

BURGH BUZZ



Burntisland's Free Community Magazine

Previous issues at www.burghbuzz.org.uk

February 2021

Issue No 78

Community Award 2021—Burntisland Emergency Action Team

In considering the recipient of the 2021 Burntisland Community Award, rather than focussing on individuals, attention was directed towards local groups who had responded to the unprecedented challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The quality of nominations was extremely impressive, all demonstrating commendable enthusiasm and initiative in their willingness to support their fellow citizens.

However, the Burntisland Emergency Action Team (BEAT) emerged as the clear winner of the 41st annual Community Award. The emergency team was rapidly formed in late March to provide essential assistance and commodities to the most vulnerable in the community.

Initially, with the assistance of the local authority and the use of the Toll Community Centre as a base, careful planning of a complicated logistical exercise led to the recruitment of over 60 local volunteers and the identification of individuals and families within the community who required assistance during the early lockdown.

Essential fundraising and the establishment of support from local businesses and traders resulted in a wide variety of services being made available through the operations of BEAT.

As the pandemic spread, BEAT services became even more essential and the entire set-up moved to more central premises on the High Street from where a very efficient support operation continues.

BEAT was originally formed by an efficient team comprising Brendan Burns, Yvonne Crombie and Kirsteen Durkin, the latter being seconded from Fife Council and absolutely essential in establishing secure databases, the initial recruitment of volunteers and distribution of leaflets. However, they were supported by a huge army of volunteers and the Community Council will ensure that all active participants will receive personal recognition of their resolve and determination to help others in a time of need.



Photo: Michael Booth

In due course, there will be a formal presentation, with a permanent record of the overall achievement to be displayed in a prominent location.

Overall, it was—and continues to be—an outstanding piece of work which has enabled local people to share the burden of the COVID-19 challenges by helping each other in ways which are safe, supportive and sustainable.



David Adamson BEM

Lifetime Burntisland resident David Adamson was deservedly recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours with the award of the British Empire Medal for his services to athletics and the local community. Throughout his 80+ years, apart from National Service and several years working in the Middle East and Africa, David has been a very active and valuable member of the local community.

I personally remember him as an inspirational leader in the Boys Brigade in the Parish Church Hall and also as a sprinter at the Highland Games.

He was an accomplished athlete in his own right, having successfully represented the RAF at a joint services event in Lisburn, Northern Ireland and having won several trophies at the local Highland Games. In the mid-50s, he even

entered the Binn Race and came a commendable second in a tight finish to the legendary Jim Leuchars. Locally, with another local worthy, Norman Stenton, he set up the Burntisland Running Club and coached many young athletes over the years.

In the late 80s, on his return from overseas, David became vice president of the Highland Games Committee on which he actively served for more than two decades. During this time, he led as Chieftain and inspired others to support the Games ensuring that they thrived and progressed to the successful event that it is today. He is currently Honorary Chieftain of the Burntisland Highland Games.

David is a versatile sportsman and has served as captain of Burntisland Golf



Club, the 10th oldest golf club in the world, and was vice captain of Burntisland Golf House Club although he confesses that on the golf course these days, he might be "slowing down"!

BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

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From the Editor

The front page of our winter issue traditionally features the winner of the Community Award. This year, rather than offering our congratulations to an individual we offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to the entire BEAT team comprising in excess of 100 volunteers. The team collectively, have comforted and assisted literally hundreds of local individuals and families over the last 10 months of the Covid pandemic. Their joint efforts to help others have demonstrated a togetherness and commendable community spirit that the town can be truly proud of.

Also on the front page is an individual award winner, Davie Adamson who was deservedly awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's New Year's Honours for services to athletics and the local community.

However, another local recipient of an honour from Her Majesty was Collieson Briggs, who in the Queen's Birthday Honours last October, was awarded Member of the British Empire (MBE) for local community support, in particular for services towards vulnerable people during the pandemic. Over the years, as managing director of Briggs Marine, he has supported many local charities including the Kirkcaldy Foodbank, Rachel House and Burntisland Shipyard Football Club. Julie Anderson, Head of our local Primary School in her article on page 6, gives a striking example of the Briggs generosity towards the local community. Another well deserved local honour.

But what of the future? There is no denying that normality is a long way off—but there are encouraging signs on the horizon. The vaccine is being administered in greater quantities, the R number is decreasing and we will be emerging from the cold of winter into spring and summer when the virus is less potent.

Let us be thankful that we live in a town with so many natural amenities—the Links, the Beach, the Binn to name just three. Why not visit The Burntisland Heritage Trust YouTube channel and experience the full extent of the wonderful environment in which we live and so often take for granted—you will be pleasantly surprised!

Bill Kirkhope

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: Anne Smith

Members:

Tim Hailey Graeme Luke
 Brendan Burns Lynne Ralph
 Yvonne Crombie Ken Littlemore
 Clare Slater Carol McLeod
 Jim Sheridan

Contacts:

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 1 Craig Court, Burrtisland. KY3 0AT
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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 pleased to welcome Carol McLeod and Jim Sheridan as new members of the Community Council. They have backgrounds respectively in forensic science and oil industry fabrication. A few places remain for potential members and we welcome expressions of interest.
- There is a possibility of finding a temporary use for the gap site opposite the Burgh Chambers. We are in touch with Burrtisland Community Development Trust and the Development Trusts Association Scotland to try and find a way forward.
- Local instances of anti-social behaviour have been brought to official attention by our MSPs Claire Baker and David Torrance. The Cabinet Secretary for Justice reportedly sought and received assurances from Police Scotland that appropriate multi-agency resources were being deployed.
- We are supporting the proposal for a second pharmacy, to be located towards the West end of the High Street and have advised NHS Fife accordingly.
- We are close to finalising the funding of environmental improvements at the Cot Burn in the Toll Park. Plans are well advanced and the results should be visible before long.
- Fife Council have declined to repay the £100,000 which was taken from Burrtisland's Common Good fund to pay for their electrical work on the Links. We will continue to progress for remedial action by every appropriate means.
- There is unacceptable congestion and parking in streets near to the school when pupils are entering or leaving. It is a danger to all and we will work with the school and the community police officers to ensure that enforcement action is taken where needed.
- The season for some of the Christmas lighting has been extended, bringing some extra cheer to the vicinity of the High Street.

The Burgh Police

from PC Danny Hatch



Let us start by wishing you a Happy New Year. Starting the year with news of further restrictions issued by the government is not the way any of us would have wished to start. We appreciate the stress that these rules can put on everyday life and we would like to thank you, the public, in supporting us and adhering to the restrictions in spite of the difficulties these bring.

In terms of the way we continue to police, the information set out below has been taken from the Police Scotland website and is reflective of the approach we have been instructed to take locally:

Our officers will continue to engage with the public in a positive and constructive tone as we support our colleagues in the health service at this extraordinary time. The powers being afforded to our 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. Officers will:

Engage: ask whether an individual is aware of the government request; establish individual circumstances and how quickly someone can comply

Explain: the risks to public health and to the NHS in line with government guidance

Encourage: voluntary compliance

Enforce: if faced with non-compliance and only as a last resort.

We are asking people to take personal responsibility to do the right thing and remember the purpose of these measures is to aid the collective effort to protect the NHS and save lives by preventing the virus from spreading.

Our officers will continue to engage with the public, explain the legislation and

guidance and encourage compliance. We will use enforcement as a last resort only where there is a clear breach of the legislation. We will do so in a fair, reasonable and proportionate manner.

