awaiting confirmation of financial support from Fife Council.
- We have supported a Common Good Fund application from Burrtisland Shipyard FC, which will help to install floodlighting as required by the SFA.
- Progress continues to be made in planning environmental improvements at the Cot Burn in the Toll Park. Costs and designs have been finalised and we are awaiting confirmation of funding.
- The provision of flu vaccinations is at best patchy and has caused much distress and frustration. We have asked our elected members of Fife Council to pass on our concerns to NHS Fife.
- With the support of her many friends in Burrtisland Youth Theatre and elsewhere, plans are almost complete to purchase and locate a commemorative bench in memory of long-serving member Christine Dewar.

Blood donation session

The next blood donor session will take place on Monday 16th November at the Kingswood Hotel between 14:00–16:00 and 17:30–19:30.

Visit www.scotblood.co.uk for more information on how to make an appointment.

The Burgh Poliz

from PC Stuart Kinnes



I am settling into my new role as the Community Police Officer for the Burntisland area alongside PC Hatch. I have managed to meet a number of you as I take up the reins to the new posting and hope to meet many more in the coming months. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all of the local community meetings have been cancelled and this has hampered getting to meet local council representatives in person. However, we have maintained lines of contact through phone calls and email.

I have quickly become aware of the parking issues within the town that a number of you have highlighted to us. I have also witnessed these issues myself around the High Street area on my patrols. PC Hatch and I, along with other police officers have moved on a number of cars parked on double yellow lines and will continue to do so. There is also a small minority who park on the white zig zag lines at the pedestrian crossing near to the Cooperative store. We appreciate parking can be difficult at times on the High Street but I have to remind drivers that not only do these actions cause an obvious danger to pedestrians using the crossing but you are also committing a road traffic offence. This offence carries a £100 fine and a driving license endorsement of 3 penalty points. The excuse of there being no free parking spaces nearby is not acceptable. Following on the driving theme, I have

been made aware by a number of local residents of areas where there seems to be problems with drivers speeding. PC Hatch and I, alongside other police officers, have been out with our speed gun with a view to educating drivers and where necessary, we have issued speeding tickets. This course of action will continue, however I would much prefer drivers to keep an eye on their speed whilst driving and be aware of the dangers their actions could cause to other road users and pedestrians.

Like a lot of towns in Fife we are still having problems at the weekends with anti-social behaviour involving local youths and youths coming to the area from further afield. We are aware that "The Grange" on Cowdenbeath Road, Broomhill viewpoint, the High Street and the Ecology Centre in Kinghorn have been problematic areas.

In recent weeks we have been working in conjunction with Fife Council Safer Communities teams and British Transport Police in joint actions. This action has attempted to prevent youths without tickets travelling to the Kinghorn and Burntisland areas by train. This has been extremely successful with a sizable reduction in anti-social behaviour calls in the local area. We have been able to prevent large numbers of youths boarding trains and at the same time we have been able to seize quantities of alcohol. We aim to continue this course of action to reduce the amount of antisocial behaviour in the town.

In the majority of cases anti-social behaviour stems from people drinking large quantities of alcohol. We regularly visit the off sales premises in the town to ensure that they are complying with the law and remind them of, not only the need to challenge anyone who appears under the age of 25 years, but also to be aware of proxy purchasers. Anyone who is purchasing alcohol on behalf of persons under the age of 18 is committing a criminal offence and will be dealt with accordingly.

I must also remind all parents and carers that your children are your responsibility, when they are both inside and outside of the home. So not only must we, as the police, do our best to keep them safe, you must also do the same.

One last thing, we are still in the midst of a global pandemic as we are all very much aware. So please be mindful of the most up to date guidelines from the Scottish Government. For more info visit:

www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19

Contact the Burntisland Community Officers on the following email address:

BurntislandKinghornWesternKirkcaldyCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

(This mailbox is not monitored 24 hours a day. Please contact 101 or 999 to report ongoing crimes, offences or emergencies)

Burntisland First Aid

After a very long delay it's a delight to confirm that our new ambulance has not only arrived but has been put to excellent use in Fife, Edinburgh and Perth & Kinross.

We're particularly grateful to those whose generous support enabled us to buy such an advanced vehicle. Half the cost was met from our own reserves, but half was funded by benefactors, including local sources such as the Co-op, Edinburgh Airport and ExxonMobil, to whom we are hugely grateful.

In the short time that we've had it we have attended to several

confirmed fractures, one dislocation and three people with concussion, as well as a host of minor injuries. Our response in every case was prompt, so all patients were started early on their journey to a complete recovery.

Last year we supported about 150 events over 7 local authority areas. This year is clearly exceptional. We've had over 60 events cancelled due to the lockdown, but there are at last signs that things are slowly getting back to normal. Right now, we have events in the diary for 18 months ahead and we plan to be well-prepared for all of them.

As part of that process we have recently completed advanced training for 8 of our regular volunteers. There will then be follow-through training to ensure that all concerned are able to make the best use of the facilities which are now available.

In parallel, we will continue to offer public and commercial training in First Aid at Work as soon as the social distancing expectations make that possible. Meanwhile, we'd be happy to hear from people who are already qualified in first aid and who want to sharpen up and extend their skills by joining us as volunteers.

More information is available via the enquiry option on our website at www.bfast.org.uk or via alex_mac@btinternet.com

Alex. MacDonald,
Chairman



De-Stress with Mindfulness

In case you hadn't noticed, it's been a pretty stressful year for a lot of people, me included. I'm a yoga teacher and this leads some people to think I live in a super chilled out bubble, but that's not the case! If anything, I do and teach yoga because I need a healthy and consistent way to deal with things in my life and in the world. So I thought I'd share one of the things that continues to help me in case it helps you too: mindfulness. Being mindful is being curious to notice things as they are right now in a kind and non-judgemental way; something everyone can do.

You can be mindful in the way you drink your morning coffee, inhaling the aroma, enjoying the curls of steam rising on the surface, savouring the taste and warmth of that first sip. (sounds good right?!) Taking a moment to be mindful transforms ordinary habits into a simple pleasure. Much of the enjoyment folks identify from activities like gardening or sewing are

because of mindfulness, these pastimes involve your senses and require a focus in the present moment that gives the mind a break from thinking about the past or future or taking in the constant stimulus of newsfeeds and email inboxes.

A mindful mindset can be applied by anyone to anything, from taking out the bins, to going to the shops to having a difficult conversation with a co-worker, because it is an invitation to be in the now, notice what's going on and then make a considered choice of how to act. Mindfulness doesn't deny that things are tough when they are, but it can help you identify and process your feelings so you can then move through the situation.

So I invite you to take a mindful moment with me now: Take a deep breath. Notice how you are sitting and adjust your posture to be more comfortable. Take another breath. Plant your feet more firmly on the ground. Take a deep breath. Let your

shoulders melt away from your ears. Take another breath. If your thoughts have drifted from the page, bring them gently back here. Take another breath and smile, returning to your day. Repeat as needed. Soon the little shifts of attention in mindful moments throughout a day, a week, a month, a year end up making a big difference in decreasing a sense of rush, stress and introducing some space for calm and enjoyment.

Have questions, thoughts or want good vibes for your social media? Connect with me, Peggy, at [@yogapeggy](https://www.instagram.com/yogapeggy) on Instagram or www.facebook.com/yoga.reiki.peggy





Kirkcaldy foodbank relocated in September from Solid Rock to the Salvation Army halls on Lonsdale Crescent in Burntisland. This was a great deal of work for the volunteers when we packed up all the food and moved with the support of the Community Payback Team who did all the heavy lifting for us.

The foodbank has experienced a very challenging time recently with a 70% increase in demand from families during the first 3 months of lockdown. Things have settled a bit but we are still busier than we were at the beginning of the year or this time last year.

Donations from the public remain fantastic and we could not survive without their generosity and kindness. We also have had an amazing response to our recent appeal for new volunteers in the Burntisland area which has resulted in the recruitment of new faces to the foodbank team.

Our clients are so grateful for the help we can offer with food but what is often even more beneficial, is the welcome and compassion that is shown by our wonderful team of volunteers.