If there are any queries regarding the role of the police during the COVID-19 pandemic there are helpful FAQ sections on Police Scotland's website below:

www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/covid-19-police-scotland-response/faqs-general/ (FAQ)

www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/covid-19-police-scotland-response/faqs-police-powers/ (Police Powers FAQ)

Further to the above, Police Scotland now has an online reporting form which can be used by members of the public to report possible **ONGOING** breaches of the legislation. This can be found at the following address:

www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/covid19/

On another note, policing continues in Fife and in the Burntisland area. Many of you will be aware that towards the end of November a number of motor vehicles were vandalised overnight. We are aware that twenty vehicles were reported to the police as being damaged. This caused significant disruption to people's lives and impacted them financially.

We would like to thank the general public and local retail outlets for their assistance in bringing this enquiry to a conclusion resulting in two fifteen year old males being charged with multiple counts of vandalism and being reported to the children's reporter. It was as a result of information and CCTV provided from multiple sources which allowed us to arrive at a positive result. This was a real

collective effort made by the Burntisland Community.

We are aware of continuing reports in the town of young person's descending upon the town in many cases with the intention of consuming alcohol which often then leads to anti-social behavior and disruption in resident's lives. We would like to reassure you that we are aware of issues and continue to dedicate officers to patrols in relation to these issues. We will continue to engage with local off licenses and will continue to engage with parents of youths attending both in person and by way of sending letters to them.

We have also recently received a report regarding possible drug dealing in the area. This is an enquiry that we are currently looking into but I would like to stress that any information regarding possible drug dealing activity will be gratefully received whether by contacting ourselves using the contact details at the bottom of this article or if wishing to remain anonymous, using Crimestoppers.

As always, I will take this opportunity to remind the public that there are various ways of reporting crime. Where persons are looking to remain anonymous, information can be provide via Crimestoppers using the contact details below:

Website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Telephone: **0800 555 111**

When reporting to the Police, the public can use **101** to report non emergencies, **999** to report in emergency situations and of course the email address below in order to contact us with concerns which are not ongoing at the material time:

BurntislandKinghornWesternKirkcaldyCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association

Being a relatively newcomer to the town, having moved here in 1985, I am still amazed at the generosity of the residents that live here in Burntisland. Over the Christmas period my wife and a number of volunteers from the TRA, were actively involved in supporting the BEAT foodbank effort. The donations that came in were amazing, children had donated toys to Santa so that the towns children would get a present from Santa; whilst the adults had donated all the little extras that make Christmas special.

Special thanks should also go out to Aldi (Cowdenbeath) and Usave (Burntisland) for their donations of food and household items, as well as the many local businesses

in our town that support this cause at Christmas and throughout the year.

There are many unsung heroes in the town who donate regularly without feeling the need to advertise their commitment to eradicating food poverty in Burntisland and it is their generosity and willingness to give of their time and support to BEAT that makes this town the wonderful community that it is.

The TRA's Christmas window decoration competition was a resounding success with 1st prize going to the Simpson family in West Leven Street and three runners up prizes from households within our catchment area. Building on this success

we are now looking at developing a plan for a Children's play day on the Links once we come out of this awful pandemic that is COVID-19.

The TRA will continue to work away in the background, supporting our residents and to that end we should see the sighting of a CCTV camera in the Kirkgate, final details on this equipment have yet to be finalised as to who has access to the information gathered by the camera and how it is used by the civil authorities. At no time will any information gathered by this camera be available to the general public.

Iain Ralph

Are we being served effectively by our police? Have your say!

“Effective policing isn’t just about enforcement. It’s about working in and with our communities to identify and solve problems. That’s why we’ve restructured our community policing so that it’s easier for you to know who we are, what we do and how to get in touch with us.”

This is a statement issued by Police Scotland, the sentiments of which are constantly echoed in numerous documents (periodic progress reports, plans for future policing, minutes of meetings etc.) published by The Scottish Police Authority, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (Scotland) and Police Scotland Fife Division.

However, in practical terms what is the reality on the ground?

When I became editor of the Buzz some 11 years ago, under Fife Constabulary the Burntisland electoral ward which included Kinghorn and Auchtertool, was served by 1 Sergeant, 8 Constables and 1 Station Assistant all based at Burntisland Police Station, the counter of which was open to the public for 4 hours a day. Additionally, one of the constables was a Burntisland resident with an excellent local knowledge.

Also at that time, Community Engagement meetings were introduced. These meetings, initially held in the Toll Centre, later hosted by Pettycur Bay Hotel and Burntisland Primary School, afforded residents of all three communities the opportunity to regularly meet community officers informally to discuss problems relating to law and order.

Since the formation of Police Scotland some 7 years ago, although the mission statement remains unchanged, the situation in practical terms, as far as the Burntisland community is concerned, has transformed dramatically. Our police station has closed. Police Engagement meetings have ceased to exist and our previous squad of 9 uniformed officers has been reduced to 2 constables, whom we continue to share with Kinghorn, Auchtertool and Western Kirkcaldy. It is virtually impossible to directly make a face to face report to a community officer and to do so through the established tel.101 channel has proved to be cumbersome and time consuming. Many residents now resort to airing their experiences and feelings on social media rather than through official channels which inevitably leads to a drop in reported crime and misleading statistics.

The dramatic reduction in visible police presence on our streets has resulted in a perceived (and possibly genuine) decline in the local law and order situation and a real fear amongst some residents in certain areas of the town to venture out, particularly during the hours of darkness.

Having addressed the Commander Fife Division by letter on this topic, I have been assured that the two designated community officers do not constitute the sole police coverage of Burntisland. Officers of response teams, when not involved in answering emergency calls, conduct frequent, intelligence based patrols of potential hot spots to deter criminal acts, particularly those related to anti-social behaviour. It was also emphasised that the Bilston Glen Control Centre deals with all calls efficiently but of necessity, is required to act on reports according to urgency. Face to face meetings with community officers are also offered to members of the community, once a month at the Burntisland Public Library and these officers are claimed to be in regular contact with elected Councillors and Community Councillors.

I am extremely grateful for the frank exchanges that I have had with Fife Division officers on community policing and have no criticism whatsoever of our 2 community officers. However, I cannot accept that the current structure and operational

deployment of community police officers, response teams and claimed contacts with members of the Burntisland community constitutes the “effective policing” envisaged in Police Scotland’s opening statement. As a simple example, prior to the school closure because of Covid, there was absolutely no uniformed control of the daily, chaotic, illegal and dangerous parking in the streets surrounding the Primary School at times when pupils are attending or leaving.

Modern day policing appears to be completely reactive - encouraging and relying upon members of the public to make reports by telephone, emails and even anonymously through a charity. It is often even difficult to gain access to a police building where a counter is open.

I fully understand and appreciate that policing structures and methods must change to take advantage of advancing technology and communications and also to address the additional challenges that these developments present. Within structured plans, police priorities have changed but I feel that under this restructuring, community policing has suffered to the extent that it is no longer effective.

We require a return to a system of proactive community policing involving uniformed officers patrolling daily, establishing local contacts with traders, publicans, councillors and the general public. In this way they would be able to identify problems and take appropriate action before they are allowed to escalate. Also, this basic operational deployment would substantially increase the general public’s confidence in the force, leading to a significant growth in willing cooperation.

PC Hatch’s informative report on the preceding page refers to 20 instances of malicious damage to vehicles and also anti social behaviour by incoming youths. Although there has been a positive response by the police, would a regular police presence on our streets have prevented so many counts of malicious damage and deterred unruly youths from visiting the town?

Additionally, PC Hatch appeals for information regarding alleged, illegal drug dealing in the town. A more proactive approach by community officers in mixing with residents on a regular basis would undoubtedly result in officers being made aware of this information at first hand leading to appropriate action being taken.

Police Scotland’s restructured community policing model fails to achieve its stated objectives in Burntisland and I feel sure that this unsatisfactory level of service must exist in other communities throughout the country.

I would therefore recommend that as a matter of urgency, the Scottish Police Authority focuses immediately on this topic and directs Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (Scotland) to conduct a thorough review of community policing nationwide with a view to confirming Police Scotland’s commitment to effective community policing and making recommendations as to how this can be achieved.

In the meantime, I would urge members of the Burntisland community to attempt to familiarise themselves with our 2 community officers. If you are fortunate enough to meet them, stop and chat to them, let them know your thoughts and if you witness or are the victim of a crime, make a report through official channels rather than having a rant on Facebook.

In composing this article, I have taken full cognisance of the prevailing Covid situation. Should readers wish to comment on this topic, letters to the editor are most welcome and will be published, provided they are not offensive.

The Editor

Burntisland Primary School

I'm sure much of the community were absolutely delighted when we were able to open our doors to pupils after the Summer in 2020 and now, here we are in January 2021, and we find ourselves in a different position—yet again.

Last term we were delighted to have the children in. They were taking part in all kinds of activities to enhance their learning across the curriculum, throughout the whole school. Some of the photographs will show readers just how 'normal' school looked during those months.

We weren't able to have parents in but we quickly adapted and learned different ways to help us feel connected to our parent body, sharing thousands of photographs on our Facebook page for people to see quickly the types of things we were up to.



Christmas also brought its own challenges. Where we would normally welcome parents, friends and families in to share our Christmas celebrations and the Early Years Nativities, we were unable to do this.

We celebrated in other ways! We had a Cheeky Elf who got up to mischief each day, the staff pulled together a BPS Twelve Days of Christmas song and then our learners took part in a variety of 'projects'. P4-6 did their own version of a Christmas Lip Sync Battle, the Primary 7s produced a calendar for their enterprise project. The Nursery shared their learning and, of course, the Nativity took place but as an "in house" event which was filmed and shared.

The links for these are here, if anyone would like to revisit these and see what we were up to:

[fb.watch/30frZUHeIt](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=30frZUHeIt)

youtu.be/qvBEeZB81hk

youtu.be/49bqB1Z1m8w

youtu.be/auLcXT_kIC8



We very much tried to keep the joy and Christmas sparkle alive in school each day.

We distributed well over 500 gifts in combined parcels to local families through the Giving Tree and we know by the responses we were met with that these were very gratefully received, and the generosity of this wonderful community was quite overwhelming. As school staff delivered the presents, it was incredibly moving to hear the thanks and appreciation from the families at a time and we know so many children will have had extra joy on Christmas Day as a result. A huge thank you to Carole-Anne Crossan from the High Street Coop for dropping all of the presents up to school in multiple car journeys and to every single person who donated.

Prior to Christmas, Briggs Marine donated the amazingly generous amount of £10,000 to the school.

We were absolutely overwhelmed with this and we feel truly humbled by the company's generosity.

The company has donated this money so that we can use it to support some of our most vulnerable families through a variety of interventions. This includes supplying appropriate clothing for some children, providing snacks, part funding support staff, buying resources and funding initiatives to support children who are facing really challenging times and to target the places which need it most.

The money will make a tremendous difference and we really can't thank Briggs Marine enough.



November also saw us mark Armistice where our children learned about the significance of this date. I laid our school wreath at the War Memorial whilst Mr Anderson (my Dad!) piped, in the rain.

During those two terms, no classes or staff were required to isolate because of any school transmission of Covid-19 and this meant learning could carry on in school uninterrupted. This was really, truly wonderful!

We have had strict rules to follow in school and all staff are working in very different ways to ensure the safety of children, families and each other.

As the school is still, very much 'open'. We have children in every day from identified families and the those of key workers also attend—on days their parents cannot work from home.

Numbers are strictly limited in line with Government guidance and we are doing our best to keep our learners, staff and families safe by keeping these numbers very low.



BPS staff are working tirelessly to deliver teaching and learning remotely whilst at the same time support the children in the school building. So, it can be quite a juggling act.

The term ‘remote teaching and learning’ is the phrase that is used to describe what is happening for us all just now. But, the definition of remote is ‘distant’, ‘disconnected’ ‘far apart’ and this is something which we really hope our families will not feel over coming weeks.

We are doing everything we can to stay connected as possible. And we will endeavour to ensure that our BPS ‘Family’ does not feel in any way ‘remote’ during this time.

We have started using a new app called Seesaw for our younger learners and it has been joyous to see how connected our children, parents and staff have been using this. Some of these photographs are here to see too.



We can easily see and hear the children carrying out their learning tasks and staff can leave video and voice recordings as feedback so that the children, and parents, know that their work has been seen, appreciated and valued. The teacher can leave quality feedback so that the children and parents know what the next steps in learning might be.

Being able to see some of our younger ones post a song they’d written for their teacher and hear them sing it, is just fabulous and can make such a difference to everyone’s mental health and wellbeing during these times.

As times goes on, we are looking again at gathering feedback from parents about adaptations we need to make to support all our learners. Our older children use Microsoft Teams and email communication and parents have access to a school ‘app’ on their phones for instant messaging, news and information as well as email communication and of course, Facebook for extra bits and pieces.



As the school is open, we feel during this lockdown, parents will have chance to access support much more easily than last time. Our office is open, and all staff are working hard each day, in and out of school.

We have a fabulous BPS Team who are adapting, learning and growing together through this all the time.

We are incredibly appreciative of all the support we have had from our parents and local partners and feel very lucky to be part of such a wonderful community.

Julie Anderson



The Mystery of “Eric” the Missing Goldfish

Before lockdown, the children were extremely disturbed when they discovered that Eric, the Head’s cherished goldfish, had mysteriously disappeared.

The Primary Fives felt so strongly that they decided to embark on an in depth investigation which, under the expert, scientific direction of Mrs McLean, involved chromatography, handwriting and fingerprint examination. Following careful analysis of the evidence and

subtle interrogation of the prime suspect, they succeeded in identifying the culprit.

The guilty party turned out to be Mr McGourty who, in mitigation, admitted that he had taken Eric because he needed a friend and loved fishing in his spare time. Having recognised his harmless motives and having apologised to Miss Anderson, Mr McGourty was forgiven and offered the reassurance that he has lots of friends and need not be lonely any more.



Burntisland Playgroup

Playgroup once again is closed due to the government restrictions in place because of COVID-19. Hopefully, with the new vaccine available and being rolled out this will be the last time this terrible virus causes restrictions that have such a detrimental effect on everyone's lives.

Last term, we were able to operate as normal as possible and the children had many opportunities for outdoor and indoor learning. We made the most of having the Toll Park on our doorstep and spent a lot of time exploring nature along the side of the burn, going on treasure hunts, having outdoor drama and singing sessions and just being able to run around in a large open space.

We also spent a lot of time in our playgroup garden, however as the winter got wetter, the garden got muddier, so the park became a "cleaner" option. Indoors we had all the usual activities available for the children to choose from.



The children's own interests have been pirates, which ended up more about patterns and textures, and zoo animals, which was started when learning about hibernation.



When we re-open, hopefully very soon, the children will be able to get together with their friends and enjoy all the learning opportunities that playgroup can provide them with once again.

At this time of year, playgroup begins planning for the new intake in August 2021. We would normally be having an Open Day in March for new parents to be able to have a look at what the playgroup has to offer their child. We have put some posters up around town with photographs showing our group, just in case it is still not possible for any visits, and information is available on our Facebook page and website. Please feel free to get in touch if

you would like an application form or any information about playgroup by emailing: burntislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk.

The playgroup hours are 8.15am to 2.15pm, Monday to Friday term times.

Burntisland 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.