The Wednesday Club

It has been a while now since members, volunteers and friends were all together. As you will expect, the Wednesday Club activities continue to be suspended because of the current situation. When things change and we can safely meet as a group, we will pick up again. After all, there is nothing sociable about a social club which has to be socially distant!

Please keep an eye on local press and social media for any developments, or contact Alison. Remember that the Community Hub on the High Street is there if you need assistance or telephone 01592 872854; for general help and advice, contact Age Scotland's free helpline on 0800 12 44 222. Meanwhile, keep in touch with each other, and stay well.

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Burntisland Primary School

Primary 1 have done a fantastic job of settling into Burntisland Primary School. We have been learning all about sounds and we are now trying to blend these together to read words. We have also been learning all about numbers to twenty and have loved getting fit in our outdoor P.E. sessions. Importantly, we have been recognising the importance of kindness and how this contributes to the ethos of our school.

Primary 2 have been learning how to add and subtract in different ways including using concrete materials and number lines. P2 have also been learning what makes a good sentence and have been ensuring they include capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in their writing. They have also been enjoying learning some new sounds this term. This term, P2's topic has been Dinosaurs and they have learned so much including the difference between Carnivores and Herbivores and how the dinosaurs became extinct.

Primary 3 have been learning all about Pirates this term. We have made books telling others some facts about famous pirates and have made our own treasure maps and pirate pet parrots. In numeracy we have practised grid reference to help us read a simple map. We have also started to learn our 2 times tables. Smartie the Penguin has helped us learn about keeping safe online and we have also thought about keeping safe in our own houses.

P4Si have been doing The Philosopher's Stone and we have been looking at describing characters and this week we are designing and making 3d models of under the stairs Harry Potter Room. In maths we have used our art skills to design and make numicon cities to practise our counting and multiplication strategies.

P4H have been creating multi-coloured owls using line and patterns with cool and warm tones. In literacy we have been looking at compound nouns and making our own. In **P4Sc** we

have been working on a Harry Potter novel study for our IDL (Interdisciplinary Learning) with a Critical Skills Challenge approach to many aspects of our work on the topic. In numeracy we have worked on place value, and addition and subtraction, and information handling. We have worked on story structure and using descriptive language in our literacy work.

Primary 5 have been learning about the Romans and how they have influenced the world today. We have also been participating in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities where we have made aqueducts and catapults. In Numeracy, we have learnt a variety of strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. We have absolutely loved developing our fitness in gym.

Primary 6 have been learning about the importance of having good mental health through our class novel 'Goldfish Boy'. Children have been developing their awareness of the Five Ways to Wellbeing to support their own mental wellbeing. They have also been using Sway (a computer programme similar to Powerpoint) to present information about inspiring individuals and have travelled through time in art, learning about the change in styles and movements over the last 600 years.

Primary 7 have been learning all about Civil Rights and Race Relations. We have enjoyed learning about how things have changed over time and the progress that has been made to ensure equality for everyone. We have been focussing on the four operations in Numeracy and have learned different strategies to solve a variety of problems. In art we have developed knowledge of the visual elements and have had lots of fun experimenting with these.



Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association

As we race towards a second partial COVID-19 outbreak the Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association continues to work away in the background, trying to improve our area by reducing drug related crime and anti social behaviour.

Our project to site a CCTV camera with the ability to observe any activity on Sommerville Street, Sommerville Square and the Kirkgate is coming to fruition and all being well, we will have a camera fitted before Christmas. Police Scotland will have access to the Camera 24/7. The camera will also record any activities on the street so hopefully, we will see a significant reduction in street crime in the area.

The TRA is still meeting monthly via Zoom and we are slowly collating projects for the new year, ranging from working with FAB, to developing a Christmas competition for the local school children.

This year has been hard on everybody and it looks like we are going have to rely on each other for a few more months. We as a group, are there to support each other so don't struggle in silence. Contact us at www.cbtra.co.uk and we will do our best to help and whilst we may not have all the solutions, we may know somebody who does

Iain Ralph
Chairman, CBTRA

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Burttisland Playgroup



The children and staff at Burttisland Playgroup have all been getting used to a “slightly different” playgroup life since returning in August. We are now operating with extended hours (8.15am–2.15pm) for our children as well as coping with all the enhanced cleaning and ever changing guidelines to ensure everyone is protected from COVID-19.

We started back in August with quite a lot of returning children and some new children. As with every term, some new children have taken a little while to settle into the playgroup routine. We did wonder if it would take a while for our returning children to settle back into playgroup after being off for so long, but they all appeared to be really happy to be back with their friends. It is so good to be able to offer some normality after the lockdown.

Since coming back we have been spending as much time as possible outdoors, mostly in our playgroup garden. We have also managed to explore at the beach and the Toll Park. We recently went on a “nature hunt” in the park, where we managed to find some really tasty brambles!

Some of the planned and responsive themes we have been learning about have been “Harvest” and “Numbers”. The children have been really interested in finding out about measurement, recognising numbers and comparing sizes.

Next term we will have opportunities to explore nature in the forest, beach and park as well as all the usual learning opportunities that playgroup has to offer.

COVID-19 has had an impact on our fundraising, so at the moment we have no planned events. The committee are trying to think of new ways to raise funds for our group as we rely on fundraising to cover the costs of new equipment and activities.

Playgroup still has a few spaces available, so if anyone is interested in applying for a place please email burttislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk for an application form.

Playgroup offers quality childcare to children from 2 years 10 months until school age. We are in partnership with Fife Council so are able to offer 24 funded places from the term after your child’s 3rd

birthday. We also offer fee paying places from 2 years 10 months until your child is eligible for funding, if spaces are available.

We follow the same curriculum as nursery (Curriculum for Excellence), where children have opportunities for learning through a wide variety of activities and resources both indoors and outdoors. Applications can be placed on our waiting list from birth onwards, so its never too early to apply for a place. More information about playgroup is on our Facebook page or Website.

Jenny Roxburgh



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From BEAT to High Street Community Hub



As the country locked down in response to the escalating Covid crisis in March 2020, the Toll Community Centre became the operational base for the Burntisland Emergency Action Team (BEAT).

During this time, BEAT galvanised the community by recruiting and building databases of volunteers, identifying and recording details of the needy and the vulnerable, assessing essential requirements, identifying sources of funding and provision of essential commodities. Most essentially BEAT quickly sprung into action and over the ensuing months -

- Provided an emergency helpline
- Delivered emergency food parcels
- Co-ordinated delivery of medical prescriptions
- Delivered freshly cooked meals to isolated households
- Provided activity packs for every nursery and primary age child in the town
- Encouraged people to keep active by servicing their bikes
- Provided a book/jigsaw/toy swap table
- Distributed free surplus supermarket food
- Became a distribution point for Stephens rolls and cakes

As lockdown conditions eased, the traditional Toll Community Centre users, significantly the Playgroup and BOSS, returned in August. At this point, due to child protection and COVID-19 safe practices, the Centre became unavailable to the wider community. However, it was quickly apparent that there was a continuing need for support in the community mainly due to higher levels of

anxiety, a lack of confidence after isolating, debt, unemployment and income insecurity.

To meet these changing, but continuing needs of the community and in the belief that a healthy, socially connected community will be more resilient to cope with the considerable challenges ahead, alternative premises were considered essential. A short term lease was taken out on a small unit in the High Street. This ensured that the services and support offered by BEAT through Toll Community Centre could be continued. The High Street Hub opened in August 2020 with an initial lease extending to March 2021. Further funding applications have been made to finance an extension of the lease beyond March 2021.



With the establishment of the premises on the High Street and in conjunction with BEAT service users, an extensive review was conducted of community requirements given the prospect of an extended period of Covid restrictions over winter months.

The following priorities were identified:

- Meaningful volunteering opportunities
- Additional support for people who have had particular lockdown challenges e.g. supporting people living with dementia and their carers
- Families in poverty
- Mental health issues
- Positive engagement with young people

- Activities to rebuild confidence and self esteem

In order to successfully address these priorities an army of capable volunteers will be required. A training program involving such topics as food hygiene and working with vulnerable people will be required. Despite several BEAT volunteers having returned to regular employment, it is hoped that many will be retained.

The following services have been established or are planned:

Community Fridge—this was set up in the Hub in October, is stocked by surplus food from supermarkets collected by volunteers and available for collection.

Support for Vulnerable Groups—support sessions at small targeted groups (e.g. knitting group for older people living alone) or support sessions for people living with dementia and their carers.

Youth Engagement—design a program of youth engagement to raise their self esteem and confidence. Make the hub available for youth outreach.

Work with external agencies—The Hub would be made available to organisations such as the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH), and Clued Up to deliver targeted support in the town.

A dementia information and support drop in session will take place at the Toll Community Hub between 2.00–4.00 pm every Tuesday.

Pop Up Shop—this has been successfully trialed over the last few weeks, for more details see page 13.

The day to day operation of the High Street Community Hub will be controlled by the Toll Community Centre staff who also will be responsible for recruitment of volunteers, the secure maintenance of records and funding. The Hub will continue to be heavily dependent on volunteers. Why not give it a go?

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Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club

During the lockdown period members have been virtually meeting weekly using Zoom, and whilst this medium is not as good as face to face contact it does come with some useful opportunities. We are now able to look anywhere in the world for interesting speakers, attend district and other meetings without travelling as well as inviting guests, Rotary and non-Rotary, to our Zoom get-togethers.

Whilst Covid rules have made it more difficult to continue much fundraising activity, a Yard Sale using six members' driveways in Burntisland, Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy proved very successful raising £2,500 on the day with a number of quality items on eBay still for sale. This money has gone to our Trust Fund which has been used to support KSS (Kinghorn Support Squad), BEAT (Burntisland Emergency Action Team) formed to help the local communities during lockdown with funding being used to purchase facemasks for Linton Lane Centre.

Currently our Community Service Committee has agreed to partner with Forth Bridges Rotary in providing a children's clothing bank to deal with referrals from Kincardine to Kirkcaldy. This should prove to be a major focus for B & K going forward.

It has proved difficult to restart our normal RotaKids meetings at primary schools in the area, however, we propose to elicit their usual enthusiastic help by providing posters to be displayed in local shops for World Polio Day and it is our intention to look at ways of continuing Rotary Rambles, Primary Schools Quiz and the annual Burns competition.

As indicated in my first paragraph, our speaker programme has continued throughout lockdown with the last contributor being Past Member Ken Hunter on Kinghorn History and our next

Arthur Lloyd from Aberdour, whose witty musical travelogues around the States have become legend, turns his attention to the Outer Hebrides.

Finally, should anyone wishing more details regarding Rotary or interested in assisting the local community in any way contact Secretary Mike Gillis at mike-gillis@outlook.com or any B & K Rotarian.



BURNTISLAND OVER 70s CHRISTMAS TREAT

It is with much regret that due to the current situation regarding the pandemic that this year's Christmas lunch is cancelled.

Hopefully when restrictions are lifted for large gatherings we will be able to hold some sort of event.

Frances Allan

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Burntisland Heritage Trust

Red wheel plaque for the Old Station House at Burntisland

At the beginning of September, Burntisland made a brief television appearance on Channel 5's award winning programme World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys. This was a trip on board the stunning route from Inverness to Edinburgh. Burntisland was introduced as the site of the world's first pioneering roll-on roll-off goods train ferry crossing between Burntisland and Granton.

This was the catalyst for Burntisland Heritage to be contacted by the National Transport Trust whose aim is to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain's unique transport heritage in all its forms.

We were delighted to hear that the Transport Trust has recognised Burntisland as a most significant site of historical importance to transport. To commemorate this the National Transport Trust Heritage Plaque or "Red Wheel" is to be located at the Old Station House.



The roll-on roll-off ferry

A working model of the roll-on roll-off can be seen on the Burntisland Heritage YouTube channel in the slideshow video 'Burntisland 1883 Harbour Area' youtu.be/v1dUypqGyOM

Burntisland 1883 is the name of a large model railway depicting late Victorian Burntisland, built by the East of Scotland 4mm Group. The model was last seen on display in the Parish Church Hall in October 2018.

Burntisland and slavery

In October, to mark Black History Month 2020, we added a new section to our website. To view this, please visit www.burntisland.net and follow the link near the top of the homepage.

The section provides comprehensive information about those personalities with a Burntisland connection who owned slaves, were themselves slaves, or in one case, albeit unintentionally, was a slave who became a slave owner.

Festive Celebrations At The Sands

CHRISTMAS FAYRE MENU

27th November to
30th December

3 courses £23 / 2 courses £18

CHRISTMAS DAY MENU

3 courses £60 per person

£45 small portion

Kid's menu £20

Under 3's eat for free

Festive Afternoon Tea £12

Boozy Tea £17

Festive Quiz Night

Thursday 17th 8pm

HOGMANAY

Three course gala dinner 7pm
for 7.30pm £35 per person

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A Tale of Two Towns Twinning during a Pandemic

This year, along with almost all cultural and other events in the town, the Town Twinning didn't happen. Instead what happened was a global pandemic, and young people in Burntisland and Flekkefjord, Norway, stayed at home (or, apparently, most people at my school in Lanzarote). The COVID-19 pandemic began to fully emerge this year, meaning most in-person events were forbidden and schools shut in the majority of the world's countries, but, due to different political responses, and national and regional cultures, traditions and geography, the rules and their effects occurred differently everywhere, including, even, in twin towns.

I contacted a young Flekkefjord town twinner from a previous year, Mirijam Goepling, to find out what lockdown has been like for her and Flekkefjord in general. What I heard sounded so different from what has been happening in Scotland, I think I can safely hope it will feel almost like a holiday just to read about.

Norway had a very different coronavirus response to Scotland, locking down earlier and more strictly, so the effects of this are being felt there, with their lockdown beginning to ease in late spring, for example when the schools went back on 8th June, a few weeks before the summer holidays.

After a quarter of a year away from a proper school, during which time Mirijam says she found it difficult to motivate herself to actually do the work, and did not get as much from it as she would have

normally, the Norwegian schools returned. At the time, she thought people appeared to appreciate the education they were again getting a lot more, a good effect which, as is being seen around the rest of the world, did not last. The rules in place in the school made it very different from what it had formerly been, and from the Scottish experience as well; during the first few weeks, half of the classes went in one day and the other half the next day; desks had to be washed four times a day, and there were social bubbles and social distancing, with classes not allowed to mix, and people having to stay 1 metre apart at all times; there was also stringent handwashing—one person's hands got so dry they started to bleed! Some of these rules have relaxed a bit now, with desks only washed once a day and slightly less rigorous handwashing, but most of the rules are still there.

In Flekkefjord, as in Burntisland, the Town Twinning was not the only annual summer event to be cancelled, postponed or adapted; however, due to a different geography, this was not limited to Zoom, with the annual rock festival, for example, taking place on a small island, with the audience watching from separate boats. The individual people of Flekkefjord have also adapted their hobbies to pandemic circumstances—Mirijam and one of her friends have taken up kayaking, which, like the boats at the rock festival, is good for socially distancing, and another person has been learning a language through an online app, a current trend in the UK as well.

It is unlikely the Town Twinning will happen next year, and, although it is important culturally in Flekkefjord and Burntisland, it will not be the priority. The pandemic and its causes should be the priority. People across the richer countries, where lockdowns have eased, are forgetting the lessons they learned, or thought they learned, when the possibilities, due to the pandemic, were narrow and bleak, with children in both Scotland and Norway appearing to again forget the values of access to education; the Town Twinning is supposed to give a glimpse of another country's culture, which the twinners learn from; the pandemic gave us a glimpse into a culture of fear, one that will continue longer and more severely if we forget it. This means there is no excuse for a lesson not being learnt this year, but as I for one prepare to go back to a school with no safety measures but a bottle of hand sanitiser no one uses, I worry the results of this lesson, and all future tests on it, will be marked as a fail.