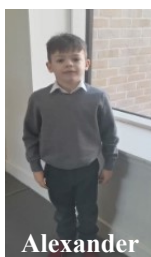
Jenny Roxburgh, Manager



Scots Verse Competition



Brodie



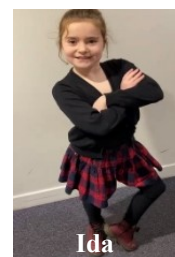
Alexander



Kenzi



Oscar



Ida



Leah

Every year, children from P1-P6 of Burntisland Primary School take part in the Community Council Scots Verse Competition. This competition was created to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the death of King Alexander III who died when he fell from his horse whilst riding between Burntisland and Kinghorn.

Alexander III had been an influential monarch whose pacifist policies of favouring dialogue over physical conflict in settling disputes had resulted in a long period of peace and stability in Scotland.

To engage in discussion required a common language and resulted in the wide promotion of the Scots tongue.

The Scots Verse Competition encourages pupils to learn and understand the language of their forebears and normally gives the winners the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding through a meaningful presentation before a discerning audience in the Burgh Chambers.

This year, the competition took place as usual in the school but with final judging

conducted in-house. The usual recitations by winners and trophy presentations at the traditional reception did not take place because of COVID-19 restrictions. However, engraved trophies and medals will be presented at the school once COVID-19 regulations allow.

The impressive winners of this year's competition were:

P1: Brodie Haston, P2: Alexander Stevens, P3: Kenzi Van Kooten, P4: Oscar Morris, P5: Ida Cornwall, P6: Leah Murrie

Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club

With the current lockdown and all the Covid issues over the past months it seemed to me that there might not be much activity to report to this issue of the Buzz. On reflection, however, why should I have been surprised as to how much B & K have achieved and are planning to achieve over the past months in association with the community?

Firstly, the joint schools clothing bank venture with Rotary Club of Forth Bridges is up and running enhanced by a grant from the Robertson Trust, covering areas from Dalgety Bay to Kirkcaldy. In addition, some members have been assisting with the Burntisland section of Kirkcaldy Foodbank as well as supporting BEAT and KSS voluntary groups in Burntisland and Kinghorn.

Whilst both the primary schools have had to limit our connections such as RotaKids and Rotary Rambles for the time being, we successfully ran a virtual Burns Competition with the winners

taking part in our virtual Burns Supper “Auld Lang Zoom” held on 22nd January.

Our weekly virtual meetings are well attended with the opportunity to invite speakers from around both this country and the world and for all to join in entertainment events like musical bingo. Anyone who wishes to attend a meeting as a guest should contact Secretary Mike Gillis on mike_gillis@outlook.com who will arrange a Zoom invitation.

Finally, members who have given outstanding contributions to Rotary over the years or individual actions are recognised by the award of a Paul Harris Fellowship. This year’s awards went to Walter Anderson, Ken Kirkwood, George Hudson and John Minhinick.

Derek Thomson



Burntisland Over 70s Christmas Treat

2020 saw us having to cancel the Christmas lunch for our over 70 citizens. This pandemic also meant we could not fund raise in our usual way- coffee mornings, afternoon teas etc.

A local man, Gaz Andrews always has a wonderful Christmas light display in his garden to raise funds for local charities. This year he chose to fund raise for us, collecting an amount of £659.07 which is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to Gaz and his family for this fantastic contribution.

As soon as restrictions are lifted and we are allowed to hold an event we shall arrange one. Watch this space!

Frances Allan




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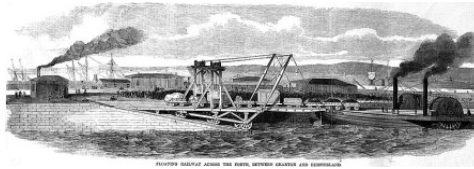
Burrtisland Heritage Trust

A Burrtisland First: the World's First Roll-on Roll-off Seafaring Rail Ferry

At the invitation of Burrtisland Heritage Trust, the National Transport's latest Red Wheel denoting a site of transport heritage, was unveiled recently on the wall of the town's first railway station by Vice President John Cameron CBE. The station was built in 1847 and the plaque commemorates the train-ferry that linked Fife with Granton on the Edinburgh shore, for forty years until the opening of the Forth Bridge in 1890.

John paid tribute to the success of the world's first seagoing train ferry in reducing the Edinburgh to Dundee freight movement from three days to four hours, carrying 29,000 wagons in the first six months of operation. The so-called Floating Railway had three elements, an inclined pier at the dockside, a flying bridge to the vessel and a flat deck on-board lined with rails.

A moveable framework rolled up and down the pier to suit the state of the tide. This new and efficient way of moving freight traffic across the water would influence the introduction of rail and road ferries, nationally and globally, right up to the present day.



John found it somewhat ironic that such a successful development had been designed by Sir Thomas Bouch, whose reputation would be subsequently destroyed when the Tay Bridge collapsed and suggested that one could surmise the extent of his fame if only he had stuck to ferries and left bridges alone!



Red Phone Box reconnected as a Time Machine

Red, public telephone boxes which were formerly situated at various strategic locations throughout the town, were an essential means of communications during times when private telephones were not widely available in homes. They were crucial communication tools during emergencies and for many decades were a useful means of contacting friends and relatives who did not live locally.

Modern telecommunications have rendered these telephone boxes obsolete and many were removed. However in the past year Heritage Trust convenor Ian Archibald, in conjunction with BT and the Evolve Group, have saved from removal the telephone box located on the High Street outside the library.

This distinctive red, metal box with clear windows has been repaired, repainted and installed with innovative graphics which highlight its historic role as a public, pay phone kiosk and also displays a time line of the town's heritage and industrial past.

Significant events and achievements which are highlighted include the 1652 Highland Games, the malt whisky distillery, and many industrial activities including the British Aluminium alumina works, shale mine and oil refinery and fifty years of shipbuilding.

Our old phone box may not be the Tardis but it is Burrtisland's own Time Machine.

Burrtisland Heritage Trust YouTube Channel

During this extended period of Covid restrictions, I feel sure that there are times when we are all at a loss as to what to do. Television, social media, computer games all help to break the monotony but why not explore the YouTube Channel of Burrtisland Heritage Trust?

This site contains a wide collection of videos covering local topics which vary from the restoration of the historic Kirktoun Kirk to the wartime exploits of a local World War II veteran. The collection has recently been enhanced by three expertly composed videos in the **Portrait of a Town** series (Parts 1, 2 and 3).

The first two take the viewer on an informative trek round the Burrtisland Inner and Outer Heritage Trails. These normally take place during the summer months but were suspended last year due to the pandemic. As well as being educational and entertaining they may whet the appetite of the viewer to actually join these treks when they resume.

The third video released at the end of January takes a coastal heritage walk from the falls at Starley Burn to the Alexander III monument. This includes 'a dauner throu the town' accompanied by the Burrtisland Novice & Juvenile Pipe Band.



The full list of videos can be found at: www.burrtisland.net/youtube.htm



Remembrance Sunday

They Were Not Forgotten

Although the traditional Remembrance Sunday church service and parade were both cancelled last November because of Covid -19 restrictions, individuals and representatives of local organisations paid their respects and laid wreaths individually at the war memorial in accordance with prevailing rules.

Amongst those who laid a wreath was Julie Anderson, the Head of Burntisland Primary School. She did so on behalf of the school to the tune of the pipes played by her father Walter (pictured), a renowned local piper and former Community Award Winner.



Public-Access Defibrillators

An excellent donation from ExxonMobil at Mossmorran has enabled us to buy two new public-access defibrillators. One is now located at the Sands Hotel on Lochies Road. The second appliance will be installed shortly at the Kirkton, opposite the Jubilee Tavern. In very round terms, it means that Burntisland now has one public-access defibrillator, available 24/7, per 1,000 homes.

Defibrillators are the best means of re-starting the heart in the case of a sudden cardiac arrest, but they do have to be used within minutes. Each one is registered with the Scottish Ambulance Service. So, if a 999 call is made to report chest pains or collapse, the caller will be asked to send someone to fetch the nearest defibrillator.