Kizzy Waplington



The beautiful Flekkefjord

Photo credit: Havstad112, CC BY-SA 4.0

Floral Action Burntisland

As all readers will be aware, FAB haven't been able to commit to much planting this year due to the current pandemic.

Nevertheless, we have carried out some winter planting in key areas including at the health centre, our nursery planters and at the Colinswell bus stop, to name but a few.

We have also replaced the barrels at the old cinema site with new self watering barrels, also replacing the bark and generally tidying up this area.

We have asked Community Payback to carry out some work on our behalf over the last few weeks. This has included sweeping the sand off the promenade and weeding along the beach wall, cutting back the shrubs on the beds at the beach car park and carrying out general maintenance work at Allan Court.

All FAB volunteers are hoping to have a more productive summer next year (fingers-crossed!). If you would be interested in assisting us in the work we carry out, please get in touch.

Scott Sweaton



The Primrose Planter

Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club

On Tuesday 15th September, after 180 days without swimming, our Squads finally returned to the water, followed by our younger groups on Saturday 19th September. Like many sports clubs a lot of work went in to making our return as safe as possible, with extra training courses, the appointment of 'Covid Officers' and detailed risk assessments all needing to be completed.

Swimmers wear face-coverings until they are poolside, follow one-way systems, arrive 'swim ready' under their tracksuits or onesies, and shower at home. We can only have a maximum of 6 Swimmers in each lane, we must practice distancing, and only limited equipment can be used with no sharing.

A month later it has been fantastic to be back, and seeing the smiles on our Swimmers' faces has made the weeks of preparation worthwhile.



Back in the Swim at the Kirkcaldy Leisure Centre

Unfortunately, it hasn't all been good news as the Beacon Centre remains closed with no confirmed re-opening date. We were invited to attend the Beacon at the end of August where Fife Sports and Leisure Trust representatives showed us, along with a member of Burntisland Community Council and Councillor Gordon Langlands, around and highlighted some of the issues. In

our opinion a one-way system could be achieved, but the air circulation in the gym is a problem as the air conditioning unit recycles air so cannot be used. As the gym is situated in the middle of the building with no windows it cannot be kept cool enough for use. The problem with the swimming pool is water quality—the group was told that the pH levels at the Beacon can be unstable due to the design of the pool, but are usually safe at 7.4. However the Scottish Government guidance is that pH levels must be maintained at 7 at this time and it seems that at the moment there is no way to achieve this at the Beacon.

The Swimming Club is disappointed that despite knowing this, Fife Sports and Leisure Trust continued to publish a re-opening date of 26th October until very recently, and have also continued to tell parents that the Learn to Swim lessons will return at the Beacon in mid-November, which seems highly unlikely.

In addition, we understand that if/when the Beacon does reopen, opening hours will be reduced to 2pm–9pm. These are the cuts that prompted us to raise a petition at the beginning of this year, and the plans that were denied by the Trust at that time seem to be coming to fruition.

We believe that the future of the Beacon is once again at risk, along with the future of the Swimming Club, which has been around since 1889. Our membership numbers have been impacted as not everyone can travel to other locations, our Swimmers are getting significantly less training time than they used to, and the situation is also affecting other Clubs in Fife who have had to loan us water time at Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Bowhill. Despite contacting the Trust a number of times since August, there is no sign of any action being taken and no plan to try and resolve the issues.

We will continue to work to raise awareness of the threat to the Beacon, and would encourage members of the local community to contact local Councillors and MSPs in order to push for more funding for Leisure Centres, and to demand more transparency from Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.



Burntisland Bowling Club

Whilst Burntisland Bowling Club's season was severely constrained by Government COVID-19 restrictions, their gradual easing allowed recreational bowls and internal competitions to resume eventually, but on a much-reduced scale.

The Club's March AGM was cancelled but the existing Officers and Management Committee extended their period of office to allow them to continue to oversee the maintenance of the green and also ensure the eventual resumption of playing activity was in accordance with requirements. Its 'virtual' meetings ensured compliance with regulations.

As circumstances allowed, many of the Club's internal competitions were able to be completed. The winners included:

Ladies Competitions: Dorothy Whyte (Ladies' Championship, Morrison Cup & Helen Mann Cup); Audrey Colville (Festival Cup, Isabel Muir Cup & President's Plate); Margaret Farnes (Seniors' Cup).

Men's Competitions: Paul Graham (Championship, President's Cup & Equal Footing); Ian McKay (Consolation Cup); Raymond Whyte (Stevenson Cup); Brian Fleming (Ian Muir Trophy); Alan Lascelles (Over 60s).

Mixed Competitions: Dorothy & Raymond Whyte (Mixed Pairs); Dorothy Whyte & Trevor Aldridge (George Gibson Cup).



Burntisland Shipyard FC

The season finally got under way with the league campaign starting on Saturday 10th October. The only way to describe the circumstances under which we are playing is...strange! No changing rooms, no supporters and no beer after the match is difficult enough. And when you add in the extra pre and post-match protocols that the players, management and committee have to carry out it makes game day a very trying time. To make matters worse we have not started well, losing the first two games with the home defeat to Newburgh particularly disappointing. However, two or three of the injured players should be back soon and with a couple of loan signings in the pipeline the squad will be stronger soon.

With all the extra work being carried out the club could do with more help around the place. We are looking for a matchday physio, which would be a paid position, to provide pitchside medical support to the players and on one training night a week to treat any minor injuries. The club has a dedicated physio/treatment room for any potential applicant to use. The physio would work closely with the team manager to keep him up to date with the condition of injured players.

A social media co-ordinator to update our Facebook, Twitter and Website platforms. This would possibly suit a younger person who has a keen interest in football and media. Volunteers to assist on matchday and/or general maintenance duties to be carried out if and when required. Anyone interested should get in touch via the club email: abeveridge.shipyard@sky.com

Friday Pop-Up shop

Isn't it great to see our High Street busy again? If you have been shopping on a Friday, have you noticed the new Friday Shop, a pop-up shop for pre-loved items?

The Friday Shop is open 10am–4pm once a week based in the Toll Community Centre's new High Street hub (opposite the TSB bank). The hub is transformed into what one customer described as "an Aladdin's cave" on Thursday evenings ready to welcome customers the next morning. Full of household items, books, DVDs, toys, clothes, shoes, bags etc.—there are always treasures to be found.

The Friday Shop is all about reducing Burntisland's carbon



footprint and making the most of our resources. Donations are gratefully accepted of almost anything in good, sellable condition (no electricals or furniture please). The goods are sorted by our volunteers and then about a quarter of our stock is displayed.

Funds raised stay in Burntisland and will be used to support the Toll Centre's new youth outreach programme. No precious resources, air miles or unnecessary packaging is used, a simple and ethical way to shop, saving the planet and your pennies at the same time.

We love to hear how our customers are coming up with new ways of reusing and repurposing what other people no longer need. From making facemasks out of silk scarves to cutting out draughts by hanging a thick curtain behind a back door, Burntislanders aren't short of ideas and creativity. Here are a few comments from our growing number of regulars:

"It is a circular economy in action"

"I now try here first before I buy anything new, I feel like I am doing my bit for the environment"

"Amazing, Burntisland needs this!"

Jo Hobbett

Burntisland Cancer Research UK Committee

The local committee of Cancer Research UK offer their most grateful thanks to Romano's Chip Shop for their superb donation of £1,300 to Cancer Research UK. They raised the funds in March just before lockdown by selling raffle tickets, tombola and a healthy donation from Gino!

As a committee, we are very proud of the support given by you, the community. Without you, the vital funds needed for research could not continue. As you are all aware cancer impacts on many lives within our community.

Additionally, congratulations go to Jennifer Kinnear who is our longest serving member (pictured far left) for being awarded CRUK Flame of Hope Honorary Fellowship award 2020.

Mary Lynch



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11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group

It has been great this term to be back meeting with our youth members and get outside for fun and games. Everyone has been so happy to get back together and make the most of the wonderful outdoor areas we have in the town.

After a very long wait, since before lockdown, we were able to present Wood Badge Awards to Shirley O'Brien and Owen Laing for completing their Adult Training and a Young Leader Belt

Award for completing the Young Leader training and missions to Joana Barron.

By Kerry Laing, Group Scout Leader

Scout Christmas Post
Unfortunately due to the current situation this will not go ahead this year.

BEAVERS

The Beavers have had a great time being out and about around town since August. We have been up the Binn building dens, in the park playing games and down the dells nature spotting and bug hotels.

After all the work that the beavers and their parents did over lockdown and the summer holidays, we were able to present 16 Bronze Chief Scout Awards.

After the October holidays we have an activity day at Fordell Firs planned and as the nights draw in, we are hoping we will be allowed back indoors for some of the sessions to allow us to continue completing challenge badges.

Kerry Laing and Shirley Kent, Beaver Scout Leaders

CUBS

The Cubs had a busy term excited to be back and enjoying some new Scouting experiences. We spent time building sandcastles on the beach hiked to Stoney Beach on the way to Aberdour. We also enjoyed a Nature Scavenger hunt at Craiggencult, Den Building at the lower Binn and Games in the local field. We are

so lucky to have such wonderful outdoor spaces on our doorstep and have enjoyed making the most of them this term as we return to scouting.

Michelle Paton, Cub Scout Leader

SCOUTS

The 31st of August saw us return to face to face Scouting as we provided a safe and fun programme for our Scouts while complying with all Scouting and government guidelines. Since our return we've had socially distanced outdoor games, and made full use of the fantastic local environment by using the Binn and Kilmundy Woods for traditional Scouting activities where our Scouts developed their fire lighting skills, put up hammocks and tarps, enjoyed a navigation and history hike, and a cycling evening. Our Scouts learned about the Wellbeing Champion Award involving how to remove the stigma around talking about mental health and more especially, how to support each other's wellbeing.

Over the first weekend of October, a group of Scouts completed their Expedition Challenge with a hike around Loch Leven on what must have been one of the wettest days of the year. On day 2 this was followed by hiking from the Ecology Centre, over the Binn and around town, a total of around 20 miles over the two days which was a fantastic achievement, considering the terrible weather.

This was clearly an extremely challenging year but our Scouts have continued to be motivated and engaged in all activities, both online and face to face. We are truly lucky to have such a fantastic group of young people and we thank every one of them for their continued commitment and behaviour which is second to none.

David Laing Monday Scout Leader & Barrie Kent Thursday Scout Leader

EXPLORERS

Face to face meetings returned for Explorers on the 3rd of September with a fun, socially distanced games evening. We then began final

preparations for Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions with navigation hikes on the Binn, fire lighting and cooking on hike stoves. In addition our Explorers worked on the Wellbeing Champion Award developing skills to support each other's mental wellbeing and to remove the taboos regarding mental health.

On 3rd and 4th October, three Explorer teams completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions in which they carried full expedition kit as they hiked the Loch Leven Heritage Trail in truly horrendous weather conditions. If they had fallen in the Loch they could not have been any wetter! The teamwork throughout the weekend was superb and cooking a hot meal, even in the rain, works wonders to keep morale high.

I never fail to be impressed by the amazing people our Explorers are and I know every leader involved with them will say how privileged we feel to share in their Scouting journey. **David Laing (Explorer Leader)**



Burntisland Golf House Club

The Quickest of all Seasons

Once again I submit an article to the Buzz that cannot be described as 'normal.' As I write this we have entered another period of lockdown in which we can't sell alcohol and have to close at 6 pm.

As the leaves turn colour and fall, the winter greens are already marked out and one wonders where the 2020 golf season went. With a bit of luck the weather holds fair and there is little need for the winter greens.

Thankfully we returned to competition golf in June and have had quite a full programme ever since. We were delighted to get the Club Championships played, and fortunate that the weather / daylight didn't delay things further.

The 2020 Champions at the Club are: Club Champion – Scott Brownlie; 'B' Champion – Bruce Anderson; Ladies Champion – Lynn Thom; Ladies Bronze – Emma Main; Senior Champion – Keith Miller; Senior Handicap – Robbie Thom; Stroke Play Champion – Blaine McGowan; Stroke Play 'B' – Jack Lloyd. Congratulations to them all.

The members have supported the Club well throughout this difficult year and we, as ever, are grateful for that support. We are also extremely grateful for the sponsorship we have received from returning and new patrons.

These are difficult times for every business, so we're deeply grateful for the support from the main sponsors: SM Autos, Bodycare Complementary Clinics, Shopfit Scotland, the Sands Hotel, Belhaven Brewery, Maitland Motors, Hy Spec Services, XPC Wheel Restoration, Dorwin MG Ltd, Smart Electrics, Fife & Edinburgh Blacksmiths, SIA Ltd, WJS Plumbing & Heating,

Co-op Funeralcare Services, our own Professional Paul Wytrazek and the Past Captains of the Club. Other local sponsors include: Amanda's Podiatry; Short n Curly; Henry Murray Fish Merchants; Puddledub Kennels; Donibristle Skip Hire; Val-u-blinds and MA Bodyshop. Apologies if I've overlooked anyone.



We have quite a few junior members 'on the books' now and the current plan is to start some coaching during the October holiday and then try to keep some form of interest going throughout the winter. Obviously there are restrictions to how many we can cater for at one time, but we will do our best. A reminder that under 16s get FREE membership here at Burntisland.

New members of any age are welcome though, and it's a great way of getting active, enjoying the fresh air, meeting new people or playing as a family group. There's no requirement to be competitive, it's more about having fun. Rates for new members are better than most clubs in the area, particularly if we can get you signed up before the turn of the year.

A new caterer recently started at the Club (The Clubhouse Bistro) and it's a pity that this early period has been blighted by restrictions. However, bookings have been steady and the food offered very well received. Fish Tea Fridays and Curry Night Thursdays will continue, and other theme nights are planned. We wish Rasha El Talli every success, and bookings can always be made direct to her on 07483 826225.

For all other enquiries please email info@burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk or telephone 01592 874093 (not manned 24/7)

Wishing everyone in the town well for the rest of the year.

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The Ecology Centre

After nearly 6 months of being closed due to COVID-19, we are so happy to be open again to our volunteers and customers. For the first few weeks we spent time making sure that we had all the safety requirements in place to enable us to restart our volunteering programmes and welcome back our customers safely. We missed being at the Centre and seeing everyone—it's good to be back! Here's a little update from us.

Tool Shed—COVID-19 won't stop Malawi Tool Shipment

Since re-opening our Tool Shed, volunteers having been working round the clock to get their biggest shipment of tools to date ready for Malawi. COVID-19 has sadly created many challenges for this year's tool shipment, with many of the other tool refurbishment sites unable to complete their allocations due to lack of volunteer resources.

The Tool Shed volunteers would normally have shipped 6 kits, however they have been desperate to keep busy, get back to it and are working hard to produce a record **14 kits!**

The team have worked closely with The Global Concerns Trust over many years have sent a variety of tools and Singer sewing machines to those disadvantaged by physical disabilities in Malawi. Through their in-country training partners, trainees receive work-based skills training, in either carpentry, cane furniture making or tailoring. Each year The Global Concerns Trust ships over 1,000 wood working tools and 32 manual singer sewing machines and treadles to Malawi allowing for the training to take place.

This program is only possible by having a

constant supply of donations of old, unwanted and used carpentry tools. We also accept donations of old and unwanted garden tools as they are the prime focus for Thursday dementia friendly volunteering Tool Shed sessions. These tools are refurbished and made available to local community groups.

We're very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who work hard to transform all these rusty tools. If you've had a lockdown shed or garage clear out and have any kind of tools that you would like to donate contact Lee Brown via email at toolshed@theecologycentre.org to discuss pick up or drop off.

Moving on

At the start of October we were sad to say goodbye to Claire Reid our Education Manager, who took up a new role with Barnardo's. Claire had been at the centre for over 10 years. She started as a volunteer and soon became part of the staff team and took forward our outdoor learning and therapeutic programmes. She shared her love of nature and the outdoors with so many adults and children around Fife and worked closely with the teachers and pupils at Burntisland Primary School. We wish her all the best and will miss her.