All are maintained by the Trust. Although they are very easy to use we also include defibrillator training in all of our first aid courses. Details are available from www.bfast.org.uk

Alex. MacDonald, Chairman



Alex MacDonald pictured with Jason Borthwick of the Sands Hotel and the new defibrillator

Photo: Michael Booth

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Burntisland Shipyard FC

I am writing this article a day after semi-professional football was suspended in Scotland for a minimum of three weeks, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to grip the country. The announcement came as no surprise given the current situation and the suspension of football at East of Scotland League level, in the club's view, was the correct decision.

The disappointment for the club is that we cannot continue our current run of good form, in the short term at least, having been unbeaten in the league since 24th October 2020. Those who have been able to catch a glimpse of the action, be it peering through the fence or on the back of a strategically parked vehicle will have been impressed by the quality of football on show and the good haul of goals into the bargain.

Our manager Stuart Innes has been busy in the transfer market extending the loan deals of Kelty Hearts youngsters Jay Bridgeford and Tyler McKenzie. He has also added more experience to the squad with local lad Scott Orrock joining the club as a free agent, and the much travelled Ross Gallacher who

can list Renfrew, Kirkintilloch Rob Roy, Cumnock and Queens Park as former clubs. Ross' last club was Lochgelly Albert where he was player manager.

The floodlight project continues to progress, albeit slowly, as some changes and oversights have caused delays, however, they should be in place soon enough. The players and staff are looking forward to playing under the lights with a crowd back inside the ground, hopefully this season, though unfortunately that looks unlikely at this time.

We can report that there have been no confirmed cases of coronavirus connected to the club, thanks to the protocols the club put in place and though there have been a few players who were forced to self-isolate due to contact outwith the club, all have returned safely.

Stay safe and we will see you all soon!

Andrew Beveridge



Burntisland Golf House Club

A Happy New Year to all Buzz readers.

I hesitate to add any further positive introductory message, as I started last year's with "Let's hope it's a good one." !!! My tip for the Grand National didn't win either.

There was little good to come out of 2020, but there were quite a few heart-warming examples of the townspeople's generosity of spirit and good-will towards friends and neighbours. It really is quite a remarkable town to live in.

Although not all our members are Burntislanders by any means, everyone did a fantastic job in supporting the Club whenever they could, and I hope that all those who joined us during last year now feel part of something good. A feeling that will only strengthen when restrictions ease.

Prospective members can still benefit from an introductory membership deal so why wouldn't you get involved and promote

your wellbeing with a golf membership. Gentle exercise, fresh air, take in the scenery and make friends for life.

Normally at this time I would tell you about the social calendar we have planned, but that will have to wait. Hopefully by the next Buzz deadline?

Like our page on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @BurntislandGolf to keep in the loop about golfing and social matters. We're also on Instagram (not so much, but keep posting your pics of the course!)

For details of membership, or If you have any queries please phone 874093 (Office) or 872116 (Shop) or email

info@burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk.

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11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group



The Beavers had a great time at our activity day at Fordell Firs before we started our new term. We said goodbye to 14 Beavers who moved on to Cubs and welcomed 11 new Beavers to join our pack.

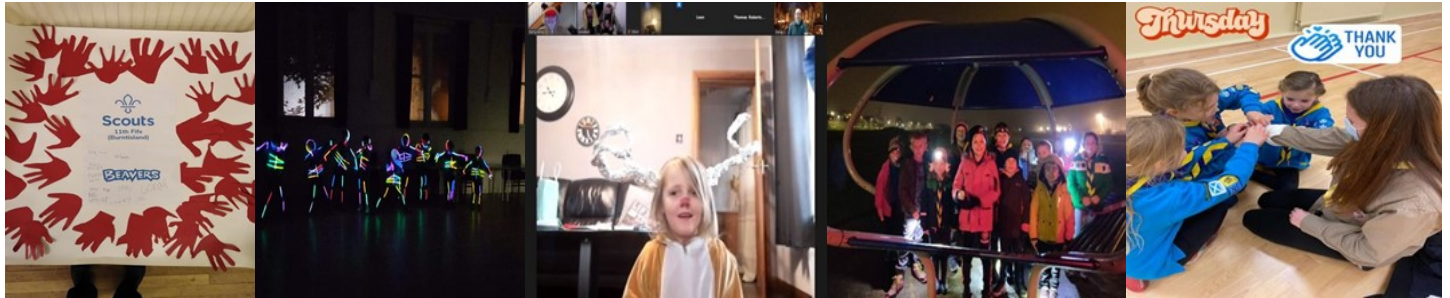
We have had a mixed term being back in the hall making our own remembrance wreath, tasting food from around the world and a Christmas games night. We had a night

walk to visit the war memorial, and to learn some history about the Links and the beach.

We also had some online sessions, Jo at Wild Planet Explorers joined us and we held a virtual Christmas craft sleepover, which was fantastic fun.

We start our new term with a virtual visit to The Teddy Bear Hospital, learning first aid to allow us to continue earning our badges.

Kerry Laing and Shirley Kent, Beaver Scout Leaders



It was another busy term for the Cubs. We were busy working on our challenge badges, all seven of them. This meant putting up tents, playing games from other countries, working as a team and cooking smores to name but a few of the things we did.

We also managed to find time to do some Christmas craft making candle holders and to squeeze in a Christmas party before the end of term.

A huge thank you to all the Cubs and their families who helped with our collection for the foodbank. You should be proud of what we achieved together.

Michelle Paton, Cub Scout Leader



Monday Scouts

After the October break we continued with face to face Scouting in line with Government and Scouting guidance to ensure we delivered our activities in a safe environment.

Our Scouts worked on developing their First Aid and Navigation skills, as well as learning about the important work being done by Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. They also carried out some bike maintenance before going on a cycle ride along the coastal path to Dalgety Bay.

The importance of our Scouts continuing to practice their first aid skills was highlighted when two of our youth members went to the assistance of a member of the public who was injured in Kinghorn. They provided first aid, reassured the injured person and stayed with him until he recovered before ensuring he was able to return home safely.

The actions of our Scout Maddison and Explorer Alicia were in the best traditions of Scouting and they are a credit to our Group, Scouting and our town. They both deservedly received the Commissioners Commendation Award, which is the first time our District Commissioner has presented this to a youth member in Kirkcaldy District.

David Laing, Scout Leader (Monday Troop)



Thursday Scouts

Last term was quite an exciting term for the Thursday Scouts. We invested 11 new Scouts who had moved up from Cubs, but sadly we had to say goodbye to four Scouts who moved on to the next part of their scouting adventures with the Explorers.

We had had a varied program since we have been able to be in the hall, but have also continued to explore our fantastic outdoors

with a group cycle ride and picnic to Dalgety Bay which was a superb adventure and achievement for all who took part.

We finished the term with a sausage sizzle and camp fire on the beach in December. I think everyone will agree it was a great way for the scouts to relax and enjoy their last night of term and to finish what has been a challenging year.

Barrie Kent, Scout Leader (Thursday Troop)

EXPLORERS

The term prior to Christmas is our shortest but we still managed to fit in lots of activities and had loads of fun. Our Explorers planned their own session and took the lead to run and deliver two sessions on an international theme where they told the rest of the Section about Finland, sharing its culture and food with us, including celebrating the festival of Saint Lucia. A fantastic example of youth-led Scouting.

In November we were able to visit Fordell Firs where we did climbing and tomahawk throwing during an exciting day of outdoor activities. Despite the colder evenings we also had a sausage sizzle on an open fire, went out around town on a photography challenge and held a Taskmaster-style challenge evening.

David Laing, Explorer Leader



11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group

Group Scout Leader: Kerry Laing, tel: 07517 374459, email: 11thfife@gmail.com

District Commissioner: Dick Cook, tel: 07753 121909, email: richard.cook@kirkcaldydistrictscouts.org.uk

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Toll Community Hub on the High Street

Here we are again—another lockdown!

Luckily before we went into lockdown, we were able to take Santa, in his sleigh around Burntisland and bring lots of Christmas cheer to the children. The weather was with us and many families came out to wave and shout 'Merry Christmas'.

The "Toll on Tour" Knitting group had a sale of their fabulous items that they had been busy knitting during the first lockdown. They raised just over £140 but now that we can't meet, the knitting needles will still be getting lots of use ready for the group's comeback!

The Bike project is still going strong providing a much-needed service in the town. Not only does James offer a repair service, but also refurbishes bikes that have been donated so we can pass them on for a small donation. Covid protocols apply.

On Christmas Eve we made up enough food parcels, with fresh food, including turkeys, treats and small gifts for over a hundred people in our community who were referred to us by various agencies and services. It couldn't have happened without the volunteers who gave up their time and the people who kindly donated food, gifts and money and of course Aldi and Morrisons, a huge thankyou to you all!

This is the third year we have done this and we are going from strength to strength.

After the first lockdown we took the Toll

on Tour to a shop on the High Street and created a Community Hub. This has become a real asset to the High Street and our town as this has enabled us to invite services and agencies to come and have a presence and support people face to face.

So far, we have hosted a dementia drop in, every Tuesday afternoon, where people suffering or affected by dementia can get support, advice or just a friendly chat.

Clued Up have been offering advice and support to young people around issues that affect them e.g., Employability, housing, finance etc.

SAMH have been in the Hub to offer help with mental health issues and Fife Council are interested in placing a welfare worker in the Hub which will be a great asset to the town.

BEAT has made up and delivered lunches for children across the town, averaging 300 a week.

The need for food parcels has increased, mainly due to people being paid off or self-isolating. The parcels are dropped off at the client's home in strictest confidence.

Burntisland First Aid Services Trust continue to collect and deliver prescriptions for residents in the town who are having too self-isolate.

Our table is out in front of the Hub daily where people can access a wide selection of food that we have received through the Fare Share programme from local

supermarkets. This initiative is for everyone and to save food waste, we ask if it's possible, to leave a small donation in the yellow bucket which goes to BEAT funds.

Our Community fridge and freezer is proving to be a great success. We receive food with a longer shelf life from Fare Share (we pay a small fee for this food) therefore sell it at very low cost to make it accessible to all and reduce food waste. Follow us on Facebook to see what we have available.



The Raiding Party!

Due to the recent lockdown our Pop-Up Shop is closed but our volunteers have taken the opportunity to rearrange storage in preparation for reopening.

Hopefully, with vaccinations being rolled out it won't be long until we can see you back in the Community Centre and the Community Hub. Take care and stay safe!

Yvonne Crombie



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St Joseph's Church

As I was thinking about my contribution to this edition, a song from the musical Jesus Christ Superstar has been playing in my head: "What's the buzz, tell me what's been happening; what's the buzz, tell me what's been happening." Truth to tell, not much!

Many Church activities have simply not been able to take place. Attendance at Services has been seriously curtailed and in St Joseph's we gradually increased the numbers of those able to attend to 45 just before the Government reduced the capacity to 20, before locking us down once again.

It was a very strange Christmas. We put on an extra Mass and, while all three services

were full, that only allowed 135 people to attend—we would normally have well over 200. No singing, no shaking of hands, people seated well apart, it didn't feel like the season of goodwill. Certainly not as we have known it previously.

Now that we are back in lockdown, Masses continue to be livestreamed on Facebook and Sunday Mass is available on YouTube. I try to keep in touch with parishioners by way of a weekly Bulletin sent to those whose email addresses I have.

Hopefully this lockdown will achieve the desired results and we will once again be able to resume normal activities. When Places of Worship are allowed to open it will once again be important for those who

wish to assure a place at St Joseph's for Sunday Mass to do so through Eventbrite or by contacting me directly.

As we set out on this New Year, with all its uncertainties, I wish you those gifts represented by the candles on our Advent wreath each year: hope, peace, joy and love. And as I have been saying to parishioners, count your blessings, not your troubles.

Fr James



Erskine Church

Firstly let me wish everyone a peaceful, safe and healthy 2021 on behalf of Erskine Church.

Times have been tough for almost twelve calendar months, though with the vaccine rollout finally, there are glimmers of hope. Let's talk toilet rolls. Yes, you're reading correctly! Back in March people were panic-buying and as the circle of life returns to lockdown conditions, the same kind of thing is happening again. The situation appears even more worrying, so does that mean we're no further forward and going round in circles?

Christmas was digital and common sense, we stayed put in Burntisland. Yet the message of hope and light in Jesus' birth is always the same. The churches relied on Zoom, our BEK & Call online nativity, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services rather paradoxically, had a much wider reach than would've been possible if we'd stayed in our buildings. Well done to everyone who took part, we're finally starting to work towards a meaningful local partnership.

I really liked the Christmas lights in the town centre, perhaps their twinkling

presence was more needed than ever at the close of 2020. Most of all I love the tree on the crane jib at the shipyard which shines over Burntisland every year. It's been great to witness the regeneration of our High Street, a magnet for foodies and coffee connoisseurs. Many people have shown amazing community spirit, well done to all our local organisations and volunteers.

Erskine held a short, half-hour Sunday service from 4th October to 3rd January at 10am—an uninterrupted run of thirteen weeks. It's hard to put up notices again and remind people that places of worship are closed. Public health must come first.

Each year Erskine selects a Bible verse. For 2021, "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." (1 Peter 5.7, NLT). These comforting words remind us that we can always come full-circle back to God because he cares deeply about each one of us, even during a pandemic.

Our BEK & Call services with Burntisland & Kinghorn Parish Churches have proven very popular and we'll be continuing these via Zoom each Sunday at 11am. It's been

great to work with folks from these congregations over ten months, we've not fallen out yet and it'll be Easter soon!

In-person services at Erskine will restart as soon as it's safe and permitted to do so. Our Monday Association meeting continues on Zoom each week at 7pm, please get in touch if you'd like to join. No pancake mornings allowed just now, but keep your eye on our Facebook page for what's happening and one day soon those delicious treats will be back on the table...

So when all's said and done, we've got much to be thankful for and surely better times are within tantalising reach. Perhaps resurgent toilet rolls won't complete the circle, maybe instead this time of lockdown will be a sign that something like normality is finally in sight. Please stay safe and keep well.

Rev. Alexander Ritchie



World Day of Prayer

Written by the Christian women of Vanuata in the South Pacific Ocean

Due to the lockdown restrictions all our churches are closed and cannot host a service this year.

However, Augustine United Church in Edinburgh is hosting a service on Zoom on Friday 5th March, at 2pm and all are welcome to join.

Those without internet access can listen in on the telephone. Details of the service will be in all the churches

newsletters, town posters, and the Fife Free Press, so keep a lookout for those during February.

Service booklets can be delivered by contacting; Ann Tel. 873994, Sandra Tel. 870104, Sandra B Tel. 872228, and Judith Tel. 07946751993.

Zoom telephone link is: 0131 460 1196 I.D. 895 9398 3883# Passcode (if required) 901656

Zoom internet link to be arranged.

Burntisland Parish Church

The start of a new year is a time to look back and reflect on the year that has passed and is also a time to look forward with plans for the future. That is certainly the case for Burntisland Parish Church. 2020 started so well with good progress on plans for a closer working relationship with Erskine United Free Church and Kinghorn Parish Church. On 15 March the three churches shared in an inspirational joint service in the Kirk by the Sea in Kinghorn where there was a real sense of working and worshipping together. But then the pandemic struck, and churches were required to close for all gatherings.