Totally Locally

We were delighted to take part again in the Totally Locally campaign, but this time we were part of the newly launched Kinghorn Totally Locally campaign. Whether in Kinghorn or in Burntisland this is a great promotion that brings local businesses and social enterprises together with some great 'Fiver Fest' offers.

We hope everyone stays safe and well in these unprecedented times, and we hope to see you at the Centre soon. Take care everyone.

Jenny Robertson

www.theecologycentre.org



Our 'Fiver Fest' offer included our cookbook which we launched last winter for **£5.00** (instead of £7.00). Due to COVID-19 we've not been able to get out and about or host events at the Centre to show off our new cookbook.

So, we're extending the offer until **21st December**. We have a limited supply, so get yours quick via our website or pop into the Centre. It's full of hearty and wholesome recipes and makes a great stocking filler!

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St Serf's Scottish Episcopal Church

Nobody could have imagined the COVID-19 situation would go on for so long – I know I certainly didn't – but here we are still in the midst of it and like all the other churches in the town wondering how best to offer spiritual care to our community.

And it's certainly an odd time to embark on a new stage of ministry, although in fact I have been involved in ministry at St Serf's for several years (at first as licensed lay reader and then as ordained curate). From the beginning of October, however, I shall be the assistant priest with responsibility for St Serf's, while Rev. Dean Norby continues to be the priest in overall charge of the three churches in the All Souls linked charge (St Serf's, Burntisland, St Columba, Aberdour and St Peter, Inverkeithing). This is an exciting challenge and I am looking forward to working and worshipping with the lovely congregation at Burntisland's Scottish Episcopal church.

Since the start of lockdown way back in March Rev. Dean Norby and Garry Downie have worked tirelessly to ensure that worship has been available online every Sunday for all to share. YouTube worship still continues, so why not join the



many people who enjoy all that this offers? You can find us on the All Souls YouTube channel every Sunday at 11 am.

In September it was decided that St Serf's Episcopal Church could open again on Sunday mornings at 10 o'clock for Holy Communion and at the time of writing this worship opportunity is still available. The idea is that anyone wishing to attend

should notify us by emailing office@allsoulsfife.org.uk so that we have a record of names and contact details. As we all know, this is very important in order to track potential contacts. The church is cleaned thoroughly and the maximum number of people allowed in the church building is 30. Hand sanitisers and face masks are available as you come in and social distancing rules apply. You are warmly invited to share worship and we look forward to welcoming you.

In Matthew Chapter 5, verses 14 and 15 we read, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

Our churches in Burntisland are doing their best to let the light of God's love shine out to the town during these challenging days. I pray you will experience God's love and care in your own life.

Rev. Carol Latimer,
Assistant Priest, St Serf's

revcarollatimer@btinternet.com

Erskine Church

A few weeks ago the road outside our manse in Burntisland was re-surfaced. It was interesting trying to get the car in and out of the path, but now the job's completed it's like driving across a perfectly smooth sheet of glass. No potholes to be seen or felt!

23rd March seems a long time ago now, that date when general lockdown started. The road has been long with many frustrating changes in the rules and much uncertainty about what this winter will bring. I wish there hadn't been any bumps or major obstacles, but that's the way it's been.

Burntisland has coped well and we've all heard stories of people looking out for their neighbours. The churches have tried hard to work alongside each other, it's been great to witness that. Here we are looking towards Remembrance followed by the run-in to Christmas. Everything is going to be restricted this year, face masks and social distancing along with limits on who we can meet and where we can meet them.

Erskine re-opened for Sunday worship after 30 long weeks on 4th October. We plan to sustain a weekly half-hour service at 10am, government guidelines

permitting. Lots of folks in Burntisland (including our friends round the corner at St. Serf's) have commented how nice it is to hear the church bell ringing again. We have safety measures in place with hand hygiene, face coverings etc. all being used and everyone sitting 2m apart.

Online worship with our Parish partners in Kinghorn and Burntisland has been great and very well-received across the community. We plan to keep BEK & Call services going on Zoom each Sunday at 11am for the foreseeable future. Full details are to be found on the Facebook pages of all three congregations.

Jesus says, "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world" (John 16.33, NLT).

Erskine's Monday Association meets online every week at 7pm. They've worked really hard to adapt to technology and there's been a super turnout. Please get in touch if you'd like to join the group, I know they'd be delighted to 'see' you. Father James from St. Joseph's was one of their first speakers, apparently he was so good that it looks as though I'm out of a job.

I'd love to be outlining a long list of Christmas carol concerts and Erskine's legendary Watchnight service on Christmas Eve. None of these events are planned due to the pandemic. Please keep checking our FB page for news and we'll do our best to celebrate Christmas with the same message of light and hope in Jesus' birth, but in a different way.

This has been a very tough, bumpy road for everyone. We can't know when the surface will be smooth again, but my view is that there's still much strength to be found in the power of faith. Don't give up, try to be patient and look out for those around you. When you go down Burntisland High Street in a few weeks and see those Christmas lights, it may just be that hope will return sooner than we might expect...

Rev. Alexander Ritchie



Burntisland Parish Church

The last eight months has been particularly challenging for Burntisland Parish Church as we have dealt with the implications of the coronavirus pandemic. Nevertheless, we have been able to continue to offer weekly online worship in cooperation with Erskine United Free Church and Kinghorn Parish Church. Thanks to the bringing together of the variety of gifts and talents of the people of the three churches we have assembled a team every week, without a break, since the lockdown began for us on the 22nd of March. This has proved to be a wonderfully positive way of expressing our faith and our unity of purpose in working through this testing time together.

A recent review has shown that over 70 people regularly access the Sunday service on Zoom, around 35 join us on Facebook and a regular group of about 12 people phone in to the service. We also record the service on YouTube so that it is available to others who can't join at the regular time. And of course, we are always happy for folk to join us, either at the regular time or by checking in to the recordings.

Over the summer we added a monthly evening communion service to our online programme. We were initially uncertain as to how well this would work as people have to bring their own bread and wine and we are clearly unable to gather together. However, this has proved to be a very meaningful service with the ministers of the three churches sharing in the worship of this time. Feedback from those who have taken part has been overwhelmingly positive. These joint communion gatherings will continue on the first Sunday of the month at 7pm for the foreseeable future. They can only be joined through Zoom and live on Facebook. We decided that communion should be experienced live so these services are not recorded.

We reopened for public worship in July with our usual weekday and Sunday services. Numbers, of course, are limited, so we continue to broadcast on Facebook on weekdays and our Sunday Mass on YouTube. We have a great number of viewers all over the world and lots of people reconnecting with their hometown.

Sadly, we are still living in very difficult times and lots of plans have been frustrated. Two weddings due to have been celebrated this year have been postponed until 2022. The Remembrance Day Parade has been cancelled, with simply a short service of Remembrance at the war memorial.

And what will Christmas look like this year? It is difficult to plan... so as much as

Meanwhile the church and our halls have remained closed. This is, however, slowly changing. Scottish Government regulations now allow churches to reopen but with strict protocols. Burntisland Parish Church has completed the necessary risk assessments and has been given approval by the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy to begin opening up. But services will not be the same as we have been used too. Two metres distancing means that the maximum number of people in the church will be limited to 43, the balcony can't be used, facemasks must be worn by all the congregation and singing of hymns is not allowed. We have had trial openings for private prayer, but with limited response. We plan to have a service in the church on Sunday 1st November at 9:30am to assess how services might be conducted. However, anyone wishing to attend must book a place in advance so that we can ensure that we don't exceed the permitted number and test and trace details will be taken.

Our halls are slowly opening up too – but this requires a full risk assessment from each organisation involved and final permission granted from Kirkcaldy Presbytery which oversees the process to ensure that we are fully compliant with Scottish Government regulations. Unfortunately, Solid Rock is still not able to open due to the 2-metre rule. As it is a smaller venue, numbers would be so restricted as to make meeting there unviable.