Nevertheless, that started the three churches on a new path of working together and on 22 March we began our joint online worship service which has continued on Sundays at 11am ever since. It soon became known as “BEK and Call” and the three ministers were joined by a team of members from each church – each with their own special skills – to bring the worship experience into the homes of members and anyone else that would like to join us. These services go out on Zoom and on the churches’ Facebook pages and are recorded on YouTube for viewing later. It’s even possible for people without internet devices to phone in and listen to the services. Monthly online evening communion services were added in July and around Christmas we introduced some innovative ideas.

In the autumn it was possible again for churches to open for in-person worship but with strong restrictions to limit risk, which included the limitation of numbers, the wearing of facemasks and a ban on singing. All three churches took different approaches, but it was agreed that the online services should remain as our core worship until restrictions could be lifted. Burntisland Parish Church took a cautious approach to opening up with an in-person service only every three weeks. However, following our in-person service on 13 December it became clear that a new

lockdown was coming, with all places of worship required to close again, so we are once again concentrating with our partners on our online “BEK and Call” services.

It has been a challenging year. Church worship and gatherings are all about people coming together but such events have not been possible. Our church, our halls and Solid Rock in the High Street have seen much less by way of activities. I’m glad to say that the church shop in the High Street, *Chapter and Verse*, as been able to operate in a careful way since the summer and though now closed, there are plans to operate online.

There has been sadness too, as a number of our elders have passed away in 2020: Alex Craig, Alan Stroud, and most recently Aneris Grant—along with a number of members and people in our community—including our own centenarian, Sophie Gray. We miss them all and feel their loss greatly, especially during these times when it is harder for grieving families and friends to be together for comfort.

Having said that there have also been many positives over the year. Early in the year we celebrated with George Johnston and Donald MacLean as they received their certificates marking 50 years serving as elders of the church from the Moderator of Kirkcaldy Presbytery, Jacqueline Thomson DCS. At the beginning of 2021 we were delighted to be able to congratulate Mr David Adamson, a member of the church, on his award of a British Empire Medal in recognition of his service to the community.

The joint team from the three churches working together to produce the online Sunday services has also thoroughly enjoyed their task. They have overcome many challenges and some significant technical problems to bring Sunday worship to the parishes. The sense of togetherness has also been shared with others who have joined in by Zoom as the call is opened up to everyone after the

service at the “Coffee Time” (to which you bring your own coffee, of course!).



Christmas was an opportunity for some innovation with our online worship. As it was proving to be unwise and impractical to have in-person worship at Christmas a number of special services were organised online. The Nativity service on the Sunday before Christmas featured an excellent nativity play, made up of short videos with children from the three churches, which told the Christmas story really well. We have definitely found some budding television presenters amongst our young people! Christmas Eve saw the release of our online Lessons and Carols service featuring the team that bring our online Sunday services to us—dressed up in Christmas clothes and wishing everyone Happy Christmas!

On Christmas Day, we had a family service with another contribution from our young people and Rev Alexander Ritchie, Rev Jim Reid and myself shared our Christmas Day thoughts.

Looking forward, plans are in place to continue our online “BEK and Call” services for the foreseeable future. Everyone is welcome to join in with these, details are on our church Facebook page. Work is still going on with our partner churches towards closer working with creative plans for the future. We are praying, as many are, for an end to the pandemic and life getting back to normal. Meanwhile we will continue to do our best to share our worship, to stay positive and encourage everyone to do the same.

Take care, stay safe, stay well!

God bless,

Rev David Redmayne

Aneris Grant (1927–2020)

At the beginning of December, the town mourned the sudden passing of Aneris Grant, a former Community Award winner whose voluntary work within the town over many decades touched virtually everyone – from the Community Council to the Youth Theatre, from the Parish Church to the Air Training Corps, from the Heritage Trust to Cancer Research. I personally will remember her fondly as Miss Aitchison, my Sunday school teacher in the Parish Church hall, very many years ago.

Aneris lived in Burntisland virtually all her life and her personal contribution to the community cannot be understated. She

went about her business in a modest but efficient manner and with the minimum of fuss. However, the considerable impact of her involvement in the community at large was graphically reflected in the large number of townsfolk who lined the Kirkgate and assembled outside the Burgh Chambers to pay respectful homage as her funeral cortege slowly passed. She will be sorely missed throughout the Burntisland community.

May she rest in peace.

Bill Kirkhope





Burntisland Bird Watch

February '21
By Leo du Feu

At last we've had some properly cold weather and lots of birds to go with it. And a great surge of interest and postings on the **Burntisland Wildlife and Woodlands Facebook Group** where we now have 150 members. Please join us to share your own sightings or just to enjoy what others have seen. The group is also a space to ask questions and to highlight or seek advice on any local environmental successes and concerns.

One thing highlighted has been how important our whole stretch of coastline is to wildlife and, more so than ever during this year of lockdowns, to people. Not least the docks area which is extensive in size and varied in habitat. A great place to clear the head, a great place to watch wildlife and really excellent for socially distanced exercise and enjoyment. I was there today and saw walkers, cyclists, dog walkers, sea watchers. Be aware that it is a working dock, watch for lorries and other vehicles, and not causing any nuisance. We're lucky to have such a place.

The reason I was there was a diver. Not from Divebunker or Calypso or Briggs but a Great northern diver. You may be familiar with them as 'loons', birds chiefly associated with Canadian lakes. The Great northern diver is the Common loon, just named differently depending which side of the Atlantic you grew up on. You'll know their loud echoing wails from misty atmospheric scenes in films, just as tawny owls are so often used to add spooky night-time feel on radio and TV.

The Great northern diver breeds in North America, Greenland, a few hundred pairs in Iceland. They have been known to breed in the far north of Scotland but it's not the norm. They are a large bird, between the size of a shag and a cormorant. In breeding season they are stunning, checkerboard black and white with a dark green sheen to their head and neck and with red gemstone eyes. When we see them in the UK it's winter and they're silver and white. *Where* we see

them is out to sea, not in Burntisland's innermost harbour! It's been a treat to watch this one at such close quarters and now for more than a week. It dives frequently and doesn't seem unwell so probably has simply found a good food source and is taking full advantage. It's interesting watching it alongside the couple of grey seals which feed there each day.

As well as the diver I was watching a stonechat. What a beauty. A bit smaller than robins but with similarities in shape and in the way they move. This one flitted from gorse to dried seedheads to bramble tangle to gorse. Dark head, white side of the neck, warm brown-orange throat and chest, darker brown wings. Skinny dark legs, dark tail fanning open and shut.



Also around the docks you can easily see greenfinch, goldfinch, house sparrow, dunnoek, magpie, heron, herring gull, black-headed gull, oystercatcher, cormorant, shag, rock pipit. Often little grebe, redshank, curlew, kestrel... I saw all these and more in my hour down there.

Various other sea life has been reported,

notably a humpback whale doing a circuit of the Forth just before Christmas but not seen again since. Keep looking though, look for far off puffs of spray, the 'blow' of the whale. Join **Forth Marine Mammals Facebook Group** for frequent updates. Also lots of brittlestars (related to starfish) washed up as well as a type of 'glass' or 'crystal' jellyfish which has only previously been recorded in Scotland seven or eight times. Several octopuses, one which I saw, dead unfortunately, down on the beach. It was totally white on top with teeny tiny dark specks all over then an incredible aqua/turquoise hiding underneath where flesh lay in shallow water.

Back to that cold weather I started with. On one of those New Year snow days we were walking Standing Stanes Road beyond the Binn as night came down. Hares and roe deer were on the snow-bright fields and a tawny owl sang somewhere in the woods. Cold brings wildlife closer to humans as the need to find food becomes more urgent. When all is ice, birds struggle—they still need to drink and feathers must be kept clean if they are to stay insulated.