Meanwhile, the online services will continue, at the same time as our partner churches are also opening up to in-person worship in the same restricted ways that we are. Nevertheless, it seems that these limited opportunities for gathering are proving worthwhile and it is hoped they can be developed and continued despite the uncertainties of this time. Members of

the Parish Church have been kept informed over the months since lockdown with a regular Lock-Down Newsletter which is sent out by email and is available on request to anyone who provides their email address.

Once piece of good news is that the church shop in the High Street, **Chapter and Verse**, has been open since the summer and has been doing good business. Plans are well ahead for the Christmas season so do pop in and see the stock that is available. And look out for the Chapter and Verse Facebook page which is now up and running.

At this time of year, we would normally be able to give details of plans for Christmas Services and other activities around the festive season. Unfortunately, it seems highly unlikely that we will see restrictions reduced in the coming months as we know that the virus is spreading again. Even if the current regulations remain unchanged, we will be restricted to small services with no singing of hymns or carols. In these circumstances it is hard to make any concrete plans. Nevertheless, we will be celebrating Christmas! We will be there online with our partner churches and we will be working out what other celebrations will be possible and allowed nearer the time. The Burntisland Parish Church Facebook page is the best way to keep in touch with all services and developments.

As we look forward to what will be a very different Christmas may you know God's peace and blessing in these challenging times.

Every blessing,

Rev David Redmayne



St Joseph's Church

can be said at the moment is that if you want to know the times of Christmas Services please check our weekly Bulletin which can be found on the parish website www.stjosephsburntisland.co.uk

November is a time of Remembrance. Last year our Knit and Knatter group decorated the cross outside the Church with knitted poppies—the poppy being the enduring symbol of remembrance and of hope for a peaceful future. In these short winter days and as we continue to live in the midst of a global pandemic we all hope for a better and safer future and a return to some sort of normality to our own lives and to our world. Wishing you all hope, joy, love and peace.

Fr James





Burntisland Bird Watch

November '20
By Leo du Feu

The artwork this time is another wood engraving – a tawny owl gliding over moonlit snowy fields up behind the Binn. Not because I've recently seen this but because I hope I will again soon. It's based on a thick-gloved sketch I did up there a few years ago. I'm longing for snow this winter, the cold to bring siskins and chaffinches and bramblings to our garden feeders, redwings and fieldfares to gorge the berries of our neighbours' lovely wall-top cotoneaster. Most of all I want to get out on night walks watching for owls, hares, foxes, deer. Snow makes nocturnal nature suddenly visible. And few things are as exciting as searching snow for tracks and wondering what made them.

Talking of which, if we don't get our act together pronto we'll have to search pretty hard to find much wildlife at all. We live in a Biodiversity Crisis, intertwined with and just as awful as the Climate Crisis. Mammals for example, the first official Red List for British Mammals, published this summer, shows a quarter of our native mammals threatened with extinction. A quarter! Think about it. That's red squirrel, hedgehog, wildcat, water vole (Ratty from *The Wind In The Willows*), four species of bat and more. A further five including mountain hare are "near threatened". They'll join the list unless we change things fast.

I've recently been absorbing a lot of work on the matter. It's emotional stuff. It's devastating to learn how we've smashed our natural world and frankly terrifying to

learn how much worse it's going to get. But it's also inspiring and motivating, coming to realise that it needn't be this way and that you're far from alone in wanting it better. Across your town and across the whole world more and more are speaking out, making changes—little and large—setting up local actions, starting groups for nature and community, working to save our future.



I suggest swotting up, learning the facts and the solutions. Read or listen to Benedict Macdonald's *Rebirding*, Isabella Tree's *Wilding*, Mark Cocker's *Our Place*. Watch Attenborough's *Extinction: The Facts* (tissues ready) and *A Life on Our Planet*, and follow his new Instagram account. Watch the broadcasts of *The Self-Isolating Bird Club* on Facebook.

Chat to friends and family about it and ponder what you might do differently. Seed your gravel with flowers? Use a trowel instead of weedkiller? Plant a hedge instead of a fence? Offer to take on a bit of a neighbour's garden for nature? Buy local products? Cycle to the shops? Waste no food? Eat less meat? Switch to a renewable energy supplier or an ethical bank? Fly less? Every one of these actions helps give a chance to the

biodiversity of Burntisland, of Scotland, of Britain and of the world.

And join us on **Burntisland Wildlife and Woodlands Facebook Group** where since I last wrote there have been butterflies on ivy flowers, one of the very best nectar sources for insects in autumn and winter. Hoverflies aplenty—such an overlooked group. One of my favourite families of fungi – earthstars—in The Sands beer garden! Starfish, seals, dolphins, curlew, young sandwich terns, a washed-up gannet. A lesser black backed gull born in the Netherlands earlier this year, spotted in Burntisland in September. A black-headed gull ringed as

chick in Finland in 2004, next recorded in Norway in 2006, then in Burntisland in February 2015 and again every winter since.

Hérons, kingfishers, moorhens and a grey wagtail (stunning yellow tummy) all at Seamill Pond—a really good spot for seeing all these. Buzzards, a kestrel. Stonechat, robins, tits, dunnock. Hedgehogs in various gardens and refreshingly few reports of ones squashed by careless drivers or cut by careless strimmers. Roe deer. Devil's Coach Horse, what a name, what an impressive beetle! Redshank and turnstones—see these all winter plus ringed plover and gulls, seeking refuge on the last bit of rocks below the skatepark as the tide comes in.

What have you seen?

New artist's studio and gallery on the High Street

Glisk is an artist's studio which is situated on the High Street, in the former Spiritual Oasis premises between Murdoch's and the opticians. The building was renovated earlier in the year and the space is divided into two adjoining rooms.

The left hand shop houses a working studio space for Inverkeithing-based artist Jane Francis, which will also be a venue for classes, workshops and collaborations when possible.

The right hand shop features a gallery space, showcasing her artwork as well as a selection of other artists.

The doors are currently open to the public on Fridays 11am–6pm. Jane also plans to host pop-up shops featuring artisan producers and craft makers on Saturday afternoons.

You can find out more on the www.glisk.cloud website.



Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

The Trust, through its Zoom meetings has given thought to some new ideas. We decided it would be appropriate to have a Patron for the Trust and it was agreed to ask Hamish Brown if he would take this on. Hamish’s love of the countryside and his special fondness for Craigencalt was an easy choice. Along with a team of helpers he has encouraged the planting of snowdrops each year in this area for many years. It is much appreciated, as they brighten up our cold, grey days in winter. His enthusiasm for these delicate flowers is infectious.

He has also written many interesting and informative books about Scotland and his one on the Fife Coastal Path is a great guide for walkers. This section of the coastal path, from Aberdour to Kirkcaldy, is a hidden jewel, and well worth advertising. Hamish agreed to become our patron some time ago, and we had wanted to give him a proper presentation, but the current restrictions has made this so difficult. We hope to do so in due course.



Ducks at Kinghorn Loch

Thank goodness for technology as we can still hold our Friends Annual Photo Competition on line. This year’s winner is Val Crossan from Burntisland, with her photo of the ducks at Kinghorn Loch, getting ready for visitors. Val was given the trophy at the front door of her house, as unfortunately the ‘Quiche and Curry’ night planned for her presentation is on hold again. We include her winning picture above.

There was a short window during July and August when the water sports clubs began meeting up again, and it was lovely to

see the children canoeing on the loch once more, but this was not to last. We look forward to the time when the Walking Group can meet up again too, but it does not seem likely any time soon. It is good that walkers are still out and about, able to take advantage of the beautiful autumn weather. We must show further patience before we can enjoy our leisure activities unrestrained!

Unfortunately, ‘Barn at the Loch’ has closed for the winter this year, we hope to see them back next spring.

Path maintenance has been tricky. After a late start, when restrictions were relaxed a little, small groups of volunteers and some individuals did get busy with strimmers and rakes. As walkers and other users have been out in great numbers, we did have people comment and thank us for our effort, and this is much appreciated.

Our latest path, Red Path Brae, which is very well used, now has finger post signage, a bench and an information board in place. The path was damaged in the big storm, with a spring appearing from the rock at the very top of the path. The damage is superficial and will be tidied up soon with a little extra drainage to prevent it happening again. Fife Council has understandably been delayed putting in the pavement connecting to the roadside of this path but they hope to carry out the work in late October. However, the path is perfectly usable.

The heavy storm in August also caused some other damage to paths. A thorough inspection pleasingly, showed only minor damage which is repairable. The landslip at the top of the Binn at a potentially dangerous spot, needed some immediate action, as this is such a busy, scenic route. Our volunteers have put in guide poles together and have cleared the path, to steer people away from the edge. There are also signs to warn walkers.

The Dells Path at Cotburn, which runs below Burntisland Golf Course Clubhouse, developed water channels after the big storm. We hope to improve this damage, as we know it is an area well used by nurseries and families. The Trust relies totally on the support of Friends and volunteers who help with our projects. If you would like to help please contact us by phone 07740999514 or email info@craigencalttrust.org.uk



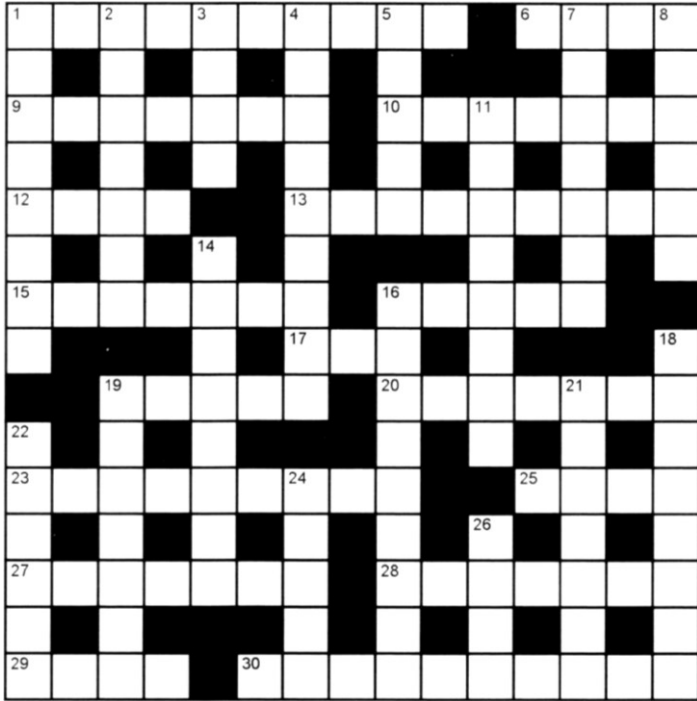
Cool Yule Quiz—(No Googling!)

MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATION



1. Where did Mommy tickle Santa Claus?
2. What was the Wassail Bowl filled with.....?
3. and when?
4. With what should you “deck the halls”?
5. Why did the Romans choose to worship the god Janus at the New Year?
6. Name the Roman midwinter festival
7. Spanish children traditionally leave their shoes out on Twelfth Night, hoping they will be filled with gifts when..... WHO.....pass by?
8. Why is a Christmas Pudding traditionally stirred from East to West?
9. Name the 3 Wise Men (marks off for bad spelling!)
10. Albert, Queen Victoria’s husband, introduced Christmas trees to Britain—but can you name the celebrated German who is credited with the original idea of bringing a fir tree into the house and decorating it?
11. Why was Mistletoe so special to the Druids?
12. The French wish each other ‘Joyeux Noel’; the Germans, ‘Frohliche Weihnachten’—but what about this lot?
(a) ‘Felices Pascuas’ (b) ‘Gledelig Jul’ (c) ‘Vrolijk Kerstmis’ (d) ‘Nollaig Faoi Shean Agus Faoi Shonas Duit’ (e) ‘Buon Natale’ (f) ‘Nadolig Llawn’ (g) ‘Noeliniz Kutlu Olsun

Answers on Page 22



THE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Extra (10)
6. Little devils(4)
9. Dried seedless grape (7)
10. Unclear (7)
12. Fly high in the air (4)
13. Scent (9)
15. Resin flavoured wine (7)
- 16 Quoted (5)
17. A couple (3)
19. Hereditary Class in India (5)
20. Cathedral like York (7)
23. Old English University (9)
25. Predjudice(4)
27. Foolishly sentimental (7)
28. Cowardly (7)
29. Notion (4)
30. Passionate appeal (3,2,5)

DOWN

1. Lineage (8)
2. Inactive volcano (7)
3. Pony carriage (4)
4. No longer valid (3,2,4)
5. Hawaiian greeting (5)
7. Grieved over (7)
8. Scandinavian country (6)
11. Close investigation (8)
14. Troubadour (8)
16. Started (9)
18. Captive (8)
19. Travel to work (7)
21. Sparkle (7)
- 22 Large prawns (6)
24. Iraq currency (5)
26. Bluish-white metal (4)

Solution to August Crossword

Across 1 Leprechaun, 6 Aged, 9 Stadium, 10 Inflate, 12 Loth, 13 Tangerine, 15 Samurai, 16 Guile, 17 Nil, 19 Wrong, 20 Allegro, 23 Murderers, 25 Undo, 27 Leopard, 28 Onerous, 29 Duke, 30 Freeforall.

Down: 1 Listless, 2 Phantom, 3 Evil, 4 Hamstring, 5 Union, 7 Granite, 8 Diesel, 11 Flexible, 14 Arboreta, 16 Gladstone, 18 Colossal, 19 Warlock, 21 Gondola, 22 Ambled, 24 Elder, 26 Hero.

As this issue is mainly online and not all our regular readers have access, we are not offering a prize for this crossword—it is for fun only.

CONGRATULATIONS—Our Autumn Crossword winner of £50 in vouchers is: Jean Watson, Kirkcaldy Road, Burntisland.

Answers: One point for each correct answer, making 20 points in all:

1. Underneath his beard of snowy white
2. Hot, spiced ale
3. On the Twelfth Night
4. Boughs of holly
5. Janus has two faces. One looking back to the old year, the other looking forward to the new.
6. The Saturnalia
7. The 3 Wise Men (Twelfth Night is the Feast of the Epiphany)
8. In honour of the 3 Wise Men, who “came from the East”

9. Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior *1 point for each name*
10. Martin Luther
11. They believed it kept alive the spirit of the tree during the winter months.
12. a) Spanish. b) Norwegian. c) Dutch. d) Irish Gaelic. e) Italian f) Welsh. g) Turkish

How did you get on?

20: You Googled! **16-19:** Like to help us set next year’s quiz? **11-15:** Average correct numbers. You don’t really care how the Wise Men spelt their names, do you? **6-10:** Too full of Christmas Pud to concentrate. **1-5:** Dipped into the Wassail Cup a bit too soon, didn’t you?

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FESTIVE EVENTS

Kinghorn RNLI Christmas Shopping Event
Saturday 14th November

Christmas Wreath Making Class
with Poppy Floral Design includes Festive Afternoon Tea
Sunday 6th December

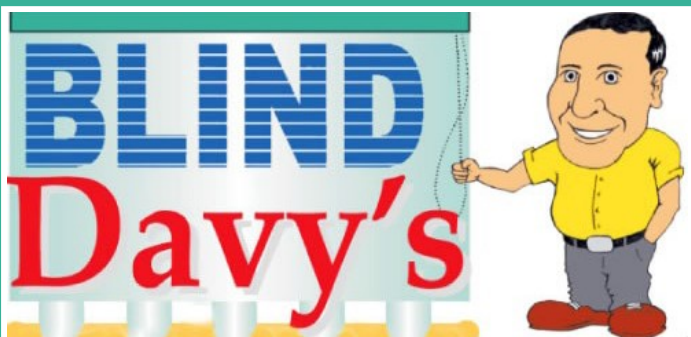
Christmas Day Lunch Bookings
Available between 12-2:30pm

Christmas Event Bookings are subject to availability and require advanced booking.

Restaurant Festive Dining available throughout December

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