Offer shallow dishes of fresh water as well as food and who knows what you will be rewarded with. One lucky Burntislander shared a video of grey partridges squabbling for spilled seed under her feeders! Incredible to have such a highly threatened bird watchable from one's window! And she has great spotted woodpecker with those amazing red flashes. And grey wagtail with their daffodil yellow tummies and under-tails. Sigh.

Last thing—bird boxes and wildlife plants for the spring. Now is the perfect time to be working on adding more of each to your garden. Search online for hints and tips and join us on **Burntisland Wildlife and Woodlands Facebook Group** to ask as many questions as you want.

Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

January greeted us with some very cold, frosty weather and glorious sunshine. During lockdowns, many more families, walkers and cyclists have ventured out into the countryside. Youngsters enjoy a good slide on the ice, whilst adults are more cautious, and the swing at Rodanbraes remains as popular as ever (especially with members of the Binnend Wanderers!). Our latest new path, at Red Path Brae is now complete. Fife Council has made an excellent job of the additional pavement at the top of the hill, which takes the path safely away from the bend in the road. It is great to see it so well used. The only thing missing is a nice coffee and blether at 'Barn at the Loch' café. Sadly, Bruce and Sarah Stuart have decided to end their lease, so we will miss them, but wish them well in any new venture they take on.

Soon it will be snowdrop time again, nature never lets us down. The slopes and banks of the woodlands at Kinghorn Loch are abundant in snowdrops each year, as they have been planted over a long time now, and are well worth a visit. Later will be swarms of bluebells, then ox-eye daisies and red campion.



The loch held some excitement at the start of the year with a rare, ring-necked duck spotted by keen bird watchers. This duck is native to North America. Cameras were at the ready to take snapshots whenever it was in view. Also, waxwing, with its beautifully distinctive large crest visited Craigencalt, no doubt helping itself to the berries on the many hawthorn bushes. There are always plenty of ducks, geese and swans to be seen, and all are well fed by visitors, but it's good to know that it is possible to spot something different too.



It will soon be time to put the barley straw out on the loch. This is an annual task carried out by Trust volunteers in late February. The job must be completed before any birds begin nesting on the water as they love nesting on the full rafts. We hope that restrictions will allow us to carry out this task, which has been undertaken every year for twenty years now. It helps to ensure that Kinghorn Loch has excellent water quality and remains free of algal blooms. Later in spring we hope to start up regular moth surveys again. These are always popular pop-up events. If you would like to come along to one of these events please get in touch and we will keep you updated.

The Trust, continues to come together through its 'Zoom' meetings and has given thought to some new project ideas. As we rely totally on the support of Friends and volunteers, who help with our projects and funding, we are always ready to welcome new people on board.

If you would like to help please contact us by phone 07740999514 or email info@craigencalttrust.org.uk

Marilyn Edwards

The Ecology Centre

In the last edition of the Burgh Buzz we were sharing news about how happy we were to be open again and welcoming back our volunteers and customers—and now a few weeks later we are back in lockdown again. It is frustrating, but we must stay safe and until the Scottish Government advises that it's safe to re-open we will remain closed.

If you follow us on social media we will be sharing some nature tips, ideas and outdoor activities to keep everyone busy this lockdown. We will also keep you updated here for when we will be allowed to re-open.

New year—new volunteering opportunity?

The Ecology Centre has a new volunteering opportunity – we're looking for a new Treasurer!

The current Treasurer is stepping back to concentrate on other business, but will continue to be on hand to provide a handover and will also remain as a Board Trustee.

The Treasurer role is a key strategic member of the Centre's Board of Trustees. We're looking for someone with an accounting background and experience of the charity sector. Experience in strategic planning would also be ideal. If you're interested please get in touch via email: admin@theecologycentre.org or you can read more about the role on our website www.theecologycentre.org/news/treasurer-opportunity



The current Treasurer is happy to chat about the role and what's involved too. This is an exciting opportunity for a Treasurer to come in and make a difference as The Ecology Centre moves into a new phase of its life.

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

www.theecologycentre.org

Museum of Communication

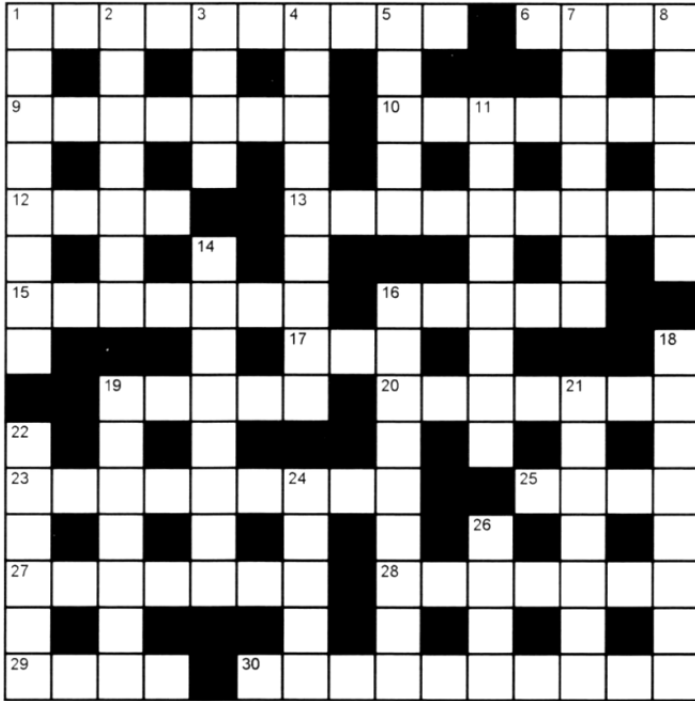
MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATION

Like all other non-essential premises, the Museum of Communication in Burntisland has been forced to keep its doors firmly closed until all the current restrictions are lifted.

However, thanks to the latest 'Zoom' video technology, this no longer means "out of sight, out of mind", as we intend to resume our very popular Lecture Programme within the next few weeks. We have successfully 'Zoomed' lectures in the past, with members from far distant shores (including Japan!) delighted to join us—and we hope you'll join us too!

For the latest updates, please visit our website: www.mocft.co.uk or phone 0131 440 3425





THE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Taught (10)
6. Dull pain(4)
9. Least possible amount(7)
10. Openly disobedient (7)
12. Chess piece (4)
13. Dianthus (9)
15. Exonerate (7)
16. Spruce (5)
17. Imitate (3)
19. Not seriously (5)
20. Cathedral like York (2,3)
23. Pirate
25. Mrs in Germany (4)
27. Distinguished (7)
28. Paper folding art (7)
29. Discard (4)
30. Searcher for minerals (10)

DOWN

1. Deathless (8)
2. Wavy, winding (7)
3. Hoar-frost (4)
4. Confess all (4,5)
5. Tree with purple berries (5)
7. Make clear(7)
8. Stretch out (6)
11. Break (8)
14. Former sweetheart (3,5)
16. Wicked (9)
18. Strange (8)
19. Slope (7)
21. Side by side (7)
22. Convent head (6)
24. Come in (5)
26. Sagacious (4)

Solution to November Crossword

Across: 1 Additional , 6 Imps, 9 Currant, 10 Obscure, 12 Soar, 13 Fragrance, 15 Retsina, 16 Cited, 17 Two, 19 Caste, 20 Minster, 23 Cambridge, 25 Bias, 27 Maudlin, 28 Chicken, 29 Idea , 30 Cri de coeur.

Down: 1 Ancestry, 2 Dormant, 3 Trap, 4 Out of date, 5 Aloha, 7 Mourned, 8 Sweden, 11 Scrutiny, 14 Minstrel, 16 Commenced, 18 Prisoner, 19 Commute , 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.

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